

TRENDSJOURNAL

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FREEDOM PEACE & JUSTICE

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PEACE

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J U L Y

JUDGE
ANDREW NAPOLITANO
LYNETTE ZANG
GERALD CELENTE

MUSIC BY
SMOKEY'S ROUNDUP

CELEBRATION

The Crown Garden at the
Four Corners of Freedom
CROWN & JOHN STs - KINGSTON, NY



29 June 2021

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FREEDOM, PEACE & JUSTICE CELEBRATION

Welcome to this
week's Trends

Journal: "FREEDOM, PEACE & JUSTICE
CELEBRATION"

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal. While the cover is about our 4th of July Celebration on the Four Corners of Freedom in Kingston New York this Sunday – with music, food and guest speakers including Judge Andrew Napolitano and Lynette Zang – the magazine covers the world.

Among the major on-trend articles is the COVID WAR 2.0. If this war keeps heating up, as with the numerous military conflicts detailed in this issue... the socioeconomic implications will be devastating.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall. Please join us in Kingston, NY this Sunday at our [4th of July Celebration](#). By putting our hearts and souls where our minds are, we are Uniting for Freedom, Peace and Justice!

And please consider donating to [Occupy Peace](#) to help us restore the civil and human rights that are being stolen from us by the political mob in a country near you.

Pace e Amore,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

WORK DISINCENTIVES

Many companies are willing to train as well as offering start up bonuses. If someone wants work this is probably the best time ever. I remember being told 'We're interviewing for the next 2 weeks and will be calling you back. Now it's 'we'll train you. We'll give you bonuses. We'll pay more'.

Elevator repair, plumbing, and other occupations are desperate. Sorry but I just don't feel for lazy spoiled freeloaders who refuse to carry their load or get a job, especially when it's the buyers market for the employee..

Craig Bradley

COVID WAR 2.0 WILL BOMB

ONE TERM PRESIDENTS AND MORE
RECALL EFFORTS TO COME (= CIVIL
UNREST).

Better get ready for Civil Unrest too if the coming Fall lock-downs are as stringent as they were a year ago. Those extreme lock-downs are a principal reason why Calif. Gov. Gavin Newsom is facing a recall election this coming Nov. Recall elections and actual removal of a sitting Governor such as former Calif. Governor Gray Davis are VERY rare in California and elsewhere.

To get removed mid-term from office your words and actions have to first generate a fair amount of widespread anger and frustration amongst the voters. In other words, Gov. Gavin Newsom has made a number of enemies in his first two years in-office. If he is unseated, He earned it.

Craig Bradley

WHAT THE FED KNOWS

A currency backed by a hard asset prevents much of this foolishness. The founding fathers knew this...and the current leaders know this, too. I imagine that when all this foolishness runs out, there will be a lot of chaos left over in the crisis. And these gangster banksters will have gotten away with it (much like '08).

DAvid SEila

SPREAD THE TECHNO WEALTH

With the advent of automation and computers that do the work humans used to do, none of us should have to work more than a twenty hour work week to maintain a decent standard of living. The bigs are not passing along gains made in efficiency and technology. When I was a kid I would read books about how easy life would be in the future with computers and robots. Not quite!

Jennifer Dunn

BLOODY WARS AND BLOODY BASTARDS

I beg to differ about America's bloodiest war. It's bloodiest war has been the war against the innocent unborn which has exceeded 60 million murders.

With regard to the difference in benefits it is obviously a reflection of a deficit in morals. A highly moral society with a finely honed collective conscience would not tolerate an immoral distribution of wealth. And I am not talking about Socialism or Communism.

No I am talking about greedy corporations who do not share the wealth they earn with their employees. The upper levels of these organizations have never had it so good. They suck up most of the profits with little regard for the welfare of their employees. When people turn back to God the excess greed will fade away and better times will come to the non-elite employees.

Ivblasiotti

CRISPR CREATOR AND GENE EDITING

What an article. That's journalism I find nowhere Else. Eugenics 2.0 is lurking in the Horizon, potentially creating subspecies of humans who need less sleep, work harder and get their regular mindboost shots directly from the crony pharmaceutical companies, which are currently grabbing all the public money.

Uwe Richter

FDA TO BAN MELATONIN?

We should be in the streets right now demanding the arrest of the thugs who are orchestrating these events and take-downs of health and life.

Jerry Scott

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

EQUITY MARKETS RECORD-SETTING RALLY

On 25 June, U.S. stock markets closed their best week since February, reversing the previous week's plunge that marked their worst five-day span in eight months and giving the S&P 500 index new record closes on Thursday and Friday.

The S&P ended the week at 4,280.70, gaining 2.7 percent over the five trading days.

Optimism about the economic recovery and of a \$1 trillion infrastructure deal between Congress and President Joe Biden helped ignite the broad rally.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 3.4 percent for the week, the NASDAQ 2.4 percent despite slipping 9 points on Friday.

Markets also were buoyed by data showing U.S. consumer spending in May exceeded pre-shutdown levels (see related story) and Eurozone business activity expanding faster than at any time since 2006,

Yesterday, U.S. markets hit new highs and today stocks were up a bit with the broad market index inching up less than 0.1 percent.

However, as we detail in this and last week's **Trends Journal**, get ready for COVID War 2.0 and politicians, "health experts" and the media selling more fear and hysteria of the Delta variant. Indeed, The Street worries the "variant" could slow the global economic recovery, further disrupt the disrupted supply chains and push inflation higher.

In fact, this is the *Washington Post*'s headline today: "Spread of delta variant prompts new restrictions worldwide."

They go on to say that, "The rapid spread of the delta coronavirus variant has forced a growing number of countries to reimpose lockdowns and other public health restrictions, raising fears that the more contagious variant was hampering global efforts to contain the pandemic."

However, despite the new round of fears, we forecast the gambler gang is betting on the Fed to keep the \$120 billion a month bond-buying scheme going and keep interest rates in the zero range as long as they can despite rising inflation... which the Fed says is temporary.

What's the Fed's next move? Read all about it in Gregory Mannarino's trend forecast, "EXPECT THE FED TO INCREASE! NOT DECREASE, ASSET PURCHASES."

TREND FORECAST: The markets' two-week rollercoaster signals that investors are unsure of the economic recovery's strength, especially after the most recent

weekly unemployment report showed new claims for benefits stuck above 400,000. More importantly, however, since hard data rarely counts among money-junkie addicted gamblers, their prime concern is interest rates.

As we have long forecast in scores of **Trends Journal** issues, inflation is not temporary as the Fed's claim. And nations across the globe are raising interest rates to combat rising inflation.

Thus, when the Fed brings rates up to the 1.5 percent range from the current near zero range, equities and the economy will crash.

And now, after denying it for months, the CNBC Global CFO Council survey for the second quarter, released yesterday, confirmed what we had long been warning. They report that U.S. based chief financial officers see inflation as the biggest external risk factor that their businesses face. And proof of their inflation denial is that virtually no CFO had cited inflation concerns in the Q1 2021 survey.

TREND FORECAST: We maintain our forecast that Inflation is, and will continue to rise for at least several months. Today S&P Case-Shiller reported that U.S. home prices surged in April at a 'truly extraordinary' rate, spiking up 14.6 percent in April, up from a 13.3 percent spike in March. However, regardless that this was the sharpest rise in 30 years, in the rigged consumer price index scam, the Bangster Bandits do not include home prices.

But in the real world, it counts. For people wanting to buy homes in Charlotte, North Carolina, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver and Seattle, the price surge was the largest annual increase ever.

And while there are expectations that this is an artificially inflated housing bubble, as we have detailed in numerous **Trends Journals** over the past year, we disagree. This is very different from the subprime mortgage crisis when the Banksters gave home-loans to people with miserable credit ratings. In fact, homes that are now being sold are on the higher end of the market, while lower wage earners are being priced out.

TREND FORECAST: *On the commercial real estate front, the trend line is down and out. As we have forecast, commercial real estate in major cities will take a downward dive as more people choose to work from home... a trend that did not exist before the COVID War was launched in the winter of 2020.*

And as we reported, the Banksters are holding trillions of dollars of commercial real estate debt, and they are fully aware of the disastrous financial implications that will result if a significant percentage of employees do not return to work. Thus, they are among the first and most vocal for workers to end their zoom calls, get vaccinated and commute back to office buildings. It should also be noted that as interest rates rise, so too will debt levels.

GOLD/SILVER: Both precious metals remain weak, with gold prices falling 1 percent to its lowest level since mid-April as the dollar and U.S. Treasury Yields rose. Down 7.6 percent in June, gold is racking up its worst month since November 2016 when the price dove some 8 percent.

Despite the downturn and negative sentiment on the Street, we maintain our forecast for both gold and silver to sharply rise as the real inflation index continues to spike higher and subsequently the dollar will move lower. Indeed, absent in The Street's analysis is the unprecedented money pumping schemes by governments and central banks that have flooded the markets with cheap money backed by nothing and printed on nothing.

OIL: Inflation temporary? Been to the gas pump lately? Brent has advanced over 44 percent this year.

Last week is this week. No real movement on the Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate levels. Last Tuesday Brent closed at \$74.81 per barrel, today it closed at \$75.05, while WTI finished the day at \$73.31 per barrel, up 25 cents from last week.

As we have noted, we are forecasting strong economic growth this summer in much of the world which will be bullish for oil prices. And CNBC reported last week that Global Research raised its Brent Crude price forecasts for this year

and next, saying that tighter oil supply and recovering demand could push oil briefly to \$100 per barrel in 2022.

Indeed, with demand increasing, natural gas futures are up almost 100 percent from a year ago. Thus, the higher prices of oil and gas, the higher inflation rises... and the higher inflation rises, so too will interest rates.

BITCOIN: Where are crypto's heading, what to expect? Read all about it in the special section of this week's **Trends Journal**: "TRENDS IN CRYPTOS."

Last week the crypto crash wiped out \$1.3 trillion according to MarketWatch.

To illustrate the volatility of the digital coin, as we noted last week, after plunging some 50 percent from its \$64K high, Bitcoin climbed above \$40,000 after Elon Musk tweeted that Tesla would allow bitcoin transactions "when there's confirmation of reasonable (50%) clean energy usage by miners with a positive future trend."

After slumping down to the \$30K range later in the week, today bitcoin is trading around \$36K.

As we have been detailing for over a year, the harder governments call for crackdowns on cryptocurrencies – for whatever reasons – the lower the prices will fall. Thus we maintain our forecast that should Bitcoin, which is now down some 50 percent from its recent high and up 9 percent this year, fall to around \$25,000 per coin, it will continue to rapidly decelerate.

For further analysis and crypto forecasts in the **Trends Journal**, note these articles in our special "TRENDS IN CRYPTOS" section: "CHINA MADE A TRILLION DOLLAR MISTAKE, SAYS MICROSTRATEGY CEO"; "CHINA GOES FULL DIGITAL YUAN IN BEIJING"; "BINANCE SHAKES OFF U.K. BAN"; "BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES; GLOBAL BANKSTERS GOING DIGITAL; and "ISRAEL HAS TESTED DIGITAL SHEKEL, OFFICIAL ADMITS".

SPACs: DANGER AHEAD



Investors will learn “a pretty expensive lesson” when they see that some companies that have gone public through special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) played “fast and loose with their projections” to “create castles in the sky,” James Chanos, founder of

hedge fund Kynikos Associates, said in a statement quoted by the *Financial Times*.

Chanos, known as a savvy short-seller, predicted the \$100-billion collapse of energy firm Enron Corp. in 2001.

A SPAC or “blank-check company” is a special category of company that goes public, typically at \$10 a share, even though it has no assets. When it has stockpiled enough capital, the SPAC buys and merges with a promising company that is not ready to go public by itself.

After the merger, the SPAC disappears, and its shareholders then own shares in the company the SPAC bought.

Because SPACs’ takeover targets are private companies that have not filed papers to make a stock offering, they can make unsupported, blue-sky financial projections about their future, which companies planning to go public are banned from doing.

SPACs became a craze on Wall Street over the past 12 months, with asset management companies and strait-laced investment funds throwing money into the deals, which persuaded individual investors to jump in.

About 370 SPACs have collected more than \$100 billion from investors this year alone, according to data firm Refinitiv.

However, SPACs also have drawn regulators' attention as several of their takeover businesses have failed to perform, as we detailed in our previous coverage ([“SPACs: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?”](#) 8 June 2021, and [“SPACs' Values Shrink Under Regulators' Scrutiny.”](#) 20 April, 2021).

Kynikos is now shorting, or placing financial bets against, several “very bad businesses” that SPACs took public and valuations for which “have gotten silly,” Chanos said. He declined to name the companies his fund is shorting.

Lordstown Motors, which a SPAC took public in 2020, said it had enough capital to begin production of its all-electric pickup truck; but earlier this month, it revealed it lacked the funds to do so. At the same time, its chief executive and chief financial officers left the company without notice.

Nikola, another company formed to build an all-electric truck, went public through a SPAC in June 2020 and reached a price of \$80 a share. Now its stock is trading below \$20 and regulators are scrutinizing its optimistic claims.

“You’re seeing all kinds of situations that probably wouldn’t pass muster in the IPO process that are coming public via the SPAC machinery,” Chanos told the *FT*.

“We suspect that more and more companies are playing fast and loose with their projections to entice investors to commit capital,” he said.

Under the regulations governing SPACs, the blank-check companies must commit their capital to a deal within two years of being formed.

With so many of the best prospects already taken by other SPACs, about 400 blank-check companies are now cruising the market for new targets, Refinitiv calculates.

“There is an awful lot of capital sitting there that has to find a home,” John Chachas, co-managing principal at Methuselah Advisors, said to *The Wall Street Journal* earlier this month.

“You’re going to see a fair number of less-than-desirable deals done just because they have to get done,” he said.

TREND FORECAST: *In our 4 May article, [“IPOs SET RECORD PACE,”](#) we noted that SPACs were among the factors artificially inflating market values... in effect another element creating a dot.com 2.0.*

We renew our forecast for a major market correction, with SPACs and their related companies being hit among the hardest. Indeed, the SPAC mania is reminiscent of the dot.com days when billions were invested in hi-tech companies that created nothing and made no financial or common sense.

PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK: THE AMERICAN WAY



Once upon a time – before American politicians stole the people’s money to enrich the military industrial complex and sent its young men to fight and die in endless wars, and killed its manufacturing sector by outsourcing its production to those “dirty commie countries” – America was the unrivaled “Land of Opportunity.”

Those days are gone. Fifty-four percent of Americans and 70 percent of Millennials live from one paycheck to the next, according to a survey of 28,000 households by news service PYMNTS.com and LendingClub, an online financial services firm.

About 40 percent of Baby Boomers have little to no savings, the survey found.

"Millennials — especially older ones — are collectively at important stages of their lives," the survey report says.

"They may be starting families or taking on their first major purchases, such as homes and new vehicles, but they may also be less advanced in their careers than their older counterparts," due to having lived through the Great Recession, 2020's economic meltdown, and two housing crises.

Many Millennials also are toting student debt as they confront the rising cost of everything from housing to cat food.

However, "living paycheck to paycheck sometimes carries connotations of barely scraping by and of poverty," the report notes. "The reality of a paycheck-to-paycheck lifestyle in the U.S. today is more complex."

For example, 60 percent of Millennials earning six-figure salaries also report living paycheck to paycheck, possibly due to "lifestyle creep," in which every salary boost is accompanied by a more lavish lifestyle.

Still, those who reported living paycheck to paycheck are largely responsible, if not frugal, in their financial lives, the survey data showed.

TREND FORECAST: *This is not news to **Trends Journal** readers (["Buddy, Can you Spare a Dime?,"](#) 18 February, 2020), but the ongoing financial crisis is making the situation worse.*

Inflation, rising housing costs, the rising cost of advanced education, and a job market demanding increasingly specialized and sophisticated skills will leave more and more Americans falling behind financially.

Also, as we reported, the Pew Research Center found that 52 percent of young adults lived with one or both of their parents, a rate that the U.S. Census Bureau data notes is higher than any previous measurement.

As a result, Millennials – already leaning socialist politically – will turn up pressure for a more expansive social safety net and sharing of costs in education, health care, and other areas.

CONSUMER SPENDING STRONG



Consumer spending on goods in May rose 20 percent from February 2020's amount, with spending on services only 1 percent below pre-shutdown levels.

With inflation on the rise, overall spending maintained April's volume, when consumers paid 0.9 percent more for goods and services than in March.

Spending on recreation grew 3.5 percent last month, the U.S. commerce department said, and airlines reported a growing number of bookings for summer months.

As with the housing market and the rich getting richer while the middle class shrinks, high-income households are driving the spending gains, Jonathan Silver, CEO of consumer data firm Affinity Solutions, told *The Wall Street Journal*. They have the income and stored savings to spend on services and experiences not available during the shutdown, he explained.

Households with annual incomes greater than \$200,000 spent 16 percent more on restaurant meals last month than a year previous; those with incomes from \$31,000 to \$60,000 spent 5 percent more dining out, according to Silver's firm.

With the COVID War in the states winding down and no longer mandated to "stay home, stay safe," consumers are spending less on furniture, appliances, and other big-ticket items that they bought during the lockdowns and are shifting their spending to services and experiences.

Spending in the service economy grew 0.7 percent in May from April, a respectable amount but slower than the surge of service spending fueled by the stimulus checks delivered in late winter and early spring.

“Consumers are well-positioned to attack the summer with a lot of enthusiasm,” Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, told the *WSJ*. (See [“Retail Shopping to Grow by Double Digits This Year,” Trends Journal](#), 15 June, 2021.)

“Households have a strong itch to spend, they have the means to do so, and they have fewer health reasons not to indulge,” he said.

Consumer spending will rise 9 percent this year over last, the largest 12-month gain since 1946, Oxford predicted.

TREND FORECAST: *The rise in consumer spending comes as no surprise to Trends Journal subscribers. We had long forecast that as interest rates remained near zero and the federal government pumped trillions into the economy, there would be “The Biden Bounce.”*

While spending will continue to rise, it will grow moderately... until the Federal Reserve raises interest rates and equity markets crash. Indeed, well aware of the financial pressures when rates rise, the Feds will do all they can to keep rates low for as long as they can.

CORE PRICES NOTCH BIGGEST GAIN IN 30 YEARS



In May, the Core Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, which the U.S. Federal Reserve views as the most reliable gauge of inflation, shot up 3.4 percent compared to a year earlier, the U.S. commerce department reported. This represents the biggest 12-month increase since April 1992, according to CNBC.

Separately, the department reported that also in May, consumer spending was flat and the personal savings rate declined to 12.4 percent from April's 14.5 percent.

Personal incomes declined 2 percent, less than the 2.7 percent predicted by economists, CNBC said.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *We not only predicted today's inflation in the "Market Overview" section of our 4 August, 2020 issue, but also highlighted the trend toward "dragflation" – prices rising while national economies and income levels spiral downward.*

*In fact, we have continually monitored and forecast inflation – in our ["Trends in the News"](#) broadcast and **Trends Journal** since the COVID War broke out in the winter of 2020... and have continued to do so weekly in this and scores of other **Trends Journals**. And unlike the mainstream message, our forecast is "inflation is not temporary."*

For example, yes, lumber prices have come down some 40 percent from their May high... but they are still up 60 percent. Thus, some prices will come down but overall, they will remain much higher than they were before the 2020 COVID War.

INFLATION LIKELY TO STAY STRONG AS RECOVERY SLOWS, BOA SAYS



The U.S. economic recovery has peaked and, beginning in July, will moderate as shortages and inflation curb consumer spending, Bank of America (BOA) said in an 18 June research note.

The GDP expanded 11 percent in this year's second quarter, will grow by 9 percent in the third quarter, and 5 percent in the fourth, the bank's research team said.

The bank now agrees with the U.S. Federal Reserve's forecast that the U.S. economy will grow 7 percent overall this year and pegs 2022's expansion at 5.5 percent, up from its earlier estimate of 3 percent.

Growth in 2023 will be 2.2 percent for the U.S. but 3.7 percent globally as emerging nations' recoveries begin to catch up with the developed world, according to BOA.

The U.S. inflation rate will range from 2 to 4 percent for two to four years, the bank predicted, also forecasting that the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise interest rates before 2022 unless American financial markets crash in the meantime.

Higher inflation, tighter policies by the world's central banks, and slowing economic growth will be key indicators of coming changes in Fed policy, Michael Hartnett, the bank's chief strategist, wrote in the note.

FED OFFICIALS SEND MIXED SIGNALS ON POLICY SHIFT



Officials of the U.S. Federal Reserve aired their differing views last week about when the Fed should raise interest rates or cut back its \$120-billion-a-month bond-buying program.

The U.S. Federal Reserve will need to raise interest rates late in 2022, not in 2023 as bank officials determined at their meeting earlier this month, Raphael Bostic, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, said on 23 June in a National Public Radio interview.

“Given the upside surprise in recent data points, I pulled forward my projection,” he said.

The U.S. Federal Reserve now forecasts a 7-percent surge in the nation’s GDP this year and inflation is running far above the Fed’s 2-percent target rate, he noted.

While the bank had thought inflation might run hot for two or three months, the likelihood now is for its current pace to last six to nine months, he said.

Another “three or four months” of labor-market improvement should allow the Fed to consider beginning to curtail its \$120 billion in monthly bond purchases, Bostic added.

In contrast, “it is not the time now,” to change course “because the economy is still far from maximum employment,” John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said in 24 June comments quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Williams declined to predict the time when the central bank would raise interest rates, saying “it depends” on the speed and strength of the economy’s recovery.

“Once the recovery is complete and the economy’s in a very good place, we can take back the low interest rates and get them back to more normal levels,” he said.

The economy is recovering faster than expected, Williams acknowledged, and he reiterated the bank’s view that inflation’s current surge is temporary.

On 23 June, Michelle Bowman, one of the Fed’s seven governors, reiterated the Fed’s belief that inflation is being fueled by supply-chain disruptions that will fade. However, she did not say how long that would take.

Bowman was speaking at a Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland conference.

Inflation will ease to slightly above 2 percent by the end of this year, Eric Rosengren, president of Boston's Federal Reserve bank, has predicted.

In December, 12 of the Fed's 18 governing officials thought rates would need to increase some time in 2024; earlier this month, seven thought the rate boost should come in 2023.

