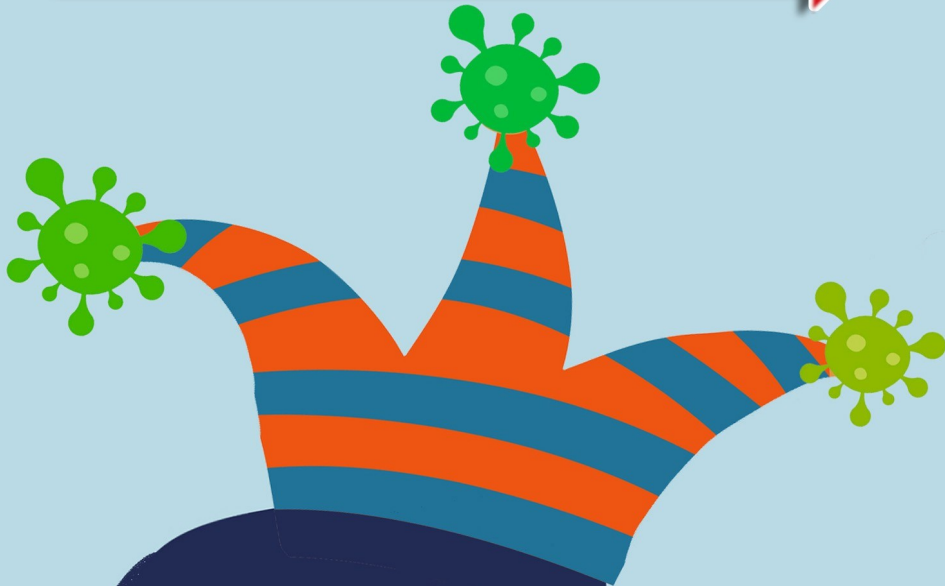


# TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®



idiot's  
delight!

✓ GET THE JABS  
✓ MASK UP  
✓ SIX FEET

Duh!  
I do what  
they tell me.



27 July 2021

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## IDIOT'S DELIGHT

Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: "Idiot's Delight – Duh! I do what they tell me."

And that's life on earth since the COVID War was launched from China in celebration of its Lunar New Year in 2020.

If you don't believe what the government tells you, and if you don't do what the government tells you to do, you have no right to do anything.

Need proof? Across the globe, right from the horse's mouth – Merkel, Macron, Biden, etc. – if you want "freedom" you must get jabbed as many times as they tell you to... with whatever they want to inject into your body.

We warned you two months ago that they would launch COVID War 2.0. The socioeconomic and geopolitical consequences will be unprecedented in world history. In this and other **Trends Journals** we are doing all we can to not only help you navigate the perilous future, but for us to join together to unite for Freedom, Peace and Justice.

Please help spread the word of the **Trends Journal**, give someone a gift and consider donating to [www.occupypeace.com](http://www.occupypeace.com)

These are critical times. United we stand, divided we fall. If we do not reverse these negative trends, the emotional, physical,

and spiritual qualities of life will be dramatically diminished.

Sincerely,

*Gerald Celente, Publisher*

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## COMMENTS

### EXPECT INFLATION ZOOM

Insightful information indeed. Makes me wonder what will this "Feudal System" look like and how will it affect the middle class. What can the average Joe do, if anything?

**Darycabrera**

### BLAME GAMES GOVERNMENT PLAYS

Joe puppet Biden now talking about the misinformation on vaccines is killing people! Wow, you wanna talk about killing people, how about all the wars we have been lied into. Murders and Monsters, little Bush jr with the weapons of mass destruction. Good thing about that is he is actually a prisoner in his own Country. HIS LAWYERS told him years back he could risk arrest for war crimes if he travels out of the country.

**Joey F.**

### DELTA DYSTOPIA - AND A BURGER WAR

Two weeks before L.A. County Health Dept. reinstated the mandatory (indoor) mask mandate, Carl Jr.'s managers abruptly ordered that henceforth, no mask, no service. A friend told me that was a "bad business decision". So, given that fast food is not exactly a commodity in any kind of shortage, I decided to leave the scene and not come back there. Lots of other options out there. Keep in-mind

most fast food outlets have recently launched a hamburger war, seeing who can under-price their competition. Obviously, customers did not take the recent mask mandates very well. Serves them right too. Less business, less revenue, fewer hours, less income, even more employee turnover. Look at them and laugh. Dumb f\*ers.

**Craig Bradley**

### **BLACKSTONE LANDLORDING**

Been a home “owner” since 1981...not sure that it's the “American Dream” anymore. The “bigs” will buy out and charge whatever they determine in order to make money. Seems like it's all about \$\$\$\$ these days. It's the “ordinary people and families” who will suffer through this. I guess we have to TRY to be positive in order to move forward. Continue to share the truth and be prepared I guess. My advice to the younger (than me) is “don't buy a house”! Hope I'm wrong.

**Lynn Collino**

### **TOTAL REFORM OF MED SYSTEM NEEDED**

Dr. Tenpenny previously stated that most doctors do not read the vaccine literature and therefore are ignorant of the mal-effects of these vaccines in general and specifically this EXPERIMENTAL GENE THERAPY so called vaccine. She further stated what too many doctors already know, i.e., the medical system needs a total REFORMATION because as it is now it is a medical disaster to its patients. It is harming too many people.

**lvblasiotti**

### **CRIME ON STREETS OF SAN FRAN**

It seems to me that residents of liberal cities have a death wish for themselves. self-destruction is unnatural. The voting systems in Democrat cities are completely rigged and fraudulent. The current administration and much of Congress is a fraud. The voting “Technology” facilitates this criminality. One citizen, one vote on one day with bio verification.

**brendan ogle**

### **BOT RESTAURANTS**

Most restaurants and food outlets work on pretty small margins so the next step should be robot cooks, no?

And AI robot greeters (Japan uses them).

Robots do not complain, call in sick, strike, worry about a fake pandemic, or can be accused of being a “superspreader”.

**Eagle11**

### **RETINAL PATCH TO RESTORE VISION**

I currently get Retinal shots in my eyes every seven (7) weeks. This procedure costs me at least \$50K a year so that the degeneration is at least slowed or stops progressing! I would be interested in trying out this new technological breakthrough if human trials are open for volunteers!!!

**harlow53**

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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

### MARKETS RALLY AFTER MONDAY PLUNGE TO SET NEW RECORDS

After a 725-point plunge on Monday, 19 July, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rallied through the week to close above 35,000 for the first time.

Despite concerns that the Biden Bounce would slow down as the Delta variant fears sped up, other indexes also rose on optimism that strong earnings reports would continue to increase.

Of the 110 S&P listed companies reporting second-quarter earnings through 22 July, 88 percent beat analysts' forecasts, data firm FactSet reported.

The NASDAQ ended the week at a record 14,836; the Standard and Poor's 500 Index added 44 points to 4,411, its 40<sup>th</sup> record close this year.

Treasury yields and oil prices also rebounded from a slide at the week's open, with benchmark Brent crude settling Friday at \$74.10 a barrel.

Health care companies and businesses benefiting from people staying home led gainers. Shop-at-home website Etsy jumped 13 percent for the week, vaccine maker Moderna shot up 23 percent, and Facebook and Twitter both added at least 8 percent.

Although numbers of new COVID cases are rising, governments in the U.S. and Europe are unlikely to force new lockdowns, money managers told *The Wall Street Journal*.

"You have an earnings season that's going tremendously well," Seema Sha, chief strategist at Principal Global Investors, said in a *WSJ* interview. She added that although the virus is still troubling, "the path ahead is not that negative and there is a lot of 'buying the dip'".

***TREND FORECAST:*** *That was last week. As we have reported extensively in this Trends Journal, the new mandatory vaccine passport, mask wearing, border/tourism/business travel restrictions, lockdowns in many nations, etc. now being imposed will negatively impact economic growth.*

*And, in nations where the autumn and winter seasons will begin in coming months, the COVID variant fears and restrictions will be ramped up. Thus, the more restrictions and the greater the spread of hysteria, the deeper the equity markets and commercial real estate sector will fall.*

*To make this crystal clear, there will be a sizable minority that will refuse to get vaccinated, thus sectors that depend on strong economic growth will suffer from declining revenue streams.*

## Upside?

IHS Markit's July purchasing managers index (PMI) in the U.S. service economy showed expansion continuing, although at a slower pace than in June, due to rising costs and shortages of materials and workers, the *WSJ* said.

The manufacturing sector's PMI set a new record high as the pace of new orders and production both sped up.

Last week, the Stoxx Europe 600 rose 1.5 percent; China's Shanghai Composite Index edged up 0.3 percent.

Again, that was last week.

It was coming, and now it's here. On Friday Beijing's across-the-board crackdowns of its technology and education sectors pushed the Nasdaq Golden Dragon China—which tracks 98 of China's biggest firms listed—down 8.5 percent. Falling 7 percent yesterday, the index registered its steepest two-day decline since the Panic of '08.

Today, China's mainland Shanghai composite closed down 2.49 percent and the Shenzhen component fell 3.67 percent. Over in Hong Kong, in response to the Chinese government imposing antitrust regulatory actions on high-tech and the education sector, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 4 percent yesterday and closed down 4.22 percent today. Note, that a decline of 10 percent is considered a "correction" and a 20 percent drop is a bear market.

On the somewhat upside in China, Industrial firms' June profits rose 20 percent year-on-year, but that was down from May's 36.4 percent year-on-year increase in May.

## On the U.S. Front

Feeling the Chinese market pressure, today, for the first time in six days, U.S. stocks closed lower, with the Dow, after falling 266 points earlier, closing down

84.73 points, the Nasdaq Composite was off 1.2 percent, and the S&P 500 slid 0.5% percent.

**GOLD/SILVER:** Gold remains in its low \$1,800 per ounce trading range. With fears of the Delta variant signaling more government lockdown measures, silver, along with many commodities took a hit, falling 2.5 percent to close at \$24.53 per ounce.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With nations across the globe ramping up COVID War 2.0 to fight the Delta variant, economic growth will decline. Unlike the first round of the COVID War when consumers sped up spending on home goods and “essentials”... should the lockdowns and other draconian orders be re-imposed by politicians, this buying spree trend has been played out.*

*In addition, unlike round one of the COVID War, with governments already deep in debt by pumping in tens of trillions to boost economic growth, there will be less available funds to inject into failing economies.*

*And for those nations that do go deeper in debt to re-inflate economies, the more cheap money they print, the deeper their currencies will fall and the higher their inflation rates will rise... which will in turn be bullish for precious metals.*

**OIL:** Brent Crude closed at 74.76 per barrel, extending its gain from last week when it was trading in the \$69 per barrel range. After losing 16 cents a barrel yesterday, West Texas Intermediate was up 8 cents today with both rising as gamblers are betting that high vax rates and tight oil supplies will offset fears that the Delta variant will slow down economic growth.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have noted, expecting the economy to rapidly expand in the second half of the year and world oil demand to grow by 6.6 percent in 2021, OPEC+ made a deal several days ago to increase supply by 400,000 barrels per day beginning 1 August.*

*Thus, we maintain our forecast that since timing is everything, they ordered the supply increase at the perfectly wrong time. With increasing fears that the Delta*



*variant will sweep the globe and the growing reality that politicians will enforce more lockdowns and other mandates to fight the COVID War 2.0... economies will slow down. Thus, there will be more supply than demand which in turn will drive down oil prices.*

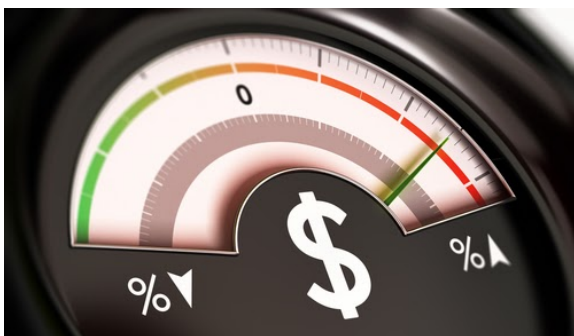
**BITCOIN:** Last week bitcoin was trading in the \$29,000 range. As we have been forecasting for years, the harder regulators around the world clamp down on cryptocurrencies, the lower the prices fall. And most recently China, Thailand, Japan and Canada had stepped up regulatory scrutiny on crypto mining and trading.

From its last week's low, the volatile crypto coin spiked up more than \$10,000, topping \$40,000 per coin... pumped up in part on Elon Musk's announcement that his company holds \$1.3 billion in bitcoin. As we go to press, the cryptocurrency is still showing strength, trading at \$37,872 per coin.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that on the upside, should bitcoin steadily trade in the high \$40K per coin range it can well exceed its previous highs hitting above \$70K per coin.*

*On the downside, we maintain our forecast that should Bitcoin fall in the mid to low \$25,000 range it will plunge deeply into the teens and lower per coin.*

## **DOLLAR GAINS AGAINST RIVAL CURRENCIES**



While the dollar weakened a bit today, the U.S. Dollar Index showed the buck's value hovering near its highest value of the year last week, compared to six other major currencies.

The dollar closed the week at 92.91, just below its 30 March high of 93.30 this year and well above the low of 89.44 on 5 January.

A value of 100 would mean that the dollar is worth as much as the rest of the currencies in the index, which includes the euro as well as the currencies of Canada, Great Britain, Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland.

With fears that the Delta variant threatens a global economic recovery, investors seeking security are betting the dollar will move higher as other currencies decline. However, as we have forecast, with the new Delta variant measures being imposed in many cities and states in the U.S., the Biden Bounce will begin to flatten out.

The U.S. dollar lost value earlier this year as expectations grew around prospects for a broad global recovery, which would have lured investors away from the dollar's safety and to assets promising greater returns. (See "Speculators Bet: Dollar Going Down," *Trends Journal*, 26 January, 2021.)

No more.

On 2 July, speculators held 13,300 positions "shorting" the dollar – betting it would lose still more value, the *WSJ* reported. By 16 July, the number had shrunk to 2,900, the *WSJ* noted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The dollar has strengthened because most of the world's other economies and currencies are even weaker by comparison. The dollar is traditionally the safest place for wealth to "hang out" until opportunities come along that promise better returns.*

*The word on The Street is that as Europe's economic recovery gathers momentum in the next few months, the dollar's value is likely to slide again. We disagree. Considering the new COVID War 2.0 mandates being imposed throughout Europe, unless they are dramatically reversed, the Eurozone economy will decline.*

*And today, the International Monetary Fund warned, as we have been, that inflation is not transitory. IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said that "more*

*persistent supply disruptions and sharply rising housing prices are some of the factors that could lead to persistently high inflation.” She forecasts that “inflation is expected to remain elevated into 2022 in some emerging market and developing economies, related in part to continued food price pressures and currency depreciations.”*

*Thus, the higher inflation rises, theoretically, so too will interest rates. And as we have forecast the higher interest rates rise, the deeper the equity, real estate and general economies will fall since it will cut off the unprecedented cheap money stream that has artificially pumped up economies and equities.*

### **Double Down**

*And now, with governments imposing new rounds of mandates to fight COVID War 2.0, there will be increasing pressure to keep interest rates low while pumping in more cheap money to push up failing economies.*

*This will in turn escalate inflation, and the value of currencies will decline. Therefore, despite higher price increases and expectations that central banks will start to curb their low interest rates and bond buying schemes, many will choose to let inflation rise rather than let their economies fall into recession and depression.*

*Overall, this will be bullish for gold, silver and a number of cryptocurrencies, especially bitcoin.*

### **U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS TICKING UP**



New claims for unemployment benefits jumped to 419,000 in the week ending 17 July, the highest number since 15 May, according to the U.S. labor department.

Auto makers laid off workers as the computer chip shortage persisted, idling assembly lines, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The number was far above Dow Jones' estimate of 350,000 and the revised 368,000 claims filed the week before.

The rising number of new claims confounded analysts, who expected the number to keep falling amid the tightest labor market in years and an increasingly successful vaccination campaign.

From April through June, 60,502 businesses reopened, website Yelp reported, the most in 12 months, including 38,725 in April, the strongest month since May 2020.

Some analysts attributed the larger number of jobless workers, in part, to the rising number of infections of the COVID virus's Delta variant. Cases have climbed back to mid-May's levels, although they remain only a fraction of the numbers seen over the winter.

However, the figure of continuing unemployment claims dropped to 12.6 million in the week ending 3 July, down 1.3 million from the previous week and the lowest number since March 2020.

The decision of more than 20 states to end the weekly federal \$300 unemployment benefit contributed to the decrease, the *WSJ* said.

Layoffs and unemployment can linger even with millions of open jobs and a vigorous job market, economists told the *WSJ*.

The reason: jobless workers might not live in areas doing the most hiring or might lack the skills needed to qualify for positions that are open.

Still, the U.S. economy sprouted 850,000 new jobs in June, the most since August 2020, and average wages rose 3.6 percent for the month, according to CNBC.

**TREND FORECAST:** *Tens of thousands of businesses have permanently closed, vaporizing millions of jobs; it will take time to form and capitalize enough businesses to absorb all of those displaced workers.*

*In addition, the growth area for new jobs is in skilled work. Many of the millions who lost jobs in hospitality and leisure businesses lack the skills needed to change careers.*

*Although unemployment is decreasing, it will take much longer to settle down to the rate that marked the pre-2020 economy. Moreover, with more draconian measures being imposed to fight the Delta variant, and millions of people more fearful of catching it, the Biden Bounce has flattened out. Thus, employment will rise as the economy slows down.*

## HOME SALES, PRICES STILL RISING



The number of U.S. home sales grew 1.4 percent in June from the month before, and 22.9 percent year over year, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reported.

The median price of existing homes sold set another new record at \$363,000, gaining 23.4 percent over the median in June 2020.

Houses sold in June were on the market for 17 days, a record low, the NAR said.

Many houses are still selling above their list price and receiving multiple offers. (See [“Frenzied Housing Market Becomes Even More Intense.” Trends Journal](#), 22 June 2021.)



Homes sold last month received an average of four offers, compared to five in May, largely because more owners listed their houses for sale to cash in on record high prices.

The larger number of listings gave buyers more houses to choose among, Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

On 30 June, 1.25 million homes were on the market, about a 2.5-month supply, the NAR calculates. The figure is 3.3 percent more than in May, although still 18.8 percent fewer than in June 2020.

And today, it was reported that U.S. home prices were up 16.6 percent higher than in May 2020. This was the highest spike in the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller report in over 30-plus years.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The housing boom will begin to slow for several reasons... and certain sectors stay strong for several reasons. On the downside:*

- *most affordable good-quality homes have already been sold;*
- *most households shopping for a home and able to meet today's stringent lending standards already have bought;*
- *building costs remain high and builders are concerned that cost of materials will continue to increase, thus putting pressure on their development plans.*
- *35 percent of people think that now is a bad time to buy a home, a record high number, according to a June survey by the Federal National Mortgage Association.*

*A slowing economy will soften home prices, but not greatly: the shortage of houses worth buying, compared to demand, will persist at least through 2022 due to a shortage of land and materials.*

*Also, more potential buyers now recognize that prices have reached absurd heights and will wait for prices to settle at lower levels before making a move.*

*And, prices will also come down should the United States ramp up fighting COVID War 2.0. Fighting the Delta variant will keep more people working from home which will also put more downward pressure on the commercial real estate sector.*

*This will in turn put more pressure on big city real estate.*

*On the upside, home prices in exurban areas will stay strong and rise as the fearful again head to the hills to escape the Delta variant infected crowds.*

## WHEN WILL FED END CHEAP MONEY POLICY?



At this week's U.S. Federal Reserve meeting, the Banksters will discuss when to begin tapering off the central bank's \$120-billion-a-month bond-buying program, and raise interest rates now that the nation's economic recovery has allegedly blossomed more quickly than

they had forecast at the beginning of this year.

The cheap money scheme, which began in March 2020 when the economy collapsed, currently sends \$40 billion monthly into the mortgage market and \$80 billion to buoy corporate and government bonds.

The group will debate when to begin pulling back its purchases and how fast to taper them off, Fed chair Jerome Powell said. (See [“Fed Officials Send Mixed Signals on Policy Shift,” Trends Journal](#), 29 June 2021, and related story in this issue.)

Some in the group have urged that the Fed scale back its mortgage bond buying at the same rate it reins in other bond purchases.

That approach would take the Fed out of the mortgage business sooner, helping to cool off the overheated U.S. housing market, analysts have said.

The bank will not raise interest rates until it has finished scaling down its bond-buying, Fed members have confirmed previously, according to the *WSJ*.

Some of them have proposed scaling down the purchases in equal monthly installments at a rate that would end them in October 2022, leaving the bank ready to raise interest rates from their current near-zero levels.

The Fed's benchmark measure of inflation rose 3.4 percent in May and 5.8 percent in June, year over year, well above the Fed's 2-percent target rate.

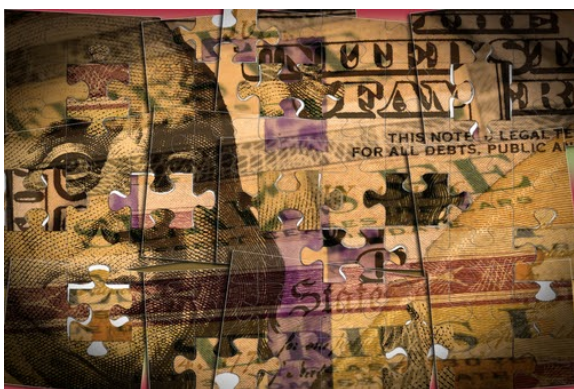
However, the Fed holds tight to the view that current high inflation rates are temporary while the economy finds its footing. Last August, the bank shifted policy to allow inflation to run above 2 percent for a period to recover from price deflation during 2020's crisis.

At June's policy meeting, 13 of 18 Fed officials estimated they would raise rates by the end of 2023, not in 2024 as the Fed had expected earlier this year; seven said rates should increase by the end of next year.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *While we had forecast that inflation would force the Fed to raise interest rates sooner than the end of 2023, and the likelihood they will boost rates this year, this was before the Delta variant and COVID War 2.0 broke out.*

*As we have detailed, should Federal, state and city governments begin to impose more draconian Delta variant mandates, it will dramatically slow down economic growth. Thus, even if inflation remains above 3.5 percent through the end of this year, it is unlikely the Central Banksters will raise rates before 2023.*

## WILL FED CUT BOND PURCHASES EARLY NEXT YEAR?



The U.S. Federal Reserve will begin to pare back its \$120-billion-a-month bond purchasing program in the first quarter of next year, according to a Bloomberg poll of 51 economists.

A slim majority thinks the Fed will taper off its \$40-billion monthly purchases of mortgage-backed securities faster than its purchase of government and corporate bonds.

Some Fed officials have advocated shrinking the central bank's presence in the mortgage market to cool the home-buying craze that has pushed prices to record levels (see related story in this issue) but Fed chair Jerome Powell and others have not embraced the idea.

The Fed will increase its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point two times by the end of 2023 and three more times in 2024, according to the poll.

President Joe Biden will nominate Powell to a second term as Fed chair when Powell's term ends in February if Powell is willing, 80 percent of the economists think, a slightly higher proportion than in June's survey.

The Fed will signal its plan to taper bond purchases either at its Jackson Hole retreat next month or at the September meeting of its Open Market Committee, 75 percent of economists polled predicted.

The tapering will extend over 10 to 12 months, the economists think, which would end the adjustment in time for a rate hike in 2023.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The poll's results reflect what we have said for months: inflation will force the Fed to raise interest rates sooner and faster than its officials' public pronouncements would have us believe. However, with the fear*

*of the Delta variant spreading and more COVID War 2.0 mandates being imposed upon the population, should these measures escalate and persist, the economy will dramatically slow down and the Fed will stall its plan to raise rates.*

## **PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS TARGET \$5 BILLION IN RENTAL HOUSES**



Toronto-based Tricon Residential Inc., which owns apartment buildings and about 25,000 rental houses across North America, has partnered with Pacific Life Insurance, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, and an unnamed foreign investor to buy even more houses.

