

TRENDSJOURNAL

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UNITE FOR
**FREEDOM
PEACE &
JUSTICE**
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Festival



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25 May 2021

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UNITE!

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal: "UNITE FOR FREEDOM, PEACE & JUSTICE FESTIVAL."

It will be this Saturday in Kingston, New York. We'll have sensational speakers, terrific music, great food and drinks.

In my 41 years of trend forecasting, there has never been a better time to UNITE FOR FREEDOM, PEACE & JUSTICE. Many of us who are not among the "herd" are disgusted with how governments robbed us of the beauty of life... destroying hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods to fight their nonsensical COVID War.

To reverse this trend, I will be making a major announcement on Saturday at the rally on how to create a more enlightened future.

On the Trends Journal front, we have for you another expansive issue packed with trends analysis and forecasts that will help you Plan, Prepare, and Prosper.

Wishing you all the best,

Pace e Amore,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

BITCOIN BITES DUST?

Quite a bit of wealth (or perceived wealth) evaporated in the crypto sphere recently, which would seem to have a dampening effect on inflation. If stocks crashed by 50% in such a short time they would be talking deflation and depression (not that we're not at depression levels already, mind you).

One thing that seems certain is that bitcoin is not the store of value savings vehicle that has been touted by some of the big boys. Not yet at least. So the speculative asset/store of value debate has been settled it seems to me.

Paul Sacco

BLOCKCHAIN FOCUS

It is blockchain that is here to stay. Any given crypto is questionable and if they will stay around they will absolutely be regulated. JPM, PYPL, SQ, ICE and many other companies are using blockchain. This is where I invest in blockchain. (I also invest or trade in this space for other reasons as well.) So just look at their performance relative to Bitcoin.

SQ went from \$32 to \$283 (The equivalent of Bitcoin going from \$3,200 to \$28,300).
PYPL went from \$82 to \$309.
ICE went from \$63 to \$122.
JPM went from \$77 to \$165.

Realize that your goal is NOT to brag about holding a Bitcoin position or any other stock or commodity for that matter. Your goal is to do your own homework, work the numbers and then to quietly execute on a plan or strategy that YOU came up with. DO NOT FOLLOW ANYONE ELSE. Do your own homework. Make your

own mistakes. And learn from them. Have the confidence to trust yourself.

jennifer ohman

GAZA WINNER

While civilians lose their lives and homes, Weapons manufacturers are making a fortune. Probably the banks too. It's sickening.

Eric Swan

FAUCI'S FRAUD

Fauci is a disgusting piece of meat and a total waste of air. Every time he opens his mouth, he lies. Nothing would make me happier than to see that sack of excrement go to prison for the rest of his life. Even that would be too soft a sentence given all the lives he has stolen. He and his buddy Gates and the rest of the criminals perpetrating this crime on humanity need to go down. WAKE UP PEOPLE!

Kellie Auld

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH IN OUR GENES?

Some scientists are working on a way to reawaken the youthful capabilities in the body that are slowly disappearing as we age, even though complete copies are stored away in the body and can be

recalled or reawakened to restore youth and to prevent aging. David Sinclair, PhD: Can Humans Live For 1000 Years? – Modern Wisdom. Check out his very interesting book on Amazon.

lvblasiotti

25% OF AMERICANS WORSE OFF IN 2020

Please remember seniors are the most vulnerable in all of this and almost never get a mention. When inflation hits, they go without and without asking for help. Many are from veterans' families. Many were vets. It matters.

Heather McConnell

A SHOUT-OUT TO READERSHIP

Thank you all who comment with documentation supporting your views. I am like a kid in a candy store. I am super impressed with the caliber of intellectual horsepower that subscribe to and write in The Trends Journal. I thank you immensely.

Kenneth Gerry Anderson

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW

STOCKS PLUNGE, STOCKS BOUNCE. The equity markets, the economy... it's all about cheap money. With inflation spiking, money junkies are worried that interest rates will rise, as will the cost of monetary methadone injected into the system by central banksters.

In the late April meeting of the U.S. Federal Reserve's policy committee, several members of the monetary mob urged the gang to discuss scaling back the central bank's current program of buying \$120 billion a month in treasury and corporate bonds, according to meeting minutes.

"A number of participants suggested that if the economy continued to make progress toward the committee's goals, it might be appropriate at some point in upcoming meetings to begin discussing a plan for adjusting the pace of asset purchases," the minutes noted.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 587 points last Wednesday after the news was published, as gamblers reassessed their tolerance for the risk of costing more to stay on their high.

On the same day, James Bullard, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, said, “If we were comfortable... that the pandemic was largely behind us... then we could talk about adjusting monetary policy.”

The Fed’s zero interest rate/bond-buying scheme has pushed equities to new highs throughout last year and this year, despite the economic toll of the COVID War, which has destroyed tens of millions of lives and livelihoods.

Liars?

Fed chair Jerome Powell and the Fed gang have said repeatedly that they will not raise interest rates until the economy reaches full employment, inflation rises past 2 percent annually... and shows signs of staying above 2 percent for an extended time.

The Fed says the current rates of inflation are temporary and will rebalance after the global economic crisis eases and supply-chain disruptions are ironed out.

As if you can believe them, the Fed said they will notify the market gamblers of any policy change well in advance.

Markets were also startled by the possibility of the Fed curtailing bond purchases in the near future.

Good Job Numbers

News that jobless claims fell to a 14-month low of 444,000 boosted some market sectors at week’s end.

After a Thursday rally, on Friday, market junkies stepped away from tech and other growth stocks while value stocks that could profit from an economic rebound, such as banking and energy, held their gains when the U.S. Composite Output Index, a measure of manufacturing's activity, reached its highest rating ever.

TREND FORECAST: *With equities running on long multi-year highs, while the recent volatility signals investor worries that the economic bounce will flatten and the prospects of runaway inflation are real, no correlation exists in money junkie minds that asset values are divorced from economic fundamentals.*

Again, minus a wild card, as long as money stays cheap and interest rates stay low, equity markets will stay strong. Conversely, when the Fed rate nears 1.5 percent, equities, the housing market, and the economy will slide into crash mode.

This Week

Yesterday, it was a different story. All of a sudden tech stocks rebounded... for any reason they could make up. The NASDAQ jumped 1.4 percent, and last week, its small gains ended its four-week losing streak. The S&P rose 1 percent, and the Dow gained 186 points.

Earlier today, with no big news to spark sharp movements, it was a little bit more of the same with the markets moving slightly up. But by the end of the day, equities closed down with the Dow falling 81 points, and the S&P 500 and NASDAQ erasing their gains, ending the day basically flat.

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

To illustrate the reality of how the fundamentals of the economy mean zero and Bankster intervention is what keeps the false economy and overvalued equity markets on their high, *CNN* (the *Cartoon News Network*), sold the fraud today by declaring, “Central banks were the superheroes of the early phase of the pandemic, taking dramatic steps to save the economy and financial markets from ruin.”

“Superheroes... taking dramatic steps to save... the equity market?”

How low can you go? Imagine the mentality of those elevating the bank mob to “Superheros.” And why should central banks intervene in saving the Wall Street gambling casino called an “equity market”?

Because it has become the American Way... a way to also bail out criminal banksters that were “Too Big to Fail”... and, as the former Attorney General Eric Holder indicated, “Too Big to Jail.”

It’s basically the same story with global central banks. Last week, the European Central Bank indicated it would continue its negative interest rate/bond-buying schemes because “the economy is still reliant upon policy support to prevent widespread unemployment, corporate insolvencies and economic contraction,” while the gamblers’ stock markets have “exhibited remarkable exuberance.”

The market players are worried interest rates will rise, and it will cost them more to gamble.

A new Deutsche Bank survey of 620 mark players shows that nearly 40 percent of respondents worried that rising interest rates would be a “central bank policy error”... up from 21 percent last month.

TREND FORECAST: *The “Biden Bounce” will only temporarily juice the economy and despite inflation rising, Washington and the Fed will inject more cheap money to artificially prop it, and equities markets, up. Thus, the more cheap money injected into the system, the further the dollar will fall and the*

higher inflation will rise... and so too will precious metals which are a hedge against inflation.

INFLATION: PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY? Economists are debating whether the unexpectedly sudden, sharp rise in commodity prices – with many items doubling and lumber quadrupling in price over the past year – will ease as production facilities return to full operation and supply-chain kinks are worked out, or if climbing prices are here to stay.

Some factors point to fleeting price spikes: inventories of raw materials were depleted during the economic shutdown as mines and factories cut back production. Now consumers are buying cars, houses, and other material-intensive items again, causing a surge, and subsequent shortage as shoppers vent pent-up demand.

As a result, relatively scarce materials can command premium prices until supplies grow.

And the trend that we had forecast when the COVID War began, that the shift to officing at home, combined with rock-bottom mortgage interest rates, has rocketed demand for new houses, especially in locales away from city centers. That surge has commandeered supplies of lumber that already were unusually low after wildfires decimated forests across the western U.S.

However, by December, lumber was as plentiful as before last year's economic shutdown, although supplies are still 15 percent below their levels in 2006, the last time housing demand was so strong, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Copper, a component in plumbing pipes and electronics, both of which reached peak demand in recent months, set a record price above \$10,000 a ton recently as China sharply expanded its imports.

Copper mines and their ore carriers largely shut down during the economic crisis. Now they are returning to production, but supply chains are still disrupted.

Expanding production at existing copper mines can take months, and years are needed to bring a new mine's ore to market.

Gas prices are on the rise, with May futures reaching \$2.13 a gallon this month, 6.5 percent above their historical average. Many U.S. oil producers have gone bankrupt, tying up some productive capacity in legal red tape.

Meanwhile, as we reported last month, producers' financial backers are urging companies to curtail exploration and focus on pumping more oil to generate cash, a strategy that could lead to shrinking supplies in future years.

A South American drought has shrunk the world's corn supplies, sending short-term futures prices higher than those for late-year delivery. The grain is coming up short at a time when China seeks to quadruple its imports to fatten hogs for its meat-loving, expanding middle class.

TRENDPOST: *Indications are that many factors pushing prices higher will ease by this year's fourth quarter. History shows, however, that reduced costs for raw materials and consumer items do not always translate to equal reductions in retail prices.*

Whether prices ease back or remain high longer term depends on the commodity. Steel and plastic production can return relatively quickly. Copper will need longer before supplies can meet an ever-expanding demand for electric cars and increasingly sophisticated and ubiquitous electronic devices. Food supplies are at the mercy of the weather in a world where droughts are increasing in length and number.

TREND FORECAST: *It is clear the Federal Reserve is either lying or guessing where inflation is heading. "We were never good at forecasting. Nobody is, not even the brilliant minds at the Fed. I pray the Fed will be right. I hope it's transitory. It's not clear it will be," Richard Fisher, former president of the Dallas Federal Reserve, told CNN Business.*

We forecast there will be temporary inflationary drops on many products and commodities. As the dollar weakens, it will cost more to buy less. And overall, while prices will cool down, they will remain much higher than they were before the COVID War was launched.

With the government pumping in more cheap money to boost the economy, the dollar will decline further and demand for products will increase, thus pushing inflation higher.

Gold/Silver: Gold, the safe-haven asset and hedge against inflation, broke through a four-month peak today, as the dollar and U.S. Treasury yields slumped, closing at \$1,900 per ounce. Silver moved up 81 cents per ounce, finishing the day at \$28.12, hovering near its highest level since early February.

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 also noted that unlike the cryptocurrency markets, which will continue to 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 the most secure safe-haven assets.

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.

Oil: Brent Crude is trading where it was last week, at around \$68 a barrel. With the COVID War winding down, expectations for higher oil demand are increasing. Thus, we maintain our forecast for Crude to break solidly above \$70 a barrel over the next few months, which will, in turn, push inflation higher. And, again, the higher inflation, the higher interest rates will rise. And the higher interest rates rise, the deeper the economy and equity markets will fall.

CRYPTOCURRENCES: SPECIAL REPORT



Go back to the 23 June 2020 **Trends Journal** when bitcoin was trading under \$10,000 per coin. We had forecast the price would spike much higher “when it solidly breaks above the 10,000 mark.”

It did, and we have been bullish on it.

However, the **Trends Journal** has continually warned that cryptocurrencies were due for a major tumble when central banks and governments took action to rein them in. And, with more central banks planning to go digital in the coming years, they would not tolerate competition. (See our 24 March 2020 article, [“FROM DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH.”](#))

Those warnings have become reality.

Bitcoin’s relentless slide in price over the past two weeks became a rout on 11 May, when the price barely managed to stay above \$30,000 before closing the day at around \$38,000... the price range where it trading as we go to press.

More than \$8.6 billion in crypto holdings were liquidated in 24 hours, bybt.com, a cryptocurrency data provider, reported.

On Friday, the price slid down to just above \$35,000, after Chinese vice-premier Liu He vowed the government would “crack down on Bitcoin mining and trading behavior.”

Cryptomoney “is not a real currency” and “cannot and should not be used as currency in the real market,” the People’s Bank of China, the country’s central bank, said in a separate statement.

The price of Bitcoin fell 29 percent for the week, while cousin Ether's price dove 44 percent, Dogecoin sank by 40 percent, and related stocks, such as Coinbase, also took a beating.

Much Bitcoin is created in China, where the electricity needed to run the thousands of computers required for Bitcoin mining is cheap. However, that massive power consumption threatens to undermine the ambitious emissions reduction targets that president Xi Jinping has declared for the country.

Also, authorities there are suspicious of a product they find difficult to control; China's banks are banned from dealing in Bitcoin.

Also, on 11 May, three Chinese industrial organizations issued a joint policy statement forbidding the nation's financial companies and institutions from accepting digital currencies or using them to settle accounts.

The statement contributed to Bitcoin's price plunge, undermining the standard claim that cryptocurrencies offer a hedge against the capricious actions of governments.

China First. While the European Central Bank and the U.S. Federal Reserve are progressing in their “thoughtful and deliberative” development of an electronic dollar, as we have long reported, the Chinese government had planned to issue its own digital renminbi. (See our article, “[CHINA: DIGITAL CURRENCY WORLD LEADER](#)” in our 20 October 2020 “GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS” overview.)

Back then, 50,000 Chinese consumers lined up in the city of Shenzhen and each was given 200 yuan – about \$30 worth – of the government's new digital money to spend at more than 3,000 area retailers.

Users had to download an app to their smartphones and create a dedicated account for digital money with one of China's four government-owned banks. It was the country's largest experiment in distributing and processing the digital currency, dubbed Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP), the strength and stability of which is backed by the Chinese government.

Since then, the more tests have been run, and the digital yuan is being introduced not only to defend China's economy against outside forms of currency and digital payments, such as Bitcoin, PayPal, or the dollar but also to eventually replace physical cash entirely.

The Bitcoin Boom. The Bitcoin buying frenzy gained fuel in February when Tesla announced it had bought \$1.5 billion worth of Bitcoin. Prices peaked at \$64,829 in mid-April after it was touted by celebrities from Elon Musk to rapper Snoop Dogg.

Then, earlier this month, Tesla boss Elon Musk said the company would no longer accept Bitcoin in payment for its cars; Musk echoed growing concerns about the amount of energy burned in mining Bitcoin and other digital currencies.

The price plunge slowed when Musk said Tesla would maintain its current Bitcoin holdings instead of selling them.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long noted, gold prices would be above \$3,000 per ounce if there was no cryptocurrency market. Now, with fears of extreme crypto volatility, institutional investors will be exiting Bitcoin and drifting back to gold/silver safe-haven assets.*

TREND FORECAST: *Where are the cryptocurrencies going? As we see it, they have a great potential to climb much higher and also experience sharp downturns should government competition and government regulations increase.*

For an “insider’s” perspective on what the crypto future looks like, see Gregory Mannarino’s new article, [“CRYPTOS: DOWN BUT NOT OUT.”](#)

U.S To Take Tougher Stance of Cryptos. As part of a broad plan to strengthen tax collections, the U.S. Treasury will require all cryptocurrency transactions

worth \$10,000 or more to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service, the Treasury announced on 20 May.

“Cryptocurrency already poses a significant detection problem by facilitating illegal activity broadly, including tax evasion,” the announcement stated.

President Biden has appointed Gary Gensler as chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which would oversee rule-making and regulation around digital currencies.

Gensler knows the field: he taught courses on blockchain technology and digital currencies at MIT’s Sloan School of Management.

Earlier this month, Gensler told Congress that imposing a regulatory regime on cryptocurrencies would protect investors and thwart market manipulation.

“Gensler is viewed as a potential ally for cryptocurrencies,” Ed Mills, an analyst at Raymond James, wrote in a note to clients earlier this month.

“However, [his] statements are likely to revisit debates regarding regulatory risk to cryptocurrencies and exchanges,” he noted.

Regulation likely would scare investors in the short term, causing crypto prices to fall, Mills acknowledged. Over time, though, regulation would lend greater legitimacy to digital money and make it a more stable playground for speculators, he contended.

Brokerage firm Miller Tabak took a more skeptical view, warning clients in a note from economist Paul Shea that “confirmation of Gensler [as SEC chair] and [recent] cryptocurrency volatility following rumors of tighter regulation highlight regulatory risks facing this industry.”

As cryptocurrencies’ use increases, “so must our attention to the appropriate regulatory and oversight framework” for “private-sector payments innovators

who are not within the traditional regulatory arrangements,” Jerome Powell, chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, said in a 20 May statement.

Gyrations in crypto markets and recent startling run-ups and crashes in speculative prices have made regulating digital currencies a priority among both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

U.S. Going Digital. The U.S. Federal Reserve will release a research paper at some point this summer detailing its work so far in developing a digital currency, emphasizing risks and benefits for the U.S., and asking for public comments, the central bank announced on 20 May.

The paper “represents the beginning of what will be a thoughtful and deliberative process,” Fed chair Jerome Powell said in the video statement accompanying the announcement.

“We are in the midst of a technological revolution that is fundamentally reshaping how we purchase goods and services,” Powell acknowledged.

The Fed has “been carefully monitoring and adapting to the technological innovations now transforming the world of finance, payments, and banking,” he said.

“The effective functioning of our economy requires that people have faith and confidence not only in the dollar, but also in the payment networks, banks, and other payment service providers that allow money to flow on a daily basis,” Powell said in the video.

“Our focus is on ensuring a safe and efficient payment system that provides broad benefits to American households and businesses while also embracing innovation,” he emphasized.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston has partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to create a model cryptodollar; other Fed banks are pursuing their research.

In a 24 May speech, Fed governor Lael Brainard seemed to urge the Fed to pick up its pace.

Last year's economic crash "led to an acceleration of the migration to digital payments as well as increased demand for cash," Brainard said. "There was a pronounced shift by consumers and businesses to contactless transactions facilitated by electronic payments."

Brainard cited several benefits of a U.S. digital currency, including:

- bringing the 20 percent of Americans who have no bank accounts into the financial system;
- making international transactions easier and more efficient;
- the safety of a digital dollar backed by the U.S. government, compared to the volatility of private digital currencies backed by nothing;
- minimizing fraud, baseless speculation, and consumer and investor abuse.

When the treasury issued stimulus checks, many people waited weeks to receive them, Brainard noted. A digital currency would have allowed the treasury to expand the number of digital payments that people would have gotten instantly, she said.

Cryptomoney has not emerged as a stable means of exchange but rather as a speculative play, the Fed has held in previous statements.

"Cryptocurrencies have not served as a convenient way to make payments, given, among other factors, their swings in value," Powell noted in the video.

In contrast, digital money linked to national currencies, generally referred to as "stablecoins," protects the value and the public, he has stated.

Any digital U.S. currency will complement, not replace, paper money and metal coins, Powell reiterated.

Although the Fed has emphasized the need to proceed cautiously and “get it right” in developing a government-backed digital currency, faster progress by other countries in creating a national cryptocurrency – notably China, which plans to issue a digital currency next year – is pressuring the Fed to progress at a brisker pace.

The Fed has set 2023 as the window in which it will launch its FedNow digital payment service as the first component of a digital currency system to be publicly tested.

“We’re talking about a four- to five-year journey to real availability and usage,” not only in the U.S. but in other countries as well, David Treat, a cryptocurrency expert at Accenture, told *CNBC*.

“A lot of learning has to happen between now and then,” he said.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, world governments will go from “DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH” and, of the major nations, China will lead the charge. China’s digital currency could move to replace the dollar as the world’s reserve currency if it appears much earlier than the U.S. version. China now leads in experience and technology around digital money, which could bolster the yuan’s claim to being a global currency.*

At present, “The share of U.S. dollar reserves held by central banks fell to 59 percent—its lowest level in 25 years—during the fourth quarter of 2020,” according to the International Monetary Fund.

