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TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

UNVAXXED

LIVES

MATTER



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UNVAXXED LIVES MATTER

Welcome to this
week's Trends
Journal:
"UNVAXXED LIVES
MATTER."

While economies open up, as we detail, those who refuse to get the COVID Jab are, and will, be discriminated against.

As I wrote in last week's letter, the COVID War Lords would begin to relax lockdown rules and open up the economy. Why now?

No, not because more people are getting vaccinated... the numbers are still far from their "herd" immunity levels. Governments are opening economies up because tax revenues are tanking and they realize how bad it is... and it will get worse.

Included in this issue of the Trends Journal is a "Special Report" on the Gaza War, why it was launched, what it means, and its dire implications.

On a more uplifting note, please join us on May 29th at our "Unite for Freedom, Peace & Justice" Rally in Kingston, N.Y. And if you haven't already, please consider donating to our Occupy Peace movement. The more support we have, the more we can do.

Pace e Amore,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

CONTROLLED DEFLATION...OF MIDDLE CLASS

It's not as if the Fed doesn't really know the extent of the price and monetary inflation since they caused it and they want it. They certainly will not nor cannot do anything to reduce the amount of inflation.

The Fed is printing at a rate that can only be explained by a desire to wreck the dollar and then replace it with a system of their own design and choosing. While this is taking place during the covid distractions, the rich become richer and the middle class meekly shrinks away.

Michael Ullman

WHILE WOKE AMERICA FIGHTS MASK WARS

As reported in the Australian Sky News, China has dredged and built islands all over the South China Sea area. They have turned those islands into incredible military bases.

China also has a massive fishing fleet with anywhere between 200,000 to 800,000 fishing vessels. Those vessels have crews who are armed and have been trained militarily acting as a massive floating national guard for the Chinese.

Just this week, China has cut off all diplomatic ties with Australia and is refusing to trade with Australia. Also, the Chinese are now able to control the Strait of Torres which is the area that Australia receives its oil and gas from.

If China decides to cut Australia off of those resources, it will vastly change

Australia's infrastructure. That country has quickly found out that the Biden Administration is not going to be a reliable ally. As a matter of fact, many diplomats believe that Biden was installed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Mark Ellis

ELECTRIC FENCING

Not only is this "cyber attack" designed to further bury and prop up a zombie economy, Biden and practically the rest of the governments are pushing their "green" initiatives that quite literally have nothing to do with having a safer and healthier environment. It is all about 101% control of everyone's lives to where autonomy is stripped away piece by piece.

Moreover, The U.S. is now shifting gears to make ALL cars and vehicles purely electric, so they have to very subtly tug on the rug just a bit here and there. All a part of Agenda Absolute Zero (see about link). It's a double-whammy: prop up the fake economy and incrementally further the plans to enslave the population.

The WinePress. Real Christian News

WAR ON SMALL FARMERS PRE-DATES PANDEMIC

It is tragic, but all by design. Even before this farce of a pandemic started, the small dairy farmers and family farmers were being hung out to dry by government meddling.

The Federal government was instrumental in making sure only the corporate farms survived, but state government is culpable as well.

Paul Sacco

BUCKING CANADIAN SCARE TACTICS

Ya it's embarrassing to be Canadian. Last week in B.C. they said no traveling and police were setting up roadblocks. We went on our holiday anyway from Vancouver to osoyoos. No roadblocks but enough to scare ppl from travelling. Occupancy was less than 15% at the resort. Usually it would be capacity if not close to capacity.

josip lovric

UK SILENT MAJORITY

The UK has had a high volume of population dosed up with this deadly vax and the government is taking all the praise. Here in the UK there are many people that are against this deadly vax and I am one of those people. We are the silent majority that have to keep our mouths closed.

Remo Turisci

MIDDLE EAST HOT CONFLICT

There is no easy solution. Hamas believes that Israel should not exist and Israel continues with real-estate developments in Palestine.

You cannot have peace with a neighbour who does not think you have a right to live. Nor can you have peace with a neighbour who keeps encroaching on your land.

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

LAST WEEK'S FALL & RISE OF U.S. STOCKS. In the first three days of last week, the stock market suffered its steepest three-day plunge in seven months after a startling inflation report rekindled investors' fears of runaway prices.

On 12 May, The S&P 500 Index surrendered 681 points, about 1.4 percent of its value, after the U.S. Labor Department reported prices rose 4.2 percent in April year-on-year, the largest jump since 2008 and significantly more than March's 2.6 percent.

The NASDAQ shed 357 points, about 2 percent, and the ongoing sell-off in government bonds sped up, raising yields by 0.006 to 1.68 percent.

Tech stocks, which are particularly sensitive to interest rate fluxes, were hit hard, with Apple losing 3.1 percent and Tesla off 4.4 percent.

Rebound?

On Friday, the Dow added 360 points but still closed the week down 1.1 percent, finishing about 800 points below its Monday peak of 38,080.

The S&P 500 rose 61 points in the final session but also settled for a loss of 1.1 percent for the week... registering its biggest weekly loss since late February.

The NASDAQ closed the week gaining 305 points but still lost 2.3 percent over the five days, marking its fourth consecutive losing week.

The S&P's growth index gave up 2.1 percent over the week, its worst since February; ARK Investment Management's exchange-traded innovation fund retreated 4.9 percent.

“It's interest rates, stupid.”

With inflation rising, the fear on The Street, as we have long forecast, is that the higher inflation rises, so, too, will interest rates move higher, which will, in turn, shut off the spigot that has flooded cheap money into equity markets and the economy. Indeed, the high-flying NASDAQ is on its longest losing streak since August 2019... finishing down four weeks in a row.

This week is starting on a low note, with equities down yesterday and the U.S. stock indexes wiping out earlier gains today to close at session lows.

Down around 50 points for most of the day, The Dow closed down 267.13 points. The tech-heavy NASDAQ was up 0.8 percent but closed down 0.56 percent while the S&P slumped nearly one percent.

Among the news pushing them lower is home construction saw its biggest drop since the COVID War was launched in early 2020.

While home prices keep rising and demand is staying high – despite the historic shortage of homes to buy – production is slowing. The Street says it's because commodity prices are skyrocketing and a labor shortage of skilled workers is holding back construction.

Single-family housing, which accounts for the largest share of the housing market, declined more than 13.4 percent in April compared with March, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

“Builders are delaying starting new construction because of the marked increase in costs for lumber and other inputs,” Mike Fratantoni, chief economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association, told *Reuters*. “These supply-chain constraints are holding back a housing market that should otherwise be picking up speed, given the strong demand for buying fueled by an improving job market and low mortgage rates.”

As we have reported, the increase in lumber prices alone has added \$36,000 to the cost of building the average single-family home.

The National Association of Home Builders survey also noted that builders slowed down production because of higher costs for lumber, steel, gypsum, and copper... some of which have hit record highs this year. According to the producer price index, overall, the mix of residential construction materials is up 12.4 percent over the previous 12 months.

TREND FORECAST: *The higher the price of new homes, the lower the number of buyers. And, when the Fed raises rates, new home sales will steadily fall.*

Bullshit Has Its Own Sound

We note this inflation data to again illustrate the reality of rising inflation, which the Federal Reserve keeps talking down. Yesterday, the Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Richard Clarida said the inflationary spike was only temporary and the U.S. economy has not yet climbed to the levels needed for “substantial further

progress” that would cause the Fed to stem its \$120 billion a month bond-buying scheme.

Also dismissing the inflation spikes was Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic who told *CNBC* yesterday that the Feds would not cut back on their money pumping, and it would take months to get a good read on inflation.

The central bank will need to collect several more months of data about job growth and inflation before it considers revising its policies, Fed governor Christopher Waller said on 13 May in comments quoted by the *WSJ*. The Fed has pledged repeatedly not to raise interest rates until the economy reaches “full employment” and inflation shows evidence of remaining above 2 percent for an unspecified “extended period of time,” he said.

The inflation rate, which exceeded the mainstream business media’s forecasts, was pushed by an unlocking nation enthusiastic to go out and spend, an ocean of government stimulus money, rising commodity prices, and bottlenecks in supply chains that caused shortages across a range of goods.

Some investors expressed confidence in the Fed’s pledge; in the week ending 12 May, more money flowed into U.S. stocks than at any time since March, according to data firm EPFR.

It’s in the Numbers

Still, the stiff rise in prices stirs growing concerns about the Fed’s ability or willingness to continue its policies of low interest rates and bond-buying.

In recent weeks, investors have shown themselves ready to flee the markets if inflation might stir the Fed to raise interest rates or curtail its lavish, \$120-billion monthly bond purchases.

Several Fidelity International funds have recently bought gold, metals, and inflation-protected Treasury securities, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, all hedges against inflation.

“It is time for the Fed to revisit its accommodative policy stance,” Senator Pat Toomey declared in comments quoted by the *FT*.

“Not only is inflation a bad story for any type of returns in your portfolio,” Matt Forester, chief investment officer at Lockwood Advisors, told the *WSJ*, “it’s also increasing uncertainty around the Fed’s next moves over the next couple of months.”

The Biden administration’s council of economists called the inflation number a “normalization of prices.”

“There will be months that come in below or above expectations as strong demand meets recovering supply,” the council wrote in a statement quoted by the *FT*. “Recovery [from the shutdown] will not be linear.”

TREND FORECAST: *The reality of inflation, despite what the central bank is selling, will force the Feds to raise interest rates... which we believe The Street already knows and expects. Thus, prepare for the 2021 Bear Market, coming soon to a country near you!*

Inflation Surge

Yes, get ready for “**INFLATION SOON TO GET MUCH WORSE**” as Gregory Mannarino details in his new article this week... and what to expect next.

The prices American consumers paid for milk, socks, cars, washing machines, and other items rocketed up 4.2 percent in April, compared to the rate a year earlier when the economy was shut down.

The price of used cars jumped 10 percent in April from March's level, the biggest monthly hike ever recorded and accounting for fully one-third of the new inflation rate, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

Consumers turned to the used-car market when the worldwide shortage of computer chips curtailed the production of new cars, analysts say.

The price of hotel rooms is edging up as people begin traveling again and companies pass the rising price of raw materials through to consumers. During the shutdown, most companies absorbed higher prices and made up for it by cutting back on sales, discounts, and coupons for shoppers.

Grocery prices added 2.4 percent, restaurant meals 3.8 percent, airline fares 9.6 percent, and the cost to rent a car or truck zoomed up 82 percent, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Higher and Higher

The median expectation for inflation's pace over the next 12 months ticked up from 3.2 percent last month to 3.4 this month in the Federal Bank of New York's Survey of Consumer Expectations, the highest level since September 2013.

Expectations for home price gains reached a record 5.5 percent in the survey.

About 36 percent of small businesses raised prices last month, the most since 1981, according to a survey by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

Ups and Downs

Although gasoline prices rose 50 percent in April over the price a year before, they declined 1.4 percent from March this year, Laura Rosner-Warburton, senior economist at MacroPolicy Perspectives, explained in a *WSJ* interview.

Compared to 2019, April's prices were up only 2.2 percent, the *WSJ* noted.

Price pressures are likely to continue, with economists surveyed by the *WSJ* in March forecasting 8.1-percent growth this quarter.

That would mark 2021's as the most robust economic expansion in almost 40 years, the *WSJ* reported.

Eye-popping growth rates signal strong consumer demand, which drives prices up.

The longer consumers' spending sprees last, the easier time producers will have jacking prices, Richard Moody, Regions Financial Corp.'s chief economist, said to the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have been forecasting, and as Moody's noted in the Wall Street Journal, once prices rise, they rarely fall, even if inflation eases, causing permanent shifts in spending and demands on household budgets. Thus, the spending spree will moderately continue, and the housing market will climb... until interest rates rise. When the Fed rate hits the 1.5 percent range, Wall Street will dive and Main Street will sink further into the "Greatest Depression."*

TRENDPOST: *Repeating what the Federal Reserve is selling, the Biden administration expects to "see a specific number of months or quarters where there is a transitory increase [in inflation] and that's something that... most economists say will be temporary," White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said in her daily press briefing on 12 May.*

Over There

Inflation anxieties were sharpened by the European Commission's heightened expectations for the region's economic growth.

The commission now says the Eurozone's economy will expand by 4.3 percent this year and 4.4 percent next year, no longer 3.8 percent in both, due to an increasingly successful vaccine campaign.

And while the Fed keeps saying the higher inflation is temporary, the gold market disagrees.

Gold/Silver: Gold, the #1 safe-haven asset that is the primary hedge against inflation, closed today at \$1,868 per ounce, trading at its highest level in four months. Silver closed today at \$28.31 per ounce, its highest level since 2 February.

We also forecast that the "Biden Bounce" will only temporarily juice the economy and that more cheap money will be injected by Washington to artificially prop it up. Thus, the dollar will continue to trend lower, inflation will rise, and so, too, will precious metals.

Thus, we maintain our forecast for gold to range around \$2,100 per ounce, and silver to break above \$50 per ounce by years' end.

Bitcoin: Bitcoin's price and other cryptos back-pedaled after Tesla announced it would no longer accept the crypto-money in payment for its cars.

Bitcoin, down nearly \$20 per coin from its all-time high, is still trading strong. As we have long reported, cryptocurrencies are digital age replacements for gold.

Despite the Tesla-induced sell-off, today, *CNBC* acknowledged what **Trends Journal** subscribers have known for years:

"Crypto bulls have long championed Bitcoin as a modern-day replacement for gold, and by one measure, the new market is already close to surpassing bullion in that respect."

They quoted a new report from Bernstein that the total value of the cryptocurrency market now stands above \$2 trillion... which is almost equal to what investors hold in gold.

“Investors need to find return streams that can hedge debasement risk and be a diversifier of equity risk at higher levels of inflation. These assets [cryptocurrencies] might have the potential to perform that function,” the firm said Tuesday.

TREND FORECAST: *Indeed, as we have noted, if there were no cryptocurrency markets, gold would be trading in the \$3,000 per ounce range and silver above \$100 per ounce.*

We should also note that unlike the cryptocurrency markets, which will experience sharp volatility – be it from Tesla-type statements or government/central bank intervention – precious metals will not be subjected to such statements or action. Thus, we maintain our forecast for both gold and silver to remain as the most secure safe-haven assets.

Oil: Crude oil, trading just above \$68 a barrel, took a breather today. Prices remain stable, however, and are projected to move higher, as much of the world begins to end their COVID War restrictions and the high hopes that a vaccinated U.S. public will gobble up more gas.

TREND FORECAST: *What is missing in the business world analysis of oil is the Gaza War – the fourth one launched by Israel in 13 years – that has killed 213 Palestinians, including 61 children, and at least ten Israelis, including two children. (See our “[SPECIAL REPORT: THE GAZA WAR](#)” in this issue.)*

Should the war continue and expand – and particularly if Iran becomes involved and the oil-rich region is destabilized – oil prices will sharply spike. As we have forecast, with inflation already skyrocketing, should Brent Crude near the \$90 to \$100 per barrel range, equity markets will dive and nations will sink deeply into the “Greatest Depression.”

IPOs FALLING FROM FAVOR



Investors' appetite for IPOs, seemingly insatiable earlier this year, has shrunk after the share prices of several newly-public companies quickly sank below their offering price.

Honest Co. entered the market at \$16, shot up to \$23 on its first trading day, but sagged to \$14.90 last week before closing 14 May at \$15.97. Dating app Bumble launched at \$43 and closed out last week at \$42.82.

Perhaps the most disappointing flop has been Coinbase, the cryptocurrency exchange, which is now trading around 25 percent lower than its first-day high.

IPOs are now trading an average of 2.4 percent above their launch price, data firm Idealogic notes, compared to the S&P 500's 9-percent rise this year.

At least three companies poised to offer their first round of stocks postponed their issues after U.S. stock markets suffered their worst dive in seven months during the first three days of last week, the *Wall Street Journal* has reported.

"You had this flood of IPOs and SPACs and there was a period where you could do no wrong," Rick de los Reyes, portfolio manager at T. Rowe Price, told the *WSJ*.

"It's a really tough market now with really high-growth companies out of favor," he said.

This week is crucial, some analysts have said: IPOs are scheduled for Squarespace on Wednesday and celebrity-endorsed Oatley AB, which hopes to raise \$1.35 billion out of the gate and climb to \$10 billion in valuation on

Thursday. If those launch well, confidence may return to the IPO market. If they stumble, players may take that as an omen.

IPOs raised a record-breaking \$168 billion in 2020 and have raked in \$158 billion already this year, according to Idealogic.

TRENDPOST: *We note this article to illustrate the general pull-back across speculative sectors. In addition, the sudden easing of COVID dictates and the reopening of the economy are being pushed by politicians because they are finally understanding the overall economy is still showing weakness... and their tax revenue stream is drying up.*

Walmart U.S. CEO John Furner said on an earnings call today that compared to a year ago, there were some 30 percent more discounts offered to shoppers in the first quarter of this year. And, to keep the business coming, they will continue to offer discounts.

We note this to further illustrate that the economy is not as strong as the Fed, Washington, and The Street are saying it is. When demand is high and money is plentiful, discount offers decline instead of rising.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO DWINDLE



New claims for unemployment benefits fell to 473,000 in the most recent week, sliding from the adjusted 507,000 the week before, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

Fewer people are now jobless than at any time since the economic shutdown was imposed last March, the *Wall Street Journal* noted.

The four-week moving average of new jobless claims was 534,000, also the lowest in almost 15 months.

About 16.9 million people were collecting unemployment benefits of some kind as of 24 April, roughly three million fewer from the first week in March, but still about eight times more than the average before the 2020 shutdown.

“Employers are clinging to their talent,” Jay Denton, chief analyst at labor research firm ThinkWhy, told the *WSJ*. “There’s a lot of demand... we will... see more hiring.”

However, many employers have job openings that are going unfilled; the economy added only 266,000 jobs in April.

Factors still hobbling the jobs market include some workers’ fears of catching COVID from customers and coworkers; difficulty arranging child care and the need to be with children who are still home-schooling; and generous unemployment benefits averaging more than \$600 a week.

TRENDPOST: *As we have detailed, for jobs that pay \$15 an hour, with government aid packages, people are getting that amount without having to go to work. These factors have kept the number of people receiving state-level jobless benefits drifting between 3.6 and 4 million since March.*

The economic relief program Congress passed in March continued the \$300 weekly federal unemployment benefit and a compensation plan for jobless gig workers through September.

Several Republican governors have announced they are ending the \$300 weekly federal benefit now in their states to push people back into the workforce.

EMPLOYERS DESPERATE FOR HOURLY WORKERS



Amazon has announced plans to hire another 75,000 workers and will pay \$1,000 signing bonuses in some locales. McDonald's wants 10,000 new wage-earners in its company-owned restaurants and will raise pay by an average of 10 percent for the 36,500

workers already there. Olive Garden also has announced a more generous pay scale.

Applebee's, IHOP, and KFC are among other corporate giants holding mass hiring events to satisfy a desperate need for help as restaurants reopen dining rooms, shoppers satisfy pent-up demand, and the economy continues to normalize.

Many restaurants are unable to maximize sales or stay open as long as they would like because they lack staff, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Restaurants and bars added 187,000 jobs in April, the U.S. Labor Department reported, but the sector is still short 1.7 million jobs since the 2020 economic lockdown.

The number of job postings in April rose to 8.1 million from March's 7.5 million, the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey reported on 11 May, the third consecutive month of increases and well beyond economists' estimates of 7.5 million.

To lure new hires, pay is rising: in April, average hourly earnings in the private sector edged up 21 cents to \$30.17, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

The median hourly wage for fast-food workers in mid-2020 was \$11.47, the department noted.

A hiring spurt in low-wage industries such as restaurants normally pushes down average hourly pay, analysts said; April's rise indicates the leisure and hospitality sectors are broadly raising pay scales.

Grocers also are facing difficult decisions about worker pay.

Spikes in commodity prices are raising costs to grocers for everything from apricots to yogurt, leaving supermarket operators to balance pressure to raise prices against a desire to hold market share gained during the last year, the *WSJ* said.

"We're going to have difficult conversations about how much [of cost increases]... we can accept because we're not going to pass through all of it," Albertson's Co. CEO Vivek Sankaran said to the *WSJ*, "and we're going to have difficult conversations up and down the supply chain."

The rate at which people are quitting jobs was 2.4 percent in March, equaling a 21-year record high, the *WSJ* said.

"That sort of movement usually translates into companies thinking, 'I need to retain staff; I've got to start paying more,'" economist Jay Knightley at ING told the *WSJ*.

Last month, Amazon announced pay hikes for 500,000 workers, ranging from \$.50 to \$3 an hour, representing a billion-dollar investment in its employees; new hires now will earn an average of \$17 an hour, up from the usual \$15, the company has said.

The galloping economy should allow restaurant franchise owners some room to raise consumer prices to cover higher wages, the National Owners Association, a trade group for franchisees, wrote in a 9 May email to members, the *WSJ* reported.

Chipotle will jack wages at its 2,800 eateries to an average of \$15 an hour by July, the company has said, and will increase prices on delivery orders to make up the cost.

“They’re able to offset the incremental cost of paying higher wages with charging a little bit more for a burrito,” William Ackerman, CEO of Pershing Square Capital Management, said at the WSJ’s Future of Everything Festival on 12 May.