The three will contribute as much as \$1.55 billion to the new effort, which will combine with Tricon's capital to give the group about \$5 billion in purchasing power to buy as many as 18,000 homes off the real estate market and offer them for rent.

"We get 6,000 calls a week for a home and we've got only 200 available," Tricon CEO Gary Berman told *The Wall Street Journal*.

"We want to take advantage of that demand," he said.

Tricon and its partners expect to buy about 6,000 houses a year for each of the next three years. Tricon will continue building rental housing developments on its own and buying houses direct from builders, some before they're even built, and will have about 50,000 houses in its portfolio by 2025, the *WSJ* estimated.

As home prices have skyrocketed through the last several months, reaching a median of \$363,000 in June, according to the National Association of Realtors, rental rates have kept pace.



Stringent mortgage lending requirements have frozen tens of thousands of households out of home ownership, but those families still want the space that suburbs and exurbs afford, especially for those newly liberated to work from home.

Tricon, as well as rental giants American Homes 4 Rent and Invitation Homes all report record occupancy rates, the *WSJ* said.

However, American and Invitation cater to households with six-figure incomes.

In contrast, Tricon looks for tenants making \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year. The company believes that those renters will need longer to save enough to be able to buy a home, which turns them into long-term tenants and reduces turnover.

Private equity firms began buying rental homes in batches in 2008, during the Great Recession, and have kept adding to their inventories since then.

As demand for suburban rentals soared during the 2020 crisis, rental firms amassed billions in capital from investment funds looking for returns both safer and stronger than those offered by volatile equity markets.

The firms raked in those investments and kept on buying. (See [“Blackstone Extends Reach into Housing Market,”](#) **Trends Journal**, 21 June 2021.)

Now, in Houston, Miami, Phoenix, and other prime markets, one in every five houses is being bought by a person or entity that will not live on the property, the *WSJ* reported.

***TRENDPOST:*** Fewer people qualify to buy a home now because lending requirements have tightened ([“Mortgage Market Poised to Slow,”](#) **Trends Journal**, 18 May 2021). At the same time, private equity firms are richer than ever ([“Blackrock Posts 49-Percent Earnings Rise in First Quarter,”](#) **Trends Journal**, 20 April 2021) and are directing more and more cash into the rental housing industry.

*As we have reported, equity firms are snapping up the most desirable houses in the most competitive markets. This will keep tens of thousands of houses off the market for years to come that otherwise would be available to individuals and families as wealth-building investments in the American Dream.*

*Rental housing is a new avenue for the Bigs to leverage their wealth and to make more money at the expense of the peasants of Slavelandia who barely make living wages working for multinationals that monopolize much of the economy. Clearly, as the facts prove, with the Bigs in charge, the small business opportunities that were once the foundation for people to build the American Dream have dramatically evaporated.*

## **CEOs TO WORKERS: BACK TO THE OFFICE – NOW**



Several large corporations are mandating white-collar workers to return to offices starting after Labor Day or, in many cases, right now.

Abbott Laboratories wants virtually all U.S. office workers back at its Chicago headquarters this month; in Pontiac, Michigan, United Wholesale Mortgage (UWM) already has brought almost all 9,300 employees back to its 200-acre campus.

As we had noted, Goldman Sachs ordered staffers back to its Manhattan office last month.

Working from home is not a new normal but instead “is an aberration that we’re going to correct as soon as possible,” CEO David Solomon said in February comments cited by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Employers say their companies work better and are more easily managed when workers congregate in one place.

“I have never wavered on this,” UWM CEO Mat Ishbia told the *WSJ*. “We are better together.”

The company’s employees have made few complaints about returning, he noted.

Many firms are delaying a summons back to the office for fear of employee revolts, mass resignations, or until other executives make the first move, Ishbia added.

“They don’t want to make a decision,” he said. “When you’re the leader, you actually have to make a decision.”

However, at least 40 percent of workers want the flexibility to be at home at least two or three days a week, several polls have shown.

“People already are saying, ‘You want me back [at the office full-time]? I quit,’” Mark Ein, CEO of Kastle Systems, which monitors swipe card usage, said to the *WSJ*.

About 40 percent of office workers will consider quitting their jobs if their bosses demand they be in a central office full-time, a University of Chicago study found.

As of June, most employers the study contacted were planning to offer workers one day a week at home, while workers want two or three.

About a third of office workers nationally are back in their offices, according to Kastle data, with about half in place in Houston and only about 25 percent in New York and San Francisco.

The decision about where employees work depends largely on a company’s culture, the *WSJ* pointed out.

Tech companies, which tend to be more free-wheeling, have been more flexible.

Amazon now allows office workers two days at home every week, Coinbase calls itself a “remote-first company” that maintains offices but doesn’t force workers to be there, and Facebook has announced that all workers can work remotely as much as they like.

About a quarter of the workers at Fastly, a San Francisco software firm, have moved too far away to commute every day but have agreed to travel to the city occasionally, CEO Joshua Bixby told the *WSJ*.

Forcing workers to spend every workday at a central location will breed worker unrest, he warned.

“Everyone’s going back to their commutes because they’re being forced to by some employers and then they’re going to realize a deep sense of unhappiness,” Bixby said.

“For people who lose one, two, three hours of their lives every day” dressing for work and commuting, “they’re now going to stop and say, ‘Why am I doing this?’” he added.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Having tasted the freedom of working from home, workers will lobby for flexibility. Employers will find a way to accommodate those requests for fear of losing talent to more open-minded competitors.

*Moreover, business travel will also suffer as vaccine passports are required and, as evidenced in this and previous **Trends Journals**, nations impose border controls that ban/quarantine foreign visitors.*

*And while many businesses want their employees to return to work, as we have been reporting, others are saving more money by having them work at home by dramatically cutting back on their office rental spaces.*

## LABOR DAY: FALSE HOPES OF COMMUTER ECONOMY



Commercial landlords and others who depend on the “office economy” have high hopes for fall, now that many employers have set Labor Day as the marker when employees must return to central offices.

Businesses from clothiers to skin-care retailers and food trucks are preparing to resume life as it was before the COVID War, which will mark its 18-month anniversary on Labor Day this year.

The number of Internet searches for the term “dress shirts” has risen back to 2019 levels, according to Google Trends data.

The data also shows newfound interest in tummy tucks, Botox wrinkle-reducing treatments, and teeth-straightening kits.

“We’re hearing more and more across all markets that Labor Day is the target,” Paul Gaines, chief asset officer at national commercial landlord Accesso, said to the *Financial Times*.

“The expectation is that the majority of workers will return to the office at least part-time,” he said.

With vaccination rates in New York City and San Francisco above the national average, “this gives our tenants and us more optimism for a meaningful and safe return to office after September,” Albert Behler, CEO of office building owner Paramount Group, told the *FT*.

Many large New York City employers expect an average of 62 percent of workers to be back downtown by October, although just 12 percent had



returned in May, according to a survey by the nonprofit Partnership for New York City.

In the 10 largest U.S. metro areas, office occupancy had risen to an average of 34 percent, according to Kastle Systems, a company measuring swipe card usage in 2,600 office buildings.

Law firms are leading the return, with a 55.7 on-site rate for workers.

However, the slowing U.S. vaccination campaign and rising tide of infections of the COVID virus's virulent delta strain may dash hopes for a return to pre-crisis times.

Apple has told workers that, instead of returning to their offices in early September, they should wait at least a month and perhaps longer, the *FT* reported.

Starbucks stores around Grand Central and Pennsylvania stations in New York City still see 70 to 75 percent fewer customers than before the crisis began, the *FT* noted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Commuters will return to office centers, but not in the numbers that can support the pre-2020 economic ecosystems that depended on them.*

*Hardest hit: commercial real estate.*

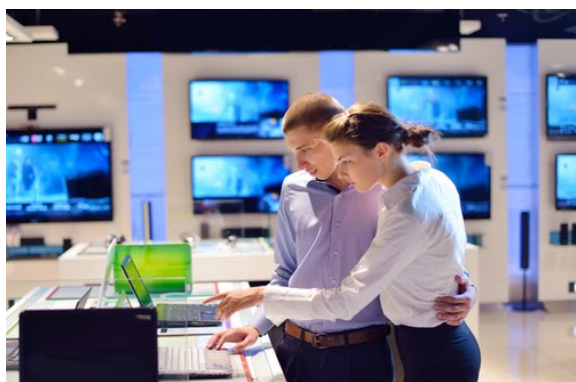
*With fewer commuters, there will be fewer cafes, restaurants, office-wear stores, and other retailers, leaving building owners competing to fill empty spaces by slashing rental rates, offering more generous allowances for remodeling or decorating, or agreeing to accept a percentage of sales as rent payment.*

*We again refer to a Fitch Ratings study concluding that if companies surrender 10 percent of their office space as workers remain at home at least a portion of the time, the value of office buildings could plummet as much as 40 percent.*

*A crash in property values will, in turn, crash city budgets, leaving cities unable to fund past levels of services in police protection, firefighting, education, and trash collection, among others. (New York City gained 40 percent of its pre-2020 revenues through property taxes.)*

*As levels of service decline, more residents will seek homes outside of urban centers, consigning cities to a downward spiral in living standards.*

## **SALES DOWN AND PRICES UP AT CONSUMER PRODUCTS COMPANIES**



Sales were down 3 percent in this year's second quarter at Kimberly-Clark, maker of such consumer staples as Huggies and Kleenex.

Home-care products brought in 17 percent less revenue, year over year. Sales of personal care products rose 6 percent and commercial products 2 percent.

Margins slid 40 percent, more than analysts were expecting.

The disappointing numbers resulted from a reopening economy in which consumers no longer feel the need to hoard toilet paper and feminine hygiene products, the *Wall Street Journal* said.

While sales and margins slumped, the company's costs rose as commodity prices climbed steadily in recent months. (See ["Inflation Ripples Through U.S. Economy,"](#) ***Trends Journal***, 11 May, 2021.)

Kimberly-Clark expects to fully recover its increased costs by raising consumer prices of its products through this year and next, CEO Michael Hsu said in a 23 July call with analysts that was reported by the *WSJ*.

The company is not alone.

Analysts expect Clorox Co. and Colgate Palmolive Co., both of which will report second-quarter results in the near future, to announce price hikes, the *WSJ* said.

Procter & Gamble already has announced September price increases for adult diapers, baby products, and feminine hygiene items.

Unilever, the conglomerate that owns consumer brands from Lipton tea to Lifebuoy soap, announced last week that rising costs would cut its profits this year, news that sent the company's share price tumbling 5 percent.

The company raised consumer prices 1.6 percent in the first quarter, "but inflation has been even higher than we anticipated," CFO Graeme Pitkethly, said in comments quoted by the *WSJ*.

"We are going to have to take a little higher levels of price increase," he warned.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have detailed in this and previous Trends Journals, minus a dramatic global lockdown to fight COVID War 2.0, inflation will gallop as long as the Fed holds interest rates near zero.*

*And while we had forecast that the Fed would raise rates, should Washington, states and cities escalate the fight against the Delta variant, the economy will slow down, and so too will rising prices.*

*Thus, the Fed will pause its planned interest rate hikes. However, should they keep rates at their low levels and governments continue to pump in cheap money to keep the economy from crashing, inflation will rise and the value of the dollar will decline.*

*However, since it is three years before the next presidential election, Washington and the Bankster Gang may raise interest rates to stop inflation's rise. And, they will let the economy decline for the next year-and-a-half, only to reinvigorate it by*

again lowering rates and pumping up the economy before the 2024 elections. Remember, “It’s the economy, stupid!”

## COKE’S PROFITS SPARKLE: GOOD AND BAD



Coca-Cola’s organic revenue in this year’s second quarter was 37 percent more than the same period last year, also rising above 2019’s revenues for that quarter, and profits grew 49 percent year-on-year to \$2.6 billion, the company reported.

Sales volume increased 17 percent in North America, 12 percent in Latin America, 16 percent in Asia, and 21 percent in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, measured by the number of eight-ounce drinks sold in 24-serving cases.

The boost came as more areas reopened bars, restaurants, sports stadiums, concert venues, and other public gathering places.

As a result, Coke predicts revenue will gain 12 to 14 percent this year and earnings per share will climb 13 to 15 percent, up from the company’s earlier revenue forecast of 9 to 11 percent.

Pepsico, Coke’s chief rival, also brightened its 2021 outlook, based on better-than-expected second-quarter sales ([“Pepsico Raises 2021 Earnings Forecast Amid Rising Sales,”](#) *Trends Journal*, 20 July, 2021).

Coke’s optimistic projection could change if the COVID virus’s rampaging delta variant prods politicians to impose lockdowns once again, CEO James Quincey said in comments quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*.

“We remain very clear-eyed about the potential” of future market disruptions, “but overall we see a clearer path” back to business as normal, he said.

**TRENDPOST:** *That was last week. As the COVID War 2.0 is ramped up and more mandates are being imposed, business will not come back to normal.*

*We note this article, however, to illustrate the health decline of civilization and how, since the COVID War was launched in the winter of 2020, not a peep from politicians, so-called health officials and Presstitutes about building one's immune system and eating healthy.*

*Indeed, cola sales accurately depict the state-of-the-nation.*

*For example, to illustrate how low the U.S. education system has sunk, despite the clear, documented health risks of regular soda drinking, it is estimated 80 percent of public schools in America have a contract with Coke or Pepsi for "pouring rights," including in-school vending machines.*

*As reported in the nutrition newsletter HealthLine last January:*

*"Consider the ingredients in that 20-ounce bottle of cola: Carbonated water, natural and artificial flavors, a little caffeine, and about 17 teaspoons of sugar, which together add up to 250 calories. All of those empty calories put schools in a dilemma: They may not have wanted to give their students a sugar fix, but they didn't want to walk away from piles of cash either."*

**TRENDPOST:** *While Americans are masked up and socially distanced in fear, afraid of dying from COVID, they self-destruct, killing themselves by eating crap and blowing up.*

*On 18 August 2018, the Secretaries of Agriculture wrote in The Hill, "Diet-related disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, surpassing tobacco, drug, and alcohol usage. More than 1,000 deaths every day are due to poor diets."*

*This means so far in 2020, about 221,000 Americans will have died from poor diets compared to 165,600 who allegedly died from COVID-19.*

# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## **POLL: TODAY'S CHILDREN WILL BE POORER THAN THEIR PARENTS**

Sixty-four percent of adults across 17 countries believe their children will live in worse financial condition than their parents, a new Pew Research Center poll has found.

In the U.S., the proportion was 68 percent; in France and Japan, the belief is held by 77 percent of people responding to the poll.

Baby Boomers largely had begun careers and bought homes before 2006's Great Recession struck.

In contrast, before Millennials and younger adults could firmly establish careers and households, they encountered economic turmoil following the September



11 terror attacks, swiftly followed by the Great Recession, and now 2020's economic collapse, the worst in 90 years.

Of the 17 countries surveyed, adults in only Singapore and Sweden believe their children will do better financially than their parents.

Women were more likely than men to see the present economy as bad, but there was no difference in views based on age, education, or ideological leanings.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Never a word from the Presstitute herd of the serious damage inflicted upon the public by the launching of the War on Terror and the COVID Wars that have destroyed hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods. Moreover, absent in the report is how the Bigs, from hi-tech to heavy industry, have monopolized virtually every sector of the economy and destroyed what once was small enterprise and family businesses.*

*Back in the Baby Boom era of America, the polls always showed that the future would be better than the past. Now the opposite is true. In fact, a TV Reality Show Champion by the name of Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election promoting his MAGA campaign to "Make America Great Again."*

## EUROPE'S ECONOMY POISED TO SURGE, SURVEYS SAY



After a sluggish vaccination campaign and slow start to a recovery, Europe's economy should rebound sharply in the next few months and begin to catch up with the U.S. and China, according to IHS Markit surveys of purchasing managers. (See ["Investors Glum on Global Growth But Bright on Europe,"](#) *Trends Journal*, 20 July, 2021.)

At the same time, U.S. economic momentum is likely to throttle back as higher prices, shortages of workers and materials, rising numbers of new COVID cases, and supply-chain disruptions blunt productivity, IHS said in reporting its survey results.

IHS's overall U.S. purchasing managers index slipped from 63.7 in to 59.7 in July, the company noted, a four-month low.

Measures above 50 indicate growth; the higher the number, the faster the growth.

The U.S. economy expanded 9.1 percent in the second quarter, the second-fastest quarterly growth since 1983, topped only by last summer's spurt as the economy reopened.

However, U.S. recovery-related growth peaked in the second quarter, analysts told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Growth in much of the rest of the world should reach its stride this quarter, they said.

In fact, the Eurozone's growth this quarter probably will outpace the U.S.'s in the last, JP Morgan has predicted.

IHS Markit's index for Europe rose from 59.5 in June to 60.6 in July, its peak in the last 21 years, IHS said.

That, coupled with a surge in India's economy, will make this quarter the year's strongest for the global economy, the bank said.

Separate surveys in Europe found the strongest gains in activity in more than 20 years, pointing to a surging recovery in coming months.

However, economic progress in Australia, India, and other parts of Asia depend more heavily on containing the virus's spread, IHS said.

“The reopening of large parts of the economy is supporting a vigorous bounceback in the services sector,” president Christine Lagarde of the European Central Bank said in a 22 July news conference.

“But the delta variant of the coronavirus could dampen this recovery in services, especially in travel and hospitality,” she warned.

Australia offers an example, where only 13 percent of the population has been vaccinated and a wave of new infections has prompted politicians to reimpose restrictions on businesses and social movement.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With the array of new travel restrictions, vaccine requirements and other COVID War demands being re-imposed across Europe and nations across the globe, we forecast that Europe will sink back into recession should these mandates persist.*

## TIN PRICES REMAIN AT RECORD LEVELS



After setting a new price record above \$34,000 ([“Tin Prices Set New Record”](#), **Trends Journal**, 20 July 2021), tin prices closed last week still in record territory as fears of impending shortages persisted.

Tin’s price has shot up 70 percent this year and 9 percent in this month alone.

Tin is essential in everything from making circuit boards to coating steel cans to keep them from rusting. A shortage could cripple a range of essential manufacturing, so users are struggling to lock down future supplies, bidding up prices in the process.

Demand for tin could rise even more in the future as 5G and the renewable energy industry blossom, some speculators have said, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Current supplies face a range of obstacles:

- Myanmar, a major tin producer, is being roiled by social and political unrest;
- Indonesia, Malaysia, and Rwanda, key tin sources, are beset by a new wave of COVID infections, shutting down mines, processing, and shipping operations;
- China, a major center for processing tin ore, has experienced record flooding that has disrupted shipping, while heat waves have overtaxed the electrical grid, leading utilities to turn off power to several industrial users.

“You’re going to book tin from four different suppliers, hoping that one will deliver on time,” consultant Edward Meir with ED&F Man Capital Markets told the *WSJ*.

Mining companies are reluctant to invest in new production ventures and equipment in case today’s strong market weakens, leaving the world with another glut of tin that tanks prices, the *WSJ* reported.

Soaring prices of tin, copper, and other metals have pushed up share prices of the iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers exchange-traded fund by 20 percent so far this year.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The scarcity of tin, copper, and other essential industrial metals will ripple through the economy, keep up inflationary pressures, and hobble the economic recovery. (See [“Commodities Supercycle Underway?”](#), *Trends Journal*, 11 May 2021.)*

*If the global shortages give any nation an advantage, it would be China.*

*In addition to having domestic supplies of many minerals and few environmental regulations hobbling mining or processing operations, China has established economic and political relationships with many developing nations that supply these materials.*

*As those countries feel the pinch of mounting debt (see related story in this issue), they will be glad to do business with a country that has befriended them in the past.*

## **STRONG DOLLAR THREATENS DEVELOPING NATIONS**



The dollar's value has risen this month and remains close to its high point this year (see related story in this issue), threatening the economic recovery and debt stability of emerging markets, the *Financial Times* reported.

Investors increasingly believe the U.S. and Chinese economic recoveries are losing momentum, and a new round of a virulent COVID strain could spur politicians to lock down their economies once again.

Such uncertainties are prompting investors to take refuge in the dollar, still seen as the world's safest currency in which to store value.

That scenario drains capital from emerging markets, which often promise good returns during good times but become especially risky if the global economy takes a turn for the worse – as a growing number of investors now seems to fear. (See [“Emerging Markets Pile On Debt, Sparking Future Default Fears,” Trends Journal](#), 2 February 2021.)

The threat to these fragile economies is worsened by president Joe Biden's push for more stimulus spending as well as the growing likelihood that the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise interest rates sooner than the promised date of 2024.

More stimulus spending would attract more investment to the U.S. and higher interest rates would make dollar-denominated investments more lucrative, the *FT* noted, both of which would shrink the amount of capital willing to risk the uncertainties of emerging markets.

China's economic performance is at least as important to developing nations.

China's breakneck economic expansion in recent years has created a steady market for the raw materials and commodities on which developing economies depend.

Also, China has been a major investor in development projects in emerging nations as it hopes to extend its geopolitical influence.

The prospect of a slowdown in China "is certainly generating a lot of fears about how fast global growth can recover in a context where China is slowing," Phoenix Kalen, emerging markets strategist for Société Générale, told the *FT*.

More bad news for emerging economies: commodity prices have been soaring lately but seem to be braking now that economies are settling down after an initial spurt of recovery from 2020's lockdown.

Oil prices have peaked and food prices soon will follow, economist Simon Quijano-Evans at Gemcorp Capital said in comments cited by the *FT*.

At the same time, developing nations collectively are carrying more than \$11 trillion in debts to foreign lenders—an amount that has doubled since 2010, according to the Jubilee Debt Campaign—and most depend on strong commodity prices to service those loans.



If the global recovery falters, developing nations face another debt crisis and possible wave of defaults, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has warned.

In the second half of this year, investors will hesitate to invest in assets and projects denominated in the currencies of emerging nations, Quijano-Evans said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The next chapter in the long-running story of emerging nations' debt crisis will unfold later this year and become a cliff-hanger as central banks raise interest rates, luring investors away from emerging markets to the safety and decent returns offered by countries in the developed world.*

*The rebounding debt crisis will consign millions of people to poverty and spark political turmoil across the southern half of the globe.*

## ECB PLEDGES TO KEEP RATES LOWER LONGER



The European Central Bank (ECB) will keep interest rates at record-low negative levels until inflation settles at the bank's 2-percent target "well ahead of the end of [our] projection horizon and durably," ECB president Christine Lagarde told a 22 July news conference.

The Eurozone's inflation rate jumped to 2 percent in May from 1.6 percent in June.

The bank's "projection horizon," or the distance into the future that it projects economic performance, currently covers 2021, 2022, and 2023 and is automatically extended by one year every December.

Previously, the bank planned to raise interest rates when it was confident inflation was trending toward 2 percent.

Under the new policy, the bank wants to see inflation reach 2 percent half-way through its projection horizon and be confident that any bump above 2 percent would be incidental and short-lived.

In other words, inflation would have to firmly settle at no more than 2 percent by mid-2022, and the bank would have to feel quite sure it was not going to budge, in order to raise rates.

Inflation across the Eurozone will end this year at 1.9 percent, according to the ECB's forecast, and drop to 1.5 percent next year and 1.4 percent in 2023.

The bank shifted policy “to underline our commitment to maintain a persistently accommodative monetary policy to meet our inflation target,” Lagarde said.

Bank governors from Italy, Portugal, and other Eurozone countries deep in debt argued that the new policy means that the bank must keep cheap money flowing for longer than planned.

Countries in better financial condition, including Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands, pressed for rate hikes sooner to rein back inflation, Reuters reported.