U.S. dollar assets held by central bank reserves declined 12 percentage points since the euro was introduced in 1999, the IMF reported, while the share of the euro has been around 20 percent and the Chinese renminbi rose to 9 percent.

Therefore, we forecast that when China overtakes the United States as the world’s largest economy, its digital yuan will vie for a larger share of those transactions.

Mongolia Sets Up Hotline for Crypto Informers. Inner Mongolia, a province of China, has established a hotline and has asked citizens to inform on neighbors they suspect of mining cryptocurrencies, so the provincial government can “comprehensively clean up and shut down” digital money miners, the *Financial Times* reported.

The move comes as part of the province’s pledge to reduce energy consumption to slash airborne emissions.

Mining cryptocurrencies is especially energy-intensive; Tesla recently announced it would no longer accept Bitcoin in payment for its cars for that reason.

The price of Bitcoin and other digital currencies plunged last week, due in part to the Chinese government’s statement that they “are not real currencies” and that companies, especially financial institutions, should shun them.

China is tightening control over private digital currencies both to meet president Xi Jinping’s goal of making China carbon neutral by 2060 and to ensure that cryptomoney cannot compete with the central bank’s digital renminbi, due to debut next year.

Lacking government intervention, mining cryptocurrencies would churn out 130 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2024, exceeding the entire annual carbon footprint of Venezuela, according to an April study by Chinese researchers.

GAMBLER’S DUMP SPACs



The Defiance Next Gen SPAC-Derived Exchange Traded Fund, which lists special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) and the businesses that have gone public through them, has lost 30

percent of its value since mid-February and recently touched a six-month low, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

A SPAC is a publicly traded company that has no assets and exists to take over a promising private company. The SPAC and the company then merge, the SPAC disappears, and the SPAC's shareholders then own shares in the newly public firm.

The private firms targeted or owned by SPACs are not subject to regulatory rules and therefore can make blue-sky projections that public firms cannot.

Investors have seen SPACs as a vehicle to invest in exciting young companies before the companies go public.

SPACs have raised \$103 billion this year, according to data firm SPAC Research.

However, SPAC's creators are given the option to buy shares of the merged company at deep discounts, meaning those insiders often can ride out share price declines while retail investors take the retail risk and bear the brunt of losses.

Market values of QuantumScape, Virgin Galactic Holdings, and many other companies that tied their fortunes to SPACs have tumbled 50 percent or more since mid-February, the *WSJ* noted.

During the first three months of this year, SPACs' market prices were steadily rising, even for ventures that had no assets or takeover targets.

Fears the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise interest rates or cut back its generous bond-buying program have helped to drive down SPAC values.

TREND FORECAST: *SPACS have favored young tech stocks, which are often cash-hungry but a bad bet if interest rates rise.*

Also, an uncertain economic outlook makes fast-growing companies riskier.

In addition, regulators have signaled a greater interest in looking into SPACs and their structures, raising the specter that some of the ventures might need to restate earnings or could lose their cachet in other ways.

As we have forecast, the guise of buying privately-held companies and then listing them on the stock exchange casino to drive up their value and cash in big is reminiscent of the dot-com boom and the subprime mortgage fiasco. Indeed, it is representative of the entire equity market rally, which has boomed during the COVID War, as hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods have been destroyed across the globe.

JOBLESS CLAIMS REACH POST-CRISIS LOW AS STATES CUT BENEFITS



New claims for unemployment insurance totaled 444,000 in the most recent week, the U.S. Labor Department reported, the lowest number in 14 months.

The number of people collecting jobless benefits from all state and federal programs fell to 16 million as of 1 May from 16.9 million the previous week, also the fewest since the crisis began in March 2020.

The lower numbers were reported as Republican governors in 22 states are preparing to end the \$300 weekly federal unemployment supplement for jobless persons in their jurisdictions, cutting total benefits by half or more for 3.7 million people, according to Oxford Economics.

The supplemental payment will be available through September but the 22 states will cut them off at some point from mid-June through mid-July, claiming that the extra money is robbing employers of potential workers.

The average weekly state unemployment benefit is \$318, according to the U.S. Labor Department. Added to the \$300 federal grant, the out-of-work payment exceeds the wages earned by working a 40-hour week at \$15 an hour.

However, many states cutting off the federal benefit pay well below the \$318 weekly average. Mississippi, which will end the federal payment in mid-June, pays an average of \$195 in weekly jobless compensation.

The \$300 federal check has had “small but noticeable effects on job search and worker availability in early 2021,” according to preliminary findings of a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

At the start of each month this year, if seven of every 28 workers were offered a job, only one of the seven would decline it because of the federal payment, the study calculated.

The \$300 federal stipend is only one reason keeping people off the job. Low-wage workers may lack transportation or affordable child care; some still fear catching the COVID virus, analysts point out.

TRENDPOST: *As we have noted, a person making \$15 per hour going to work makes the same staying home when receiving government benefits. President Biden has defended the federal unemployment payments but has insisted that anyone offered a job must take it.*

The dearth of workers is nudging up wages; the average hourly pay had gained 5.8 percent in April compared to February 2020, the NYT reported.

HOME SALES FALL AS INVENTORY DRIES UP, PRICES CLIMB



Sales of existing homes slipped 2.7 percent in April compared to March, the third consecutive month of sliding sales, the National Association of Realtors (NRA) reported.

A continuing lack of available homes has pushed up prices. That increase, combined with rising mortgage interest rates, has left fewer potential buyers able to qualify for loans.

April's median U.S. home price was \$341,600, up 19.1 percent year over year, according to the NRA, while the number of homes up for sale was 20 percent lower than a year earlier.

Eighty-eight percent of homes sold in April were snapped up in less than a month; a quarter of buyers paid cash, the NRA noted.

Half of all homes sold in April through online brokerage Redfin fetched more than the original asking price; a year ago, the proportion was only 25 percent, the company said.

“Even if demand comes down, supply is the issue,” Redfin CEO Glenn Kelman told *The New York Times*. “That’s going to limit sales.”

“First-time buyers in particular are having trouble securing that first home,” Lawrence Yun, NRA’s chief economist, said in comments quoted by the *NYT*.

TREND FORECAST: *The housing market will stay hot as long as interest rates stay low. However, it will not experience the boom that began when the COVID War was launched in 2020 and people left big cities for suburban and exurban areas.*

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE: BOOM OR BUST?



Half of U.S. hotel rooms are empty most nights, malls struggle to survive, and office buildings are still largely unused.

Commercial real estate values, which slumped during the economic shutdown, seem, however, to have stabilized, and, in some cases, have begun to rise again.

Market prices for the properties fell only 11 percent last year, according to data firm Green Street, compared to 37 percent during the Great Recession. Prices already have risen 7 percent since last July; after the 2008 crash, commercial real estate prices took years to recover. Also, foreclosures over the past 14 months have been relatively few.

As a result, pension funds and private equity firms are buying again, in some cases paying record prices.

In San Francisco, where office vacancies are the greatest in the U.S., Dropbox put a substantial portion of its headquarters up for lease; but private equity firm KKR bought the building in March for \$1.1 billion, the highest price paid for an office block in the city in more than a decade, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Also, many upper-middle-class and wealthy workers remained employed during the shutdown, giving them income with fewer ways to spend it. More money went into stock and bond markets, pushing prices up and making commercial real estate seem cheap by comparison, the *Journal* noted.

That gave investment funds focused on commercial real estate \$356 billion in cash last month to work with, according to data firm Prequin.

Also, commercial property can be a hedge against the looming threat of longer-term inflation, especially buildings that have long-term leases in place and allow rents to rise with inflation.

Twenty-nine percent of large investment funds want to allot more money to commercial real estate, according to a recent survey by Cornell University and Hodes Weill & Associates; only 5 percent of respondents said they wanted to reduce their exposure.

In addition, property owners face the new permanence of online shopping and the slow return of business travelers to hotels, which hotels and airlines say is not expected to resume in any volume until the third quarter of this year at the earliest.

Much of the property market's recent strength lies in warehouses, which have escalated 25 percent in value during the past 12 months, the *WSJ* reported.

TREND FORECAST: *The market's buoyancy is due in part to banks' willingness to go easy on owners who are delinquent on their mortgage payments. But when banks' formal mortgage deferral programs end, foreclosures will rise.*

In addition, with more people working from home, we maintain our forecast for a long trend of a weakening commercial real estate sector. Confirming what we had forecast over a year ago, according to a recent study by Fitch Ratings, if companies surrender 10 percent of their office space as workers remain at home permanently, the value of office buildings could plummet as much as 40 percent.

Also, the commercial real estate market still faces the end of government largesse: the U.S. Federal Reserve's bond-buying spree will taper off at some point, and interest rates will rise. When interest rates rise, the commercial real estate sector will sharply decline.

HOME PRICES WILL RISE THROUGH 2023, STUDY SAYS



Home prices will continue to rise through 2023, although more slowly than 2020's 11.4-percent peak pace, according to an Urban Land Institute (ULI) survey this month of 42 economists at 39 real estate organizations.

Prices will inflate by 8.1 percent this year, 5 percent in 2022, and 4 percent in 2023, bringing the rate slightly below the 20-year U.S. average but still outpacing inflation in other sectors, the economists predicted.

New housing starts will total 1.1 million this year and 1.2 million in each of the next two years, exceeding the 20-year average of 942,000, the survey found, but those figures still may not be enough: about 1.3 million new households will form annually through 2024, according to Goldman Sachs.

Also, homebuilders continue to face several obstacles, including short supplies of lumber and other materials, rising mortgage rates, and, not least, a shortage of available building lots.

The New Home Lot Supply Index showed a record shortage of lots available to put new homes on, analysis firm Zonda reported.

TREND FORECAST: Again, we have long forecast the rise in residential real estate when the COVID War was launched in March 2020. In addition, even when interest rates rise and the "Greatest Depression" worsens, while home prices will decline, in markets where they have risen the most, prices will not fall below this year's price level.

MAJOR HOSPITAL CHAINS GETTING BIGGER



Flush with government stimulus cash and payments for caring for COVID patients, major hospital chains are snapping up smaller rivals, independent hospitals, and physicians' practices left weak by the coronavirus onslaught.

The \$178-billion federal Provider Relief Fund channeled government aid to hospitals during the crisis. However, the bulk of the aid went to the largest and richest hospital chains, put no caps on the funds' use for mergers and acquisitions, and left rural and small-town hospitals to sink or swim, critics have noted.

Many of the chains are stronger financially now than before 2020's economic crisis and have billions of dollars in cash on hand, *The New York Times* reported.

About \$25 billion of the fund remains to be allocated, and some chains are asking for more time to spend the money they have, according to the *NYT*.

"Regulators should really be looking at the transactions occurring," Yale health care economist Zack Cooper told the *NYT*, warning that the money has made large hospital companies even more powerful.

Representative Katie Porter has called on the Federal Trade Commission to review the extent to which the funds were spent to care for patients and maintain facilities and whether some portion, and how much, was devoted to building healthcare empires.

CommonSpirit Health, one of the largest U.S. chains with 140 hospitals in 21 states, received \$1 billion from the federal fund to offset unplanned COVID costs and the loss of lucrative elective surgeries canceled or postponed during the crisis.

This year, it has taken over smaller hospital networks in Seattle and Arizona and started a data firm serving 40 states.

“We have continued to prioritize growth,” CommonSpirit CEO Lloyd Dean said at an investors conference earlier this year, the *NYT* reported.

New York City’s NYU Langone Health hospital group, which took \$500 million in government aid, has said it is “exploring a relationship” with Long Island Community Hospital, the island’s last independent hospital.

Banner Health, a 30-hospital network based in Phoenix, pocketed \$400 million in public support, according to Good Jobs First, and in October bought the Wyoming Medical Center, the state’s largest hospital.

Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare received more than \$500 million from the aid program and bought 45 ambulatory surgery centers in December.

As with the Paycheck Protection Program for businesses, large chains had an easier time applying for and receiving federal relief than smaller hospitals, which not only lacked the staff to devote to the paperwork but had a harder time qualifying for payments because of the way the program was structured.

Often, the chains receiving the most aid and spending the most to expand their businesses charge the most for their services, often twice or more what Medicare will pay for the same procedures, according to a RAND Corp. study.

CommonSpirit, born of a 2019 merger between Dignity Health and Catholic Medical Services, is among the priciest chains, RAND reported, saying Dignity routinely charged three times the Medicare rate when it merged with the Catholic group.

Last July, the Los Angeles-based Cedars-Sinai hospital network bought Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. According to RAND, the chain was already charging triple the Medicare rate for common procedures when it received \$200

million from the Provider Relief Fund and millions in other emergency grants to care for COVID patients.

Huntington's prices could rise by as much as 32 percent if the merger took place, state regulators said, based on Huntington's new parent.

Cedars-Sinai and Huntington have sued the state's attorney general to prevent the state from capping Huntington's prices; the hospital decried the state's "unprecedented overreach."

Congress was warned of the dangers early on.

Major employers cautioned that the relief money would worsen consolidation if the funds' uses were not closely directed and supervised; health care experts feared the money would lead to fewer companies controlling health care, pushing up prices for employers and insurance companies.

"The big, well-resourced hospitals had a banner year [financially] and now they're in a position to swallow up smaller, more vulnerable groups," Elizabeth Mitchell, CEO of the private Purchaser Business Group on Health, said to the *NYT*.

The group represents Boeing, Microsoft, and other large businesses offering health insurance to employees.

TREND FORECAST: *The trend we had long forecast of the Bigs getting bigger and the smalls being pushed out of business continues to escalate. And, with interest rates low and money cheap, the trend will continue. However, when the "Greatest Depression" hits, there will be strong political movements targeting the 1 percent and calls for breaking up conglomerates, multinationals, and hi-tech monopolies.*

Thus, we maintain our trend forecast that 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.

DISCOVERY INC. EXPANDS MEDIA EMPIRE



Discovery Inc., a leader in unscripted television programs such as “Shark Tank” and “Fixer Upper,” has acquired a 29-percent share of AT&T’s WarnerMedia division in a deal valued at \$43 billion, according to various reports.

WarnerMedia will be merged into Discovery, with AT&T shareholders, not AT&T itself, owning the other 71 percent of the new company.

With the purchase, Discovery adds CNN, HBO, and the Warner Brothers movie studio, among other venues, to its growing media empire that already includes Animal Planet, the Food Network, HGTV, and Oprah Winfrey’s OWN network among its stable of properties.

The new company becomes the second-largest media conglomerate in the country by revenue, after the Walt Disney Co., and could have a market value of \$100 billion or more, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Discovery and WarnerMedia together tallied \$41 billion in sales last year, with operating profits topping \$10 billion. It expects streaming services to account for \$15 billion in sales.

The new company has predicted \$52 billion in sales and \$14 billion in operating profits by the end of next year and will spend \$20 billion to create original content, it said in announcing the merger.

Discovery's programs will now account for 29 percent of television viewing time and 20 percent of the monthly fees networks receive from cable and dish subscribers, media analyst Michael Nathanson of MoffettNathanson, calculated in figures reported by the *WSJ*.

"In businesses like global distribution and creation of content, scale is the name of the game," John Malone, a key Discovery shareholder, told the *WSJ*, especially as TV viewers forsake cable for online streaming services.

With the purchase and the content Discovery creates, the company is betting it can achieve the scale to compete with Netflix and other streamers, Malone said.

AT&T paid \$85 billion to buy TimeWarner in 2018 at a time when TV viewers were migrating from cable and dish gear to streaming services such as Netflix and Disney+.

In April, Discovery reported 15 million customers for its streaming services; AT&T has about 44.2 million, the company said. In contrast, Netflix claimed 207 million as of April and Disney+ 103 million.

Discovery CEO David Zaslav engineered the deal.

Zaslav, a former NBCUniversal executive, came to Discovery in 2007, took the company public in 2008, and grew its revenue from \$3.5 billion in 2009 to \$10.7 billion in 2020.

In return, his median compensation has averaged around \$42 million, according to the *WSJ*, Zaslav's 2018 compensation totaled \$130 million in 2018 with special rewards included in his new employment contract.

TREND FORECAST: *Once again, the Bigs are getting bigger and the rich getting richer. Moreover, on the so-called "news spectrum," in the U.S., where six companies control over 90 percent of the media world, with few in control and the medium being the message... the only message that will be heard is what they are selling.*

And, as we have reported, whether in the U.S. or around the world, the mainstream media takes political and socioeconomic positions on critical issues rather than reporting the facts and objectively analyzing the implications.

WEWORK LOSES \$2 BILLION, 25 PERCENT OF ITS MEMBERS



WeWork, the floundering landlord that rents shared office space to gig workers and start-ups, nearly quadrupled its losses to \$2.1 billion in this year's first quarter, compared to \$556 million vaporized during 2020's first three months, the *Financial Times*

reported.

WeWork paid \$494 million to cancel leases, escape unprofitable locations, and otherwise restructure its assortment of properties during the period. Similar costs were only \$56 million in the first quarter of last year.

At the same time, the company's number of tenants or "members" fell from 693,000 in March 2020 to 490,000 a year later, according to documents seen by the *FT*.

Year-on-year quarterly revenue went from \$1.1 billion in 2020 to \$598 million this year.

WeWork expanded at a breakneck pace in 2019, taking prime office space in high-cost markets such as London and New York City.

After failing to go public in September 2019, it now has announced a merger with BowX Acquisition, a SPAC, that will finally bring WeWork to the public market.

In March, the month in which the BowX deal was announced, WeWork pledged to investors that revenues would more than double from 2020's \$3.2 billion to \$7 billion by 2024.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had reported before the COVID War was launched in 2020, the WeWork model was already overworked. Thus, we maintain our forecast for it to remain a weak sector, especially as the work-at-home trend continues to solidify and new hi-tech advancements create new virtual realities..*

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



ECB WARNS OF DANGERS FROM DEBT LOAD

The massive debts taken on by Europe's businesses and governments to survive the economic shutdown raise risks of financial turmoil if the economic recovery does not go smoothly, the European Central Bank (ECB) warned on 19 May in its latest review of the continent's financial stability.

"There is a reality that [2020's crisis] will leave a legacy of higher debt and weaker balance sheets, which – if unaddressed – could prompt sharp market corrections and financial stress or lead to a prolonged period of weak economic recovery," ECB vice-president Luis de Guindos said in a statement quoted by the *Financial Times*.

The total debt of Eurozone governments and corporations has risen from 86 percent of GDP in 2019 to 100 percent in 2020, the ECB noted. The debt burden

is larger than the one accumulated during the Great Recession and the subsequent European debt crisis that peaked in 2012, the bank noted.

Governments have offered corporate loan guarantees totaling 14 percent of GDP, the bank said; however, businesses have accepted loans equivalent to only 4 percent.

The companies most heavily in debt grew their debt load the most, the bank reported, with corporations at the 90th percentile of indebtedness, swelling their debt burden from 220 percent of equity to 270 percent.

However, the impact of the sharp rise in debt has been softened by the ECB's negative interest rates and €20-billion monthly bond-buying program, the ECB pointed out.

Next year, more than half of the EU's 19 member countries will carry debt loads exceeding 60 percent of GDP, the limit on a country's sovereign debt that the union has imposed on member countries.

The union suspended the limit during the economic crisis.

The bank will leave its soft-money policies in place, de Guindos said, and that any change would be "gradual" and "prudent."

TREND FORECAST: *As inflation continues to rise, so, too, will interest rates. As interest rates rise, debt bombs in both the public and private sectors will explode. In addition, we forecast when interest rates in the Eurozone, which are now in negative territory at -0.5 percent, rise to 1.25 percent, equity markets will dive and economies will plunge into the "Greatest Depression."*

ECB HEAD DOWNPLAYS INFLATION



Price hikes clouding the world's economic recovery "are of a temporary nature" and inflation will return to modest levels in 2022, Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), said in 21 May comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

"Underlying factors and fundamentals are certainly not there to let us... forecast that inflation will stay at these levels," she said.

The Eurozone's inflation rate rose to 1.6 percent in April after spending several months below zero last year. Some analysts now predict that inflation will surpass the ECB's targeted rate of just below 2 percent in this year's third or fourth quarter.

IHS Markit's purchasing managers index for the Eurozone scored 56.9 this month, the highest since February 2018.

Readings above 50 indicate expansion; the higher the reading, the stronger the growth, hinting that inflationary pressures continue to rise throughout the continent.

New factory orders arrived at the fastest pace since 2006 and piled up into backlogs in greater numbers than at any time since 2002, the *FT* noted.

Prices for services rose the most in two years, while prices for items leaving factories swelled at the greatest rate on record.

"Demand for goods and services is surging at the sharpest rate in 15 years across the Eurozone," Chris Williamson, IHS's chief business economist, said to the *FT*. French companies told IHS of difficulties hiring enough workers.