TREND FORECAST: *As the job hiring data and wages prove – and who’s doing the most hiring – the middle class in America is dead and dying. No longer the Land of Opportunity, the Bigs are in control and the Mom and Pop businesses are 20th-century history.*

Legislation to raise the federal minimum wage from the current \$7.25 an hour to \$15 has stalled against Republican opposition in Congress; McDonald’s has vowed that all of its workers will be making at least \$15 an hour before 2024.

However, after the Biden Bounce stops bouncing, we forecast there will be more artificial stimulus injected into the economy by Washington to inflate it and more money to the unemployed.

APRIL RETAIL SALES SUSTAIN MARCH’S GAIN



After increasing 10.7 percent in March from February, retail sales were flat in April, holding March’s gains, although just missing the 0.8-percent nudge that economists had expected but still lofting 43 percent above those in April 2020, according to data firm Affinity Solutions.

Sales for the month in bars and restaurants more than doubled over the previous 12 months, according to Affinity, and were just 2 percent below February 2020's levels, Commerce Department figures show.

Consumers also spent more buying vehicles, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Shoppers, however, spent less on furniture and sporting goods and at big-box retailers.

Clothing sales were off 28 percent from March, according to Bank of America's credit-card tracking monitor.

March's spending spurt was attributable to lower-income households spending stimulus money, according to a Bank of America study, as well as some shoppers using the government's checks to satisfy pent-up demand.

Those expenditures have since begun to taper off, government figures show.

For April's sales to sustain March's gain is "somewhat remarkable," according to *WSJ* analyst Justin Lahart in a 16 May commentary, especially when job gains during the same month totaled a disappointing 226,000.

"It's a sign that consumer spending is still pretty healthy at this point," Scott Brown, Raymond James Financial's chief economist, agreed.

A survey covering the ten days ending 3 May by research firm Cowen found that Americans' willingness to enter stores, attend church in person, and otherwise congregate with others, as well as to be vaccinated, continues to increase.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast, there will be a Biden Bounce from the trillions of dollars of cheap money pumped into the economy and the record-low interest rates that have inflated equities and residential real estate markets. Again, as we have forecast, the bounce will be up and down and then go flat by years' end.*

Also, the reality on Main Street has finally hit the political world – the “lawmakers” who suck off the public tit never worry about running a business or going to work to earn an income – have finally woken up to the political disaster they created by locking down states and cities to fight the COVID War.

Thus, that is why the CDC has suddenly reversed its strict orders and eased mask and other mandates. Indeed, the bottom line is the decline in tax revenues and spikes in crime that have woken them up to the reality of the real world.

ALMOST 25% OF U.S. ADULTS WORSE OFF IN 2020



Nearly one-quarter of U.S. adults lost ground financially in 2020, the largest proportion since the annual survey began in 2014, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve's report, "The Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2020,"

released 17 May.

About 45 percent of workers who had been laid off were unable to meet their expenses in November or lacked the means to meet an unexpected \$400 expense, the study found.

The economic shutdown also worsened inequalities already separating racial minorities and under-educated persons from the middle class, the report said.

“A clear pattern from the survey is that financial challenges in 2020 were uneven, and frequently left those who entered the year with fewer resources further behind,” it noted.

Among those reporting to have survived 2020 without crashing financially, a full 44 percentage points separated those with a bachelor’s degree and adults who lacked a high-school diploma.

The spread was ten points greater than in 2019.

Barely a third of African-American and Latino adults said they were all right financially in 2020, contrasted with 80 percent of white adults and 84 percent of Asians.

"Even as the economy has improved, we can certainly see that some are still struggling, especially those who lost their jobs and those with less education, many of whom fell further behind," said Fed Governor Michelle Bowman in a statement accompanying the report's release.

About 22 percent of parents told the survey they were working less or not at all because of the shutdown; the group included a large proportion of single and low-income mothers as well as African-American and Hispanic parents.

TREND FORECAST: *When rent payment moratoriums are lifted, economic conditions for those most vulnerable will further deteriorate for those out of work or working and not having enough money to pay for what they owe. Also, the homeless population and crime levels will increase.*

MORTGAGE MARKET POISED TO SLOW, INSIDERS SAY



Home buyers are no less eager to buy houses but the mortgage industry likely will be less able to accommodate them, analysts say.

Mortgage interest rates are creeping up, leaving some prospective buyers now unable to qualify for loans even though they might have earlier this year.

For example, today's interest rates averaging around 2.97 percent means about 14.5 million U.S. homeowners could qualify to refinance their mortgages, according to data from BlackKnight. Earlier this year, when rates were averaging about 2.65 percent, 18.7 million could qualify, the company reported.

Also, relentless demand has pushed up home prices, leaving fewer people able to qualify for mortgages.

With a shrinking pool of prospective buyers, mortgage lenders are being forced to become more competitive, offering lower rates and other perks to draw customers at the expense of their profits.

Competition is most fierce among private mortgage brokers; lenders, such as banks, that make loans directly to customers without brokers in between, are faring better, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Rocket Cos., parent of Rocket Mortgage and Quicken Loans, disclosed that its profit margin fell from 4.41 percent in 2020's last quarter to 3.74 percent in the first three months of this year.

In 2020, lenders wrote a record \$3.83 trillion in new and refinanced mortgage loans, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association, as the U.S. Federal Reserve set record low interest rates and workers untethered from their offices sought cheaper, more spacious digs outside of cities.

The mortgage business boomed and lenders banked windfall profits.

This year, the volume of loans is predicted to decline 14.2 percent to about \$3.3 trillion, according to the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *While we agree with mortgage lenders such as KWB analyst Bose George, who told the WSJ that this year is still expected to be a great year... “probably the second-best in history”... even though the volume of business is set to decline, we forecast it will suddenly reverse as interest rates rise, the economy slows, and inflation keeps spiking.*

CORPORATIONS TO RETURN TO BUYING THEIR OWN STOCK



Flush with cash after a strong earnings season and confident in the economy's upward arc, corporations are preparing to resume buying their own stocks, a project that began in earnest after Republicans passed 2017's corporate tax cut but were paused during the economic shutdown.

U.S. companies across a broad spectrum of industries announced buybacks worth \$484 billion during the first four months of this year, according to the *Financial Times*, an amount that Goldman Sachs called the greatest in at least two decades.

JPMorgan Chase is buying back its own stock “because our cup runneth over,” CEO James Dimon said in a comment quoted by the *FT*.

Buybacks this year will exceed those of last year by 35 percent in a “buyback bonanza,” Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

In Europe, the volume will be up 25 percent year over year, according to Société Générale.

Companies like to buy their own shares because earnings per share increase if there are fewer shares in circulation.

Also, unlike stock dividends, buybacks can begin or end at the company's discretion.

Tech companies, with windfall riches accumulated during the shutdown, have been especially aggressive in snatching back their own shares.

Alphabet and Apple announced \$50 billion and \$90 billion in buybacks, respectively, in April.

TRENDPOST: *The trend of the Bigs getting bigger and investing in expanding their revenue stream persists... rather than re-investing to build their business and for capital improvements. It's about supply and demand – the more stocks they buy, the less supply. The less supply, the higher the price goes.*

JOB SLASHING: GOING DIGITAL AND GOING ROBOTICS



U.S. banks will cast off about 10 percent of the industry's workforce, or about 200,000 jobs, through 2030, Wells Fargo banking analyst Michael Mayo has predicted, according to the *Financial Times*.

"This will be the biggest reduction in U.S. bank headcount in history" as banks automate more and more tasks, Mayo told the *FT*.

The industry's job count has been stable at about two million for the past decade, the *FT* reported.

Jobs first for the chopping block are those in branches and call centers, Mayo said; workers in technology or who deal directly with customers are probably safest.

The analysis agrees with a U.S. Labor Department forecast that the number of jobs for bank tellers will shrink by 15 percent through the next ten years.

The sharpening competition among investment vehicles and alternative ways to pay bills and store value "means more computers and less people," Mayo said.

“Digitization accelerated [during the global shutdown] and that played to the strength of some fintech and other tech providers” such as PayPal Holdings and Amazon, Mayo said.

Banks now make up only about a third of the financing market, his study concluded.

Most of the industry’s 200,000 disappearing jobs will be erased through retirements and people choosing jobs in other industries rather than through layoffs, Mayo thinks.

Chicken Robotics

As a legacy of the economic shutdown, the \$65-billion U.S. chicken industry is automating in the face of a worker shortage.

Line jobs in meat processing plants have always been hard to fill: workers stand for hours, making the same motions over and over in plants kept cold to keep meat fresher and where conveyors move at an often uncomfortably brisk pace.

Meat-cutting jobs, often filled by immigrants, also are among the most dangerous, according to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

COVID infections raced through several U.S. meat-packing plants, cutting production and driving away even more workers.

“It takes six days right now to get five days’ worth of work done,” Donnie King, Tyson Foods’ COO, complained to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Tyson has raised production-line pay to an average of \$22 an hour and is testing flexible work schedules, but some of its plants still lack staff.

As a result, Tyson and competitor Pilgrims Pride are automating their plants.

Pilgrim's already has automated about 1,200 jobs out of existence since April 2020 and will sink another \$100 million into automated equipment over the next 12 months, CEO Fabio Sandri said in an April statement cited by the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *Welcome to the 21st century. The Industrial Age is dead; the Hi-Tech world is alive and thriving and will dominate for this and future centuries. More jobs, both menial and skill-based, will be lost to digitization and robotics.*

On the downside, while profits will grow, more people will decline into lower living standards and poverty. As a result, there will be resentment among the masses of the 10 percent and millions will take to the streets across the globe protesting the lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime, and violence.

As Gerald Celente has long said, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it."

THE "BIGS" KEEPS GOBBLING UP



BlackRock, the world's richest asset management company, is paying more than \$1 billion to buy 66 multifamily affordable housing blocks with 5,800 apartments in San Diego from the Conrad Prebys Foundation.

BlackRock will invest more than \$100 million to improve the properties, the company said.

Blackrock, one of the nation's largest landlords with about 100,000 housing units in its portfolio, already owns about 900 apartments in the city, the *Wall Street Journal* noted.

The company is buying the properties at a time when median rents in San Diego are rising at 2.2 percent annually and have reached \$1,820 a month for a one-bedroom flat.

The company has also partnered with Los Angeles-based TruAmerica Multifamily, an investment firm specializing in buying and upgrading so-called "Class B" apartments, which usually are older and occupied by lower-wage income earners.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and other city officials have sent BlackRock a letter expressing concerns that the company will gentrify the properties and leave them unaffordable for current tenants.

BlackRock must "take into account future plans to maintain affordability," the letter said, according to the *WSJ*. The apartments the company is buying are largely occupied by working families and represent a substantial portion of the region's affordable housing units, the officials have said.

MEXICAN RETAILER BUYS U.S. WAREHOUSE GROCERY CHAIN



Bodega Latina Corp., a subsidiary of Mexican retailer Grupo Comercial Chedraui, is buying 250-store Smart & Final, a California-based warehouse grocery store chain from private equity firm Apollo Global Management.

The sale's price was not publicized.

Chedraui already owns the California-based El Super chain and the string of 60 Fiesta Mart stores in Texas.

The Mexican firm's purchase comes after U.S. grocery sales climbed 11 percent in 2020, more than tripling the previous two years' expansion, according to U.S. census data reported by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Apollo bought Smart & Final in 2019 for more than \$1 billion; last year, Apollo sold the company's warehouse division to distributor U.S. Food Holdings for \$970 million.

Chedraui's acquisition is the latest in a series of U.S. grocery retail chains purchased by foreign investors.

Japan's Pan Pacific International Holdings has agreed to buy Gelson's Markets in California; E-Mart Inc. in Korea bought Good Food Holdings, parent of Bristol Farms and New Seasons Market.

TREND FORECAST: *Again, we continue to note how the Bigs keep getting bigger while the middle class keeps shrinking.*

As we have noted, in 2020, as much of the world was locked down and hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods were destroyed, the world's billionaires got \$8 trillion richer.

*Indeed, as we report in this **Trends Journal**, the COVID War cost \$10 trillion in economic damages, and more than 100 million people were forced into poverty. (See our new article, [**"WHO 'EXPERTS': THE WORSE IS YET TO COME."**](#))*

As conglomerates gobble up more and more, and more people are pushed into low living standards, new political movements, with radical communist/socialist leanings that demand government support for the working class, will accelerate... as will "Off With Their Heads 2.0" movements.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



JUNK BONDS JUNKIES ON A HIGH

Financially troubled companies are selling junk bonds at a record clip, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, with money pouring into the market and finding its way to the riskiest corners in search of high returns.

In Europe, investment-grade bonds are largely being bought by the European Central Bank (ECB) in its bond-buying spree to prop up the Eurozone's economic recovery.

“The ECB is buying so much of the corporate bond market that it is forcing yields down everywhere and forcing investors to take more credit risk” by shopping further down the credit ratings, Esty Dwek, Nataxis's chief global market strategist, explained to the *WSJ*.

The flood of money has enabled the companies to negotiate easy terms, analysts say.

An example: a French private equity firm recently took over Birkenstock, the German sandal maker, which then sold €430 million worth of CCC-rated bonds, close to the bottom of the credit-rating barrel.

However, the interest rate was just 5.25 percent, well below market rates, even though the bonded loans total seven times Birkenstock's earnings.

The bonds also allow Birkenstock's owners to choose between taking a dividend or borrowing more money, an increasingly common feature in junk bonds known as a "pick-your-poison" clause because adding even more debt would be "poison" to conventional lenders.

"There's a lot of faith-based investing going on," Fraser Lundie, credit chief at Federated Hermes, told the *WSJ*.

European deals, including Birkenstock's buyout, have been particularly aggressive in winning soft terms and low interest rates.

"Europe is at the sharp end of the stick in terms of highly aggressive, private equity-sponsored deals," legal analyst Alastair Gillespie at Covenant Review, commented to the *WSJ*. "Birkenstock is one of the very aggressive top-tier transactions."

About a quarter of Europe's junk bond deals in this year's first quarter include pick-your-poison clauses, a dramatic rise compared to previous quarters. In contrast, about 14 percent of U.S. sales included the feature, a Covenant Review study found.

Although Europe's sellers may be more aggressive, the U.S. leads in volume.

About \$200 billion in junk bonds have been sold in 2021 through April, beating 2015's previous year-to-date record and walking away from Europe's \$73 billion worth.

Triple-C bonds have been the most popular junk bond category, according to Bank of America, fetching yields averaging 6.5 percent as of 1 May. In contrast, the yield on 30-year U.S. treasuries has slipped 14 percent, the *WSJ* noted.

TREND FORECAST: As Nataxis's chief global market strategist noted, “The ECB is buying so much of the corporate bond market that it is forcing yields down everywhere and forcing investors to take more credit risk” by shopping further down the credit ratings.

Capitalism is dead. Who would have predicted that central banks across the globe would be buying corporate bonds and junk bonds as they are now?

However, the Bankster Ponzi scheme, as well as those buying up the junk bonds,” will crash as interest rates rise and the world sinks into the “Greatest Depression.”

INDIA'S ECONOMY IN SHAMBLES



After beginning a brisk economic rebound following last year's draconian lockdown, India's economy has crumbled back into a second drastic shutdown after the COVID virus resurged, creating what is now the worst outbreak on the planet.

“The impact of the second wave is that recovery is going to take a big setback,” CEO Mahesh Vyas at the private Center for Monitoring Indian Economy, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

The nation's economy is in a “very shaky position,” he said.

Foot traffic at retail and recreational sites has fallen 64 percent below early 2020 levels, 47 percent fewer people are visiting parks and public gardens, and traffic

is off 26 percent at food stores and pharmacies, according to Google Mobility data.

Consumer spending is the most powerful driver of the world's sixth-largest economy, in which a majority of the population has no savings to see them through a crisis.

After India's economy showed signs of emerging from 2020's recession, shoppers vented pent-up demand earlier this year and began to revive the country's GDP.

Now the new lockdown has been imposed before small and medium-sized businesses could recover from the previous one and tens of thousands of modest enterprises could vanish, economist Vishnu Rana at S&P Global Ratings said to the *WSJ*.

Some epidemiological models predict the viral surge is peaking now, which would likely return the economy to growth in this year's third quarter, economists predict, and shrink the country's 2021 growth forecast from 11 percent to 9.8, Rana said.

If the infection rate peaks next month, this year's GDP will expand at only 8.2 percent, he added.

ISH Markit's purchasing managers index for India's manufacturing sector in April edged up to 55.5 from 55.4 in March.

Readings above 50 show growth.

TREND FORECAST: Go back to 2019, before the COVID War began, economic growth in India had fallen by half that year, from 8.1 percent in the first quarter of the year to 4.5 percent in the third, as more borrowers and lenders default and the credit crisis deepens.

The nation's 2019 GDP registered the slowest growth in five years.

The impact is hardest on poor families and small businesses, many of which never recovered from the government's chaotic tax scheme and its 2016 decision to outlaw and replace many denominations of existing paper money.

It should also be noted that as India's government took strong lockdown measures to save its people from the virus, according to a 2019 study by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP), about 2.3 million people died of air pollution-related deaths.

Yet, this does not make the news, only the COVID War does, as the media continue to hype up how the virus is massacring its population. Yet, to date, the nation of nearly 1.4 billion has registered 283,276 deaths compared to the United States with a population of 332 million people and 601,279 virus casualties... over the past 16 months.

*To recap what we have been forecasting, India's economy has long been in decline. As we have reported in the **Trends Journal**, in 2019, auto sales plunged and over one million workers in the auto industry were laid off. And, again, prior to the COVID War, India's GDP had declined for seven straight quarters.*

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, India's unemployment skyrocketed to more than 25 percent due to the lockdown.

Considering the scale of India's lockdowns and the slowly phased reopening of businesses with a vast array of restrictions, we forecast India's economy and its currency will continue to decline, sinking into depression.

As a result, civil unrest, which had been tamped down with the lockdown, will again escalate.

And since that time there have been raging protests and demonstrations.

THE LATEST SHORTAGE: TIN



Blocks and bottlenecks in shipping systems have combined with consumers' craving for electronics during the global shutdown to create a shortage of tin, traditionally the most costly of base metals.

The price of tin in three-month contracts on the London Metals Exchange has gone up 46 percent to \$29,785 a ton, outstripping price hikes for aluminum and copper and notching its highest price since its 2011 peak above \$33,000.

The 490 tons of tin sitting in London Metals Exchange warehouses during the week of 3 May was barely half of the usual inventory; orders for an additional 840 tons were waiting to be filled.

The global economic shutdown curtailed mining and processing in Indonesia and Latin America; clogged ports and a shortage of shipping containers have slowed shipments by weeks, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Tin production also fell in 2019 when demand for computer chips eased.

The tin market is "probably the most squeezed it's ever been," Charles Swindon, managing director of RJH Trading, confirmed to the *WSJ*.

Half of the world's tin mined is used to make solder, the melted metal that adheres computer chips to circuit boards, according to the International Tin Association. A large portion of the rest goes into pipes, cladding, and other construction materials, which also now face high demand and short supplies.

The value of worldwide computer chip sales climbed 3.6 percent during the first three months of this year, compared to 2020's final quarter, and has risen 17.8

percent from a year earlier, the Semiconductor Industry Association has reported.

Demand for new houses also has been at a record pace, calling for more tin than usual in the construction industry.

Tin's lofty price is emblematic of the overall global rise in commodity costs, which has hobbled factory production, jittered stock markets, and hiked prices for consumers.

TREND FORECAST: *We note the spike in global tin prices to reaffirm the rising inflation trend, which the central banks and governments keep playing down.*

OIL PRODUCTION PREDICTED TO REMAIN WEAK THIS YEAR



Despite the world's gradual economic recovery and oil production rising elsewhere, U.S. oil production will likely decline again this year, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said in its 11 May monthly market report.

Producing countries outside OPEC will raise output by only 200,000 barrels a day this year, rising to 700,00, with Brazil, Canada, China, and Norway leading the increase, the report said.

In contrast, U.S. production will drop another 100,000 daily barrels this year after plunging by 800,000 last year, the cartel predicted.

Cash-strapped shale producers and February's storm in Texas that disrupted production are largely to blame for the loss, OPEC said.

West Texas Intermediate has clawed back to around \$65 a barrel, a price not seen since January 2020, allowing U.S. producers to bring back workers; oilfield service companies have recalled about 28,000 of the 100,000 employees dumped when the economy collapsed in 2020.

However, lenders and investors have pressured producers to scale back growth plans and instead to maximize cash flow, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

OPEC did not alter its previous forecast that global consumption will grow by six million barrels a day this year to an average of 96.5 million, 3.5 percent less than before the worldwide economic lockdown.

The group did raise its outlook for global economic growth by a cautious 0.1 percent to 5.5 percent, reflecting successful vaccine campaigns in China, the U.S., and parts of Europe, although the global impact of those has been blunted somewhat by raging COVID outbreaks in Brazil and India.

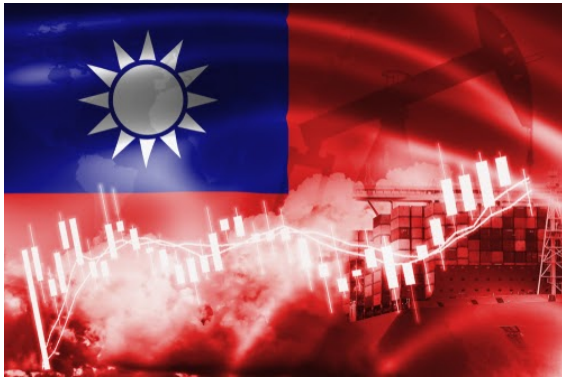
OPEC and its affiliates, chiefly Russia, agreed last month to gradually raise output by two million barrels a day through July, but data shows that Nigeria and Saudi Arabia hiked production before those increases were set to take effect.