The bank's policy shift is too aggressive and risks letting inflation surge beyond the target rate, Jens Weidmann, president of Germany's Bundesbank, complained in comments cited by the *Financial Times*.

Lagarde called the argument a “minor divergence” and said the new policy had been supported by “an overwhelming majority” of the bank's governing officials.

Some ECB officials also pressed for a reduction in the bank's €185-trillion bond-buying program.

The bank took no action on the program. Lagarde said it was “totally premature” to cut back bond purchases now.

***TRENDPOST:*** Europe’s dependence on the central bank’s monetary methadone will only delay a reckoning that awaits when the ECB returns interest rates to positive territory. However, with the COVID War 2.0 accelerating, it appears it will be years before they raise rates. And, as we have detailed, while record low interest rates benefit the Bigs so they can borrow money cheaply and buy up the world with mergers and acquisitions, the peasants of Slavelandia, once able to put money in savings accounts in banks and get interest, have nowhere to place extra earnings... other than to gamble in the markets.

## COAL PRICES TURN IN A GOLDEN PERFORMANCE



Since the beginning of this year, the price of benchmark Australian thermal coal—one of the dirtiest energy sources—has zoomed up 80 percent to \$146 a ton, its highest mark in more than 10 years, according to the *Financial Times*.

That makes Australian coal the world’s best investment so far this year, beating the 44-percent gain in Brent crude oil, the 28-percent rise in real estate prices, and the 25-percent bump in financial stocks, the *FT* said.

South Africa’s thermal coal has gained 44 percent in price this year, also its highest price in more than a decade, commodities data firm Argus reported.

Thermal coal is used primarily by electricity generating plants.

“Price increases have been primarily driven by robust demand from China,” Dmitry Popov, coal analyst at consulting firm CRU, told the *FT*.

Supply disruptions and reopening Asian economies, especially China's, using more electricity has pushed prices to near-record levels, the *FT* reported.

Also, a drought in parts of China has dried up hydroelectric power generated by dams, leaving coal-fired plants to make up the shortfall.

In addition, China refuses to buy Australian coal because Australia called for an international investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

The ban is proving costly.

Supply-chain disruptions have interrupted shipments to China from Russia and South Africa; Indonesia, China's chief foreign supplier, has been deluged with rains.

China has sought to cut coal consumption in response to consumers' outrage over smog-filled cities and also to meet its commitments to the Paris climate accords.

Worldwide electricity demand will grow 5 percent this year and 4 percent in 2022 after slumping 1 percent in 2020, according to the International Energy Agency.

***PUBLISHER'S NOTE:*** *Environmental goals and promises, no matter how heartfelt, are jettisoned when the lights go out. The world's transformation to a much greater reliance on renewable power will remain a slow and bumpy road. The bottom line is money, and for emerging markets the cheapest way to generate energy is with coal.*

## INVESTORS BET ON AN ENERGIZED LITHIUM MARKET



Investors expect lithium, a key metal in batteries for portable devices, to play an even bigger role in a world with more and more electric vehicles (EVs) and connectivity.

The price of lithium carbonate, the form of lithium most common in EV batteries, has doubled over the past 12 months, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence reported.

Share prices of the Solactive Global Lithium Index, which includes battery makers, have climbed 32 percent this year.

The gain was led, in large measure, by a 98-percent gain in the market value of Chinese battery firm Ganfeng Lithium, which is also the world's largest lithium miner.

The company has added lithium assets in Argentina, Mali and Mexico to its Chinese portfolio.

CATL, China's largest maker of lithium batteries, has seen its share price jump 38 percent this year. Its market value is now \$200 billion, 25 percent more than Volkswagen's.

SES, a Singapore firm claiming a more powerful lithium battery technology, has said it will list on the New York Stock Exchange by merging with Ivanhoe Capital Acquisition Corp., a SPAC. (See ["SPACs: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?," Trends Journal](#), 8 June 2021.)

"We believe that a transformational bull market is under way for specialty metals as the green revolution gains pace and the 'green recovery' from the COVID

crisis offers the sector a boost from stimulus and regulation,” analysts at Baker Steel Capital Managers wrote in a research note quoted by the *Financial Times*.

Volkswagen’s EV sales shot up 165 percent in the first half of this year, the company reported; Chinese EV maker BYD said sales rose 154 percent during the period.

Ford and General Motors have set a date for ending production of petrol-powered passenger vehicles; China, Norway, and other countries have announced dates when sales of gas- and diesel-powered cars will end.

“It looks like [the lithium market] might be balanced but, if it’s balanced, it’s a tight balance,” Ganfeng CEO Wang Xiaoshen said in an *FT* interview.

Any market disruption or long-term supply shortage would scuttle automakers’ ambitious plans for an EV transformation, he warned.

Also, rising commodity prices will make lithium batteries, along with EVs and other products that use them, more expensive, the *FT* noted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Plug-in vehicles claimed 19 percent of Europe’s passenger vehicle sales last month, according to the Electric Vehicle World Sales Database.*

*As demand continues to rise, countries controlling lithium sources will exert growing control over the auto industry.*

*Countries with native auto industries will soon scramble to develop and lock down their own supplies, either domestically or through deals with foreign producers.*

*We also note this article to illustrate inflationary pressures and that as more EVs are created, there will be less supplies of required minerals which will in turn keep their prices higher than combustion vehicles.*



## EV BATTERY MATERIALS TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY FOR YEARS



Lithium carbonate, used to make battery cathodes for electric vehicles (EVs), will be increasingly scarce (see related story in this issue), according to Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, and will not be able to meet market demand next year.

Prices already have risen, not only for lithium carbonate, which has doubled in price year on year; the price of cobalt hydroxide, which boosts energy density and battery life, is up 40 percent.

Prices for EV battery materials have trended down over the past decade.

However, cobalt, lithium, and nickel, which account for 30 to 45 percent of EV batteries' cost, are seeing their markets tighten as their prices head skyward under pressure from global economies recovering, manufacturing resuming, and demand for EVs rising steadily in years ahead.

The pinched market is likely to benefit China, which controls production of 65 percent of EV batteries' anode materials and electrolytes and 42 percent of cathode materials, Goldman Sachs estimates.

"China has a better grip on supply chains than anyone else," Adam Panayi, a director at research firm Rho Motion, commented to *The Wall Street Journal*.

That circumstance should prompt other countries to develop their own supplies, which also would rein in climbing prices, he said.

***TRENDPOST:*** More than 40 percent of new car buyers are considering purchasing an electric vehicle, according to the most recent Mobility Lens Consumer Index from consulting firm EY Global.

*Having made commitments to be all-electric within 15 years, Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen, and other automakers are now focusing on locking in deals with suppliers who can guarantee access to these needed materials.*

## **FROSTS ENDANGER BRAZIL'S COFFEE CROP; PRICES SPIKE**



Futures prices for Brazil's 2022 arabica coffee harvest rose past \$2 a pound last week, a level not seen since October 2014, as freezing temperatures frosted crops in the country's three largest growing regions and sparked fears of a poor yield.

Frosts were worse than predicted; temperatures fell as low as -5°C, or 23°F. Even a slight drop in temperature can wreak serious damage on coffee plants, growers told the *Financial Times*.

Prices rose 30 percent last week and have gained 60 percent so far this year.

"The damage from frost is much worse than we could have imagined and is resulting in a worsening outlook for the 2022-2023 crop potential, which, coming after [this year's] small, drought-damaged crop, is very worrying," Kona Haque at commodities firm ED&F Man told the *FT*.

Analysts expect the next crop to be at least 5 to 10 percent smaller than the most recent one, the *FT* noted.

More cold weather was predicted for Brazil this week.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We note this article to again illustrate the depth and width of inflation and how it will affect the general public.*

## WILDFIRES WORSEN LUMBER SHORTAGES



Starting Monday this week, Canfor Corp., one of the continent's largest lumber producers, has been forced to cut back production at its British Columbia mills because hundreds of wildfires across western North America have cut the supply of timber, the company said.

The company's 10 mills will reduce output by about 115 million board feet this quarter, enough to build about 7,100 2,000-square-foot houses, according to the American Institute of Architects.

"Wildfires burning in western Canada are significantly impacting the supply chain and our ability to transport product to market," Canfor vice-president Stephen Mackie said to *The Wall Street Journal*.

More mills will reduce shifts and hours in weeks ahead, Mark Wilde, analyst at BMO Capital Markets, predicted to the *WSJ*.

Fires have ravaged the continent's western timber stands in recent years in what some experts say has become a 12-month fire season.

Partly as a result of the blazes in 2020, lumber prices were bid up to record levels earlier this year and added an estimated \$36,000 to the cost of building a house (["Lumber Prices Add \\$36,000 to Cost of New Home," Trends Journal](#), 4 May 2021).

Prices for two-by-fours in May were four times normal, the *WSJ* reported.

The new series of fires sent traders scrambling to lock in supplies, pushing prices for delivery during the rest of this year to their market limits on 21 and 22 July last week.

Prices gained 19 percent over the two days, reaching \$647 per thousand board feet, their best price since May and stopping a ten-week price slide.

Lumber producers have shifted their attention to the U.S. southeast, where a glut of pine trees has driven prices to their lowest in decades, even as demand for lumber has soared.

As a result, the southeastern U.S. is now the continent's most productive lumber region, the *WSJ* noted.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Softwood lumber spiked more than 300 percent during the COVID War building boom. And while prices fell sharply over the past two months, according to CNBC it is still about 75 percent above its 2019 average. So too are other lumber products and other home building commodities, as have detailed, remain significantly more expensive than their pre-2020 levels. Thus, inflation keeps going up as real wages, as we have detailed, keep going down.*

## **RUSSIA BOOSTS INTEREST RATE TO 6.5 PERCENT**



To head off further inflation, Russia's central bank has raised its benchmark interest by a full point, its largest single rate increase in six years, and the fourth in recent months. (See [“Russia Raises Interest Rate to Tamp Down Inflation,”](#) **Trends Journal**, 15 June 2021.)

The Bank of Russia has raised its rate by 2.25 percentage points since March.

Inflation in the country ran at 6.5 percent in June, up from 6 percent in May, and the fastest pace since August 2016, the *Financial Times* reported.

A faster-than-expected economic recovery has combined with rising commodity prices and a weak ruble to push prices relentlessly higher, even though the government has sought to freeze prices on key items, analysts told the *FT*.

Russia's economy, including consumer spending, is now performing at pre-2020 levels and expansion will continue through this year, the bank has predicted.

"Inflation is developing above the Bank of Russia's forecast," the bank said in a statement announcing the rate hike.

"This largely reflects the fact that steady growth in domestic demand exceeds production expansion capacity in a wide range of sectors," the bank added.  
"Businesses find it easier to transfer high costs to prices."

The bank expects inflation's rate to continue to accelerate and will raise rates again as circumstances require, the bank stated.

Last week, several Russian bread makers announced 10-percent price increases, pushed by rising costs and inadequate government subsidies.

Rising food prices are a tender issue for Russia's politicians, who face a parliamentary election this September.

Real household incomes have shrunk in five of the last seven years and 20 million Russians live below the government's poverty line, according to the *FT*.

***TREND FORECASTS: From Russia to the U.S., from Brazil to China, despite inflation rising and pressures to raise interest rates increasing, rates will rapidly fall when economies begin to dramatically decline. And, should the escalation of the COVID War 2.0 continue, economies will drop sharply... sooner rather than later.***

## CHINA'S DIGITAL YUAN COULD CHALLENGE DOLLAR'S LEADERSHIP



China's development of a digital yuan could threaten the dollar's position as the world's leading currency. (See [“Dollar Under Assault as World's Reserve Currency.” Trends Journal](#), 1 June 2021.)

Although 80 countries are developing digital versions of their national currencies, China already has tested its version with a million Chinese consumers and is ready to issue it to foreign visitors at this February's Winter Olympics.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Federal Reserve is still mulling a digital dollar's design.

“If there is a digital dollar, privacy is going to be a very important part of that,” Neha Narula, director of the Digital Currency Initiative at the MIT Media Lab, said in comments quoted by CNBC.

“The United States is pretty different than China” in issues of privacy, she noted.

MIT is the Fed's partner in creating a digital dollar.

Also, 7 percent of all Americans, and 9 percent of African-Americans, lack Internet access, essential to using digital dollars, according to the Pew Research Center.

Persons with a disability are three times less likely to go online than people without a disability, Pew found.

While those concerns are crucial, some observers think deliberations over design are taking too long.



A digital yuan could be acquired and used by people in any country. If the yuan is the world's only government-backed form of cryptocash, it could become the new currency of choice for international trade, deposing the dollar.

"The United States should not rest on its current leadership" as the country with a global currency, finance professor Darrell Duffie at Stanford University told CNBC.

"It should push ahead and develop a clear strategy for how to remain very strong and take advantage of the strength of the dollar," he said.

Others see the digital yuan even more darkly.

"The digital yuan is the largest threat to the West that we've faced in the last 30, 40 years," Kyle Bass, founder of hedge fund Hayman Capital Management, said in a CNBC interview.

"It allows China to get their claws into everyone in the West and allows them to export their digital authoritarianism," he explained.

***TREND FORECAST:*** History shows that the currency of the world's leading economy also becomes the world's reserve currency for international trade.

*In 1890, when Britannia ruled the waves, the pound sterling was the standard; after World War Two, when the U.S. had the only large, functioning economy, the dollar rose to prominence.*

*All signs indicate that China will overtake the U.S. some time in the next 10 to 15 years as the world's largest economy. When that happens, the dollar will be dethroned and the yuan or renminbi will be crowned the world's new reserve currency.*

*China's leadership in the development of a digital currency moves it a large step toward that outcome.*

# FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



## THE PRICE OF TEA IN CHINA

*poem by **Mara Grace***

I'm finally interested in history  
To understand why this has happened to me

Who were the people that made it to be  
That I'm numbered and now tagged with R.F.I.D.?

Raised on food stamps and government cheese  
Made growing up in poverty flow with such ease

Why can't we ever seem to get ahead?  
Our grandchildren inherit our debt when we're dead

Going to school to earn a degree  
Turns out to be no such guarantee

Tired from working all day, "What's on TV?"  
I forgot what I wanted to grow up to be...

It doesn't take too long for us to see  
Social Security breeding complacency

Unemployed with no savings and no health insurance  
Does not give me very much reassurance

Then just when I thought that I'd had enough  
Life decided to get just a little more tough

One day somebody with far less than I  
Resorted to crime, all he knew to get by

The inhumanity, the injustice caused me to ask "Why?"  
Uncle Sam finally took too big a slice of his pie!

I refuse to wait for impending riots in the streets  
I'm determined to do something before history repeats

So I read the instructions, scrutinized the fine print  
Scoured statute and code, followed from clue to hint

Information deciphered too urgent to forestall  
And like it or not it affects us all

The pursuit of happiness kept forever at bay  
By such burdensome taxes which most of us pay

It's a story of surplus in the land of the plenty

How central banking led the dollar to be worth a penny

It's a tale of extensive political and corporate greed  
Of great mathematicians who can't calculate how much they need

The wealth of the many concentrated in the hands of the few  
The melting pot of America turning into a stew

Born on this land, inherently sovereign and free  
But Homeland Security says I need permission to leave

Arm yourself with knowledge, you'll need it later  
Don't just stand by and be a spectator

It's important we have your cooperation  
If we're to rebuild a respectable nation

# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## IS INFLATION “CONTAINED?”

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

Just last week we heard from the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Jerome Powell, and he said again that he is not concerned about the rising cost of living because he believes “inflation is not widespread.” Note the choice of words here, “inflation is not widespread,” therefore he believes it is contained.

The last time we heard a Federal Reserve Chairman use the word “contained,” it was then Ben Bernanke, who said repeatedly that the subprime mortgage crisis was “contained,” yet somehow it led to a worldwide meltdown of the entire financial system which was followed up by a public bailout.

The fact of the matter is this; inflation is not even close to being “contained” nor is it transitory. Today here in America inflation is surging higher at its fastest pace on record! *What ever happened to the Federal Reserve mandate of price stability?*



Understand the reality of the situation—the Federal Reserve is on a deliberate mission to inflate. Moreover, the Fed will continue to issue debt through one door and then buy it back via another in greater and greater amounts.

### **The debt is in a hyper-bubble.**

Today the largest, and by far most dangerous financial distortion exists in the debt market, and the Fed seems to be on a mission to buy it all—*which is massively inflationary*. Moreover, the Fed has no intention whatsoever to stop.

### **The debt hyper-bubble has caused a stock market hyper-bubble.**

The second largest distortion existing today is in the stock market. The stock market hyper-bubble is being fueled directly by the debt market hyper-bubble, courtesy of the Federal Reserve. I have explained in many of the articles which I have written here exclusively for the **Trends Journal**, that the stock market would continue higher, hitting new record high after new record high. Well, just this past Friday the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed for the first time ever above 35,000! With the S&P500 and the NASDAQ also posting new all-time highs.

This phenomenon of the stock market hitting record high after record high almost on a weekly basis will continue as long as the Federal Reserve's balance sheet continues to inflate. Today the balance sheet of the Federal Reserve stands at just over \$8.24 Trillion dollars, which is higher than the GDP of most nations on Earth. I have a big secret for you, regarding the balance sheet of the Federal Reserve, we have not seen anything yet.

What you can expect moving forward is distortions getting monumentally worse across the entire spectrum of asset classes, which will eventually lead to a deliberately induced meltdown of the entire financial system—*by design*. The key here is to stay on the right side of all this.



Right now, the game remains “risk on,” meaning cash is making its way into risk assets as in the stock market. It is also at times like these where the smart money is not only riding this run higher in the stock market, but also looking at suppressed or “risk off” assets, like physical gold, and physical silver.

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## IT'S WAR!

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

It is amazing how often individuals who are students of what they believe to be “self-defense” recoil from what we have to say or to write about defending against violent criminal attack being essentially the same thing as engaging in combat with an enemy during the course of a war.

Yet, we insist and maintain without hesitation or the slightest doubt that the comparison with combat in wartime is valid. In fact, we can argue that defending against a violent criminal predator can in many instances be more dangerous than confronting a uniformed adversary on the battlefield.

After all, one's enemy in wartime is most generally someone who, in private life, is simply a normal, decent individual—often a responsible family man—who in effect is one's opposite number in the country against whom one's own government is waging war. The violent criminal is simply society's scum... the

worthless and dangerous refuse that unfortunately chose predation rather than civilized living as his lifestyle.

These vermin rape, murder, torture, rob, destroy because they enjoy it.

Violent offenders, against whom one should be enthusiastically training to cope in any true self-defense program, deserve no more consideration than disease germs. They need to meet destruction when they attempt to ply their trade—the swifter the better.

We can only conclude one of two things when we encounter disagreement with our doctrine from supposed martial arts students:

1. They are not interested in close combat and personal defense, but instead train for competitive sport or for “art’s sake”—and regard the training in which they participate as recreational gamesmanship, or as an esthetically satisfying discipline and exercise, or
2. They have been led to believe bullshit, and think very unrealistically about self-defense in the real world, because the training they are following is unsuitable for actual combatives preparation.

While there are certainly some excellent teachers and schools out there, there is also a preponderance of fantasy classes in which utterly impractical thinking and training takes place. In many instances the teachers themselves simply are not familiar with the nature of the actual threat that violent criminal attack poses.

Recently a friend of ours showed us an advertisement for a new “self defense” gimmick: A gun that fires pepperballs. Hailed as a breakthrough non-lethal weapon, we wouldn’t be surprised if the silly thing sold millions!

We simply cannot understand this asinine concern for non-lethality when the need arises to save one’s life! Violent offenders don’t give a damn if they maim or kill their victims, so what malady exists in the heads of those potential victims that enjoins them to exercise benevolence when selecting tools by which they will defend themselves? People tend to be more realistic when they hire

exterminators for household rodents or roaches. If the exterminator suggested (which he wouldn't) that the customer merely "stun" or scare the varmints, the customer would—properly—go elsewhere for the service.

But when it comes to truly dangerous, thinking, experienced, violent, determined and often armed predators who attack them personally and willfully and deliberately, these same people disdain the employment of weapons that DO THE JOB.

We speak, naturally, of firearms, and edged weapons, mainly. Why anyone would waste a second wondering or doubting if such could be justified when being forced to save his life, is beyond our comprehension. Can you imagine sending U.S. marines or soldiers into combat armed with pepperball-firing "guns"; or perhaps real guns—loaded with blanks or rubber bullets?

No?

Well that's our point. Violent offenders kill their victims just as dead as enemy soldiers in battle kill their opponents when they can, so there is only one way to deal with such adversaries—in war or in peacetime civilian life—and that is with a realistically suitable degree of force.

If one is relegated to the use of one's bare hands in an attack then unarmed combat as befits the combat marine or infantry soldier is called for! Forget about such nonsense as control grips, submission holds, restraining methods, and "arrest" techniques.

The very few instances when such actions are appropriate occur with police officers and others who are employed as security people and peace keepers. The private citizen who is confronted by dangerous, determined, clear and obvious harm from one or more unarmed or armed predators has no use for such foolishness. The only thing that such an intended victim should concern himself with is stopping the attacker—by any efficient, damaging, ruthless and savage means; because that is what works best and most reliably. Precisely as it does in a declared war.

If by any chance, until now, you have been hesitant about adopting the attitude and technical approach that we espouse, consider how your hesitancy reflects upon your basic self-respect.

Just what the hell have you been brainwashed into thinking?

That an attacker is owed consideration? That you have no right to place your life above the attacker's when you are attacked? That you have some kind of "responsibility" to measure and weigh carefully the punishment you dish out to someone who couldn't care less if he killed you?

Come on, friend! Wake the hell up.

If you've sufficient sense to at least allow for the possible truth of that which we are offering you, then there's hope. If you recoil from and resent our position, oh well... go your own way and do as you please. You're not our concern and we—obviously—have nothing to offer you.

In the past there have been some otherwise excellent teachers (like the late Bruce Tegnér, who was a brilliant purveyor of practical self-defense, and who was ahead of his time) who took strong issue with that which we advocate. In Tegnér's case he simply didn't believe that the techniques taught for military men in war were appropriate for "ordinary" self-defense (whatever that is).

We, on the other hand, believe strongly that war-proven combatives is the **FINEST** type of technical repertoire to acquire for real world self-defense. We respectfully disagree with Tegnér here, as we do in regard for his disdain for firearms and fighting knives for self-defense.

We suspect that two things are in large part responsible for Bruce Tegnér's position: First, his halcyon teaching years were the most violence free and crime free and peaceful in American history (i.e the late 1940's through to the mid-1960's), and second, Tegnér was in fact a very decent, nonaggressive person who, although expert in judo and jiu-jitsu, did not see violence in a favorable light, and always took every opportunity to urge against it. (Note: This

is sheer conjecture of course, but we believe that, were Tegnér alive today, and were we able to meet him and share ideas and notes, his position in regard to what kinds of techniques are suitable for self defense, and the role of weaponry for modern self-defense, might in fact be radically different from what it was, following WWII. But we have no way of proving this.)

Our mission is to train and educate the trainable and the educable who possess intelligence and honesty, and who are concerned for their and for their loved ones' protection and safety in a dangerous world, in THAT WHICH WORKS. We have learned and studied long and hard "that which works", and we pass it on to those with brains enough to recognize it when they see it, and to appreciate it when they hear it (in the case of tactical and mental conditioning doctrine).

Bottom line: Self Defense is war in microcosm. Believe it. Train with that in mind and God-willing, when and if it ever comes to you, you will be ready, willing, and able to manage your crisis!

*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*

## **“BIO-PHARMA” PROFITING OFF A TRANSHUMAN FUTURE**

Many people who have taken the experimental mRNA and DNA COVID vaccines think it was a one-time necessity, or that at most, vaccine boosters might be required.