TRENDPOST: *At his December 2020 press conference, Fed chair Jerome Powell pointed to “disinflationary pressures around the globe” and said “It’s not going to be easy to have inflation move up.”*

A month later, Powell acknowledged that inflation was on the move but said any rise above the Fed’s 2-percent target rate would be “transient.”

On May 4, Janet Yellin made an offhand comment that president Joe Biden’s then \$4.5-billion infrastructure plan could prompt the Fed to raise rates.

Her remarks sent the stock market tumbling, after which Yellin tried to mop up after herself, saying in a public statement that she was not recommending the Fed raise rates or trying to sway Fed policymakers at the Biden administration’s behest. If anyone “appreciates the independence of the Fed, that person is me,” she emphasized.

Now we see Fed officials quickly redialing their expectations for an interest rate increase from 2024 to 2023 to 2022.

The Fed should not wait even that long but should raise rates before this year ends, the Bank of America said in a research note this month. (See related story.)

Holding rates at their current rock-bottom levels “seems to me at the edge of absurd,” former treasury secretary Lawrence Summers said at Coindesk’s Consensus 2021 event last month.

"We used to have a Fed that reassured people that it would prevent inflation," he said. "Now we have a Fed that reassures people that it won't worry about inflation until it's staggeringly self-evident."

TREND FORECAST: Even if inflation stays above 3 percent by the end of this year, one point above their 2 percent limit, the Fed will resist raising rates when equities and the economy begin to weaken.

U.S. BUMPING UP AGAINST DEBT LIMIT, YELLIN WARNS



U.S. government spending is about to collide with the Congressionally-mandated limit on the national debt and the treasury will no longer be able to pay the country's bills some time in August unless legislators raise the limit before their August recess,

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellin warned in testimony before Congress on 23 June.

Because lingering effects of the economic shutdown make it difficult to predict federal revenues, the treasury is uncertain exactly when that limit will be reached, Yellin said.

"It's possible we could reach that point when Congress is out in August," she told lawmakers. "I really would urge prompt action" to raise or suspend the limit."

If the limit is reached before Congress acts, the U.S. could default on its debts, an event Yellin called "unthinkable."

"Failing to increase the debt limit would have absolutely catastrophic economic consequences," she said.

"I believe it would precipitate a financial crisis," she added. "It would threaten the jobs and savings of Americans at a time when we're still recovering" from 2020's economic collapse.

TREND FORECAST: *The economic growth generated by massive stimulus plans that artificially generated growth and monetized debt will weaken as the money pumping schemes wind down. As the economy slows the Federal Reserve and Washington will invent new schemes undreamed of to again artificially prop up growth.*

And if they can't, as Gerald Celente notes, "When all else fails, they take you to war."

MEDIAN U.S. HOME PRICE SETS ANOTHER RECORD



The median price of a single-family home in the U.S. reached a record \$350,000 in May, rising from the previous record of \$341,600, set the month before, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reported.

Prices have increased 24 percent in the last 12 months, the fastest year-on-year gain since 1999 when the NAR began keeping data, the group said.

The number of homes selling for at least \$1 million in May doubled from a year earlier, according to the NAR.

Home prices rose as corporations released employees from their offices to work at home. Many newly liberated families moved into the suburbs and beyond.

The surge in demand, combined with low interest rates, drove prices up relentlessly, with other prospective buyers deciding they needed to jump into the market to keep from being shut out later by too-high prices or a lack of good-quality properties to buy.

The typical house for sale last month was on the market for just 12 days, matching a sales speed record set in April, according to the NAR.

Now the housing boom is becoming a victim of its own intensity.

Home sales sagged 0.9 percent in May from April, logging the fourth consecutive month of diminishing sales, the NAR said, in part because so few homes are left on the market.

Mortgage applications slumped 17 percent year-on-year for the week ending 11 June, the Mortgage Bankers Association noted.

Residential building permits, a construction industry bellwether, also declined.

As we have detailed, with the masses living paycheck-to-paycheck, only 35 percent of people say now is a good time to buy a home, according to a survey by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the smallest proportion since 2010.

With fewer buyers bidding for fewer remaining homes, the competition is becoming more intense. More than half of buyers in May made down payments of at least 20 percent on their purchases, or at least \$70,000 in cash, freezing out potential buyers who might be able to afford monthly house payments but lack the cash up front to buy in.

Available homes now receive several offers and more than half of homes sold in May fetched more than their asking price, according to brokerage company Redfin.

As risk-averse lenders reserve their funds for buyers who can make huge down payments, households with moderate incomes remain out in the cold.

“Affordability now seems to be squeezing away some buyers,” NAR chief economist Lawrence Yun told *The Wall Street Journal*.

“There are so many people who have been outbid, frustrated that they’re unable to buy,” he said.

The housing squeeze is likely to continue for at least three years, analysts say, as we reported in [“Housing Shortage Will Last For Years, Goldman Says.”](#) 1 June, 2021.

Building lots have become scarce and those that remain are more costly; construction materials are in short supply and the price surge in lumber, metals, and other materials will keep the price of a new home high for at least the next two years.

The U.S. needs to build 1.5 to 1.6 million new homes a year to meet demand, the NAR has said, but shortages of materials, land, and labor are likely to limit this year’s number to less than half that, according to the association.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain or forecast that the “Biden Bounce” will generate a sharply booming economic recovery that will last as long as interest rates remain low and Washington and the Federal Reserve continue to pump cheap money into the economy and equity markets.*

Thus, for the short term, the housing boom in hot areas will be maintained, and even when the “Greatest Depression” hits, while real estate prices in those sectors will decline, they will not fall as fast or sharply as those in lower middle-income sectors.

BLACKSTONE EXTENDS REACH INTO HOUSING MARKET



Blackstone, the world’s richest asset management company, has agreed to pay \$6 billion to buy Home Partners of America, a company that owns about 17,000 rental houses across the U.S., *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Blackstone entered the rental housing business after the Great Recession, forming Invitation Homes as a subsidiary that bought tens of thousands of foreclosed houses when banks dumped them at bargain prices.

Blackstone sold out of Invitation Homes in 2019, when the subsidiary had 80,000 homes in its portfolio, making it the largest U.S. landlord in single-family rental homes.

Blackstone re-entered the rental business last year, putting \$240 million with Toronto-based Tricon Residential Inc. and budgeting \$1 billion to buy houses this year. (See [“Invitation Homes to Buy \\$1 Billion Worth of Houses This Year,”](#) **Trends Journal**, 1 June, 2021.)

The giant firm’s Home Partners purchase indicates that institutional investors see stronger gains ahead in the rental housing industry.

Cerebus Capital Management, Brookfield Asset Management, JP Morgan Asset Management, and Rockpoint Group also have bet big on firms that own portfolios of single-family rental homes.

However, large corporate landlords hold only about 300,000 houses to date, about 2 percent of U.S. single-family homes, according to a report from Amherst Pierpont Securities; 85 percent of rental homes are owned by landlords with no more than 10 properties.

Even so, analysts see rents continuing to climb as home prices remain high, barring more families lacking cash or high incomes from buying a home, analysts told the *WSJ*.

TRENDPOST: *Although corporate landlords own just a fraction of the country’s single-family homes, that fraction is concentrated in the most desirable markets, giving those corporations even more presence in the places people most want to live.*

As we noted in [“Invitation Homes to Buy \\$1 Billion Worth of Houses This Year,”](#) **Trends Journal**, 1 June, 2021, corporations are buying houses out from under families by offering cash on the spot instead of forcing sellers to wait while mortgage applications are approved – or, increasingly in today’s red-hot market, rejected.

TREND FORECAST: Millennials are entering the age at which most people buy homes. However, high prices, high down payment requirements, and cash-rich corporations competing for good-quality homes mean that fewer and fewer families will be able to build wealth by owning their own homes.

RETAIL WORKERS QUITTING IN DROVES



In April, about 649,000 retail employees quit their jobs, the U.S. labor department reported, the largest one-month exodus since the department began keeping records more than 20 years ago.

Stores’ ex-workers are finding higher pay and better benefits at insurance agencies, fitness centers, government offices, and even marijuana dispensaries, *Business Insider* reported; others are returning to school or trying their hands as writers or artists.

The economic lockdown worsened already-dismal working conditions, including poor pay, understaffed stores, long hours, and rude customers, many of the former retail workers told *BI*.

“We’re seeing a wider understanding that these were never good jobs and they were never livable jobs,” Rebecca Givan, a Rutgers University professor of labor studies, said in comments quoted by *BI*.

“In many cases, the pay is below a living wage and the hours are inconsistent and insufficient,” she noted. “If anything, the pandemic has made retail jobs even less sustainable than they already were.”

Now the economic revival has opened new doors for those workers, with companies offering higher pay and perks that include everything from free snacks and help with child care to subsidized college tuition.

“In a tight labor market, we often see big shifts among workers with low earnings,” Zip Recruiter labor economist Julia Pollack said to *BI*. “If you’re making \$12 an hour and there’s a job down the street offering \$12.50, why not jump? There’s no reason not to — which is what’s happening now.”

In April, U.S. retailers had about one million jobs open, twice as many as at the start of 2020’s lockdown, *BI* reported.

To compete, retailers will not only need to offer higher pay but also correct structural problems in the retail industry by offering more consistent schedules and better benefits, many analysts have been suggesting.

TREND FORECAST: *The retail industry is undergoing a long-term transformation. Everyday commodities such as clothing, electronics, and even groceries are being ordered online, erasing front-end retail jobs. There will always be mega hardware stores, supermarkets, and other retail sites where people can drop in to pick up necessities.*

However, sustainable retail stores increasingly will be those that specialize in meeting the needs of specific groups of shoppers and provide personal service surrounding those interests.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



OPEC+ MULLING PRODUCTION INCREASES AS OIL SHORTAGE LOOMS

OPEC+, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, mainly Russia, are considering authorizing production hikes at their 1 July meeting.

As demand and supply move closer to each other, Russia may propose that the group boost output, Russian officials told *Bloomberg*.

Other member nations are mulling production hikes that would begin in August, although the exact amount of any increase has not been specified, one nation's OPEC delegate said to *Bloomberg*.

As the global economic recovery progresses, oil that had glutted the world's market a year ago is being drawn down, tightening supplies.

The price of benchmark Brent crude for July delivery has topped \$76 in recent days.

OPEC+ is completing the process of adding two million barrels a day to the global oil supply from May through June but, with markets tightening and prices rising, some coalition members – especially cash-strapped Russia – are urging the cartel to pump even more.

Oil-producing countries have the capacity to add as much as 5.8 million barrels a day to the world's supply just by turning on their taps, analysts cited by *Bloomberg* believe.

The International Energy Agency has called on OPEC+ to start pumping more oil, warning that global oil demand will climb by 3.1 million barrels a day through 2022 and that a “chasm” in supply could appear during the second half of this year if OPEC+ fails to act now.

Russia agrees that a global shortfall is likely in the near term, industry insiders told *Bloomberg*.

However, Saudi Arabia, OPEC's most influential member, has been more cautious; earlier this month, energy minister Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud said he wants to see more evidence of a sustained rising demand before backing more production.

U.S. producers also see a shortage, in dollars now and oil later, according to the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas's most recent quarterly energy survey.

“We have relationships with approximately 400 institutional investors and close relationships with 100,” one unnamed oil industry executive responded in the survey.

“Approximately one is willing to give new capital to oil and gas investment,” he said.

“This underinvestment, coupled with steep shale declines” as wells deplete, “will cause prices to rocket in the next two to three years. I don’t think anyone is really prepared for it,” the executive warned.

“U.S. producers cannot increase capital expenditures,” he added. “OPEC+ still threatens another oil price collapse” by flooding the market “the instant that” large oil companies announce large capital expenditures to expand production, he added.

TRENDPOST: *Previous oil price spikes have channeled more momentum into the movement toward renewable energy.*

However, as we have reported, although fossil fuel demand may have peaked in developed nations, demand for it will continue to grow in emerging economies such as China and India. In fact, the International Energy Agency predicts that oil and gas will still supply 40 percent of the world’s power by 2040, even if governments continue to subsidize renewable sources.

IN CHINA, DOMESTIC BRANDS OUTPACE WESTERN ICONS



In China’s 618 E-Commerce Festival this month – a sort of Amazon Prime Day for all online retailers there – Babycare domestic diapers outsold Pampers, online giant Alibaba reported.

In 2020’s Singles Day, China’s biggest online shopping holiday, Genki Forest, a Chinese soft drink, passed both Coke and Pepsi in sales.

On Singles Day in 2019, domestic snack brand Three Squirrels left Nestlé’s offerings in the dust and Perfect Diary cosmetics took the lead in their category, leaving Estée Lauder and Maybelline fighting for second place.

“Foreign brands used to have an edge in the China market by representing a superior western lifestyle,” Albus Yu, China Growth Capital’s investment manager, told the *Financial Times*.

“Chinese consumers are now more confident in ‘China style’,” he said.

Through 2020’s first three quarters, Chinese brands of consumer staples grew 2 percent in sales while western brands shrank 6 percent, Kantar Worldpanel reported.

In the past, western brands were seen as safer and of higher quality; now, prodded by government actions against companies and their executives turning out shoddy or dangerous products, China’s consumer economy is rivaling the West for reliability and style.

“The next decade is going to be the decade of Chinese brands,” Elijah Whaley, vice-president of Asia-Pacific marketing at Launchmetrics, said to the *FT*.
“Domestic brands will take a large share of China’s domestic market.”

Chinese companies have the advantage of being new, analysts told the *FT*.

Unlike western brands that have a market persona to defend or overcome, Chinese products are free to define themselves afresh, especially through social media, and can cash in on Chinese youth’s susceptibility to trends, which is even more powerful than that tendency among young people in the West, the *FT* said.

China’s fast-trending consumer items also tap into a new wave of national pride, fostered by the country’s growing global prominence.

The rise of Chinese consumer products is integral to the government’s “dual circulation” strategy of maintaining a strong export economy while building up the country’s domestic consumer economy, in part by fostering in-country brands that can take market share from western competitors. (See [“China](#)

[Announces 'Dual Circulation' Economic Policy,](#) **Trends Journal**, 9 September 2020.)

The strategy emphasizes economic self-sufficiency and less reliance on imports.

The growing strength of Chinese brands comes at a time when western consumer products companies are looking to China as their chief source of growth in the decades ahead.

TREND FORECAST: *China's blossoming domestic consumer economy and its challenge to western brands strengthens our Top Trend 2021 – the rise of China. As we have long said, the 21st century will belong to China because the business of China is business and the business of the U.S. is war.*

Moreover, Americans, of which 70 percent are overweight and 42 percent obese and the majority of the population dressed down... the nation is no longer viewed as the "Exceptional's" and has lost its status as the global trend setter.

With a population of 1.4 billion and nearly a half million middle class and the government emphasizing a dual circulation policy which emphasizes a self-sustaining economy, the nation's focus will emphasize the "Chinese way" of elegance, grace, pop-culture and style.

FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



AMERICAN MEDICINE, AMERICAN MALFEASANCE

By *Richard Gale and Gary Null PhD*

An issue that is rarely discussed or given serious attention is the over-specialization in healthcare. Modern medicine's approach to identify and treat illnesses and tackle the reduction of infections has in many instances ceased to be multidisciplinary.

Medicine has also become increasingly compartmentalized and confined to a rigid materialistic belief system that has now established its own set of standards, criteria and values that are often contrary to gold-standard scientific protocols. The consequence is that its narrow single-mindedness has insulated modern medicine from objective criticism and preserved its internal flaws, errors and fabrications, which have contributed to the unnecessary injury and death of countless patients.

U.S. healthcare spending reached \$3.8 trillion in 2019. Due to the Covid pandemic, expenditures for 2020 will be astronomically higher. One might expect that with the world's most expensive healthcare system, the U.S. would equally have the best evidence-based practices to keep its citizens healthy. By now we should be proficient at preventing and reversing disease, while making minimal errors resulting in injury or death.

However, the exact opposite is the case. Instead of minimizing disease-causing factors, American medicine causes more illness through misguided diagnostic testing, overuse of medical and surgical procedures, and over prescribing pharmaceutical drugs. The fundamental reason for this catastrophe is that today's healthcare establishment, and corporate science in general, over relies on profit-generating motives.

Dr. Peter Gotzsche is recognized as one of the world's foremost experts in evaluating evidence-based medicine (EBM). As the co-founder of EBM's preeminent flagship organization, the Cochrane Collaboration, he reviews and analyzes peer-reviewed clinical research and is intimately knowledgeable about the widespread corruption permeating the pharmaceutical industry and medical journals.

In his book *Deadly Medicines and Organized Crime*, he writes:

“The reason why we take so many drugs is that drug companies do not sell drugs. They sell lies about drugs.... The patients do not realize that, although their doctors know a lot about diseases, human physiology and psychology, they know very little about the drugs that have been concocted and dressed up by the drug industry.”

After we take a fair and objective look at American medicine during the past five decades, especially at the statistics of iatrogenic fatalities, or deaths caused by prescribed medications and medical error, our healthcare establishment is found to be anything but benign. Despite its many noteworthy discoveries and merits, a substantial amount of recommended medical practice has failed patients.

“If the medical system were a bank,” writes Dr. Stephen Persell at Northwestern University’s School of Medicine, “you wouldn’t deposit your money here, because there would be an error every one-in-two to one-in-three times you made a transaction.” Dr. Persell is referring to the rates of preventable medical errors that have caused patients serious injury and what are now the third leading cause of death.

There is excellent evidence to support the argument that iatrogenic deaths have passed cancer fatalities and are now challenging heart disease for the number one spot. A 2008 study found as many as half of adverse events reported by patients were not recorded in their hospital charts. As of 2017, investigations continued to find that less than 10% of medical errors are reported. Reported adverse effects vary depending on the specialty and frequently go unnoticed or are improperly evaluated. An additional study found that almost two thirds of cardiologists had refused to report a serious error they had direct personal knowledge of to an authority.

As one example, heart disease is America’s leading cause of fatality, accounting for 665,000 deaths annually. The CDC, which consistently undermines health threats if it means positioning itself in opposition to private commercial interests, estimates that 34 percent of cardiovascular fatalities are premature and preventable. In contrast, the American Heart Association claims 80 percent are preventable.

What are the heads of our federal health agencies doing to advocate on the side of prevention? Little to nothing. There is no realistic and science-based national policy in place to lessen cardiovascular, cancer and diabetic death rates. Since the most viable and effective means to prevent these diseases are natural and within every person’s means, it is not financially lucrative to divert federal funding away from pharmaceutical treatments and surgical procedures. The CDC and FDA are largely dependent upon monetary income received from the drug and medical device industries.

Earlier we reported about the systemic corruption and fraud that has plagued the CDC and FDA for decades. It would be far cheaper to completely empty, dismantle, fumigate and rebuild the agencies anew rather than continue exerting pressure for reforms, which have only perpetuated a killing spree by protecting life-threatening drugs, vaccines and unnecessary medical procedures.

Dr. Gotzsche notes the same is true for private drug companies. Despite the numerous lawsuits drug companies have lost in federal courts, nothing has fundamentally changed in order to deter them from illegal activities to increase profits. In fact, the cost of paying out settlements and settling lawsuits is factored into the expense of doing business.

A decade ago, we teamed up with three board-certified physicians to undertake the task of reviewing the peer-reviewed literature. We aimed to recalculate the statistics from many branches of medicine in order to arrive at a more realistic casualty rate due to medical error.

We began with a basic question: do the current standards of American medical practice and its supporting science prove that the recommended therapies and healthcare protocols—whether drugs, surgery, diagnostic methods, medical devices, etc—are actually effective? And if so, at what cost to the patients' health and well-being?

Our results and final conclusions were startling and culminated in the release of a widely read and referenced book, *Death by Medicine*. We made every effort to avoid adding editorial commentary to our findings. We decided to only report the statistics and facts with our calculations.

The fact that our data placed iatrogenic error as the number one cause of death in America was alone sufficient. What was novel in our analysis was that we included preventable deaths, such as certain infections and severe nutrient deficiency, which could have been easily corrected by clinicians and medical personnel if viable prevention programs had been part of our healthcare system.

After publication, the book was sent to hundreds of journalists, federal officials and non-profit medical organizations. It was completely ignored by the

orthodoxy; however, it became increasingly popular among alternative and complementary medical physicians who were already fully aware of the structural dangers to public health within conventional medical care.

Revisiting American medicine's legacy of iatrogenic deaths is now more crucial than ever because the same behaviors that have contributed to the nation's leading cause of death are being repeated during the Covid-19 pandemic. The government and federal health officials are in reprehensible denial of inexpensive and highly effective drugs, such as Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, to treat early and middle stage SARS-2 infections.

Cases of Covid infections and deaths have been grossly exaggerated. And now we are realizing that the efficacy and safety profiles of the vaccines are orchestrated scams. As a result, the entire institutional edifice to vaccinate the global population is destined to become the greatest scandal of the 21st century.

Unfortunately, nobody can acquire accurate statistics for Covid-19 vaccine associated injuries and deaths from the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). Careful weekly monitoring of VAERS' adverse event updates convince us that the entire system is criminally rigged. CDC officials overseeing the database are undoubtedly fudging numbers after the ratio of adverse events, including deaths, per number of doses administered are compared to the more robust and accurate EudraVigilance database in the European Union and the less reliable Yellow Card System in the United Kingdom.

As of June 17, VAERS was reporting 329,021 injuries and 5,888 deaths due to the Covid vaccines. The database's most recent update is reporting an additional 26,541 injuries but 1,972 less deaths. How can this sudden disappearance of almost 2,000 deaths be accounted for?

The mysterious loss of fatality entries occurred during the same week as a CDC working group of outside medical professionals was reviewing an association between the mRNA vaccines and the rising number of reported cases of cardiac

inflammation or myocarditis. The group concluded that there is indeed “a likely association.”

This number of deleted deaths in VAERS is also on the heels of the Israeli Shamir Medical Center report that Pfizer’s vaccine is linked with occurrences of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, an autoimmune disorder associated with a rare form of blood clotting. However, despite weekly local news stories around the nation about youth as young as 19 years of age dying of vaccine complications shortly after receipt of an mRNA vaccine, the CDC is claiming that all 1,200 persons, between 16-24 years of age, recovered and no deaths were reported. Does this account for the likely scrubbing of entries in VAERS?