TREND FORECAST: *German companies reported severe supply-chain bottlenecks and the sharpest rise in output prices since at least 1997. Thus, with all the data pointing to rising inflation, the central banks play down the numbers and brush over the facts to keep the belief going that interest rates will stay low and the economy will keep growing.*

While we maintain our forecast that prices will moderately decline, they will remain much higher than before the COVID War began, and central banks will be forced to raise interest rates... which will, in turn, sink equity markets and economies.

SHIPPING DELAYS HELPING TO INFLATE PRICES



Ports clogged with goods lined up to enter or leave are causing shortages of raw materials and consumer goods and contributing to inflated prices around the world.

Globally, about 40 percent of container ships were entering ports on time in March, with average delays of more than six days as ships anchored offshore to wait their turn at the docks, according to Sea-Intelligence ApS, a Danish data firm.

The figure shows a slight improvement from February's pace but is still barely half of the 70-percent on-time arrivals that prevailed before the world's 2020 economic shutdown.

The delays result from floods of goods trying to reach markets where consumers are venting pent-up demand.

The surge has led to a shortage of shipping containers, which worsens the delays and has contributed to soaring shipping costs.

Although ships traveling the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the U.S. face long delays, the world's busiest ports are in Long Beach and Los Angeles, CA, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

"It normally takes 14 days to sail from Shanghai to Los Angeles; now it takes 33," logistics chief Vincent Clerc at Moeller-Maersk, the world's largest shipping company, told the *WSJ*. "The sailing time is the same but you spend twice the time waiting to unload.

"We have invested millions of dollars in extra capacity but a large part of that capacity is immobilized because of congestion in the U.S. west coast," he said.

While delays begin at ports, they extend to rail yards, where there are more goods to move than train cars available to load them quickly; and to distribution centers, which are short of warehouse workers and, especially, truck drivers.

The shortage of ships, trucks, and trains has sent shipping prices soaring.

The cost of moving one 40-foot shipping container from China to the U.S. was \$5,650 last week, the *WSJ* reported, an increase of 34.5 percent since this year began and 228 percent compared to a year ago.

Now the clogs may be beginning to clear.

For several days last week, only 20 ships were lined up waiting to offload at California's southern ports, about half as many as during the peak traffic jams of February and March, the Marine Exchange of Southern California reported.

Although that figure is the lowest since November, normally there are no delays in getting a ship to a dock, the exchange told the *WSJ*.

TRENDPOST: We note this article to again illustrate the scope and depth of inflationary pressures and why and how inflation will continue to rise. Indeed, even as conditions moderate, shipping costs will not plummet... until interest rates rise and the “Greatest Depression” spreads across the globe.

JAPAN'S RECOVERY FALTERS IN FIRST QUARTER



Japan's economy, the world's third-largest in 2019, contracted 1.3 percent in this year's first quarter, a 5.1-percent annualized rate of loss, the *Financial Times* reported.

The economy stumbled as the government declared a state of emergency in January that extended into March.

The quarterly loss edged below analysts' expectations of a 1.2-percent pucker and guaranteed a slow pace to Japan's economic recovery, due in part to the country's lagging vaccine campaign.

By mid-May, Japan had given a first dose of COVID vaccine to only 3.5 percent of its population.

The service sector is especially weak, economics minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said in a public statement quoted by the *FT*, but consumers will begin spending again as vaccinations accelerate, he predicted.

In April, the government ordered new shutdowns in four prefectures as the COVID virus flared again there. The state of emergency was due to end on 31 May, but on Sunday, a government spokesperson said the freeze might be extended through June 20.

The rolling lockdowns have raised fears of another quarter of contraction, which would push Japan back into a recession, defined as two consecutive quarters of negative economic performance.

“We still probably have quite a bit of downward revision to full-year 2021 GDP to do,” Asia researcher Rob Carnell at ING, told the *FT*.

TRENDPOST: Japan, a country of 126,146,227 has recorded 12,398 COVID deaths over the past 16 months or just 0.009828 percent of the population. Yet, they have, as with many other nations, destroyed the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions.

It should be noted (which the mainstream media, health officials, and politicians never do) that of those alleged COVID deaths, over half were 80 years of age and older, and only 175 were people under 60 years of age, according to statista.com.

*As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, the suicide rate in Japan has sharply escalated as a result of the COVID War draconian rules. Last October, more people died of suicide in just one month than from COVID in all of 2020.*

Among women, unable to take the psychological and physical stress of fighting in the COVID War, some 7,000 women took their lives last year... a 15-percent spike from 2019.

MAJOR BANKS FINED FOR COLLUSION



UBS Group, Nomura Holdings, and UniCredit SpA will collectively pay \$450 million worth of fines for illegally colluding in trades involving European government bonds, under a ruling by the European Union.

Seven banks traded information about customer prices and other sale-related details in advance of bond auctions, the European Commission found.

The collusion took place in digital chat rooms from 2007 through 2011, during the Great Recession, when many of the banks involved needed government bailouts to survive, the commission charged.

UBS paid the largest fine, equivalent to \$208 billion. The penalty could shrink its quarterly results by \$100 billion, the bank said.

Nomura, based in Japan, will pay about \$158 million and Italy's UniCredit \$84 million.

Nomura placed blame for the actions on two former employees and said it has since tightened its standards for employee conduct.

Bank of America and Nataxis SA also took an early part in the collusion but left the group more than five years before the investigation started, leaving the two ineligible under European Union law for prosecution.

The Royal Bank of Scotland, now called NatWest Group PLC, was not charged because it alerted regulators to the scheme.

TRENDPOST: *We note this crime to illustrate how the markets are rigged by the White Shoe Boy Mob and how banksters and big corporate crooks get a slap on the wrist for committing high crimes and misdemeanors... while We the People of Slavelandia are punished to the full extent of the law for committing petty crimes.*

CHINA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY SLOWS



China's economic growth slowed in April because consumer spending remained weak.

Industrial output rose 9.8 percent year on year, decelerating from March's 14.8 percent; investment in fixed assets grew at 19.9 percent in January through April, compared to a year earlier, but slower than the 25.6 percent notched from January through March, the National Bureau of Statistics reported.

The results beat expectations among economists polled by the *Wall Street Journal*, who delivered median predictions of 9.1 and 19.2 percent, respectively.

The high-percentage yearly growth was not unexpected, given last year's economic shutdown.

Consumer spending slipped more, expanding by 8.8 percent in March, almost a third slower than March's 12.9-percent mark.

Spending patterns among consumers have become a benchmark for analysts measuring the strength of China's economic recovery.

"The problem is not the growth rate but the unbalanced economy," Standard Chartered economist Ding Shuang told the *WSJ*.

"Some sectors, such as industrial production, seem too hot, while others, like services and consumption, haven't yet recovered to pre-virus levels," he said.

Because of consumers' reluctance to part with their cash, the country's economic recovery is not only uneven but also not on a solid footing, the Politburo – the Chinese Communist Party's ruling oligarchy – said in April.

Rising home prices may be making China's households think twice about spending in other areas. In April, the average home price nationwide had grown 4.45 percent during the previous 12 months, following a 4.38-percent hike in the year ending in March.

TREND FORECAST: *The price bloat emphasizes the Chinese government's inability to meet its goal of tamping down home prices... and inflation. While the industrial output, fixed asset investment, and consumer spending numbers were lower than expected, they remain strong.*

Thus, we maintain our forecast for China's GDP growth in the 8 percent range for 2021, as much of the world winds down the COVID War and demand for products they export accelerates.

METAL PRICES FALL AFTER CHINA WARNS SELLERS



Global prices of industrial metals fell 24 May after China warned commodities producers and brokers to “maintain market orders” and not drive prices higher.

The world's economic recovery now underway has pushed prices for lumber, copper, cobalt, and other key metals to record levels.

In April, Chinese imports grew 43 percent compared to a year earlier, the fastest expansion on record. During the month, exports rose 32 percent.

After China's statement, copper's price slipped 1.6 percent to \$9,881 per metric ton on the London Metal Exchange; aluminum dipped 1.09 percent to \$2,370 per metric ton.

Leaders of China's major producers of aluminum, iron, and steel were summoned to a Sunday meeting at the National Development and Reform Commission to discuss the alarming price spikes, according to the state-controlled *Global Times* newspaper.

The meeting followed the Chinese government's 20 May announcement that it would take tighter control over the materials' availability and use to tamp down "unreasonable" price hikes.

It also said it would investigate behavior that jacks up prices.

Following that warning, speculators shorted metals markets and traders sold supplies, pushing domestic prices of some commodities down by as much as 5 percent.

Commodities prices also softened as a result of the Biden administration's decision to scale back its infrastructure spending from \$2.3 billion to \$1.7 billion.

TREND FORECAST: *While governments will do what they can to drive down inflation, it is purely a supply and demand issue. With much of the world winding down the COVID War, consumer spending will increase, which will drive up prices.*

Thus, we maintain our forecast that while prices of many commodities will decline from record highs, their price points will remain far above where they were before the COVID War was launched. Therefore, inflation will continue to rise.

TRENDS SPECIAL FEATURES



AMERICA'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM IS UTTERLY CORRUPT

By Paul Craig Roberts

A sure sign of a country's collapse is the open corruption of its public and private institutions. When corruption no longer has to be hidden but can be openly flouted, the values and standards that comprised the country's soul have eroded.

Try to find an American institution that is not corrupt. Even when presented with the COVID threat, the U.S. public health system could not rise above the greed for profit. Effective cures, such as HCQ and Ivermectin, were demonized and prohibited in many states. Most COVID deaths are the result of non-treatment.

Throughout the alleged "COVID Pandemic," regulatory agencies, health bureaucracies, medical associations, state governors, media, and Big Pharma have acted to prevent any alternative to a vaccine.

From Day One, the emphasis was on the profits from a vaccine. To get people to submit to an experimental and untested vaccine required the absence of cures. To keep the road open only for a vaccine, even supplements such as NAC, which has shown effectiveness as both a preventative and treatment of COVID, have been challenged by the FDA in its use as a supplement. In response, Amazon, a major online marketer of dietary supplements, [removed NAC](#) from its offerings.

The generation of fear was essential to stampeding people to line up to be vaccinated. The fear was supplemented by threats of inability to travel, attend sporting events, and resume working at one's job.

A COVID test, known as PCR, was intentionally run at high cycles known to result in a very high percentage of false positives. These false positives guaranteed a high infection rate that scared people silly. Economic incentives were used for hospitals to report all deaths as COVID deaths, thus greatly exaggerating COVID's mortality.

As you might have noticed, last winter had no reporting of flu cases, as deaths from the flu were added to the COVID statistics.

A number of reports have been published that the COVID vaccine does not prevent some vaccinated people from coming down with COVID. Other reports say that vaccinated people become spreaders of COVID. There are also [reports](#) of a large number of deaths and injuries from the COVID vaccine.

To suppress the facts and keep the COVID vaccine selling, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which supported running the PCR test at high cycles to inflate the number of COVID cases, now runs the PCR test on infected vaccinated people at much lower cycles to minimize the number of vaccinated people who come down with COVID.

To further create an artificial picture of the vaccine's effectiveness, asymptomatic and mild infections are excluded from the reporting of vaccinated people who catch COVID. Only vaccinated people who catch COVID who have to be hospitalized or die from it are counted among the people who caught COVID despite being vaccinated. However, unvaccinated people with only minor

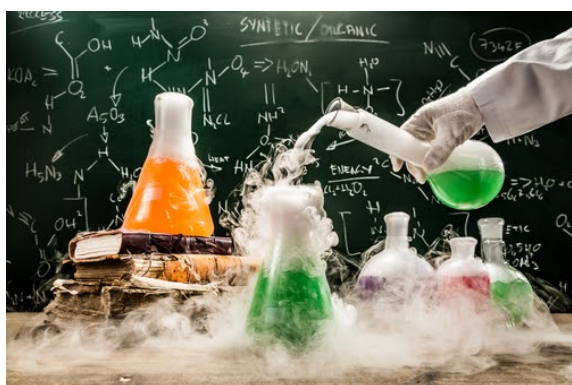
symptoms or false positives from a high cycle PCR test are added to the number of COVID cases. (See [Zero Hedge article](#) and [OffGuardian article](#).)

This is an obvious and blatant manipulation of statistics to scare people about COVID while reassuring them about the vaccine's effectiveness. Overstating the number of cases among the unvaccinated while simultaneously understating the number of people who caught COVID despite being vaccinated is shameless and protects the contrived picture of the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

The falsification of statistics to produce massive public fear and the prevention of treatment with known safe and effective cures to maximize death rates produced billions of dollars in profits for Big Pharma and associated industries, with Moderna's CEO topping the list of nine new billionaires made rich from the rollout of COVID vaccines. These billionaires rode to their riches on the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people who died from an enforced lack of treatment – mandated deaths to protect vaccine profits. (See [RT article](#).)

Will anything be done about this extraordinary corruption of the American public health system?

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE A GLOBAL SCIENCE EXPERIMENT



By Michael J. Talmo

Our world has been conquered by a tiny cabal of perverted psychopaths who control obscene amounts of wealth. Unlike despots of the past who tried to capture the world via military force, these slimy parasites conquer through bribery and corruption. Their goal: enslavement and control of the entire human race. With modern technology at their disposal, it

isn't just our freedom that is at stake: our very humanity is on the line like it has never been before.

Masks, social distancing, sanitizing everything in sight, stay-at-home orders, travel restrictions, forced vaccinations, and vaccine passports are about social control. They have absolutely nothing to do with public health. They are designed to break your spirit, stifle your independence, condition you to obey orders, keep you in a constant state of fear, and make you dependent on government and experts for salvation. They are designed to turn you and your children into slaves.

A History Lesson

Nazi Germany was obsessed with racial purity partly due to the pseudoscience of [eugenics](#), which was a popular ideology throughout the world at the time. Shortly after Hitler took power in 1933, the Nazis began to purge Germany of what they considered undesirables via sterilization and euthanasia programs. The [victims](#) of these horrible and inhumane programs included the mentally ill, the disabled, epileptics, the deformed, those with genetic diseases, alcoholics... anyone considered to be a burden on society, "life unworthy of life," "useless feeders."

The Euthanasia program was known as "Aktion T4," code name for [Tiergartenstrasse 4](#), the street address of the coordinating office in Berlin. Its first victims were infants and toddlers, but soon older children and adults were included.

Starting in 1939, hospitals and homes for the disabled began the [systematic killing](#) of infants and small children. While doctors decided who would live or die, it was the nurses, usually women, who carried out those orders. The children were either killed by lethal injection, starvation, or hypothermia from exposure, and, in some cases, [medical experimentation](#) and physical abuse.

Another method of execution was to tell children they were going on a picnic. A picnic lunch was provided, and a nurse would help them onto a bus. But they

didn't know it was a sealed bus that had been converted into a mobile gas chamber, with the exhaust pipes placed inside. The bus drove off, the exhaust fumes filled the bus, and by the time it got back to the hospital, the children were dead.

Naturally, parents wouldn't take kindly to their children being executed, so the government did what governments do best: [they lied to them](#). Parents were encouraged to put their sick and disabled children into institutions that supposedly would provide them with the best medical care. The children would then be moved to another institution much farther away, and contact between parent and child would cease. A few months later, the parents would receive a letter saying their child died of pneumonia or some other illness and they could come and collect their ashes and pay for the funeral. The ashes weren't even [the ashes](#) of their children but were from multiple bodies that were cremated together.

But that was the Nazis, some will argue – *we Americans would never do that*. The U.S. is the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave... the leader of the free world—a Christian nation. Oh, really?

Abuse In The Name of Public Health

Many people like to think that doctors and nurses are noble people who have our best interests at heart. This simply isn't true in many cases. In fact, Nazi doctors and nurses at the Nuremberg Trials tried to defend their gruesome practices by pointing out the inhumane experiments doctors in the U.S. carried out and continued to carry out long after WWII.

This is in spite of the fact that [the Nuremberg Code](#), which came about as a result of Nazi genocide, the United Nations [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), as well as [Federal policies](#) and state laws prohibiting experimenting on people without their knowledge or consent.

Here are some examples:

- **St. Vincent's Home for Orphans, Philadelphia, PA, 1908:** Researchers studying tuberculosis conducted a series of diagnostic tests on over [100 children](#) under eight years old by placing a tuberculin formula in their eyes. Some children were [blinded](#) for life as a result of this experiment.
- **Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, NYC, 1911:** Dr. Hideyo Noguchi (1876-1928) injected [146 children with luetin](#), an extract of Treponema Pallidum, the causative agent of syphilis, to develop a skin test for the disease. The kids and other adult subjects [didn't know](#) that they were being used in an experiment.
- **Tuskegee Institute, Macon County, AL, 1932-1972:** In 1997, President Bill Clinton apologized to the victims of the [Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment](#). The government lied to hundreds of poor Black men infected with syphilis who thought they were getting free medical care. In reality, their syphilis went untreated so medical researchers could study how the disease progressed. The result of this experiment was that 28 men died of syphilis, 100 others died from related complications, at least 40 wives were infected and passed the disease on to 19 children at birth.
- **Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 1946:** [829 pregnant women](#) were given "vitamin drinks" that researchers said would improve the health of their unborn babies. Unbeknownst to the women, the concoctions contained radioactive iron. The purpose of the research was to find out how fast the radioisotope crossed into the placenta. This resulted in rashes, bruises, anemia, hair loss, tooth loss, and cancer. At least seven babies died from cancers and leukemia.
- **Bellevue Hospital, NYC, 1940-1953:** Dr. Lauretta Bender (1897-1987), a child psychiatrist, [experimented](#) on anywhere from 100 to 500 children (reports vary) between three and twelve years of age using electroshock therapy after diagnosing them with "autistic schizophrenia." She would sit a child in front of a large group and apply [gentle pressure](#) to their head. If the kid moved, Bender claimed this was an early sign of schizophrenia. A

1954 [study](#) of 50 of Bender's child subjects showed that nearly all were worse off and some had become suicidal.

- **Willowbrook State School, Staten Island, NY, 1955-1970:** Dr. Saul Krugman (1911-1995) deliberately infected [over 700](#) mentally disabled but healthy children [ages 3-10](#) with hepatitis, which was rampant at the institution due to poor sanitation and overcrowding. He infected the children by spiking their food and chocolate milk with strains of the disease. The purpose of this unethical research, approved by the state and federal government, was to develop a vaccine. The children became sick, but fortunately, none of them died.
- **Edmonston-Zagreb high-titre (EZ-HT) measles vaccine, 1989-1991:** The CDC injected thousands of babies in third world countries with experimental EZ-HT vaccines. [Clinical trials](#) conducted in Africa and Haiti, like the [Senegal study](#) published in *The Lancet*, showed that child mortality was much higher in babies who received the EZ-HT vaccines. Despite this, the CDC irresponsibly gave EZ-HT vaccines to over 1,500 minority babies in Los Angeles, CA without telling the parents it was experimental, unlicensed for use in the U.S., and potentially dangerous.

The CDC [admitted](#) that “a mistake was made,” but claimed “there was no ill intent.” Fortunately, none of the babies suffered any immediate ill-effects from the EZ-HT vaccines, but the Senegal study states that “little is known about the long-term effects of high-titre live measles vaccines given early in life.”

Medical Experimentation Continues with COVID-19 Vaccines

All of the aforementioned atrocities and irresponsible experiments happened many years ago. But, to this day, people are still being used as guinea pigs by the government and Big Pharma.

With the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, every human on the planet is a potential lab rat.

Consider these facts: it normally takes [five to ten years](#), “and sometimes longer,” to develop a vaccine and evaluate the long-term effects on people’s health. The COVID vaccines were developed in [less than a year](#) using an experimental [mRNA](#) technology [never before used on humans](#). The FDA website states that the [Moderna](#) and [Pfizer](#) vaccines “may prevent you from getting COVID-19,” “may not protect everyone,” and “There is no U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19.” In other words, under an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization, all COVID vaccines are [experimental](#).

According to VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System), a national vaccine safety surveillance system run by the CDC and the FDA that tracks injuries and deaths caused by vaccines, as of [14 May 2021](#), 4,201 people in this country alone have died following injections with COVID-19 vaccines and 2,719 people were permanently disabled. VAERS further reports that there have been 12,589 hospitalizations, of which 3,868 were life-threatening, and 121 birth defects. And that’s within six months after the vaccines became available last December.

A 2007-2010 [study](#) on VAERS by [Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc.](#) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reported: “Results,” Page 6:

“Fewer than 1% of vaccine adverse events are reported. Low reporting rates preclude or slow the identification of “problem” drugs and vaccines that endanger public health. New Surveillance methods for drug and vaccine adverse effects are needed. Barriers to reporting include a lack of awareness, uncertainty about when and what to report, as well as the burdens of reporting: reporting is not part of clinicians' usual workflow, takes time, and is duplicative.”