The interests behind their creation have a different idea. Their vision isn't just limited to proscribing and mandating vaccines. They are pushing for aggressive technocratic interventions into human lives in ways that most people can barely imagine.

“Private” investment firms with deep ties to governments, like Wellcome Leap and CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations), offer insights into the extreme kinds of research being capitalized to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. Scratch the surface, and the different projects listed for funding are filled with disturbing stuff:

- Vaccine research involving chimeric experimentation
- Lab-grown human brains and other organs
- Quests to build AI that fully mimics human thought and emotive abilities
- Infants fitted or implanted with developmental sensors and visually recorded 24/7, with interventions or removals from homes if they aren't meeting development objectives
- RNA technology for any imaginable use, scaled via modular production techniques similar to what allowed the semiconductor industry to explode in the 1980's and 90's

Behind the virtual signaling lies an agenda that shouldn't be sugar-coated. They are seeking to profit not only off pandemics, but from altering the human genome and compelling populations to be subjects to their experimentations and radical innovations.

### **Pushing Transhuman Solutions to “Natural Human” Problems**

There's obviously huge money at stake in developing technologies that alter the natural human genome, whether to fix maladies, or provide “enhancements” to human beings.

Investment consortiums like Wellcome Leap and CEPI fully understand this. That's why they have a jointly funded “R3 RNA READINESS +RESPONSE” program.

R3 Readiness + Response envisions building an infrastructure for ubiquitous RNA technologies that will be used to address far-flung human “problems”.

To do so, the project seeks to de-couple the “fabrication” of human designed RNA from the designing process. Fabrication would be handled by genetic foundries, and designers could have their designs produced, without having to fund and maintain their own fabrication abilities “in-house”.

According to the project literature:

“R3 seeks to change the dynamics and costs of biologics development and production, addressing the limitations of current manufacturing by establishing RNA as a versatile, deployable, standardized, multi-product platform technology, that: 1) in non-emergency times provides developers and researchers with access to cGMP-formulated RNA for the development and production of a diversity of viable RNA-based products, and 2) in emergency times shifts to needed products at speeds & quantities sufficient to mount a globally coordinated, regionally focused response to a pandemic.”

In addition to genetic research, Wellcome Leap has a wider transhuman agenda. Research projects refer to time and again to extreme facets that signal a reckless lack of regard for human dignity and individual autonomy. There is also next to nothing contemplated concerning frankly dangerous aspects of technologies being developed.

For example, the firm’s “1000 Days” investment initiative details several disturbing elements. One is a proposal to visually and biometrically monitor newborns 24/7, and intervene or even put a child into foster care if certain development goals are attained within a targeted time frame. The monitoring described is deeply invasive:

The program suggests that children who aren’t meeting development goals could be removed from parents and placed in foster care:

“Timing is critical – because developmental windows are narrow. For example, previously neglected children admitted into foster care before 24 months old versus those admitted after 26 months show significant differences in their ability to regain aspects of cognitive function by adolescence.”

The program also talks about making use of “in vitro” (ie. lab grown human fetal) brains to assist research:

“Advances in in vitro 3D brain models over the last five years demonstrates the viability of modeling network formation and functional connections in much the same way as we see in the infant brain. Progress has been made in at least three key areas: 1) the diversity and maturation of brain regions that can be sustained in long-term cultures and that mirror the timeline of human development; 2) the formation of microcircuits, synapses, and functional connections between two brain organoids into brain assembloid structures; and, 3) the ability to record and manipulate synapse activity and functional connectivity across these assembloid networks.”

Artificial Intelligence is also a part of the research equation, and again, there appears to be no limits in the designing of technology. The development of AI which can fully mimic human beings is viewed as a needed aid to research goals:

“Advances in artificial neural networks (ANNs) have demonstrated the viability of modeling network pruning processes and the acquisition of complex behaviours in much the same way as a developing brain. For example, deep language and face recognition models have acquired human-level prediction performance by optimising millions of synaptic weights over millions of real-world observations.

“Moreover, connecting visual, auditory, and motor networks and allowing them to learn from each other has led to: multi-agent ANNs that can play hide and seek and; cognitive robotics models that can replicate altruistic behaviours, recognise emotional states, and reproduce drawing behaviours typically observed in a child aged 1-2 years. These ANNs are beginning to help us understand the brain and behaviour in new ways.”

Another funding initiative titled “Human Organs, Physiology, and Engineering” focuses on bioengineering human organs and systems “in vitro. It involves growing and experimenting quite literally on partial human beings.

According to the program’s description:

“In this program, we aim to leverage the power of bioengineering to advance stem cells, organoids, and whole organ systems and connections that recapitulate human physiology in vitro and restore vital functions in vivo. We have two goals:

“1. Bioengineer a multiorgan platform that recreates human immunological responses with sufficient fidelity to double the predictive value of a preclinical trial with respect to efficacy, toxicity and immunogenicity for therapeutic interventions targeting cancer, autoimmune and infectious diseases...

“2. Demonstrate the advances necessary to restore organ functions using cultivated organs or biological/synthetic hybrid systems that would result in a doubling of the 5-year survival rate of patients on replacement therapy or awaiting organ transplantation and point to a fully transplantable, non-rejected, human organ within 10 years.”

## **Beyond Chemistry: The “Bio-Pharma” Vision**

The drive to treat disease and enhance human life spans and more is the stated vision of what researchers themselves term “Bio-Pharma”. The term refers to the manipulation of biology — and specifically genetic interventions — to address medical issues. Bio-Pharma seeks to design alterations to human genetics, and to profit by those designs.

CEO Regina Dugan, who formed Wellcome Leap in 2020, just after the COVID War was launched, is a textbook example of someone who has spent their career honing governmental and corporate powers.

Dugan served under the Obama administration as the first female Director of DARPA (Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency), where she had worked since 1996. According to her Wellcome Leap website bio, while at DARPA she “oversaw an annual \$3B portfolio of projects ranging from hypersonics to RNA-based vaccines.”

Following that, she headed up Google's Advanced Technology and Projects, including Motorola Mobility, which was acquired by China's Lenovo. Dugan moved on to secretive "Building 8" projects at Facebook, before leaving in 2018.

Jay Flatley, Chair of the company, is former CEO of Illumina, where he "helped to transform gene sequencing from a scientific pursuit to a commercially accessible service and moved the cost of sequencing an entire human genome from \$1 million to \$1,000."

CEPI has its own interesting story. Though based in Norway, the [globalist investment partnership](#) was founded by an American, Richard Hatchett, with deep ties to political and medical power bases in the U.S..

Formed in 2017 with the stated goal of developing vaccines to stop future epidemics, CEPI was soon presented with the opportunity of COVID-19. It became a focal point for development of mRNA experimental vaccines, in conjunction with world organizations like the WHO and major pharmaceuticals.

CEPI has also been at the [center](#) of COVAX, a multi-billion dollar European program to funnel subsidized vaccines to 3rd-world nations in 2020. Not bad for a company barely two years-old at the time the COVID War was launched.

According to [Wikipedia](#), Hatchett:

"[Hatchett] was acting Director of the United States Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). He served on the Homeland Security Council. He was on a pandemic planning team, under George W. Bush.

"He is CEO of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. He is a member of Pandemic Preparedness Partnership. CEPI funded early development of candidate vaccines. CEPI is teaming with the African Union to fund African vaccine production. CEPI is organizing a 2022 Covid summit."



Right now, CEPI lists controversial vaccine development research including chimeric experimentations, among funded projects on its website. “Chimeric” means combining genetic materials from two or more organisms. It is often done to give an organism a feature or function it would not otherwise have. Below is a screenshot from CEPI’s portfolio [webpage](#), referencing chimeric research funding:

The screenshot shows the CEPI portfolio interface with four filter buttons: 'Filter by developers:', 'Filter by disease:', 'Filter by vaccine type:', and 'Filter by phase:'. Each button has a dropdown arrow and the word 'All'. Below the filters, three vaccine projects are listed, each with a red phase indicator button on the right.

Developer	Disease	Vaccine Type	Phase	CEPI Funding
SK bioscience	COVID-19	Recombinant protein	Phase 1/2	Up to US \$210 million
Shanghai Zerun Biotechnology	COVID-19	Chimeric protein vaccine	Phase I	Up to US\$13.1 million
VBI Vaccines	COVID-19	Enveloped virus like particle (eVLP)	Preclinical	Up to US \$33 million

The investment partnership of CEPI and Wellcome Leap is an example of how experts with deep experience and ties to governmental and corporate organizations design private vehicles to leverage and profit from that experience. And that is the most innocent explanation of what might be going on. Consider: how could two investment firms that have existed for less than three years be at the center of so much virus funding and research activity, to the tune of literally billions of dollars?

Among other things, Richard Hatchett of CEPI has defended private companies profiting off of pandemics, arguing he doesn’t think Intellectual property rights significantly contribute to vaccine shortages. These are not selfless, disinterested parties.

As far as the rosy descriptions and virtue signaling of their funding projects, the reality is that they exist to make money for their investors. They are not

non-profits, nor governmental institutions ostensibly serving and accountable to the public. And those investors likely include many individuals who are directly involved in formulating and influencing public policies, as government officials, power players at huge corporations like Google, Apple and Facebook, and / or investment and financial players on Wall Street.

## **The Right To Remain Naturally Human**

There are many questions that need to be considered, regarding what rights any set of human beings, or any company should have to alter human genetics.

It seems so obvious that it should hardly need to be said: humankind has an existential stake in preserving and protecting natural human beings, and the natural human genome. At the very least, no human being should ever be compelled to submit to genomic interventions.

It is deeply anti-human to deprive the rights of persons to remain naturally human.

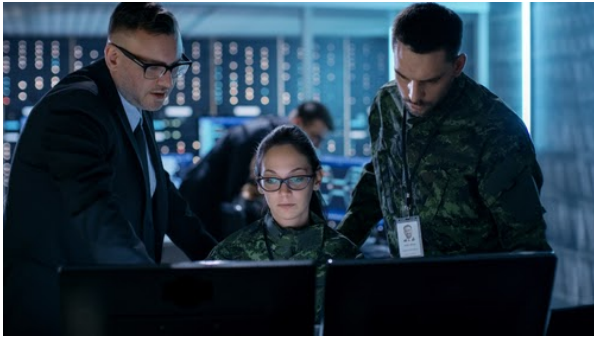
And the moral and ethical dangers of gene technologies are no longer theoretical. A war is being waged right now against people asserting their rights not to be subject to forced injections with experimental genetic level technologies.

Transhumanism, as advocated by “Bio Pharma” interests with frankly damning financial conflicts of interest, admits no conceptual dignity to natural humanness, and no practical dignity to the average human masses

In this sense, transhumanism represents a disturbingly retrograde force in history. Where prior milestones have recognized and enlarged the rights and freedoms of average people, transhumanism strips those hard-earned advances, in favor of the whims and designs of a tiny, powerful class of elitist technocrats.

Not only is it a step backward. It may be a catastrophic one, because it welds age-old hubris with technology unimaginable in its power to alter humanness itself.

## THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



**REUTERS “EXCLUSIVE” CROWS ABOUT BIG TECH MERGING WITH U.S. INTEL TO TARGET POLITICAL DISSIDENTS.** The Corporate Surveillance State celebrated another milestone this past week.

A Reuters “exclusive” announced that major tech companies including Facebook, Google and Twitter would be given access to a “Five Eyes” database compiled by U.S. Intelligence and select allies.

The intelligence database will be used to go after political enemies, under the guise of combating “extremism.” What qualifies as extremism?

January 6th protestors, of course.

After a bit of rhetoric about “attacker manifestos” and white supremacists, the 26 July Reuters piece stated:

“The tech platforms have long been criticized for failing to police violent extremist content, though they also face concerns over censorship. The issue of domestic extremism, including white supremacy and militia groups, took on renewed urgency following the deadly Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol.”

Reuters repeated a false smear that the protests were deadly as a result of protesters. The only intentional death on January 6 was caused by a Federal agent shooting an unarmed female Air Force veteran, Ashli Babbitt.

The huge protest turnout of mainstream Americans frustrated with manipulations and lies of U.S. intelligence agencies like the FBI, widespread indications of election fraud, failed COVID policies and other things, has been used by the Biden Administration to expand political surveillance and persecution in America.

The **Trends Journal** has chronicled that abuse in articles including [“POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.A.”](#) (2 March 2021), [“FBI USES “DOMESTIC TERRORISM” LABEL TO TARGET POLITICAL DISSENT”](#) (4 May 2021), [“THE LARGEST DOJ CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION IN HISTORY”](#) (8 June 2021) and more.

The loss of Constitutional rights that has been a significant legacy of 9/11 and its “War On Terror” was mentioned as the Reuters piece detailed how intelligence agencies were pivoting from a focus on foreign Islamic threats, to domestic dissidents.

The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism's (GIFCT) database has mostly comprised of content from Islamist extremist organizations such as the Islamic State, al Qaeda, and the Taliban, and concentrated on videos and pictures from terrorist organisations on a United Nations list.

Now, the database will track groups like the Proud Boys, and very likely, “extreme” Trump supporters, and provide that info to Big Tech. What will be surveilled? Social media posts, of course. But also pdfs, and files on services like Google Drive and DropBox, and more.

At the tail end, the Reuters piece gives at least some voice to concerns of human rights activists, saying that the GIFCT has faced criticism and concerns from some human and digital rights groups over centralized or over-broad censorship.

Executive Director Nicholas Rasmussen admitted to the news outlet, “Over-achievement in this takes you in the direction of violating someone's rights on the internet to engage in free expression.”

**NSA “UNMASKED” TUCKER, SOURCES ADMIT IN CONTROLLED LEAK.** A leak to a news outlet this past Friday was apparently done to try to limit damage surrounding NSA spying on Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

Therecord.media cited two unnamed sources in reporting that no, Carlson was not the subject of surveillance, nor were his communications including emails spied on. He was merely “unmasked” as a part of an investigation involving a third party.

The Fox News network had a different view of the significance of the info leaked to the relatively obscure outlet. While filling in for Carlson, Mark Steyn noted:

“We told you that the National Security Agency has been monitoring this show and the content of Tucker’s emails. According to a media outlet called The Record, the NSA has just completed its internal review of the matter. The NSA now admits that it unmasked Tucker’s identity after an intelligence intercept.

“By law, the identities of American citizens are concealed when they’re caught up during foreign intelligence gathering. They can only be unmasked in extraordinary circumstances.”

In general, The Record story, filed by former Politico cybersecurity beat reporter Mark Matishak, read as an attempt to [undermine](#) the notion that U.S. intelligence was illegally surveilling one America’s most prominent news commentators, and a frequent Biden administration critic.

The outlet said that according to two sources familiar with the situation, the NSA “has found no evidence” to back up Tucker Carlson's claims that the agency was eavesdropping on him “in an attempt to get his program taken off the air.”

That statement alone leaves a lot of wiggle room for the NSA.

The Record went on to say that its sources contend Carlson's communications were neither targeted nor intercepted through so-called “incidental collection,” in which the US government occasionally obtains the emails or phone calls of Americans in contact with a foreign target under surveillance.

But the drip of info revealed in the Record story, is being viewed by many as an essential vindication of what Carlson has claimed his own sources have told him about NSA surveillance involving him.

Fox News reacted in a statement to the report:

“For the NSA to unmask Tucker Carlson or any journalist attempting to secure a newsworthy interview is entirely unacceptable and raises serious questions about their activities, as well as their original denial, which was wildly misleading.”

**PAYPAL WILL MONITOR AND BAN DISSIDENT BUSINESSES.** PayPal is looking to use its payment processing company to purge free speech of Americans in the guise of stopping “extremism”.

They just announced a partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) launched a collaborative effort to monitor how “extremist and hate movements” finance and support their operations.

Things like “anti-immigrant”, often referenced as a smear against people who are opposed to foreign nationals flouting U.S. laws to enter the country, made PayPal's list. So did people who are “anti-government”, presumably not to be



confused with the four years many Democrats proudly proclaimed resistance to, and promoted violence against the Trump administration.

PayPal's partisan play and virtue signaling is familiar to anyone watching the general tenor of corporate America. Antipathy for the rights of Americans to exercise freedom of speech, association and commerce have all been fair game for suppression and censorship.

At least some disaffected or marginalized groups and persons are responding by moving to DeFi and decentralized autonomous crypto payments, which are currently experiencing explosive growth.

A pair of giddy announcements announced the PayPal move. PayPal VP Aaron Karczmer said in a statement:

“By identifying partners across sectors with common goals and complementary resources, we can make an even greater impact than any of us could do on our own. We are excited to partner with the ADL, other non-profits and law enforcement in our fight against hate in all its forms.”

The ADL, meanwhile, said on Twitter:

“We're excited to announce a new partnership with @PayPal to fight extremism and hate,” the tweet read. “We've launched a research effort to understand how extremists leverage financial platforms to fund criminal activity.”

# TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



## THE GEOPOLITICS OF BITCOIN

When China banished Bitcoin, it signaled more than just a crackdown against insurgent economic activity.

China's system cannot take advantage of the decentralized blockchain revolution, because their political, and increasingly, their economic vision is directly opposed to the decentralization and autonomy literally embodied in the code of blockchain protocols.

The U.S. and the western nations that still, at least by heritage and a residue of common experience, value freedom, have an opportunity right now. They can embrace the crypto revolution. China can't.

By supporting crypto innovations, the West can supercharge its economies, and move to restore the integrity of money. It can realize enormous benefits from the financial efficiencies that the blockchain is already introducing to millions utilizing decentralized money market borrowing and lending without mediating

institutions like banks. It can also introduce a level of integrity and resilience to corruption or co-option into a virtually endless array of processes. Even a cursory look into the breadth and scope of decentralized projects shows that.

Yes, a frank embrace of decentralized blockchains would mean a transformation not only of financial institutions, but of government processes for Western nations. The problem for elites is that power will shift, and currently dominant players will lose some influence, even if they adapt.

But there's a growing sense among at least some of those players, not only that the revolution has metastasized with a bang in 2021, but that it is easier to join it and try to profit, than to stop it. That is the message of recent moves by JPMorgan and Fidelity, by Amazon and Paypal and Square, and even by states like Wyoming.

Unfortunately, the U.S., already fighting a needless civil war over vaccines and lockdowns, may choose to open another front against crypto innovators and a citizenry fast growing more comfortable and knowledgeable about cryptos.

That would be a mistake. China cannot embrace the decentralized blockchain without fundamentally changing. That is why they did what they could to suppress Bitcoin. China can only lose in this technology sphere. They can't copy or steal it, and build factories and conscript cheap labor. They can't partake of this revolution.

Their digital Yuan, to give one obvious example, is anything but decentralized and autonomous. It is designed to be manipulated by and preserve the power of a small elite politburo.

If the West makes the right choice, China's inability to leverage the decentralized blockchain revolution could doom, not their industrious people, but their dehumanizing, control freak regime, to the ashbin of history.

## A DEFI PRIMER



DeFi, or “decentralized finance”, is a sector where blockchain technologies have experienced exponential growth in 2021. In just the past few months, the dollar value of DeFi activity has more than doubled, from one to two billion dollars. The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the explosive potential of DeFi, in articles including [“WILL BLOCKCHAIN SAVE THE DAY?”](#) (20 April 2021).

But many people, even some who are investing in cryptos, still aren’t sure exactly what Defi involves, or what it takes to participate.

As a general overview, users with a crypto wallet can engage with decentralized apps called dapps, to do many of the same financial related things that are currently done via traditional banking.

According to the popular NASDAQ listed exchange Coinbase, there are dapps that provide an array of services, including:

- **Lending:** Lend out your crypto and earn interest and rewards every minute - not once per month.
- **Getting a loan:** Obtain a loan instantly without filling in paperwork, including extremely short-term “flash loans” that traditional financial institutions don’t offer.
- **Trading:** Make peer-to-peer trades of certain crypto assets — as if you could buy and sell stocks without any kind of brokerage.

- **Saving for the future:** Put some of your crypto into savings account alternatives and earn better interest rates than you'd typically get from a bank.
- **Buying derivatives:** Make long or short bets on certain assets. Think of these as the crypto version of stock options or futures contracts.

Currently many dapps run on the Ethereum network, via its “smart contract” software features. Ethereum has been characterized as a sort of blockchain Microsoft, because it currently provides the number one utilized blockchain operating system on which other projects can build dapps. But other networks like Cardano and even Bitcoin are positioning to claim space in the exploding field.

## **DeFi - A Wild West Of Activity and Schemes**

Newcomers to DeFi should stick to proven entities and vehicles. One of the core concepts of DeFi is staking coins to provide liquidity to others and earn a return.

The Uniswap [platform](#) is generally regarded as one of the safest places to engage in staking or borrowing cryptos. They have an app that can be used to transfer crypto from Coinbase or elsewhere. Once on Uniswap, it's fairly easy to stake crypto and begin earning interest.

It's unadvisable to begin with large amounts. Beginners are advised to stake small amounts, and gain experience and comfort with the process, before committing more funds to DeFi investments.

But even Uniswap is not for people new to crypto investments, as a perusal of their [FAQ page](#) should make clear.

An even easier way to get started with DeFi is to use a Coinbase Wallet, via their [app](#). Understand that an account on the Coinbase.com exchange is not the same as the Coinbase Wallet (though the two can be linked). Users with a

Coinbase wallet can follow straightforward [instructions](#) to use available DeFi apps like the popular Compound app, from their wallet.

Compound, along with Aave, are two most common protocols at the moment for DeFi borrowing and lending (note: Compound's protocol is currently not fully decentralized, but its governing group is committed to eventually migrating to a decentralized consensus model).

With lending, a user provides the protocol with an asset, which is subsequently utilized to make loans. The protocol issues new tokens in exchange for the tokens given, which represent the asset plus interest (and which can be transferred just like any other token). The user receives the underlying asset plus interest for the time it was supplied when these tokens are repaid.

When it comes to borrowing, a user puts collateral (in the form of a certain token) and receives a loan in another token. The user receives the collateral back after repaying the loan plus interest.

DeFi loans are overcollateralized due to the volatility of cryptocurrency. This means that if you want to borrow 1000 USDT (U.S. Dollar stablecoin token) and use ETH as collateral, you'll need to put down 1250 USD in ETH.

Why would someone take out a loan rather than just selling collateral, especially if they have to deposit more in collateral than the loan is worth? A user might need cash, but also want to hold onto a token (like Bitcoin) because they believe the future of the token looks bullish. Also, taking out a loan against a crypto asset sometimes has tax advantages compared to selling it (for more info, see the informative article [here](#)).

DeFi encompasses a lot of activity at this point, and much of it is high risk. An excellent [article](#) on decrypt.co covers myriad aspects of DeFi in detail, urging caution, especially in projects that are outside the crypto mainstream.



It's important to realize that anyone who knows how to code can write a "smart contract" to the Ethereum network, for example. The integrity and terms of that contract, as far as what it does, is up to the user to ascertain and verify.

## Advantages and Disadvantages of DeFi

DeFi, like blockchain technologies in general, create efficiencies by dispensing with the need for central institutions to mediate contracts and agreements between parties (eg. buyers and sellers, or lenders and borrowers).

The terms, the rules and the transactions themselves are all handled by the blockchain network, the dapp software, with all transactions written into the blockchain database in a way that is impervious to being gamed.

Some of the noted advantages of DeFi are that it is:

- **Open:** You don't need to apply for anything or "open" an account. You obtain access to dapps by creating a wallet.
- **Flexible:** You can move your assets anywhere at any time, without asking for permission, waiting for long transfers to finish, and paying expensive fees.
- **Fast:** Interest Rates and rewards often update rapidly (as quickly as every 15 seconds), and can be significantly higher than traditional Wall Street.
- **Transparent:** Everyone involved can see the full set of transactions on the blockchain ledger

Some aspects of DeFi, and many blockchain technologies in general, are held up as positives by some, and negatives by others.