Libya's national oil company cut production after a budget dispute with the country's government.

TREND FORECAST: *As economies open up, obviously oil consumption will increase. Should Brent Crude, which is now hovering just below \$70 per barrel break above that mark and solidifies, it will, in turn, add to the inflation spike.*

And, as we have noted in our new article, “[SPECIAL REPORT: THE GAZA WAR](#),” should military tensions spread throughout the oil-rich Middle East, Brent Crude will spike to the \$100 per barrel range, which will, in turn, not only spike inflation higher, it will crash equity markets and sink the world into the “Greatest Depression.”

TAIWAN STOCK INDEX TANKS ON FEARS OF INFLATION & INFECTION



Taiwan's tech-heavy TAIEX stock index fell 8.55 percent on 12 May, its worst one-day drop since 1969, according to *Bloomberg*, before recovering somewhat to close down 4.1 percent on the day, the *Financial Times* reported.

Investors bailed due to global anxieties about surging inflation, coupled with fears that the island nation would report higher COVID infection numbers and then impose restrictions on movement and business.

In response to the rising number, the mayor of the capital city Taipei and officials in several counties mandated the indefinite closure of bars, Internet cafes, entertainment venues, and sports fields and arenas.

Automotive, construction, financial, and rubber companies took the brunt of the stock sell-off. Investors had been shifting out of tech stocks into those industries in recent months.

Tech stocks had been weighted about 80 percent in the index in the past but that proportion recently slid to just over 50 percent.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the world's largest chip maker, is weighted 30 percent in the TAIEX and dropped 9.8 in the sell-off before ending the day down 4.8 percent.

"The market before today...was already at an inflection point," Patrick Chen, CLSA's head of Taiwan research, told the *FT*.

Taiwan's stock market has climbed about 80 percent over the last 12 months, peaking in April and on 13 May settled at 8.5 percent below its high.

TREND FORECAST: We note this article to illustrate how overvalued many of the world's equity markets are, how they are ready to sink into bear market territory, and how the negative implications of sharply rising inflation will damage economies.

Also, this nation of 23,854,548 people is now taking strong measures to fight the COVID War, which will damage economic growth despite registering the grand total of 14 virus deaths over the past 16 months.

AUTOMAKERS URGED TO DEVELOP COBALT SUPPLIES



Because China is rushing to tie up global supplies of cobalt, an essential mineral in making electric car batteries, the auto industry must develop its own sources or risk being hobbled if China chooses to hoard the metal, Ivan Glasenberg, CEO of mining and commodity trading giant

Glencore, told the Financial Times Future of the Car Summit on 12 May.

The global price of cobalt has shot up 50 percent since December.

China has quickly realized the rising demand for cobalt and locked up about 40 percent of cobalt produced in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for itself, Glasenberg said.

Almost two-thirds of the world's 130,000-ton annual cobalt supply comes from the African nation as a byproduct of mining copper and nickel.

Earlier this year, Chinese battery maker CATL paid the equivalent of \$137 million for 25-percent ownership of a Congolese cobalt-copper mine already owned by the China Molybdenum company.

Chinese companies also have signed long-term cobalt supply agreements with Glencore, the only western company operating in the DRC.

“Western companies either don’t believe this is an issue or they definitely believe they’re going to get batteries from China,” he told the conference.

“But what happens if the Chinese say ‘we are not going to export batteries, we are going to export electric vehicles.’ Where are the batteries going to come from?”

Chinese auto companies make more than 200 models of electric vehicles and are negotiating to export EVs to the U.S. and other countries.

TRENDPOST: *As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century, the 21st will be China's. As evidenced, the business of China is business, the business of America has been war and the enrichment of the military/industrial/intelligence complex rather than economic growth and self-sustainability.*

EVs CHEAPER IN EUROPE THAN GAS-FUELED CARS BY 2027, STUDY SAYS



All-electric passenger cars will be cheaper to build in Europe by 2027 than cars running on fossil fuels if governments take measures to make that happen according to a new study by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Light vans will be cheaper to make than their diesel-powered counterparts by 2025 and heavy vans and SUVs will reach that milestone by 2026, the study said.

The main factor slashing manufacturing costs will be the plummeting price of batteries, the cost of which will fall 58 percent by 2030, according to Bloomberg.

Sleeker engineering and dedicated production plants will make battery EVs cheaper for consumers to buy before 2027, even without government subsidies and incentives, the study predicted.

(Toyota rejects the study's conclusions; see our new article, [“TOYOTA RECONFIRMS COMMITMENT TO HYBRID VEHICLES.”](#))

However, governments must mandate tougher emissions standards and quickly build out charging infrastructures if those targets are to be met, according to Transport and Environment, the German advocacy group that commissioned the study.

If governments take a hands-off approach instead, all-electric vehicles will gain only an 85-percent market share by 2035, the group said, which will risk Europe's ability to meet its 2050 emissions targets.

In April, 27 European businesses called on the European Union to declare 2035 as the year by which internal combustion vehicles will no longer be sold in Europe. A recent poll found 63 percent of the region's city dwellers favor a ban by 2030.

At least seven car manufacturers and 10 European nations have announced plans to phase out fossil-fuel vehicles.

The European Commission is slated to meet next month to consider mandating tighter emissions standards for vehicles sold in member nations.

TOYOTA RECONFIRMS COMMITMENT TO HYBRID VEHICLES



In 2030, more than half of new Toyota vehicles sold in the U.S. will be hybrids, 30 percent will run solely on gas or diesel, and only a fraction will be all-electric, Toyota Motor Corp. executive Jun Nagata said at a 12 May news conference reported by the *Wall Street Journal*.

By 2030, "the price of battery EVs and the provision infrastructure around the globe probably won't have advanced that much," he said.

"Hybrids and plug-in hybrids will be easier for customers to buy," he added.

Toyota pioneered gas-electric hybrid vehicles. It has invested heavily in the technology and depends on it for a significant portion of its revenue.

Toyota's managers contend that customers do not necessarily want electric vehicles and that EVs may not be better for the environment, given the pollution created by mining and processing lithium and other metals for batteries and by generating the electricity to charge them.

"The goal is not electric vehicles," James Kuffner, Toyota's chief digital officer, said at Nagata's news conference. "The goal is carbon neutrality and even if we have the best technology and if it's not chosen by customers, it will not have the impact of reducing emissions."

Toshihiro Mibe, CEO of Toyota competitor Honda Motor Co., said last month that 40 percent of vehicles Honda produces will be all-electric by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040.

MÖET HENNESSY PREDICTS SURGE IN SPIRITS MARKET



The world of spirits will see a “post-COVID renaissance,” according to Möet Hennessy, the French producer of cognacs and champagnes, in which drinkers will repopulate restaurants and bars and splurge on fine wines and spirits in a “revenge of pleasure or the new Roaring

20s,” CEO Phillippe Schaus said.

“It’s clear people are almost desperate to enjoy food and drink again,” he noted in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

The trend is evident in countries, such as the U.S. and Australia, where lockdowns are largely ending, as well as in Italy, France, and elsewhere that restrictions on movement and business are still partly in effect, he said.

The economic shutdown left many people with money unspent, especially with government stimulus payments padding their bank accounts, he noted.

That extra money has led U.S. consumers to create a booming market for Hennessy's cognac, leaving the company struggling to meet demand and boosting the valuation of smaller competitor Rémy Cointreau to a record level.

After sliding in spring 2020, major spirits companies’ price-to-earnings ratios have recovered above levels in place before the shutdown, the *WSJ* reported.

For Möet Hennessy, that meant sales dipped 15 percent in 2020 to €4.8 billion and operating profit slid 20 percent to €1.4 billion; but revenue bounced back to €1.5 billion in this year’s first quarter, 12 percent above the same period in 2019.

The new level of pleasurable indulgence is here to stay, Schaus thinks, but “you probably have to wait six months to know” how many bars and restaurants will survive, he said.

TREND FORECAST: *It comes as no surprise to **Trends Journal** subscribers that much of the world is ready for “revenge of pleasure or the new Roaring 20s.” It was one of our Top Trends for 2021!*

On the other note, Mr. Schaus is partially correct about “you probably have to wait six months” to know how many bars and restaurants will survive.” We forecast there will be a sharp summer bounce and then a winter decline. However, the market sector for high-quality products will continue to stay strong as the lower classes decline and the upper classes move higher.

CHINESE INFLATION RATE HIGHEST IN THREE YEARS



China’s Producer Price Index (PPI) – the cost of raw materials going into, and of goods coming out of, Chinese factories – shot up 6.8 percent in April year over year, according to government figures, the greatest 12-month hike since 2018.

Consumer prices rose only 1 percent, reflecting a slow recovery from last year’s shutdown when prices for common items shrank.

About 70 percent of the PPI’s April bump was due to the rising cost of commodities, Robin Xing, Morgan Stanley’s chief China economist, told the *Financial Times*.

For example, iron ore’s price set a record last week and oil prices have regained ground lost last year, the *FT* reported.

China's early and quick recovery from its economic lockdown was driven by manufacturing and construction, which depend on commodities, the *FT* noted.

The Bank of China is unlikely to react by raising interest rates or suddenly altering other policies, analysts said; the price at which businesses buy consumer goods from factories has edged up only 0.3 percent this year, they told the *FT*.

Although the bank has left interest rates alone, the government has tightened credit in the construction sector to fend off a growing bubble and reined in steel production, which was beginning to jeopardize China's ability to fulfill its environmental pledges.

Passing rising commodities costs to households will be "limited," HSBC analysts wrote in a research note, which will allow the central bank to maintain "accommodative" policies.

Consumer prices will rise just 2.8 percent through 2021, Japanese financial firm Nomura has forecast.

China's April exports grew 32.3 percent year over year and 16 percent on an annualized basis, Morgan Stanley reported.

TRENDPOST: *We note this again to emphasize the scope of rising inflation and its implications on currencies, precious metals, interest rates... and future growth prospects, as we have detailed in this and previous issues of the **Trends Journal**.*

CHINA'S APRIL RETAIL SALES DISAPPOINT



Although retail sales in China grew 17.7 percent year-over-year in April, the volume still disappointed analysts polled by *Reuters*, which had expected shoppers to spend 24.9 percent more.

April's sales increase was barely half of the 34.2-percent surge booked in March.

Online purchases of consumer goods gained 23.1 percent during the first four months of this year, slowing the 25.8-percent sprint seen during the first three months; restaurant and catering sales slowed by almost half month to month, dropping from March's 91.6-percent gain to 46.4 percent in April.

"China is still seeing an unbalanced recovery, as employment, household income, consumption, manufacturing investment, service sector and private firms have yet to come back" to their pre-shutdown levels, Bruce Pang, head of macro and strategy research at China Renaissance, said in a statement quoted by *CNBC*.

China's central bank and the National Statistics Bureau each said in separate statements that the economic recovery is not yet firm; the bank noted that consumer spending remains weak.

Urban unemployment edged down to 5.1 percent in April from 5.3 percent the month before, but the average number of hours worked per week slipped from 46.9 in March to 46.4 last month.

The unemployment rate for workers ages 16 to 24 was stuck at 13.6 percent, the statistics bureau reported.

BLACKROCK LAUNCHES WEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICE IN CHINA



China's government has approved a joint venture led by BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, to open a wealth management business on the mainland.

The venture, 50.1-percent owned by BlackRock and including the China

Construction Bank (CCB) and Temasek, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, will target a market of Chinese savers estimated to be worth \$18.9 trillion at the end of 2020, according to a study by the Boston Consulting Group and China's Everbright Bank.

BlackRock's venture will invest in domestic assets through the CCB and is separate from BlackRock's Chinese mutual fund business, which the government approved last August.

The latest approval "represents a significant opportunity to help meet the long-term goals of investors in China," Larry Fink, BlackRock's CEO, said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

The company is "committed to investing in China to offer domestic assets for domestic investors," he added.

JPMorgan Chase and French asset manager Amundi also have set up fund companies in China under government reforms that have eased restrictions on foreign-owned financial businesses operating in the country.

JPMorgan has bought a stake in the wealth management unit of the China Merchant Bank, the company announced in March.

In November, Chinese officials created a route for foreign investors to buy Chinese assets directly, creating a boom in the nation's stock and bond markets

when investors sought to cash in as China became the world's manufacturer during the global shutdown.

On 14 May, Chinese regulators issued draft rules allowing households in southern China to put money into Hong Kong investment vehicles and vice versa.

International asset managers are convinced “that at some point they will be able to start offering non-Chinese products,” Stewart Aldcroft, Cititrust's Asia chair, told the *FT*.

TREND FORECAST: *We note this article to again illustrate how the Bigs keep getting bigger and how – despite Washington's claims of Chinese aggression in the South China Sea and its policies toward Taiwan and the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang province – the business of the world is business... and in several years, the Chinese economy will be the largest in the world, overtaking America.*

Indeed, while western clothiers such as Nike, H&M, and others are boycotting Chinese cotton from Xinjiang province and, as a result, are seeing their sales in China plummet amid consumers' anger at them, Japanese clothing and housewares chain Muji is filling the market void.

Human rights groups allege that China has enslaved large numbers of its Uyghur Muslim minority in Xinjiang labor camps and forces them to work the fields and mills.

About half of Muji's revenue outside of Japan comes from China but only a fraction comes from the U.S., where Muji's American division filed for bankruptcy last year, the Wall Street Journal reported.

In contrast, by currying favor with the Chinese government, Muji expects China to be its new growth market and will open 300 new stores in China in the next three months, the company has announced.

Many businesses are trying to straddle the controversy.

Thus, we forecast that companies wanting to sell products to the world's largest consumer market will dismiss human rights claims to build their bottom line.

Indeed, no greater evidence is needed than to see how western nations' manufacturers flocked to Communist China and Communist Vietnam at the beginning of this century to get products made by cheap labor to greatly increase their profit margins.

SPECIAL REPORT: THE GAZA WAR



On Saturday, President Biden talked with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in an attempt to de-escalate Israel's bombing runs over Gaza and Hamas's rocket fire into Israel.

The New York Times reported that by Saturday night, Biden's appeal showed no sign of success, and the fighting has "taken on a rare complexity because of its spread across the entirety of Israel and the occupied territories."

The paper reported a surge in violence in cities resulting in riots and assaults. A video that emerged on social media showed dozens of Jewish men in Bat Yam taking turns beating a man who appeared to be unconscious. In another town, Arabs beat a Jewish man with sticks and rocks and left him in critical condition. Clashes between Arab and Jewish neighbors have not broken out in such a manner in decades.

Tension also escalated in Jerusalem, when, on 21 April, several hundred members of the Jewish group Lehava marched through central Jerusalem chanting “Death to Arabs.”

A plan by Israel to evict Palestinians from homes in Sheikh Jarrah has also been a major source of tension. (See our 25 August 2020 article [“ISRAEL CONTINUES PALESTINIAN PURGE.”](#))

How it Started

As reported in this Sunday’s *New York Times*, on 13 April – 27 days before Hamas fired a rocket into Israel – an Israeli police squad stormed the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, pushing parishioners aside and cutting cables to the loudspeakers that were broadcasting prayers.

The reason the troops cut the cable on this first day of the Muslim holy month Ramadan was so the sermon wouldn’t interfere with a speech that was going to be delivered at the Western Wall by the Israeli president to honor those who died on Memorial Day... which was being celebrated this same day.

The Times wrote that “the police raid on the mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam, was one of several actions that led, less than a month later, to the sudden resumption of war between Israel and Hamas, the militant group.”

Note: Presstitutes and politicians use the term “militants” to deride any group that fights against invaders of their country or opposes their dictates. For example, those who fight against U.S. occupation, destruction, and mass murder of millions of civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq are labeled “militants.”

The Times quoted Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, the grand mufti of Jerusalem, who said, “This was the turning point,” and that the storming of the mosque “would cause the situation to deteriorate.”

And deteriorate it did.

The Times wrote:

“It was the outgrowth of years of blockades and restrictions in Gaza, decades of occupation in the West Bank, and decades more of discrimination against Arabs within the state of Israel, said Avraham Burg, a former speaker of the Israeli Parliament and former chairman of the World Zionist Organization.

‘All the enriched uranium was already in place,’ he said. ‘But you needed a trigger. And the trigger was the Aqsa Mosque.’”

Bombs Away

On Sunday, the Israeli military said more than 50 warplanes conducted a 20-minute attack on the Gaza Strip. Before the bombing, over 200 Palestinians were killed, including 59 children and 35 women, with 1,305 injured, according to Hamas.

Israel’s government reports that ten Israelis have been killed, including two children.

In last week’s **Trends Journal** article, “[ISRAELI TROOPS STORM MOSQUE, BOMB GAZA](#),” we reported that about 1,000 Israeli security forces stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, injuring more than 300 Palestinians. Israeli police said the raid was in response to Palestinians who threw stones and launched fireworks during an earlier demonstration.

The troops reportedly locked worshippers inside the mosque and prevented them from seeking medical help.

The Times reported that as of Saturday night, at least 145 people in Gaza have been killed in the conflict, including many children, compared to ten Israeli residents and two soldiers.

The paper said Hamas launched more than 2,800 missiles, of which 90 percent were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile shield, which was partially funded by the U.S. Israel said it fired 670 missiles into Gaza on Saturday night alone.

“You know, and I know: No country would tolerate this,” Netanyahu said after the phone call with President Biden. “Israel has responded forcefully to these attacks, and we will continue to respond forcefully until the security of our people is reinstated and restored.”

As we have long been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, ***“When all else fails, they take you to war.”***

Netanyahu, who was about to be unseated, has been given a political lifeline during the latest clash with Hamas. The *FT* reported he has “reasserted himself as ‘Mr. Security.’”

As *Foreign Policy* reported:

“But he now appears to have neutralized the political threat, thanks in part to the escalation with the Palestinians—which has stoked nationalist passions and made it more difficult for the opposition parties to come together.”

Yair Lapid, the chairman of the Yesh Atid party, was seen to have a legitimate shot at forming a coalition government after reports said Mansour Abbas, the leader of the United Arab List, planned to throw his support behind Lapid’s centrist party. *The Times* reported the clash broke out just as Arabs in the country “seemed on the brink of unprecedented political power.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the “most important thing that we can do right now is exactly what we’re doing, which is to be engaged across the board, pushing on de-escalation.”

Blinken did not indicate how he hoped to ease tensions in the region, the *FT* reported.

Preside Biden repeated the Washington line that Israel has the right to defend itself. But now, for the first time, the administration is facing a backlash from Congress who says Palestinians also have the right to defend themselves.

There was a video that went viral showing Ned Price, a State Department spokesman, who was asked by a reporter if Palestinians have the same right – in the view of the administration – to defend themselves. (The question was asked after reports stated 20 Palestinians were killed in airstrikes.) Price replied,

“This is a very fluid situation. I would hesitate to comment on operations beyond the rocket fire that is clearly targeting innocent civilians in Israel. So I would hesitate to speak to specific operations that have just occurred, but the broader principle of self-defense is something we stand by on behalf of Israel and every other country.”

The reporter followed up the question: “But the Israelis killed 13 people just now, including maybe five or six children. Do you condemn that? Do you condemn the killing of children?”

Price appeared to get tense and said that report was just emerging and there was no independent confirmation. He said he is “very hesitant to get into reports that are just emerging.”

The Biden administration has been criticized by fellow Democrats over its lukewarm response to the crisis unfolding.

“This is not a moment for tepid statements,” Sen. Christopher Van Hollen said on Twitter.

Rep. Brad Sherman blamed Hamas for attempting to kill as many Israelis as possible in airstrikes. Rep. Lee Zeldin said the Biden administration needs to get firmer in its support of Israel “not just in words, but also in its actions.”

Kill the Press

Israel faced criticism over the bombing of a 13-story office/apartment building in Gaza that housed the *Associated Press* bureau and *Al Jazeera*.

The Israeli military called the building's owner to inform him that the building was going to be razed, and he had an hour to get everyone out. The owner pleaded with the military to spare the building, but military officials refused, saying there was militant infrastructure inside the building.

The building was destroyed. The *AP* called the attack an "incredibly disturbing development."

"We narrowly avoided a terrible loss of life. A dozen *AP* journalists and freelancers were inside the building and thankfully we were able to evacuate them in time."

Heba Akila, a journalist for *Al Jazeera* who had been inside the tower, told *The Times*, "This is clearly to silence the truth and the voices of journalists."

TRENDPOST: *Israel justified the bombing of the building (which they gave occupants just one hour to evacuate, thus most belongings were destroyed) because Hamas was running an operation in the building.*

At a press conference yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was asked if the U.S. had been provided evidence by Israeli intelligence for justification of the strike.

"I have not seen any information provided," he said, noting that shortly after the building was bombed on Saturday, "we did request additional details regarding the justification for it."

But, today, Blinken said, "It's my understanding that we've received some further information through intelligence channels, and it's not something I can comment on."

Mr. Blinken's statement that he has an "understanding that we've received some further information" indicates he is not sure and has not reviewed it. And why, as the U.S. Secretary of State, won't he comment on it? What is the big secret?