Bottom line: if only less than one percent of all vaccine adverse reactions are being reported, the total number of deaths in this country from the COVID-19 vaccines could be as much as 500,000.

Keep in mind that all of the oppressive restrictions and fear-mongering are being driven by the idea that COVID-19 is being spread by asymptomatic carriers. This is a myth exposed by COVID czar Anthony Fauci himself at a Health & Human Services [press conference](#) back in January 2020 when he said:

“If there is asymptomatic transmission, it impacts certain policies that you do regarding screening, et cetera. But the one thing historically people need to realize, is that even if there is some asymptomatic transmission, in all the history of respiratory borne viruses of any type asymptomatic transmission, that has never been the driver of outbreaks. The driver of outbreaks is always a symptomatic person. Even if there’s a rare asymptomatic person that might transmit, an epidemic is not driven by asymptomatic carriers.”

The Real Agenda

The architects behind the engineered COVID-19 pandemic are the epitome of what psychiatrist Wilhelm Reich (1897-1957) called the [“emotional plague.”](#) People with this affliction are control freaks. They can’t let people alone. They can’t tolerate anything in their environment that disrupts their unhealthy way of thinking and living because it causes them enormous discomfort and anxiety.

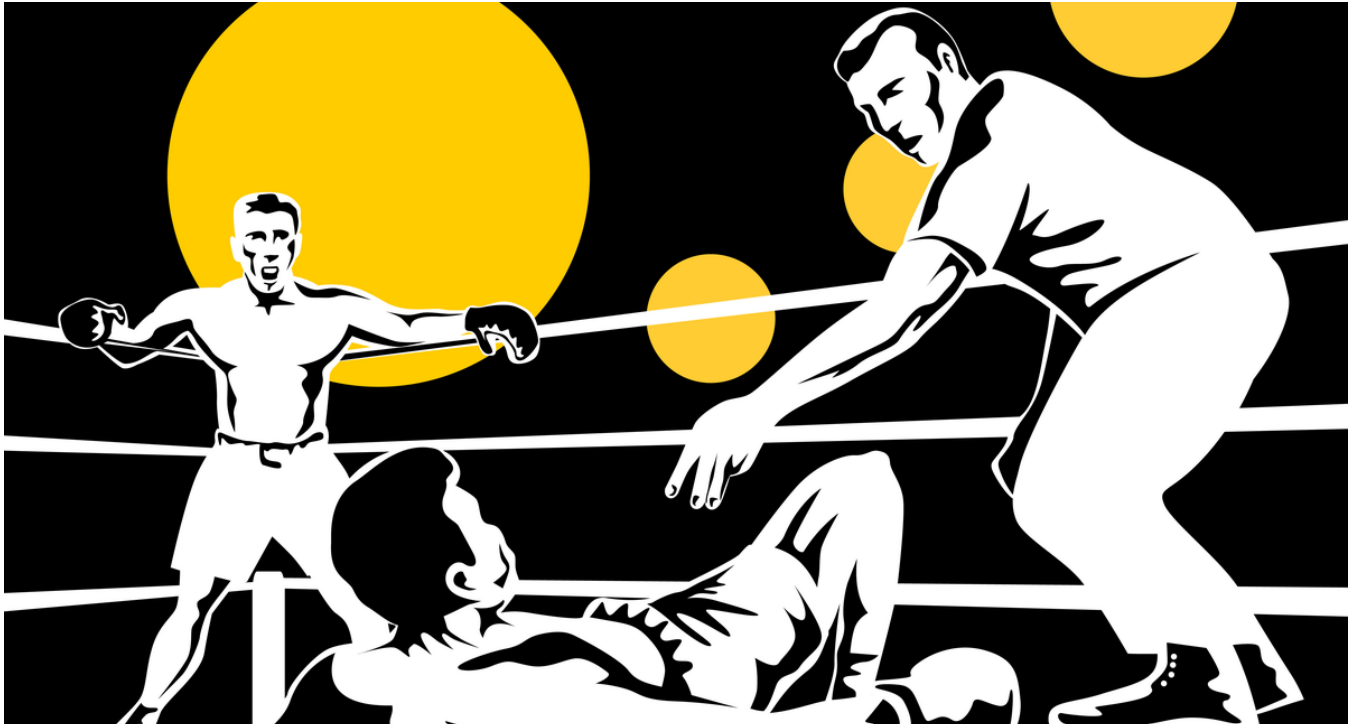
People like Bill Gates; Klaus Schwab, head of the World Economic Forum; and Rajiv Shah, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, are emotional plague characters. They are the puppet masters who pull the strings of governments. They envision a near future when [chips](#) will be implanted in our skin or in our brain that will enable us to [merge](#) with the digital world without considering what could go wrong.

Over the years, I’ve heard more than a few people say they would have resisted the Nazis if they had lived in Germany under Hitler. People who say this aren’t displaying any courage because they aren’t risking anything.

It's easy to say what you would have done after the fact. The true test of courage is to resist tyranny when it is happening now, and it is popular with the public and part of your government.

Michael J. Talmo has been a professional writer for over 40 years and is strongly committed to the protection of civil liberties. He also did three music videos on COVID-19: [The Masker Mash](#), [COVID Vaccine Man](#), and [The Corona Globalists](#).

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



CRYPTOS: DOWN BUT NOT OUT

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

Yes, everybody is talking about it, but this is nothing new.

For anyone who has followed my work since I recommended to buy Bitcoin at just under 3K, I have nailed the crypto space to the wall. I then recommended again to buy Bitcoin at 5K, and at 10K, and yet again at 15K. I have also recommended publicly to buy every single dip moving forward from there *including the most recent dip*.

Every single time, without exception, that I recommended to buy after the crypto dips, I have been correct. Moreover, I will be proven to be again correct with this recent drop.

Bitcoin, the Granddaddy of cryptos, made a recent low of 30K, and, since that time, it has made a substantial rebound, pulling the other cryptos with it. Cryptos are going higher.

China's recent crackdown on cryptos, along with the distorted and mixed messages from none other than Elon Musk, has indeed sent cryptocurrencies on a wild ride, but to me, this is all just noise. And, more importantly, *opportunity*.

Margin Calls

Much of the downward momentum in cryptos was due to the raising of margin requirements for those who are trading them on margin/borrowed money. This raising of margin requirements resulted in margin calls for a great many crypto investors who were forced to liquidate their positions as they were unable to cover the margin calls. This kind of mechanism causes the price action to fall rapidly.

Scared Money

Along with the issue of margin calls, there are those playing in the crypto space with scared money. I believe the issues with China, margin calls, and scared money means only one thing: opportunity. There is blood in the water.

China putting restrictions on cryptocurrencies will not stop crypto traders/investors in the long run from putting cash to work in this space. These traders/investors will simply seek other markets to trade/acquire cryptocurrencies outside of the Chinese markets.

Crypto markets are extremely volatile. Tremendous moves in the price action of cryptocurrencies IS THE NORM, not the exception! Wild swings in the price of cryptos must be anticipated and expected. Therefore, trading and investing in cryptocurrencies is not for everyone, nor should it be. Investors/traders have varying levels of risk tolerance, and they must work that issue out for themselves.

Cryptocurrencies are being held and bought by institutional investors, like Wall Street hedge funds, and, thus far, these institutions have stepped in and bought every single dip.

I believe hedge-fund buying of cryptocurrencies will continue to grow moving forward.

I remain a major bull in the crypto space, and I have my own cash invested in it. I have also been buying the dips going back several years.

My perspective on the crypto space will not change unless there is real and significant regulation in the U.S. Personally, I do not believe that cryptocurrencies will be heavily regulated in the U.S. I do expect crypto transactions will be taxed, but not heavily regulated.

Regarding regulation, what would the optics be? How would it look if the USA were to follow in the footsteps of Communist China and shut down investment? This is still America, where people can invest in those things that support a free market, right?

Well, yes, for now, that remains the case.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



HOW TO AVOID A PHYSICAL ALTERCATION

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

The attitude I encourage all students of self-defense to adopt is that, *on no account*, will they “agree to fight” with anyone, over anything.

They will most assuredly take immediate and decisive action in self- defense should someone *initiate violence* against them – and, of course, they should – but no way will they ever “square off,” “step outside to settle something,” or in any manner become compliant with some horse’s ass and engage in that which the law designates as **mutual combat**.

Bear in mind, please, that should you ever sink to the level of a pea-brained jerkoff who is attempting to goad you or provoke you into a fight, **YOU CANNOT THEREAFTER CLAIM THAT YOU ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE**. In the heat of the moment, this might not arise to bother you. But the consequences can be

severe and very unpleasant. It makes no difference what mere words any gutter-crawling scumbag utters. Self-defense is justified, lawful, and permitted under the law *when physical violence is imminent and/or immediately directed against you*. Then and only then may you act in what the law recognizes to be self-defense.

Note: I offer this as personal advice, not legal advice. I am not a lawyer and I speak and write only based on my observations, experiences, and layman's knowledge and understanding of that which occurs in situations where conflicts tend to occur between two or more persons. For actual legal advice, you should contact a lawyer who practices in your city.

The advantage you have tactically, physically, and legally by being the lawfully acting defender and retaining the mantle of innocence is enormous and well worth however much self-control it may take to flat out refuse to engage in a fight. First of all, your conscience will be clear. If you know damn well that you did *nothing* but react and defend yourself against an unavoidable attack, you have no reason whatever to concern yourself thereafter about however much injury the violent offender suffers.

Second, since any brainless “macho jackass” will *assume* that you are afraid and that beating you will be a cakewalk when you refuse to fight, you will have an enormous element of surprise advantage when he forces you to defend yourself.

Third, since you will be defending yourself with a fierce, spirited, relentless, and merciless counteroffensive (i.e. by *attacking your attacker*) and growling like a wild animal, and not by waiting defensively to take a purely “defensive action” that might avoid the initial onslaught, but does not stop the SOB. Your attacker will be caught unable to bring his own offensive under control soon enough, shift to defending himself, and do anything to react to *your attack*! So... you've got him.

But let's back up. I said that avoidance is crucial, and indeed avoidance is, as I put it, “self-defense technique number one.” Okay. So, realistically now, *how* do

you do everything possible not to be pressed into a violent engagement with some troublesome scum and avoid the need to defend yourself in the first place?

First of all, be polite. Be calm and courteous whenever you encounter anyone whose demeanor appears at once or after contact to be volatile.

Be quick to apologize even if you are not wrong. Prickly retards, the utterly mindless, and psychopaths often flare up instantly over very slight or even imagined inconveniences or “offenses.” Apologize profusely and convincingly. In some instances, this will work. Who cares if you’re “not in the wrong”? Your purpose is to disengage with this a—hole and avoid trouble. Just be certain that you shift into condition orange at the first sign of potential trouble. Be *ready*... but until or unless you have no choice but to protect yourself, be convincingly accommodating and apologetic.

Depart *quickly* from the scene if you manage to calm the sh-t down. You are not, after all, dealing with a fully human being. Rather you are dealing with a creature or beast who has arrested his development at the level of being guided by range-of-the-moment impulses – like an animal – and the sooner you leave the area, the more likely the damn situation will be over.

Whenever you train or think about self-defense, remember what is at stake. It’s not just the immediate moment that will be affected by your engagement in combat. The situation could escalate to the point where one or more parties involved, or even in the vicinity, might be injured, maimed, or killed. You could go to prison. You could be sued. You could be needlessly injured. Someone with you about whom you care deeply could be harmed. What the hell do you need this for?!

So... for the same reasons you will go after any physical assailant with 100% commitment and merciless, unrelenting viciousness, when given no alternative, so you will NOT engage in any physical fight under any circumstances when avoidance is possible. It must, for your sake, and your family's sake, be

unavoidable self-defense and nothing less that causes you to act against another individual.

One thing that should help is to stop caring about what others say, think, and feel. Unless someone is a proven friend or loved one, what the hell difference does it make to you, anyway? For all practical purposes, it is as though these bacteria didn't even exist.

And here's a tip that should help you immensely. Adopt the following attitude, which reflects a healthy level of self-respect:

If someone bothers, threatens, disrespects, annoys, challenges, or otherwise *non-violently* attempts to interfere with you, drop any semblance of respect or human regard for them. They rate no more concern than a roach or any other insect. On the other hand, when anyone appreciates and respects you, and understands what you are doing and have done, *allow that person to RISE in your estimate*. Thus, those who respect you will be thought highly of; those who do not will drop below insects in the level of esteem and concern in which you hold them. This inoculates you forever from being significantly affected or swayed by others who are not your friends, allies, and intimates.

It should go a long, long way to relieving you of any sense that “violence sure would be a nice solution to this a—hole!”, and encouraging you to merely shrug off human debris.

In today's society, which is also a society of hyper-sensitivity and infantilism, coupled with pettiness and meanness, “self-defense” is critical from two perspectives:

1. You must be prepared to physically defend yourself, your family, and your home when you are forced to do so.
2. You would be very well-advised to learn how to remain unaffected by the imbecilic, infantile, outrageous, potentially bothersome situations that irritate and provoke so many others.

I'm trying to assist you in both regards. Good luck!

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*

SEARCH & BUY: GOOGLE & AMAZON BATTLE FOR DOMINANCE

Google has announced a partnership with Shopify to build out an enhanced platform that may look and feel quite a bit like shopping on Amazon. It signals an intent to challenge Amazon's online retail dominance.

Google won't hold inventory. But the company will leverage its huge taps into data and analytics to power a platform that offers free listings to businesses and creates a slicker interface that melds Shopify's network with Google's shopping site. Google will also integrate Google Maps and YouTube into the experience.

Industry observers noted that Google's new retail efforts come as Amazon has been making inroads into Google's search dominance. For many consumers, Amazon is now a default first choice for searching and finding products, not Google's search engine. Google loses when searches and ads placed by businesses on its search pages aren't utilized.

Overall, more than 42 percent of all online purchases currently occur on Amazon. As noted in the **Trends Journal**, the company [profiteered](#) in 2020 off pandemic lockdowns that compelled people to do more online buying.

Bill Ready, Google's President of Commerce and Payments, said his company's new moves on their own selling platform are already showing results:

“As we eliminate barriers like fees and improve our technology, we've seen a 70 percent increase in the size of our product catalog and an 80 percent increase in merchants on our platform.”

Amazon & Google Leverage “Platform” Data to Their Advantage Over Competitors

As previously detailed in the **Trends Journal**, tech giants Amazon and Google use dubious practices to undermine competitors. (See our 16 March article, [“AMAZON USING DIGITAL BOOK DOMINANCE TO CENSOR”](#) and our 13 April article, [“NEW COALITION WILL PRESS FOR STRICTER ANTITRUST MEASURES.”](#))

A prominent coalition of business owners and associations was organized in April to formally advocate for antitrust action against Amazon. The group, called Small Business Rising, has pointed out that Amazon uses data mined from its selling platform to derive analytic advantages in the selling of its products over other companies using Amazon to sell.

Google, meanwhile, claims its new initiative is meant as an altruistic exercise to benefit consumers. Ready said Google's shopping platform would “democratize” online shopping:

“When it comes to shopping, what we're really trying to build out and support is a free and open commerce ecosystem,” Ready told *Forbes*.

“This is really important for consumers to have choice, and especially for

small and mid-sized businesses to be able to participate in the rise of digital commerce as well.”

UNDER THE RADAR RADICAL: LAURENE POWELL JOBS



While many big tech political funders are highly visible, others manage to push their agendas while retaining much lower profiles.

Laurene Powell Jobs is one example. The widow of Steve Jobs has managed to stay off the tip of the tongue, while funding endeavors that have huge political influence and objectives.

Breitbart Editor-In-Chief Alex Marlow recently [profiled](#) Jobs and the considerable network of left-wing media outlets, organizations, and politicians she stands behind.

Much of Jobs’s influence operates via “Emerson Collective,” a private limited liability investing company that isn't subject to disclosure requirements of philanthropic charities. A trip to their [homepage](#) is illuminating, to say the least. It easily rivals the expansive funding networks and transformative goals of George Soros, Klaus Schwab, and Bill Gates.

In addition to those far-flung projects, EC funds a list of media orgs that would have a lot more trouble staying afloat without the infusions of cash from Jobs. Some of the more prominent ones include *Axios*, *Mother Jones*, *ProPublica*, *NowThis*, and *The Atlantic*.

The focus and funding go toward outlets that are activists and do reporting as well as commentary.

One of the most damaging stories targeting Donald Trump in 2020 concerned supposed comments the President made about American soldiers.

That story, which originated in *The Atlantic*, broke in September with the headline “Trump: Americans Who Died in War Are ‘Losers’ and ‘Suckers.’”

It had no named sources and was shot down as completely false by multiple people who were on-hand when the comments were supposedly made. No matter. The story sounded through the echo chambers of the corporate media throughout the rest of the campaign.

Marlow’s New Book An Expose of Media Agendas & Funders

Marlow has a new book out, *Breaking The News*, which details the pernicious current state of corporate media. The book digs into different topics including the level of “Woke” at *The New York Times*, the big lie of 2020’s “mostly peaceful” riots, the ties between *Bloomberg News* and China, how the media was able to sell the narrative of “The Trump Virus,” big tech “Masters of the Universe,” and more.

Marlow describes his first encounter with Andrew Breitbart, which occurred in 2007 while at UC Berkeley:

“He gave a speech that night in late 2007 that was quite radical at the time: he proclaimed that culture is upstream from politics. Or, in other words, America’s entertainment industry, media, and academy are guiding policy and precipitating big societal changes. Hollywood leads, Washington follows...

After childhood on the Westside of Los Angeles and college at Berkeley, I knew he was speaking the truth. But I had never heard anyone describe it as clearly or as confidently as Breitbart.”

Marlow’s book is available [here](#).

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



PRETZEL LOGIC: GOVERNMENT MASK-PUSHING NECESSITATES NEW SURVEILLANCE TECH. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is holding a 2021 Biometric Rally this fall in Maryland. One of the items on their agenda: solving problems with identifying citizens wearing

face masks.

DHS is calling on tech companies that specialize in biometric “acquisition” technologies (i.e. facial recognition, etc.) to submit technology proposals to address the dilemma. The department’s Science and Technology Biometric and Identity Technology Center Director Arun Vemury said in a statement:

“In the past year, we have seen tremendous innovation from the biometrics industry to adapt to new challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. We observed very strong performances from technology developers; especially in their ability to recognize individuals under previously challenging situations. Now it’s time to see if further innovation and improvement can be achieved to further reduce errors and provide more consistent and equitable performance under challenging conditions.”

Vemury told the government and tech company conduit website NextGov that DHS currently [employs](#) biometric tech that can accurately identify people wearing masks in about eight out of ten cases. But he said improvements are still needed.

One of the goals of the more sophisticated surveillance is to process people in groups, as opposed to technology, which only works effectively with individuals in a line or cue.

The ability to identify people within groups would undoubtedly have utility in surveilling citizens in a wide variety of contexts.

The Federal government, mostly via dictates by the CDC, heavily pushed mask-wearing to mitigate the spread of COVID in the spring of 2020, after advising citizens early on not to wear masks. Scientific evidence regarding the efficacy of masks is questionable and controversial. There are no standards regarding masks as far as materials, fit, testing of specific products, etc.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



FED AND CHINA MOVES POUND BITCOIN AND ETHER.

Investors continued to run away from cryptos in droves following a crackdown against crypto payments in China and emerging regulatory moves by the Biden administration in the U.S.

Some of the news might not have been quite what it seemed, but it affected buying and selling nonetheless. As far as news about China barring banks from handling Bitcoin trade, crypto news outlets pretty quickly pointed out that, though, it wasn't anything [new](#).

Even mainstream *NBC* caught the [drift](#), acknowledging:

“Cryptocurrencies could still be bought from China on Thursday and investment schemes promising juicy returns for mining them remained operational.”

The Biden administration’s announcement that it would seek to bring cryptos under tax regulations “similar to cash” with reporting requirements for

businesses for transactions of \$10,000 or more in value, also weighed on investors.

BINANCE “BUNNY PANCAKE” PROTOCOL LOSES \$45 MILLION IN

EXPLOIT. Bad news continued on Friday. A cyber-criminal manipulated loans involving a Binance smart chain defi lending protocol called “Bunny Pancake.” The exploiter was able to accrue minted BUNNY tokens and then quickly sell them off, effectively stealing \$45 million.

The gory technical details were reported by The Block [here](#). Suffice it to say, it makes *The Sting* seem like child’s play.

It doesn't matter that the exploit resulted from a flaw in the Bunny Pancake protocol logic and not a blockchain-level hack. The news will likely do nothing to improve trust in crypto technologies.