For one thing, many DeFi apps have "pseudonymous" protections. While you don't need to provide your name, email address, or other personal information

to utilize a dapp, things like IP addresses, transaction amounts and public wallet addresses are recorded on the blockchain.

Blockchain databases are transparent, which many participants, but not all, consider a plus.

What's beneficial about transparency? Accounting, for one thing. A bank, or any system subject to audit, is made more trustworthy by transaction records that are indelible and verifiable to any interested party.

With transparency, system fairness that can be proven. Smart contracts which comprise dapps on the Ethereum network, for example, are code, and the results of what they do can be verified on the blockchain.

There are other aspects to DeFi that clearly constitute negatives, compared with traditional finance, at least at the moment. Transaction rates on the Ethereum blockchain can make active trading expensive, when it comes to things like trading and buying derivatives. Some of Ethereum's current scaling problems and consequent transaction fee rates are being addressed by the upgrade to Ethereum 2.0 that will be completely rolled out on the network very soon.

Other negatives are that the sector is new tech that is prone to volatility, and with dapps, it becomes completely incumbent on the user to maintain records for tax purposes. Regulations regarding that can vary greatly from state to state and region to region.

Clearly, DeFi is not for everyone, at least at this point. But for those who have experience in investing and trading cryptos, leveraging this new area to reap financial benefits might make a lot of sense.

## “THE BRITCOINS” ARE COMING



Central banks are in a frenzy over what to do about decentralized blockchains, as they realize now just how much of a sea change they represent.

The trouble for oldline powers is that “cypherpunk” talent that started the revolution has had a 10-year jump in creating their vision, and they have no intentions of ceding either their animating philosophy or their coded innovations.

So the Bank Of England’s sudden turn-around announcement that they would be forging a “Bitcoin” alternative to decentralized cryptos like Bitcoin, is not really unexpected.

But the move, far from harming the value of the original, will only enhance Bitcoin’s creds, according to Nigel Green, founder and CEO of deVere Group. Green’s firm is one of the biggest financial advisory, asset manager and fintech organizations in the world.

Green was reacting to reports that the BOE will soon announce its own digital currency initiative, though they previously dismissed the idea. “If the Bank and government officials believe Bitcoin will supersede Bitcoin, they are mistaken. In fact, it will have the opposite effect.”

Green noted that so-called “Bitcoin” would only push actual Bitcoin higher, for several reasons. For one thing, by going digital, central banks would validate Bitcoin’s already existent efficiencies from being digital, global, borderless, quicker and more cost effective than traditional currency and exchange mechanisms.

Meanwhile, the developments of experienced crypto coders would only continue, with the whole ecosystem realizing greater innovations and solutions that will spur mass adoption.

And Green observed that the Bank Of England knock-off would not really be like Bitcoin at all:

“Whilst Britcoin will have many of the plusses of Bitcoin, it will still be controlled and manipulated by the Bank of England, meaning they can adjust supply and therefore its value. With Bitcoin, there is no single authority and a progressively limited supply.

Green said currencies like a digital Britcoin, in addition to being subject to inflationary manipulation, would not be jurisdictionally borderless, and would therefore not be able to leverage the efficiencies and attraction of Bitcoin in that respect.

China and the EU have made news in 2021 with their digital currency projects. The U.S. meanwhile, has claimed it will not rush to establish a digital currency. But Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has also said this year will be crucial in laying the groundwork for a government issued digital U.S. Dollar.

But none of those central authority reactions to decentralized cryptos solve the problems and create the efficiencies that are already happening and indeed, exploding, in the sphere.

Green’s analysis keyed in on the ethos and intentions of the generation that created decentralized blockchain technologies. He said they were not only incredibly tech savvy, but that the global financial crash of 2008 had an enormous impact on them. Quite simply, they distrust transition banking and financial institutions.

“Britcoin will be controlled by a handful of people from the Bank who have conversations and make decisions behind closed doors. Bitcoin is controlled by no one and discussions are held out in the open and

decisions are transparent and community-based. Which one do you think is the future of money?”

## AMAZON LATEST WHALE MAKING CRYPTO NEWS SPLASH



Amazon’s announcement that it was on the hunt for crypto expertise, made headlines for obvious reasons last week. Any indication that the largest online retailing platform might be looking to facilitate crypto payments, had huge implications.

The company issued a call for a blockchain expert in a job post, also citing desired expertise in “central bank digital currencies” and “distributed ledger” technologies. The post stated:

“You will leverage your domain expertise in Blockchain, Distributed Ledger, Central Bank Digital Currencies and Cryptocurrency to develop the case for the capabilities which should be developed, drive overall vision and product strategy, and gain leadership buy-in and investment for new capabilities. You will work closely with teams across Amazon including AWS to develop the roadmap including the customer experience, technical strategy and capabilities as well as the launch strategy.”

Also, CityAM, a U.K. magazine, reported over the weekend that Amazon will accept bitcoin as a payment option “before the end of the year,” though the company hasn’t officially reacted or confirmed.

The search for knowledgeable crypto talent is fueling a hiring spree almost everywhere at the moment. The price of bitcoin and ethereum, the largest cryptos, has been volatile in 2021 to say the least. But as the explosion in DeFi over just the past few months has shown again, there is a quickly growing

understanding that the revolutionary world of decentralized blockchain technologies is still just in its infancy.

JPMorgan and Fidelity Investments are both making moves to expand their digital assets segments.

JPMorgan announced a slew of new blockchain job openings on LinkedIn. Before that, Fidelity revealed it was adding 100 new jobs in Salt Lake City, Boston, and Dublin. That represents a 70 percent increase in its crypto division.

Their hiring is a response to institutional investors' need for wider access to cryptocurrencies, according to the company, which has noted that demand has remained stable, despite recent high volatility in crypto markets.

Mark Barlow, general manager of personal investing at Fidelity, said in a statement about the hiring: "Growing our U.S. footprint and expanding our technology teams will allow us to source diverse and innovative talent to meet our customers' changing financial needs today and, in the future."

Crypto outlet The Block has also reported heavily on the new heavy wave of crypto hiring. They have said that this employment cycle is particularly notable due to the large number of employees transitioning from traditional banking or government to crypto.

CryptoJobsList, a job board dedicated to cryptocurrency and blockchain-related employment, had close to 3,100 job openings as of July 15. Job ads were from a range of employers, including exchanges like Binance, data-tracking companies like CoinGecko, and smaller businesses in the decentralized finance area, with multiple smart contract development opportunities.

Other sites like ZipRecruiter also show the surge in Crypto talent seeking from traditional banking firms like PayPal, JPMorgan, and MasterCard.



## JPMORGAN GIVES ALL ADVISED CLIENTS ACCESS TO CRYPTO TRADES



JPMorgan Chase will give all clients asking investment advice, not just the wealthiest, the chance to trade cryptocurrency funds, according to *Business Insider*.

Although clients have been pressing banks for access to crypto through their accounts, JPMorgan would be the first to grant the request.

The bank's advisors will not be allowed to recommend investments in crypto but will be able to execute purchases and sales if a client requests them.

Funds approved by the bank for trades include Bitcoin Cash Trust, Grayscale's Bitcoin Trust, Ethereum Classic, Ethereum Trust, and Osprey Fund Bitcoin Trust, according to an unnamed bank insider cited by *BI*.

In 2017, JPMorgan CEO James Dimon threatened to fire any bank employee trading in crypto.

Although he has muted his objections to digital currencies, in May he repeated that he is no fan of crypto, in comments cited by *BI*.

## BITCOIN: AN INFLATION HEDGE?



Bitcoin's proponents have long touted the cryptocurrency as a hedge against inflation, in part because there is only a fixed number of the coins in existence .

Now, after rising from a high price below \$7,000 in January 2020 to more than \$60,000 this year, Bitcoin's value had been cut nearly in half since mid-April, a time when inflation has pushed up prices of everything from soybeans to tin. (See "Commodities Supercycle Underway?," *Trends Journal*, 11 May, 2021.)

Viewed from 1 January 2021 to the present moment, the crypto is up some 25 percent.

Leonard Kostovetsky, an economist at Boston College, speaking to *The Wall Street Journal*, opined that Bitcoin's value isn't attached to anything other than market whims, and "it's just like buying a lottery ticket."

Hedging against inflation is "way down the list" of reasons to buy Bitcoin, he added.

Few choose that reason, data shows.

The volume of trades in Bitcoin derivatives, in which speculators do not take possession of the coins themselves, is five to 20 times greater on most days than buying and selling of the actual coins, according to data from Carnegie Mellon University.

Derivatives trading drives Bitcoin's price moves more than inflation or other factors, the study found.

In April, \$10 billion of Bitcoin derivatives were sold in one day, launching the coin's price tumble that has only recently stabilized, Carnegie Mellon researchers noted.

Bitcoin "may be an inflation hedge some day but not right now," Kostovetsky said.

## HEDGE FUNDS BACK AWAY FROM BINANCE



Several hedge funds have suspended trading on Binance, one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges, after the company has come under fire from regulators in several countries.

Regulators in Britain, Hong Kong, Japan, and Lithuania have turned their sights on Binance in the last four weeks, alleging a variety of infractions. (See “More Trouble for Binance,” *Trends Journal*, 20 July, 2021.)

Because Binance has no headquarters, it is considered a stateless country. Regulators have been unsure of their ability to regulate it; some have accused the exchange of offering services in countries where it is not recognized or authorized to do business.

Tyr Capital has “significantly decreased its exposure” to the exchange. The ARK36 hedge fund has cut back its activity there in the face of “what feels like an orchestrated regulatory attack,” it said in a statement quoted by the *Financial Times*.

An unnamed fund about to trade derivatives on Binance has canceled its plans, according to the *FT*.

Traders using Binance often make deposits there as margin accounts, or collateral for leveraged trades on other exchanges.

Binance also allows users to lend crypto coins, often at high interest rates.

The company has grown faster than its ability to police its customers’ activities, leading to accusations that it has become a haven for money laundering.

Despite regulators' censure, business remains brisk, Binance founder Changpeng Zhao said in comments cited by the *FT*.

The company "has not seen a slowdown in institutional activity," Changpeng said.

"On the contrary, we have seen continued interest in our institutional offerings from not only crypto native firms but also traditional finance institutions," he said.

In June, Binance handled \$1 trillion worth of Bitcoin futures trades, the *FT* reported.

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



**\$60 THOUSAND MORE LIKELY THAN \$20 THOUSAND FOR BITCOIN.** Senior commodities analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, Mike McGlone, believes Bitcoin (BTC) has a greater chance of rebounding to \$60,000 than falling below

its present support level of around \$30,000, and dropping down to \$20,000.

McGlone compares Bitcoin's current price movement to the "too-cold" period of the 2018–2019 trading session, according to a snapshot from his recent research.

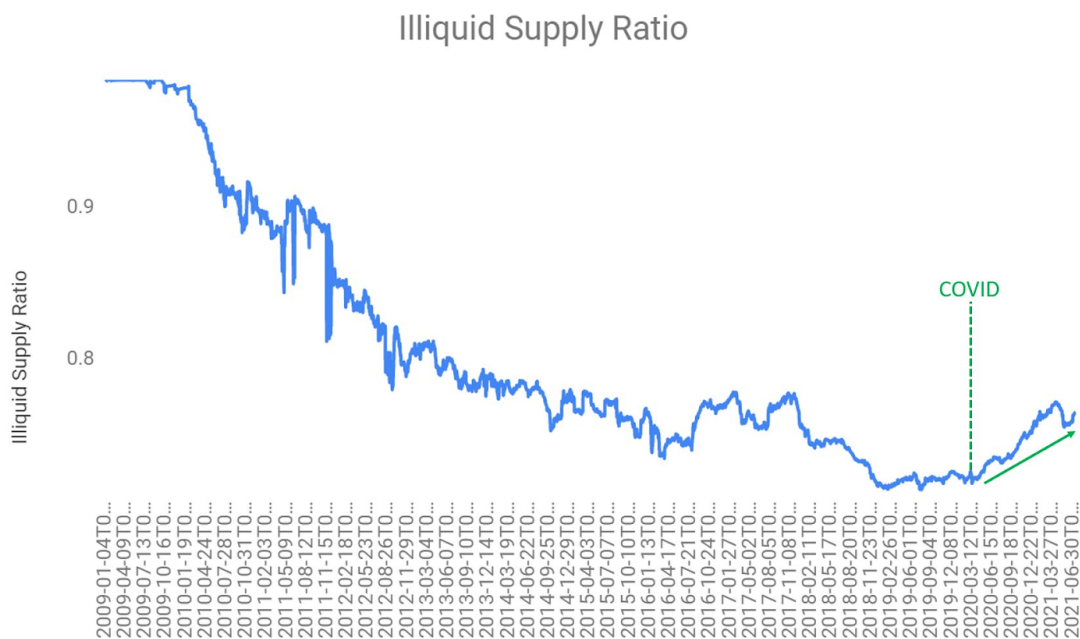
Following an 80 percent fall in 2018, the BTC/USD exchange rate underwent a stabilization phase near \$4,000, but eventually moved to values as high as \$14,000 in 2019.

McGlone, a Bitcoin bull, believes that BTC may stage a similar surge in order to reach a new resistance objective of \$60,000: “The more tactical-trading-oriented bears seem to proliferate when Bitcoin sustains at about 30% threshold below its 20-week moving average, allowing the buy-and-hold types time to accumulate.”

The Bloomberg expert has said that China’s recent ban on bitcoin mining actually strengthens the bullish prospects for the crypto.

Meanwhile, On-Chain Crypto analyst Will Clemente points to bitcoin illiquid supply ratios as another indication that points to moves higher.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic-induced sell-off in March 2020, Bitcoin's illiquid supply ratio has been steadily increasing. The ratio is determined by dividing BTC's illiquid supply by its cumulative or growing supply. The analyst posted a chart showing the ratio:



“Here’s a really interesting long-term chart. Following March 2020, record money supply expansion changed investor behavior in the Bitcoin market. This metric

shows the trend in the number of illiquid coins relative to overall supply. More coins are being locked up than ever.”

**CARDANO SMART CONTRACTS WILL SOON BE WEB BROWSER COMPATIBLE.** Cardano (ADA) is currently a major alternative network to Ethereum for DeFi related smart contracts in the blockchain sphere. The protocol, which is governed by a consortium of institutional players, has announced an upgrade that may make its network more attractive by introducing web browser integrations.

The Plutus application backend will be able to operate in Javascript, the most commonly used programming language on the internet.

Cardano founder Charles Hoskinson said in a quick update, originally reported by Cryptobriefing, that the application's backend, which runs in JavaScript, would provide support for web browsers and mobile devices, allowing Cardano's smart contracts to be interoperable with web browsers.

According to Hoskinson, it represents a significant development that is part of the network's journey toward implementing smart contracts and competing with networks like Ethereum and the Binance Smart Chain.

**DORSEY AND ELON (BACK) ON BITCOIN BANDWAGON.** An online convo last Wednesday that featured Twitter and Square CEO Jack Dorsey, Tesla founder Elon Musk, and Ark Invest CEO Cathi Wood lit up the cryptosphere.

The talk not only was decidedly bullish on the financial aspects of Bitcoin. As the **Trends Journal** has been reporting in Blockchain Battles, the greater implications of decentralized blockchains shifting power away from small groups of elites, was a major focus of conversation. Interesting stuff, considering the elites involved.



Musk noted the potential of Bitcoin with regard to fraud prevention, thanks to its indelible, transparent ledger, and its resistance to government interference. With Bitcoin, there is no company to haul before authorities. As he put it, “Bitcoin is solving for having no throat to choke.”

He added:

“It can have an empowering effect for individuals and increase the power of the individual relative to government. And really, government is just a corporation in the limit. Sometimes some people are like against corporations but [in favor of] government. It's like: Guys, the government is just a corporation in the limit. It's the biggest corporation of all, and it's got a monopoly on violence. So, if you don't like corporations, you should really hate government.”

Musk also pointed out that holding BTC was a better option than holding cash in some European bank accounts, due to the negative interest rate policies.

Dorsey, meanwhile, called Bitcoin “deeply principled”:

“It's weird as hell. It's always evolving. And it just reminded me of the internet when I was a kid. I encountered alt.cypherpunks when I was fairly young. This was a topic of discussion for years. I didn't touch it until 2008 when we started Square.”

Dorsey, like Musk, spoke from his personal experience with “predatory” and “obtuse” financial systems, mentioning some of his motivations for starting Square, a payments processor of choice for small independent and often unconventional entrepreneurs. He said Bitcoin was an opportunity to leave traditional financial systems behind:

“[They’re] just are not relevant to today, and they're certainly not relevant to the future, especially when you consider the entire world and countries like Nigeria, Ghana, or India and [their] interconnection with countries like the United States, Canada, and all over Europe.”

Dorsey also pegged one of the major aspects of cryptocurrencies that embodies its revolutionary power (not to mention the meme “fix the money, fix the world”). “Having sound money that is separate from the state is the idea,” he said.

“My hope is that it creates world peace or helps create world peace. Elon said it earlier, we have all of these monopolies on violence and the individual doesn't have power . . . It may sound a little bit ridiculous, but you fix that foundational level and everything above it improves in such a dramatic way. It's going to be long term, but my hope is definitely peace.”

Cathi Wood mentioned Alex Gladstein and the Human Rights Foundation, while citing that Bitcoin can directly help billions of people living under authoritarian regimes and / or experiencing double digit inflation. Our 29 June 2021 **Trends Journal** article [“HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS “BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION”](#) featured Gladstein.

Wood also addressed environmental concerns regarding Bitcoin, which stems from the protocol’s “proof of work” method of requiring computer power to solve complex mathematical problems.

“I really do believe that Bitcoin will be much more environmentally friendly, certainly than traditional gold mining or the traditional financial services sector,” she said. “In many ways, it already is, and it's just going to get better that way.”

Wood said she has personally interfaced with contributors to Bitcoin Core, a Bitcoin protocol development community.

“In terms of talking to them about economics, economic theory, failed monetary regimes historically, they know economic history, many of them, better than anyone I've ever met. So that gives me a great degree of confidence that they do believe they're on a noble mission. They could be getting paid a lot more than they're being paid right now if they worked at Google or Facebook or some of these other areas.”

# TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



## HOSPITALS' JAB-WARY WORKERS: VAXX MANDATES

While the American Medical Association says that more than 96 percent of doctors are fully-vaccinated against COVID-19, the vaccination rate among healthcare workers is lower, at 60 percent or less, about the same as for the general population and, like that of the general population, appears to be vax weary.

The 22 July article in *The New York Times*, states a recent survey showed that in some hospitals 25 percent of workers remain unvaccinated, while in others fewer than half have taken the jab.

Now many hospitals, from academic medical centers to chains operating multiple facilities regionally or nationwide, either mandate vaccination as a condition of employment or are considering such mandates. Trinity Health, for example, operating hospitals in 22 states, was one of the first major chains to require inoculations, saying "We are convinced that the vaccines can save lives."

## **Losing Workers to the Virus**

The *NYT* reports that on 21 July two more groups, the American Hospital Association and America's Essential Hospitals, decided to mandate vaccinations, motivated in part by wishing to limit the risk of losing any more caregivers to the virus.

While doctors and hospital administrators are almost all in lockstep that everyone needs to be vaccinated, especially with the Delta variant now accounting for more than 80 percent of new cases, healthcare workers, like the general public, still have reservations.

And behind much vaccine hesitancy is the knowledge that the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy shot still does not have the full formal approval of the FDA, but has only special emergency use authorizations. The article cites one hospital, Mass General Brigham, with over 85 percent of its workforce vaccinated, that will not impose a mandate until the FDA grants full approval.

## **Losing Workers to Stress**

Some hospitals are concerned that should they impose a mandate they will lose workers to other facilities that have no such requirement. Staff reductions are already a problem, because the stress of caring for COVID patients has caused significant numbers of caregivers to experience "burnout" and quit.

Requiring healthcare workers to have COVID vaccinations has been compared to requiring them to have flu shots, which when first imposed some ten years ago was met with similar concerns over safety.

## **"Conspiracy Theories" and "Misinformation"**

But safety concerns over the COVID vaccines are also driven by what pro-vaccine interests characterize as "conspiracy theories" and "misinformation," two buzzwords that are now employed by the mainstream to

disparage anything or anyone who challenges the government approved “official” narrative.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In the world of the New ABnormal, it is prohibited to question authority.*

*As per the effectiveness and dangers of the still FDA unapproved COVID Jab, the NYT conflates concerns that COVID vaccines may have negative effects on, for example, fertility, pregnancy and childbirth (for which concerns legitimate questions can be raised, based on statistics; see the 13 April 2021 article, ["CDC DATA PROVES RISING VACCINE HEALTH ISSUES"](#)) with concerns that COVID vaccines contain government-control-enabling microchips, in order to ridicule both sets of concerns as rooted in ignorance.*

*The NYT even quotes a hospital systems director from Missouri as dealing with "pervasive misinformation" by dismissively reminding her workers that "reputable scientists do not publish their findings on YouTube," and quotes another pro-vaccine hospital executive as saying, "We want people to be believers."*

*Thus, we maintain our forecast that, as per the Samuel Adams quote there will be an “irate tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men,” that will fight for freedom rather than take the jab.*

*And, while it will represent a minority, when united with like-minded freedom fighters across the globe, not only will the resistance movement move into sectors of the mainstream...as economies slow down because of masses refusing vaccine mandates, the vaccine resistance groups will garner support from various business sectors.*

## NYC MAYOR PUSHES GET JABBED ORDER



In New York City, some 65 percent of adult residents have now been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. But among the city's 340,000 or so employees, that rate is lower. Only about 50 percent of rank-and-file firefighters and EMTs are vaccinated, and among teachers the rate, as of late June,

was just 60 percent.

So Mayor Bill de Blasio (who changed his name from Warren Wilhelm, Jr.), concerned about a rise in cases involving the Delta variant, announced on 21 July a new program that may incentivize some of those workers to get their shots.

### **Jab or Hassle; Take Your Pick**

The incentive, as reported 22 July by *The New York Times*, is that, if they remain unvaccinated, they will be required to submit to weekly testing for the virus. At first, the new program will target only the over 40,000 workers at public hospitals, plus Health Dept. employees who work in healthcare settings, but the mayor considers it a pilot program which he hopes will be expanded if it proves effective. Essentially, it is hoped that workers will prefer vaccination to the inconvenience of weekly testing.

And yesterday, saying that “the Delta variant has thrown us a curveball,” deBlasio expanded the city's vaccination-or-test mandate to cover the entire city workforce.