Dr. Mostefa Souag, acting director general of Al Jazeera Media Network, called the attack a deliberate act to prevent journalists from reporting inside Gaza. He said,

"We call on the international community to condemn such barbaric actions and targeting of journalists, and we demand an immediate international action to hold Israel accountable for its deliberate targeting of journalists and the media institutions."

Sally Buzbee, the AP's top editor, said Israel has provided no evidence to justify the bombing and added that the AP wants an independent investigation as to why Israel blew up the building.

The International Criminal Court was asked by Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders to investigate if Israel's bombing of the building housing the media organizations was a war crime.

Kid Killers

Al Jazeera reported that Israeli rockets hit a refugee camp, killing at least ten Palestinians, including eight children.

The Times reported that Arab countries, including those that have normalized relations, have criticized Israel over its response. Officials from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco have criticized Israel's aggression.

Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, an Emirati political scientist, told the Wall Street Journal that Israel is "putting its friends and partners, including the U.A.E., in a difficult situation, an awkward position."

"I think this will take us back to square zero," he said.

Ofir Winter, a research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, told the *WSJ* there are some “strong fundamentals” to these relationships.

“But the challenge is how Arab countries will explain the issue to their people,” he said.

Apartheid State

In our 4 May article, [“ISRAEL ACCUSED OF APARTHEID BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH,”](#) we reported that Israel has been accused by Human Rights Watch of operating apartheid-like conditions in its treatment of Palestinians both within the country and occupied areas. While not comparing Israel to apartheid-era South Africa, Human Rights Watch said according to standards imposed by the international community, when one racial group dominates over another via inhumane acts of oppression, that, too, is apartheid.

Some 20 percent of Israel’s population are Arabs with full citizenship, a number of which have become lawmakers and other civil servants. But as we have been reporting, civil rights advocates have criticized discriminatory laws, including the 2018 “nation-state law,” which declares that “the right to exercise national self-determination” in Israel is “unique to the Jewish people.”

It established Hebrew as Israel’s official language while downgrading Arabic to a “special status.”

On the stealing of Palestinian land, which violates international law, Israel's nation-state law declares that the “Jewish settlement as a national value,” and it “will labor to encourage and promote its establishment and development.”

Diana Buttu, a Palestinian political analyst, told *The Times*, “The way that we are treated is as though we shouldn’t be here. We are the people who they mistakenly did not ethnically cleanse from this place.”

This past Saturday, one of America's star politicians who have been criticizing Israeli actions, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, tweeted, "Apartheid states aren't democracies." The tweet garnered over 275,000 likes.

TREND FORECAST: *The massive bombings and destruction of Gaza will dramatically decrease support for the Israeli government. There will be growing pro-Palestinian movements supported by anti-war and civil rights groups across the globe... including Black Lives Matter.*

We have reported that since November 2019, Benjamin Netanyahu has been under the pressure of a criminal indictment on charges of fraud and bribery... and after holding its fourth national election in less than two years, he has again failed to put together a winning coalition. Thus, when all else fails, "Mr. Security" would start a new war to retain his premiership and do what he could to avoid being brought to trial.

Indeed, on Sunday, The New York Times wrote, "The crisis came as the Israeli government was struggling for its survival."

TREND FORECAST: *Should the war expand beyond Israel/Palestine and into the Middle East, it will drive up Brent Crude, which is just shy of \$70 per barrel. With inflation pressures already driving equity markets down, a sharp spike in oil into the \$80-\$90 price range will push equities lower and push the world further into the "Greatest Depression."*

This, in turn, will accelerate anti-Israel sentiments and provoke anti-Semitic actions.

TRENDPOST: *As a result of Israel's bombing and missile strikes of the besieged Gaza Strip, the United Nations reports more than 38,000 Palestinians have been displaced and are seeking shelter. At least 2,500 homes have been destroyed by the Israeli bombardment that is now going into its second week.*

As for the U.N., the United States blocked three U.N. resolutions that would have condemned Israel's military response and called for a ceasefire.

Washington's refusal to back the resolution was applauded by Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz, who tweeted:

“My sincere thanks to the U.S. Administration and in particular to @SecDef. Lloyd Austin, with whom I spoke this week, for rightly preventing the unjust U.N. Security Council statement criticizing Israel’s actions in Gaza.”

Tensions Rising

As reported by Al Jazeera, the High Council of Human Rights of Iran wrote to the U.N. Secretary-General to take action on “genocidal acts,” “racial cleansing” and for the U.N. to acknowledge that Israel is committing “crimes against humanity and war crimes.”

They also called on the U.N. to urgently convene an emergency session of the General Assembly to address the issue.

Al Jazeera quoted Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan al Saud, who condemned “flagrant violations” of Palestinian rights and called on the international community to take immediate action to stop the Israeli air raids.

Turkey’s President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was quoted telling the international community to take a "strong and deterring response" against Israel and that the Muslim world must unite on the Palestinian issue.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



INFLATION SOON TO GET MUCH WORSE

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

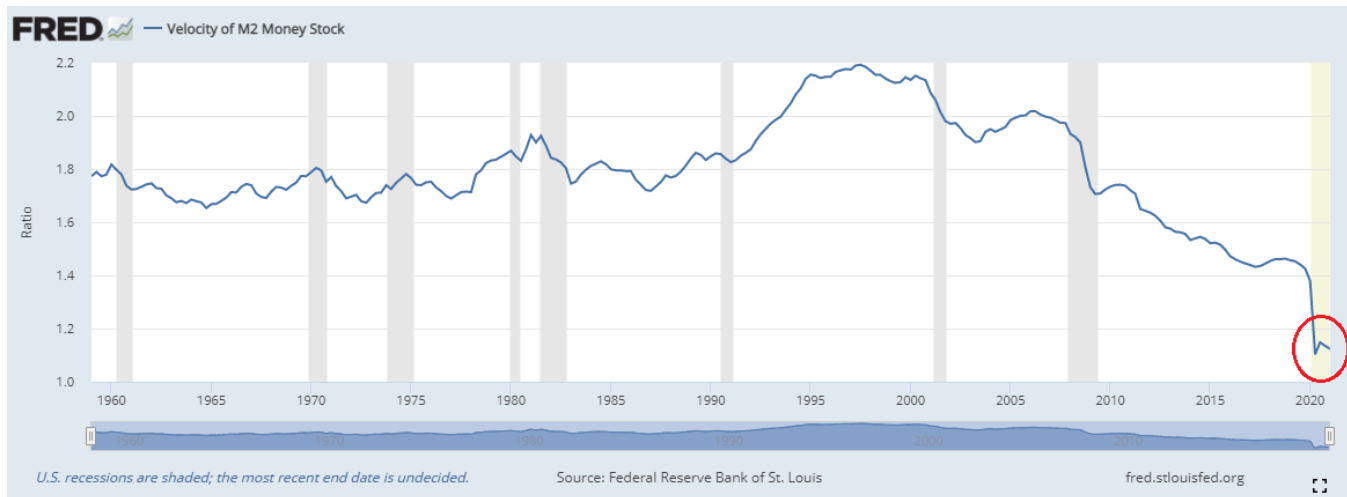
It is no secret that prices are skyrocketing across the board. The narrative you'll hear from the mainstream media is: "It's only temporary."

But it's not.

What we are talking about here is Economics 101, and it comes down to a concept I have covered for years... Money Velocity.

"Money Velocity" is the rate at which cash is moving through an economy. Today, we are coming off historic lows regarding Money Velocity, but this is changing.

Below is a chart of Money Velocity from 1960 taken from the Federal Reserve's website. Note the area to the extreme right I circled in red. It demonstrates a slight tick higher with the Money Velocity.



In large part, the current tick higher in the Money Velocity is the result of people going out and spending their stimulus checks, but the bigger issue is this...

We are currently existing in an environment where the Federal Reserve has been on a money-printing binge since the meltdown of 2008. As a result, the Fed has created many trillions of dollars out of thin air, which has NOT, as of yet, begun to chase the same amount of goods.

The moment the Money Velocity begins to tick higher, as we are seeing now, all those extra dollars begin to chase the same amount of goods and – poof! – INFLATION.

Once this process begins, and it already has, it becomes exceedingly difficult to stop. In fact, the only way it can be stopped is if the Federal Reserve begins to raise rates, which would hit the stock market hard.

The narrative from the mainstream media of “temporary inflation” must be maintained, and we already have seen several Federal Reserve presidents being

paraded out, reassuring the stock market that the Fed will maintain its easy money policy for the foreseeable future.

But the fact is that inflationary pressures will continue to rise. Moreover, the Fed continues to keep its inflation machine running. *They are issuing debt through one door and then buying it via another!*

The mechanism here requires that the Fed “hide” inflation, and they have already begun to do that as well. The cost of higher energy is being blamed, and several mechanisms already have been put into place to keep the cost of energy high. Supply line disruptions and rising tensions in the Middle East are just two, the usual MO.

To counter rising inflation, we need to dump dollars and seek alternative assets, like physical gold and silver and, also, in my opinion, cryptocurrencies.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



THE NEW VIOLENCE

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

Violence, of course, is nothing new. Fighting is as old as man, and predatory members of our species – disgracefully – have always existed. Likely, they always will exist.

What is new in America is the *kind* of violence we are experiencing. Our major cities are in some ways terrifying places to live, work, and attempt to enjoy free time in. Apparently motiveless crimes of truly hideous violence are reported frequently in the dailies. The worst, most hatefully evil acts of senseless aggression are reported against people who are simply minding their own business.

A frail, elderly Hispanic gentleman, using a cane to assist his walking, is set upon by a large, powerful, much younger individual who proceeds to beat this

poor man almost to death. The elderly man *did* die, with efforts to help him recover from that beating in a hospital proving futile.

“Knockout punching,” shoving helpless people onto subway tracks, simply jumping and beating people for fun, “wilding,” “flash mobbing,” murdering girlfriends or boyfriends, breaking into apartments or houses and savagely mauling the residents *who offer no resistance to the atrocious home invasion and robbery*, carjacking, random shootings and more specific shootings for “reasons” so trivial that no one would accept them if presented in television cop shows or in novels, and so on, are now part and parcel of the urban American scene.

So why am I pointing this out? How will emphasizing this most unpleasant fact of urban living help TRENDS readers to defend themselves? I’ll tell you how...

Paramount in becoming able to defend oneself is mindset. Mental conditioning for violent combat is a prerequisite to being fully prepared to successfully deal with unprovoked, insane criminal violence.

Yes, you need to know the practical *skills* of self-defense – with and without weapons – but all of the technical ability in the world will be of no use *if you aren’t fully prepared to use it, and to use it with the right spirit and intent!* By confronting with full conscious awareness the gravity of the threat that presents itself, proper mindset becomes easier to acquire, and mental conditioning for violent combat assumes a logical and obvious place of *necessity in your education*, allowing you to embrace it, despite how foreign it might have been to you, given a civilized and decent existence, up to now.

Dear reader: The situation of horrific predatory violence that is now commonplace and that borders on prehistoric, barbaric savagery, underscores the need for YOU to steel yourself when preparing for self-defense emergencies, and to reconcile the fact that – should this violent savagery come to you – you will MEET IT IN KIND!

You must be aware that a new kind of scum now infects urban America. It is the brainless, worthless, predatory beast that, as Robert Lindner, MD (the psychiatrist who wrote *Rebel Without A Cause*) noted: “It is the psychopath who rises in great numbers within any society when that society is in the stage of collapse and dissolution.”

The only hope for a decent human being prevailing when he is opposed by a single-minded, uncaring, unfeeling, contemptuous-of-life example of living filth lies in that decent person’s acceptance of a code of warfare that knows no rules.

To defeat the dangerous, brainless, malicious savage you must be *WORSE* than he is, when you are forced to deal with him. Frankly, this is not possible for everyone. I strongly urge, however, that you *make* it possible for you.

The very second it becomes clear to you that violent criminal activity is about to be directed or *is* being directed against you, you must shift – shift instantaneously – to a wild animal ferocity, and to what softer, self-made victims would call “unacceptable, inhuman, savage and gutter-like” action. That which the helpless victim *cannot* bring himself to do, **YOU** must be able to do on a fraction of a second’s notice: that is, **BRUTALIZE ANOTHER PERSON WITH UTTER INDIFFERENCE AND RELENTLESS SAVAGERY!**

The predator who attacks you must immediately become the one whom you now attack... and attack even more brutally and mercilessly than he attacks. You can learn how to do this if you truly want to learn; and you definitely should *want to learn* this needed survival skill for modern city living. I stress this in all personal instruction and in my DVDs.

Your reaction-response must be fast and furious. No minced words here. Go for the attacker’s eyes. Go for his throat. Kick him solidly in the testicles, or stomp his knee or shinbone – and follow up by pounding every vital point on his body you can reach until you are no longer in danger. Bite him. Sink your teeth into his face or neck and rip a sizable piece of his flesh off. Use the open hand-edge to chop at his windpipe, neck, or nose. Box his ears with your cupped hands, then

grab his ears and rip them off his head – or slam his head forward and knee him in the face. *Use anything at hand to stab, cut, bludgeon, or choke your assailant.* Use anything in your hand that you cannot injure him with to throw in his face and distract him – so that you can break his leg or otherwise inflict grievous injury.

To defeat an enemy, it is wise to *know* that enemy. Understand the threat he poses, and understand what will be required to neutralize him.

The typical violent offender today is more than willing to cripple or kill his victim for *no apparent reason*. Watch the video segments that appear on the *NY Daily News* online of these dregs from sewers, and how they kick fallen and unconscious victims in the head. Or stab people randomly. Or shoot people randomly.

Read the stories of garbage that shoves individuals whom it doesn't even know onto subway tracks. Or rodents who attack, terrorize, beat, and rape women. These scum constitute a new *low* in urban American street violence. It is now possible to be beaten, tortured, and killed *not* because you did, said, or *went somewhere* undesirable and used poor judgment. All you need do is cross the path of a 21st-century urban predator who is in the mood to torment someone. If you look like you wouldn't give him too difficult a time, then he may well target you.

Until the human species evolves to a higher level and automatically kills off those who demonstrate that they refuse to live amongst the populace peacefully and productively, and thus must *go*, the problem will remain with us.

When violent, brainless, good-for-nothing heaps of living sewage experience no punishment for their behavior, it should not be difficult to see them conclude that *getting away with more and more of this intolerable conduct will be easy*. *Why should they stop?*

The gravity of self-defense escapes many who view the martial arts as *arts* primarily... and who never learned and never considered that MARTIAL means “of and pertaining to *war*.”

War – not sport, not physical fitness, not contest-winning, not acrobatics, not game-playing, not esthetically satisfying movement, not beautiful actions, and not secret methods of magic. “War,” as someone once so aptly pointed out, “is *hell*.” And only a fool fails to avoid conflicts that are avoidable. But when a violent physical conflict is *not* avoidable, get it through your head that you will either prevail or fail; and the cost of failure here is simply too high. There is no rematch. No days off from training to recover and prepare for the next fight. It’s now or never; do or die!

As violence has taken a severe turn for the worse in our culture, so the study of self-defense must take a decided turn toward savagery and merciless brutality. No, we didn’t ask for this; but you’d better be damn well sure that you’re fully prepared for it, nevertheless.

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 TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

BUYING AMERICA'S NEWSROOMS

“Report For America,” an organization that subsidizes the hiring of selected reporters at regional and local newspaper outlets, recently announced an expanded initiative. A new “Report For The World” program has been launched to place journalists in newsrooms in Africa and other nations.

Since 2017, Facebook and Google, among other left-leaning funders, have used “Report For America”, which is administered under the auspices of the [“The Ground Truth Project”](#), to build influence over the hiring of and development of “social justice” reporters. In 2021, the program placed [300 reporters](#) across the U.S.

And their goals over the next few years are even more ambitious: “Next year, we’ll send even more reporters throughout the country,” their [website](#) boasts.

“We aim to place 1,000 reporters by 2024 and strive to fundamentally transform local news business models and ecosystems.”

The way the project works is straightforward. Newsrooms can apply in a “competition” by outlining “urgent gaps in coverage” and specifying how they will use reporters. Winning newsrooms are supplied with a reporter whose salary is half-subsidized by the RFA.

Aspiring journalists can apply to be part of the program:

“The Report for America corps members get world-class training, at the beginning of the term and throughout the service years. The term is one year with an option for a second year (most corps members end up serving two years).”

What say do local news organizations have in choosing reporters they want? Not much. “Report For America” controls which journalists are accepted into their program. And local newsrooms can only choose from a small selection of Report For America’s “pre-screened candidates”:

“RFA will screen the large pool of talented applicants and choose three to five well qualified candidates to present to the local news organization. You make the final selection.”

A Brief Survey Of Reporter Projects

RFA has a page listing reporting projects of journalists funded by their program. It reads like a litany of “social justice” and “critical race theory” in action. Some recent examples of RFA journalist reporting include:

- WFAE: Race and equity beat
- City Limits: Climate change and its implications for New York City
- Sahan Journal: Immigration policy especially affecting the Hmong Somali and Latino communities
- The Public’s Radio: Race and poverty in Newport R.I.

- Dcist: Photojournalism involving minority communities in Wards 7 and 8 in D.C.
- Associated Press, OH: Ohio legislature, especially related to abortion, gun control and opioid settlements
- The Akron Beacon Journal: Minority and immigrant issues
- The Mercury News: Economic inequality in San Jose and for The California Divide Project
- The Charlotte Observer: Status of poor and minority communities in a prosperous city
- Mission Local: Inequality and income disparities in Mission District of SF
- The News & Observer: Minority communities in North Carolina
- The News Tribune, in partnership with The Olympian, The Bellingham Herald, and The Tri-City Herald: Indigenous communities in Washington State
- Henrico Citizen: Educational equity in Henrico County, VA
- The Community Voice: Criminal justice system and African-American community in Kansas
- The Columbus Dispatch: Bhutanese and other immigrant communities in central Ohio
- The Haitian Times: Community coverage of Little Haiti in Miami
- Traverse City Record-Eagle: Indigenous communities in Northern Michigan
- Associated Press TEXAS: State legislature and the politics of climate change
- The Texas Observer: Indigenous tribes in Texas as part of a new Indigenous Affairs team
- The Plug: Innovation and start-up initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- IndyStar: Education, health and business issues and gaps in African-American and Latino communities

RFA notes it is not open to “advocacy journalism” outfits. But their goal isn’t to seed groups already aligned with their ideological agenda. Their aim is to “fundamentally transform” local newsrooms that may not yet be wholly subverted by the hardline leftist lenses of social justice and critical race theory.

RFA: Deep Ties to Democrat Political Machines & Leftist Media

Report For America was co-founded by Steven Waldman and Charles Sennott. Both men have organizing backgrounds and deep connections to Democratic political machines.

Waldman served as senior advisor to the CEO of the Corporation for National Service, the government agency in charge of former President Bill Clinton's own political seeding "AmeriCorps" initiative. Studies have shown AmeriCorp has been successful in grooming participants for [government jobs](#). Waldman also served as a senior advisor to the FCC during the Obama administration. His brother Michael Waldman was Clinton's White House Director of Speechwriting and now serves as president of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU's School of Law.

Waldman wrote a report in 2015, "Report for America," which called for a national program to "improve local journalism." He ended up teaming with Charles Sennott, founder of The Groundtruth Project, to make it happen.

Charles Sennott's bio includes working for *PBS Frontline* and *NewsHour*, as well contributing for *MSNBC*, *CNN*, and the *BBC*. Before that, he reported for the *Daily News* and the *Boston Globe*. If that's not enough clue where his politics lie, his columns available [here](#) should leave no doubt.

News For America is another example of how corporate powers and foundation billionaires operate at a practical level, funding experienced political organizers and groups to seed institutions with loyal zealots.

NFA Funders: A Who's Who of Global Corps and Fellow-Traveling Foundations

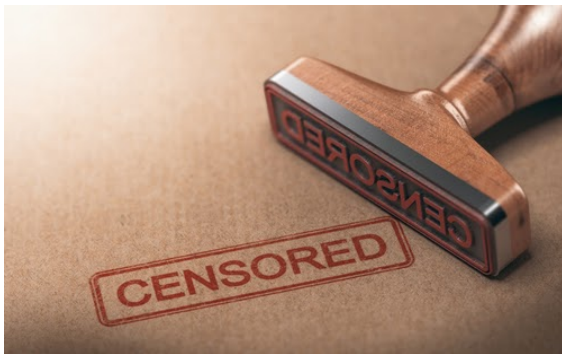
As mentioned, Facebook and Google are major funders of NFA. The "Facebook Journalism Project" has contributed \$4.5 million and Google added \$400 thousand. Big tech companies already wield vast control over internet

information, via search engines, social media ecosystems, and closed hardware and software systems and app stores.

But especially since 2016, Google, Facebook, Apple, Amazon, and Twitter have established more specific control and manipulation of news organizations. NFA is part of that.

An extensive list of NFA [funders](#) is viewable on their website.

PRAGERU CANCELED BY JW PLAYER VIDEO SERVICE



PragerU, an assiduously polite organization that puts out effective primers on basic conservative principles and thought, has been banned by another tech company.

This time, it's JW Player, which had been providing video services for the PragerU website.

According to a 14 May 14 PragerU statement:

“Just as our contract was coming up for renewal, JW Player informed us they had updated their ‘community guidelines.’ They announced they won’t be renewing our contract as they claim that ‘PragerU’s content is misleading.’”

PragerU says they pressed for more specific information or a list of videos that violated JW Player’s new guidelines, but the company declined to provide any further info.