But it is much worse. We only need to look at the European Union’s statistics for adverse Covid-19 vaccine events and compare that with VAERS and the CDC’s recent conclusion to realize there is a massive cover-up in our government’s efforts to sanitize the safety record of Covid vaccines. As of this week the EudraVigilance system is reporting over 1.5 million injuries and 15,472 deaths. Within those figures, 28,583 injuries and 1,862 deaths are from cardiac complications such as myocarditis.

Second, the EU and U.S. have administered approximately the same number of Covid vaccine doses, roughly 409 million and 379 million respectively. Therefore we should expect to find a similar dose-to-injury ratio. Again we discover the CDC gaming the nation’s reporting system to lessen the perception of lethal risks. Based upon the EU ratio we can conservatively estimate that a minimum of 14,300 Americans have been killed by the vaccines so far. If we go back a week before the CDC scrubbed entries in VAERS, it would be over 17,000 Covid vaccine deaths. The actual number of Americans suffering adverse reactions would be 1.4 million.

In other words the EU is reporting 4 times more vaccine injuries and deaths than American health officials. In both the U.S. and EU, Pfizer’s mRNA vaccine accounts for the majority of these casualties. Unless the Covid-19 vaccines engineer a personal vendetta against people holding EU passports, these numbers don’t add up.

Before the arrival of the Covid vaccines, Merck's anti-inflammatory drug Vioxx was widely regarded as the single largest pharmaceutical catastrophe in American medical history. The drug should never have been approved and licensed in the first place; and, Merck knew beforehand that the drug would be lethal and concealed that documentation from FDA regulators. Vioxx was on the market for five years before being withdrawn.

At the time of the federal class action lawsuit against Merck, FDA epidemiologist Dr. David Graham estimated the drug had killed 60,000 patients due to heart attacks and strokes. Since the majority of deaths were among elderly patients, a later report by the *American Conservative* predicted that upwards of half a million patients may have died from the drug over the course of a longer period. Yet during those years Merck was cashing in \$2 billion annually from Vioxx sales, earning over double its eventual \$4.8 billion fine after being found guilty.

To put this into a broader perspective, the Covid vaccines have only been distributed for six months and have now contributed to a realistic 17,000 deaths or upwards towards 30,000 this year alone. Since the vaccines' immunity quickly wanes and it seems certain they provide little protection against new SARS-2 strains, health officials are already recommending regular booster shots. Similar to a prescribed medication, those who buy into the vaccine propaganda hype are in principle relying upon these vaccines for life or until such time as the virus recedes into just a seasonal nuisance.

Consequently iatrogenic vaccine injuries and deaths may likely continue at current rates during forthcoming years. The Covid-19 vaccines are on track to outpace the conservative number of Vioxx deaths over three-fold and may even exceed modern medicine's most deadly drug Cerivastatin, manufactured by Bayer in the late 1990s, responsible for over 100,000 deaths during the four-year period it was on the market. In a short time, Covid vaccines will be the deadliest drug to have emerged from Big Pharma.

A study published in the *Journal of Patient Safety* estimated that 400,000 unnecessary and preventable deaths occur annually in American hospitals

alone. At that rate, it is not surprising that the large majority of deaths ruled as SARS-2 infections happened in hospitals. If our federal health officials had been competent, and less compromised by the demands and influence of drug makers, most of these fatalities likely would never have occurred.

It has been estimated that U.S. taxpayers have paid out \$39 billion for Covid-19 vaccine development, funding and towards nationalized response measures. Most of this has been horribly wasted after we consider other options on hand to curb the pandemic but that were categorically ignored.

“In the case of vaccines in general,” the journal *Health Affairs* observed, “the government often plays an outsized role, but in the era of Covid-19 the government’s role was even more central than usual. The government essentially removed the bulk of traditional industry risks related to vaccine development: a) scientific failures, b) failures to demonstrate safety and efficacy, c) manufacturing risks, and d) market risks related to low demand.”

While this may shock and disturb a rational person, *Health Affairs* – a thoroughly orthodox medical publication – applauds the government’s negligent measures as “money well spent.”

For this reason, it is crucial to understand the terrible decisions made during the Covid pandemic in the context of modern medicine’s past crimes and preventable failures. In the coming months Anthony Fauci’s reputation will become further tainted. We might predict he will resign as more evidence of incompetence emerges, and, in our opinion, perhaps criminal negligence in his handling of the pandemic and efforts to whitewash the U.S.’s role in supporting gain of function research leading to the genetic engineering of the SARS-2 virus.

Fortunately, unlike past scandals when misguided medical decisions were responsible for thousands of unnecessary disabilities and deaths, numerous doctors and scientists worldwide are raising their voices to condemn the lethal policies of the CDC, NIAID, British Health Ministry and the World Health Organization.

So what can we reasonably surmise at this point? At one time most Americans trusted science, medicine and our healthcare system without question or criticism. However, today we observe systemic corruption and gross conflicts of interest across the same federal health agencies that have also contributed to untold medical errors and deaths prior to SARS-2 arrival.

They have weaponized pharmaceutical science and a supplicant braying media supports this perversion of medical facts. Now the drug-happy media is attacking the truth-tellers, the physicians, professors and accomplished journalists who are risking their careers and reputations to bring forth the fallacies in the pandemic narrative. This is one battle that the silent majority can find its voice and courage to step forth and support.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



EXPECT THE FED TO *INCREASE!* NOT DECREASE ASSET PURCHASES

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

Before I proceed with this article, keep this in mind: the current environment IS NOT what it seems, and NOTHING is happening by accident.

Every single week the economic news continues to be bad, more like abysmal, and although the mainstream narrative is attempting to desperately convince you otherwise, debts and deficits are hyper-ballooning. Moreover, as a percent of debt to GDP, the US Economy is CONTRACTING. Meanwhile, just in the last week the NASDAQ and the S&P 500 have hit new all-time record highs. *The fact that this market continues to rise should be of no surprise to you IF you have been following my work here at the **Trends Journal** moreover, the market is going even higher.*

All the talk as of late is skyrocketing inflation, in fact, the cost of living here in the US is rising at its fastest pace EVER!

Allow me to let you in on a big piece of information that you are not supposed to know. *Regardless of the current pace of inflation, the Federal Reserve has no intention whatsoever of raising rates any time soon, and the worse the economic news gets, the higher the stock market will continue to go.*

Here is yet another secret—the Federal Reserve has not even begun to inflate, they are still in the middle of their endgame—to hyper-inflate, and as such—own it all.

Last week the mainstream media reported that the major banks all passed their Federal Reserve Stress Tests with flying colors! Can you imagine my shock?! These institutions have a mainline directly to the Federal Reserve, and have so much cash that they do not even know what to do with it!

Ah! But we do know what they **will** do with it—buy back shares of their own stock and increase dividends. What will be the result? A stock market which will be propelled higher. *(I have been urging people to buy energy and financial stocks for months, and it is already paying off big, with more gains to come).*

Over the past several months I predicted that crude oil would be over \$70 a barrel, well, now we are at \$74. The higher price of crude will boost the entire energy sector of the market.

The mechanism here is simple. If the energy and financial sectors of the market can be propped up, the rest of the market will follow as the Fed continues to fuel the debt market with easy money.

Forget any talk about the Fed “tapering” or “lifting off,” it is just not going to happen as the Fed is maintaining and moving closer to its end game—again, to own it all.

The Fed will not taper its asset purchasing program until it is done, and it is not done.

I fully expect that the Federal Reserve will be increasing the pace of its debt

purchases, and not tapering them—even if they have to come up with some kind of new scheme, or perhaps engineer a new crisis of some kind to make it happen.

The power of a central bank resides in its ability to issue more and ever-increasing amounts of debt. Every single dollar of debt a central bank is called upon to issue, makes them exponentially stronger.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



NEVER TAKE THREATS LIGHTLY

by *Bradley J. Steiner*, [American Combato](#)

ONCE again, *and perhaps for the ten thousandth time*, there is no correlation between combat sports and actual combat. Where sporting contests are concerned, one sometimes hears “threats” by one contestant against another—rudely verbalized “challenges” or promises to do “such-and-such” or “this-and-that”—delivered quite unceremoniously to the opposition fighter.

All in the game.

These people are fighting in a sporting arena—a lawful and legitimate venue. And such “threats” and “promises of destruction” that may pass between the contestants (or perhaps from only one to the other) are not unlawful, and need not be taken as threats of actual harm outside the contest area, at the scheduled time. For some reason fans seem to enjoy listening to this jawing, and take it as a kind of titillation, we suppose. It whets their appetite for the upcoming contest.

That's sport.

REAL threats are a very, very serious matter. Normally threats are issued by unhinged, impulse-driven half-wits who have a tendency toward violence. There is nothing amusing about such threats.

Unfortunately, many people seem to be reluctant to take threats seriously. Reporting a threat that some clod makes to law enforcement is rarely done. Instead, so long as no actual violence has been initiated, and no threat with any weapon has been made, threats are normally shrugged off.

DON'T MAKE THIS MISTAKE.

My advice to every student, and to you, is: always report any threat that is directed against you or your family to the police. Here's why...

It is impossible to predict who is and who is not making a threat that he actually intends to carry out. Regardless, there is something very infantile and irrational about someone who, when annoyed or frustrated in some way by someone else, reacts by threatening that individual with violence. Personally, I regard it as insane.

In any case, IF any individual who threatens you undertakes to carry out that threat in the future, and you are unable to neutralize him via police intervention, then you will have no choice but to use necessary force to defend against the individual's attack. The problem is: what happens when the police show up and law enforcement gets involved?

How the hell can you count on them somehow knowing who the good guy is and who the aggressor is? Truth is, they can't know.

That is, they can't know unless...you have one or more police reports on file in which you articulated to a sworn officer your concern over the threat you received.

So much as one, single report will establish the fact that:

- a) You were concerned about being threatened by this person here, against whom you just defended yourself. (He made good his threat, obviously.)
- b) You tried to get police help. (You are not inclined to violence, and you were not wanting to engage in a fight with this person; you had to defend yourself.)

It can be frustrating certainly if you call the police after being threatened and are told that there is nothing they can do at this point except take your report. FINE! That's all you need. Be sure to record and keep in a safe place the police report number, the date and time of your call in which you made the report, and the officer's name with whom you spoke.

Incidentally, calls to police are recorded, and your call of that date can be subpoenaed to assist you in court, in any legal case.

Now you will have a protective shield to protect yourself when the schlub who attacked you claims that you attacked him (which he almost certainly will insist).

To some, our suggestions and advice will be an unnecessary bother. That's okay with us. We're only interested in providing those who want the best possible self-defense instruction and advice with exactly that. So we are only speaking with those people—no one else.

There is so much more to real world self-defense than that which is popular and "in vogue" in the sporting scene. Competitive martial fighting is fine. It's popular and offers many benefits. But it does not prepare a person realistically and adequately for the myriad of circumstances in which the matter of defending oneself and one's family can arise.

Most especially today, when the entire society is super-sensitive to anything resembling violence, it is important to know how to handle matters off the mat and outside the training hall.

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*

A STROLL DOWN 21st CENTURY CONSPIRACY LANE

Most conspiracies aren't what they're cracked up to be.

They're not very well hidden. They're usually the overall simplest explanation for what occurred. Even the propaganda efforts pressuring people to discount their own common sense and cognizance of facts don't really qualify as conspiratorial.

John McAfee didn't kill himself. He told us himself in a 2019 tweet, and tattooed it on his arm:

"Getting subtle messages from U.S. officials saying, in effect: "We're coming for you McAfee! We're going to kill yourself". I got a tattoo today just in case. If I suicide myself, I didn't. I was whackd. Check my right arm."

McAfee also explained that there's nothing hidden or "conspiratorial" about the deep state. It's right there, spying on us, and co-opting the powers and undercutting the mandates of our elected representatives.

So, with a nod to McAfee, following is a non-exhaustive perusal of some of the more consequential non-conspiracies of the 21st Century...

The COVID War

COVID-19 was man-made. It was the obvious explanation from the first, and people knew it. MSM rebuttal headlines like ["No, the coronavirus wasn't made in a lab. A genetic analysis shows it's from nature"](#) were already making the rounds in March of 2020.

THE COVID WAR, from the virus itself to the implemented "solutions", was a human-created disaster. People know who gained and lost from it. The Chinese and the technocratic elites of the West have been the winners and perpetrators, while the rest of the world lost.

People know wearing masks was never scientific. Neither was social distancing, nor using mad amounts of hand sanitizers. They know lockdowns of "non-essential" local businesses and churches and people, while keeping box chain stores and fast food restaurant chains open, was arbitrary to the point of absurd.

People understand the vaccines are about money, and a test of authoritarian control. They know cheap, safe drugs like Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine should have been allowed to be prescribed by doctors, even if efficacy was not proved. For virtually all of 2020, the experimental vaccines weren't even available.

People know COVID "death rates" and "case rates" have been highly manipulated. In the words of Joe Rogan, people claiming otherwise are "saying things they know aren't true. And yet they'll fight for them. There's a weirdness to that."

Chinese Subversion

China is thoroughly embedded in American institutions. It wields power over businesses, and has co-opted our politics.

In 2020, vice dean of Renmin University's School of International Relations Di Dongsheng infamously boasted that the CCP had people “at the top of America's core inner circle of power and influence.” He added “we have been utilizing the core power of the United States for the past 30 years, 40 years.”

China's infiltration is in the open, on college campuses and schools across the country, in virtually any large business, in entertainment and sports, and, most perniciously, in government. Comprising scandals of China influence involving now President Joe Biden and son Hunter, Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA), Representative Eric Stalwell (D-FL) and other politicians are not hidden.

China steals hundreds of billions from the U.S. alone in intellectual property, including much cutting-edge technology. They have intercepted data on thousands of American citizens, and have used that information to influence and corrupt decision makers.

Regulatory changes that allowed Obama administration officials to profit off insider deals with China were chronicled in detail in “Secret Empire”, a 2018 book by Breitbart editor Peter Schweizer. A Fox Business [story](#) at time summarized:

“Former President Barack Obama used his executive powers to impose industry regulations that lowered the value of certain companies and led to financial gains for a firm owned by two close family friends, according to Breitbart editor-at-large Peter Schweizer.

“The admissions were revealed in Schweizer's new book, “Secret Empire,” which found a pattern of investments in coal, offshore mining and for-profit universities that closely tracked the Obama administration's regulatory

policy changes. Billionaire activists Tom Steyer and George Soros were among the beneficiaries.”

Arguably the most significant Chinese “achievements” to date have been mortally wounding the West with a man-made virus, and ousting a President who took the most economic and cultural stance against them in more than 40 years.

Many **Trends Journal** articles have highlighted aspects of China’s efforts, including:

[“HIGHEST LEVEL EVER CHINESE DEFECTOR HAS INFO ON WUHAN LAB AND MUCH MORE,”](#) 22 June 2021

[“APPLE BETRAYS CHINESE USERS FOR PROFIT,”](#) 1 June, 2021

[“AMERICA DRIFTS TOWARD CHINA’S “TECHNO-AUTOCRACY,”](#) 9 February, 2021

[“SHAPE OF THE FUTURE: GLOBAL CHINATOWN,”](#) 14 February, 2014

The Surveillance State

CNN recently reported on the need for the Federal government and FBI to work more closely with the private sector, in the name of combating “Cyber Crime”:

“Cybercrime is on the rise throughout the United States, but many of those attacks are not being reported to the authorities, suggests a new report released Sunday by the FBI and the Computer Security Institute (CSI)...

“Now, more than ever, the government and private sector need to work together to share information and be more cognitive of information security so that our nation's critical infrastructures are protected from cyberterrorists.”

That “recent” CNN [story](#) was from April 2002.

The government has long used “cybersecurity” and “protecting [infrastructure](#)” to surveil the American populace. It was there in the Patriot Act, just 45 days after 9/11. As the ACLU has noted:

“Hastily passed 45 days after 9/11 in the name of national security, the Patriot Act was the first of many changes to surveillance laws that made it easier for the government to spy on ordinary Americans by expanding the authority to monitor phone and email communications, collect bank and credit reporting records, and track the activity of innocent Americans on the Internet. While most Americans think it was created to catch terrorists, the Patriot Act actually turns regular citizens into suspects.”

In 2013, Eric Snowden [confirmed](#) the comprehensive nature and granular details on how it was being accomplished. But the broad outlines were not hidden. Not at all.

The Political Weaponization of Domestic Intelligence

This of course often works in conjunction with the surveillance state. The American political system has been subverted by and via U.S. intelligence agencies.

Intelligence agencies with actors directly connected to the Obama-Biden administration and the 2016 Hillary Clinton campaign hobbled the Trump presidency with spying and knowingly false allegations of “Russian collusion”.

The spying, from the summer of 2015 on, was never much of a secret, though Trump and the media warred over the details. By 2020 even NPR was [reporting](#) on the undeniable abuses. *USA Today* featured a piece by James Bovard about the sorry state of U.S. domestic intelligence abuses:

“FBI machinations at the FISA court are especially perilous to American democracy because that court is extremely docile to federal agencies. The

FISA court ‘created a secret body of law giving the National Security Agency the power to amass vast collections of data on Americans,’ *The New York Times* reported in 2013 after Edward Snowden leaked court decisions. FISA decisions have ‘quietly become almost a parallel Supreme Court...regularly assessing broad constitutional questions and establishing important judicial precedents, with almost no public scrutiny.’ The court’s servility can boggle the imagination, such as its rubber-stamping FBI requests that bizarrely claimed that the telephone records of all Americans were ‘relevant’ to a terrorism investigation under the Patriot Act, thereby enabling N.S.A. data seizures later denounced by a federal judge as ‘almost Orwellian.’

“Ironically, the FISA court was created in 1978 to prevent Nixon-style political spying...”

In 2021, with the Biden administration, the surveillance state has moved on from surveilling the Trump administration, to criminalizing and surveilling his entire support base.

The Financial Manipulators

Financial elites play by special rules, colluding with government to pass off losses, and siphon savings (ie. the fruits of labor) from average Americans. They prey on businesses and whole industries, without regard for country or any greater good. It’s not a problem of left vs. right. Occupy Wall Street in 2011, and the 2016 election, with the insurgent campaigns of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, were both reactions to it.

In 2007, the only real financial “crisis” was that big banks lost their corrupt leveraged investment and lending casino bets, then demanded the government save them, because doing otherwise would mean a world catastrophe.

In a 12 December, 2007 **Trends Journal** article entitled [“Economic 9/11”](#), Gerald Celente laid out the massive scam:

“Just as the Twin Towers collapsed, from the top down, so too will the US economy from an Economic 9/11. When the high-stakes speculators, banks, brokerages, and buyout firms that leveraged billions with millions get hit ... everything underneath them will turn to rubble.

“The subprime problem was peanuts compared to the hefty bets made on commercial real estate deals, leverage buyouts, credit spreads, complex mortgage securities, and other esoteric investments that were fabricated with hardly any money down. When the giant firms fall, they’ll crush the man on the street.”

The culprits were right there, stealing their billions in broad daylight, saddling the public with their losses, and receiving capital infusions instead of jail sentences.

A recent viral [podcast](#) featuring Tim Poole with guest Steve Bannon presents a lot of useful perspective on events still playing out from the capitulation to a debt-driven economy rigged to hollow out the working classes.

THE COVID WAR, along with its other “accomplishments”, has served as a ready new catastrophe to transfer even more wealth. Meanwhile the masses have again been mollified by reams of stimulus. According to [CEIC](#), an economic analytics firm, United States Total Debt accounted for 895.4 % of the country's GDP in 2020. That represented an all-time high.

9/11

This was the one that started the century off on a footing from which America has never really recovered. Of course, conspiracy theories have famously surrounded the event. But many things concerning 9/11 can’t be argued:

- A number of the perpetrators who flew the planes into the World Trade Center were previously known to U.S. Intelligence Agencies, including Mohammad Atta

- The Bush administration whisked Saudia Arabians with connections to terrorist groups out of the U.S. literally as the twin towers smoldered in ruin, with thousands of civilians dead
- The fact that Middle Eastern foreigners were training to fly planes, but unconcerned with learning how to land them, was reported to authorities prior to the attack
- Experts had previously posited that terrorists — the same kind that had hijacked planes throughout the 1970's and '80's — might attempt to fly one into a skyscraper
- Terrorists had already tried to bring down the Twin Towers in 1993, by setting off a bomb in the basement.
- Bill Clinton had declined an opportunity during his Presidency to kill Osama Bin Laden; the “mastermind of 9/11” was later tracked down and killed during the Barack Obama administration

As far as U.S. officials having specific intel on an imminent attack, the official 9/11 Commission Report only determined that there was “vague chatter” surrounding a possible attack.

But people know that a door was left open to the attack. A 2015 documentary *The Spymasters*, which aired on Showtime in 2015, revealed that the government had much more specific information than the 911 Commission Report allowed.

But was that really surprising? No. The “vague chatter” always sounded like CYA. The revelations of a documentary, dropped in at a safe distance of time, merely confirmed it.

In the documentary, CIA director George Tenet and his chief counter-terror aide, Cofer Black recount receiving information in July of 2001 that was quite a bit more than “vague chatter”.

According to Black, the head of the agency's Al Qaeda unit, Richard Blee, informed his superiors that “‘Chief, this is it. Roof's fallen in.’ The information

that we had compiled was absolutely compelling. It was multiple-sourced. And it was sort of the last straw.”

Black and Tenet agreed that an urgent meeting at the White House was needed. Tenet said in *The Spymasters* that he picked up the white phone to Condoleezza Rice, President George W. Bush’s National Security Adviser:

“I said, ‘Condi, I have to come see you.’ It was one of the rare times in my seven years as director where I said, ‘I have to come see you. We’re comin’ right now. We have to get there.’”

Tenet recalled the ensuing meeting with Rice at the White House.

“Rich [Blee] started by saying, ‘There will be significant terrorist attacks against the United States in the coming weeks or months. The attacks will be spectacular. They may be multiple. Al Qaeda’s intention is the destruction of the United States.’”

9/11 set the stage for a new generation of wars and war spending, and much more. The American populace has never been more surveilled and less free than it is as a result of the Patriot Act and many other changes and abuses of U.S. intelligence agencies.

People know that in one way or another, 9/11 didn’t have to happen at all. And that’s not a conspiracy theory.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS “BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION”



Decentralized blockchain technologies are more than just new kinds of assets or even means of exchange. They challenge the mechanisms of current law and regulating

bodies, which are controlled and leveraged to favor a relative few elites.