Among the city's 3.4 million unvaccinated persons are some 1.4 million unvaccinated children. The mayor is imploring parents of children who are 12 yrs. old and over to have them vaccinated; so far, younger children are ineligible, but the city plans to re-open its schools in September and everyone will be



required to wear a mask. **Trends Journal** has for some time questioned the wisdom of vaccinating children; see February 2021's ["VAX FACTS BANNED BY MEDIA."](#)

A number of city workers' unions stand in opposition to mandatory vaccination, but have so far not objected to the mayor's testing program. In December 2020 **Trends Journal** reported on New York legislators calling for mandatory vaccination statewide: ["VACCINE COULD BE MANDATORY IN NEW YORK STATE."](#)

The *NYT* article also reports that San Francisco intends to require all of its 35,000 employees to be vaccinated, and that Los Angeles now mandates masks indoors, even for vaccinated persons.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The San Francisco Bar Owner Alliance, representing more than 500 bar owners, has announced that its members are "choosing to keep their staff and patrons safe" (and "not necessarily taking a moral stand on vaccination"), to which end an updated policy will require indoor bar patrons to provide proof of vaccination.*

*Starting yesterday, the California city of Montclair, has demanded that all city workers who choose not to wear a mask must wear stickers that prove they are vaccinated with the COVID Jab.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The new "no vax-no jobs-no freedom" dictates that are being imposed across the globe by politicians will put long term downward pressure on economies. By refusing the COVID Jab, there will be sizable segments of society who will not travel, go to restaurants, night clubs, museums, theater, events, etc.*

*And as we had forecast over a year ago, many among this sector will unite to form anti-vax, anti-establishment movements and new political parties worldwide. Indeed, as the 23 February **Trends Journal** cover illustrates: World War Vax has begun.*

*Indeed, the division between the vaxxed and unvaxxed widened yesterday when a joint statement from 56 healthcare associations which includes the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Surgeons and the American Public Health Association decreed: "As the health care community leads the way in requiring vaccines for our employees, we hope all other employers across the country will follow our lead and implement effective policies to encourage vaccination,"*

*"The health and safety of U.S. workers, families, communities, and the nation depends on it," they declared.*

*Thus, while a substantial majority of its membership will follow the dictates, a "irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men and women" will fight for freedom of choice.*

## **DE BLASIO: FORCED VAXX = FREEDOM**



Shortly after announcing his "vaccine or test" ultimatum for all city workers, as we noted in this **Trends Journal** ( See, "NYC MAYOR PUSHES GET JABBED ORDER" in this issue), NYC's Mayor Bill de Blasio exhorted private businesses to require COVID vaccinations for their employees.

*The New York Times* quoted de Blasio as saying, "If people want freedom, if people want jobs, if people want to live again, we have got to get more people vaccinated."

5 million NYC residents have received at least one shot, but the vaccination rate has slowed down., even as the number of new cases, many involving the Delta variant, has tripled. There's been no mention of any increase in deaths, however;

declining death rates don't make news, and don't help hype up fear or provide the rationale for more stringent measures, as we noted in June 2020's ["CLOSE BACK UP."](#)

Nationally, the *NYT* reports, 57 percent of Americans have received one dose, while 49 percent have been fully vaccinated. Across NYC 65 percent of adults have been fully vaccinated, but the percentage lags among many city employees, including the Police and Fire Departments and the public schools. Many of those city workers belong to unions that oppose mandatory vaccinations.

### **"We Have Reached the Limits..."**

His need to maintain favor with those unions is a large part of what has thus far inhibited de Blasio from forcing vaccinations on all city workers. But that is likely to change soon; as de Blasio declared, "We have reached the limits of purely voluntary."

He could have said, "We have reached the limits of freedom." He also expressed his wish that NYC could impose the kind of strict vaccination mandates and COVID protocols in effect in San Francisco, or in France, saying that more and more of such mandates were "the shape of things to come."

A spokeswoman for a major group of NYC businesses said that while about 25 percent of businesses surveyed were already requiring employees to be vaccinated, most employers felt it would be difficult to impose mandates on their own and so welcomed de Blasio urging them to do so. She even said employers would be "relieved" if the mandate were to come from the federal government.

But Pres. Biden's press secretary, Jen Psaki, stated on Friday that it was not the federal government's role to impose a nationwide mandate, saying it was more "appropriate" for those in the private sector to decide how to keep their communities safe."

**TREND FORECAST:** As we have long been writing, the new “Freedom” being sold by politicians, Prostitutes and the medical industry pushers for the Drug Lords, is that getting a COVID Jab is a ticket to Freedom.

Indeed, among the numerous articles we have written, on 30 March of this year we quoted Leah Croll, M.D., a neurology resident at NYU Langone Health and a “contributor to the ABC News Medical Unit,” who said COVID vaccination cards “could be your ticket to freedom in the coming months—so it should be protected as such.”

In our 2 March 2021 **Trends Journal**, Austria’s Chancellor Sebastian Kurz sold his line that getting vaxxed meant getting “Free.”

“Those who are vaccinated should have full freedom...”

And on Sunday, chastising the nearly 200,000 people who took to the streets to protest the latest round of “Get Vaxxed or lose your freedom bill” French President Emmanuel Macron, whose party got trounced in recent elections last month, declared “What is your freedom worth if you say to me ‘I don’t want to be vaccinated.’”

Thus, we forecast global protests, riots and political movements between vaxxed vs. unvaxxed in a city, state, country... and business near you. And, this will accelerate in the years to come as being forced to get vaccinated has now become a signature of the New ABnormal.

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS DEAD. EDITOR DEMANDS ANTI-VAXXERS ARE "RUBBISHED" FROM PAPER.



As we have long forecast, Journalism in the “free world” is dead, (See [“Slaughter in the Newsroom.”](#))

To exemplify how low it can go, last Wednesday *Rebel News* posted a video that further exemplifies how far the once imagined “noble” profession of Journalism has sunk.

The video exposes leaked footage of Barclay Crawford, Editor of *The Daily Mail Australia* (which *Rebel News* points out is "one of the world's most visited English news sites") addressing his reporters in an internal video meeting, and giving them instructions on how to conduct their reporting about anyone that dare question the efficacy of the COVID Jab, and/or refusing to get the Drug Lords shot.

"Make sure your stories are rubbishing their ridiculous claims," Crawford tells his crew, whom he also praises as being "all champions." (Champions of what? Even-handedness? Professional Detachment? Absence of Malice? Journalistic Integrity?)

"It's extraordinary," Crawford says, "how many intelligent, otherwise well-educated people are spreading this, this disease, really, out there in the community...Just remember, with these stories, always, if we're doing something that is airing anti-vaxxer views, make sure we're also dismissing them in the story."

It seems clear that when Crawford speaks of "this disease," he's not referring to the virus but rather to the "disease" of daring to question the pro-vaccine narrative. To see and hear how low the media has sunk, listen to Presstitute

Barclay Crawford who gets paid to put out by his corporate pimp and government whore masters, click [here](#).

**TREND FORECAST:** *Again, we have written scores of articles detailing the death of Journalism. For example, we had noted how the mainstream media, according to Fair and Accuracy in reporting, blackballed those opposing the Iraq War and banned information that proved U.S. President George W. Bush and his gang were proven liars in their claim that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. (See, [Networks Are Megaphones for Official Views](#))*

*Going back to our 1 December 2016 **Trends Journal**, [The Fourth Estate: RIP](#), true journalism in the United States and around the world is dead.*

*And as we reported in the 29 June 2021 **Trends Journal**, [“U.S. INTEREST, TRUST IN MEDIA ON THE WANE,”](#) we note the current reality of an “Un-Free” press and the public’s disgust with the corporate media to emphasize that there has never been a better time in recent history for a true mainstream media network. It is an OnTrendpreneur® opportunity of the century.*

## MORE LOCKDOWN UNREST DOWN UNDER



*The New Daily*, on 24 July, reported that "tensions were high" in Australia's New South Wales state on Saturday, as the lockdown of Sydney (its capital) and its environs began the fifth week of lockdown as COVID-19 case numbers continue to climb. And three other local government

areas in NSW remain under stay-at-home orders until at least 28 July.

As the mainstream media and politicians keep pumping up COVID case numbers (while ignoring the next-to-nothing death numbers), so too, has the



pushback strengthened against the government's COVID policies, as has the rhetoric of officials.

Some 3500 protesters turned out in Sydney on Saturday, shutting down the central business district; 57 persons were arrested, 90 fines were issued, and several police officers were injured at the otherwise peaceful "freedom rally."

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian expressed her "utter disgust" at the "illegal protesters...whose selfish actions have compromised the safety of all of us." She said the protestors had "shown utter contempt for their fellow citizens."

### **Track Down and Punish the Selfish Boofheads**

And NSW Police Minister David Elliott directed a team of more than twenty detectives to comb through CCTV and social media footage to track down the "halfwits" and "selfish boofheads" who protested, saying he wanted to see thousands punished. ("Boofhead," meaning a stupid person or a person or animal with a large head, derives from "buffalo-head" and was the name of a cartoon character appearing in a Sydney newspaper in the 1940s.)

Elliott declared that he would be surprised if the rally didn't turn into a "super-spreader" event, saying that "decent-minded Australians have every right to be infuriated" (not at the government's affronts to their freedom, but at the protestors) and that "this selfish, inappropriate behavior is what is going to keep this city in a lockdown."

### **Another Big Rally in Melbourne**

Also on Saturday, Melbourne, in the state of Victoria, saw its largest anti-lockdown demonstration so far; thousands gathered, chanting "Freedom!"; flares were set off outside Victoria's Parliament House, and police used pepper spray to disperse the crowd. It was apparently bigger and more disruptive than the one we reported on in our 20 July article, ["AUSTRALIA: FOLKS FIGHTING AGAINST COVID WAR."](#)

Yet, the state remains under an "extreme risk zone" designation which severely limits travel. Victorians who have traveled to NSW have difficulty returning home without a special permit or exemption.

And the state's Chief Health Officer tweeted, "We can all argue the merits...of various approaches to managing transmission, but let's not pretend that 'marching for freedom' will actually deliver the precious freedom that we all need and desire."

*Euronews.com* reported 24 July that a banner displayed at the Melbourne rally that day said, "This is not about a virus, it's about total government control of the people."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that "we've turned the corner," and that a million doses of vaccine were being delivered each week. However, as of 23 July, only 15.4 percent of Australians 16 and older had been fully vaccinated.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have long forecast the anti-vax, anti-establishment movements will continue to escalate and the COVID War 2.0 radically ramps up. It will unite factions of both left and right who believe in freedom of choice and who will resist being forced to get vaccinated.*

*And unlike the anti-vax movements that gained little ground before the COVID War began when only students were being forced to get a long series of jabs, now, with mandates forcing people young and old from all walks of life to be COVID vaccinated, the fight for freedom of choice will intensify across the globe.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *While COVID cases in Victoria are trending down, with just 26 new cases on 22 July, 14 on 23 July, and 12 on 24 July out of a population of 6.8 million people were reported, these facts are ignored by the COVID Cops and politicians: no new deaths have been reported; the virus recovery rate is 99.6 percent; The majority of deaths have been reported in people aged 70 years and over according to the Australian government.*

## ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN SOLD



Findings from an analysis by Israel's Health Ministry and announced to the public on 19 July show a significant decrease in the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech CORONA vaccine, according to an item published 20 July by *Ynetnews*.

Statistically, the vaccine's ability to protect from COVID infection has diminished by 42 percent since Israel's vaccination program started.

And the vaccine's ability to protect from severe illness went down 60 percent among those who were vaccinated in the early stages of the program. Most of those receiving the vaccine in those early stages were over age 65, so health officials are unsure whether other age groups would be similarly affected.

### Booster Shots Called For?

Health officials are similarly unsure whether the decrease in effectiveness is attributable to the vaccine or to the greater resistance to the vaccine exhibited by the Delta variant. Either way, Israeli authorities are now considering booster shots for the over-65 population.

A program of administering a third shot began last week, targeting those with compromised immune systems, including those who have undergone heart, lung or kidney transplants. (Note that such persons face increased risks to their survival, with or without COVID.)

Israel may have the most thoroughly vaccinated population in the world, as we reported on 9 February in ["ISRAEL: EVERYONE 16 AND OVER TO GET VACCINATED."](#) In that article we pointed out that, at that time, Israel had logged about 5000 COVID deaths out of a population of some 9,200,000, or about 0.05

percent. And the overwhelming proportion of those deaths were among the elderly or infirm.

**TRENDPOST:** Absent in the mainstream coverage of the Israeli study of the ineffectiveness of the Pfizer COVID Jab is the fact that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's claim that "Based on evidence from clinical trials in people 16 years and older, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 in people who received two doses and had no evidence of being previously infected."

**TREND FORECAST:** With ongoing warnings of new, more infectious COVID variants, we forecast there will be calls by the Drug Lords, Prostitutes and politicians for a yearly COVID Jab. Indeed, as we have noted on 20 April, ["PFIZER CEO: THIRD TIME IS A CHARM"](#), Albert Bourla, Pfizer's CEO has been selling the line that annual vaccinations might be required, just like annual flu shots. And that was well before the phrase "Delta variant" had entered the lexicon.

And on 11 May, in ["DRUG COMPANIES CASHING IN ON COVID,"](#) we also reported that Pfizer viewed production of COVID vaccines as a "durable revenue stream," and was in discussion with "basically all governments of the world" about providing booster shots through 2024!

**TRENDPOST:** Although it was originally hyped as being 95 percent effective against COVID-19, the vaccine from Pfizer appears to not maintain that level, according to Israel's Health Ministry.

Whether the loss in potency—falling to less than half of that 95 percent level—is a function of time or a function of how the vaccine deals with the Delta variant is as yet undetermined.

And the Israeli data may be contradicted by a U.K. study also published this week, involving 20,000 people and finding that the vaccine was 88 percent effective against symptomatic COVID-19.

*Thus, the bottom line is that the “Operation Warp Speed” jab was rushed to market and lacks long term studies, and therefore its long term effectiveness and health implications are unknown. Yet, this type of analysis is forbidden and anyone doubting the official line is a conspiracy theorist and/or a believer of misinformation.*

## THE VAX NOT WORKING?



The term "breakthrough infection" has only recently entered the general lexicon, and it's most commonly encountered as a description of the reality that people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are still testing positive for the virus. We first wrote about this fact on 13

April, in ["BREAKTHROUGH': NEW TERM FOR VACCINE FAILURE."](#)

On 24 July the *Financial Times* attempted to explain why "there's no such thing as a perfect vaccine," and how being fully vaccinated may mitigate, but not eliminate, one's risk. One important factor, for example, is one's risk profile, which varies from person to person and is dependent on a number of factors, age among them; the example given is that a fully vaccinated 80 yr. old faces the same risk as an unvaccinated 50 yr. old.

So, the article explains, it's not binary; it's not as simple as being safe or not safe, protected or not protected. The vaccine confers degrees of protection that vary from person to person.

In trials, most of the COVID vaccines in use now showed an efficacy against symptomatic infection of over 90 percent. That was the figure that was hyped, and what helped to get most people on board with the notion that vaccination was the greatest weapon in the COVID War. In the real world, it's turning out,

depending on the vaccine, to be 60 to 90 percent. Some "experts" are now ascribing that discrepancy to the Delta variant, which they are claiming is more vaccine-resistant.

In England, for example, in the four weeks preceding 19 July, there were 105,598 cases of the Delta variant, and 17 percent of them had been fully vaccinated. Some 30 percent of the 1,788 persons admitted to hospitals with the Delta strain during that period had been fully vaccinated before testing positive. And, since February, roughly half of the 460 deaths linked to Delta were also supposedly fully immunized.

What then, about herd immunity? Kit Yate at Bath University offered that herd immunity might be impossible with less than 90 percent of the herd being vaccinated.

Adam Kucharski at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine says that the U.K. forecasts over 100,000 cases per day in late August. That means that small differences will have great effects, and "nine percent ineffective rather than three percent ineffective means three times more hospitalizations."

***TRENDPOST:*** As we have been reporting, from social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing surfaces to herd immunity rates, etc., the so-called health officials mandates and conclusions lack hard data. Indeed, back in May 2020, Anthony Fauci, ordained as America's top infectious disease expert had said the herd reaches immunity at 60 to 70 percent.

*Several months later Fauci upped it to between "75 to 80-plus percent." And now of course, many "experts" say it's 90 percent. Thus, the evidence is clear that they are making this up. Furthermore, as new variants emerge, the push for "all vaxxed, all the time" will become the new Abnormal.*



## "FREE VACCINE" BECOMING A TOUGH SELL



We've been hearing it constantly: the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and free...so how could you *NOT* roll up your sleeve?

But despite the claim by politicians, the vaccine is not free. The governments take taxpayer money and give it to the drug dealers who have already reaped great profits.

The U.S., in fact, just cut a check to buy 200 million additional COVID-19 doses from Pfizer for a cool \$24 a jab, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. That's a noticeable increase from \$19.50 for the earlier batch.

The paper reported that the number brings the total number of doses for the U.S. to about a billion—more than triple its population of 328 million. (Booster shot anyone?)

The doses are expected to be delivered in two shipments—about 110 million by the end of the year—and the rest by next April. The **Trends Journal** has predicted new lockdowns by the fall due to the Delta variant, so...perfect timing. Under the agreement, the U.S. will be able to purchase vaccines that focus on variants.

The paper pointed out that Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, said these doses could be earmarked for booster shots and for use among children... despite few children dying from the virus and having a 99.997 percent recovery rate according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“The price for this order accounts for the additional investment necessary to produce, package, and deliver new formulations of the vaccine, as well as the increased cost associated with delivering the vaccine and smaller pack sizes to

facilitate delivery at individual provider offices, including pediatricians,” Pfizer said in a statement obtained by the *Journal*.

**TRENDPOST:** On 11 May, the **Trends Journal** published an article, [“DRUG COMPANIES CASHING IN ON COVID,”](#) and we pointed out a press release from Pfizer that was encouraged about a new “durable” revenue stream in the wake of the outbreak.

*“The drugmaker reported a jump in first-quarter profits based on surging revenues, with nearly one-fourth of sales coming from Covid-19 vaccines. With German partner BioNTech, the pharma giant is ramping up vaccine production and now estimates 2021 revenues of \$26 billion from the vaccine, up from the \$15 billion projected in February,” the statement said.*

*(See our 13 April article, [“MEDIA: GET JABBED, END THE COVID WAR,”](#) our 24 March 2020 article, [“CORONAVIRUS: POLITICAL LEADERS ON THE WARP PATH,”](#) and our 21 July 2020 article, [“COVID WAR: FEAR SELLS COVID WAR: FEAR SELLS.”](#))*

*Albert Bourla, the Pfizer CEO, told analysts on a conference call in May that he expects a “durable demand” for the vaccines and compared it to the flu vaccine.*

*The company is building more capacity and expects to manufacture at least three billion doses in 2022, up from 2.5 billion now expected in 2021, the statement read.*

## GET VAXXED: REPUBLICAN PARTY DOES A 180



The Republican party, which has, by design or by default, come to be associated with COVID vaccine hesitancy and skepticism, is now exhibiting a sea change, as even

high-profile members are issuing appeals for Americans to step up and take the jabs.

### **DeSantis and Hutchinson Change Their Tune**

So says the *Financial Times*, in an article appearing on 24 July. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Republican anti-vax hero who in May signed a bill banning businesses in his state from asking customers for proof of vaccination, and who also prevented Florida colleges from mandating student vaccinations, is now urging Floridians to get their COVID shots.

"These vaccines are saving lives," DeSantis said. "They are reducing mortality." And the Republican governor of Arkansas, Asa Hutchinson, who in April banned vaccination requirements in his state, is now going around the state encouraging folks to line up and get vaccinated.

The list goes on. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is quoted as saying that "anybody out there willing to listen" should get vaccinated. And Steve Scalise and Elise Stefanik joined a group of congressional Republicans who are also medical doctors in endorsing COVID vaccinations.

The *FT* attributes such apparent reversals to Republicans not wishing to take the rap for the surge in COVID-19 cases, or being seen as having not done enough to promote vaccination. Mainstream media seem to take great delight in pointing out that largely Republican states, like Alabama and Mississippi, have higher infection rates and lower vaccination rates than other parts of the U.S.

But some Republicans still temper their endorsement with the caveat that there are unresolved questions about the vaccines' downsides, and still people for whom the shots are contraindicated. **Trends Journal** catalogued some of the reasons for vaccine skepticism in February 2021's ["STATS, SIDE EFFECTS & DEATHS."](#)

By and large, the party is trying to undo the narrative it has allowed to be established that Republicans are against the vaccine. *FT* quotes a man who

conducted focus groups on the topic as saying, "It's going to be very hard to put the toothpaste back in the tube."

***TREND FORECAST:*** As the late great comedian George Carlin noted, "It's one big club, and you ain't in it." Thus, the political clubs have united in selling the COVID Jab.

*It should be noted, there was a growing anti-vax movement in the U.S. that was ramping up before COVID-19. The number of American children not getting vaccinated for measles, mumps, and other diseases has quadrupled over the past 15 years, based on data published in October 2017 by the CDC.*

*As we had forecast back on 9 September 2020, beyond the United States, a key platform of new "populist" political parties (along with lowering taxes) will be a strong anti-vaccine movement. It will in fact spread globally with people from diverse political, racial and demographic sectors uniting under the "Freedom of Choice" banner.*

## **FRENCH FIGHTING AGAINST FORCED VAXX**



In mid-July, French President Emmanuel Macron mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for all health workers. Macron also announced that, starting 1 August, adults must have a "health pass" in order to access restaurants, cafes and shops as well as trains, planes and other public venues. Starting 30 September, the same pass will be required of anyone over 12.

Furthermore, on 26 July France's parliament approved a law requiring all health professionals in contact with COVID-vulnerable persons to be vaccinated by 15 September, upon pain of lost salaries or even jobs should they fail to comply.

Protests have been widespread across the country, even before such laws were approved. On 23 July *RT.com* reported that the staff of the hospital in Montelimar, in the department of Drôme in the southeast of France, have gone on an indefinite strike to register their displeasure with the new rules, "forced vaccination" and lockdowns.

Hundreds assembled outside the hospital, chanting "Liberté!" The strike was announced by the CGT-GHPP trade union, and affects about 200 doctors and some 1500 nurses in that city.

A union representative spoke against vaccine mandates and "vaccine coercion," claiming that the workers were not given the choice between testing and vaccination, and that while they do not oppose vaccination on principle, they are against it being compulsory and favor "free and informed consent." She also pointed out that, although positive tests for the Delta variant are rising, there is no corresponding rise in hospitalizations and there are fewer people in intensive care.

The striking workers also lament the lack of public debate on the matter, noting that the National Assembly appears to have accepted the High Health Authority's advice that the vaccination mandate was "justified."

It's not just health workers who have taken to the streets to protest various anti-COVID measures. On 24 July there was a heavy police presence on the streets of Paris, and traffic was stopped and teargas deployed against demonstrators who scuffled with police on the Champs-Élysées. Protestors carried banners reading "Stop the Dictatorship." Officials said that 161,000 people had turned out to protest, up from 114,000 the previous week.

Macron, whose future is uncertain after his LREM party didn't gain a single seat in the regional elections last month (which were marked by low turnout, only 35 percent of the people voted), spoke of the demonstrations' organizers as "people who are in the business of irrational, sometimes cynical, manipulative mobilization."



**TREND FORECAST:** *It should be noted there were intense, ongoing protests in France in 2018 and 2019 that were locked down when the French government launched their version of the COVID War in the winter of 2020.*

*It began with the Yellow Vest movement in the fall of 2018 that brought people to the streets in protest of rising petrol taxes.*

*In 2019 major unions, who led a national strike, had previously not been supportive of the Yellow Vest movement. Among the large unions behind the demonstrations were transport workers, air traffic controllers, teachers, hospital workers, fire fighters, and lawyers. In that December 2019 protest, nearly a million French citizens took to the Street.*

*Thus, we forecast that there will be intense and ongoing protests since not only will there be an anti-vax movement, with new COVID rules now in place, France's economy will not rebound as anticipated ... and when people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it. And lose it they will.*

## **NO COVID PASS, NO EIFFEL TOWER**



France has, since the start of the COVID War, logged some 111,000 virus-related deaths, or about 0.17 percent of its population of over 65 million. Now, in response to COVID WAR 2.0 Delta variant cases, new draconian measures have been put in effect.

**Trends Journal** has noted France's eagerness to respond to new variant cases with more restrictions, as in our article of 2 March, ["FRANCE: ANOTHER LOCKDOWN NEEDED."](#)



Starting Wednesday 21 July, and reported that same day by the Associated Press, visitors to French cultural and tourist venues such as the Eiffel Tower must have a special pass, granted only to those who can document full vaccination or recovery from the virus or have tested negative. Tests are even administered at the various sites.

Reactions have been mixed. A Danish tourist interviewed for the AP report said that, because Denmark requires similar passes everywhere, the new French policy had little impact on his family's vacation. But a visitor from Miami felt his freedoms were being violated.