JW Player is currently used by left-wing media organizations including The Young Turks and Vice, among others.

PragerU previously has experienced big tech censorship including video restrictions, demonetization, and bans from platforms including YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. Founded by conservative talk show host and author Dennis Prager, PragerU specializes in short videos that utilize graphic presentations to educate mostly younger audiences about conservative ideas and principles.

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



THE CROWD-SOURCED INQUISITION.

Not so long ago, *The Intercept*, led by Glenn Greenwald, made its reputation chronicling U.S. intelligence and military abuses, both foreign and domestic. Greenwald won a Pulitzer in 2014 reporting on Edward Snowden's revelations about

an extensive, illegal secret apparatus of domestic U.S. spying.

Greenwald cared just as much when spy agencies were concocting fake Russian narratives and using intelligence powers to undermine Donald Trump's presidential campaign and hobble his presidency. But by 2020, *The Intercept* had morphed from digging into government abuses of power to actively promoting and assisting a "War On Terror 2.0," aimed squarely at American citizens deemed "domestic terrorists," and Greenwald was ousted from the investigative outlet he founded.

In a brilliant new [piece](#), reporter Matt Taibbi details how not only formerly cutting-edge outlets, but old-guard media including *CNN*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post* have become snooping lackeys of the Technocracy.

After perusing the history of the Internet age of surveillance post-2001, Taibbi sums up the sorry current state of media, now trolling through hacked GAB data for evidence of thought crimes of average citizens and covering for the latest

Government abuses of power, including ICOP and other DHS domestic surveillance programs [detailed](#) in the **Trends Journal**.

Taibbi sums up the current state of affairs of the “War On Terror 2.0”:

“In the domestic sequel, the aim will be getting Americans to lose attachment to concepts like legal guilt or innocence. It won’t matter if you’ve actually committed or planned to commit a crime: if you check enough boxes, you may not be able to post on Internet platforms, fly a plane, use credit services, buy advertising, go on dating apps, work in your chosen profession (or at all), or do any of a dozen other things. A person’s quality of life might hang on whether or not someone—perhaps in the press—decides to publicly attach a name to a term like ‘white supremacist’ or ‘domestic terrorist...’

The press is taking the easy way out, pinning deputy badges to their chests and diving into the lives of ordinary people in search of secret sins. That’s not journalism, it’s a Crowdsourced Inquisition...”

Taibbi couldn’t be more on target.

THE FUTURE OF POLITICAL SURVEILLANCE IS BEING DECIDED NOW.

Americans just hoping to breathe fresh air, meet with friends and family, and enjoy a semblance of normalcy in their daily lives aren’t focused on Committee hearings regarding 6 January. But they should be.

Democrats and corporate media are in overdrive cementing the “insurrection narrative” that is already being used to roll out a full-on domestic political surveillance – and retribution – apparatus.

Republican politicians cowed into accepting the widespread, in-your-face fraud of Joe Biden’s 80-million vote “victory” are showing some fight. At a Wednesday hearing of the House Oversight Committee, Representative Paul Gosar called

out Biden administration officials for leveraging lies about the Washington, D.C. protest to ransack the rights of American citizens:

“Outright propaganda and lies are being used to unleash the national security state against law-abiding U.S. citizens, especially Trump voters. The FBI is fishing through homes of veterans and citizens with no criminal records and restricting the liberties of individuals who have never been accused of a crime. It was reported early, totally unconfirmed, that an armed insurrection beat a police officer to death with a fire extinguisher.”

Gosar confronted Jeffrey Rosen and Christopher Miller, who were head of DOJ and Defense at the time of the protest, for abetting false narratives regarding the protest.

Rosen pointed out that the Justice Department confiscated no firearms from people who entered the Capitol on 6 January. Gosar also pointed out that the only person shot and killed at the Capitol that day was an unarmed female veteran, Ashli Babbitt.

“Who executed Ashli Babbitt?” Gosar asked Rosen. The former acting head of DOJ refused to answer.

The Public Police State

Representative Andrew Clyde also countered false government and media narratives about the Washington protest:

“The House floor was never breached and it was not an insurrection. This is the truth. There was an undisciplined mob, there were some rioters and some who committed acts of vandalism. But let me be clear. There was no insurrection, and to call it an insurrection, in my opinion, is a bald-faced lie.”

House Leader Nancy Pelosi said Clyde’s statement was in “denial, and in the range of sick.” But at the time of the protest, Pelosi fomented one of the biggest

lies about it, claiming it was an “armed insurrection.” It was used as one of the excuses to encamp the nation’s Capitol for months with National Guard troops.

While Americans personally affected by COVID restrictions and fundamental alterations to their daily lives have understandably focused much of their attention there. That siphoning of attention has been fully exploited to solidify an intelligence apparatus effectively criminalizing outspoken, politically incorrect dissent.

Citizens who think regaining political power will be a simple matter of going to the polls in 2022 aren’t paying attention. The election of 2020 wasn’t only a historic instance of systemic technocrat control and fraud. It has marked the imposition of a non-clandestine, very public domestic technocratic police state that threatens the integrity of all future elections.

The **Trends Journal** has extensively covered the 6 January protest and the ways it has been used by the Biden administration to build new domestic surveillance programs and a regulatory and legalistic framework for this political police state. For readers who may want to catch up:

- <https://trendsresearch.com/all-the-presidents-apps-tech-coup-2021/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/democrats-impeach-trump/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/this-week-in-surveillance-3/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/political-prisoners-in-the-u-s-a/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/political-suppression-gone-wrong/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/freedom-dead-in-d-c/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/congress-pressure-big-tech-to-censor-even-more/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/house-cancels-session-over-possible-militia-plot/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/evidence-shows-capitol-riot-was-not-planned/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/this-week-in-surveillance-7/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/this-week-in-surveillance-9/>
- <https://trendsresearch.com/are-americans-heading-toward-a-silent-secession/>

- <https://trendsresearch.com/doj-to-arrested-antifa-blm-protesters-nevermind/>

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



DRUG GANGS POUR ACROSS SOUTHERN BORDER WHILE U.S. GOES AFTER BINANCE. The stock market sinking 600 points early last week off horrible inflation numbers and the Colonial Pipeline fiasco needed something to turn it around.

Cue a crackdown on Binance specifically and decentralized cryptos more generally. U.S authorities announced an investigation into supposed rampant drug-related and other criminal money laundering on the exchange.

Together with Elon Musk's odd sudden reversal, selling off BTC citing environmental concerns, and the Colonial ransomware attackers, who demanded payment in BTC, there was easily enough news to scare investment off cryptos. By Friday, the Dow had recovered 360 points and stood at 34,382.

Still a loser on the week, but the wild swings in Bitcoin, Ethereum, and other top market-cap cryptos may mean investors are heading back to stocks rather than cryptos to try to stay ahead of the gathering inflation monster.

Of course, if the Feds were serious about drug money laundering, they might be doing something about the exploding fentanyl peddlers and south-of-the-border cartels creating drug-fueled mayhem from Texas to Arizona and New Mexico, to Cali, and up through the American heartland, to the [Virginias](#), and on to formerly quaint New England towns.

Cartels have so pervasively sunk tentacles everywhere, pipelining heroin, cocaine, and exponentially more lethal designer drugs, that it's banally accepted as an entertainment cliché.

But there's no money to be made on Wall Street fighting that war, greased as it always has been, by greenbacks.

Cowing average investors into returning their savings to the stock market is another matter. There is no question that investors, especially in the wake of disastrous pandemic policies and progressively ballooning multi-trillion dollar "solutions," have been choosing between stocks and cryptos (see last week's **Trends Journal** article [here](#)).

The move against Binance should be seen in a larger context than the crusading "do-gooder" narrative of authorities. These are the same ones, after all, allowing the most lethal drugs to pour into the U.S. at an increase of over [230 percent](#) since January.

BINANCE RESPONDS TO REPORT OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATION. Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, responded to a *Bloomberg News* report that U.S. DOJ and IRS officials are seeking "information from individuals with insight into Binance's business."

Federal agencies haven't yet formally accused Binance of wrongdoing. Currently, Americans aren't even permitted to trade on the platform.

A [response](#) by a Binance spokesperson to The Block made it clear the company believes the Fed is setting a narrative regarding criminal activity:

"We take our legal obligations very seriously and engage with regulators and law enforcement in a collaborative fashion. We have worked hard to build a robust compliance program that incorporates anti-money laundering principles and tools used by financial institutions to detect and address suspicious activity. We have a strong track record of assisting law

enforcement agencies around the world, including in the United States. We don't comment on specific matters or inquiries.”

Binance has made recent moves to hire former politicians and regulators from regulating entities, including former Senator (and former Ambassador to China) Max Baucus of Montana, and two former members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The **Trends Journal** has previously [outlined](#) the aims and central bank powers behind that organization.

WILL “TAPROOT” UPGRADE HELP BTC REBOUND? The Taproot project seeks to upgrade Bitcoin with enhanced privacy and security features and other efficiencies. The upgrades must be accepted in sufficient numbers by Bitcoin miners.

Though Taproot didn't achieve adoption in a first round of surveying on the Bitcoin network blockchain, advocates believe the Taproot upgrades will take hold before the end of 2021. If that happens, it may give a boost to what has been the most established and dominant cryptos by market cap, but which is one of the oldest, with issues related to mining and transaction efficiencies.

Taproot comprises three distinct Bitcoin Improvement Proposals, or BIPs: Schnorr Signatures, Taproot, and Tapscript. According to [River Financial](#), Schnorr Signatures will enhance privacy, lower fees, and provide more flexible multisig capabilities.

Taproot and Tapscript add specifications and “opcode” scripts that open up new ways of transacting with Bitcoin, including something called Pay-to-Taproot (P2TR), as well as adding flexibility for future P2TR upgrades.

Obviously, the nuts and bolts of the Taproot upgrade may sound a bit murky and technical. But the takeaway for average investors is that the Bitcoin community seems poised to implement Taproot, possibly soon. And that may give Bitcoin a distinct boost.

TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



NOVA SCOTIA: FREEDOM RALLIES FORBIDDEN

The government of Nova Scotia had ordered a province-wide lockdown and on 14 May, was granted a court injunction, under the Health Protection Act and the Emergency Management Act, prohibiting any gathering that defied the province's public health orders.

As reported by *Halifax Today*, provincial authorities this past weekend invoked that injunction to declare illegal two rallies that had been scheduled. One billed as a "Freedom rally" attracted some 50 people to Halifax's Citadel Hill.

"Callous and Shameful Disregard"

Ignoring the public health orders by refusing to wear masks or maintain physical distancing, the COVID Cops wrote 21 tickets and made "numerous arrests." The

authorities viewed the rally as an example of “callous and shameful disregard for the health and safety of their fellow citizens.”

The other event declared illegal was a car rally in Halifax’s south end, which attracted some 200 vehicles and was described as a “Free Palestine COVID safe car rally” – though, it wasn’t declared safe “enough” because COVID Cops issued tickets to people who were sitting in their cars.

As reported by *CBC* news, a woman was sitting in a car with her roommate, heading to the rally, when a Halifax Regional Police officer hit the car as he walked by in the parking lot, shouting at them to move along. Then another COVID Cop came up to the car they were sitting in and issued a ticket under the Health Protection Act for physically gathering with “everyone outside,” referring to the nearby cars. That ticket carries a \$2,000 fine.

Premier Freedom Fraud

“I am personally all for freedom of speech,” said provincial Premier Iain Rankin. “People have a right to share their views, but while we’re in a province-wide shutdown... it is incumbent for all of us to protect each other by following public health protocols.” The court injunction also makes it illegal to promote such events on social media.

Last Friday, *Halifax Today* reported that a downtown business was fined \$11,622.50 under the Health Protection Act by COVID Cops who said they “observed people entering the business and heard loud music coming from inside the establishment.”

In a news release, the police said, “We strongly advise members of the public to continue to educate themselves on these [public health directives](#) and COVID-19 enforcement measures, including those related to illegal gatherings and associated fines.”

No Vax, No Freedom

To date, some 40 percent of Nova Scotians have now had their first COVID Jab. But more will be needed, declared the dictators-in-charge, to open up the province.

“When 75 percent of our entire population is fully vaccinated with two doses, we will be able to significantly relax some of the public health measures we've had in place for more than a year,” declared its health honcho, Dr. Robert Strang. “But without this population protection from the vaccine, restrictions remain the only tool we have to control the spread of COVID-19.”

He continued, “The virus needs a large number of unvaccinated people to spread, so we cannot give it that opportunity, so anyone who is eligible must do their part and get vaccinated.”

TREND FORECAST: “Control the spread of COVID-19?” Or, more accurately, “Control We The People.” As we have forecast, as time goes by, this year and in the years to follow, governments will require all their citizens to receive the Drug Lord Vax... be it for the coronavirus or others to come.

However, there will be strong and growing anti-vax political movements for Freedom, Peace, and Justice that will replace establishment parties.

TRENDPOST: The COVID Cops stupidly declare that the public continues to educate themselves. Educate themselves on what? The imbecilic restrictions that have been imposed on entire populations that lack a scintilla of hard scientific evidence to support them... as we continually detail?

Are the tough COVID Cops too stupid to add up the numbers?

Since the COVID War began in March 2020, in Nova Scotia, a province of 979,351 people, 72 have died from the virus or the grand total of 0.00735 percent of the population. Over 16 months, that's 0.0006127 percent of the population on average who died from the virus per month. Additionally, some 87

percent of those who died, according to the Canadian government, were over 70 years of age... and 67 percent were over 80 years old.

Over 12 months, some 80 people died from car accidents in the province... but the “lawmakers” did not shut the country down or impose restrictive “rules of the road.”

Freedom? RIP in Canada. Only the ruling political class and their flunkies, i.e., “authorities” have the power to declare who can be free, when, where, and why, as evidenced by the draconian dictates imposed on the people under the guise to fight the COVID War.

On Sunday, the tough Canadian COVID COPs ticketed seven people for praying at Weston Christian Fellowship church, and they hit the church organization with an \$11,000 fine.

TRENDPOST: *There were also “No More Lockdowns!”, “Freedom!”, and “Freedom Over Fear” protests in Toronto, Ottawa, and Calgary on Saturday.*

Gerald Celente was a guest speaker via Zoom at the Calgary rally.

CDC’S COVID FRAUDSTER?



One of the more remarkable aspects of the new recommendations regarding mask-wearing from the CDC seems to be how quickly and easily the agency’s director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, has changed her tune.

Gloom and Doom

As recently as 30 March, Dr. Walensky's mood was, literally, one of impending COVID doom; that's precisely what she called it. Participating in a briefing on that date, she appeared to grow emotional as she shared her innermost feelings with those assembled:

"I'm going to pause here... I'm going to lose the script, and I'm going to reflect on the recurring feeling I have of impending doom. We have so much to look forward to. So much promise and potential of where we are and so much reason for hope. But right now I'm scared."

At the root of her fear, she said, were the ongoing concerns about the number of reported cases, patients hospitalized, and patients dying all trending upward.

Not Quite a 180° Turn?

Perhaps going back on script, on 27 April, the agency updated its mask guidelines for fully-vaccinated people, a category that now includes 36 percent of the U.S. population (with more than 46 percent having received at least one dose). The CDC advised that, based on increasing vaccinations and decreasing case counts, fully-vaccinated persons could dispense with masks when outdoors alone or in small groups.

Dr. Walensky's "explanation," as given to *CNBC's* Shepard Smith in an interview on 12 May, had to do with science "evolving":

"These issues are complex, the science is evolving, the science is moving, and we are following the science each and every day, and our guidance is evolving as the science evolves."

She even seemed upbeat about anticipated, additional changes, based on vaccines being made available for 12- to 15-year-olds. There was no hint of gloom and doom when she told Smith, "I'm really enthusiastic updating [the

guidelines] very soon.” Nor was there any explanation of how the data that informed the agency’s guidelines had “evolved” so markedly and quickly.

Don’t Retire Those Masks Quite Yet

The CDC director stood firm on indoor masking, even in offices where every person had been vaccinated, contending that such masking should continue until the CDC could be sure the vaccines were effective against all variants in circulation and there were no asymptomatic carriers. She gave no indication of when that might be.

Oops! Never Mind What I Said Yesterday!

And then, just one day after Dr. Walensky’s Shepard Smith interview, the CDC announced its new guidelines, under which fully-vaccinated persons no longer need to mask up for most indoor or outdoor activities.

TRENDPOST: *The Presstitute media never once referenced the CDC director’s crying of gloom and doom just six weeks ago.*

As evidenced by Dr. Walensky’s statements that the “issues are complex, the science is evolving, the science is moving,” it is clear there is no science to support the actions taken against the population to fight the COVID War. Indeed, the science on mask-wearing dictates for the vaxxed changed overnight.

Confirming what we have long been noting, National Nurses United, the union of registered nurses in the U.S., condemned the CDC’s guidelines, saying, “This newest CDC guidance is not based on science.”

More B.S.

Moreover, why are vaccinated people permitted to not wear masks while others are forced to? The CDC and other “health officials” have been declaring that the “herd” would reach immunity when some 80 percent were jabbed... to date, we are not even halfway there!

And, as we have long noted, why are those who do not want to wear masks or get vaccinated being forced to since Ms. Walensky said on “Meet the Press(titutes)” on Sunday, “If they are vaccinated and they are not wearing a mask, they are safe. If they are not vaccinated and they are not wearing a mask, they are not safe.”

TRENDPOST: *Another Presstitute favorite who they hawk as “one of the nation’s top infectious disease experts” is Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. In February, he said on NBC’s Meet the Press that the U.S. was facing a “Category 5” storm as virus variants begin to spread across the country.*

Spewing hysteria, Osterholm inaccurately predicted, “We are going to see something like we have not seen yet in this country... And as fast as we’re opening restaurants, we’re likely going to be closing them in the near term.”

Reappearing on Meet the Press(titutes) last month, the unhealthy-looking “health expert” said, “Let me say that, at this time, we really are in a Category 5 hurricane status with regard to the rest of the world... we’re just at the beginning of this surge, we haven’t even really begun to see it yet.”

Again, despite these false forecasts, the same media “health experts” are regurgitated back into the media, selling messages that keep the general public living in COVID Fear.

MASK CONFUSION: WHERE THEM HERE, NOT THERE



Following last Thursday’s announcement by the CDC it was relaxing its mask-wearing and social distancing mandates, a number of large U.S. companies, including Walmart,

the country's biggest retailer, announced they would follow suit.

Walmart's move, which affects over 1.5 million American workers and some 140 million shoppers, was considered the most influential, as they confirmed they were dropping mask wearing for workers and shoppers who had been injected. According to a memo released to all employees last Friday:

“We’re encouraging all associates to get vaccinated and help end this pandemic. Do it for your health, your family, your friends, your community and your country—let’s help reach our national vaccination goals by the 4th of July.”

The company's policy, however, is to not confront shoppers without masks. The memo clarified the company wants to avoid “physical confrontations.”

Confusion Reigns

As with virtually all changes in CDC guidelines and state and local rules since the coronavirus started spreading over a year ago, there's no consistency in how companies and governments act. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote last Saturday that business leaders across the country were still trying to figure out the best way to move forward, particularly given the labyrinth of different rules and mandates depending on what state or local region one is in.

As an example: while Pennsylvania and Virginia dropped mask requirements right away, some of the largest states that had the harshest lockdowns, such as New York, California, and New Jersey, have not yet agreed to relax restrictions.

And whereas Walmart quickly followed suit with the CDC's new guidelines, America's largest supermarket chain, Kroger Company, will keep its strict mask policy for the time being.

Adding to the confusion, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Trader Joe's would keep its mask policy for those who couldn't confirm getting jabbed. But then, a few sentences later, wrote that the grocery-store chain confirmed it

wouldn't call for vaccination proof of anyone not wearing a mask. On the company's website it states, "We encourage customers to follow the guidance of health officials, including, as appropriate, CDC guidelines that advise customers who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks while shopping."

An influential trade group, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, pointed out the confusion existing between what the CDC is now recommending and mandates enacted at state and local levels. The trade group suggested that those who don't want to wear masks indoors should shop online or seek curbside service.

With the CDC now recommending vaccinated patrons be allowed to attend crowded indoor and outdoor venues, companies like Walt Disney are preparing to reopen fully. Disney Chief Executive Bob Chapek confirmed last Thursday, "Today's guidance is very big news for us."

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, however, in responding to questions about his state relaxing mask requirements, said, "We're not there yet."

TREND FORECAST: While many businesses will be mask-free if a person is vaccinated and not require a vaccine card to prove it, when the next variant of the coronavirus breaks out, there will be more government mandates to show proof of vaccinations.

ANTI-MASKING IN SCHOOLS GAINS MOMENTUM



According to an *Associated Press* report on 12 May, there is a growing backlash against the required masking of school students, led largely by parents. It's making headway, with a growing number of school boards and schools choosing to

scuttle their school mask mandates and make mask-wearing optional.

But it's not happening quietly. In some cases, police and sheriffs have had to step in and escort participants out when debates turned into highly emotional, profanity-laced shouting matches.

“Competing Risk Narratives”

The *AP* report doesn't call it a backlash, but it does invoke the term “risk narrative,” framing anti-mask parents as being in opposition to the official narrative that children face the same risks from COVID as adults. It also frames such parents and students as being “more concerned with their own rights and freedoms than with doing what's right for the most vulnerable.”