One thing is sure: monetary and finance scams aren’t limited to central banks or Wall Street, and defi app protocol bodies will need to pay much closer attention to ways in which their logic mechanisms are potentially open to manipulation. The Pancake Bunny protocol did [say](#) it is “working on a reimbursement plan” for holders affected by the crash in price of its token.

THE POTTER STRATEGY? MICROSTRATEGY BUYING UP BITCOIN AS

OTHERS SELL. There’s a scene in the Christmas classic *It’s A Wonderful Life* where George Bailey tries to stop people rattled by a Depression-era bank run. He [points out](#) that while average folks in the town are selling their building and loan shares to Potter, the town’s resident fatcat:

“Don’t you see what’s happening here? Potter isn't selling. Potter's buying, and why? Because we're panicky and he's not. That's why. He's picking up some bargains.”

At least some corners appear to be taking a page out of the Potter playbook and making a bet that Bitcoin is going to be fine, despite the current steep selloffs.

Business Intelligence firm Microstrategy was already stockpiling Bitcoin, as [reported](#) by the **Trends Journal**. But they recently acquired another \$10 million in the crypto asset.

They paid about \$44 thousand per BTC, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing.

The Virginia company holds about 92,000 Bitcoins, currently valued at over \$2 billion.

NEW PYMNTS REPORT SEES CRYPTOS GAINING IN PAYMENTS

INDUSTRY. The payments industry news outlet pymts.com put out a new report detailing a strong consumer interest in utilizing cryptos more easily to pay for goods and services.

The paper, titled “Cryptocurrency Payments Study - How Consumers Want to Use it to Shop and Pay” noted that in 2020, cryptocurrency ownership soared 63 percent. Before the recent drain on cryptos, total valuation this year had exceeded \$2 trillion for the first time (as of April).

According to the study:

“Consumers’ interest in buying and spending cryptocurrency continues to rise, propelled by the fear of missing out on both a potential investment opportunity and a way to use these currencies as an alternative to their own fiat currencies to pay for retail purchases.”

It also estimated that 30 million U.S. consumers currently own cryptocurrency, and some 24 million consumers are either former owners or nonowners plan on acquiring it in the future.

Several important factors that merchants should be aware of are driving interest in cryptos:

- Cryptocurrency holders are young, male, and millennial.
- Millennials are particularly interested in paying for retail products, streaming services, and financial services using cryptocurrency.
- Bitcoin is the most commonly-owned cryptocurrency, with 80 percent of current holders owning it.

The study wasn't entirely upbeat for cryptos. It found some barriers were impacting wider crypto adoption for payments. Ninety-two percent of non-users said they don't know enough about cryptocurrencies and how they work to feel comfortable using them. Others worry about their intrinsic value, and even whether using them is legal.

Still, the overall outlook was positive for crypto use. Forty-six million U.S. consumers say they are likely to make at least one purchase with cryptocurrency in the next year.

The study data and findings were based on PYMNTS surveys of over 8,000 cryptocurrency users and nonusers in the U.S.

TRENDS ON THE COVID WARFRONT



FAUCI DECLARES MASK GUIDANCE

Dr. Anthony Fauci, America's anointed "top disease expert," said in an interview last Wednesday that the recent change in mask guidance seems to be misinterpreted by many Americans who see the guidelines as the approval to leave their masks behind.

"I think people are misinterpreting, thinking that this is a removal of a mask mandate for everyone—it's not," Fauci told *Axios*. "It's an assurance to those who are vaccinated that they can feel safe, be they outdoors or indoors."

Fauci was referring to the recent announcement by the CDC that those fully vaccinated can essentially resume normal activities. As stated on the CDC's website:

“Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”

Fauci pointed out the CDC did not explicitly inform Americans that they can ditch the masks.

“People either read them quickly or listen and heard half of it,” he told the news site. “They are feeling that we’re saying: ‘You don’t need the mask anymore.’ That’s not what the CDC said.”

Hans Kluge, the WHO’s European director, seemed to have a different opinion than the CDC. According to *The New York Times*, he said in a statement:

“Neither testing nor receiving vaccines is a substitute for adherence to the measures such as physical distancing and mask-wearing in public spaces or healthcare settings...”

Most of us are still susceptible to the virus and not vaccinated yet. Right now, in the face of a continued threat and new uncertainty, we need to continue to exercise caution. Vaccines may be the light at the end of the tunnel—but we cannot be blinded by that light.”

TRENDPOST: *Unwilling to buy into the mask routine, Texas Governor Gregg Abbott banned local municipalities from requiring residents to wear masks. He threatened local governments calling for the mask mandate with a \$1,000 fine.*

Governor Abbott said, “Texans, not government, should decide their best health practices, which is why masks will not be mandated by public school districts or government entities.”

It should also be noted that Texas was one of the first states to stop fighting the COVID War, and the entire mass media up to the White House slammed the governor’s decision. Ignorant of the facts of the ineffectiveness of wearing masks

and social distancing, regarding mask-wearing, President Biden blared, “It’s critical, critical, critical, critical that they follow the science.”

See our previous articles on the ineffectiveness of mask-wearing:

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

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

3 November 2020: [FACING THE TRUTH, PART I: THE GREAT MASK-QUERADE](#)

3 November 2020: [FACING THE TRUTH, PART II: MORE EVIDENCE MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE](#)

3 November 2020: [MASK MADNESS](#)

27 October 2020: [GERMAN DOC: MANDATORY MASK-WEARING IS “CRIMINAL”](#)

20 October 2020: [“MASKS ARE A POLITICAL AGENDA”](#)

20 October 2020: [DOCTORS: WEAR MASKS, GET SICK](#)

20 October 2020: [MORE EVIDENCE: MASKS OFFER “LITTLE, IF ANY, PROTECTION”](#)

6 October 2020: [FACE MASKS: POLITICS COUNTS, SCIENCE DOESN’T](#)

29 September 2020: [EUROPEAN HEALTH OFFICIALS AGREE: MASKS DON’T WORK](#)

THE NEW ABNORMAL: MASKED FOR LIFE



In what they call “All the News that’s Fit to Print,” *The New York Times* ran a feature story promoting those who love their masks.

They interviewed a fully vaccinated man last week who said he has no intention of relaxing his self-imposed health protocol of wearing goggles and an N95 mask out to the store to avoid contracting the coronavirus for a second time.

Joe Glickman told the paper that despite revised guidelines by the CDC and assurances from President Biden, he plans on taking the precaution for at least the next five years.

Sarah Maslin Nir, the author of the article, said Glickman is firmly entrenched in a group who may wear masks for the rest of their lives. These individuals are concerned about variants and the refusal of others to take the vaccine.

George Jones, an 82-year-old retired mail carrier living in Harlem, told the paper he will continue to wear masks for at least the next year.

“I’m in no hurry; why should I be in a hurry?” he said. The report noted he is fully vaccinated. “Being around is more important. That’s what counts. I’m an old man—I’d like to be around for as long as I can.”

The report pointed out that mask-wearing has been a source of tension. Some Americans insist there is no tangible evidence that supports the claim they are an effective barrier to prevent infection.

Others swear by mask-wearing, and... the more masks the merrier!

The **Trends Journal** has covered mask-wearing extensively during the coronavirus outbreak. Regarding the wearing of two masks, see our 9 March article, “[DOUBLE MASK? DOUBLE-DOWN FAILURE](#),” and our 16 February article, “[NEW CDC CLAIM: ‘TWO MASKS BETTER THAN ONE.’](#)”

TRENDPOST: *Chiming in on the “Wear the Mask” routine, Scott “Revolving Door” Gottlieb, former head of the FDA who’s now on the Pfizer drug dealer’s board of directors, told the audience on CBS’s “Face the Nation” this Sunday, “A lot of people have spent a year wearing masks, taking certain precautions. And*

so it's going to take some time for us to get comfortable again, going into settings without taking those precautions."

Selling his demented view of the New Abnormal, he spewed, "The good news is that I think culturally we've changed in that if you're walking around with a mask right now, you're not looked upon in an odd fashion. Whereas, you know, two years ago, if you wore a mask, everyone would take a step back from you."

TRENDPOST: The **Trends Journal** has kept subscribers up-to-date on the scientific data showing the fallacy of mandatory mask-wearing and lack of hard evidence that wearing cloth face masks offers any real protection from COVID. (See the Trendpost in our new article, ["FAUCI DECLARES MASK GUIDANCE,"](#) which contains a listing of the many articles we have published on the ineffectiveness of mask-wearing.)

FRANCE LOOSENS GUIDELINES, TAIWAN TIGHTENS UP



France

As the **Trends Journal** has reported, French President Emmanuel Macron has faced tough criticism over his handling of the coronavirus outbreak and will likely face a challenge by Marine Le Pen, the populist

leader.

On 30 March, the **Trends Journal** published the article, ["FRANCE, GERMANY, UK, DENMARK, CANADA: UPDATES,"](#) which mentions the criticism Macron faced in fighting the COVID War and his comment that there "won't be a mea culpa from me."

Last Wednesday, *The New York Times* reported that Macron joined Prime Minister Jean Castex for espresso outside a restaurant for a photo op, which Macron called “a little moment of recovered freedom.”

The paper said the day marked a momentous occasion and was the first time in six months that residents in Paris were able to sit down outside a restaurant to indulge in a croissant or glass of *vin*. Indoor dining is still banned.

The *BBC* reported that as of Wednesday, groups of up to six are permitted to eat together outdoors at a restaurant, and the country’s curfew was pushed back from 7 PM to 10 PM.

TRENDPOST: *As we said when the COVID War was launched, and as the evidence from mask-wearing, social distancing, outdoor gatherings, and surface sanitizing proves, “They’re making this crap up.” Over and over, we have detailed the lack of scientific evidence to support the draconian measures imposed on people and the inaccuracy of data when provided.*

For example, absent from the Presstitutes reporting are the simple questions:

- *Does the virus come out at precisely 10 P.M.?*
- *You can go spend your money in an essential big box store flooded with customers, but why can’t you eat inside a restaurant?*

Taiwan

At the same time some countries are beginning to emerge from the COVID War, Taiwan is gearing up for battle.

With a population of 23.5 million, the lockdown pressure came when the country recorded 1,200 new cases last week. They blame the rise in cases on complacency and spread through “tea houses” (adult entertainment venues).

TRENDPOST: Since the COVID War began 18 months ago, of its 23,855,252 citizens, the grand total of 29 Taiwanese died of the virus or 0.000122 percent of the population... or just 0.0000076 percent per month over the past 16 months. (If, for example, that monthly death-rate percentage were applied to the U.S. population, it would be the grand total of just 25 virus deaths a month).

Yet, government dictators choose to impose COVID rules citizens must obey that destroy the lives of tens of millions.

Making up the numbers, as others do, and without providing a scintilla of scientific evidence to support their mandates, cinemas and other entertainment venues have been shut down, and family get-togethers are limited to five people and ten outdoors. Taipei's government has ordered bars, nightclubs, and similar venues to shut down.

Again, selling fear and hysteria and ignoring the hard fact that just 29 people died of the virus over 16 months, in a statement, National Taiwan University decreed, "As COVID-19 is still wreaking havoc, please be reminded to wear a mask at all times when you go out, wash hands frequently, and keep appropriate social distancing."

TREND FORECAST: With just 14 percent of Taiwan's population having taken one shot, the two-jab percentage in single digits, and the COVID death rate minuscule, we forecast the government is imposing lockdown mandates to increase the country's low vaccination rate. This is similar to what governments are doing in other lockdown nations such Australia, Nova Scotia, Hong Kong, etc., which have negligible virus death rates per population.

LOCKDOWN ORDERS DESTROYED RESTAURANTS



The National Restaurant Association released a new report stating that 90,000 restaurants in the U.S. either have closed permanently or long-term. (See our previous articles on this subject:

[“RESTAURANT INDUSTRY; MORE SHUTDOWNS, MORE BANKRUPTCIES”](#)

and [“LOCKDOWN DIVIDES RESTAURANT INDUSTRY.”](#))

A *Bloomberg* report noted the number of closures is lower than the 110,000 the industry was bracing for in late 2020. The report said industry experts credited the Paycheck Protection Program and newly-eased restrictions for playing a major role in preventing an outright disaster.

These restaurants do face challenges, and the industry is down 1.7 million jobs. The *Bloomberg* report said in NYC alone, 5,000 of the city’s 24,000 restaurants are closed.

The California legislative committee reported last Tuesday that about one-third of the restaurants in the state closed due to the coronavirus outbreak. *ABC 7* reported the Employment Development Department said the industry’s employment is currently down 25 percent from before the media and politicians launched the COVID War.

The report said many restaurants in the state recently have seen demand increase, but they lack the workforce, as many former workers are making more collecting unemployment, and others have since sought “more stable career paths.”

NYC TO REOPEN, BUT UNSCIENTIFIC RULES REMAIN



New York City, along with much of the tri-state area, eased many restrictions on 19 May, as restaurants, gyms, and salons began operating again at 100 percent capacity... so as long as they can allow six feet of space between customers.

Governor Andrew Cuomo called it an “exciting moment” for the state after a “dark, dark hellish year.”

The New York Times reported it will be up to businesses if they want to enforce mask mandates for individuals who have been vaccinated. The report said restaurants can move tables closer as long as they have a five-foot-tall partition to divide them, which has stirred debate among health professionals.

TRENDPOST: *We note this article to again emphasize how politicians and their so-called “health experts” are making these rules up.*

“Studies have shown that plastic barriers can actually be harmful because they block proper ventilation of that space,” Dr. Linsey Marr, a professor of environmental engineering at Virginia Tech, told the paper.

*And on the social distancing and table distancing rules being imposed by politicians and their bureaucratic flunkies, as we extensively noted in this and previous issues of the **Trends Journal**, they lack a shred of scientific evidence to support their mandates.*

DENMARK LEADING TO END COVID WAR



Denmark is pushing to become one of the first nations in Europe to reopen, despite mediocre vaccination numbers.

The *Financial Times* reported that politicians in the country agreed to reopen universities, music clubs, zoos, and theme parks. A cross-party agreement has called for face masks to be done away with by August.

The *FT* reported that the country's so-called "Coronapas," which is essentially evidence of inoculation, will also be phased out.

TRENDPOST: *We've heard all along that the only chance the world has in getting back to normal would be to achieve "herd immunity," which would mean enough of the population has either contracted and survived the virus or rolled up their sleeves to take the jab.*

The precise percentage needed to be vaccinated seems to change by the week. We reported in our 2 March issue that Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, at one point pinned the number at 70 percent, only to change it.

"When polls said only about half of all Americans would take a vaccine, I was saying herd immunity would take 70 to 75 percent. Then, when newer surveys said 60 percent or more would take it, I thought, 'I can nudge this up a bit,' so I went to 80, 85," he said.

Thus, with the push to vaccinate the masses, but now with jab numbers declining, there is barely a mention of only opening up again when enough people are vaccinated... as with Denmark confident racing back to normal, despite not even coming close to reaching herd immunity. But other countries

also have announced ambitious plans to reopen without coming close to achieving the herd-immunity number. Who needs herd immunity when simply following the herd will suffice?

The Wall Street Journal ran an article last Friday titled, “Surge in Shots Fuels Europe’s Reopenings.” But on further reading, only one-third of the continents’ adults have taken at least one jab and around 17 percent two shots. How does that equate to a safe return?

The report praised the increase in vaccinations and pointed to optimism that the EU’s overall economy can rebound and return to its pre-pandemic output.

Europe has recorded a 60-percent drop in new coronavirus infections over the past month, the WHO said Thursday, encouraging news that comes as the continent plans to reopen its borders. Still, “this progress is fragile,” a top agency official cautioned.

WORKERS AT WUHAN LAB SOUGHT MEDICAL CARE BEFORE OUTBREAK



As reported in January 2020, the coronavirus first struck the city of Wuhan, China.

Last week, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*, three workers at the infamous Wuhan Institute of Virology became so sick in November 2019, they visited hospitals due to their conditions.

The paper, which cited an undisclosed U.S. intelligence report, said the new details “go beyond” a fact sheet released by the U.S. State Department in the waning days of the Trump administration. It was previously not known that these

workers visited hospitals at about the same time the virus was circulating throughout the city.

The *WSJ* pointed out that the fact sheet, which was released in January, did not mention any trips to hospitals and said the workers had “symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illness.”

The paper pointed out China has denied allegations that the virus – intentionally or not – leaked from the lab in Wuhan. Chinese officials responded to the latest report and blamed the U.S. for continuing to “hype the lab leak theory.”

TRENDPOST: *Although the report is not a smoking gun, it seems to contribute evidence to the theory that the virus may not have originated in a Chinese wet market, but rather from a lab. (In our article last week, “[BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI](#),” we reported that Dr. Anthony Fauci has been forced to answer questions about the lab and the virus’ origins.)*

The WSJ article said there has been debate among those familiar with the evidence produced by international partners. Some say the claims need to be verified, while others call the information “very precise.”

ANTI-LOCKDOWN PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN BERLIN



Despite plans to slowly ease COVID restrictions, protesters took to the streets in Berlin on Saturday to voice their frustrations over lingering lockdowns and expressed skepticism over the virus in general.

RT.com reported the protest took place in central Berlin, and some of the protesters were arrested. The report said many in attendance were not wearing masks and disregarding social-distancing mandates.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel pointed out that outdoor service resumed Friday at beer gardens, restaurants, and cafés. But she urged Germans to “treat these opportunities very responsibly,” according to *The New York Times*. Customers are required to present a negative COVID-19 test or prove they have a vaccination certificate.

Germany announced on Sunday it will ban most travel from the U.K. due to concerns of the Indian variant. *The Times* reported that Brazil, India, and South Africa are three other countries Germany has concerns about regarding variants.

TREND FORECAST: *To date, only 13.7 percent of Germany has been fully vaccinated. We forecast that in most of Europe, the full vaccination rate will remain well below the “health experts” 75- to 85-percent herd immunity range.*

Furthermore, we maintain our forecast for strong anti-vax, anti-establishment, populist “Freedom” movements in Germany and much of the globe. Another driving force pushing new political movements forward will be “It’s the economy, stupid”... as economies begin a sharp downward slide following the brief spring/summer/autumn upward bounce.

LOOK WHO’S DOUBTING CHINA’S WUHAN LAB DENIALS NOW



Even the WHO isn’t backing China’s new denials that the Wuhan Virology Lab couldn’t possibly be the origin of the COVID-19 virus.

China has gone back to pointing at the U.S. and issuing belligerent statements, now that more information is coming to light about experiments at the lab.

In March, a joint WHO-China mission concluded the possibility that the COVID breakout originated at the lab is “unlikely.”

But WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has since recently admitted that the source of the virus has not been determined and further research of all possibilities was needed to reach “more robust conclusions.”

Soon after the pandemic first surfaced in China in late 2019, the WHO came under fire for promoting misinformation that aligned with China’s version and timeline of events. The WHO’s actions led then-President Trump to cut funding to the organization. But one of the first acts of the Biden administration was to [rejoin](#) the WHO and restore funding.

A contentious debate between U.S. Senator Rand Paul and COVID policy czar Dr. Anthony Fauci over the kinds of research being conducted and funded at the Wuhan lab made news in [mid-May](#). Paul’s dogged pursuit of questions surrounding the pandemic has been a big factor in cracking the MSM and Chinese narrative that the Wuhan lab theory is a “debunked conspiracy theory.”

VOX news outlet and *Politico* recently have walked-back or even stealth-edited articles claiming the Wuhan lab origin possibility was a settled falsehood.

A recent letter in the journal *Science*, signed by 18 scientists, has advocated that researchers continue to examine all possibilities concerning the origin of COVID. The scientists said they believed the China-WHO joint mission had not given “balanced consideration” to lab and zoonotic spillover theories.

A recent *Newsweek* article reported comments by Jamie Metzl, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, about the persistent questions about the Wuhan lab:

“The chokehold on public consideration of an accidental lab incident as a possible pandemic origin has just been broken. Following publication of the *Science* letter, it will be irresponsible for any scientific journal or news outlet to not fully represent this viable hypothesis.”

MSM CONTINUES TO SMEAR THOSE OPPOSED TO “OFFICIAL” NARRATIVE



The movement to recall Governor Gavin Newsom is the latest effort being painted as an extremist “militia”-led movement, to discredit any opposition to disastrous COVID policies.

An *LA Times* [story](#) this past week centered on a “red town” in California that has been active in the recall effort against Newsom.

Newsom’s draconian use of government enforcers to shut down churches and businesses caused a popular grassroots reaction that has put his political career in serious jeopardy.

Instead of focusing on that considerable abuse of power, the *Times* story obsessed about a minor bar scuffle between a prominent local recall effort leader, Carlos Zapata, and a political adversary.

The purpose of the story, like others churned out by MSM outlets throughout the pandemic, was to paint aggrieved citizens fed up with COVID lockdowns as anti-government extremists.