And, across France, people showed their opposition to the new passes and to vaccination. Over the weekend of 17-18 July some 100,000 took part in protests. The AP cites a demonstration in Chambéry, in the Alps, where protestors entered the town hall and took down a picture of French President Emmanuel Macron. The local government released a statement saying it condemned the "intrusion" with "the greatest firmness."

As we reported, this past weekend, over 160,000 people across France demonstrated against the new COVID vaccine mandates requiring vaccine passports for restaurants, events, trains, domestic travel, public venues and forced vaccinations for all health workers.

Starting next month, the pass requirements to include teenagers, and eventually to everyone over 12 and a new vaccination campaign in middle- and high schools will begin in September... despite no young people having been reported of dying from the virus.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Not a word from the mainstream media of who is dying from the virus in France and why. According to [statista](#), 91 percent of the people who died of the virus in France are over 65 years of age. Of that group, 73 percent are over 75. And as of a month ago, not one person under 44 years of age has died of the coronavirus, yet, the nation, as we had reported, has imposed strict COVID passport rules and enforcing mass vaccine mandates.*

## ITALY: NO VAX PASSPORT, NO FREEDOM



The **Trends Journal** has long predicted that governments will begin to require health passes to resume a post-COVID “normal life.” (See: [“EURO ‘DIGITAL GREEN PASS’ GAINING SPEED,”](#) and [“ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT.”](#))

We summed up the initiatives: “No COVID Jab, no Freedom.”

Italy, under the ex-Goldman Sachs banker and former head of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi, announced that it will enforce a health pass for Italians to access gyms, museums, restaurants, and other public venues. The so-called “green” pass enforcement will begin on 6 August.

Under the new dictate, individuals will have to prove they are vaccinated, have recovered from the virus or have tested negative in the past two days. Other governments in the European Union—like France—have adopted similar measures. *The New York Times* reported that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also floated the idea, but received mixed reviews from the public.

The report said over 40 million people in Italy have already downloaded the pass. Roberto Speranza, the country’s health minister, said these passes are required to attend weddings and to visit senior living facilities. Businesses will be tasked with upholding the guidelines and will be sanctioned if they are in violation.

“The Green Pass is essential if we want to keep business open,” Draghi said. Reuters reported that there has been some disagreement in his unity government, and he could not go as far as he wanted to. Proposals to enforce a

Green Pass on trains, public transport, and domestic flight have been shelved. The League warned that it would kill tourism.

The League leader, Matteo Salvini who said he has not been vaccinated, blasted Draghi's decision to exclude "30 million Italians from social life." He said he refused to see someone chase his 18-year-old son with a syringe while migrants arrive in Sicily without any proof of their COVID-19 status.

The report said the Green Pass was introduced last month across the European Union and Rome's decision to "widen its scope followed a similar move by France this month and underscores growing anxiety about the highly contagious Delta variant."

The Reuters report said 48.2 percent of Italians are fully vaccinated, but many under the age of 40 have resisted the jab. The report said that some politicians—including members of Draghi's coalition, have not endorsed the jab for younger adults.

Draghi has warned of the dangers of a population that is not vaccinated.

"Calls for people not to get vaccinated is a call for people to die. If you don't vaccinate, you get sick, you die or you let other people die," Draghi said.

He called the Delta variant "menacing."

"The appeal to not getting vaccinated is an appeal to die," Draghi said. "Without vaccinations, we must close everything again."

***TRENDPOST:*** *Never is there a mention in the media regarding the statements that are being made by so-called "health officials" and politicians regarding the COVID Jab and those who refuse to get it.*

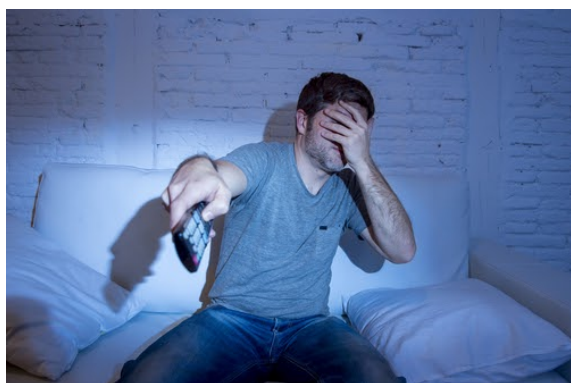
*For example, Draghi said "not getting vaccinated is an appeal to die." Is it?*

*Not for young people and those under 60 years of age. As of 21 July according to [statista](#), of the 128,000 virus deaths in Italy over the last year and a half, some*

*108,000 were 70 years of age and older... and just 315 people under 40 years of age died from the coronavirus. And, as with all these statistics, there is no reference as to what, if any, pre existing chronic conditions those who died from the virus were suffering from.*

*We again note these facts that the media, politicians and “health experts” continually ignore to illustrate how all over the world, nations have imposed strict mandates and rules on entire populations despite only a small demographic dying from the virus. And there is never a mention nor are their mandates being imposed to address and assist those most vulnerable to COVID 19 and the variants.*

## **DELTA VARIANT SURGES IN U.S.**



Rochelle Walensky, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, announced Wednesday that the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant now makes up about 83 percent of all new infections in the U.S.

She called the jump from about 50 percent during the week of 3 July significant but expected. She pointed out that there has been a 48 percent jump in deaths across the U.S., with 239 individuals dying over the past week, according to the *Financial Times*.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The **Trends Journal** has warned that the Delta variant is going to lead to new lockdowns just in time for the fall. (See: [“DELTA VARIANT=GLOBAL HYSTERIA.”](#)) To put the 329 deaths into perspective, exactly 7 months ago today, on 27 January, 4,102 Americans reportedly died of the virus. Yet, these hard facts are dismissed by the mainstream Presstitutes and politicians.*

## **Fear for Sale**

*The New York Times* reported that hospitalizations are trending upward in 45 states, but the level is far below its previous highs. Health officials in the U.S. say areas with a very low vaccination rate are suffering from greater numbers of infections. One hospital in Springfield, Missouri, had a brief shortage of ventilators due to the sudden increase of patients.

“I think any community that has low vaccination rates and has not experienced this [high increase of new patients] yet better get ready,” Erik Frederick, the chief administrative officer at Mercy Hospital Springfield, told *The Times*. “Because what we are seeing with this Delta variant, it’s not an ‘if,’ it’s a ‘when.’”

The delta variant has slightly different symptoms compared to the original virus, doctors said. You may not get the loss of taste and smell. The Delta variant could cause issues like a cough, shortness of breath, a fever, body aches, and congestion. And, barely reported is the fact that the Delta variant is less lethal than COVID 19.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Over 56 percent of Americans 12 and up in the U.S. have taken both jabs, according to the CDC... while among two-thirds of the counties, fewer than 40 percent of the population have been vaccinated.

*Thus, as evidenced with only 13 percent of Australians vaccinated, there, as with the much of the world, more COVID mandates and restrictions are being imposed not because death rates are going up—in fact as we have proven, they are a fraction of what they were this past January—but because there is a global push to get the “herd” as fully vaccinated as possible.*

## U.S. BORDER RESTRICTIONS EXTENDED



The U.S. announced on Thursday that it was extending the border restrictions with Canada and Mexico due to the coronavirus and the uptick in new cases due to the Delta variant.

The Department of Homeland Security said the borders will remain closed for nonessential travel until 21 August.

*The Wall Street Journal* noted that the July decision was the first time since March 2020 that the countries were not in “lockstep.” The report pointed out that Canada announced that fully vaccinated Americans can visit as of 9 August.

As we’ve reported in our 22 June article titled [“COVID HYSTERIA: US-CANADA BORDER REMAINS CLOSED.”](#) there has been significant backlash for Washington and Ottawa over the decision to keep these restrictions in place. U.S. Representative Brian Higgins, the co-chair of the Congressional Northern Border Caucus, took to Twitter at the time, and wrote, “There’s no other way to say it: another month’s delay is bullshit.”

Higgins, who is a New York Democrat, was joined by Rep. Bill Huizenga, a Michigan Republican, and blasted what they say was a “lack of transparency” surrounding the negotiations.

“While the arrival of vaccines in record time has been a modern marvel, the inability for U.S. and Canadian governments to reach an agreement on alleviating border restrictions or aligning additional essential traveler classes is simply unacceptable,” they said in a joint statement.



## Travel Restrictions Extended

Yesterday the White House declared that travel restrictions would be extended beyond Mexico and Canada. The prohibited entry of people from the European Schengen area, United Kingdom and other countries that are currently in place will be extended.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at a press briefing yesterday:

“Given where we are today...with the delta variant, we will maintain existing travel restrictions at this point for a few reasons. The more transmissible delta variant is spreading both here and around the world. Driven by the delta variant, cases are rising here at home, particularly among those who are unvaccinated and appear likely to continue in the weeks ahead.”

In response to the extended travel restrictions, U.S. Travel Association Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and Policy Tori Emerson Barnes issued a statement noting that “Covid variants are of concern, but closed borders have not prevented the Delta variant from entering the United States.”

They also noted that, “While other nations, like Canada, the U.K. and much of the E.U., have all taken steps to welcome inbound travelers this summer and rebuild jobs and local economies, the United States remains closed to one of the most important segments of the travel economy—the international inbound traveler.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have long noted, many major cities, such as New York, depend on foreign tourism, especially in the hotel, restaurant, theatre and events sectors. The extended travel restrictions, renewed mask wearing mandates, vaccine passport requirements etc., will stifle economic rebounds across much of the globe.*

## NATURE MAGAZINE CONTRADICTS FAUCI SENATE TESTIMONY



Dr. Anthony Fauci's claim last week in Senate testimony that research taking place at a Wuhan lab did not involve "gain-of-function" experiments, directly conflicts with a 2015 *Nature* magazine review of the study in question.

The **Trends Journal** extensively covered the *Nature* magazine story and the original study itself, in our 18 May 2021 article ["BATSH\\*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI."](#)

Under questioning from Senator Rand Paul, Fauci refused to revise previous denials about the Wuhan lab research. The two had a tense exchange over the study in question:

**PAUL:** "Dr. Fauci, knowing that it is a crime to lie to Congress, do you wish to retract your statement of May 11, where you claimed that the NIH never funded gains-of-function research in Wuhan?"

**FAUCI:** "This paper you're referring to was judged by qualified staff up and down the chain ... and Senator Paul, you do not know what you are talking about, quite frankly, and I want to say that officially. You do not know what you are talking about."

"I have never lied before the Congress, and I do not retract that statement," Fauci said elsewhere during the exchange, saying that Paul was implying that those at the NIH are "responsible for the deaths of individuals. I totally resent that and if anybody is lying here, Senator, it is you."

But *Nature*, a mainstream science digest, also described the Wuhan lab study as involving gain-of-function research. And what's more, the magazine

specifically confronted the controversial aspects and dangers of such research. The magazine article stated:

“The argument is essentially a rerun of the debate over whether to allow lab research that increases the virulence, ease of spread or host range of dangerous pathogens — what is known as ‘gain-of-function’ research...

“The latest study was already under way before the US moratorium [on gain-of-function] began, and the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) allowed it to proceed while it was under review by the agency, says Ralph Baric, an infectious-disease researcher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a co-author of the study.”

The *Nature* article also referenced Peter Daszak, whose organization EcoHealth Alliance acted as a funding conduit between Fauci’s NIAID and the Wuhan lab.

In 2020 Fauci assigned Daszak to a commission charged with determining whether the Wuhan lab was a possible source of the COVID-19 virus. Daszak eventually was recused, after his Ecohealth connections were publicized.

By that point however, the commission had already released an influential conclusion that the virus was likely natural in origin, and had no connection to the Wuhan lab. Those findings were used throughout 2020 to suppress any journalistic communications or digging into counter facts as “conspiracy theories”.

It’s clear that both Daszak and Fauci both had conflicts of interest with respect to having any role in determining the origins of the virus.

The *Nature* article quoted Daszak defending the work of Ralph Baric, a stateside expert in gain-of-function experimentation, who interfaced with Wuhan lab researchers:

“But Baric and others say the research did have benefits. The study findings ‘move this virus from a candidate emerging pathogen to a clear

and present danger’, says Peter Daszak, who co-authored the 2013 paper. Daszak is president of the EcoHealth Alliance, an international network of scientists, headquartered in New York City, that samples viruses from animals and people in emerging-diseases hotspots across the globe.

“Studies testing hybrid viruses in human cell culture and animal models are limited in what they can say about the threat posed by a wild virus, Daszak agrees. But he argues that they can help indicate which pathogens should be prioritized for further research attention.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *The major takeaway from the Nature article is that Senator Rand Paul is no quack for calling the research in question exactly what scientists and journals have called it.*

*Paul has succeeded in drawing a clear picture that the current head of COVID policy in the U.S. funded controversial research outside the country at a time when it was banned by the Obama administration, attempted to cover up the possible origination of the virus, and is now repeatedly lying about it all to Congress.*

*Senator Paul has made a criminal referral regarding Fauci’s testimony.*

*Fauci also advocated a lifting of the ban on gain-of-function research just 11 days before Donald Trump was sworn in as President in 2016.*

## **BIDEN DOJ ON BLUE STATE NURSING HOME DEATHS: NEVERMIND**



The Department of Justice has dropped investigations of COVID related nursing home deaths in four Democrat run states that flouted Federal guidelines in 2020.

The states, led by New York, experienced some of the highest death rates of nursing home seniors anywhere in the country. During one period, Governor Andrew Cuomo ignored Fed recommendations and forced nursing homes to re-admit COVID positive residents who had been to the hospital. COVID ran rampant among vulnerable elderly populations as a result, and thousands died.

But under a friendly Democrat regime in Washington D.C., those blue states are now getting a pass, even as the administration accuses other states of and even social platforms like Facebook of “killing people” for not pushing experimental vaccines aggressively enough.

The Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs notified US Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA ), the ranking member of the House Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, in a letter sent Friday that New York was exempt from any breaches of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act.

Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Jersey also have been given a pass.

Reaction was swift from politicians including now Congressional leadership member Elise Stefanik (R-NY), who in 2020 decried policies that seemed almost designed to increase death numbers during a time of lockdown and panic. Stefanik said in a statement:

“This decision from President Biden’s Department of Justice makes President Biden complicit in the criminal corruption scandal and coverup of deaths of thousands of vulnerable seniors. New Yorkers deserve answers and accountability. I was the first member of Congress to call for an investigation into Governor Cuomo’s corrupt criminal coverup and I will continue to fight for the families who lost loved ones because of the cruelty and corruption of our Governor.”

Stefanik called for the DOJ Inspector General to look into the matter, calling it a “blatantly criminal cover-up”, and pointed to a recent White House meeting between Cuomo and Biden where a deal may have been struck.

In 2020, the Justice Department under then President Donald Trump had sought information from four states on suspicion that rules for nursing facilities enacted early in the health crisis may have resulted in the deaths of thousands of seniors, in violation of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act.

Far from being held to account for a disastrous directive forcing nursing homes to re-admit COVID positive residents, Cuomo was held up as a media darling during much of 2020, earning praise for his daily press conferences. He eventually rescinded his order, and the mainstream press allowed the story to die, even as NY's nursing home death number stats significantly outstripped states that followed Federal guidelines. Only accusations from multiple female employees that Cuomo had sexually harassed them deflated the Governor's popularity.

### **DOJ Drops the Ball As Biden Plays “Death” Blame Game**

New York wasn't the only state that made tragic mis-steps in handling COVID cases of nursing home residents. But those policies might now receive no inquiry under Attorney General Merrick Garland, although federal prosecutors are still looking into some issues, at least in the case of New York. The Brooklyn U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI still have an open investigation into whether Cuomo's administration intentionally covered up the total number of COVID related nursing home deaths.

Joe Biden recently earned derision for claiming that Facebook was “killing people” by not completely purging negative info about experimental COVID vaccines from its platform.

By that standard, the Governors of blue states that ignored Federal advisories and forced nursing homes to re-admit COVID-19 positive residents have a lot of deaths to answer for.

As for the Civil rights related case, senior House Republican Steve Scalise also strongly condemned the DOJ's decision:



“Where is the justice for nursing home victims and their grieving families? These deadly orders contradicted the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s] guidance, and needlessly endangered the most vulnerable among us to the deadly COVID-19 virus.

“Even worse, Governor Cuomo in New York intentionally tried to cover up the true death toll resulting from his mandate. Grieving families deserve answers and accountability. It’s unconscionable that Biden’s Department of Justice refuses to investigate the deadly actions that went against CDC’s medical guidance taken in these states.”

## **U.S. MEDIA PUSHED NARRATIVE OF CHINA LOCKDOWN “SUCCESS” IN EARLY 2020**



With yet more data proving Sweden’s no-lockdown policy worked, an interesting article by Michael Thau has noted that China and a gullible (or worse) U.S. media pushed the West to lockdown in early 2020.

Thau constructed a timeline that showed how China worked to publicise its “success” in stemming COVID via draconian measures.

And stateside the MSM ate it up. For instance, on 10 March 2020, CNN, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* all featured headline stories claiming China’s lockdowns worked. The barrage of simultaneous coverage for a story that wasn’t based on a sudden event carried the smell of propaganda all over it.

In the CNN coverage, the chairman of China's Communist Party in Wuhan, Wang Zhonglin, complained that the CCP wasn't getting enough credit for

limiting COVID. The American news network dutifully amplified that deceptive narrative:

“Hundreds of millions of people have also been placed under lockdown, while others have been unable to return to work due to travel restrictions. Those containment efforts do appear to have been successful, with the number of new cases slowing to a trickle in recent weeks, as new outbreaks continued to emerge worldwide.”

The other news outlets gave similar glowing coverage. For instance, *the Journal*’s story was titled “How China Slowed Coronavirus: Lockdowns, Surveillance, Enforcers.” It gave largely uncritical coverage of CCP’s narrative that extreme lockdowns had led to unbridled success against COVID.

Over the next days and weeks, U.S. media went into a full court press of the Trump administration, proselytising for lockdowns. But the “China success” narrative wasn’t limited to the media. Federal authorities also chimed in with specious claims.

For instance, on 11 March, CDC director Robert Redfield testified to Congress. When a questioner, Bob Briggs Rep. (R-OH) suggested China’s data about the outbreak might be suspect, Redfield discounted the idea, asserting: “Clearly China has got control of their outbreak. They had 20 cases in the last 24 hours.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci was also on hand that day, peddling fear porn. Specifically, he cited China’s unverified data attesting that that COVID-19 was “at least 10 times more lethal than the flu.”

As Thau emphasized in his article, Fauci’s quote led to literally hundreds of media stories that were crucial in creating a narrative that panicked the entire country. Within weeks, the nation was in “15 days to flatten the curve” mode, and embarked on a nightmare that has yet to really relent.

There’s more to the story [here](#).

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## BIDEN RAMPS UP PRESSURE ON CHINA

The Biden administration is continuing the pressure campaign put into place by the Trump White House—to counter China and rally allies.

Reuters, citing a senior U.S. official, reported that Wendy Sherman, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, will be meeting with top officials in Tianjin, China, early this week to “underscore that we do not want that stiff and sustained competition to veer into conflict.”

The official said, “The U.S. wants to ensure that there are guardrails and parameters in place to responsibly manage the relationship. Everyone needs to play by the same rules and on a level playing field.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the rise of China and the Biden administration’s approach to Beijing. (SEE: [“U.S.-CHINA FACEOFF: EUROPE TAKING SIDES](#), [“NATO LEADERS SIDE WITH BIDEN, DECLARE CHINA A GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGE](#),” [“CHINA TASK FORCE: U.S. APPROACH BEIJING.”](#))

As we pointed out on 30 March, in an article titled, ["BIDEN VS. CHINA'S BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: U.S. LOSES."](#) President Biden has been in contact with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to pitch a massive project to challenge China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), sometimes referred to as the New Silk Road. It was launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013 to, in part, win the favor of developing countries. *Bloomberg* reported on Thursday that the Biden push is called "Build Back Better World," or B3W.

"But that's no more than a start," Michael Schuman wrote. "Success will require a focused program outlining what to build, how to pay for it, and how to convince needy nations to sign up."

The report pointed out that China has run into some of its own problems in financing the initiative and the U.S. and Britain might be able to wait out the Chinese initiative to just burn out on its own.

*The New York Times* pointed out that there is nothing that gets the attention of Beijing like the U.S. rallying allies.

"What gets Beijing's attention the most is not just when it's the United States doing something, but when it's the United States rallying our allies and partners to do something together," an official told *The Times*.

The paper reported that the Biden administration is approaching both Russia and China as adversaries, but that Biden has met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and has not yet met with the Chinese President Xi Jinping. One official told *The Times* that Moscow and Beijing cannot be viewed through the same lens and require separate approaches. The paper reported that Beijing tends to respond to multilateral pressure.

"There's no clear design, although the momentum and direction are both significant and in many ways indicative of where they are going to go," Michael Wessel, a member of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review

Commission, told the paper. “There are disparate pieces, all of which show, I think, a resolute approach to China.”

There are some fissures within the Biden administration about the best approach. Katherine Tai has come out in support of the Trump-era tariffs, while Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen calls them harmful.

The Biden administration has also shown a willingness to flex its own military might on China’s doorstep. Last week, the U.S. sent 25 F-22 Raptors into the Western Pacific along with 10 F-15E Strike Eagles and two C-130J cargo aircraft.

“I’m not in the Department of Defense anymore, so I have no insight into who’s messaging whom specifically,” retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dan “Fig ” Leaf, a former deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Command and now managing director of security consultancy Phase Minus 1, said. “But what I would say is if I’m China, I’d pay attention to the message—whether it’s intended for them or not—because this is capability both in the aircraft, the F-22, and the flexibility and expeditionary nature of the U.S. Air Force that goes back to World War I, that they (China) can’t duplicate.”

He told the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* that if he were China, he’d “take it as a demonstration of the legitimacy of the American commitment to the region, because messaging is one thing when it’s just words. But this is not just a statement, it’s an investment in capability because it’s not cheap to deploy 25 F-22s from two different bases to the Western Pacific.”

The report said, “in the event of a conflict with China, aircraft with stealth and advanced sensors such as F-22s, F-35 Lightning IIs, B-2 bombers and, in the future, B-21 Raider bombers and the Next Generation Air Dominance, or NGAD, fighter, would lead the air campaign.”

*Forbes* ran a headline, “The U.S. Air Force is Sending Dozens of F-22 Stealth Fighters to Practice for War With China.” The *Forbes* report pointed out that the U.S. “flying branch in recent years has grown increasingly worried that, in the



early hours of a regional war, the Chinese People's Liberation Army Rocket Force might fire scores of ballistic missiles at big U.S. bases, including Andersen," in Guam.

***TREND FORECAST:*** [\*"TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA"\*](#) *As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, Beijing will no longer take orders or follow rules set by Washington. (See our 23 March article, [\*"CHINA TELLS U.S. TO FU."\*](#))*

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

*And, as we have also forecast, just as Beijing has clamped down on Hong Kong protests and taken full control, so, too, will they take control of Taiwan when they are ready.*

*Despite condemnations when they do so, there will be no military forces from other nations that will challenge Communist China's military might. Indeed, America, with the largest military in the world, has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations, such as Afghanistan, after invading that nation some 20 years ago.*

## **ETHIOPIA'S WAR: TIGRAYAN FIGHTERS OPEN NEW FRONT**



The Tigray People's Liberation Front continued on its move last week to repel federal troops in various parts of the country of 114 million people, which has raised new concerns that Ethiopia could be torn apart.