TREND FORECAST: *As we forecast last week, the COVID War is burning out. Ignored in the AP article and other media outlets in the wear/don't wear mask controversy are the scientific facts detailing both the inefficacy of mask-wearing and the dangers... as we have repeatedly detailed in the Trends Journal. (See one of our many articles on this topic, “[NEW CDC CLAIM: “TWO MASKS BETTER THAN ONE”](#) from 16 February.)*

While there will be “de-masking” from now and through the summer, we forecast the media; politicians; and the drug dealers, i.e., Big Pharma, will again start ramping up the COVID War come wintertime, warning of a deadlier coronavirus variant... and to stay safe, wear the mask.

LOCKDOWNS WERE GOOD NEWS FOR DIET PLANS



When the COVID War was launched over a year ago, on 24 March 2020, we published the article “[STAY HOME, EAT, AND DIE,](#)” which forecast that locked-down society

would blow up from eating more low-quality foods and exercising less.

We told **Trends Journal** subscribers that overeating, particularly unhealthy snack foods, would further increase as Americans were forced to shelter-in-place. We wrote,

As people sit around being fed fear and anxiety by the news coming out of their giant screen TVs, laptops, iPads, and smartphones, they will likely resort to eating increased amounts of snack foods, most of it saturated with sugar, fat, salt, and artificial ingredients.

In forecasting the current events forming future trends we told readers that the “Whole Health” healing trend will find new life, particularly among Generation Z and Millennials who will be forced by economic decline to spend their food dollars wisely and seek alternative health modalities.

Among the winners in the medical profession will be chiropractors who are more natural healing-based and provide more affordable health care.

In addition, the self-responsibility resurgence will mirror what followed the 1987 stock market crash: the ending of the “shop until you drop” era and the ushering in of the “New Age craze,” where people sought a higher meaning to life rather than just spending money.

On 10 November 2020, in our article, [“FATTEN UP WITH FAST-FOOD TREND RISING,”](#) we reported,

While the economic shutdown has decimated much of the restaurant industry, the junk food sector has suffered less than most others; some chains are thriving.

Last Thursday, some 16 months later, *The New York Times* ran a major story with the headline:

Diet Plans Booming in Spring

Junk Food Junkies

During the lockdown imposed in most states for over a year, fast foods filled with saturated fats and little if any nutritional value became more popular than ever. In 2020, Pizza chains Domino's and Papa John's each sold about 30 million more super-sized cheese pizzas than the year before.

Conagra Brands, which had suffered a decline in sales before the COVID War was launched, saw a 50-percent rise a year ago March, and the corporation has continued to do well with its Slim Jim jerky snacks, Reddi-wip topping, and Chef Boyardee canned pastas, *The Times* reported.

Heavy Weight

According to the American Psychological Association, almost 50 percent of Americans reported gaining weight since the coronavirus appeared, with the average gain being close to 30 pounds.

And now, like manic pinballs bouncing around between binge junk-food eating and then desperately trying to lose the excess weight, diet plans are spiking in popularity, particularly mobile phone apps like Noom, which offer weight loss plans and access to trainers through your phone. There are now hundreds of diet apps on the market.

The Noom diet plan app costs \$59 a month and has been downloaded four million times, *The Times* noted. Weight Watchers (now called WW International) saw a jump of over 15 percent in its online base of users. Medifast, which, like Noom, provides low-fat meal alternatives along with access to coaches, predicts it will double its income this year, to close to \$1.5 billion.

The Times article also pointed out that many companies in the \$61 billion weight-loss market have shifted their marketing language from the word "diet" to the phrase "health and wellness."

On 22 March, the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* published a study showing that people adhering to stay-at-home orders on average gained about half a pound every ten days.

TRENDPOST: For years, the **Trends Journal** has been offering solid research into developing healthy eating habits, which not only help maintain a proper weight but can quickly improve one's emotional state of mind.

In October 2019, we published definitive proof that the Mediterranean diet, which includes natural foods without excess saturated fat and chemical additives, as a helpful guide. (See our article, [“YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: ‘MEDITERRANEAN’ MOOD SWING.”](#))

In October 2019, months before the COVID War began, we wrote in the **Trends Journal**:

Yes, there will be a continuing growing market in sectors such as organic, plant-based, and juicing, however, it will account for but a small percentage of the total population's addiction to junk/fast/low-quality food. For OnTrendpreneurs®, a huge market exists for new, innovative weight loss/fitness products and programs.

(For more, see our article, [“READY TO EXPLODE, READY TO IMplode.”](#))

TREND FORECAST: As we have forecast, the “Whole Health Healing” trend will find new life, particularly among Generation Z and Millennials who will be forced by economic decline to spend their food dollars wisely and seek alternative health modalities.

Among the winners in the medical profession will be chiropractors who are more natural healing-based and provide more affordable health care.

In addition, the self-responsibility resurgence will mirror what followed the 1987 stock market crash: the ending of the “shop until you drop” era and the ushering

in of a “New Age” movement where people seek a higher meaning in life rather than just spending money.

WHO “EXPERTS”: THE WORST IS YET TO COME



As reported in *The New York Times* last Thursday, two recent World Health Organization reports call for governments around the world to deal with the coming pandemics by banning travel immediately and imposing strict mask-wearing edicts.

Their reports are said to focus on mistakes made when the COVID War began, stating that “current institutions, public and private, failed to protect people from a devastating pandemic” and referred to the COVID-19 virus as “the 21st century’s Chernobyl moment.”

Yet, now, with evidence that the face coverings worn by the vast majority of citizens did little to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (see our 21 July article, [“UNMASKING THE TRUTH”](#)), the WHO panel advises that in the future, governments mandate mask-wearing even before the extent of a viral spread can be confirmed.

Their so-called “Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness” convened in May 2020 and came out with its report this past 12 May. The panel’s website features a large photo of a group of children wearing masks and listed these as some of their recommendations:

- Immediate mask mandates and travel restrictions at the first sign of a dangerous virus,
- Establish new government bureaucracies to coordinate emergency measures,

- Make the WHO financially independent by increasing member fees,
- Give the WHO Director-General more authority by extending the term of office,
- All national preparations be based on protocols established by the WHO,
- The WHO to set up a global surveillance system with the full cooperation of all member nations.

The panel applauded the Operation Warp Speed COVID vaccines that were produced “at unprecedented speed,” and they called for the entire global population to be jabbed as quickly as possible.

The report states its intention is to help avoid the mistakes made over the past year, which led to over three million deaths, \$10 trillion in economic damages, and more than 100 million people forced into poverty.

Dr. Lothar H. Wieler, a German veterinarian and member of the panel, said he worries “there’s no enforcement mechanism,” and his panel recommends the establishment of an international pandemic treaty, which imposes penalties on any country not adhering to the treaty principles.

TREND FORECAST: *As we continue to forecast, as evidenced by the draconian measures taken by politicians to fight the COVID War and punishing those unwilling to join the battle, a precedent of dictatorial rule has been established that negates Constitutions and Bills of Rights. Thus, beyond the virus, whatever the reason or motive, the general public has been subdued and will willingly march to politicians’ orders.*

However, as evidenced by Isabel Díaz Ayuso’s “Freedom” campaign in Spain, where she won a landslide victory due to her refusal to lock down Madrid to fight the COVID War (see our 11 May article, “FREEDOM WINS BIG IN SPAIN, SETS

***TREND**)*, as we have forecast, there will be mass push back against the “enforcement mechanism” the WHO wants to impose.

TRENDPOST: While masks and vaccines were highlighted by the WHO panel as necessary for dealing with the virus, nowhere in the entire report, titled, “COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic” were the terms “lockdown” and “shelter-in-place” – which were forced on billions of people and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions – mentioned once.

U.S. GETTING READY TO REOPEN



On 19 March 2020, California became the first state to issue a stay-at-home order, ban all public gatherings, and close down schools. Within days, New Jersey, New York, and Illinois followed suit. That was followed by 39 more states, 43 in all, shutting down their economies, schools,

and social interaction to deal with the spread of the coronavirus.

Last Tuesday, Gerald Celente wrote in his weekly letter to subscribers, “We forecast a pause in the COVID War. Restrictions will be relaxed... for a while.”

Just two days later, the CDC backed down on its mask-wearing mandates, and now there are more signs of a full reopening:

- On Friday, NYC subways registered about two million riders, its largest passenger load since 13 March 2020;
- Almost two million travelers passed through U.S. airports on Sunday, by far the most since the coronavirus first hit;

- Symphony orchestras in a number of states announced plans to soon perform in front of live audiences;
- Last week, the online restaurant reservation service OpenTable reported dining levels to be equal to that of 2019.

As of yesterday, 37 percent of Americans have been vaccinated, according to the CDC's data. Last Tuesday, President Biden said federal funds (taxpayer money) would be used to help pick up sagging vaccination rates and help reach his goal of getting 70 percent of Americans fully injected by the Fourth of July.

Last Monday, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the state had met her goal of getting 55 percent of adult residents jabbed, and she would permit businesses to welcome back workers to offices.

More than half of U.S. states have reopened, based on a survey from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Twenty-two states have dropped mask mandates.

Beware of Surges

Continuing the policy of injecting fear into people by warning of potential spikes in infection rates, epidemiologist Michael Osterholm at the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota was quoted:

“I don’t think anybody in public health believes that these [vaccination] levels are adequate to stop local surges right now. In a sense, this is an experiment. We can’t continue to stay in lockdown or shutdown as a society, but at the same time we’re going to have to figure out how we fine-tune that so we don’t see these surges within a state.”

TRENDPOST: *To again illustrate why we had forecast an easing of COVID lockdown rules: “It’s the economy, stupid.” In many parts of the nation, the streets are dead at night, tens of millions are not commuting, and businesses are not rapidly bouncing back.*

We also note the randomly imposed close-down/open-up dictates from politicians to both emphasize the lack of scientific data and the hypocrisy of their actions. While Washington has declared that some 80 percent of the population must be injected with the COVID Vax, just 37 percent of Americans are fully vaccinated as of yesterday.

And as for Michigan's governor saying her state had met her goal of getting 55 percent of adult residents jabbed and she would permit businesses to welcome back workers to offices, the fact is that only 38.63 percent have been fully vaccinated. Thus, the reason states are opening up is to attempt to regenerate the economy... and cover the massive tax shortfalls from being locked down.

TRENDPOST: *While the vast majority of political leaders and health officials continue to point to increased vaccinations as the reason for optimism, this doesn't explain scientific data reported back on 4 February.*

The Daily Mail noted at the time that the COVID-19 Tracking Project traced a 45-percent decline in U.S. COVID-19 cases since the month before, and the WHO confirmed a 30-percent drop globally. Hospital rates from COVID-19 also dropped 26 percent. But the article notes that only 8 percent of Americans and 13 percent of people worldwide had been vaccinated at that time.

And USA Today, on 6 February, confirmed this in an article with the headline:

Coronavirus cases are falling in the U.S., but experts say it's not from the COVID-19 vaccine yet

On 17 September, the BBC reported that falling death rates from COVID-19 were due in large part to better knowledge on how to treat those coming into hospitals. This included avoiding the invasive ventilation protocols originally used and prescribing the steroid dexamethasone, which worked effectively as an anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant.

THE TROUBLE WITH LOCKDOWNS



Confirming what we had forecast when politicians launched the COVID War that the lockdowns have and ultimately will do more harm than good, a Canadian researcher has quantified the damage done.

Doug Allen, an economics professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, studied the effects of lockdowns imposed in Canada as well as the models on which the lockdown policies were based.

The Canadian lockdown policies mirrored those in the U.S. and around the world, involving the shutting down of schools and non-essential businesses, mandated mask-wearing and social distancing, and restrictions on public and private gatherings.

Flawed Assumptions Make for Flawed Models

Andrew Chen, writing in *The Epoch Times*, tells how Prof. Allen conducted his study and reached his conclusions. One major conceptual flaw in the models, according to Allen, was the assumption that behavior had to be mandated and people could not be trusted to voluntarily alter their behavior to protect themselves from the virus and to limit its spread.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

The professor framed part of his findings as a cost-benefit analysis, in which he calculated the number of “life-years” saved vs. lost or “how many years of lost life will have been caused by the various harms of lockdowns versus how many years of lost life were saved by lockdowns.”

Far More Harm than Good

Based on such calculations, the lockdowns are responsible for a whopping 282 times more harm than good (or 282 more life-years lost than saved). Allen notes that politicians often take credit for a reduction in case numbers, but that doesn't correlate to lives saved vs. lives lost.

Additionally, the flawed assumptions and ill-advised stringent lockdowns can be shown to have had little effect when compared to virus rates in areas where no such stringent policies were imposed.

No Surprise Here

But don't expect politicians to acknowledge that, Allen notes. Admitting to making mistakes is something politicians don't like to do.

He also notes that mainstream media have largely reported only one side of any debate over COVID-19 restrictions, and views that challenge official government policies, including his own study, are often pulled from social media platforms. As the professor said,

“These are private platforms. They can do what they want... But on the other hand, I feel kind of sad that we live in the kind of a world where posing opposing opinions is either dismissed, ignored, or... cancelled.”

COVID SURGES IN TOP-VACCINATING COUNTRIES



Barely reported in the mainstream media is the fact that despite what is being sold to the public by Presstitutes, politicians, and Drug Lords that getting the COVID Vax is around 95 percent effective, the numbers are not adding up.

Four Out of Five

The five countries in the world boasting the highest rates of both partially- and fully vaccinated populations are Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Chile, and Seychelles. And, yet, except for Israel, all of those countries are currently experiencing surges in the number of COVID cases that, per capita, exceed even the highly-publicized surge going on in India.

As reported by Robert Hart of *Forbes*, on 11 May, these surges have experts scrambling for explanations and questioning the effectiveness of vaccines and whether it's wise to ease restrictions even when vaccination rates are high.

Chinese Vaccine?

One thing setting Israel apart from the four other top-vaccinating countries, and which suggests one explanation for the disparity, is that Israel's vaccination program uses chiefly Western COVID vaccines (such as those used in the U.S.), whereas the other four countries use chiefly vaccines developed in China. Chinese vaccines include Sinopharm, which recently has been endorsed by the WHO, but which some have come to suspect is not as effective as those produced by Pfizer or Moderna.

Vaccines vs. Restrictions

Another factor may be the degree of restrictions and whether widespread vaccination provides a valid rationale for easing restrictions. The *Forbes* article informs us Seychelles still welcomes tourists and that "Dubai exited lockdown rapidly and Chile loosened its restrictions and allowed domestic travel."

TRENDPOST: *The U.S. ranks just below Bahrain in the percentage of its population that is fully vaccinated (35 percent). Many states are easing restrictions, at least partly in response to rising vaccination rates... despite the official government line that some 80 percent must get the jab for the herd to reach immunity.*

As we note in this issue and many others, the U.S. still has a high “vaccine hesitancy” rate, and those who remain unvaccinated seem to also be the most comfortable engaging in normal activities, which makes already puzzled experts question whether “sustained community transmission” may result.

TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



CELEBRITY SELLOUTS SELL COVID VAX

The commercial begins with movie director Spike Lee sitting on the steps of a Brooklyn brownstone with the words “Vaccinate the Block” written in white in the center of the screen.

It cuts to Lee, who is wearing a mask, walking past other masked residents sitting on stoops engaged in conversation.

“This is our block, our place, our people,” he says. Lee says nobody should be denied the COVID-19 vaccine because of their “dress, income, or skin color.”

He then ties in his partnership with Uber, the ride-hailing company, and says the company is “donating ten million rides to those who need it most,” so they can have access to the vaccine.

Celebrities have taken to social media and partnered with various companies to help the government sell the vaccine. It doesn't matter which one: Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson. They want you to know they know best, and the crowd of comedians, entertainers, and billionaires know the vaccines are all safe, and you should roll up your sleeves.

Many of the endorsements have been part of paid campaigns, as we have reported that some \$50 million is being pumped into the Ad Council to sell the public into getting a COVID vaccination. (See our 1 December 2020 article, [“AD COUNCIL APPROVES VACCINE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.”](#))

Eva Longoria and Mark Cuban joined President Biden's “We Can Do This: Live,” which encouraged young people to get the jab. John Legend teamed up with Walgreens for a “This is Our Shot,” another campaign for vaccine awareness.

The theory is that with each passing jab, the world gets a step closer to reaching herd immunity, which means, depending on what expert you believe... between 70 and 85 percent of the population is vaccinated.

Companies like Krispy Kreme have been offering free donuts, and states like New Jersey have been offering residents a beer if they get the jab. As we report in this **Trends Journal**, Ohio said it will enroll everyone who got the vaccine in lotteries that will award five residents \$1 million and free state college tuition for students.

WebMD said this year may be the summer that “VIP” stands for “vaccinated, immunized person.”

The effectiveness of the vaccines has been praised by Dr. Anthony Fauci, anointed as America's “top infectious disease expert.”

Dolly Knows Best

Those who mention that the “Operation Warped Speed” vaccines were rushed through the approval process and are not fully approved by the FDA are

dismissed by the media and social network monopolies as conspiracy theorists while ignoring the fact that these drugs are being injected into millions under an emergency use authorization.

But that didn't stop country singing legend Dolly Parton from posting a video on Twitter to call those who are apprehensive about taking the jab "cowards."

"Don't be such a chicken squat," Dolly spewed. "Get out there and get your shot."

The tradition of tapping a celebrity to persuade the public about the safety of vaccines can be dated back to at least 1956, when Elvis Presley, who was 21 at the time, posed for the cameras as he got his polio vaccination before an appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Scientific American magazine reported that in the six months after Presley took the vax, the vaccination rate for U.S. teens jumped from 0.6 percent to 80 percent. The report said Presley was not single-handedly responsible for the tide of change but said the photo of him getting the jab "was far more powerful than any statistic because it too was personal, emotional, and vivid."

Paid to Put Out

We have been reporting on celebrities and their attempt to influence public opinion on the jab. (See our 13 April article, "[CELEBRITIES PITCH SO-CALLED 'WELL HEALTH-SAFETY SEAL'](#)" and our 20 April article, "[MICK JAGGER & BILL GATES: BLOOD BROTHERS.](#)")

Arnold Schwarzenegger quoted his "Terminator" character by saying, "Come with me if you want to live."

Billy Crystal, the comedian, said, "I was glad to get this first step towards hugging my kids and my grandchildren again." Fellow comedian Steve Martin posted, "Good news/Bad news. Good news: I just got vaccinated! Bad news: I got it because I'm 75. Ha!"

Willie Nelson, another legendary country singer, posted on Twitter: “Getting your COVID vaccine is Willie cool.”

People magazine ran a photo collection showing public figures taking the shot. They included Jessica Alba and her husband proudly holding up their vaccination card, saying, “Mom and Dad are vaxxed.”

Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson posted his “Round 2” moment. He captioned the photo with, “The more intel I come to understand the more work I realize we have in front of us.”

Kathy Griffin, the comedian, poked fun at those suspicious of the drug and captioned her photo with, “2nd Moderna shot! Dolly Parton put a 5G mind control chip in my head and I love it.”

Billboard magazine ran a cover with a picture of country musician Eric Church in his trademark shades getting a jab, with the headline, “HOT SHOT – ERIC CHURCH is on a crusade to save concerts: ‘You’ve got to get needles in arms.’”

The media has also generated new lockdown celebrities like Fauci and, until his unraveling, Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Both men have – at one time or another – been turned into sex symbols. Fauci now hobnobs with celebrities and recently held Zoom conferences with Ashton Kutcher, Katy Perry, and Kim Kardashian. When the meetings concluded, Fauci gushed and said he was impressed with their “level of sophistication.”

Follow the Clowns

Tracy Epton, a psychologist at the University of Manchester in the U.K., told *The New York Times* that these celebrity endorsements could be important when overall trust in “government/official sources is quite low.”

A recent STAT News-Harris poll found that 21 percent of young adults from 18 to 24 said they will not get the vaccine, and another 34 percent said they would

take the “wait and see” approach, *CNBC* reported. One of the major setbacks was when Johnson & Johnson was forced to temporarily halt the rollout of its vaccine due to reports of rare blood clotting.

New York Magazine has kept track of celebrities who’ve received at least one jab and their reactions. Sir Ian McKellen, the actor, said he felt “euphoric” after receiving the Pfizer shot in December. Martha Stewart shared a video of herself receiving the shot at New York’s Mount Sinai Downtown.

“Here’s to the advancement of science and a heartfelt thanks to those working on the vaccines,” she posted.

In Canada, celebrities joined a movement called “This is Our Shot,” which hopes to appeal to the country’s minority community. The celebrities include Michael Bublé and Ryan Reynolds.

Bubl  posted on Twitter: “Canada! I got vaccinated because I want to protect myself, my family & all the vulnerable folks out there. Please join the #ThisIsOurShotCA challenge and tag your friends & family to get vaccinated.”

Celebrities in India also took to social media to encourage their followers to take the jab. Sonu Sood, a Bollywood actor who has been praised for his philanthropic work during the outbreak, has heard calls to run for prime minister.

The Chinese Communist Party is famous for using celebrities to promote its message, and any sign of disloyalty means career suicide. Celebrities in Germany were recently forced to apologize for videos mocking COVID-19 lockdowns.

Singing the Vax Song

Celebrities, politicians, and musicians intermingled during the Global Citizen’s “Vax Live: The Concert to Reunite the World,” which aired last Saturday and aimed to tackle vaccine inequity and hesitancy.