Government Abuse of Power vs. Grassroots Pushback

How state and Federal governments and officials have abused their authorities during the COVID pandemic have been exhaustively documented at this point. Businesses, institutions, and individuals have been subjected to unequal treatment. So were political rallies and riots.

Numerous government officials, from Nancy Pelosi to Gretchen Whitmer to Gavin Newsom, flouted their own rules. Whitmer and Newsom have seen their

fortunes turn, based in no small part on their hypocrisies and attendant lies, as well as their policies. A recent Breitbart [article](#) detailed how Whitmer's secret trip to Florida, taken at a time when she was restricting travel for Michigan residents, has dimmed her political star.

Meanwhile, late last week, Newsom's effort to battle against his recall got a \$3 million injection from Netflix co-CEO Reed Hastings. Newsom drew criticism a few months ago when he allowed Hollywood film companies to resume activities while barring other businesses and organizations from doing the same.

JUDGE AWARDS CHURCH \$3.1M IN REBUKE OF ARBITRARY SHUTDOWN



Governor Gavin Newsom's church shutdowns are now barred by a permanent statewide injunction, as a result of a court settlement approved late last week.

Harvester Rock Church and Harvest Ministry International were awarded \$3.1 million to pay for legal fees accrued fighting Newsom's restrictions, which he claimed were to stem the spread of COVID. Harvest filed the suit in the summer of 2020.

Senior Pastor Ché Ahn reacted to the news in a statement:

"This is a momentous day for churches in America! After nearly a yearlong battle defending our religious freedoms, our lawsuit has reached a permanent settlement in our favor. I am thrilled to see the complete reversal of the last discriminatory restrictions against churches in California, knowing this case will act as a precedent, not only in our state but also in our nation.

We are incredibly grateful to our attorney Mat Staver and to Liberty Counsel for their relentless support and fierce determination. Most of all, we give all the glory to God for moving mightily in this historic season!”

The permanent injunction bars any future restrictions, which are not equally applied to a lengthy list of “critical infrastructure” or “essential services,” based on Supreme Court precedents cited in the settlement.

Newsom’s crackdown, like COVID policies in several other states, has faced scrutiny and opposition over their arbitrary and discriminatory rules, which favored some businesses, occupations, institutions, and even political events while barring others.

While the state allowed activity at grocery stores, warehouses, big box stores, transportation, and more, Newsom had unconstitutionally shut down religious activities like church gatherings.

According to CBN, the Harvest [battle](#) began last July, after California’s governor placed heavy restrictions not only on church gatherings but even on home Bible study get-togethers. Harvest called on The Liberty Counsel, a nonprofit religious rights law firm, to bring a suit challenging the state’s pandemic policies based on First Amendment grounds.

“The Supreme Court intervened multiple times to provide relief,” Liberty Counsel Mat Staver noted about Newsom’s church restrictions. “California may never again place discriminatory restrictions on churches and places of worship. Gov. Gavin Newsom has now been permanently quarantined and may not violate the First Amendment rights of churches and places of worship again.”

AUSTRALIA OPTS TO REMAIN “HERMIT NATION”

Last Tuesday, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that his “Fortress Australia” COVID restrictions, which have shut off travel in and out of the country, will remain in effect for another year.

To date, the country of 25,763,214 residents has suffered 910 COVID deaths or 0.0035 percent of the population. Over the course of 16 months, that is only 0.00022 COVID deaths per month.

Claiming the draconian rules have been effective in stopping the coronavirus from spreading, in terms of economic and social impact, however, such isolation is not seen as beneficial. Omar Khorshid, president of the Australian Medical Association, said the country “cannot keep its international borders closed indefinitely.” “At some point,” he warned, such closures will be “impossible to justify” because of “their impact on lives and livelihoods.”

Critics of the “Fortress Australia” policy have used the term “hermit nation” to describe the imposed isolation on the country.

COVID vs. Flu

One outspoken critic, Virgin Australia CEO Jayne Hrdlicka, has argued that borders should gradually reopen because COVID-19 will not be eradicated. She had said that “some people may die, but it will be way smaller than with the flu.” (See our 10 November article, [“COVID COMPARED TO SEASONAL FLU.”](#))

Morrison called her remarks “insensitive” and said the borders would remain closed as long as necessary, saying, “I’m not going to take risks with Australians’ lives.” And the public seems to concur: a study by Newspoll showed that 73 percent of Australians approved of keeping the travel ban until at least mid-2022.

TRENDPOST: *As more people are vaccinated, the media and political hysteria that drove the border closings may begin to abate, but, so far, in a population of nearly 26 million, only about three million Australians have received their shots.*

NOVA SCOTIA: MINOR # OF COVID DEATHS, MAJOR LOCKDOWN



Last week, in our article [“NOVA SCOTIA: FREEDOM RALLIES FORBIDDEN,”](#) we reported on what was then just the latest incident of Halifax, Nova Scotia’s COVID Cops running roughshod over free speech and free assembly in the name of “health and safety.”

Nothing New for NS

To date, the province, with a population of just under 980,000, has recorded 74 deaths from COVID-19; a fatality rate of under 0.008 percent. That’s roughly equivalent to the country’s yearly death toll from auto accidents, except that the COVID-19 deaths are heavily weighted toward older generations. According to the Canadian government, 87 percent of Nova Scotia’s COVID-19 victims were over 70 years of age, and 67 percent were over 80.

Restrictions Extended

Despite these facts, as schools and businesses are re-opening and restrictions are lifted or relaxed elsewhere, comes word that Nova Scotia’s public health restrictions, which were set to expire 20 May, have been extended until at least mid-June. This was announced in last Wednesday’s news release from Premier Iain Rankin and Dr. Robert Strang, the province’s “chief medical officer of health.”

School is Out; So is Culture & Church

Public and private schools will remain closed, as well as museums, public libraries, and art galleries. All arts and cultural events, festivals, sports events (recreational, professional, and amateur), and even wedding and funeral receptions and visitations are on the list of activities “not permitted.”

All faith gatherings are similarly banned.

Out of Business

In addition, businesses offering indoor recreation facilities, like gyms, pools, tennis courts, and yoga classes are ordered to close; the same applies to music lessons and dance classes. Personal service businesses like barbershops, hair salons, and nail salons must close. Restaurants, bars, and casinos are also ordered closed or subject to severe restrictions.

There are no enforced capacity rules, however, for the Bigs “essential” big box stores. But for small “essentials” to remain open, they must operate at no more than 25-percent capacity.

Facilities providing care and rehabilitation for adults with disabilities, both residential and daycare, must close or are subject to severe restrictions. Residents are not permitted to leave such facilities, and visitors will be limited.

Not Much to Celebrate

As reported by *HalifaxToday.ca*, these restrictions will greatly impact the way Nova Scotians observe the long Victoria Day weekend, traditionally seen across Canada as the unofficial kick-off to summer. Victoria Day falls on the last Monday before 25 May; this year it will be 24 May.

Nova Scotians are under orders to not gather in groups, even outdoors. Dr. Strang has declared:

“You can have a neighbour or a close friend, just one, come over to have a chat on your deck or in your yard, but you must stay physically distanced at all times, stay outside and practice all other public health measures.”

Enforcement

Don't worry about anyone getting off too easy for failure to comply with these edicts, as The Health and Protection Act provides for substantial fines for violations. For example, each person at a large gathering can be fined \$2,000; the fines for businesses are even higher.

On Sunday, Nova Scotia's COVID Cops handed out \$21,978 worth of fines to people attending a house party in Cole Harbour... with more to follow for party goers who had escaped before the COVID Cops could fine them.

TRENDPOST: *These draconian rules prohibiting people to gather outside are anathema to scientific data. As we have noted, and even The New York Times reports, based on studies in Singapore, Ireland, and China, the odds of contracting COVID-19 outdoors are minuscule.*

David Leonhardt of the NYT characterizes the CDC's "benchmark" outdoor transmission rate of 10 percent as "a huge exaggeration." He quotes Dr. Aaron Richterman of the University of Pennsylvania on the topic: "I'm sure it's possible for transmission to occur outdoors in the right circumstances, but if we had to put a number on it, I would say much less than 1 percent."

TRENDPOST: *On 21 May, two days after it was announced that the restrictions would be extended, Dr. Strang advised the public that two more COVID-related deaths had occurred in the province, bringing the tally since the pandemic began to a whopping 76 (out of a population of close to one million!).*

The province's public health honcho cited those two additional deaths as further proof that Nova Scotians need to "remain vigilant" and that his draconian rules and the vigorous enforcement thereof are still entirely justified and appropriate.

We have already pointed out that the COVID-19 fatality rate in Nova Scotia is roughly comparable to the province's fatality rate for auto accidents.

Let us now add that the COVID-19 fatality rate is significantly lower than the province's rate for the top ten leading causes of death listed by Statistics Canada. This observation is meant to put the risk of death from COVID-19 into further perspective. But a sense of perspective is something Nova Scotia's public health authorities clearly seem to lack.

TRENDS IN THE VACCINE ROLLOUT



“HEALTH EXPERT” = DRUG DEALER

Go back to March 2020 when Prostitutes and politicians were launching the COVID War. As we had pointed out back then, just as with all other wars, the warmongers ban those opposed to wars based on lies while promoting those who champion them.

Among those championing the COVID War was the “esteemed” health expert Scott Gottlieb, who led the FDA from 2017-2019. On 29 March 2020, Gottlieb was quoted on CBS’s “Face the Nation” telling the peasants of Slavelandia that “very aggressive social distancing measures” must be enforced.

Bullshit!

A year later, after selling his social-distancing mandate, Gottlieb, who now sits on the board of directors for mega-drug dealer Pfizer, admitted his social

distancing orders were made up. Appearing on *CNBC*, he said, “This six-foot distancing requirement... really wasn’t based on clear science.”

Indeed, as we have detailed in the **Trends Journal**, numerous studies have shown that social distancing numbers are basically made up, lack scientific data, and the chances of getting the virus outdoors are about 1 percent. (See our new article, [“NOVA SCOTIA: MINOR COVID DEATHS, MAJOR LOCKDOWN.”](#))

Drug Pusher

Despite his misinformation, Gottlieb, still making the media rounds and being a “non-partisan” Pfizer board boy, is selling more COVID Jabs.

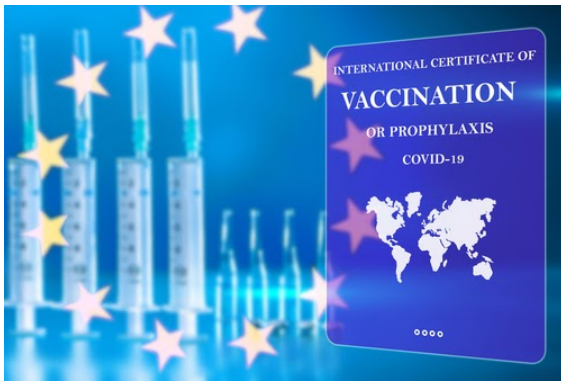
Setting up the promo last Friday on *CNBC*’s “Closing Bell,” Gottlieb declared that the decline in the number of new U.S. COVID-19 cases coincides with the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and the rate of vaccination... and the declining infection levels are the result of warmer weather.

But Dr. Gottlieb warned that while case counts will continue to decline over the summer, winter may see them start to rise again. “I think we’re going to have a very quiet summer with respect to coronavirus spread and then have to contend with it again as we head into the winter,” he said... as the powers that be prepare to sell Round #2 of the “Get Vaxxed” campaign.

TRENDPOST: *We maintain our forecast that a large percentage of Americans will, for one reason or another, avoid being vaccinated and not buy into the notion of “herd immunity.” (See our 11 May article, [“JOIN THE VAXXED HERD? MANY AMERICANS SAY ‘NO’”](#).)*

Considering, however, the power of the drug cartels across the globe, governments will continue to restrict the rights and freedoms of those refusing to get the jab. Thus, there will be strong, anti-vax political movements challenging establishment parties.

EU PUSHING VAX PASSPORT



The European Union is moving closer to requiring a “vaccination passport,” a concept that has been discussed, proposed, and, some might say, “threatened” ever since COVID-19 vaccines appeared as a viable way to beat or control the virus.

A 20 May *Financial Times* article notes that ambassadors from the 27 EU countries have made a recommendation that will ease restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU for those who have been fully vaccinated... a move they believe would greatly benefit tourism.

But it will be dependent on travelers being able to prove their vaccination status, and the means to do that has yet to be perfected. There is currently no international electronic system for proof of vaccination.

The keywords appear to be “international” and “electronic.” Countries such as Israel and China have their own vaccine passport programs in place, but they are internal and are not recognized for international travel. (See our 23 January article, [“ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT”](#) and our 13 April article, [“CHINESE WAY, YOU MUST OBEY: MUST GET VAX PASSPORT.”](#))

The EU proposal would change the criteria by which countries are judged “safe” by raising the acceptable rate of infection from 25 to 75 cases per 100,000 inhabitants over the previous 14 days.

A number of EU member countries have relaxed their individual restrictions, so the new proposal would seek to standardize travel rules for the entire EU bloc.

TREND FORECAST: *Tourism, an industry that has been destroyed by the COVID War, will not fully come back if “Must Have Vax Passport to Enter” requirements are imposed since a significant percentage of travelers will not get vaccinated.*

STATES: GET VAXXED, WIN A PRIZE



Last week, we reported on Ohio Governor Mike DeWine’s announcement that his state’s lottery would give away \$1 million of taxpayer’s money to five people who participate in the new “get vaccinated” campaign. (See our article, “[GET VACCINATED... BECOME A](#)

[MILLIONAIRE!”](#))

New Jersey’s Governor Phil Murphy announced Wednesday that his state will offer incentives for those who get at least one jab, including free season passes to any state park for those who receive at least one jab by the Fourth of July. The vax incentives include a free glass of wine at some of the state’s wineries and a chance to win a dinner date with the governor and his wife.

Following the Ohio and New Jersey incentives, New York and Maryland announced lotteries to give away millions of taxpayer dollars for those who get the virus vaccination.

New Yorkers who get the shot from yesterday through this Friday get a lottery ticket with a chance to win as much as \$5 million, as announced by New York’s dictator, Andrew “Daddy’s Boy” Cuomo.

And the other Daddy’s Boy, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, whose father was a congressman, declared that starting today, the Maryland Lottery will randomly select a vaccinated Marylander for a \$40,000 prize every day.

TRENDPOST: *In New York City, despite a 41-percent fully-vaccinated rate, with minority communities still lagging behind white residents, and the demand for the vaccines dwindling, The New York Times reported the state has hired a COVID salesforce to knock on doors in apartment complexes in an attempt to sell the jab.*

Anthony Lopez, 41, who is black and lives in Queens, told The Times that he did not plan on taking the shot nor do his friends.

“Nobody I know took the shot,” he told the paper. “I’ll definitely be waiting until more people take it, and they’ll probably make some changes to it, and maybe I’ll be able to make a better decision in a couple of years—not now, though.”

As with other wars, so, too, with the COVID War: The military-industrial complex is on the money-making side. The Times reported that one of the companies which won a contract to sell the vax has performed work for the U.S. Department of Defense.

OREGON: NO VAX, NO FREEDOM



Oregon, seen as one of the first states to close down to fight the COVID War, and one of the slowest states to reopen as virus deaths subside in the U.S., will require those vaccinated in the state to confirm their status before entering various venues without masks.

“We hope that Oregonians will not lie or cheat and put others at risk by forging a vaccine record if they are not vaccinated,” declared the unhealthy-looking, overweight state’s health officer and epidemiologist, Dr. Dean Sidelinger.

The Times said stores, houses of worship, and workplaces will require vaccinated individuals to prove their status, which prompted some business owners to ask how they can confirm these cards are legitimate. Customers will have to maintain mask-wearing until they confirm a proof of vaccination.

“We don’t want to have our members in a position where they’re the mask police,” Miles Eshaia, a spokesman for UFCW Local 555, told the paper.

Last week, Governor Kate Brown lifted mask requirements while outdoors. The *Associated Press* reported that some counties in the state are becoming frustrated with the guidelines, and one even started to call itself a “vaccine sanctuary.” Clackamas County will not require masks for anyone in the county, regardless of their vaccine status.

Tootie Smith, the chairwoman of the Clackamas County Board of Supervisors, told the *AP*, “We’re just so done with this. There’s a huge amount of frustration that people have.”

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast, the first round of the COVID War is over. In the autumn, however, it will again heat up, as the media, their anointed “health experts,” and politicians start selling “a new virus variant coming soon to a neighborhood near you.”*

Thus, more people, as evidenced now by their reluctance to keep fighting the COVID War, will revolt against further COVID restrictions.

Moreover, in many nations, states, and cities, politicians who imposed the most draconian lockdown “Executive Orders” will face strong challenges from anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-lockdown opponents.

DOZENS OF MEDICAL EXPERTS: VACCINES “UNNECESSARY, INEFFECTIVE, UNSAFE”



“Doctors for COVID Ethics,” a group of dozens of medical experts, sent an open letter last week pointing to evidence they claim proves the vaccines are ineffective and will likely lead to “foreseeable mass deaths.”

“Actors authorizing, coercing, or administering experimental COVID-19 vaccination are exposing populations and patients to serious, unnecessary, and unjustified medical risks,” the letter read, according to *LifeSiteNews.com*.

The report said the group was co-founded by Dr. Michael Yeadon, the former Pfizer vice president. (Watch an informative, recent interview with Dr. Yeadon [here](#).)

The group said the COVID vaccines increase the risk of bleeding disorders and blood clots, which they say is “likely just the ‘tip of a huge iceberg.’” In particular, they point out the risk of mRNA vaccine methods, which are used in the Pfizer and Moderna jabs. The group stated:

“In the mRNA vaccines, there is no protein antigen for the antibodies to recognize. Thus, regardless of the existing degree of immunity, the vaccine mRNA is going to reach its target—the body cells...

These will then express the spike protein and subsequently suffer the full onslaught of the immune system. With the mRNA vaccines, the risk of severe adverse events is virtually guaranteed to increase with every successive injection.”

TRENDPOST: *Of course, this information is banned in the mainstream media and censored by Big Tech. Anyone, regardless of credentials, data, facts, etc.,*

who challenges nations' taking their people to war – be it the Afghan, Iraq, Libyan, Yemen, or COVID War – is dismissed as a conspiracy theorist or unpatriotic.

U.S. EMPLOYERS BACKING AWAY FROM MANDATING COVID JAB



Companies and universities have faced challenges when they tried to make COVID-19 vaccines mandatory, due to unresolved legal issues, including the fact that these vaccines are being used on an emergency order and have not yet received full approval from the FDA.

The Washington Post reported that some employees across the U.S. have express trepidation about getting the unproven vaccine and have threatened legal action if their employment requires the jab.

Wendy Lazerson, a lawyer co-chairing Sidley Austin's labor and employment practice, told the paper 36 states have attempted to "pass legislation that you cannot compel people to get a vaccine as a condition of either employment or, sometimes, obtaining products and services."

The Biden administration has been blamed for being ambiguous when it comes to vaccination and ways to prove inoculation.

"The U.S. has no 'proof of vaccination' system and the Biden administration refuses to support such a system of verification," Lawrence Gostin, the head of Georgetown University's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, said, according to the paper. "This ambiguity serves no one, and leaves the public more confused about how to keep themselves safe."

TREND FORECAST: *The vaccine push will moderate in the coming months, but by late autumn, politicians and the media will be warning the public of a new virus variant and, in the name of public safety, the requirement will be for all citizens to get the new COVID Jab. This will, in turn, accelerate the movement for a national COVID Passport.*

LOTTERIES, JUNK FOOD & A COVID VAX



From enticing poor Mexican villagers with [bribes](#) to offering entries in high-stakes lotteries in Ohio, government authorities around the world are using unprecedented methods to persuade people to get vaxxed. Companies are joining in as well.

Resistance to COVID vaccines isn't just a "white conservative" phenomenon, though the media has tried to portray it as such. *CNN* reported in March that whole Mexican regions are resisting the vaccines. Residents of the town San Juan Cancuc have united in formally rejecting any COVID vaccination program.

Vaccine bribes of 950 pesos (about USD 50) to villagers in the Chiapas region have not been very successful. Some say they've received phone calls threatening to cut off access to healthcare unless they take the shot.

Around the U.S., citizens are being bombarded with incentives:

- Ohio: residents who get vaccinated are eligible to be entered in a lottery that will hand out \$1 million to five winners. The lottery offer appeared to boost vaccinations by 28 percent from 14-17 May, according to some news [reports](#).
- Illinois: Tickets to Six Flags amusement parks are being promised for up to 50,000 vaccinated residents.