They are mortally dangerous to the current order. And that's a good thing, says Alex Gladstein, Chief Strategy Officer at the Human Rights Foundation, and VP of Strategy for the Oslo Freedom Forum.

Gladstein, was interviewed recently by Coindesk.com, and also wrote an incendiary May article in *Bitcoin Magazine* article entitled "Check Your Financial Privilege." A longtime human rights advocate, he has previously said that Bitcoin represents an "escape hatch from tyranny".

Speaking about the potential of Bitcoin to change the current stark chasm between the uber-privileged who control money and lending, Gladstein made no bones about his view that cryptos are a revolutionary opportunity:

"Bitcoin underscores free speech and property rights, and it checks authoritarianism. It's a monetary system that governments cannot manipulate. If the government has total control over the economy, it's game over."

The HRF hasn't just accepted crypto donations for almost since bitcoins were first minted. The organization has helped activists and underprivileged groups who want to use cryptocurrencies. Gladstein noted that the HRF launched a fund in 2020 via the Open Money Initiative, that gives money to developers that are helping the Bitcoin network become more secure, resilient and better in terms of user privacy.

How is Bitcoin helping enlarge human rights? Gladstein illustrated a number of recent examples:

"Activists in many countries have major problems with money – either they live under double or triple-digit inflation, or governments are easily able to surveil and shutter their bank accounts. Bitcoin can play a huge role here because it cannot be censored or stopped.

“Last October, there were protests against SARS across Nigeria. The Feminist Coalition had to begin accepting money through Bitcoin because all of their bank accounts were frozen. In Belarus, the opposition movement is using Bitcoin to support pro-democracy activists because it’s the safest way for them to receive money. In Russia, many journalists and media outlets covering Alexei Navalny have had their accounts frozen and are now using Bitcoin.”

The full Coindesk interview can be read [here](#). Gladstein’s piece in *Bitcoin Magazine* is available [here](#).

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



TUCKER CARLSEN TARGETED BY U.S. INTELLIGENCE. An NSA whistleblower has informed Tucker Carlson Tonight that private communications of the Fox News host are being surveilled.

Carlson has been a vocal critic of the Biden administration over imprisoning January 6th political protesters, and using intelligence agencies, the post offices, and banks and other businesses to illegally track and crack down on Americans with dissident views.

For that, the country’s most watched political commentator has now had the illegal abuse of power turned on him. Tucker reported:

“The whistleblower, who is in a position to know, repeated back to us information about a story that we are working on, that could have only come directly from my texts and emails. There’s no other possible source for that information, period. The NSA captured that information without our knowledge, and did it for political reasons.

“The Biden administration is spying on us. We have confirmed that. This morning we filed a FOIA request asking for all information that the NSA and other agencies have gathered about this show.”

U.S. spy agencies have only become more brazen in focusing on domestic political targets since Edward Snowden, a former intelligence worker, went public in 2013 chronicling the vast nature of domestic spying.

In 2010, the Justice Department spied extensively on Fox News reporter James Rosen, gathering his phone data, tracing his movements in and out of the State Department, and seizing two days of Rosen's personal correspondence. *The Washington Post* and other news agencies later [detailed](#) the extent of the government's illegal abuse.

Corrupt politically focused government surveillance reached a history changing new low In 2015 and 2016, when the FBI and other agencies used a Russian Dossier they knew was funded by the Hillary Clinton campaign to gain FISA warrants to spy on Donald Trump's campaign.

The dossier proved to be a leftist penned hoax, and the FBI was eventually scorched by an Inspector General for deceptively obtaining the FISA warrants and multiple other abuses of power.

But the “Russian collusion” allowed the media and President Trump's political opposition to hound and substantially hobble his entire presidency.

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



CHINA MADE A TRILLION DOLLAR MISTAKE, SAYS MICROSTRATEGY CEO

China's "success" in shutting down bitcoin mining will hurt China the most, says Microstrategy CEO Michael Saylor. Saylor's company obviously has a huge stake in the world's first and largest capitalized decentralized crypto.

Microstrategy, a business intelligence firm that has made news repeatedly for putting its money where it forecasts, with huge buys of Bitcoin, has seen its personal fortunes plummet with the sharp sell-off of cryptos since April.

But Saylor says China and other countries rejecting or stifling the blockchain revolution will be left behind in every way, including financially. Speaking on Bloomberg TV, Saylor said:

"I think, given the bitcoin growth rate, this will prove to be a trillion-dollar mistake for China. It's a tragedy for Chinese miners [and] it's a geopolitical mistake for China the country—but I suppose they could afford to make a trillion-dollar mistake."

China had been providing more than half of bitcoin's mining capacity until their recent crackdown. As of a week ago, more than 90-percent of mining centered in the Sichuan region had ceased.

Saylor said he believes China's loss could be a gain for the U.S.:

"It's a great windfall for North American bitcoin miners whose costs are the same and they're going to generate 50% or 75% more revenue for a while because the China business has been taken offline."

Because of the way the Bitcoin network works, a drop-off in mining results in higher amounts of bitcoin being available to registered mining nodes, before their cap is reached.

Saylor also expressed optimism regarding regulatory conditions in the U.S. going forward, though that remains to be seen. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen talked down cryptos, but Saylor says the Biden administration also features a "new class of regulators [that] are progressive and more enlightened on bitcoin."

CHINA GOES FULL DIGITAL YUAN IN BEIJING



Digital yuan withdrawals are now available at more than 3,000 ATMs in Beijing, according to leading Chinese banks. That allows residents of the capital city to swap so-called "e-CNY" for physical Yuan, and vice versa.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Agricultural Bank of China, both with branches in Beijing, have taken the lead in enabling exchanges between the digital and traditional versions of the national fiat money.

A number of ATMs have been placed in the city's busiest shopping districts. ICBC operates over 3,000 all-in-one ATMs across the capital city, and the option to go digital has been activated on those machines. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China became the first banking institution in Beijing to provide digital yuan-cash exchange when it enabled the feature on its deposit and withdrawal teller machines.

According to Xinhua News Agency, the Agricultural Bank of China has also installed more than ten ATM machines in Beijing's Wangfujing neighborhood, all of which permit the exchange of digital yuan for cash. This area of the Chinese capital, centered on Wangfujing Street, is a prominent retail zone.

Snuffing Bitcoin and Promoting Digital “CCPcoin”

China finally made its big move against decentralized cryptos over the past two weeks, purging bitcoin miners centered in the Sichuan region. Many predicted the move will mean huge technological innovation losses in China's future.

But the CCP is between a rock and digital hard place when it comes to decentralized blockchain technologies. Their totalitarian system is the least suited on earth when it comes to accommodating the innovations that those technologies represent. The dispensing of intermediaries and privileged control groups prone to corruption, is at the heart of the innovation of blockchains, and what creates their financial and wider social efficiencies.

The digital yuan is the only way China can go — completely centralized, and built for surveillance. Its launch in the capital follows prior trials in the Chinese city of Shenzhen. The ABC, along with ICBC, is one of the country's top four state-owned commercial banks.

As we have predicted in the **Trends Journal**, China will continue to be on the forefront of moving to a digital currency that can provide granular financial analytics, but also a temptation to further surveill and control the activities of their populace. See our previous articles:

28 July, 2020, ["IT'S OFFICIAL: DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH"](#)

20 October 2020, ["CHINA: DIGITAL CURRENCY WORLD LEADER"](#)

21 February 2021, ["LOOK WHO'S MINTING DIGITAL CURRENCY NOW \(OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE\)"](#)

BINANCE SHAKES OFF U.K. BAN



Binance says news that U.K. regulators had blocked a subsidiary of its crypt trading platform from operating in that country won't impact its current business.

That's because "Binance Markets, LTD" had not even launched. The crypto

exchange said over the weekend that the proposed operation was a legally separate legal entity that "does not sell any products or services via the Binance.com website."

Great Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) prohibited Binance Markets Ltd. from engaging in any regulated activity.

But in addition to that ban, the FCA went out of its way to publish demands that appear to have no practical application, given the fact that "Binance Markets LTD never officially launched.

The demands included giving Binance until Wednesday evening to prove that it has deleted all advertising and financial promotions. The exchange must also make it clear on its website, social media channels, and other communications that it no longer has permission to operate in the United Kingdom.

The U.K. is doing its part to try to scare off people from investing in cryptos, especially ones featured on Binance that go the furthest in offering privacy and resilience from money manipulation and surveillance state tactics.

Some crypto specialists tried to read recent moves in China, the U.S. and U.K. a sign that cryptos would be accepted by world governments, but under “rules” of control.

Ivan Petuhovskii, co-founder of EXMO Exchange Ltd., a U.K. registered crypto exchange that has more limited offerings than Binance, said “Regulation is an undeniable growth driver. I am glad that the Wild West phase for the crypto market is almost over.”

GLOBAL BANKSTERS GOING DIGITAL



As we had forecast, central banks, led by China, would be going digital.

And last week Hyun Song Shim, director of research at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), said in a 23 June statement reported by the New York Times that digital currencies issued by central banks “are an idea whose time has come.”

The BIS is owned collectively by 63 participating central banks and exists “to support central banks' pursuit of monetary and financial stability through international cooperation, and to act as a bank for central banks,” according to its statement of purpose.

The BIS’s call for nationally-backed digital currencies adds pressure to activities now underway by the U.S. Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, People’s Bank of China, and other central banks to create and activate digital money.

TRENDPOST: *Central banks' move "from dirty cash to digital trash" is a trend we ranked among our Top Ten Trends at the beginning of 2018. The trend was accelerated by the rise of private digital currencies, which central banks see as a challenge to the sovereignty of national money systems and want to thwart.*

Within five years, major central banks will have implemented national digital currencies. And as they go digital, they will pass laws to prohibit competition from the non-regulated crypto world of today.

ISRAEL HAS TESTED DIGITAL SHEKEL, OFFICIAL ADMITS



Israel has conducted a test of a digital shekel, the national currency, Andrew Abir, the Bank of Israel's deputy governor said, apparently inadvertently, during a panel discussion at the Fair Value Forum hosted this month by research college IDC Herzliya.

Later, Abir downplayed the test's importance.

"I had previously estimated that the chance of having [a national digital currency] within five years is 20 percent," adding, "My estimate has increased in the last year, mainly because other countries are advancing with it, too, but still there is less than a 50-percent chance."

In May, the Bank of Israel revealed it was drafting a plan for the issuance of a digital currency, an idea under discussion at the bank since 2017.

Recently, the bank put new energy in its plan "in view of the rapid developments in the digital economy and in payments, and in view of the major central banks' work on the issue," it said in a May statement quoted by the *Jerusalem Post*. (See related story.)

“The option for a central bank digital currency is still being examined,” Abir said, “and when we made our statement last month, it was not to say what we are doing, but rather to share what we do not know and receive feedback from the public.”

He noted that any central bank’s digital currency “would not be designed as a kind of protection against Bitcoin”:

“What we are talking about is a payment system. Bitcoin is not a payment system and it is not a currency. In the best situation, it is a financial asset, and in the worst case, a pyramid scam.”

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES by Joe Doran



CHINA AND U.S. FOCUS ON CRYPTOS.

2021 was the year of “The COVID WAR”, as Gerald Celente has famously named it. 2021 may well be seen as the definitive launch of “The Crypto Wars”.

On one side are elite authorities used to manipulating fiat currencies for their own narrow gains in wealth and power. On the other side are a group of innovators intent on building mechanisms of exchange and value that aren’t controlled or even controllable by any centralized group.

Within the past two weeks, China and the U.S. both made big moves. China pulled the plug on Bitcoin mining (occurring via commercial scale arrays of computer systems) centered in the Sichuan province. After the regime’s order, 25 of the largest mining firms ceased operations. Bitcoin, already stuck below \$36,000, quickly dropped 10 percent.

In the U.S. the House of Representatives passed something called the Consumer Safety Technology Act. It includes a provision that would require the the Department of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to assemble a report on blockchain's use in trade, purportedly to "fight fraud".

One of the chief sponsors, Darren Soto (D-Fl) said the report would hopefully lead to a formal regulating mechanism for blockchains: "[It's] a first step towards our long-term goal of setting up a Blockchain Center of Excellence in the Department of Commerce."

Another part of the overall legislation is called "The Digital Taxonomy Act". It acknowledges that "the use of digital tokens and blockchain technology is likely to increase in the future," and mandates the FTC to compile a report on unfair and deceptive practices in crypto markets.

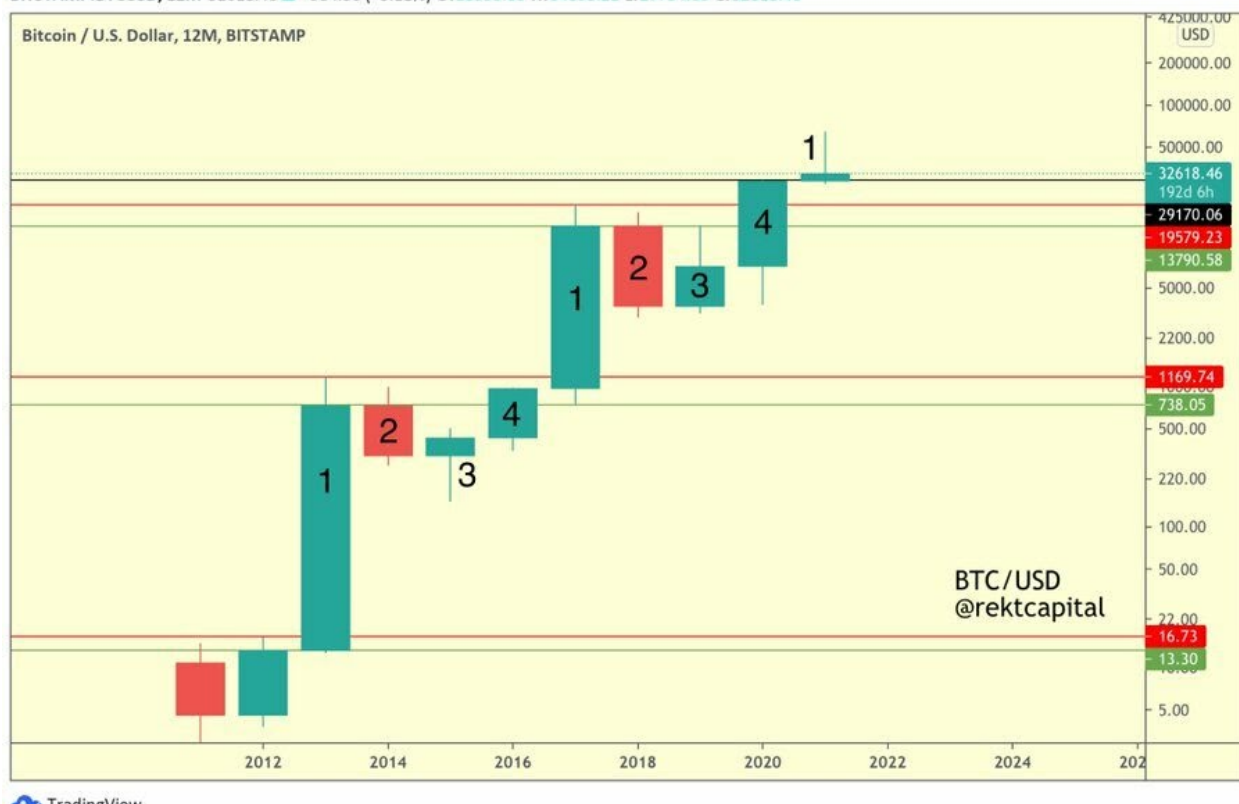
The superpower moves overshadowed, at least for the moment, positive news for cryptos centering around wider adoption in Central and South America.

But perhaps the overall takeaway is that Cryptos now have the full attention of the world. Even news that a major hedge fund folded due to losses on "naked short" bets against GameStop on Wall Street seemed like a side story.

LONGTIME CRYPTO HOLDERS ARE BUYING. The largest decentralized blockchain projects, Bitcoin and Ethereum, both saw mostly downward volatility continue. After dipping briefly below the \$30,000 mark, Bitcoin recovered to a trading range of 33 to 36-thousand. Likewise, Ethereum broke below \$2000.

Long-term holders of Bitcoin increased their stores last week, while short-term holders were selling. That's according to market analysts including Glassnode, which tracks activity of bitcoin addresses.

Long-term crypto investors aren't panicking. They're buying on the dips. An interesting chart shows some of the downturn and upturn cycles over the history of Bitcoin:



Source: Rektor Capital

The chart shows a “four-year cycle” of Bitcoin downturns. In order to be in line with previous downturns, Bitcoin would have to drop below 20-thousand. So far, that hasn’t happened.

Bitcoin and Ethereum remain a huge crypto focus, since together they directly represent around 70 percent of all decentralized block chain based projects. Add in crypto projects and tokens built off Ethereum’s “smart contract” software platform abilities, and that market cap number easily tops 80 percent.

CHINA HAS JUST MADE BITCOIN MINING EASIER. China succeeded in shutting down as much as 90 percent of Bitcoin mining in its country. But the move will actually result in cheaper and more efficient mining elsewhere.

Why? The reasons are literally built into Bitcoin’s protocol.

Why Bitcoin Miners Will Take Up The Slack

Two factors built into the Bitcoin protocol stand to make bitcoin mining more lucrative and less energy intensive for other miners.

The first factor involves the 21 million hard cap on the number of bitcoins that can ever be produced. The protocol reduces the total amount a miner can accumulate, based on the amount of miners, and remaining amount of bitcoin that can be mined.

The second factor has to do with Bitcoin network activity. The “hash rate” complexity of solving problems (called “proof of work”) in order to mine and transact bitcoin, and earn a portion as a reward, goes down when network activity drops off.

To sum up the effect of China’s crackdown move, the number of miners just went down, and so did network activity. The network will automatically respond by making bitcoin easier and more rewarding to mine. Kevin Zhang of the crypto mining firm Foundry explained the current situation on CNBC:

“As more hashrate falls off the network, difficulty will adjust downwards, and the hashrate that remains active on the network will receive more for their proportional share of the mining rewards.”

Of course, the market price of Bitcoin also affects the profitability of mining. But miners wouldn’t be engaged in the business to begin with if they didn’t believe the rewards would be there.

PARAGUAY FOLLOWING EL SALVADOR’S MOVE TO BITCOIN. This past Thursday, Paraguay became the second nation in the world to formally propose Bitcoin as legal tender.

Carlitos Rejala, a member of parliament who has been a vocal proponent of Bitcoin, verified the bill proposal. If the measure passes, Paraguay will become

the second country to recognize Bitcoin as its official currency. According to Carlitos, the bill will assist the country in the road to economic growth for the future generation.

The announcement comes at a time when Bitcoin prices have been pinned down by moves in the U.S. and China. One of the perverse outcomes for those superpowers is that Bitcoin is easier to accumulate at the moment for nations considering taking the plunge.

Central bank aligned entities including the IMF and its World Bank have also vocally opposed El Salvador's move. But the World Bank's own charter makes it clear they have no legal authority to stop countries from using Bitcoin for legal tender, as reported in our 22 June, 2021 **Trends Journal** article [“EURO THREATS NOT STOPPING CRYPTO MOVES.”](#)

South American countries have been more open to adopting Bitcoin because they believe it will offer them a competitive advantage over other countries and help them emerge as the next financial superpower.

Paraguay reportedly will bring its advantages in cheap renewable energy to play in mining bitcoin. Backers of the legislation believe Paraguay can become a crypto hub. Several stakeholders are collaborating with Rejala to submit measures to further those goals.

TAPROOT UPGRADE SET TO ADD VALUE TO BITCOIN. Taproot, a “Bitcoin Improvement Proposal” of upgrades that would improve Bitcoin scalability and security, has now been accepted by over 90 percent of Bitcoin miners, as of 12 June, 2021.

As previously noted in our 18 May, 2021 article [“WILL ‘TAPROOT’ UPGRADE HELP BTC REBOUND?”](#), Taproot improves some of the issues associated with the huge increase of use of the bitcoin blockchain network. Those issues involve computing power (and thus energy consumption) needed to process bitcoin transactions, speed of transactions, and transaction fee levels and privacy.

One of Taproot's innovations will speed transactions and improve scalability by shrinking transaction data. This will also result in making transaction processing more energy efficient.

But industry insiders also believe Taproot upgrades that introduce the ability to execute "smart contracts", similar to the Ethereum network, might be an even bigger deal.

Ethereum currently leads in the quickly exploding DeFi app market (Decentralized Finance apps that allow for decentralized lending etc.) due to its ability to host "smart contract" app building.

Now that over 90% of Bitcoin miners have approved, the Taproot update process has officially been set in motion. Miners will need to be operating with the upgrades by November.

Ethereum obviously has the lion's share of decentralized app building right now. But if developers begin using the new functionality Taproot provides to Bitcoin, the long term demand for the world's original decentralized crypto will likely be bolstered.

SPECIAL REPORT: NEW TOP TREND 2021: COVID WAR 2.0



SPECIAL REPORT COVID WAR 2.0: THE “DELTA” BLUES

As we reported last week, get ready for the COVID War 2.0. The new round of “COVID IS COMING BACK STRONGER THAN BEFORE” is the hype of the new “DEADLY” Delta strain that politicians and the media are, and will continue to sell to the public in their push for power, control... and to sell the “Get Your Vax” which will be the foundation of their agenda.

It is happening in Australia, where the vaxx rate is under 5 percent, no one has died of the virus this year, but they are again in lockdown mode because of a few “cases” of the deadly virus variant popping up.

So get ready for the Delta Variant Hysteria and the Winter Jab Push... as the following articles illustrate, it’s on its way.

MASK MANDATES AND SOCIAL DISTANCING SHOULD CONTINUE DUE TO VARIANTS, WHO SAYS



Dr. David Nabarro, the special envoy on COVID-19 for the World Health Organization, said in an interview Thursday that new variants of the virus will continue to emerge in the population so protective measures like wearing face masks and practicing social distancing should be

implemented indefinitely.

“We will go from Delta to Lambda and then onto the other Greek letters, that's inevitable, and some of these variants will be troublesome,” he told Sky News. “I'm basically saying variants are going to go on coming. That's part of life. We need to pick them up fast; we need to move quickly if we see them in a certain location; we need to build the management of variance into what we call our COVID-ready strategy, which is going to be the pattern for the foreseeable future.”