NPR reported that the event was pre-taped at Inglewood, CA's SoFi Stadium. The report said there were 27,000 fully-vaccinated health care workers in the audience who "painted a picture of what a post-pandemic world could look like if all were immunized against the coronavirus."

One of the highlights reportedly included Jennifer Lopez who appeared on stage with her mother.

"We've been away from our loved ones for too long, but we're back," Lopez said. "While it's getting better for us, there are people all over the world—especially in Africa, India, and the Latin world—who still need our help and our vaccines."

Another highlight included Prince Harry, whose grandfather was quoted for saying he'd like to die and come back as a deadly virus, who "co-chaired" the event with his wife, Megan Markle. He said the world "cannot rest or truly recover until there is fair distribution to every corner of the world."

Rare is the celebrity who is willing to stand up to government mandates. In September, we reported that Van Morrison, the famed singer behind "Brown Eyed Girl," wrote a song accusing the British government of enslaving the population with its strict coronavirus mandates.

He called out the U.K. government as "fascist bullies disturbing our peace." The *BBC* reported Morrison wrote a new song that includes the lyrics,

"No more taking of our freedom
And our God-given rights
Pretending it's for our safety
When it's really to enslave."

Calling out the cast of "celebrities telling us what we're supposed to feel," Morrison said they are being used as mouthpieces for the government to sell the people what they are peddling. He said it is becoming rare nowadays to find an

artist who is not afraid to speak out against what is being widely accepted as groupthink.

TRENDPOST: Ignored by the Presstitutes but reported on INFOWARS, rock icon Eric Clapton railed against the coordinated vaccine safety “propaganda,” claiming he suffered severe side effects after taking AstraZeneca’s COVID shot.

Clapton wrote to music mogul Robin Monotti Graziadei, saying, “I took the first jab of AZ and straight away had severe reactions which lasted ten days... My hands and feet were either frozen, numb or burning, and pretty much useless for two weeks, I feared I would never play again...”

“I should never have gone near the needle,” Clapton continued. “But the propaganda said the vaccine was safe for everyone.”

“I’ve been a rebel all my life, against tyranny and arrogant authority, which is what we have now,” he added.

Despite Clapton condemning the British government earlier this year, and collaborating with fellow anti-lockdown musician Van Morrison on the anti-lockdown song “Stand and Deliver,” he went ahead and got the COVID Jab.

TREND FORECAST: The COVID War has shown that there are only a handful of true celebrities who don’t need to worry about their future employment and do not suck up to their corporate bosses. But for the others, the embrace of Big Government policies could be as beneficial for their careers as securing a big-time agent. That will not change any time soon.

As we have forecast, following the COVID War, there will be a Renaissance. Art will be among the most powerful mediums to spread the message of Liberty, Love, Joy, and Beauty in an era of complete corporate/government control of the mainstream media.

GET VACCINATED... BECOME A MILLIONAIRE!



Last week, the **Trends Journal** reported how states are offering cash, booze, and cars to motivate Americans to get vaccinated. (See our article, [“GET JABBED, GET PAID.”](#))

Upping the incentive significantly, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced last Thursday that his state’s lottery would give away \$1 million to five people who participate in the new “get vaccinated” initiative.

The first million-dollar prizes will be awarded on 26 May. The lottery incentive is controversial, however, as the money give-away will come from COVID relief funds provided by the federal government.

The governor tweeted:

“I know that some may say, ‘DeWine, you’re crazy!’ This million-dollar drawing idea of yours is a waste of money.’ But truly, the real waste at this point in the pandemic -- when the vaccine is readily available to anyone who wants it -- is a life lost to COVID-19.”

The Columbus Dispatch reported last Wednesday that the state will offer an additional lottery-vaccination incentive to prospective college students. Teens who can prove being vaccinated will be eligible to participate in a state lottery offering five all tuition-paid scholarships to any Ohio public university.

Coinciding with the lottery announcement, DeWine stated that beginning on 2 June, he was removing all lockdown impositions except for elder care facilities.

To date, Ohio's rate of vaccination is about equal to that nationwide, which is 35 percent. To date, about 19,500 residents have died from COVID-19 out of a population of 11.8 million or 0.165 percent.

One Ohio politician angry over the lottery-vaccination incentive is state congressman Jim Jordan, who tweeted last week, "We've gone from 15 days to slow the spread to \$1 million if you get the #COVID19 vaccine. Give me a break."

TREND FORECAST: *As the weather warms – and the virus, which spikes during winter months, slows down – so, too, will vaccination rates decline.*

The lower the vaccination rate falls, the more money and pressure will be exerted on people to get the jab. Last Friday, for example, Delta Air Lines declared all new hires in the U.S. must get the COVID Jab, calling the vaccines "safe, effective and essential to the future of the airline and our world."

But Jab hesitancy prevails – and will continue to prevail – even in nations moving into the cold season. In Australia for example, The New Daily headline story yesterday blared:

Anti-vaxxer Facebook groups explode in number amid vaccine hesitancy

Yes, anyone in any country who dares to question the efficacy and side effects of an "Operation Warped Speed" vaccine not yet approved by the FDA is denounced by the Presstitutes as ill-informed conspiracy theorists.

The New Daily wrote,

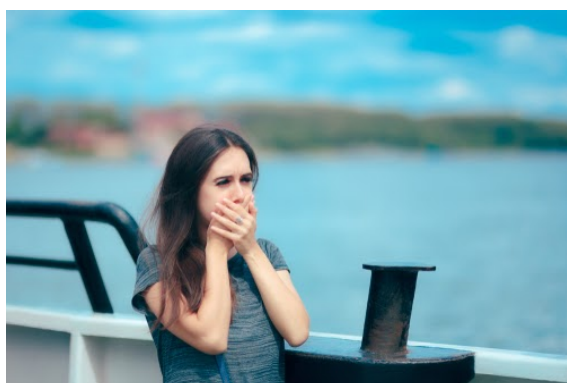
"Even as social media giants crack down on harmful misinformation, including deleting prominent pages and slapping on new warnings and fact-check labels, critics say dangerous conspiracy theories are still festering in private groups and seeping into the mainstream."

Indeed, they cited a University of Melbourne poll in February that found 66 percent of Australians were happy to get the COVID jab, down from 74 percent in October 2020.

Again, there will be a slowdown in forcing vaccinations for the time being, but the pressure to get one will continue as those without a vaccine passport will be discriminated against, as evidenced by various cruise lines, concerts, school attendance, etc.

Despite the push for mass vaccinations, we also maintain our forecast for anti-vax movements that will challenge the political establishment.

NO JAB, NO CRUISE SHIPS



On 2 April, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order preventing any entity in the state from requiring proof of vaccination. He stated at that time:

“It’s completely unacceptable for either the government or private sector to impose upon you the requirement that you show proof of vaccine.”

This was a clear repudiation of the growing trend of governments and businesses considering vaccine passports and vaccine credential initiatives. (See our 9 February article, [“VACCINE PASSPORTS WILL END UP TRACKING EVERYTHING.”](#))

On 8 May, Norwegian Cruise Line announced that due to its stringent vaccine requirement, it would not allow its ships to dock in Florida ports because of Governor DeSantis’ order.

Norwegian Cruise Line, the third-largest in the world, is an American company with headquarters in Miami. It will resume taking on passengers this summer for trips to the Caribbean and Europe, but, as we have reported, it will require all crew and guests to show proof of injection. (See our 4 May article, [“GET VAXXED, TAKE A CRUISE.”](#))

The conflict over forced proof of vaccination will have significant economic and social consequences. For the cruise industry, before the pandemic, over 50 percent of all U.S. passenger cruise ships had been using Florida ports as home base. Norwegian Cruise Line says that with overall relaxation of COVID restrictions, bookings for future excursions are selling fast, with over \$1 billion in advanced sales.

It’s interesting to note that, as we have reported in the **Trends Journal**, “Florida, with its children back in school since September and with no significant statewide lockdown restrictions compared to most other states, has one of the lowest per capita death rates from COVID-19.” (See our 23 February article, [“FLORIDA: NO LOCKDOWN, LESS PROBLEMS.”](#))

And this despite the fact Florida has the second oldest demographic in the country.

Growing Resistance

The conflict between Norwegian Cruise Line’s proof of vaccination requirement and Florida’s executive order preventing any such mandate is part of a larger conflict as to how states plan to reopen.

The federal government has made it clear it will not endorse any proof of vaccination edicts. On 6 April, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced that “there will be no federal vaccinations database and no federal mandate requiring everyone to obtain a single vaccination credential.”

But, as with mask-wearing and social distancing rules, states are permitted to order or prevent restrictions, and, so far, governors of six other states have

joined Ron DeSantis with executive orders banning vaccine requirements. Those states are Arizona, Idaho, Montana, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas. While Tennessee and Nebraska haven't issued an executive order, Governors Bill Lee and Pete Ricketts, respectively, have publicly announced their opposition to any vaccine passport.

The anti-vaccine passport movement in the U.S. goes even deeper. On 30 April, *U.S. News & World Report* wrote that the National Conference of State Legislatures cited 25 states where bills have been introduced to “limit mandatory COVID-19 vaccines for students, employees or generally.”

TREND FORECAST: *Nationally and globally, there will be an increasing push for proof of vaccination. In April, New York became the first state to enact a vaccine passport. Called the “Excelsior Pass,” it’s being promoted on the official New York State website:*

“Attend sporting events, arts performances and more! Excelsior Pass supports a safe reopening of New York by providing a free, fast and secure way to present digital proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results.”

And while on pause now, most of the world’s nations will increase the drive for vaccine passports following the winter of 2022 when we forecast governments will reignite the COVID War.

HEAD OF WORLD’S BUSIEST AIRPORT PUSHES VACCINE PASSPORTS



The push for “Vaccine Passports” continues, even as many people are opting not to get the COVID vaccines.

Over the weekend, the *BBC* reported on comments by the chief executive of Dubai

International Airport (DXB), the world's busiest hub, insisting "I don't think there is an alternative."

Paul Griffiths, who oversees operations at DXB, told the British government news outlet he completely supports a "papers" regime, which would restrict travel and movements based on having the controversial experimental vaccine treatments.

He dismissed critics who pointed out many cannot get vaccines for medical reasons and many more who have chosen not to for personal, ethical, and religious reasons.

Griffiths said, "I think the problem is not the vaccine passport and its discrimination. It's the need to roll things out and have a proper globally equitable vaccine programme."

Dubai, like many travel ports throughout the world, has taken a huge economic hit as a result of pandemic lockdown policies. The **Trends Journal** has previously reported that strict lockdowns have shown no success in stemming the spread of the COVID virus compared to regions and nations which didn't impose tight restrictions.

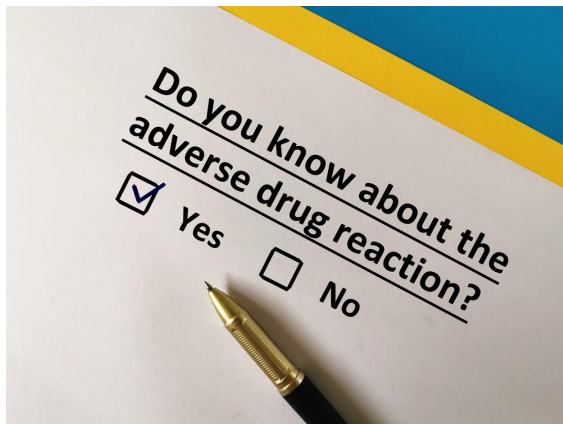
TREND FORECAST: Griffiths didn't address the errors of politicians and influencers of policies for the current economic woes. Instead, he has anointed himself a health expert demeaning those who do not want to get the Operation Warped Speed vaccine and declaring he doesn't "think there is an alternative."

More concerned with the bottom line, he stated,

"The city's been built as a global hub and it's enabled a tremendous commercial and tourism centre to be developed here in the UAE. So we are pretty dependent, because at least 35% of GDP is based around the enablement of travel and tourism, so it has a big dramatic effect here."

Indeed, “It’s the economy, stupid,” and politicians and business leaders will do whatever they want to impose rules they believe will boost their bottom line. Thus, we maintain our forecast that the “You Must Get Vaxxed” mandates will continue for years to come.

VACCINE FAST FACTS



The CDC website [shows](#) that as of 10 May, 4,434 COVID vaccine-related deaths have been reported to the VAERS database. That number is higher than all vaccine-related deaths recorded in VAERS over the last 21 years.

The CDC also has information including an admission of “plausible” connection regarding blood clot issues and the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine:

“Recent reports indicate a plausible causal relationship between the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine and a rare and serious adverse event—blood clots with low platelets—which has caused deaths. Get the latest safety information on the J&J/Janssen vaccine. CDC and FDA will continue to investigate reports of adverse events, including deaths, reported to VAERS.”

Meanwhile, in Europe, the EudraVigilance self-reporting database has recorded 10,570 deaths and 405,259 adverse reactions from COVID vaccinations, current up to 8 May 2021.

Vaccines used in the Eurozone, with some exceptions, include those made by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson.

Similar to the U.S., COVID vaccines in just four months of usage have resulted in more injuries and deaths than the total numbers from the prior two decades of

vaccine use. And one year's tally worth of COVID vaccinations has not even come close to being recorded.

Most & Least Vaccinated Global Regions

Globally, as of 16 May 2021, 1.43 billion doses of COVID vaccines have been given in at least 176 countries.

Africa still remains less vaccinated than many other regions of the world, though the vaccination rate is picking up there.

The U.S. is among the most heavily vaccinated countries in the world with over 42 percent of the total population vaccinated.

China, where COVID originated, has vaccinated under 14 percent of its population, and Russia is even lower, with under 7 percent vaccinated.

Europe on the whole is heavily vaccinated compared to other parts of the world, including India, the Far East, and Australia.

Mexico and Central America remain low vaccination areas. In South America, Chile is on par with the U.S. in terms of vaccinations, while Brazil and Argentina are much more lightly vaccinated, with both under 15 percent of the population having received shots so far.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



ALGERIA: PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS STAMPED DOWN

Algerian police cracked down on pro-democracy protests and journalists set to cover them on Friday, as the country continues to feel pressure from protests led by the movement Hirak, also known as the Revolution of Smiles.

The *AFP* reported several people were detained, including one of their photographers, who was released after spending eight hours in detention.

The government blamed protesters for not declaring the organizers of the protests and the “start and finish times, the itinerary, and the slogans.” The interior ministry, which just announced the new rules, said failure to abide by them will lead to punishment.

“Failure to comply with these procedures will result in violating the law and the constitution, which denies the legitimacy of the march, and it will be necessary to deal with it on this basis,” the ministry said.

Al Jazeera reported that the Hirak movement doesn't have a figurehead, and the country would presumably tie the names of the organizers with having leadership roles.

"They are seeking reasons to justify any decision to ban marches," Ahmed Badili, a protester, told *Reuters*.

Khaled Drareni, the correspondent for *TV5 Monde*, the French-language channel, was also reportedly detained.

The *AFP* reported that Drareni is the founder of the *Casbah Tribune* online news site, who was previously incarcerated for almost a year and became a symbol for press freedom. Reporters Without Borders identified Algeria as one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to press freedom.

It now ranks 146 out of 180 countries in the category, a drop of 27 places since 2015, an *AFP* report noted. The country has even clashed with international news agencies, including *France 24*, and threatened to withdraw the broadcaster.

Lock Up, Shut Down

The National Committee for the Liberation of Detainees (CNLD) prisoners' rights group said about 70 individuals have been imprisoned over ties to the Hirak movement.

The *AFP* reported that protests broke out in Oran, Bejaia, and Tizi Ouzou. Protesters marched and chanted, "A civil not a military state!"

As we reported in our 29 October 2019 article, ["ALGERIA: WHO'S SMILING NOW?"](#), Algeria was rocked by protests following the decision by then-President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to run for a fifth term. His regime was accused of having taken control of revenues from the country's natural resources and used them to pay off political cronies and financial supporters.

It was then that the Hirak movement began. Bouteflika, who was ailing at the time, was forced to step down, but the demonstrations continued... until the COVID War broke out and demonstrations were banned until they broke out again in March. (See our 23 March article, [“ALGERIANS: BACK THE STREETS.”](#))

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

In response, governments will again attempt to use the COVID War as a “legal” justification to prohibit protests. But, as Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it, they will. Thus, we maintain our forecast that protests will escalate into civil wars, and civil wars will spread to regional wars.

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

SCOTS READY TO BREAK AWAY FROM U.K.



Nicola Sturgeon’s Scottish National party won 64 seats in parliament – one shy of an overall majority – which paves the way for a second referendum on Scotland separating from the United Kingdom.

Sturgeon told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that the second referendum is “a matter of when, not if,” the *Associated Press* reported. The *AP* reported that Johnson has the ultimate authority on whether there will be another referendum, and he said in an interview that one would be “irresponsible and reckless.” The

report said the 2014 vote, where 55 percent of the country voted to stay, settled the issue.

Sturgeon said she hopes there will be a vote by spring 2022.

The *Financial Times* reported that Michael Gove, the cabinet minister in charge of the political union, indicated the U.K. would not go to the Supreme Court to fight an independence vote and said, “We are not going near there.”

TREND FORECAST: *We forecast that the sun will continue to set on the British Empire... and it will shine less when the Scottish people vote for Independence, despite Boris Johnson’s attempts to stop it.*

BRIT’S PM BENEFITS FROM “VACCINE BOUNCE”



The U.K.’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson – facing the first big test since his 2019 victory after elections were postponed due to the COVID War – saw his Conservative Party snag a seat in Hartlepool, in northern England, which the Labor Party has held since 1974. Johnson said,

“I think what this election shows is that people want a party and a government that is focused on them, focused on delivering change... what’s happened now is they see we did get Brexit done. And I think what people want us to do now is to get on with delivering on everything else.”

Johnson’s Conservative party made gains across the country, but the victory in Hartlepool, which the *Financial Times* reported is the country’s “tenth most deprived town,” was a “landmark result.” Jill Mortimer, a farmer in North Yorkshire, carried the town’s vote.

Sir Keir Starmer, the Labor leader, said he took “full responsibility” for the poor performance. *The Guardian* reported that some critics said the Labor Party should have shifted faster to the center.

“We have changed as a party, but we’ve not made a strong enough case to the country,” Starmer said. “We’ve lost that connection, that trust, and I intend to do whatever is necessary to rebuild that trust.”

TRENDPOST: Among the reasons Boris Johnson won, according to the *Financial Times* and other media, is because he benefited from a “vaccine bounce” – he has been praised for the country’s vaccine rollout compared to other European nations.

Yes, when compared to other European nations, but, in total, only 29 percent of Brits are fully vaccinated (compared to 37 percent in the U.S.).

And, it should be noted that as a result of Boris Johnson’s lockdown measures, this year, the U.K. suffered its worst recession in 300 years.

SPAIN’S DÍAZ AYUSO’S BIG WIN OFFERS BLUEPRINT FOR VICTORY



As we reported in our 22 September issue, the anti-lockdown message of Isabel Díaz Ayuso, the head of Madrid’s regional government, had begun to resonate with Spaniards.

Her anti-lockdown message served her movement well – it won her a landslide victory in the Madrid regional election, which resulted in her Popular Party more than doubling its seat count, taking more seats than the three left-wing parties combined. (See our 11 May article, [“FREEDOM WINS BIG IN SPAIN, SETS TREND.”](#))

The *Financial Times* reported that political observers in Europe have looked at Díaz Ayuso's style and appeal and have taken note.

"She speaks very directly in an understandable way," Tomi Huhtanen, the executive director of the Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies, the official think tank for the European People's Party, told the paper. "It is resonating.

The paper pointed out that Díaz Ayuso, 42, the head of the Madrid Assembly, won enough seats during the election to lead without a coalition. As we had reported, her campaign slogan was one word: "FREEDOM." This won her a resounding victory in the snap election against Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialist government.

The New European wrote that Díaz Ayuso "has young crowds chanting her name in the streets and the ruling Socialists on the run."

Camino Mortera-Martinez, of the Center for European Reform, told the paper that Díaz Ayuso's election was "fought in bars" and "completely destroyed party lines. It was borderline populist, if not populist altogether."

The paper said her victory was seen as a major boost for Christian Democrat and center-right parties. The paper, citing a French think tank, reported that 39 percent of voters in European nations aligned themselves on the right, compared to 27 percent on the left and 20 percent in the middle.

Catherine de Vries, a political science professor at Bocconi University, said,

"Traditional parties are being challenged by political entrepreneurs that are able to mobilize on certain issues that do not sit neatly in the center-right template, such as immigration, European integration, anti-Islam, and saving Christianity. It's very difficult for the center-right because these issues often split their traditional coalition."

TREND FORECAST: What happened with Díaz Ayuso's victory is based on "Freedom," and what the political science professors are saying is old news to ***Trends Journal*** subscribers. We had forecast this trend when the COVID War began over a year ago.

The media and establishment universities' systems of putting simplistic labels on the political parties "center-right" is totally wrong. Díaz Ayuso won a resounding victory by bringing in people who cross political spectrums, thus, it has nothing to do with a narrow "center-right" political ideology.

Indeed, it is the same as people in the U.S., whereby people who support President Biden are incorrectly called liberals... which, by definition, they are not:

- 1. Willing to respect or accept behavior or opinions different from one's own; open to new ideas.*
- 2. Relating to or denoting a political and social philosophy that promotes individual rights, civil liberties, democracy, and free enterprise.*

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI

The cozy media wall protecting COVID Policy Czar Dr. Anthony Fauci may finally be starting to crumble. Fauci faced tough questions at a hearing last week from Senator Rand Paul concerning U.S. funding of controversial virus experiments. His unsatisfactory answers drew attention even from mainstream outlets.