- Maine: Gift cards and no-fee hunting and fishing licenses are being offered in exchange for getting vaccinated.
- Houston, TX: \$250,000 for gift cards and other incentives has been allocated by Harris County to push vaccine adoption.
- New York, NY: Tickets to attractions including the Bronx Zoo, Lincoln Center, and sporting events; free transit passes; and even burgers and fries from Shake Shack have been peddled by Mayor Bill DeBlasio.

Similar efforts are taking place around the globe. Serbia is peddling cash for shots. Israel is issuing “green vaccine passes” to citizens, good for entry into gyms, concerts, and restaurants and easier travel.

Perhaps the strangest offer came from Romania. Offers to get “stabbed” with the vaccine at the legendary home of Dracula (a.k.a. “Vlad the Impaler”) were offered to visitors.

Private Companies Doing “Their Part”

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce website has a [page](#) devoted to tips for companies to persuade employees to get vaccinated. Among the suggested incentives are cash payments, paid time off, and special accommodations for vaccine appointments.

JBS Foods, Lidl discount grocer, Dollar General, Chobani, and many other companies are bribing and pressuring employees in various ways.

During the corporate push, some have complained about an OSHA guidance that said companies requiring vaccinations would be liable for employee claims that arose from adverse reactions to the vaccines.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has also [advised](#) that employers may need to reasonably accommodate people with disabilities who

would be at risk from vaccinations and also employees who are opposed to vaccinations out of sincerely-held religious beliefs.

As of the middle of May, about 46 percent of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. But a recent CNN [article](#) complained that the three-million-a-day vaccination rate peaked in April. Since then, vaccines have become a harder sell.

Recent data has shown plummeting COVID death and case rates, including in places like Florida and Texas that ended mask mandates and other restrictions earlier than many other states.

Authorities are still pointing to varying hypothetical “herd immunity” vaccination percentages as necessary, despite the real-world data showing the pandemic is rapidly winding down.

CDC CHANGES TESTING TO ERASE “BREAKTHROUGH” CASES



A few weeks ago, the CDC quietly revised testing interpretations to effectively eliminate mild “breakthrough” cases of COVID showing up on tests for vaccinated people.

The change involves the way the CDC calculates positive cases based on PCR test “cycle thresholds.” Kit Knightly at [offguardian.org](#) [reported](#) on what the CDC change does, and he noted that if the testing in December 2019 had used the same standard, there would have been no pandemic at all.

Knightly called out the new CDC testing standard as another example of how data manipulation has been used to control and even create the COVID pandemic narrative:

“If you apply them only to the vaccinated, but keep the old rules for the unvaccinated, the only possible result can be that the official records show ‘Covid’ is much more prevalent among the latter than the former.

This is a policy designed to continuously inflate one number and systematically minimize the other.

What is that if not an obvious and deliberate act of deception?”

Zero Hedge and others have picked up on the story.

VAX MINTS NEW BILLIONAIRES



The Drug Lords are becoming billionaires thanks to governments across the globe taking taxpayer’s money and giving it to them to produce the COVID Jab.

A report from *CNN Business* last Friday breaks down some of the new numbers and informs us that the vaccine game “has created at least nine new billionaires.” The CEOs of Moderna and BioNTech are now each worth around \$4 billion. Others have become billionaires on paper as the value of stock in vaccine-producing companies has skyrocketed.

Activists Focus on Inequality

These figures come from the People’s Vaccine Alliance, comprised of several activist groups such as Oxfam and Amnesty International, which further illustrates the inequality that characterizes the COVID War. Beyond the drug cartels, the COVID War has made the billionaires \$8 trillion richer while 125 million have sunk into deep poverty.

They point out that the new drug dealer billionaires' combined worth of \$19.3 billion would be enough to vaccinate some 780 million people in low-income countries.

Public Good vs. Private Profit

Anne Marriott, Oxfam's health policy manager, railed against the huge profits made possible by companies having a monopoly on vaccine production. "These vaccines were funded by public money," she said, "and should be first and foremost a global public good, not a private profit opportunity."

Should Patents Be Removed?

President Biden is among those who favor vaccine producers waiving their patent protections and surrendering their intellectual property rights to expand the supply and narrow the "vaccination gap" between rich and poor countries. That vaccination gap is real. According to the WHO, 87 percent of COVID-19 vaccines have gone to high- or upper-middle-income countries, whereas only 0.2 percent have gone to low-income countries.

TRENDPOST: *Despite claims by the drug cartels of taking great risks and investing billions in research and development (and often in building new facilities), before ever seeing a dime in profit, the facts prove differently.*

Not all of those investments are private funds. BioNTech, for example, received the equivalent of \$397 million from the German government to put toward the development of a vaccine. In return, the company is supplying it to low-income countries at cost. Nevertheless, BioNTech reported a net profit of \$1.3 billion for the first three months of 2021.

Moderna was similarly subsidized by the U.S. government, receiving billions in funding. Goldman Sachs predicts that Moderna will take in \$13.2 billion from its vaccine in 2021.

GOVERNMENTS HAWKING COVID BOOSTER SHOT



Spreading the worry that the immunity provided by COVID-19 vaccinations may be short-lived or not be effective against variants, and fearing that winter will bring a resurgence of the virus, health officials in the U.S., the EU, and the U.K. are putting plans in place for a program of booster

shots.

How Long Does Immunity Last?

In our 26 January article, [“TIME FRAME FOR COVID VAX IMMUNITY ‘UNKNOWN,’”](#) we addressed the question of how long immunity conferred by COVID-19 vaccines might last, concluding that nobody truly knows, and the drug dealers would be promoting yearly booster shots, just like the flu vaccine.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported last Wednesday that the European Union has ordered 1.8 billion more doses from Pfizer and BioNTech, to be delivered through 2023.

Two More Shots Apiece?

This is seen as a precautionary move, as there is currently insufficient data to determine if another round of shots will be necessary. But the new orders represent more than enough vaccine, at two shots per person, to cover the EU’s population of some 450 million. And, it should be noted, at this time, well under 20 percent of Europe’s population have received two jabs.

In the U.K., with about 33 percent of the population fully vaccinated, the same two firms are contracted for an additional 60 million doses in preparation for a fall and winter booster shot program. The sales pitch is that this is seen as a way of ensuring those especially vulnerable, such as the elderly, are adequately

protected when cold weather keeps more people indoors and thereby may increase transmission of the virus.

“Free of Charge”

U.S. “health authorities” are also selling the line that booster shots may be necessary within a year, and protecting the elderly is a priority. The U.S. is forecast to stockpile 300 million additional vaccine doses by the end of 2021. David Kessler, chief science officer of the White House COVID-19 response team, announced in April that, if and when needed, such booster shots would be provided “free of charge.”

TRENDPOST: *David Kessler is a liar. Since the vaccine producers are not supplying them pro bono, “free of charge” actually translates to “paid for by taxpayers.”*

In addition, with the annual “get jabbed” campaign being sold as a humanitarian mission to protect the elderly and those most vulnerable to getting the coronavirus, absent in the selling of fear and hysteria since the COVID War began is that by the numbers, this demographic is the most endangered.

However, as we have reported, from kindergarten to graduate school, young people are being forced to get the jab. Those without vaccine passports are discriminated against and restricted to travel freely, attend events, etc. Moreover, rather than concentrating resources to protect the most vulnerable, entire nations have been locked down... destroying the lives and livelihoods of millions when only a narrow demographic is most susceptible to the virus.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



ROUND #2: CHINA TELL U.S. TO “F” OFF

In March, we reported on a meeting in Anchorage, AK with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his team meeting with their Chinese counterparts.

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

It was the first between the two countries since President Biden took office. We had forecast that, as with the Trump administration, China would not submit to U.S. demands and will do as it pleases.

One of the key topics discussed was human rights. Blinken mentioned Xinjiang and the crackdown in Hong Kong. His Chinese counterpart mentioned the Black

Lives Matter movement and how “many people in the United States actually have little confidence in the democracy of the United States.”

Yang Jiechi, the top diplomat from China, said the U.S. took a “condescending” approach to the meeting and essentially said Washington should get its house in order before accusing other countries of human rights abuses.

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

FU Again

Last week, it was reported that U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made three attempts to request a meeting with his Chinese counterpart as tension grows in the South China Sea, but Beijing has refused the meetings on all three occasions, according to a report.

The *Financial Times*, citing three people with knowledge of the matter, reported that U.S. officials want the meeting with General Xu Qiliang, the vice-chair of China’s Central Military Commission, to help ease tension between the two countries, especially after the tense meeting in Alaska last March.

“The Chinese military has not been responsive,” a U.S. defense official told the *FT*.

The *Associated Press* reported last Thursday that China voiced its displeasure over U.S. naval activity in the South China Sea. Beijing accused the USS Curtis Wilbur, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, of illegally entering its waters around the Paracel Island group.

The U.S.’s Seventh Fleet said in response that it has the right to navigate the waters.

“Unlawful and sweeping maritime claims in the South China Sea pose a serious threat to the freedom of the seas, including the freedoms of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for South China Sea littoral nations,” a statement read.

The *FT* reported that China flew more fighters and bombers into Taiwan’s airspace in March than ever.

TREND FORECAST: *In January, China’s Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian, said, “The PLA will take all necessary measures to resolutely defeat any attempt by the ‘Taiwan independence’ separatists, and firmly defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity” and that Taiwan is an “inalienable part of China.”*

In our 30 March article, “[CHINA TO TAKE TAIWAN: A MATTER OF TIME](#),” we forecast that at some point, China, as with Hong Kong, would take complete control of Taiwan, and no one – including the U.S. military, which has not won a war since World War II – would stop them.

*As we have also reported in the **Trends Journal**, President Biden and his administration view China as the top threat to the U.S. over the next decade. Biden went so far as to say he would not allow Beijing to surpass Washington on his watch. (See our 23 February article, “[TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA](#)” and our 16 February article, “[CHINA TASK FORCE: U.S. APPROACH TO BEIJING](#).”)*

This latest incident illustrates that China will do as it wishes when it wishes, as they move toward global domination. Not only is the U.S. military no threat to China, before this decade’s end, they will also outgun the United States as the world’s #1 economic powerhouse.

As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century; the 21st century will be China’s.

The business of China is business. The business of America – as clearly spoken by President Dwight Eisenhower in his 17 January 1961 farewell address – is war. The two-term president, five-star general, and Supreme Commander of the Allied forces during World War II warned the nation that the military-industrial complex was robbing the nation of “the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, [and] the hopes of its children.”

Indeed, as America keeps sinking lower, this year, despite the financial devastation that has ruined millions of lives and livelihoods, President Biden is pushing for a \$715 billion Defense Department, up 1.6 percent from last year’s record-breaker that enriches the military/industrial/intelligence complex.

CHILE VOTERS: OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW



Voters in Chile – especially the young – came out en masse last week to deal a severe blow to the country’s establishment political parties, voting for a hard-left special assembly to draft a Constitution that is expected to lead to a significant increase in social spending.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that President Sebastian Piñera, who backs the center-right Chile Vamos coalition and is himself a billionaire, called the vote a message to the government and said it was obvious that leaders were not “adequately tuned in to the demands and wishes of the citizens.”

The new Constitution will replace the one crafted in 1980 during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, which critics called illegitimate.

As we have reported on in detail and had forecast, the massive 2019 protest that swept the country – and one of many erupting across the globe – has set the stage for anti-establishment political movements.

WSWS.org reported that Piñera's popularity recently took a hit after there was an attempt to prevent Chileans from withdrawing funds from their pension accounts during the COVID-19 outbreak. In our 9 February article, "[CHILE: ON EDGE](#)," we reported on the fierce backlash the country faced after police killed a street juggler.

Old News

Ariel Dorfman, a Chilean-American novelist active in the country's political scene for five decades, wrote in *The New York Times* that the young in the country "rejected the traditional center-left parties as insufficiently responsive to people's craving for a more egalitarian and overly compromised with the status quo."

Dorfman wrote that it seems the new Constitution will likely "enshrine principles of civic participation, justice, gender equality and Indigenous rights that have long eluded this South American nation."

The Guardian reported that Piñera's coalition secured only 37 seats in the 155-seat constitutional assembly, which was well short of the one-third needed to block major changes. *Diplomatique* reported that no one in the country expected the results.

"This isn't just a punishment of the right, but the entire political class," Claudia Heiss, a political scientist at the University of Chile, told the *WSJ*. "It's a vote that says we don't want more of the same, we want new political actors. It is a vote asking for profound change."

A report from *Le Monde* said,

"The real surprise is the proportion of votes that went to independent candidates, who have taken 48 seats, marking a rejection of mainstream political parties. This is a very diverse set of candidates, including some notorious conspiracy theorists and conservatives. A majority criticize the authoritarian, and even clearly anti-neoliberal, heritage of past decades."

TREND FORECAST: As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, what Mr. Dorfman, *The Guardian*, and *Le Monde* are now noting... is old news. Indeed, the world was blind to it, and we were among the first to forecast the “New World Disorder,” in December 2019, which was one of our Top Trends for 2020:

It's Crashing.

Few recognize it. Most are tuned out. They don't have a clue.

Politicians across the globe are fighting for survival against angry mobs who want to overthrow them.

Citizens across the globe are fighting for freedom and survival.

Fighting for freedom.

Fighting against government control, corruption, income inequality, poverty, violence, crime...

From South America to Africa, from the Middle East to Asia to Europe, millions are taking to the streets across the globe in numbers never seen before.

Too busy, tech-addicted, too many problems of their own... whatever it is.

From the average Joe and Jane to the top of the income chain, most don't have a clue of what's going on, what it means, or where it's going.

Because if they did, steps would be taken now to reverse the pain and destruction that will follow.

Not News

The mainstream media barely reports it. And when they do, it's sold with political/government/corporate bias.

Stuck in the past and blind to the future, dumbed down on a junk-news diet of brainwashed views, sound bites, and propaganda... the public swallows what's fed to them.

The world is not prepared for the "2020 New World Disorder."

Indeed, even Chile's President Sebastian Piñera, who said leaders were not "adequately tuned in to the demands and wishes of the citizens."

Over and over we have forecast major movements to oust establishment parties. And, love it or hate it, the new political forces will intensify, bringing in socialist governments that will attack the Bigs.

COLOMBIA: PROTESTS ESCALATING



As we have explicitly detailed in the **Trends Journal**, anti-establishment protests were sparking up across the globe in 2019, and we had forecast they would intensify in 2020. (See our [“TOP TREND FOR 2020: NEW WORLD DISORDER.”](#))

While we can forecast trends, we continually note that no one can predict the future because there are too many wild cards... be they man-made or made by nature. The 2020 wild card was the COVID War.

Nations that were experiencing ongoing protests were locked down their tracks by politicians, and the people were forbidden to take to the streets. Now, with the COVID War winding down, the protestors are back on the streets, and those in power are doing all they can to lock them up... or shoot them down.

As we reported in our 11 May article, [“COLOMBIA: PROTESTS ESCALATE, GOV'T CRACKS DOWN,”](#) thousands have taken to the streets to voice their outrage over worsening conditions faced by Colombian citizens and an ill-advised proposal to issue a new tax aimed at the middle class to make up for the shortfall after the virus outbreak.

The proposal was retracted, but tensions remain. *CNN*, citing the country's Ombudsman Office, reported that at least 42 people have died, but the actual number is expected to be higher. The report pointed to scenes of police brutality, including one viral video that purported to show a police officer on a motorcycle fatally shooting a fleeing protester who kicked him.

“My kid died there as a result of a shot that a police officer gave him,” Armando Agredo Bustamante, the boy's father, said in an interview in the country. His brother said police had already been firing on protesters even before the kick. The Attorney General's office said the shooting is under investigation, and the police officer was charged with aggravated homicide, according to *The Washington Post*.

Other videos emerged on social media that showed the country's police force in armored vehicles confronting protesters who were throwing rocks. The protesters say police fired tear gas directly at demonstrators, in one case killing a 24-year-old man who reportedly told his mother he was headed to the protests to “fight for his rights and raise his voice.”

Al Jazeera reported the protests are entering their fourth week, and they include many young in the country who feel disenfranchised with Bogotá. The uptick in violence in the country is seen by many observers as a preview of things to come in other countries in the region dealing with the same frustrations that have been all the more apparent due to the pandemic.

“We’re accompanying our young people, our children, our grandchildren, who still lack opportunities despite our fighting for so long,” Roberto Hermida, 68, a lawyer, told *Reuters*.

Elizabeth Dickinson, a senior Colombia analyst at the International Crisis Group, told *Al Jazeera* that the protests represent the “deep social and economic inequality, frustration with police brutality, widespread distrust of government.”

She said the protests are “everywhere.”

“The demonstrations reflect a deep national crisis that transcends geography. Although grievances vary by region, the sense of exasperation and frustration is shared.”

President Iván Duque told *CNN* the country is investigating allegations of police brutality. He claimed that leftist militants and other armed groups are behind some of the violence during the protests. The report pointed out that protesters have been blamed for looting stores and setting fire to buses and police precincts. These protesters have also tried to block roads and commerce.

Interior Minister Daniel Palacios said the country’s constitution “does not establish the right to block, for violence, or vandalism. The blockades generate poverty, don’t build a country and end the economy.”

The violence in Colombia has sparked international condemnation. Dozens of U.S. lawmakers sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken that called on a suspension of aid to the country’s military. They said the “aggressive, indiscriminate use of lethal and non-lethal weapons against citizens” violates international human rights standards, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

TOP TREND FOR 2021: “YOUTH REVOLUTION”: *As we forecast in December 2020, in 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War would 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 as the “Greatest Depression” worsens, protests will escalate into civil wars, and civil wars will spread to regional wars.

And, as the wars intensify, there will be mass migration of people escaping poverty, corruption, crime, and violence to safe-haven nations. This will, in turn, ratchet up populist/anti-establishment/anti-immigration political movements in those countries where refugees flee to safety.

MOROCCANS SWARM SPANISH TERRITORY



Many people might be surprised to learn that part of Spain is not on the Iberian Peninsula but is instead in North Africa. The city of Ceuta is a Spanish “exclave” and would otherwise be part of Morocco, from which the city of 85,000 is separated and secured by a high double fence with

barbed wire.

Last Wednesday, Spanish troops were deployed to deal with a sudden surge of migrants who, encouraged by Morocco loosening its border controls, breached fences or swam into Spanish territory.

Several thousand persons attempt to enter Ceuta each year, but, in this case, some 8,000 attempted to enter over two days. At least half of them have thus far been returned to Morocco.

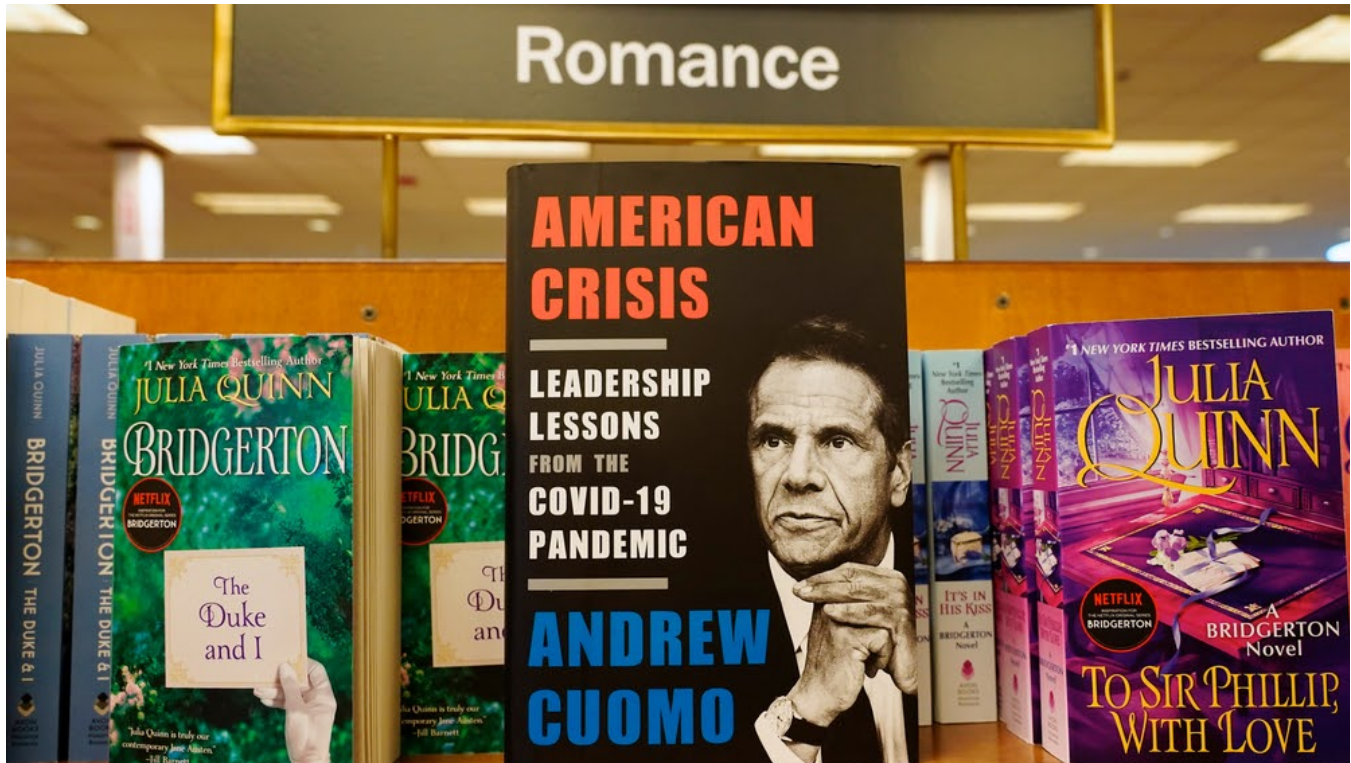
Morocco recently has been roiled by internal unrest, as a pro-independence group has become more active, staging protests, blocking roads, and clashing with Moroccan troops.