Nabarro pointed out that some of these new variants will be able to evade the protection offered by vaccines.

FAUCI CALLS DELTA VARIANT GREATEST RISK FOR RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE



Dr. Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, called the emerging Delta variant a cause for great concern and said it is the “greatest threat in the U.S. to our attempt to eliminate COVID-19.”

The variant was first reported in India and is up to 80 percent more transmissible than earlier variants. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the United Kingdom, which has a high vaccination rate, has seen five times the number of new cases in recent weeks. (More than four in five adults have received their first shot and over 60 percent are fully vaccinated, the National Health Service said.)

VARIANTS FORCE NEW RESTRICTIONS IN ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA



The governments of Australia and Israel put new restrictions in place in response to the spread of COVID-19 and the Delta variant that has raised concerns about the effectiveness of vaccines.

“We are now starting to see increases in transmission around the world,” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the head of the World Health Organization, said. A report in *The Wall Street Journal* said the variant is now in at least 85 countries and is expected to become the dominant strain in the U.S. by next month.

In the report, Indian officials said the Delta variant, which is also known as B.1.617.2, has mutated into what health officials have already called Delta Plus. There is no indication that Delta Plus is any more contagious or deadly than Delta.

Nachman Ash, the coronavirus czar in Israel, announced on Thursday that the country will reimpose the mask mandate and pointed to new outbreaks in Kfar Saba, Ramla, Herzliya, according to *The Times of Israel*. The Delta variant is believed to be in 70 percent of the new cases. Israel announced on June 15 that it would no longer enforce the indoor mask mandate.

Both Ash and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett have warned the public against traveling abroad unless it is absolutely essential. The report said that Ash

recommended anyone who's been in contact with someone infected to get tested right away, whether or not the person possibly exposed was vaccinated.

The paper reported that Bennett announced that the government will reestablish a coronavirus cabinet even though the country is one of the most vaccinated on earth, with about 80 percent of the adult population having received both Pfizer jabs. *The Journal's* report said that about half of all adults who have been infected with the virus were vaccinated.

More regions in Australia have also announced further restrictions due to the Delta variant. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the city of Darwin, which is in the northern part of the country, was placed on a 48-hour lockdown because 15 mine workers could not be located after returning from a job where there was an outbreak of four cases.

"The safest thing to do is to assume the worst, assume they are positive and assume there are exposure sites," Michael Gunner, the Northern Territory chief minister, said. Sydney also began a two-week lockdown on Saturday after an outbreak in Bondi, the beach suburb.

Gladys Berejiklian, the premier from New South Wales, called it the "scariest time that I felt since the pandemic started." She announced that a stay-at-home order will be implemented for the region. Videos emerged on social media that showed lines of shoppers inside supermarkets gearing up for the new restrictions. Berejiklian said a 3-day lockdown would not work when dealing with the Delta variant. She said that about 80 percent of the population will need to be vaccinated before she considered completely abandoning travel restrictions.

"This is in order for us to ensure that this doesn't take a hold for weeks and weeks, and we believe this is a proportionate response to the risk," Berejiklian said, according to NPR. She was asked by a reporter why she did not use the word "lockdown" in her description of what she was imposing, and she responded: "You can use whatever word you want."

Brad Hazzard, the state health minister, said the Delta variant is a “very formidable foe” and “very real and present danger.” He called the Delta variant a “new and more dangerous version of the virus.”

“No matter what defensive steps we’re taking at the moment, the virus seems to understand how to counter-attack,” he said.

Residents in metro Sydney were told not to leave the city and residents cannot have more than five visitors to their homes. People in the city will be forced to wear masks in any indoor setting outside their homes and singing will be banned at indoor venues, including places of worship.

Dr. Mariangela Simao, the World Health Organization’s assistant director-general, said those who are vaccinated should not “feel safe.”

“Vaccine alone won’t stop community transmission,” Simao said. “People need to continue to use masks consistently, be in ventilated spaces... hand hygiene, the physical distance, avoid crowding. This still continues to be extremely important, even if you’re vaccinated when you have a community transmission ongoing.”

The Delta variant has been called the fastest and fittest coronavirus strain yet as it can be “more lethal because it’s more efficient in the way it transmits between humans and it will eventually find those vulnerable individuals who will become severely ill, have to be hospitalized and potentially die,” Dr. Mike Ryan, the head of WHO’s health emergencies program, said.

Sydney, which has nearly 5 million residents, recorded 29 new cases on Thursday, just prior to the lockdown. On Friday, there were another 22 cases. This is the first time the city was placed on lockdown since December.

Law enforcement in the city said they will use various techniques to monitor the population, including license plate recognition technology. The Delta variant also prompted New Zealand to pause its quarantine-free travel bubble with Australia.

The BBC pointed out that this is the first time since the outbreak that the travel pause between countries includes all of Australia.

“I acknowledge the frustration and inconvenience that comes with this pause, but given the high level of transmissibility of what appears to be the Delta variant, and the fact that there are now multiple community clusters, it is the right thing to do to keep COVID-19 out of New Zealand,” said Chris Hipkins, New Zealand’s coronavirus response minister.

A traveler from Australia who was diagnosed with COVID-19’s Delta variant reportedly put the entire country of about 5 million on edge. The Associated Press reported that the island nation has had zero community transmissions in the past four months after taking a zero-tolerance approach to the virus.

New Zealand recorded a total of 2,720 cases since the start of the outbreak and 26 deaths, which accounts for about a 98.2 percent recovery rate, Al Jazeera reported.

The report pointed out that only about 13 percent of adults in the country have received the vaccine. The AP reported that there were zero confirmed new cases in the country, but authorities have said residents in about a dozen locations have been asked to self-isolate for two weeks.

TRENDPOST: Brad Hazzard, the New South Wales health minister, has been forced into isolation after possible exposure to COVID-19 despite the fact that he has been fully vaccinated with the AstraZeneca jab.

Other health officials have warned of the Delta variant and questions about the effectiveness of all vaccines, which circles back to the question: What was the point of getting vaccinated if you still have to wear masks and maintain social distancing? And if you are vaccinated, and are placed on lockdown, how are health officials supposed to gauge the effectiveness of these vaccines?

A recent report pointed to the United Kingdom, where about 81 percent of the population has received the first jab of the vaccine. There have been 12,000 cases a day there and 27 deaths on Thursday.

Professor Brendan Crabb, a microbiologist and director of the Burnet Institute, said in a recent interview that any change in disease transmission would require a “high proportion of people having two doses, and potentially a booster.”

Is anything short of zero new cases a failure and good reason to shut down entire cities?

Crabb’s assessment is far from encouraging. We see what is happening in Israel—which was the benchmark in getting jabs into the arms of its citizens. President Biden’s ambitious goal of getting 70 percent of American adults at least one jab before the Fourth of July will not happen.

Most people who have received the vaccine did so grudgingly, with the hope of returning to how life was when the New Year’s Eve ball dropped in 2020. But we are slowly learning that that will not happen, and health officials will still force restrictions, even for the vaccinated population.

Americans will not get shots if they will still be sentenced to mask-wearing.

DELTA VARIANT THROWS NEW OBSTACLE IN WAY OF EU RECOVERY



Vaccine distribution was supposed to be the golden ticket for the European Union to reopen and revitalize its battered economy after a year of COVID-19 shutdowns, but the Delta variant and its ability to spread has jeopardized any smooth road to recovery.

PORTUGAL: The Delta variant has been blamed on about 70 percent of new cases in Lisbon and 51 percent of cases across other parts of the country, which health officials say shows how quickly the virus can spread.

The country has vaccinated about 30 percent of its population and the outbreak has prompted new calls to speed up the process. Lisbon, a city of about 500,000 residents currently has 71 patients in ICUs, which account for 86 percent of the beds designated for virus patients, Reuters reported.

The report said restaurants in Lisbon are back on a curfew and the country has been identified as a “virus-variant zone,” which will spark new travel restrictions to other E.U. countries.

U.K.: Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that restrictions on large events will continue to be in place until at least 19 July due to the Delta variant.

NPR, citing Public Health England, reported that 99 percent of the cases in the U.K. are the Delta variant. The report pointed out that 81.6 percent of adults in the U.K. have received at least one vaccine dose.

The Wall Street Journal reported that those vaccinated appear to do well if they contract the variant, and even though there were 75,953 cases last week, the numbers of deaths have been steady.

The concern in the E.U. is that if the strain becomes dominant and infects those who have yet to receive the vaccination, it could result in another wave similar to last summer. The British government pushed back plans to lift some restrictions in response to the new cases until mid-July.

ITALY: The Italian Health Ministry said Friday that the Delta variant is spreading quickly throughout the country and asked local authorities to increase their sequencing and tracing efforts, according to [thelocal.it](https://www.thelocal.it).

The report said the Delta and Kappa variants increased by nearly 17 percent since June. The report said the Italian government was accused of downplaying

Delta's risk, and assuming that the country's vaccination effort would be enough to ward off more infections. There is also concern that only a quarter of the Italian population is fully vaccinated.

"You can't control the COVID pandemic only with vaccines, masks, and distancing. Today, the Delta variant requires tracing and sequencing," Anna Teresa Palamara, the director of the Higher Health Institute's infectious diseases department, said.

The country is now considered to be in the "white zone," which has the loosest restrictions. Roberto Speranza, the health minister, said it is encouraging but warned about the new variants.

"The battle is not yet won," he said, according to [WantedinRome.com](https://www.wantedinrome.com).

GERMANY: Health officials in Germany said they want to continue to push the country's vaccination effort to fight off the emerging Delta variant.

Jens Spahn, the country's health minister, said the vaccination campaign is essential for the country to emerge from COVID restrictions. The country estimates that within a few weeks, its vaccine supply will outpace demand, at which point the government will begin offering shots to random people on the street and in places of worship.

Reuters reported that 53 percent of Germans have received the first vaccine jab and roughly a third of the population is fully vaccinated. Health officials in the country have said the goal is to vaccinate 80 percent of the population so there is a basic level of protection by the time the Delta variant becomes the dominant strain by the autumn. (The European Center for Disease Prevention and Control estimates that the Delta variant will account for 90 percent of all COVID-19 infections by September. The health body said there is a risk of seeing similar numbers to last fall.)

Berlin announced last week that it banned arrivals from "coronavirus variant" countries like Portugal and Russia. DW.com reported that beginning Tuesday,

only German citizens can travel to Germany from these 14 countries. Visitors from these countries—regardless of whether or not they took a COVID test—will need to be in quarantine for two weeks.

Angela Merkel, the chancellor, said the entire bloc is on “thin ice” due to the variant. She said there are clear reasons to be optimistic, but the “pandemic isn’t over.”

“We need to remain vigilant. In particular, the newly arising variants, especially now the Delta variant, are a warning for us to continue to be careful,” she said.

DENMARK: Health officials in Copenhagen announced five cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant in the country and said those who attended the Euro 2020 match on 17 June in the city should be tested, according to the Associated Press. The report said that everyone who was at the game in question had to show documents that they were COVID-19 negative before the match.

The AP reported that Denmark, a country of nearly six million, has recorded 247 cases of the new variant. Three of the cases were tied to the match between Denmark and Belgium.

“These three people who were infected during the match, as well as their close contacts and the close contacts of their close contacts have been informed,” Anette Lykke Petri, the director of the Danish Agency for Patient Safety, told the AFP.

Health officials have said that the Delta variant can be around 60 percent more transmissible than the infectious Alpha variant and is considered to be at least partially resistant to vaccines. *Nature* magazine, citing a study conducted by Public Health England, reported that a single dose of AstraZeneca and Pfizer’s vaccines reduced an individual’s risk of developing symptoms by 33 percent, compared to 50 percent for the Alpha variant. Both jabs of the Pfizer vaccine were 88 percent effective against the variant.

A study from Scotland's University of Strathclyde showed that the Delta variant increases the risk of hospitalization for those infected by nearly 50 percent. Vaccinations, the report said, provides about 70 percent protection from hospitalization, Politico EU reported.

"The Delta variant does increase the risk of hospitalization," Jim McMenamin, COVID-19 National Incident Director for Public Health Scotland, said, according to the report. "However, what we are able to see from the information available to us is that our vaccines are still highly effective."

NORTHERN IRELAND: Scientists in Belfast say the Delta variant will be the dominant variant in Northern Ireland by the end of the month, according to the BBC.

The Public Health Agency announced that there have been 612 cases of infections with the Delta variant and health officials there have deployed mobile vaccine units to get more shots into the arms of residents. Despite the jump in new cases, the report pointed out that there are only 13 patients hospitalized with the disease.

Dr. Alan Stout, the head of the Northern Ireland General Practitioners' Committee, warned that health workers are noticing a similar pattern of infections across the United Kingdom.

"We're not seeing the hospital admissions and we're not seeing the deaths, so that has shown us that the vaccine is immensely successful in terms of protecting against serious illness," he told the BBC. "We're hoping—and this is where we need to buy that time over the next week to two weeks and into the early summer-- to make sure those patterns remain."

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



HAVE VAXX, WILL TRAVEL (BACK TO OFFICE)

When the COVID War broke out in the winter of 2020, we had forecast that, with offices locked down and people working from home, the commercial real estate sector in big cities would be hit hard.

We have been updating that forecast continually, for example, in December 2020 we had assessed the implication on the commercial real estate market in our article, ["NYC COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SUFFERS."](#)

The trend is global. In a report released yesterday by commercial brokerage CBRE Limited, office vacancies in downtown Toronto were up 10 percent, their highest point since 2008, as more people work from home and companies, wanting to cut back on expenses, shrink the workplace spaces.

In last week's 22 June 2021 Trends Journal, ["WORK-FROM-HOME: 21st CENTURY MEGA-TREND,"](#) we noted that while many of the COVID-19 restrictions were being lifted and life was, in many ways, returning to the new ABnormal, workers who had made the transition to "working from home" were

not returning to their offices, leaving vast swaths of office space unoccupied and unused.

We also noted that the Wall Street Gang and the Bankster Mob, which are invested in commercial real estate and hold large loans from commercial real estate firms, are bucking the trend, pushing their people to come back to work. Among them was NYC-based investment bank Morgan Stanley, whose CEO had issued a strong directive to employees that they were to be back at their desks at the company's headquarters near Times Square by Labor Day.

And, as the *Wall Street Journal* reported, no vax, don't come to work. Employees must show proof they got the shots before entering Morgan Stanley buildings in New York

Reaffirming our 1 June 2021 article, ["NO JAB, NO JOB"](#), starting 12 July only those with proof of the Operation Warped Speed shot can enter Morgan Stanley buildings in New York City and Westchester County.

Other big NYC financial firms have similar plans and vaxx policies for bringing workers back to the office. Goldman Sachs Group has already brought back thousands, and is requiring them to report their vaccination status. Wells Fargo & Co. workers will be returning after Labor Day, and are being asked to voluntarily disclose if they've been vaccinated.

No Jab, No Job OK with EEOC

TRENDPOST: *In the New ABnormal, freedom of choice is now considered, "non-essential." The United States, once the Land of Free, had its bureaucratic agency, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, declare that employers, colleges, etc., have every right to impose forced vaxxed requirements. At this point, they do allow no-vax accommodations for those who have disability or religious reasons to remain unvaccinated.*

As for those who work for Morgan Stanly that refuse the shot, the CEO said, "We'll deal with that when we get there."

COVID WAR MAKES THE RICH RICHER



As the **Trends Journal** stated, when the COVID War was launched and politicians closed down “non-essential” small businesses while giving free financial reign to the “essential” multinationals and the Wall Street Gang, the rich would get richer. They

did and they are still getting richer, while the poor keep getting poorer. As we had reported, the University of Chicago and the University of Notre Dame research shows the poverty rate in the United States surged from 9.3 percent in June 2020 to 11.7 percent, notching up the biggest increase in a single year since the government began tracking poverty in 1960.

Globally, according to ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), the total number of poor people rose to 209 million by the end of 2020, which is 22 million more people than in the previous year.

And now, according to an article appearing 23 June in the *Financial Times*, a new Credit Suisse report, co-authored by economists Anthony Shorrocks, James Davies and Rodrigo Lluberas, notes that some of the greatest increases in wealth in the last year have occurred in those countries most affected by COVID-19. In the U.S. and Europe, for example, total wealth increased by about 10 percent.

More Millionaires, More Multi-Millionaires

Some 5.2 million people became millionaires (in U.S. dollars) in the past year; about a third of them from the U.S. At the same time, global membership in the “net worth of \$50 million or more club” has increased by almost 25 percent, bringing that number up to over 215,000.

Part of this is attributable to inflation, causing the value of assets to rise. Higher valuations of residential property and equity raised the global aggregate household net worth (calculated on assets minus debts) by 4.1 percent, to about \$418.3 trillion, despite the economic damage and personal hardship wrought by the draconian lockdown rules which destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions.

As to the wealth gap, the report found that it had grown larger on the whole as well as in most countries. Some 2.9 trillion persons, about 55 percent of the world's adult population, had net assets of less than \$10,000.

The wealthiest people have seen the most benefit from the COVID War, as we reported in the June 2020 article, ["BILLIONAIRES REAP PANDEMIC PROFITS."](#) The Credit Suisse report states that the increase in wealth among those whose worth already exceeded \$50 million would be "a very high rise in any year, but it is striking in a year experiencing social and economic turmoil."

TREND FORECAST: As Gerald Celente has long forecast, “when people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” The poorer people become, the higher crime rates will rise and so too will anti-establishment political movements. There will also be sharp increases in demonstrations and protests in nations where the rich have gotten much richer and poverty, crime, government corruption and violence have dramatically increased.

DARING TO DOUBT VACCINE EFFICACY



Did you know that COVID-19 statistics show that vaccinated people are hospitalized and die at a rate almost double that of unvaccinated people?

And this has nothing to do with the issue of adverse side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines, but only with the efficacy of the vaccine in protecting against infection.

When a person who's been vaccinated against COVID-19 tests positive for the virus and shows symptoms, that's called a breakthrough case.

Non-symptomatic cases don't count.

We first wrote about breakthrough cases on 13 April 2021, in ["'BREAKTHROUGH': NEW TERM FOR VACCINE FAILURE."](#) And such breakthrough cases prove fatal almost twice as frequently as do cases in which the patient has not been vaccinated.

This is the conclusion reached by "Doc Robinson," a contributor to the Comments section of Automatic Earth.com, and re-posted there on 24 June by Raúl Ilargi Meijer. The conclusion is based on review and analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control. And it's a conclusion that certainly flies in the face of what Meijer calls the "it's all safe" point of view that is promulgated by the media, industry, government etc.

TRENDPOST: *Even the CDC data may be questionable, because the testing procedures and standards that inform such data have been re-defined and otherwise changed, as we noted on 25 May, in ["CDC CHANGES TESTING TO ERASE 'BREAKTHROUGH' CASES."](#)*

In any event, if you'd like to review the post on AutomaticEarth.com, and see the statistics upon which the conclusion was based, make your own interpretations and reach your own conclusions, click on ["THE RISKS TO THE FULLY VACCINATED."](#)

YET ANOTHER REASON FOR VACCINE HESITANCY



While Presstitutes, “celebrities,” and politicians keep selling the line that the COVID-19 vaccines are benign and have no downsides, proof, while often suppressed, keeps mounting as to devastating “side effects.”

A Centers for Disease Control committee has found a "likely association" between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and the occurrence of rare heart inflammation in adolescents and young adults.

Trends Journal has been reporting on vaccine "caution flags" ever since the various COVID vaccines, which were approved for use faster than any other vaccines in history, were declared the primary weapon in the COVID War, such as reported in our December 2020 article, ["COVID VACCINE: SCIENTISTS WARN 'CAUTION',"](#) or our 19 January 2021 article, ["COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS."](#)

Inflammation of the Heart and Its Membranes

The findings by the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices, as reported by CNBC on 23 June, indicate that, as of 11 June, 267 cases of myocarditis (an inflammation of the heart muscle) or pericarditis (an inflammation of the membrane which surrounds the heart) have been reported after one dose of the vaccines, and 827 cases reported after two doses. There have also been 132 cases in which the number of doses is unknown.

Most of the cases involve men under 30. The symptoms involve chest pain and shortness of breath, and usually present within 4 days to a week of vaccination. Most cases were mild, but nine people were still hospitalized and two were in intensive care as of 11 June. Of those discharged, 79 percent have fully recovered.

So, statistically, this particular side effect of these particular vaccines is still rare. Of some 300 million shots administered by 11 June, the rate of incidence is only 12.6 per million. But the CDC continues to investigate, in cooperation with the FDA, which in May authorized the Pfizer vaccine for those aged 12 to 15, an age group whose risk factors for COVID-19 are thought by many statisticians to be minuscule, as we reported in November 2020: ["CRUCIAL COVID DATA IGNORED BY PRESSTITUTES."](#)

Far more serious side effects, such as Vaccine-Induced Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia (VITT), a recently-identified cerebrovascular syndrome, have been associated with the Astrazeneca vaccine. While also rare, such side effects can certainly contribute to the phenomena of vaccine suspicion and "vaccine hesitancy," which we wrote about in, for example, our September 2020 article, ["ANTI-VACCINATION MOVEMENT IS GROWING."](#)

Also, see DARING TO DOUBT VACCINE EFFICACY, in this issue of the **Trends Journal**.

CDC VS BIG PHARMA: COVID BOOSTER SHOTS FOR ALL?



In this issue, we reported on findings by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices about heart inflammation showing up as vaccine side-effects (See, YET ANOTHER REASON FOR VACCINE HESITANCY).

But also reported by CNBC on 23 June are more of that same committee's findings, this time on the need for COVID vaccine booster shots.

While the CDC is recommending that the COVID booster shots may be beneficial to more vulnerable segments of the population, such as the elderly,

transplant recipients or persons with weakened immune systems, there are currently no plans for them to recommend or call for booster shots for the general population.

This is in stark contrast to what we were told by America's so called preeminent COVID authority, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as in our 1 June 2021 article, ["FAUCI DECLARES TWO COVID JABS NOT ENOUGH."](#) We also reported his other "pearls of wisdom" in July 2020's ["FAUCI THE FEARMONGER."](#) Booster shots have also been a big part of Pfizer's and BioNTech's plans to keep supplying the world with a steady stream of COVID vaccines through at least 2023, as we reported on 8 June in ["DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING."](#)

In fact, in April, the head of Pfizer said it's possible people will need to get vaccinated against the coronavirus annually.