Following the hearing, clear documentation from NIH and other sources surfaced that directly contradicted Fauci's assertions.

The director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) attempted to deny any involvement in funding “gain-of-function” research at the Senate meeting. But Paul's interrogation provoked a bizarre response at one point by Fauci. In a single sentence, he both denied that the National Institute of Health (NIH) had funded gain-of-function research yet appeared to admit it.

The exchange went as follows (*italics added*):

SEN. PAUL: “For years, Dr. Ralph Baric, a virologist in the U.S., has been collaborating with Dr. Shi Zhengli from the Wuhan Virology Institute, sharing his discoveries about how to create superviruses. This gain-of-function research has been funded by the NIH. ... Dr. Fauci, do you still support funding of the NIH lab in Wuhan?”

DR. FAUCI: “With all due respect, you are entirely and completely incorrect. The NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology.”

SEN. PAUL: “Do you fund Dr. Baric’s gain-of-function research?”

DR. FAUCI: “*Dr. Baric is not doing gain-of-function research, and if he is, it is according to the guidelines and is being conducted in North Carolina.* If you look at the grant and if you look at the progress reports, it is not gain-of-function, despite the fact that people tweet that, write about it.”

Fauci’s schizophrenic statement regarding Dr. Baric drew blood, and even MSM outlets took interest. Baric collaborated with Dr. Shi Zhengli, a Chinese researcher at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

In 2015, the scientific journal *Nature* featured [a study](#) by Zhengli and the WIV involving so-called “chimeric” experiments with SARS viruses. A chimera is an organism artificially created from materials of two or more natural organisms. The practical purpose of creating a chimera is to give an organism features it wouldn’t otherwise have.

Gain-of-function research was banned by the Obama administration. But some have speculated that U.S. scientists skirted the ban by funneling money to foreign labs to continue the controversial experiments.

Rutgers Scientist Tweets Out Damning Evidence

In the days following the Senate hearing, even MSM media showed interest in the contentious exchanges between Senator Paul and Dr. Fauci.

Then, on 11 May, Richard Ebright, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Rutgers University, tweeted what appeared to be a documented link between WIV chimeric research and NIH funding:

“The construction of novel chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses able to infect human cells and lab animals at WIV (1) [was published](#) with an acknowledgment to NIH grant AI110964, and (2) [was reported](#) to NIH under NIH grant AI110964.”

(source: [Yahoo News](#))

It’s already been widely reported that \$600,000 in grants were transferred via subgrants from the NIH to the WIV in the period from 2014 to 2019.

Fauci acknowledged and defended the funding at the Senate hearing while insisting it was not used for "gain-of-function" experiments. He said it would have been "irresponsible" not to fund the research, pointing out that former SARS viruses had originated in China.

Following Ebright’s tweet, some have said Fauci might be reduced to lawyerly parsing “gain-of-function” research vs. “chimeric recombination” of different strains of viruses to try to survive his denials during the Senate testimony. Though there may be some technical differences in the two experimentation processes, both take naturally occurring organisms and equip them with functions they would not otherwise have.

Fauci’s Role in Controversial Lab Experiments

The U.S. government itself considers it a settled matter that the WIV was conducting gain-of-function research in some form, said reporter Josh Rogin in

Politico this March. Experts at the WHO, including Jamie Metzl, have also affirmed that the WIV performed gain-of-function research.

But speaking on the Joe Rogan podcast in April, Josh Rogin, also a columnist at *The Washington Post*, went further. He said Dr. Anthony Fauci was instrumental in pushing to restart funding the research after it was banned during the Obama administration:

“The Godfather of [gain-of-function virology research], the head of the pyramid, is a guy you may have heard of called Anthony Fauci. So, Anthony Fauci, the hero of the pandemic, is the most important person in the world of gain-of-function research there is... Basically, he is the one disbursing all the grants for this, he is the one who pushed to turn it back on after Obama turned it off, that’s another crazy story, he turned it back on without really consulting the White House.”

As noted by *National Review*, Rogin further explained:

“He consulted the Office of Science and Technology Policy, which is part of the White House, but the White House put a pause on it and he undid the pause.

The details are a little sketchy. I’m not saying he did anything necessarily wrong or illegal, but I’m saying that a lot of people that I know inside the Trump administration had no idea that he had turned this back on. He found a way to turn it back on in the mess of the Trump administration because the Trump administration is full of a bunch of clowns, so you could get things done if you knew how to work the system.”

The Senate hearing last week might well come to be seen as the moment that Fauci’s COVID authority began to crumble. Without question, it has heightened examination of his role in the COVID saga.

AOC EQUATES PALESTINIAN GRIEVANCES TO U.S. BORDER CRISIS



President Biden's border crisis was likened to the plight of Palestinians by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez last week.

Speaking on the House floor, Ocasio-Cortez called out the Biden administration:

"We are scared to stand up to the incarceration of children in Palestine because maybe it'll force us to confront the incarceration of children here on our border."

The Democrat representative's comments came as bloody exchanges between Israeli and pro-Palestinian fighters escalated.

The Middle East had experienced a period of lessening tensions and several significant peace accords between Israel and Arab neighbors during Donald Trump's presidency.

But those positive steps appear to be quickly fading under the Biden administration. Many pro-Palestinian groups have long refused to accept Israel as a nation-state – at least one comprised of a majority Jewish population. Some advocate a "one-state" solution that would incorporate Palestinian populations who would render Jews a minority in the country.

Israel, meanwhile, has backed initiatives for a "two-state" solution, which would preserve Israel as a majority Jewish state. A two-state solution seemed close in 2000, as a result of marathon negotiations by then-President Bill Clinton with Arab and Israeli leaders. But, under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, Palestinians ultimately rejected a deal.

In linking the Palestinian situation with migrants from Central and South American nations teeming at the U.S. borders, AOC appeared to be trying to equate the two.

Whether Palestinians have a right to the territory they view as "occupied" by Israel has been a contentious, war-ravaged issue for more than 70 years. But can the circumstances of Guatemalans, Hondurans, Venezuelans, Argentinians, and Mexicans be equated with what's going on between Palestinians and Israel?

AOC appears to be at least implicitly making that case.

Meanwhile, [it was reported](#) in March that over two million migrants will attempt to cross the U.S. southern border in 2021. That's the highest number in 20 years.

NYC: SURGE IN SHOOTINGS & SUBWAY ATTACKS



The pain and confusion of trying to reopen an economy shut down for over a year have become particularly evident in the Big Apple.

As we report in this issue's article, ["U.S. GETTING READY TO REOPEN,"](#) last

Friday, New York City's subway system had over two million riders, the largest amount since the lockdowns were imposed. It was also reported last week that an increased number of violent gun incidents and attacks on commuters took place.

Over the past month, 170 people were shot, the highest number for that period in over 20 years. And, as of the second weekend this month, over 500 victims of gun violence were recorded, the highest in over a decade.

This has been forecast for over a year in the **Trends Journal** when governments locked down businesses and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people across the globe.

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

As though it was a revelation, now, some 16 months after we had forecast rising crime due to the lockdowns, according to *The New York Times* report last Friday, “experts” interviewed cited the financial and emotional strain on those neighborhoods, which had already been suffering from gun crimes.

Even in Times Square, the popular tourist attraction that has rarely seen gun violence, gunfire broke out, injuring innocent bystanders including a four-year-old child.

As we have forecast, violence is also escalating in other large cities, which should come as no surprise given the pressures building up from the extended lockdowns.

Back on 29 October, *The New York Times* published an article on rising gun violence in Los Angeles, Oakland, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and other large cities. The headline and sub-headline read:

Police Pin a Rise in Murders on an Unusual Suspect: COVID

Awash in new firearms, cities are drawing connections between the stresses of the coronavirus and a surge in homicides.

The violence continues to build. Chicago witnessed 865 gun incidents during the first four months of this year, over 200 more than the year previous. In New York City, murders are up over 20 percent from the year before.

Michael LiPetri, head of the NYC Police Department’s crime control strategies, attributed three-fourths of gun violence to tensions among street gangs. The head of the mayor’s office of criminal justice said that another major factor

leading to more violence was rising tensions among people with no previous criminal records.

The outer boroughs of Brooklyn and the Bronx account for almost 70 percent of the shootings.

Nearly 40 million guns were purchased legally in 2020. Thus, as gun violence continues, pushes for gun control will not be successful in most states, as more people want to be armed to protect themselves from rising crime.

Commuter Chaos

The Times reported that last Friday, three NYC subway riders were slashed with knives and had to be ambulated to hospitals. A fourth rider was punched and robbed. One of the victims, a 48-year-old man, suffered a knife wound to his eye and had to undergo emergency surgery.

On 4 May, a young woman was punched in the head and had her laptop stolen while entering a subway station.

As *The New York Post* described the growing transit crime wave on Sunday: “Three violent attacks mark another morning of NYC subway mayhem.”

TREND FORECAST: *The great exodus from New York City to suburbs and ex-burbs will continue as crime rates rise. Again, there will be an economic bounce-back in the coming months, but, as we have forecast, it will be only temporary. With fewer people commuting and more working from home, local businesses that served them will go bust. Thus, the further the economy falls, the higher crime rates will rise.*

GREEN CAR PRODUCTION CHALLENGED OVER ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



While the auto industry keeps promoting its “going green” with electric vehicles, a Native American tribe, ranchers, and environmental groups have reportedly protested a new lithium mine being developed in Nevada, which is seen by some as the country’s misguided attempt

to become less dependent on other countries for “white gold.”

The New York Times reported that the project, Lithium Americas, faces two lawsuits in federal courts that claim the mine – located on a dormant volcano in the northern region of the state – will have a negative environmental impact.

The report said the project got approved during the final days of the Trump administration, and its largest shareholder is the Chinese company Ganfeng Lithium.

“Blowing up a mountain isn’t green, no matter how much marketing spending people put on it,” Max Wilbert, who has been living in a tent near the volcano, told the paper.

The paper said green cars may not be as good for the environment as car companies would like you to believe.

The report stated these cars need raw materials such as cobalt, lithium, and nickel. The Nevada project can potentially infiltrate groundwater leading to contamination for 300 years, these critics say, according to the paper.

The Times reported countries are jockeying for the lead in the push to green-car technologies. Wall Street has taken notice, too. *Bloomberg* reported that these

mines across the U.S. have raised \$3.5 billion in the first months of 2021. The amount is seven times the amount raised in the last 36 months.

Aimee Boulanger, the executive director for the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance, told the paper, “Our new clean-energy demands could be creating greater harm, even though its intention is to do good. We can’t allow that to happen.”

GreenMatters.com reported that lithium-ion batteries are essential for many pieces of new technology, as they power the majority of the devices that use rechargeable batteries, the report said.

The report also said there is traditional mining or the process of drilling and pumping brine to the surface:

“That brine is then left to evaporate for months, which creates a chemical concoction containing manganese, potassium, borax, and salts, which is filtered and placed into another evaporation pool. The remaining mix will take another 12 and 18 months before it’s filtered enough for them to extract the lithium carbonate.”

The Times reported that lithium is valuable because it is considered lightweight, can store a lot of energy, and easily be recharged. The paper said analysts believe the demand for lithium may increase tenfold before 2030.

The paper reported the Biden administration sees China as playing an important role in the supply chain since it processes lithium for the U.S. that had been mined in Latin America and Australia.

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, who recently endorsed a plan to produce 80 plutonium pits in the country per year to “modernize the nation’s nuclear arsenal,” said China wants to “be the go-to place for the guts of the batteries, yet we have these minerals in the United States.”

“We have not taken advantage of them, to mine them,” she said. The paper pointed out that in March, she said, “This is a race to the future that America is going to win.”

Ben Steinberg, who worked in the Obama administration and is now a lobbyist, told the paper that if China wanted to cut off the U.S., “We’re in trouble.”

The paper spoke to one rancher, Edward Bartell, who filed a lawsuit and has a ranch of about 500 cows and calves that roam his land in the area. *The Times* reported he is concerned about the fate of his cows due to expected daily water consumption at the mine (3,224 gallons per minute).

The Interior Department said that over 41 years, the mine would “degrade nearly 5,000 acres” of land used by antelope and sage grouse.

“It is real frustrating that it is being pitched as an environmentally friendly project when it is really a huge industrial site,” he told the paper.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long been reporting, given the battery’s 1800’s technology – and what it takes to make them – unless there is a new type of battery than the current ones being used, electric cars will not replace the combustion engine. (See our December 2017 article, “[DRIVERLESS CAR CLIFF, THE ELECTRIC-CAR FANTASY](#).”)*

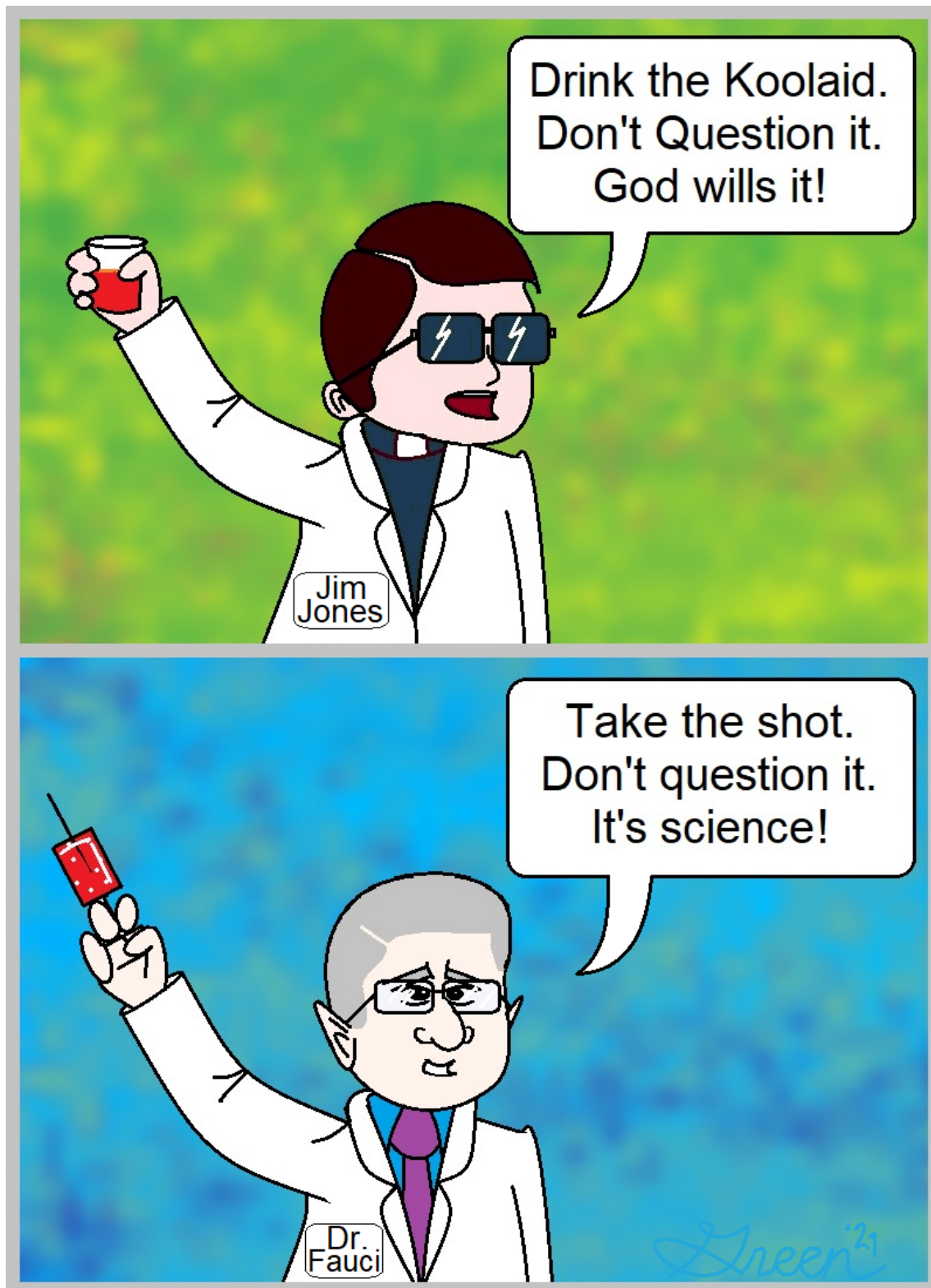
While EVs continue to make the news as the autos of the 21st century, just 3 percent of car sales in 2020 were electric vehicles.

Also, electric vehicles require six times the mineral content of conventional cars and trucks, the International Energy Agency noted in an analysis earlier this month. The agency also noted there is not enough lithium, copper, or other rare earth metals available to make carmakers’ green ambitions a near-term reality.

Thus, we forecast the goals set by some auto industry leaders to go fully electric will not be met as they predict.

THE ART OF TRENDS

"Kool-aid 2.0" by *Stephen Green*



TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

REJUVENATING OLD CELLS THAT CAUSE OLD AGE

At the center of the aging process are senescent cells – cells that are old, decrepit, and have lost their ability to reproduce sprightly young versions of themselves.

These elderly cells often are at the root of diseases and general decline associated with aging, from wrinkled skin to systemic inflammation.

So-called “senolytic” drugs, approved by the FDA in 2020, have shown some ability to sweep senescent cells from the body, but the drugs don’t do a reliable job of telling healthy cells from the infirm and may wash out some of the good with the bad.

The body has a better way to expel the old cells: immune cells called invariant natural killer T cells (iNKTs) track down the oldsters and escort them out. But

iNKTs also lose their pizzazz with age and leave too many senescent cells in place.

At the University of California at San Francisco, bioscientists decided to find a way to naturally bring iNKTs back to life so they can continue to clear away these cellular seeds of old age.

In tests, the researchers discovered that certain fat cells stimulate an immune response that re-energizes iNKT production.

The treatment reduced fat cells in obese mice and reduced their blood sugar levels; rodents with lung fibrosis reduced the concentration of fibers, easing symptoms.

TRENDPOST: *The novel approach to clearing senescent cells allows scientists to think about using the tools of immunology to counter the aging process, not with alien synthetic compounds from Big Pharma but by enhancing the body's own substances.*

This is another instance pointing to medicine's future not as a drug delivery system but as an assistant to the body's own biochemicals and natural processes.

RECYCLING PLASTIC WITH MICROWAVES



Pyrowave, a Canadian firm started by chemical engineers, is making a business out of recycling plastic by bombarding it with high-intensity microwaves.

The company's name derives from the word "pyrolysis," which means heating

substances in the absence of oxygen so that they break down into their chemical components.

Typically, plastics being recycled are sorted, often by hand, then shredded or pelletized and melted, so they can be recast into new bottles, park benches, and other things.

That process is not only a logistical challenge but uses huge amounts of energy to make enough heat to melt the pellets and shreds.

In contrast, Pyrowave's process uses electrical energy, not heat. That allows its process to use only 40 percent as much energy as conventional methods, the company says, which also reduces processing costs and, ultimately, the price that manufacturers have to pay for recycled plastic.

So far, Pyrowave concentrates on pyrolyzing polystyrene, a plastic used to make everything from computer keyboards to yogurt cups. The process should apply to a wide range of plastics, the company says.

Pyrowave has attracted the attention of tire maker Michelin, which has engaged the company to build a plant using microwaves to recycle tires – Pyrowave's first commercial application.

TRENDPOST: *Pyrowave is playing a long game. Virgin plastic remains relatively cheap, and the petroleum industry is counting on plastics manufacturers to keep oil companies in profit as electric vehicles displace gas buggies.*

However, the combination of ubiquitous plastic trash, public pressure as the amount of microplastic in our food and bodies gains more attention, and growing demands for regulation will create a growth industry around plastics recycling.

As in any industry, technologies that are cheapest and easiest will take the market.

SCIENTISTS CONTROL OUTSIDE FORCES CONTROLLING YOUR GENES



There's your genome and then there's your epigenome – external factors that can control which of your genes are turned on or off. Epigenetic influences, from the food you eat to the pollution you inhale, bring alien molecules into your body that stick to your DNA, not changing its structure but

changing how it works in ways that not only can spark disease but also can be passed from generation to generation.

Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco have tinkered with the Nobel-winning gene-editing technology called CRISPR and come up with a way to control the epigenetic compounds that grab onto your genes and flip their switches.

The researchers created a tool they call “CRISPRoff,” which allows them to turn off almost any gene in your genome without making any changes to your genes themselves.

In tests with insects, they found that a gene they turned off stayed silent down through hundreds of generations and remained silenced until they turned it back on with their other tool, “CRISPRon.”

The project could create a one-and-done treatment for diseases that spring from a single damaged gene, such as the immune system disorder called Job's syndrome and some kinds of cancer.

The new tools also offer a way for genetic defects to no longer be passed from parent to child.

TRENDPOST: *With the human genome mapped, scientists gradually are identifying the role and function of individual genes and what happens when they malfunction in particular ways.*

Coupled with that knowledge, the power to deliberately turn specific genes on and off is a breakthrough with vast implications, including being able to end gene-based illnesses and birth defects.

But it also points to perhaps someday finding a way to turn on or off genes for eye color or other traits in fetuses, fulfilling humanity's wish for, and misgivings about, "designer babies."