TREND FORECAST: *This comes as no surprise to **Trends Journal** subscribers. As we have forecast, the COVID War launched by the mainstream media and politicians has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions – possibly billions – of people across the globe. With poverty, government corruption, crime, and violence increasing – even before the COVID War was launched – we had forecast a great exodus of millions from affected nations into safe-haven countries.*

*The **Trends Journal** has reported on Morocco's unrest (see our 10 November 2020 article, "[MOROCCO CLASHES WITH FIGHTERS AFTER 30 YEARS OF RELATIVE PEACE](#).")* In that article, we forecast:

As nations across Africa sink deeper into the "Greatest Depression," protests, demonstrations, and riots will escalate with civil wars spreading into regional wars. Millions will seek migration to safe-haven nations, which will, in turn, accelerate populist movements, particularly across Europe.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



CUOMO'S BOOK A BUST, BUT GOT PAID MILLIONS

As we forecast when the COVID War broke out in 2020, the rich would get richer, the middle class would shrink, and poverty levels would climb.

Indeed, individuals and businesses have suffered enormous financial damage, and many may never recover. Some businesses, not to mention entire industries, have been devastated.

As George Carlin, the legendary comic, accurately noted, "It's one big club, and you ain't in it." One of the "club's" members, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, has reaped big rewards as people and businesses leave the state and its budget deficit climbs.

A Big “Payday” (but Not for the Publishers)

The New York Times reported that Cuomo’s proceeds from his book, *American Crisis: Leadership Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic*, despite sales described as “anemic” (with only some 50,000 copies sold), now total more than \$5 million! The bulk of that is from the hefty advance he received; a number of publishers had driven that up in a bidding war for the rights to publish it.

It’s said that The Crown Publishing Group, the “winner” of the “auction,” has made an “investment” they likely will never recover.

While Cuomo’s “payday” still pales in comparison to the \$15 million Bill Clinton received for his autobiography or the \$65 million or so Barack and Michelle Obama received for their books, Cuomo’s book deal still eclipses those of most other well-known politicians.

Denials and More Denials

Cuomo has adamantly denied allegations that staff members, working on state time, assisted in the writing and promotion of the book (which would be a clear violation of his state’s ethics rules); he insists that any assistance rendered by his aides was strictly voluntary.

The governor also continues to deny allegations that some of those same aides altered or withheld data on the number of nursing home residents who had died as a result of his actions, which we have detailed in the **Trends Journal**. (See our 2 February article, [“KILLER CUOMO: MISREPRESENTED COVID NURSING HOME DEATHS”](#) and our 4 May article, [“CUOMO COVID COVER-UP CONTINUES.”](#))

What Was He Thinking?

Of course, Cuomo dismisses any suggestion that his 25 March 2020 executive order, which mandated that nursing homes accept some 4,500 COVID-19 patients from hospitals, was a colossally negligent blunder that, directly or

indirectly, dramatically raised the number of COVID-19 fatalities in nursing homes to some 13,000... out of a total nursing home population of approximately 100,000. That number represents about 25 percent of all the COVID-19 deaths in New York State, despite nursing home residents constituting a statistically tiny fragment of the state's population.

That compulsory order seemed to willfully ignore the plain-as-day logic that the elderly, especially those with pre-existing medical issues, were the most at risk from COVID-19, and that nursing homes were, across the nation, already the epicenter of COVID-19 fatalities.

TRENDPOST: *How low can you go in America? Despite many holding Governor Cuomo personally responsible for the deaths of their cherished elderly relatives, he can write a book lavishing praise upon himself for his “leadership” – for which he got paid \$5.1 million... and also received an Emmy for his “leadership” in fighting the COVID War.*

Five million dollars will surely go a long way in easing the beleaguered third-term governor's discomfort (although he may be incapable of experiencing actual embarrassment) in dealing with his other scandals, from claims of inappropriate touching and sexual harassment to fostering a toxic work environment and allegations he arranged for friends and family members to “jump the line” for COVID-19 testing. (See our 9 March article, [“ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER CHARGE OF CUOMO HARASSMENT.”](#))

Despite the negative press and last month's Siena College poll showing that Cuomo's ratings had fallen to the lowest level of his tenure, in the blue state of New York, 57 percent of Democrats say he is doing a good or excellent job as governor.

Nick Langworthy, New York's Republican Party chair, called the book deal “disgusting” and said Cuomo is “a national disgrace” for his handling of 2020's crisis.

HOUSE VOTES FOR PERMANENT MILITARY OCCUPATION IN DC



Dozens of deaths and billions in property damage during BLM and Antifa riots in 2020 were celebrated by Washington Democrats as “mostly peaceful protests.” But when a comparative light whiff of the protest whirlwind came to their door on 6 January 2021, it was a different narrative:

insurrection.

Democrats who downplayed violence and destruction affecting private citizens voted on Thursday to keep a permanent National Guard presence for themselves.

The \$2 billion spending package contains a provision for adding permanent military troops stationed at the Capitol. It substantially beefs up police protection and adds other measures, including:

- \$529 million to harden the Capitol with stronger doors and windows;
- New screening vestibules for police;
- “Pop-up” fences that could be activated in the event of popular protests;
- \$10 million for police body cameras, riot gear, and other equipment.

The controversial bill narrowly passed 213-212, with Republicans voting no joined by three Democrats. Three additional Democrats voted “present.”

From “Defunding Police” in 2020 To Privileged Protection in 2021

Prominent House Democrats who supported and even egged on violent protests in 2020 voted yes on the bill, including Nancy Pelosi, Maxine Waters, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

In 2020, then Presidential candidate Joe Biden notably avoided criticizing or characterizing BLM and Antifa protests as widespread chaos, including the deadly violence and enormous property damage that engulfed cities and towns across the country.

Many Democrats pushed initiatives to defund police departments, and demoralized police stopped enforcing laws, leaving citizens and businesses as open targets for violence and destruction.

In June 2020, amid some of the worst violence, Kamala Harris advocated for the protests to continue:

“They’re not going to stop. They’re not going to stop... This is a movement, I’m telling you. They’re not gonna stop. And everyone beware because they’re not gonna stop. They’re not gonna stop before Election Day and they’re not going to stop after Election Day. And everyone should take note of that. They’re not gonna let up and they should not.”

That month, leftist protesters gathered at the White House and committed violent acts, including torching a church across the street. President Trump drew scorn from Democrats and the MSM for authorizing police to clear protesters, so he could visit the church and condemn the violence.

Permanent Military Force Opposed By Republicans

Republicans who voted against the bill pointed out the constitutional problems it represented. House Armed Services Committee ranking member Mike Rogers and Senate Armed Services Committee ranking member James Inhofe said in a joint statement:

“Security of the Capitol Complex must remain the responsibility of federal civilian law enforcement. Use of the uniformed military in D.C. and the Capitol Complex is subject to complex statutory restrictions, and for good reason. We cannot and should not militarize the security of the Capitol Complex.”

The objections could complicate passage in the Senate, where ten Republican senators must vote with all Democrats to advance the measure.

ADL LABELS “ANTI-ANTIFA” AS HATE SPEECH



The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) burnished its creds as a leftist front group with a new advisory labeling criticism of Antifa as “hate speech.”

A page on the ADL’s site conflated critiques of Antifa with “white supremacy.” The page included an anti-Antifa graphic that is supposed to be verboten because they say so:



The ADL’s advisory engaged in biased, selective framing of what Antifa represents:

“White supremacist anti-left (or sinistrophobic) symbology especially targets far left and anarchist activists who have dedicated themselves to actively opposing and exposing white supremacists.”

The attempt to sanitize the radical group comes as the Biden administration has made moves to surveil and even criminalize political opposition to his presidency.

Even FBI Director Christopher Wray recently acknowledged that Antifa was a radical organization responsible for violent police assaults at a White House protest and elsewhere in 2020.

In an exchange with Representative Markwayne Mullen during a House Select Committee on Intelligence hearing in April, Wray didn't dispute Antifa's violent role in a riot in front of the White House:

MULLIN: I'm just specifically talking about the White House. I mean, there were... it was a big deal. There were 67 Secret Service officers injured during the leftwing assault. And some assaults happened simultaneously with Antifa throughout different cities. Are you bringing the full weight to that?

WRAY: We mobilized scores and scores of personnel, in response to the activities during the period you described, and I was personally on scene in DC at the Washington Field Command post way into the night, night after night during that--

MULLIN: Know that Antifa was behind that, yet you said in a statement that Antifa does not exist as a national organization. Are you trying to explain away Antifa in the definition or do you believe Antifa actually exists?

WRAY: No sir. Antifa is a real thing and is not a fiction...

The **Trends Journal** covered that story [here](#).

Conservative communications consultant and commentator David Reaboi of the Claremont Institute (which publishes the [American Mind](#)) summed up the corrosiveness of the ADL's advisory in a Twitter [post](#):

Groups like ADL and SPLC exist only to tag a growing range of political enemies as illegitimate. For ADL, ideological disagreement is impossible, and is only driven by “hate” — which justifies any type of harsh crackdown. Evil.”

BIGS GET BIGGER, MOM & POPS GO BUST



As we have long forecast, thanks to the sellout, i.e., buying off politicians cheaply and destroying anti-trust laws, despite what We the People want in what used to be called the “Land of Opportunity, the “Bigs” keep getting bigger as the Mom & Pops get taken down.

A 20 May 2021 article on StudyFinds.org reports on a survey of how the COVID War and its economic impact has affected Americans’ shopping and buying habits, particularly concerning “big box” stores vs. “mom & pop” businesses.

Half of the 2,000 respondents reported that they had seen their favorite local businesses close down because of COVID-19. Nearly two-thirds have seen such businesses struggle to stay afloat.

The majority of respondents say they want small businesses to thrive, and they believe small businesses are an integral part of their communities. Roughly two-thirds say they don’t mind paying more to shop small local stores and that, since the pandemic, they’ve been buying local more frequently.

More than half of those surveyed claim they won’t shop at big chain stores again because of how the pandemic has affected small businesses.

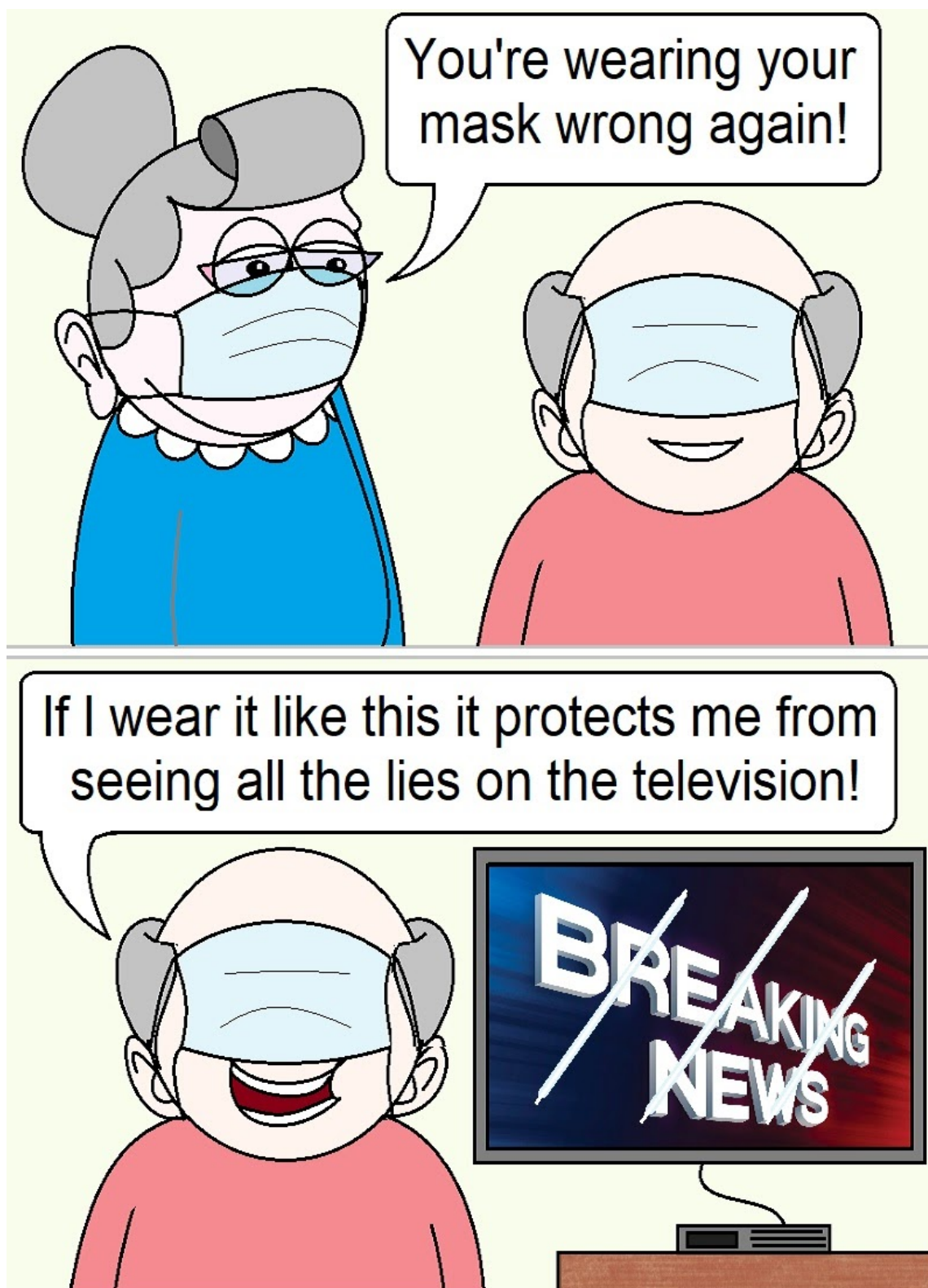
Grounds for Skepticism

This survey invites some skepticism because the hard data proves Big Box stores selling non-essential goods alongside merchandise termed “essential” are thriving under the draconian rules imposed by politicians who ordered the lockdown of small stores selling “non-essential” goods.

Also, there has been a rise in “recreational shopping” by people who, due to COVID-19 restrictions, have had many of their normal outside-the-home activities (including even going to work) curtailed.

THE ART OF TRENDS

“See No Evil” by *Stephen Green*



TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

HYDROGEN: AIRPLANES' FUEL OF THE FUTURE?

As carmakers opt increasingly for batteries, hopes for hydrogen as an inexhaustible clean fuel are looking up – literally: the gas could be the perfect fuel for emissions-free airplanes.

NASA, Airbus, and startups such as Pipistrel and Eviation have lofted concept planes running on electrons in hopes of creating electric aircraft to meet the industry's self-assigned goal of halving emissions by 2050.

However, there's a natural ceiling to the size of a plane that can fly on electricity: the weight of the onboard batteries that deliver those electrons.

The more passengers and distance a plane is designed to serve, the heavier the battery pack. At some point, the weight of the batteries exceeds the ability of a

plane to fly any meaningful distance without stopping to recharge its power cells.

Also, batteries deliver less than a third as much energy per unit of weight as jet fuel.

Short-hop aircraft or personal jets might be able to make a go of battery power, but commercial liners that pack in hundreds of passengers and their luggage will have to wait years, perhaps decades, for entirely new concepts in ultra-lightweight batteries.

Hello, hydrogen, a lighter-than-air fuel that packs more than triple the amount of power per unit of weight as jet fuel.

Airbus has tested three hydrogen-powered concept planes that could be in production by 2035; British Airways has put research money into ZeroAvia and its concept hydrogen plane. Universal Hydrogen, led by a former Airbus executive, has raised capital from JetBlue and Toyota.

Engineering challenges remain: the hydrogen infrastructure in test planes is weighty and the planes still require batteries for some tasks, just as a hybrid car does. Also, extracting hydrogen from air is itself an energy-intense process and the infrastructure to refine, transport, and store hydrogen as fuel is barely on the drawing boards yet.

TRENDPOST: *Hydrogen-powered small, private planes likely will enter the market by 2030. The time consumed in engineering cost-effective small passenger jets for regional hops will delay hydrogen's appearance in that segment of the market until at least the mid-2030s.*

Getting hydrogen into Airbus and Boeing planes ferrying hundreds of passengers across oceans and continents – the planes accounting for almost two-thirds of the aviation industry's noxious emissions – will take decades to design, create, and build out not only for the planes themselves but also the infrastructure

needed to distill, ship, and store pure, “green” hydrogen in jumbo-jet-size volumes.

NEW PROTEIN TEST GAUGES ALZHEIMER’S RISK



The only truly reliable test for Alzheimer’s is to put slices of your brain under a microscope. By then, you’re dead.

Now researchers at Johns Hopkins University have identified 38 proteins that signal dementia years in advance of any symptoms if their levels are elevated in the

blood.

Before this study, these proteins had not been thought to be related to dementia.

In particular, elevated levels of 16 of the proteins seem to predict Alzheimer’s disease or dementia as much as 20 years before symptoms appear.

Excess amounts of one protein, called SVEP1, in the blood appears to actually cause the disease, the scientists theorize.

SVEP1’s role in the body isn’t clear but it has been linked to hardening of the arteries.

The research used banked blood samples taken from 2011 into 2013 from about 4,800 people in late middle age who took part in a study related to heart disease risk factors and outcomes.

The scientists also tested blood samples taken during 1993, 1994, and 1995 from patients who then received follow-up exams in 2011 through 2013.

Blood samples were analyzed using a technology called SomaScan, developed by SomaLogic, a private, Colorado-based company.

The development team is looking ahead to larger studies.

TRENDPOST: *The new findings offer a possible means of managing or perhaps even curing dementia by reducing the amount of certain proteins in the body, either through drugs or genetic therapies.*

However, there's a larger opportunity in this research.

If dementia's risk can be seen years in advance of symptoms, persons carrying that risk can then make changes in lifestyle – diet, exercise, stress management, and similar things – to optimize their biochemistry and mitigate, or even in some cases eliminate, the risk.

TOO FAT? TAKE THIS PILL, NOT THAT ONE



About 13 percent of the world's adults, and 20 percent of children, are obese, according to the WHO, with obesity causing 8 percent of human deaths annually.

The cost of caring for obese people, from treating diabetes and heart disease to replacing knees, coupled with value of productivity lost to the global economy, is estimated in the hundreds of billions of dollars every year.

Researchers at University College London could make much of that trouble disappear with a pill – at least in theory.

Scientists there worked with a drug called semaglutide. At doses of 1 mg, it treats diabetes. When the researchers upped the dose to 2.4 mg, they found that three-quarters of obese people taking the pill lost 10 percent of their body weight and 35 percent lost 20 percent or more, the equivalent of a 300-pound adult settling down to a more comfortable 240.

The drug mimics, or perhaps accelerates the body's production of, a peptide called GLP-1. The peptide enters the bloodstream after a meal and tells the brain that the stomach has enough food in it.

In the trial, the drug dulled the sense of hunger so people ate less and the weight came off naturally.

Some study participants reported nausea or diarrhea, both of which cleared up shortly without medical intervention.

The research tested the treatment on 1,961 overweight or obese people across 16 countries in Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

The study was a Phase 3 clinical trial, meaning that regulators could approve semaglutide as an obesity treatment in short order.

TRENDPOST: "Dieting" often is a grim struggle of the will. Semaglutide relieves that tension and lets the body control hunger without the clenched teeth and without the side effects of weight-loss drugs, which can range from dizziness to dry mouth or worse.

The drug also is likely to have a knock-on effect. Studies show that people hoping to lose weight often are discouraged by how long it takes to lose the first increment of extra pounds. By jump-starting the process, semaglutide could kindle the motivation needed to continue.