He's not the only drug dealer CEO to be pushing the annual jab: The comment comes after Johnson & Johnson CEO Alex Gorsky told CNBC in February that "people may need to get vaccinated against COVID-19 annually, [just like seasonal flu shots](#). Researchers still don't know how long protection against the virus lasts once someone has been fully vaccinated."

TREND FORECAST: *With the CDC and other "health experts" selling the newer, more dangerous COVID variants such as the Delta variant, we forecast they'll change their tune.*

As for these new reports from big drug dealer CEOs saying third doses are likely needed and people should be prepared to get vaccinated for COVID every year, there is solid, scientific reasoning to question whether their profit motives outweigh their concern for the public's health.

As stated clearly in a 2012 article published in The Independent, "The multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical industry has spent the last decade developing new drugs which have produced little benefit and caused considerable harm, experts say today."

The article cited data showing drug companies spend significantly more on advertising and promotion than they do on research for new and better medicines. The article was titled, “Drugs companies putting profit ahead of medical discoveries, warn scientists.”

Yet those who are hesitant to get vaccinated are called “irrational” and “conspiracy theorists” for doubting pharmaceutical companies and refusing to be jabbed with a vaccine that has not been tested for long-term reactions and has questionable efficacy.

In addition, the FDA, which is supposedly vigilant in its protection of the American public, has backed the big drug dealers’ drugs that the CDC says are deadly: “Prescription drugs have become the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. They kill more Americans than breast cancer, prostate cancer, homicide, and suicide combined.”

And Harvard University confirms that “When you start a new drug, you have a 1 in 5 chance of having a major health problem caused by the medication.

NOVA SCOTIA BACKS DOWN FROM NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AFTER PROTESTS



Nova Scotia’s Premier Iain Rankin announced on Thursday that he will not impose new COVID-19 restrictions in the province after protesters shut down the Trans Canada Highway in response to new restrictions announced two days earlier.

Rankin had previously planned to impose new restrictions on those traveling from New Brunswick into the province. He clarified that he decided after a conversation with his counterpart in New Brunswick and after weighing new

information (see our 25 May, 2021 article “[NOVA SCOTIA: MINOR # OF DEATHS MAJOR LOCKDOWN](#)”).

He announced that residents in his province can visit New Brunswick at will and vice versa, CTV News reported. The report said the change will take a week to implement because there is a need to monitor the infection rate in New Brunswick. (see our 11 May, 2021 article “[CANADA LOCKDOWN LUNACY, GESTAPO 2.0](#)”).

The report said that visitors from outside the Atlantic Region will be forced to complete a form. Those who have been vaccinated at least 14 days before the visit will not have to self-isolate.

Cpl. Chris Marshall from the Nova Scotia RCMP, told the news outlet that the protest on the Trans Canada Highway spanned hours and three arrests were made after it “became apparent, after a number of hours... that dialogue alone wasn’t going to work.”

The report said Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin, who was in the Conservative Party of Canada, was abandoned by her party after being accused of being a major player in the blockade across the highway.

She had posted a video on Facebook telling fellow politicians that she has had enough of the restrictions and if they were not revoked, she would be out there with the other protesters.

Lori Turnbull, the director of the School of Public Administration at Dalhousie University, told the CBC that she agreed that the Conservative Party failed to take advantage of Rankin’s “wobbly management” in the past week.

“This could have been a positive week for the PCs, in the sense that the premier has flip-flopped a couple of times, even if you could make the argument that he had a good reason, people are frustrated,” she said. But she said the party lost control and “the story ended up being about them, which is the thing that the opposition is never supposed to do.”

TREND FORECAST: As evidenced, the more people that protest against draconian COVID War lockdown laws that have destroyed the lives and livelihoods across the globe, the faster politicians will backtrack on enforcing them.

Yet, in America, there is mostly obedience and little outrage among the masses. However, in the U.K. protests continue as hundreds of thousands keep taking to the streets in opposition to their loss of freedom and liberty as evidenced last Saturday in this [video](#) by Jason Liosatos and [Reform TV](#).

The demonstrations were barely mentioned in western media and when covered, they provided few facts and numbers.

ESTONIAN LEADER WARNS OF AUTHORITARIAN BENT



Estonia, the smallest of the Baltic States, has, since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, become a member of the E.U. and NATO and a champion of liberal democracy. So it may come as little surprise that Estonia's prime minister, Kaja Kallas, knows authoritarianism when she

sees it, and is voicing a warning.

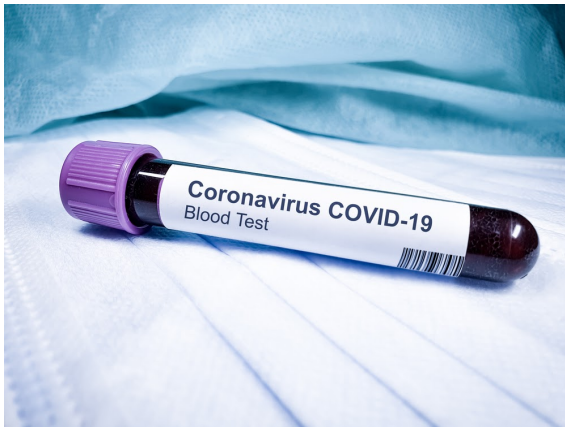
Kallas told the *Financial Times* on 25 June that the COVID War has exposed the urge for authoritarianism, in leaders who get a taste of power and are reluctant to relinquish it, and in people who crave a strong hand telling them what they can and can't do.

And this is why, she said, some countries that were quick to curtail people's freedoms in order to control the virus are now slow to restore those freedoms, even as vaccination rates increase and the epidemiological threat recedes. It's

"more convenient" for them to hold onto and continue to exercise that power. Her warning is that hanging onto such authoritarian measures may do lasting harm to democracies.

Estonians suffered in particular under COVID travel restrictions imposed by neighboring Finland, restrictions that Finland eased after Kallas's *FT* interview.

COVID "DEATH RATE" TAKES ANOTHER HIT



Another large study is showing that unreported cases of COVID were much more widespread in the U.S. in 2020 than estimated by the CDC.

The real world data blows another hole in the narrative concerning the dangers of the virus and the “warp speed” rush to authorize and administer controversial experimental vaccines.

According to the study, published in [Science Translational Medicine](#), about 16.8 million cases of COVID infections were undiagnosed by mid-July.

Blood samples tested from 462,949 volunteers between May and July showed much higher seropositivity rates for antibodies to the SARS-Cov-2 virus than the CDC has estimated. That’s important, because the CDC has computed death rates from modeling and estimates of infection. If the actual infections have been higher than CDC’s estimates, that means the overall COVID death rate, already well below one percent, shrinks even further.

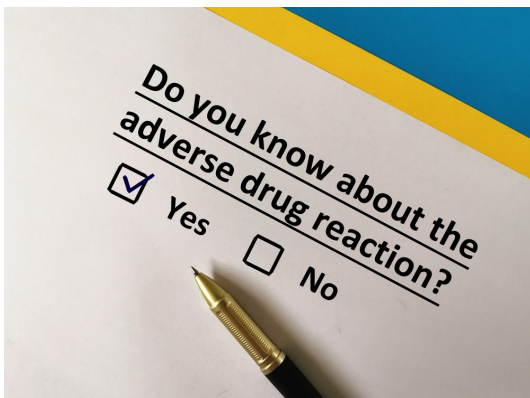
“These data indicate that there were 4.8 undiagnosed SARS-CoV-2 infections for every diagnosed case of COVID-19,” said the scientists who conducted the study. “Our data suggest a larger spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States during the first six months than originally thought.”

Our **Trends Journal** article of 23 March 2021, [“NEW STUDY: HALF OF COVID CASES UNREPORTED”](#), previously reported that nearly half of COVID cases in 2020 likely went unreported.

As of June 21, 2021, New York has reported the highest deaths from COVID-19 of any state, at 294 per 100,000 of population. Most states outside of large Northeastern metro areas have reported much lower rates, according to [Statistica.com](#). 27 states have rates lower than 200 per 100,000 of population. And 8 states have rates lower than 100 per 100,000 of population.

Statistica’s data is compiled from reports by states and counties at the time of publication.

VACCINE FAST FACTS



The CDC this past week acknowledged that over 1,200 cases of heart conditions including myocarditis or pericarditis had been reported so far, mostly in people 30, as a result of taking COVID vaccines. That number included over 350 of heart inflammation cases in teens.

But despite saying there was a “likely association” between the heart maladies and experimental vaccines, the CDC continued to advise young people to get vaccinated.

“Clinical presentation of myocarditis cases following vaccination has been distinct, occurring most often within one week after dose two, with chest pain as the most common presentation,” said Dr. Grace Lee, chair of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices safety group.

According to CDC numbers, 2,767 people ages 12 to 29 years old have died from COVID, since it first showed up in the U.S., said Lee. That represents a period of about 17 months.

Vaccines have only been widely distributed for the past five months, and have only been authorized for teens aged 12 to 15, since 13 May, 2021.

Overall, reports of adverse events from the mRNA and DNA vaccines are now unprecedented in the history of vaccines.

Through 18 June, 2021, there have been 387,288 reports registered in VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Reporting System), the official vaccine event database of the CDC and FDA.

Those numbers include:

- 6,136 deaths
- 6,450 life threatening events
- 9,766 blood clots and strokes
- 5,194 disabled
- 2,483 heart attacks
- 17,408 severe allergic reactions
- 21,806 hospitalizations
- 51,575 urgent care visits

In Europe, the EudraVigilance database used to record vaccine events shows that through 19 June, 2021 there have been 15,472 reported deaths and 1,509,266 from experimental COVID vaccines from four different pharmaceuticals, including Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson (Jansen in Europe), Astrazeneca and Moderna.

Vaccination rates

So far in the U.S., 322 million doses of vaccine have been given. It's estimated that about 51 percent of Americans have been vaccinated. Canada, a 46 percent, isn't far behind.

Many areas of Central and South America are currently much more lightly vaccinated. Mexico stands at 16.8 percent, and Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala are all under 3 percent. Brazil and Argentina, the largest South American countries, both have vaccination rates that stand at about half of the U.S. rate.

Most of Western Europe stands at between 40 and 53 percent of the population vaccinated. Sweden is somewhat lower, at 35 percent.

Russia and China are much more lightly vaccinated than the U.S., which has not received much news play. Both have vaccinated under 15 percent of their populations.

In the rest of the world, Israel led in vaccinations, and it now appears they are leading in medical issues for their population, in terms of serious viral outbreaks at a time of year that isn't normal in that country. Turkey and Saudi Arabia have vaccinated about a quarter of their populations.

Much of Africa and the far east remain overall among the mostly lightly vaccinated areas in the world.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



BOMBS AWAY: BIDEN RAMPS UP WAR

Without congressional approval and in clear violation of America's Constitution, President Biden on Sunday ordered two bombing raids on Syria and one in Iraq killing soldiers and civilians.

The Pentagon mouthpiece, John Kirby, said the strikes were “necessary, appropriate, and deliberate” and essential to protect U.S. troops stationed in Iraq. He also said, “the United States acted pursuant to its right of self-defense.”

The Associated Press reported that Iran-backed factions in Iraq called for revenge over the airstrikes and said in a joint statement that they will “avenge the blood of our righteous martyrs against the perpetrators of this heinous crime.”

A spokesman from the Iraq Foreign Ministry said the airstrikes will disrupt the security in the region. As we reported back in March, in an article titled, “[ISRAEL STRIKES SYRIA—U.S. JOINS THE FIGHT](#),” Biden signed off on airstrikes in Syria in response to rocket attacks against U.S. personnel and coalition forces in Iraq.

Mary Ellen O’Connell, a law professor at Notre Dame and expert on the lawful use of force, said the strikes ordered by Biden were a “grave violation of international law.”

When President Biden was asked about the airstrikes when he returned to the White House from Camp David, he told the Presstitutes, “I’ll talk to you tomorrow.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi blessed the airstrikes and said they were “targeted and proportional” and “Protecting the military heroes who defend our freedoms is a sacred priority.”

Mahmoud Abdelwahed, who works for *Al Jazeera*, called the airstrikes by the U.S. “significant.”

“The PMF [Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces] say that they will attack American military facilities with missiles,” he said. “Politicians affiliated with the PMF have also been tweeting, saying the United States only understands the language of force.”

No Nuke Deal

The airstrikes were ordered while the Biden administration tries to revive talks about the 2015 Iran nuclear deal after recent setbacks, including the presidential election win of hardliner Ebrahim Raisi.

The Washington Post reported that there have been six rounds of negotiations in Vienna and there have been no breakthroughs. The paper reported that Raisi has shown no interest in holding talks with the U.S.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Yair Lapid, the Israeli foreign minister, on Sunday and Lapid expressed “serious reservations” about the Biden administration’s desire to return to the nuclear deal.

"Israel has some serious reservations about the Iran nuclear deal that is being put together in Vienna," Lapid said from a hotel in Rome, where the two were meeting. "We believe the way to discuss those disagreements is through direct and professional conversations, not in press conferences."

TRENDPOST: *The White House claims that Article II of the U.S. Constitution gives Biden the right to bomb anyone and any nation he wants at any time. However, Article II stipulates that when a war is launched the president is the commander in chief. It does not empower the president to launch wars.*

In fact, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, states only "The Congress shall have Power...to declare war."

Thus, Biden's bombing is in direct violation of the Constitution, yet the mainstream media swallow the White House lies and refer to those who were killed by Americans, who are fighting the U.S. invaders, as "militants."

Also absent from the coverage by the Presstitutes is that the White House mouthpiece Kirby's statement that "the United States acted pursuant to its right of self-defense," is an outright lie.

America had invaded and occupied Iraq on former President George W. Bush's lie that Saddam Hussain had weapons of mass destruction and has illegally invaded and occupied parts of Syria on former President Barack Obama's demand that it's President, Bashar al-Assad, "has to go."

TRENDPOST: *In our 26 January article, ["BIDEN PRESIDENCY = OBAMA 2021,"](#) we pointed out that defense chief Lloyd Austin occupied a seat on several corporate boards including Raytheon Technologies, one of the country's largest military contractors.*

And Avril D. Haines, the director of National Intelligence, served as the Deputy National Security Advisor in the Obama administration, which, according to Democracy Now!, authorized drone strikes to "carry out targeted extrajudicial assassinations."

THE BLINKEN AND MACRON SIDESHOW



Circa 1959, The Kingston Trio had a hit song called "Raspberries, Strawberries." It started with the line, "A young man goes to Paris, as every young man should," and later contains the line, "An old man returns to Paris, as every old man must."

An article in *The New York Times* might have included those lines as it fawned over Antony

Blinken, who, the *NYT* article informs us, had "a life-changing experience" when he lived in Paris from age 9 to 18, considers it a "sacred home," and who returned to Paris for his first visit as U.S. Secretary of State and met with President Emmanuel Macron on 25 June.

The 26 June *NYT* article tells of Sec. Blinken's evident emotion when speaking of the bond between America and its oldest ally; gushing over how America and France have worked together "to actually give meaning to liberty, equality, fraternity. They've tried to give meaning to freedom of speech. They've tried to give meaning to human rights. They've tried to give meaning to democracy."

Either suffering from dementia, totally ignorant of World Wars I, II and Germany's launching "Operation Barbarossa" 80 years ago that killed over 30 million eastern Europeans, the Holocaust, etc. ... or just full of shit, the day before his meeting with Macron, Blinken told German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the U.S. has "no better friend in the world than Germany." In Paris, he would say the same thing about France.

"We Will Stand Up"

The meeting between Blinken and Macron was largely about China, and Blinken stated that he and the French president were "on the same page" in terms of not wanting to "contain China" or to "hold China back," but to nevertheless present a united front determined to resist a Chinese-led world order. When it comes to defending a free and open international order, "We will stand up," Blinken declared. The alternative, he said, would be either a world of chaos, or of Chinese domination.

Trump Bad, Biden Good

The *NYT* article also makes sure to paint the Biden administration's foreign policy as a distinct improvement over that of President Donald Trump, stating that Trump "disparaged traditional alliances, started trade wars and resisted confronting Russian aggression," and claiming that U.S. allies are "relieved" to have Joe Biden now directing U.S. foreign policy "back in more familiar directions." However, they claim "their experience with Mr. Trump has left them warier than ever of following Washington's lead."

TRENDPOST: The ***Trends Journal*** article of 2 February 2021, "[MORE CENSORSHIP](#)," tells how Macron went from currying favor with Trump to, once Trump was no longer in office, parroting Democrat talking points about how Trump was "unscrupulous," had used social media platforms to spread hate, and deserved to be censored.

TREND FORECAST: As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century, the 21st will be China's. And as we have detailed, China has, and will, continue to aggressively assert its influence both economically and militarily across the globe...particularly in rare earth mineral, commodity-rich Africa.

And while Macron played the act that he supported the U.S., he has taken positions more conciliatory than the U.S. toward China, and is not a fan of NATO confronting China. Also, Macron has insisted that Europe participate in arms control talks between the U.S. and Russia. He has spoken of the importance of Europe's strategic autonomy, so the article properly characterizes his appearing to stand in solidarity with the U.S. as "surprising."

CHINA KILLS HONG KONG NEWSPAPER, U.S. SEIZES IRANIAN PRESS SITES



Last Thursday, the *Apple Daily*, the 26-year-old Hong Kong newspaper published its last edition, as well as stopped updating its website, citing "employee safety and staffing issues" for the shutdown.

The newspaper had become known for its pro-democracy stance and had expressed unbridled criticism of the Beijing regime until authorities began a crackdown on dissent, which became untenable.

"Crackdown" is a word that comes up frequently in any story of how Beijing is dealing with Hong Kong, now that the former British colony is under full control of the Communist Party of China (CCP).

As in our 2 March 2021 article, ["HONG KONG CRACKDOWN,"](#) in which we noted that **Trends Journal** publisher Gerald Celente has, on many occasions, appeared in Hong Kong media and has long predicted Beijing would rule Hong Kong with an iron fist.

The paper's majority owner, Jimmy Lai, is in jail, and last week journalists' computers were seized, the company's assets were frozen, and two of its executives were charged with violation of a national security law that Beijing imposed last year for the purpose of quashing dissent.

And yesterday, an *Apple* senior journalist was arrested by Hong Kong police on a suspected national security offence as he was trying to catch a flight out of Hong Kong.

Not a Peep from the Presstitutes

In the meantime, last Wednesday the United States government seized some 33 Iranian news websites including *Press TV*, a popular English-speaking site. Under the Emergency Economic Powers Act, declaring this a national emergency and an “extraordinary threat” to the “national security ... of the United States,” not only did the U.S. government lock them down in American, they blocked them worldwide.

TREND FORECAST: *From big tech to the central governments...the repression of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of thought have become the new way of the world. Indeed, for decades we have forecast this trend, and as economies decline, social tensions increase, and wars – civil, regional and global – escalate, these freedoms will continue to erode.*

CHINA: BIRTH LIMITS OUT, EDUCATION LIMITS IN



China, the country known for imposing strict limits on the number of offspring produced, is relaxing those limits in order to deal with a demographic imbalance, while at the same time exercising more control over children's education.

The Wall Street Journal, in an article appearing 25 June, reports that a once-in-a-decade census published in May revealed that China is facing a shrinkage in its working-age population along with an increase in older people.

Concern Over Falling Birth Rate

Also in May, at a meeting of the Communist Party's Politburo, President Xi Jinping said that China's falling birthrate was a potential threat to the country's national security. The government later announced that married couples would

now be permitted to have up to three children, although doing away with birth limits altogether is under consideration.

Education for All

The government is also imposing tighter regulations on private education, to ensure that education remains under control of the state. China now has a significant urban population with enough money to invest in their children's education, and this has created a boom in private tutoring.

As noted in our article of 8 June, ["SMART LAMP' A BIG HIT IN CHINA,"](#) “Chinese parents have always felt immense societal pressure over their children’s education.” But now the Chinese government is not so sure that such pressure is a good thing.

Private education has flourished with the help of investments from Chinese technology companies. Now private education is being regulated by the state; no longer, for example, will private tutoring be permitted to take place during school holidays.

There will be new licensing requirements for teachers at private schools, government restrictions on homework loads, and even guidelines for after-school activities, all under the control of the Education Ministry.

And the competition to get one's child into a top school has resulted in real estate speculation in the most desirable school districts, heating up an already stressed housing market.

TRENDPOST: *The government's reaction is to enact more regulations because it sees private education and the real estate frenzies as driving up the overall cost of education and thus impeding its goal of encouraging more births.*

And while in the United States, where anti-trust regulations that prohibited monopolies and oligopolies from controlling commerce have been dismantled, in communist China, the country's technology industry is under attack by the State

Administration for Market Regulation, which is on an anti-monopoly mission and has levied millions of dollars in fines on educational startups backed by technology firms.

Thus, to address its demographic dilemma and ostensibly to drive down the cost of education, China is, it seems, at war with both private education and its own technology sector as its mission appears to be, equality for all. Indeed, with its middle class now approaching nearly 500 million, the government wants it to expand since the more money people make, the more they will spend, and that in turn will drive up the nation's gross domestic product.

U.K. RAMPS UP CONFRONTATION WITH RUSSIA



The Russian military said its navy fired warning shots at a British destroyer in the Black Sea followed by fighter jets dropping bombs in its path, which led to the United Kingdom quickly refuting the claim.

Russia said the H.H.S Defender entered its territorial waters near Crimea and retreated after the shots were fired. Britain denied shots were fired at their ship with its Defense saying that the Russians were merely conducting “gunnery” exercises in the Crimea region and the “maritime community” was given prior warning about the activity, and insisted that the ship was in Ukrainian waters. The destroyer was part of the strike group with the H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, the carrier. (SEE: “[RUSSIA PUTS PRESSURE ON UKRAINE](#).”)

“No shots were directed at H.M.S. Defender and we do not recognize the claim that bombs were dropped in her path,” the ministry said.

However, according to RT.com last Friday, the U.K. claim was an outright lie stating: “Russia releases VIDEO of British warship’s incursion into waters near Crimea, clearly contradicting London’s version of events.”

They posted a video of a Russian coast guard vessel warning the British warship that it was violating the border and fired warning shots at the U.K. ship.

The motto of the **Trends Journal** is “Think for Yourself.” [Here is the video clip.](#)

The Great Britain Lie

In fact, the proof of the U.K.’s intent to escalate tensions with Russia was confirmed when secret defense documents were found at a bus stop in England last week that outlined the Defender’s movements before the confrontation in the waters off Crimea.

According to BBC, the documents discovered in Kent “confirm that passage through the TSS was a calculated decision by the British government to make a show of support for Ukraine, despite the possible risks involved.”

Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, said Britain should not “tempt fate” by taking any other provocative maneuvers and called the Defender a “juicy target for the Black Sea Fleet’s missile systems.”

TREND FORECAST: *In 2019, the Royal United Services Institute determined that British forces would be “comprehensively outgunned” if it were to engage in a conflict with Russia in Eastern Europe. The study pointed out that the U.S. at the time spent more than double the rest of NATO combined on its defense.*

The U.S. is the only thing stopping Russia from helping itself to the Baltic states, Keir Giles, associate fellow with Chatham House, said at the time.

We totally disagree. America has not won a war since World War II. And as we have detailed, its Russian ally was also responsible for defeating their common

enemy, Germany in that war. However, although it ended just 75 year ago, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken declared last week that the U.S. has “no better friend in the world than Germany.”

And since the Cold War was launched following World War II, because of the size, strength, capability and nuclear arsenal of Russia, the United States has never confronted the nation militarily. Indeed, the 1962 Cuban missile crisis between Russia and the U.S. ended with both nations agreeing to dismantle nuclear weapon sites that threatened the superpowers in Cuba and Turkey respectively.

We note this to continue to illustrate that the United State will not confront Russia or China militarily, since it would result in a nuclear bloodbath that would essentially end life on earth.

ETHIOPIAN MILITARY CRISIS CONTINUES TO WORSEN



The conflict in northern Ethiopia has shown no signs of slowing and last week included the bombing of a bustling market followed by the downing of a C-130 military transport plane by Tigrayan rebels.

The New York Times reported that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s aggression in Tigray has led to unfathomable conditions for those living there. Thousands have been killed, about 2 million have been displaced, and the region is experiencing its worst famine in a decade.

The stated reason for Ahmed’s government launching the major offense against the Tigray’s was because they held an election in September in violation of a countrywide voting ban due to the virus outbreak. He blamed Tigray leadership for violating “the constitution and endangering the constitutional system.”

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the conflict for months. (SEE: "[ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN: TENSIONS RISING](#)," "[ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA](#).")

The Times reported that Addis Ababa is having a difficult time keeping the insurgency at bay, and so it is resorting to bolder actions in the region. The airstrike on the market in Togoga was one of the deadliest assaults in the conflict. A United Nations official in the country told the paper that roughly 80 people were killed and 43 injured in the bombing. Those injured were rushed to Ayder hospital in Mekele, the regional capital, for treatment. Doctors were told that the bomb was dropped from a plane, *The Associated Press* reported.

The AP reported that young children were among the injured. A 2-year-old suffered extensive abdominal trauma and a baby died on the way to the hospital, which is about 37 miles from the site of the bombing. Witnesses said it was unclear if the bomb was dropped by Ethiopian bombers or planes dispatched from Eritrea.

Ethiopia said only rebels were killed in the airstrike.

“We do not accept that this operation targeted civilians,” Col. Getnet Adane said, according to Al Jazeera. He said rebels have been known to wear civilian clothing.

Insurgents from Tigray have seen recent gains and claimed to have taken back land that was once controlled by Eritrean soldiers. They also claim to have taken thousands of Ethiopian soldiers as prisoners.

TREND FORECAST: *The Tigray war, launched by the Ethiopian government, has been essentially blacked out from the rest of the world. There are no news reporters in the Tigray region providing firsthand information, thus the true extent of the war, how many have been killed, and the damage done are only estimates.*

However, as we have forecast, the greater the tensions rise and the deeper the nation falls economically, the more people in this highly-populated nation will

seek refuge in safe-haven European nations. This will, in turn, boost populist political party movements throughout the Eurozone.

Mark Lowcock, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, told the Security Council earlier this month that the blame for the famine in the region should be placed squarely on Eritrean forces.

"Eritrean soldiers are using starvation as a weapon of war," he said.

Beyond Ethiopia, as we have been reporting, this trend will escalate, as economies throughout Africa continue to decline and civil unrest intensifies.

ETHIOPIA UPDATE: TIGRAY FORCES RETAKE CAPITAL CITY



In a stunning turn of events after a months-long war, Tigrayan forces on Monday overtook the region's capital Mekelle after Ethiopian forces fled the city, reports said.

"They invaded us. Abiy is a liar and a dictator, but he is defeated already," one person celebrating in the streets told *The New York Times*. "Tigray will be an independent country."

The Ethiopian government, under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, called for a unilateral cease-fire. Tigray forces did not accept the offer.

"People are celebrating, the capital has been liberated from our enemies, but as far as I am concerned there is little to celebrate because we still have fighting to do," Getachew Reda, a spokesman for the regional government of Tigray, told CNN.

The Times reported that the Tigray People's Liberation Front has been on the offensive over the past week and staged an effective counterattack. Their military had gained ground lost to Ethiopian and Eritrean forces in a war that was launched last November by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia northern Tigray region. These fighters reportedly captured thousands of Ethiopian soldiers.

The "Government of the National State of Tigray" announced its "stunning victory" on Monday and said the city was in complete control of "the Tigray Defense Forces."

The BBC reported that Abiy framed the retreat as a "humanitarian" gesture, but analysts say that his government is just trying to stave off embarrassment.

As we reported last week, Ethiopian forces bombed a bustling market, which was followed by Tigray militia downing of a C-130 military transport plane.

We have also reported that Abiy's aggression in Tigray has led to unfathomable conditions for those living there. Thousands have been killed, about 2 million have been displaced, and the region is experiencing its worst famine in a decade.

The stated reason for Abiy's government launching the major offense against the Tigray's was because they held an election in September in violation of a countrywide voting ban due to the virus outbreak. He blamed Tigray leadership for violating "the constitution and endangering the constitutional system."

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Ethiopia said only rebels were killed in the airstrike.

“We do not accept that this operation targeted civilians,” Col. Getnet Adane said, according to Al Jazeera. He said rebels have been known to wear civilian clothing.

Reda told Reuters by satellite phone that the primary goal now is "to degrade enemy fighting capabilities."

"So if going to Amhara is what it takes, we will do it, if going to Eritrea is what it takes, we'll do it," he said.

BYE BYE U.S.: TALIBAN TO TAKE KABUL



As the Taliban continues to expand its military might, a new assessment from U.S. intelligence agencies predict that Afghanistan capital Kabul could fall within six months after American forces withdraw from the country.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Taliban has been taking control of large swaths of land without much of a fight. Security forces in the country have been

known to surrender and hand over equipment and vehicles provided by the U.S. and paid for by American taxpayers.

Taliban have worked up agreements with local leaders that guaranteed safety in return for heavy artillery provided to them by Americans. One Taliban commander in Ghazni province told NBC News that he and his fighters have said they are surprised at how easy they are sweeping through rural areas near Kabul. The report said the Taliban now controls about twice as much of the country as it did two months ago.

U.S. Lost

Remember the Nobel Peace Prize winner, U.S. President Barack Obama, who shortly after being elected in 2008, launched a “troop surge” under the guise it would help win the Afghan war. On February 17, 2009, Obama, America’s commander in chief, sent 17,000 U.S. troops, on top of the 36,000 U.S. troops and 32,000 NATO service members that were already fighting the Russians.

The U.S. still has about 1,250 troops in the country who will be exiting by 11 September.

Biden met with Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani at the White House on Friday and vowed a “sustained” partnership. (SEE: [“U.S. PANEL: KEEP FIGHTING AND LOSING AFGHAN WAR,”](#) [“PENTAGON: KEEP THE 20 YEAR LOSING AFGHAN WAR GOING.”](#))

“The partnership between Afghanistan and the United States is not ending,” he said, according to reports. He said troops may be on their way out, but the U.S. will help Kabul sustain its military and offer economic and military support. *The New York Post* reported that Ghani struck an optimistic tone and mentioned how his country’s security forces managed to retake six districts from the Taliban.

The war has cost the American taxpayer more than \$2 trillion since 2001. When, in April, Biden announced the withdrawal, he promised to support the government of Afghanistan, and said that although U.S. military involvement was

ending, diplomatic and humanitarian involvement would continue...i.e., more taxpayer money going to the military industrial complex. He said that military strikes would occur only for anti-terrorism or if American interests were threatened.

Afghani officials say they were told that the U.S. would act to stop any takeover of large cities, but the *NYT* article characterizes that as "a vague statement without any clear backing." And the closing of American bases in Afghanistan makes the staging of any airstrikes much more complicated.

TREND FORECAST: Gerald Celente had forecast when the Afghan War began, that America would lose: "If Alexander 'The Great' couldn't pull it off, if the British couldn't beat them and neither could the Russians, there is no way America will win." Mr. Celente also noted that the U.S. had not won a war since World War II.

As a result of his forecast, Celente, once a popular guest on mainstream media and having appeared twice on Oprah, was blackballed from the press and TV and accused of being anti-American. (See the movie, ["What Zizi Gave Honeyboy."](#))

TRENDPOST: Dumb enough to believe the COVID War, dumb enough to believe in America's 20 year Afghan War launched by an arrogant little Daddy's Boy born on third base and thought he hit a home run... the murderous, lying George W. Bush.

That's right. The same Georgie Bush who lied America into the Iraq War... both of which cost trillions of dollars, destroyed nations and killed millions of innocent people. The Bush clown that created Homeland Security and the TSA that has robbed Americans of their Rights and Freedom.

And to illustrate the stupidity of the masses and how easy it is for them to follow their leaders, the fact is, according to a [Gallup Poll](#), 88 percent of Americans supported the Afghan War.

Now, some 20 years later, the exact opposite is true. Eighty Eight percent of Americans no longer care about the Afghan War. The Associated Press and the National Opinion Research Center showed that only 12 percent of Americans said they were closely following news about U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

TRENDPOST: *The Afghanistan Papers, internal government documents released by The Washington Post in early December, exposed the lies and deceptions told to the American people by Washington and the Pentagon. The papers documented how top generals knew the war in Afghanistan was a calamity that could not be won.*

In December, we reported on the papers. Yet, despite these facts of horror, media Presstitutes, who get paid to put out what their corporate pimps and Washington whoremasters tell them to, have essentially blacked out the Afghanistan Papers from the news.

MYANMAR REBELS DECLARE WAR ON JUNTA



As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, since 1 February, tens of thousands of protesters in Myanmar have taken to the streets to fight for democracy after a military coup overturned recent election results and arrested the civilian leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who reportedly won by a landslide this past November.

Protesters have been shot in the streets by military forces (about 875 have been killed) and on Thursday a coordinated rebel group called the People's Defense Force declared war on the junta, the country's first clear step to outright civil war.

“We have started and declared war,” Ko Tun Tauk Naing, a spokesman from the group, said. As reported in *The New York Times*, a clash broke out in the country’s second-largest city Mandalay that involved military forces and the rebel forces. The rebel group has appealed to the public for help and urged some of the citizens to burn tires in the streets to slow advancing tanks. It was the first time such a massive clash broke out in an urban center.

The clash started with a raid by security forces on a building where militia members were staying. At least eight were killed. The Associated Press reported that the junta has referred to members in the militia as “terrorists.”

The militia is comprised of several small forces, and Thursday’s clash involved the Mandal People’s Defense Force. The Diplomat reported that the Tatmadaw has been effective in snuffing out protests, but the aggression has led to the growth of militia groups ready for a drawn-out fight. Many of these fighters have been receiving training in various parts of the country.

Mary Callahan, a University of Washington professor who studies the region, told NPR last month that militias from little towns in the western region of the country have been “fighting and killing soldiers for months.”

“So it’s hit and run, hit and run, and they’re getting better at it,” she said. She continued, “Some of the members of these militias are going off and getting a couple weeks of training in simple explosives and strategy and tactics, and coming back and wreaking havoc wherever they are.”

As we have reported, the supporters of Suu Kyi have worked on sabotaging the country’s economy to dismantle the military leadership, which has led to mixed results. There is a tremendous shortage of doctors showing up to work and much of the population is not receiving proper medical care.

The Diplomat said, “None of these recent developments suggest that the military coup is bound to fail. But it does suggest that it will almost certainly fail to succeed in its aim of stabilizing and pacifying the country, heralding an

indefinite period of instability and turmoil for one of the world's longest-suffering countries.”

The U.S. Embassy took to social media to announce that it was tracking reports on the ongoing fighting in Mandalay.

“We are disturbed by military escalation and urgently call for a cessation of violence,” the embassy said.

TRENDPOST: While nations such as the U.S., the U.K., and others condemn the military action taken against the citizens of Myanmar, most of these countries have slaughtered millions in their ongoing Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and other wars they have launched and/or supported.

Thus, their acts of murder are committed in the name of bringing freedom and democracy to regimes they wish to overthrow and whose countries they want to control, mostly to steal their natural resources. (See our report this week on how the U.S. is abandoning Afghanistan to the Taliban.)

TREND FORECAST: We maintain our forecast that military rule will continue in Myanmar and threats by the UN, the United States, and other nations will achieve nothing in terms of bringing so-called “Democracy” to Myanmar.

Furthermore, the harder outside countries pressure the Myanmar government – be they in sanctions or supporting rebel movements – the greater the ruling government will strengthen its ties with its Chinese neighbor.

While the media reports on the current brutal conditions being imposed on the nation by its military, long forgotten and never mentioned is how the nation was savagely colonized by the British for over 100 years (1824-1948).

PALESTINIANS VS SETTLERS: FIGHT CONTINUES



Violent clashes broke out in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem that involved Palestinians and Jewish settlers lobbing fireworks and stones at one another.

The clashes come at a tense time in the region that is focused on the eviction of Palestinians from their homes. These Israeli settlers claim that they have the legal right to evict these families from their dwellings.

Al Jazeera reported that Israeli police eventually used stun grenades and skunk water on Palestinians that resulted in 20 people being injured in the fighting. Some people were also arrested.

The issue has been a growing problem for Tel Aviv and threatens its relationship with the U.S. Dozens of House Democrats penned a letter to President Biden calling on the administration to firmly consider Israeli settlements illegal and the West Bank occupied.

The letter—which was signed by 72 members, including 7 Jewish reps-- read, “make clear that the United States considers settlements to be inconsistent with international law by reissuing relevant State Department and U.S. customs guidance to that effect.”

The letter was praised by J Street, the pro-Israel group, as a start in helping to undo “the damage caused by former President Trump and to stop the ongoing deterioration of the Israeli-Palestinian situation.” It was referring to the Trump administration's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and to no longer consider settlements in the West Bank to be illegal, i24news.tv reported.

The letter to Biden also called on the administration to dump Trump's plan that included Israel's annexation of part of the West Bank and to apply pressure on Israel to stop evicting families in eastern Jerusalem.

This Land is My Land

The New York Times reported that an expanding, unauthorized settlement in Evyatar, which is in the West Bank, has added more strain on Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's fragile coalition government.

The paper reported if Bennett backs the settlers there he will "alienate the leftist and Arab members of his coalition. If he permits them to be evicted, he will allow the Israeli right to paint him in a corner. An eviction could come as soon as Sunday, but could be delayed by legal proceedings."

Yoav Kisch, a lawmaker from Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, told the paper that if Bennett is a leader who actually has "right-wing ideology in you, stop this wrong, twisted and fraudulent evacuation of Evyatar. This is in your hands."

The paper said Netanyahu, who vowed a quick return to office, set Bennett up for another political minefield by approving a flag march in Jerusalem. (SEE: ["ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT: BOMBS VS. BALLOONS"](#)). However, Bennett said If he spoke out against the flag march that started outside the Damascus Gate and snaked through the Old City towards the Western Wall, it is said he would upset his supporters, thus he gave approval for the march.

As described by CNN:

"Thousands of far-right, ultra nationalist Jewish activists are marching through the streets, waving Israeli flags and chanting inflammatory slogans like 'Death to Arabs,' or 'I hope your villages burn.'

"The annual event celebrates Israel's capture of East Jerusalem in 1967 and the area later annexed. This is not recognized internationally,

obviously. But the marchers are singing and dancing, chanting things like ‘Jerusalem is ours.’

Heating Up...Again

Today, Al Jazeera reported that Israeli forces demolished a Palestinian business in the al-Bustan area of the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan.

Al Jazeera’s Harry Fawcett, reporting from Silwan, said Israeli soldiers arrived in large numbers early on Tuesday and there were “significant confrontations”:

“We spoke to the family [that owned the butchery] and they said Israeli forces came in and attacked them using tear gas and other means – a violent start to these demolitions. But this is not just about one shop. There are 20 other units that are in the same situation in this neighbourhood.”

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast, the media tide is shifting from “Israel right or wrong,” to clearly stating that Israel’s occupation “is not recognized internationally.”*

And as we reported during the attacks in the 11 day Gaza War last month, according to the United Nations, Israel killed some 260 people, including 66 children and 40 women, and wounded some 2000 including 600 children and 400 women.

Thus, with these vivid reports anti-Israeli sentiments have escalated to a degree that those who oppose the war torn actions are not being labeled “anti-Semites.” Indeed, in addition to the dead and wounded civilians, Israeli bombings reportedly destroyed 1,148 housing and commercial buildings and damaged 15,000 others, forcing over 100,000 civilians whose residences were bombed out to live in United Nations-run schools and other public facilities.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REFUTES CLAIM THAT IT 'WALKED BACK' RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY ON THE GOLAN



The U.S. on Friday refuted a report that it “walked back” former President Trump’s Golan sovereignty recognition for Israel and called a report stating otherwise “false.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that Washington

acknowledges the safety concerns that Israel has if it had to return the territory it secured during the Six Day War in 1967. *The Jerusalem Post* pointed out that every country but the U.S. have called on Israel to return the land to Syria.

Forget About It!

Despite the illegality of the occupation, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid declared “The Golan Heights is this strategic asset and an integral part of the Sovereign State of Israel,” He said “The U.S. has recognized our sovereignty over the Golan Heights and its strategic importance to Israel security. Anyone who spreads rumors about the revocation of this recognition harms [Israel’s] security, harms the declaration of sovereignty.”

Lapid has said anyone who says otherwise has ulterior motives and is just trying to fracture the relationship between Tel Aviv and Washington.

The State Department tweeted, “The U.S. policy regarding the Golan has not changed, and reports to the contrary are false.”

The Washington Free Beacon on Thursday published a story on its website, “Biden Admin Walks Back US Recognition of Golan Heights as Israeli Territory.”

The Times of Israel reported that Blinken supported Israeli occupation of Golan, but it seemed to hinge on whether or not Syrian President Bashar Assad was

still in control of the county. Blinken said if the “situation were to change in Syria, that’s something we’d look at. But we are nowhere near that.”

The comments were made in February and were picked up by the *Free Beacon*. The report caused an immediate stir in Israel. Omer Barlev, the public security minister, tweeted, “The Golan Heights became no more Israeli because of Trump’s decision, and it will not become less Israeli if the decision is now revoked.”

TRENDPOST: *In 2019, Donald Trump signed an executive order that recognized Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The Middle East Eye reported that Trump faced some backlash because international law states no land should be acquired by force.*

It should also be noted, as stated by The Jerusalem Post, every country but the U.S. have called on Israel to return the land to Syria.

We note this because if it was either Russia or China supporting illegal occupations in a foreign nation they supported, Washington and the mainstream media would attack the lawlessness of such actions.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



U.S. INTEREST, TRUST IN MEDIA ON THE WANE

The results of a survey on media consumption around the world show that the country where the level of trust between news providers and consumers is lowest is the U.S.

RT.com reported on 24 June on the study, Digital News Report 2021, conducted by Oxford University and the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

The study's subjects were approximately 2000 persons in each of 46 international markets. Overall, trust in the media has increased slightly from last year, from 38 percent to 44 percent. But in the U.S., only 29 percent agreed that "most news" can be trusted a majority of the time, while 44 percent strongly disagreed and 27 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.

Cable news networks like Fox News, CNN and MSNBC are seen as polarizing on political topics and thereby promoting distrust.

"Right" vs. "Left"

The survey also broke down U.S. respondents between those who identify as being "on the right" vs. those "on the left." 75 percent of those "on the right" feel media coverage is biased against their views, while only 16 percent view the coverage as fair. For those "on the left", only 34 percent see media bias against their views; 51 percent see the media as fair.

Post-Trump, Interest Declines

Those "on the right" also show a flagging level of interest in news consumption in general, especially since the last presidential election. In 2020, 74 percent said they were very interested in the news, but when President Trump left office, that number dropped to 57 percent.

The study found that interest in the news has been steadily declining in other countries as well, among them the U.K., Spain, Italy and Australia.

At the other end of the trust-in-media spectrum is Finland, where the study found that 65 percent of those surveyed claimed to trust the media; that represents an increase of 9 percent over the previous year.

TREND FORECAST: Trends Journal readers know this is nothing new. In our December 2016 article, [*"THE FOURTH ESTATE: RIP,"*](#) we reported on a Pew Research Center study released that year which found only 6 percent of people trusted the mainstream media, and our August 2020 article, [*"AMERICANS DO NOT TRUST THEIR MEDIA,"*](#) we cited a Gallup/Knight Foundation report that 86 percent of Americans saw significant bias in media political reporting.

Therefore, considering some 6 companies control over 90 percent of America's media and governments such as China control all the media while Big-Tech controls much of the Internet, there has never in modern history been a better OnTrendpreneur® opportunity to create a true Forth Estate: A media for the people and by the people...news organizations whose only agenda is truth (as is

*the **Trends Journal**) and do not take political sides or business and/or advertisers agendas.*

FDA APPROVES NON-EVIDENCE BASED DRUG



In our 15 June 2021 article, ["ALZHEIMER'S DRUG? FORGET ABOUT IT," Trends Journal](#) reported on the dissent voiced over the FDA's approval of Biogen's new Alzheimer's drug, the first new Alzheimer's drug in almost 20 years, aducanumab, to be sold as Aduhelm.

The dissent focused on the lack of clinical evidence of the drug's benefit. Critics of the FDA decision on 7 June to approve the drug say that the agency bypassed the scientific standards it would normally impose on drug makers, and that the result may be billions in government expenditures for a drug that doesn't work.

The objections were raised mostly by the agency's statisticians, but three members of the FDA's Peripheral and Central Nervous System Advisory Committee went beyond dissent, tendering their resignations in protest of the agency's approval of the drug.

Now a 23 June article in *The Wall Street Journal* announces that the actual internal memos documenting that dissent have been made public. And they show that the FDA's decision to ignore what would have been a lack of conclusive clinical evidence as to the drug's value, as well as to ignore the many voices raised against approval, was influenced by the desperation of Alzheimer's patients for treatments.

The approval seems to have taken advantage of a sort of loophole in the approval process called "accelerated approval," described by the *WSJ* as a type

of regulatory clearance that permits a drug to be marketed if it fills an unmet need for a serious disease even when its actual clinical benefit is uncertain.

TRENDPOST: *Alzheimer's patients and their families now have the opportunity to pay dearly for hopes that may prove to be false. Aduhelm will cost some \$56,000 a year and the WSJ says analysts project Biogen could eventually surpass \$5 billion in yearly sales, while some economists say the multiples will be much higher.*

FDA & BIG PHARMA, ONE BIG CLUB



The **Trends Journal** has published several articles recently dealing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of an Alzheimer's drug, aducanumab, produced by Biogen and sold as Aduhelm, the first new drug for Alzheimer's disease in almost twenty years.

Those articles, such as 15 June's ["ALZHEIMER'S DRUG? FORGET ABOUT IT"](#) and another in this issue, FDA APPROVES NON-EVIDENCE BASED DRUG, deal with the dissent within the FDA over the drug's approval, which the agency granted apparently without the usual clinical proof of the drug's effectiveness. FDA statisticians raised objections to the lowering of standards, and three members of a select FDA advisory panel signaled their displeasure by tendering their resignations; one of them called the agency's action "probably the worst drug approval decision in recent U.S. history." That panel had voted unanimously to oppose approval of the drug.

While essentially ignored by the U.S. media, and certainly not a “conspiracy theory,” the *Financial Times* reported on 23 June that the controversy has not ended with the drug's approval and the resignation of the panel members.

Critics both within and outside the regulatory agency are calling for the ouster of Janet Woodcock, currently acting commissioner of the FDA and considered a prime candidate to be its permanent commissioner.

Whose Interests?

Michael Carome, of Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group, is among those calling for Woodcock's removal, on the grounds that she has allowed the agency to develop uncomfortably close and ethically questionable ties to Big Pharma, resulting in the FDA putting the interests of drug makers and their shareholders above those of patients and public health. Carome has also called for the ouster of the director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and the director of the FDA's Office of Neuroscience.

The *FT* article chronicles similar controversies that the FDA has faced. In 2015 the FDA approved a version of Viagra for women that claimed to be a libido enhancer, despite fears that side effects outweighed its benefits. In 2016 the regulators approved a muscular dystrophy drug in a decision that critics say was based, like the decision to approve the Alzheimer's drug, on "weak scientific evidence."

As evidence of the "too close" relationship between the agency and the industry, critics point to a joint briefing document, released by the FDA and Biogen as part of the application for approval of the Alzheimer's drug, which critics call "a curious move."

TRENDPOST: *As the late-great comedian George Carlin noted, "It's one big club and you ain't in it."*

The FDA claims collaboration with the drug industry is necessary and helpful. But the critics believe that such closeness constitutes a breach of an ethical barrier between the regulators and those they are supposed to regulate.

Need proof? As we had noted, the former commissioner, Scott Gottlieb is now on the board of directors of Pfizer, the Big Pharma drug dealer that made nearly \$1 billion in vaccine profits in the first quarter of this year.

TRUDEAU MOVES TO REGULATE DIGITAL MEDIA



The Canadian government has, for decades, required TV and radio broadcasters to produce and distribute local content, as a way of preserving Canada's own culture and limiting the influence of U.S. culture which permeates so much of the media that Canadians

consume. That influence is seen as a powerful "cultural invasion...that can steamroll any culture on the planet."

Unlike the United States where six major corporations control over 90 percent of the media, there are regulations barring international media companies, such as Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, from owning newspapers or TV stations in Canada. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission certifies whether content is Canadian or not, and can levy hefty fines and suspend broadcasters' licenses.

Now, as reported 22 June by BNNBloomberg.ca, a new bill has been proposed by the Justin Trudeau administration that would similarly regulate internet-based media, such as Netflix, YouTube and TikTok and social platforms like Facebook.

Do What I Want

Justin Trudeau, as we noted in our November 2020 article, ["GREAT RESET: NEW WORLD ORDER,"](#) would like to "reimagine economic systems that actually address global challenges like extreme poverty, inequality, and climate change."

The bill, known as Bill C-10 or the Act to Amend the Broadcasting Act, would subject digital media companies to three requirements: such companies must provide information about their sources of revenue; they must contribute a portion of their profits to a fund supporting Canadian content; and they must increase the visibility or "discoverability" of Canadian content.

Thus the question: "Does Legally-Mandated Prioritization Constitute Censorship?"

Critics say that YouTube would be especially vulnerable to the "discoverability" aspect because so much of its content is user-generated. Proponents say the new regulations don't constitute censorship, because users would not be blocked from posting, but critics counter that arbitrarily prioritizing and de-prioritizing content constitutes government control over speech. YouTube is basing its opposition to the new law on the complexity of defining and qualifying what is Canadian content.

Les Québécois Aiment L'idée

The bill has wide support in Quebec, where the largely French-speaking inhabitants of that province are concerned with protecting their culture; the Bloc Québécois, a party that advocates for Quebec independence, assisted the Trudeau administration in pushing the new bill. Anything that panders to French culture can generate significant political capital in Canada.

Others across Canada, labeled "conservatives" by the media, oppose the bill which is said to have been inspired by similar laws in place in Europe, where the E.U. requires digital platforms to prioritize local content.

TRENDPOST: *The Trudeau government would also like the power to tax digital services at 3 percent of their Canadian revenue, as well as to force social media platforms to underwrite Canadian news programs. And there are plans to crack down on online "hate speech." But all this, including Bill C-10's passage into law, is contingent on Trudeau's Liberal Party staying in power, and an election later this year could change that.*

CHINA SENDS PIC OF DONG



A picture is worth a thousand words...unless it provokes a thousand questions.

That's not exactly a proverb, but it does sum up China's odd response to rumors that one of its top security officials, Dong Jingwei had defected to the U.S. this past March.

The story, based on several unnamed government sources, was first reported by the RedState news blog in early June.

The story garnered crickets from the CCP (and the U.S.) for a while. But as Redstate continued adding details about intel Dong was reportedly providing, and other outlets (including the **Trends Journal**) picked up the story, the CCP finally addressed the issue.

They released a single photo apparently showing Dong Jingwei at a table, and claimed he attended a 23 June meeting of Secretaries of the Security Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

But the photo only created more questions. Dong was pictured at quite a distance in a long camera shot, seated some ways from two other officials. It seemed a scant and odd "confirmation".

Odd Denials

After a significant period of silence surrounding what would be the highest level defection ever from the communist regime both China and the U.S. have both denied it.

But even those denials have raised questions. No Biden administration official has publicly put the matter to rest. A *Newsweek* story on 23 June quoted two anonymous U.S. sources. One said the defection story was “not accurate.” The other source claimed more strongly that it was “absolutely untrue.”

The RedState story had gained some credibility via a tweet by democracy activist Han Lianchao, himself a former Chinese Foreign Ministry employee who defected to the U.S. following the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Han claimed that Dong was one of the topics discussed when Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with China's top foreign affairs officials in Alaska this past March. It was a frosty summit.

According to a follow-up article published by RedState on June 11, Dong provided evidence of COVID-19's human origins at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including the biolabs connections to the Chinese military.

RedState also cited anonymous sources in claiming that Dong's defection to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) was not revealed to the FBI and CIA.

So much for trust among spooks.

At the present moment, RedState says it stands by its reporting.

CHINA BUSINESS ESPIONAGE NETS \$500 BILLION A YEAR



Talk about an imbalance in trade.

China's net from theft of intellectual property and trade secrets from U.S. companies amounts to a half trillion in value a year.

That's according to William Evanina, the recently retired chief of the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

In 2020, the total U.S. trade deficit with China was \$310.8 billion (the lowest since 2011). If China had purchased that value outright (which American companies quite arguably would not be open to selling), the trade imbalance would invert to America's favor in an instant.

Looked at another way, Evanina calculated that the loss from China's theft amounted to \$4000 for every American family of four after taxes.

In a podcast interview with Spytalk.co, an intelligence focused online news outlet, Evanina said China uses a wide array of hacking and espionage methods to accumulate valuable information. The CCP's growing smartphone market share represented one vector:

“China currently has 55 percent ownership of the global smartphone [market], soon to have 65 percent in three years. That means they can listen and take data from every one of those phones around the globe.”

Though China's overall economy has become a behemoth challenging for world dominance, the U.S. maintains an advantage in many advanced technology areas.

China aggressively counters that advantage via a very lucrative business of spying.

Business Espionage Advantage: China

U.S. intelligence are hardly choir boys when it comes to spying, on their own citizens or anyone else. But several factors add up to the fact that China has had more “business success” than the U.S. on that battleground.

For one thing, China has less advanced technology to steal. They lag the U.S. in creating technology at the edges of innovation. And secondly, they have been more closed to access from U.S. businesses, while the states have been a relative open door for Chinese goods, businesses and people.

According to Statistica.com, the number of Chinese students at American universities more than [doubled](#) in the past decade, from 127,628 in 2009, to 375,532 in 2019. They easily account for more than 30 percent of all foreign students.

Though the majority of the aforementioned are surely well-meaning and not connected with Chinese spying, the sheer numbers present opportunities with no parallels for U.S. intelligence.

Evanina explained that thanks to a 2015 cyber exploit of the Office of Personnel Management, China also has enormous volumes of data on 21 million U.S. government employees with varied levels of security clearance. It also obtained 143 million Equifax data and 500 million Marriott hotel customers' personal information in the breach. And all of it could've been leveraged in various ways.

A 2020 *New York Times* story focused on how China was likely exploiting stolen info to gain business secrets and other intelligence:

“The information obtained from Atlanta-based Equifax might disclose whether any American leaders are under financial stress and hence vulnerable to bribery or blackmail.”

Evanina said in the podcast that he [agreed](#) with those concerns:

“So now you have someone who has a security clearance or maybe applied for one, then you add in their travel Marriott data, then you add in their Equifax financial data, and they might have some financial issues, right? (And) he has his top secret security clearance, but he's got some financial hardship, he's filed for bankruptcy. Oh, and we also [know] he's got a child with special needs. He is really vulnerable.”

GAMESTOP INVESTORS NOTCH A HEDGE FUND SCALP



White Square Capital, a hedge fund that bet GameStop stock would go down in January, has been forced to close down.

According to *The Financial Times*, the London-based hedge fund experienced double-digit percent losses from its attempts to “naked short” the U.S. video game store chain. Simply put, it placed positions that would make money if the stock price of the company went down. But huge numbers of small investors, who communicated on Reddit and other platforms, didn’t sell in enough numbers for the hedge fund to win their bet.

Small investors targeted and rallied around firms on social media, causing shares to soar rapidly in some cases, resulting in the phrase “meme stock” being coined. Analysts, including some with ties to big Wall Street players taking hits by betting against companies like GameStop and AMC, argued that the companies were not seeing investments for sound fundamentals or growth potential.

But the talking down didn’t deter investors. That forced several hedge funds with short positions — when a stock is sold early and then bought back later in the hopes of profiting from a decline in price — to liquidate their positions in order to avoid severe losses.

White Square has written to investors to warn that it will close its primary fund and return money. Created by Florian Kronawitter, a veteran trader at Paulson & Co, the fund has \$440 million in assets under management. White Square is reported to be one of the first hedge funds to close following the severe price changes.

GameStop Raised 1.1 Billion in Stock Offering

There was more good news for GameStop backers. The company raised more than a billion in its most recent stock sale this week. GameStop shares, which were trading for around \$20 earlier in the year, approached \$220 on Tuesday after surging another 9% at the opening bell on news of the capital raising.

In addition to raising funds, GameStop is changing course in an attempt to keep up with evolving technology that threatens the company's survival, including downloading and cloud hosting of games, rather than store purchases of game discs, which the company has long specialized in selling.

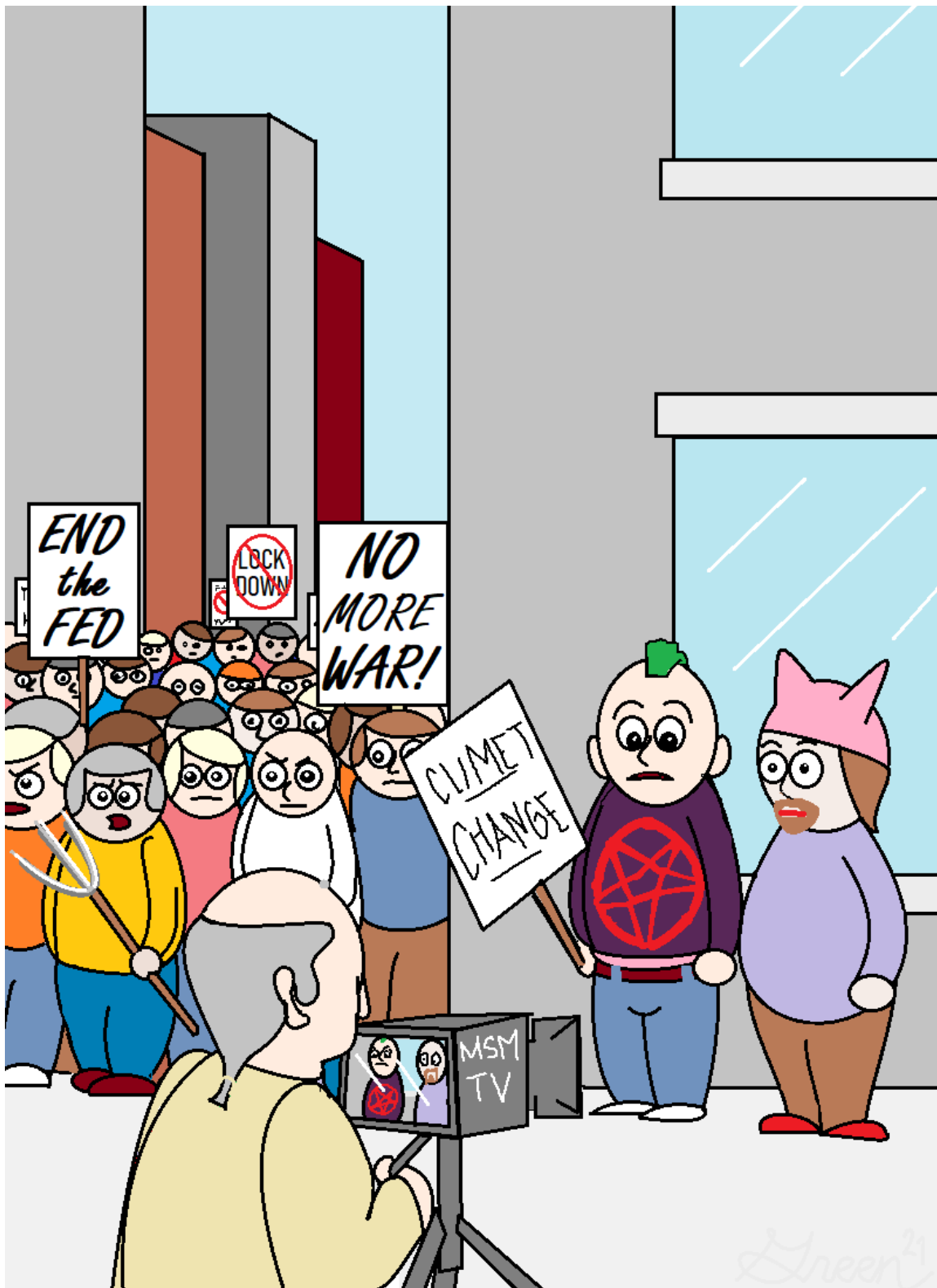
In a cap to GameStop's very good week, Robinhood, the free trading app which cut-off trading several times as insurgent young investors drove meme stocks higher, was delayed from a public offering of their own stock. The FTC cited concerns over Robinhood's cryptocurrency trading as a reason for closer scrutiny. Robinhood has allowed crypt trading in Bitcoin, Ethereum and other cryptos for the past three years.

During the GameStop swings in January, it was found that Robinhood had a financial relationship with Citadel, one of the hedge funds taking losses (via a related hedge fund Melvin Capital) from betting against a number of the so-called meme stock companies.

The Trends Journal predicted the impact of disaffected youth that have made their mark in 2021 in our 8 December, 2020 article [“YOUTH REVOLUTION.”](#) It was cited by Gerald Celente in a [special issue](#) as one of the TOP TRENDS Of 2021 to look out for this year.

THE ART OF TRENDS

“THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED” by *Stephen Green*



TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

PROTEIN FOUND THAT COMBATS AGE-RELATED MEMORY LOSS

Scientists at the University of Texas have discovered that a protein in red blood cells can be a powerful foe of the loss of hearing and memory, and also brain inflammation, that too often accompany aging.

The protein is called ADORA2B and is known to release more oxygen from red blood cells when people are outdoors at high altitudes where oxygen lessens.

As we age, our blood tends to have less oxygen too.

Knowing that, the research team theorized that increasing the amount of ADORA2B in the blood could protect the brain from some age-related maladies.

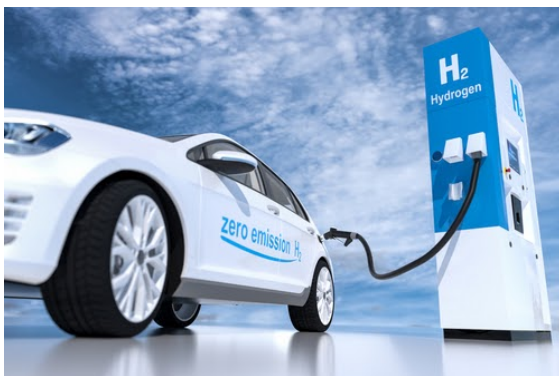
To test the idea, the group genetically engineered mice lacking the ability to make ADORA2B. As they aged, the defective mice showed greater cognitive deficits, hearing loss, and brain inflammation than an unaltered group of mice did.

Also, when the engineered mice were subjected to reduced oxygen in the air around them, they showed more mental and physical deterioration than the control group. Tests found that their red blood cells were unable to release more oxygen to cope with the deficit.

Next, the researchers are designing compounds that, when injected into engineered mice, may be able to restore or even boost their ability to make ADORA2B and prevent or reverse age-related mental and physical decay.

TRENDPOST: *Life in a natural body will always end; a heart has only so many beats to give. But as scientists continue to find ways to counteract age-related deterioration, by mid-century, living to 100 or longer with mind and body relatively intact will be not only common, but also normal.*

GREEN HYDROGEN FOR YOUR GREEN CAR



Electric and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles (EVs and HVs) operate on different power trains but share a common problem: a lack of infrastructure to refuel.

Hydrogen's problem is worse. EVs can plug into a wall socket at home or a kiosk connected to the electric grid but HVs have to find a tankful of the gas.

The hydrogen that fills those tanks typically is made by pulling it out of natural gas at a refinery, then trucking it to huge tanks, usually buried underground for safety, where HVs can tap into it.

Now the fledgling hydrogen economy has taken a key step toward becoming commercial with Hydrogen Fuels, Australia's self-contained hydrogen production and refueling station.

The station uses solar power to extract hydrogen from rainwater instead of natural gas, earning it the moniker of "green hydrogen," a key to widespread use of hydrogen in a carbon-conscious world.

Instead of burying its hydrogen tank in the ground, the refueling island keeps it topside so installation of the refueling station can be relatively quick and cheap.

A demonstration plant being built in Melbourne's industrial heartland will initially produce up to 90 kilograms of hydrogen daily, equivalent to only about 30 gallons of gasoline; but eventually, it will scale to become capable of fueling more than 100 vehicles every day.

The five-hectare site will not only be a fuel stop; it's also a research and development center for Hydrogen Fuels Australia and its partners, including Sweden's Nilsson Energy, Green Hydrogen Systems in Denmark, and New York-based Plug Power.

The plant is scheduled to be producing hydrogen fuel before next March.

TRENDPOST: *The technology and infrastructure of tomorrow's hydrogen economy has been evolving quietly, out of the spotlight.*

Now, with a hydrogen fuel system running on water and sunshine instead of natural gas, with hydrogen trains criss-crossing Europe (["All Aboard the Hydrogen Train," Trends Journal](#), 15 June, 2021), and with nations competing to be the "Saudi Arabia of hydrogen," (["The Emerging Hydrogen Economy," Trends Journal](#), 13 April, 2021), the hydrogen economy can expect to have a comfortable place in the world's energy mix by the end of this decade as the cost of refining hydrogen falls due to new technologies and scaling of production.

SMARTER THAN YOUR AVERAGE TIRE



Step aside, smart highways and smart traffic lights. Tires are getting wise, too.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber and Bridgestone are introducing tires with sensors that communicate with algorithms trained up on machine learning to monitor tires' wear, air pressure, temperature, vibration, the condition of the roads a tire has been rubbing against, and other factors.

Artificial intelligence in the companies' cloud then analyzes and interprets the data to give vehicle owners a forecast on when a particular tire might fail.

In a test of 1,000 fleet vehicles owned by 20 companies, Goodyear's "Sightline" technology was able to accurately predict looming tire problems 90 percent of the time, often days in advance, the company said.

Bridgestone's version also can tell whether a tire with worn treads is hardy enough to retread instead of replace, reducing costs.

The systems are being marketed to "last mile" delivery fleet owners, such as Amazon, UPS, and the U.S. Postal Service.

These fleet vehicles can wear out four sets of tires a year. Knowing how to optimize wear minimizes expenses and knowing to change out a tire before it goes flat in a customer's driveway saves time and boosts productivity.

TRENDPOST: "Smart tires" are another demonstration of the ways in which technology can replace human time and expertise in vehicle operations. But don't expect smart tires to be standard equipment in new cars. The technology

is data-intensive and costly enough that it will only make financial sense for fleets and others for whom minimizing vehicle downtime maximizes profit.