As we have been reporting, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the 2019 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, ordered a major offensive in the region in November because



Tigrayan leaders held an election in violation of a countrywide voting ban due to the coronavirus. He accused the TPLF of attacking a military base. Tigray was considered a potential threat to his power.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the conflict since its onset. (See: [“ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA,”](#) [“ETHIOPIA WAR=TIGRAY SLAUGHTER.”](#))

Abiy has vowed to wipe out the TPLF and referred to the group as “weeds,” “cancer,” and a “disease,” according to AllAfrica.com.

“The enemy we are facing is Ethiopia’s cancer,” he said. He called Tigrayan forces a terrorist group and accused leaders of employing children for soldiers.

“TPLF’s continued provocations directed at the Ethiopian National Defence Force, through the use of child soldiers and armed civilians, attempting to draw our forces into an altercation, need to be strongly condemned by the international community,” a statement from the government said.

Tigrayan leaders denied the allegation.

Solomon Ketema, a political analyst, told Nation.africa that Abiy aims to consolidate Ethiopian forces and “launch a large offensive against TPLF.”

“A large offensive means the conflict will not anymore be confined in the region,” he said. “The intended move is so very dangerous and it could probably be the beginning journey towards the country’s disintegration.”

The *Financial Times* reported that forces from across the country have fought alongside federal forces against the TPLF. A senior member of the Tigrayan force tried to calm tensions with other ethnic groups across the country, saying, “Our conflict is not with Amhara, Afar, and other oppressed people. Our quarrel is with Abiy.”

The conditions in the region are horrible and the UN determined that at least 350,000 are dealing with famine, some other agencies put that number at about 900,000.

On 13 July we published a story, [“ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT LOSES TIGRAY WAR”](#) which pointed out that Abiy drastically underestimated the will of the TPLF and its guerilla fighters. Abiy was so confident that he declared victory last year.

***TRENDS FORECAST:*** *As we have forecast since Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched the war against Tigrays last November, the conflict in the country would destabilize the Horn of Africa, create a humanitarian crisis, and would not end quickly, as he had promised.*

*As the “Greatest Depression” worsens, economic conditions will deteriorate and civil unrest, which had been quelled, will escalate. As Gerald Celente has long noted, “When all else fails, they take you to war.” Thus, the greater the tensions rise and the deeper the nation falls economically, the more people in this highly-populated area of 116 million will seek refuge in safe-haven European nations. This will, in turn, boost populist political party movements throughout the Eurozone.*

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

## **U.S.: BOMBS AWAY IN SOMALIA**



The U.S. Africa Command on Friday authorized its second round of airstrikes in northern Somalia amid clashes between Al-Shabab fighters and the country's armed forces, reports said.

*The New York Times* reported that the U.S. carried out two separate airstrikes last week to support the country's Danab, the elite "American-trained Somali commando force."

The first airstrike occurred on Tuesday in Galkayo, which was followed up by another strike on Friday near Qeycad. Cindi King, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, said the U.S. is authorized "to conduct strikes in support of combatant commander-designated partner forces under the 2001 A.U.M.F.," a reference to the Authorization for Use of Military Force, which was created in response to the attacks on 9/11.

"A battle-damage assessment is still pending due to the ongoing engagement between Al Shabaab and Somali forces, however the command's initial assessment is that no civilians were injured or killed as a result of this strike," she said.

*The Times* reported that the Pentagon was less than forthcoming about why it decided to act now after a six-month lull. The Biden administration has faced criticism in the past over its use of bombing campaigns in the country and on the Syria-Iraq border. A bipartisan group of senators issued a statement shortly after the strikes, saying, "It's time to do away with questionable legal justifications claimed by one administration after the next for acts of war like this."

We reported on 8 December, in an article titled, ["TRUMP: PULL TROOPS FROM SOMALIA"](#) that the former president instructed his commanders to withdraw about 700 troops from the country who were mainly training Somali forces.

Representative Ilhan Omar, who was born in Somalia, questioned the legality of the airstrikes and their effectiveness. *The Intercept*, citing a letter she penned to President Biden, reported that Omar said that the "increase in strikes corresponded with an almost doubling of terrorist attacks on civilians committed by Al-Shabaab."

“It is critical that we realize we are not going to simply drone the Al-Shabaab problem to death and that any kinetic action is part of a broader strategy focused first and foremost on the security of Somali people and the stability of the Somali state,” she wrote in the letter.

*The Defense Post* reported that Biden changed Trump's policy regarding airstrikes. Biden's administration only approves airstrikes outside war when they target jihadists. The website said Trump gave the military "carte blanche" use of the action.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *While the United States claims it is winding down wars in some regions, it is ramping them up in other areas of the world... and will continue to do so, especially as the nation's economy sinks deep into the Greatest Depression. As Gerald Celente has noted, when all else fails, they take you to war.*

*And, absent in the mainstream media—which has supported and promoted every U.S. war—is the fallacy that the airstrikes in Somalia are conducted “in support of combatant commander-designated partner forces under the 2001 A.U.M.F.,” a reference to the Authorization for Use of Military Force, which was created in response to the attacks on 9/11.*

*Indeed, it is a civil war in Somalia that has been raging for decades and it is of no threat to the citizens of the United States.*

## **TALIBAN VICTORY: ANOTHER U.S. MILITARY FAILURE**



The U.S. military conducted airstrikes on Taliban positions outside the southern city of Kandahar—the birthplace of the militant group—that observers say underscores the dire situation in the country.

*The New York Times* said the strikes “reflect both the level of American worry and the Afghan military’s continued need for U.S. air support, as Washington attempts to end nearly 20 years of war.”

The airstrikes do not come as a complete surprise. We reported that President Biden had an awkward meeting last month with Ashraf Ghani, his counterpart in Kabul, 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 White House said Biden spoke with Ghani on Friday and they “agreed that the Taliban’s current offensive is in direct contradiction to the movement’s claim to support a negotiated settlement of the conflict.”

The Taliban called the U.S. strikes “disobedience” to the withdrawal agreement, which the paper said seems to prove that the bombings were extensive and the Taliban suffered significant losses.

*The Times* pointed out that these were the first strikes since Gen. Austin Miller stepped down after a three-year command in the country. Miller said at his “muted” farewell ceremony at the U.S. and NATO military headquarters in Kabul that the job now is to “not forget.”

Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr., the leader of the military’s Central Command, who now oversees Afghanistan, said at the ceremony, “It’s not the end of the story. It’s the end of a chapter.”

The U.S. has insisted that it is still working to come up with a peace deal between Kabul and the Taliban, but the paper pointed out that the Taliban is emboldened due to its domination over the country’s forces across the country

and sees little need to negotiate. The U.S. withdrawal is about 95 percent complete, according to Central Command.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken seemed to acknowledge that there's a chance that Kabul will fall and told *MSNBC* in an interview that if these fighters do overthrow the government they would be seen as a "pariah state."

("Pariah states seem to be working out quite well across the globe if you consider [Myanmar's junta](#), Ethiopia, and [Cuba](#).)

One military official told the paper that the U.S. will continue to carry out airstrikes "where and when feasible."

The paper pointed out that details about the strikes have been shrouded in secrecy.

John Kirby, the spokesman for the Pentagon, confirmed to reporters that the U.S. "have acted through airstrikes to support the ANDSF [Afghan National Security Forces]."

*CNN* reported that the airstrikes were intended to recapture military equipment that had been taken by Taliban fighters in recent weeks.

The U.S. plans on keeping 650 troops in the country to secure the embassy and Kabul's international airport.

"There's a possibility of a complete Taliban takeover or a possibility of any number of other scenarios, breakdown, warlordism, all other kinds of scenarios that are out there. We're monitoring very closely, I don't think the end game is yet written," Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley said.

***TREND FORECAST: This October will mark the 20th year of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, the longest war in its history.***



*On 7 October 2001, President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan stating the purpose was to capture Osama bin Laden, leader of the organization Al-Qaeda, which, according to U.S. intelligence, was behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on 11 September 2001.*

*Bin Laden denied any involvement, and, as we have reported in detail in the **Trends Journal**, President Bush refused to negotiate, provide evidence... or even talk to the Taliban regarding bin Laden's role in the attack.*

*Long forgotten is the report that 15 of the 9/11 terrorists were Saudi's, one of America's treasured allies.*

*Since initiating the war back in 2001 and giving it the name "Operation Enduring Freedom," the justification shifted to a fight with the Taliban, which the Bush administration cited as a direct threat to the sovereignty of surrounding countries.*

*Gerald Celente had accurately forecast – and, at the time, was chastised for and banned from the major media he frequently appeared on—that the U.S. military would not win in Afghanistan: "If Alexander the Great couldn't pull it off. If the British at the height of the British Empire couldn't beat them and the Russians couldn't beat the Afghans, neither will the American military."*

*And since the signs of defeat have become more evident, The **Trends Journal** continues to report extensively on the American led disaster that has cost trillions and killed and wounded hundreds of thousands... including U.S. soldiers. (See: ["BYE BYE U.S.: TALIBAN TO TAKE KABUL," "BOGEYMEN, TERRORISTS AND EVIL DOERS."](#)) The Taliban now holds about 213 of the country's 419 districts and will control the entire nation, as it did in 2001 before the U.S. invasion.*

## CUBA CRACKS DOWN ON PROTESTERS



Cuba intends to prosecute protesters involved in the youth-led protests that broke out earlier this month that were seen as a historic challenge to the communist regime in Havana.

Predictably, Cuba took swift action to stem the unrest and seems intent on making examples of these detainees. *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out that there are hundreds of protesters unaccounted for and they have not been in contact with their families. They could be in jail for months or years before even being charged and could face a 15-year prison sentence.

“Some demonstrators have been released, but those who are seen as influential or more visible aren’t going anywhere,” Danelis Iglesias, the wife of Cuban rapper Adrian “El Radikal” Zamora, told the paper.

As we have reported in our 13 June issue, in an article titled, [“CUBA: HISTORIC PROTESTS AMID ECONOMIC CRISIS.”](#) thousands of Cubans took to the streets to call on the country’s government to be dissolved and for more freedoms amid a new outbreak of COVID-19. The stunning protests rattled Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who initially ordered “revolutionaries” into the street to counter the demonstrators.

Most of the 500 protesters who have been nabbed are young Cubans. (SEE: [“TOP TREND: YOUTH REVOLUTION.”](#))

Diaz-Canel has focused blame for the country’s dire conditions squarely on the U.S. embargo and also says Washington has supported the protesters. One official from Cuba’s Interior Ministry said it is convinced that “behind these events is the hand of the enemy.”

Critics of the Biden administration say it has been slow in supporting the protesters, and have called the U.S. to provide internet access to the island during its shoddy connection after the demonstrations. It is assumed that Biden is trying to strike a balance between the progressive wing of the Democrat Party that is more sympathetic to the Cuban regime and critical of the U.S. embargo. Biden announced last week that he plans to sanction regime officials, which is in reality more words than deeds, since it will have little impact on the nation's people and their economy.

The U.S. took aim at Alvaro Lopez, the Cuban defense minister for playing an “integral role in the repression of ongoing protests in Cuba. The sanctions prevent Lopez from taking payments from entities in the U.S. *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out that the sanctions are intended as more of a “message” and said the “target officials aren’t likely to travel to the U.S. and are unlikely to have accounts in the U.S. financial system.”

Biden said in a statement obtained by the **Trends Journal** that said: “This is just the beginning—the United States will continue to sanction individuals responsible for the oppression of the Cuban people.”

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the “actions of Cuban security forces and violent mobs mobilized by Cuban Communist Party First Secretary Miguel Diaz-Canel lay bare the regime’s fear of its own people and unwillingness to meet their basic needs and aspirations.”

He said the U.S. stands with the Cubans “seeking a government that respects the human rights and dignity of the Cuban people.”

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen also said in a statement that the “Cuban people are protesting for the fundamental and universal rights they deserve from their government.”

“Treasury will continue to enforce its Cuba-related sanctions, including those imposed today, to support the people of Cuba in their quest for democracy and relief from the Cuban regime,” she said.

**TOP TREND FOR 2021: “YOUTH REVOLUTION”:** *As we had forecast in December 2020, in 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair. And that is precisely the motivation and reality of what is going on in Cuba.*

*In response, governments will again attempt to use the COVID War as a “legal” justification to prohibit protests. But, as Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it, they will. Thus, we maintain our forecast that protests will escalate into civil wars, and civil wars will spread to regional wars.*

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## THIS BANKSTER AIN'T SINGIN' THE BLUES

Bob Dylan once observed (in his 1962 song "Talkin' New York") that "some people rob you with a fountain pen."

That line may very well come to mind while hearing the exploits of the megabank JPMorgan Chase (in terms of assets, the biggest U.S. bank) and its chairman and CEO, Jamie Dimon. And just as mobster John Gotti was known as "the Teflon Don," Jamie Dimon might be called "the Teflon Banker."

The latest installment is chronicled by Wall Street On Parade on 23 July, but the story goes back some seven years. That was when the first of five separate felony counts was brought against the bank by the U.S. Justice Dept. And while the bank admitted to all counts, regulators managed to take no action, and Dimon and his Board of Directors have kept their lucrative jobs.

The fourth and fifth felony counts involved the bank having rigged the precious metals and U.S. Treasury markets, and were settled last fall with a payout of



over \$920 million of shareholders' money. That didn't send anyone to the unemployment line, either; Dimon continued to be handsomely compensated (including stock options, on which much of the wheeling and dealing was based) for his services to the bank. In 2020 that annual compensation was over \$31.5 million.

**Trends Journal** has written about the shenanigans of the world's megabanks; see our article of 31 July 2015, ["SEVEN YEARS OF THE RIGGING GAME."](#)

But wait, there's more! All the preceding is just old news. What makes this a story today is that, on 20 July, the JPMorgan Chase board announced that it will award Dimon a bonus consisting of stock options worth some \$50 million. And, while he can't exercise the options for five years, that shouldn't subject him to any hardship; his net worth, according to *Forbes*, is already \$1.8 billion.

In its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the bank had this to say about Dimon's award: "This special award reflects the Board's desire for Mr. Dimon to continue to lead the Firm for a significant number of years. In making the special award, the Board considered the importance of Mr. Dimon's continuing, long-term stewardship of the Firm, leadership continuity, and management succession planning amidst a highly competitive landscape for executive leadership talent."

***TRENDPOST: Trends Journal*** has long been writing about the dirty deals of the world's mega-banksters. See our article of 31 July 2015, ["SEVEN YEARS OF THE RIGGING GAME."](#)

*And as we noted in our 29 September 2020 article of how JPMorgan Chase rigged the precious metals market, paid a minimal fine, and no one went to jail: ["DON'T CALL THEM 'CRIMINALS' – THEY'RE 'WHITE SHOE BOYS!'"](#)*



## LAWYERS AMONG BIG WINNERS IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT



As America tries to push back against the epidemic of opioid abuse and addiction, a plethora of lawsuits—literally thousands—have been filed by states, cities and counties against manufacturers and distributors. The gist of the charges is that the Drug Lords understated the addictive

potential of the drugs, and either encouraged and promoted over-prescription or willfully ignored that such drugs were being over-prescribed.

**Trends Journal** has been reporting on this for some time, as, for example, in October 2019's ["THE OPIOID WARS."](#)

Now comes word, as reported on 21 July by *The New York Times*, that a large number of those lawsuits, brought against Big Pharma firms Cardinal Health, McKesson, AmerisourceBergen and Johnson & Johnson, were on the verge of settlement. A few days later states agreed to a \$26 billion settlement with drug companies despite a number of states and attorneys arguing that payout by the drug companies is still not enough.

### Lawyers!

But the drug companies reportedly jumped on board because part of the settlement is that they will not be named in any future opioid litigation, and the private lawyers who helped bring the lawsuits seem pleased to be cutting up between them a jackpot of some \$2 billion.

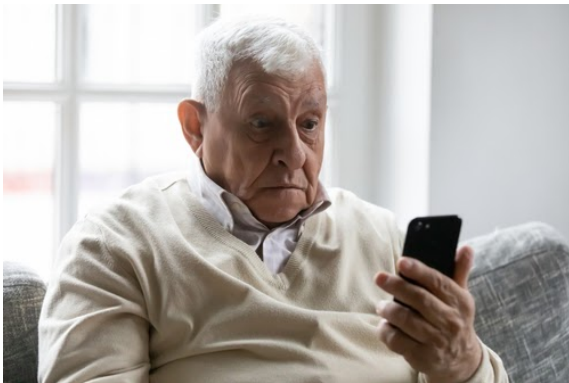
Indeed, another of the factors that had delayed settlement was lawyers bickering over their cut of the deal. And before the victim's families and rehabilitation programs see a penny of the settlement, lawyers will be first while other entities involved will have to wait up to 17 years before the settlement is totally paid.

The Drug Lords can also settle without admitting any actual wrongdoing or liability; they have maintained that they were merely supplying drugs that had been approved by the federal government.

There are still other lawsuits, against other Drug Lords, that have yet to approach settlement, and some of the manufacturers and distributors named have even sought bankruptcy protection. There are even cases still pending against retail chains such as Walgreens, CVS and Walmart.

***TRENDPOST:*** We note this article to illustrate the hypocrisy of the so-called “legal” system that has locked up tens of millions of Americans for smoking or selling marijuana while giving the Drug Lords—who have killed millions—only a fine and no jail time. In addition, besides “Big Pharma” doling out billions to politicians in the name of campaign contributions, many government agencies are nothing more than corporate fronts. Indeed, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration during the Trump administration, Scott Gottlieb, is now on the board of directors of Pfizer, the mega drug company that has made (and will continue to make) billions from dealing the COVID drug.

## **LIFE EXPECTANCY IN U.S. DROPS BY 1.5 YEARS**



As we have been reporting, America, the junk food heavyweight of the world, had been experiencing a drop in life expectancy over the past several years.

But now, with the draconian COVID War lockdowns that have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of scores of millions, life expectancy in the U.S. has been shortened by 1.5 years. Adding to the down trend, homicides, drug overdoses, liver disease, and chronic illness are also seen as significant factors.

Sadly, the **Trends Journal** has been predicting increases in preventable deaths during the outbreak because people were not keeping up with their regular doctor's appointments, there has been a lack exercise due to lockdowns, and more people have been consuming alcohol at troubling levels.

On 16 February, we published an article, "[MORE LOCKDOWNS=RISE IN ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE](#)," and it pointed out that alcoholism has been on the rise in the U.S. for some time, with some 15 million Americans diagnosed with alcohol-related liver disease, in 2020, when COVID was reported to be spreading across the U.S. Some hospitals reported seeing a 50 percent increase of admissions for alcoholic liver disease in 2020. We also ran a report on 10 November, titled "[LOCKDOWN MADNESS: CURE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE](#)."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that life expectancy in the U.S. fell to 77.3 years, which was the same level as in 2003, according to the *Associated Press*. One official at the CDC said he does not anticipate life expectancy to rebound in 2021, and believes it could decline again. One fear is that another COVID-19 variant may emerge rendering vaccines ineffective.

The CDC found that COVID-19 was blamed as the root cause or contributing factor in 385,201 deaths in 2020, but was still the third-leading cause of death in the year. Heart disease and cancer continue to lead in that category, killing 690,882 and 598,932, respectively.

"Increases in other leading causes, especially heart disease, Alzheimer disease, and diabetes, may also reflect disruptions in health care that hampered early detection and disease management," JAMA Network reported. "Increases in unintentional injury deaths in 2020 were largely driven by drug overdose deaths. Final mortality data will help determine the effect of the pandemic on concurrent trends in drug overdose deaths."

The report said that longevity in the U.S. has been essentially stagnant for the past 10 years due to a jump in drug overdose and heart disease deaths among the middle-aged. Other peer nations did not see such a drop.

Steven Woolf, the director emeritus of the Center on Society and Health at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of medicine, said getting back to where the country was before should not be the ideal.

## GUN VIOLENCE SURGES ACROSS U.S.



Sadly, but of no surprise to **Trends Journal** subscribers, gun violence is surging across America.

As Gerald Celente warned when politicians launched the COVID War in March of 2020 and imposed draconian lockdown orders that destroyed the lives and livelihoods of scores of millions, especially the lower economic class, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”

And lose it they are. What was big news in the U.S. last week was the separate shootings that rang out Wednesday during celebrations across Milwaukee after the Bucks’ won the NBA Championship, which underscored an increase in gun violence across the U.S.

Three people were injured in the separate shootings, but *ABC News*, citing the Gun Violence Archive, pointed out that from 17 July to 23 July alone there were at least 915 shooting incidents, which means about a shooting every 12 minutes. These incidents resulted in more than 1,000 deaths or injuries, the report said.

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting about the jump in crime across the U.S. since the start of the coronavirus outbreak. (See: “[NYC: SURGE IN SHOOTINGS & SUBWAY ATTACKS.](#)” “[CRIME ON THE RISE DURING THE GREAT LOCKDOWN,](#)” “[MASS SHOOTINGS ON THE RISE.](#)”)

Chicago police announced on Monday that 70 people were shot last weekend alone, including 12 fatally. One person was killed and another three injured on Sunday across New York City and 10 people were shot during the weekend in Atlanta.

Keisha Bottoms, the Atlanta mayor, announced last week that she proposed a \$70 million initiative to hire more police officers in an attempt to reduce crime.

As we pointed out, the U.S. has seen five mass shootings from March through May that have accounted for more deaths in three months since 1966 and law enforcement officials are concerned that more shootings will occur as the country emerges from coronavirus lockdowns. The *ABC News* report pointed out that 2020 was the deadliest year for shooting-related incidents in the U.S. in at least two decades. There were 43,000 gun deaths.

“We’ve got people that have been sitting around for over a year with nothing but time to plan; all they need is that point that pushes them over toward violence,” Mike Sena, director of the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, told *The Wall Street Journal* in May.

The *ABC News* report, citing the GVA, said more than 800 Americans under 18 have died from gun violence so far in 2021, of those, 174 were under 12. The report also said that there have also been 13,500 suicides by gun in 2021. The New York Police Department said about 97 percent of shooting victims are people of color.

"Taking the gun off the street is great, but really, what we need is we need the individual carrying the gun off the street," NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea told *ABC News*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *There is going to be a major political push for gun control in the United States. It will be as ineffective as the War on Drugs. Anyone wanting an “illegal” weapon will be able to get one. Moreover, it is estimated*

*there are nearly 400 million civilian-owned firearms in the United States. Thus, there are about 70 million more guns than people.*

*And totally ignored by the mainstream media is that when the COVID War was launched in the winter of 2020—and tens of millions of lives and livelihoods were destroyed by the draconian lock down measures—there was a sustained interest in buying guns as fears persisted that violence would ramp up.*

*Indeed, some 40 million guns were purchased legally by Americans in 2020.*

*Thus, attempts to push through restrictive gun laws by politicians will be met with strong resistance.*

## **XI RAMPS UP ECONOMIC “CULTURAL REVOLUTION” IN CHINA**



It wasn't just bitcoin.

China is busy expanding a crackdown on businesses deemed to be harming the public good by being too capitalist.

A highly publicized crackdown on tutoring and techedu companies has wiped out tens of billions in value. And now Beijing has prohibited the "for profit" publicly traded sector from raising capital or going public. The move is seen by analysts as an extreme and financially destructive step to rein in private businesses that resell tutoring and techedu services.

After diving late last week when the news of the crackdown first broke, shares of Chinese education stocks listed in the U.S. plummeted even more early this week. TAL Education Group, New Oriental Education & Technology Group and Gaotu Techedu were all down by as much as a third.



According to Zerohedge, even longtime China observers have been [surprised](#) by Beijing's sweeping actions, forcing a reconsideration of how far Xi Jinping's Communist Party is prepared to go as it tightens its grip on the world's second-largest economy.

While some investors believe the selloff has led to buying opportunities, ongoing crackdowns on everything from internet platform operators to commodities producers and China's massive real estate market will increase caution for international investors.

China's crackdown took many by surprise, even in the wake of their purge of bitcoin miners last month.

Also targeted: Alibaba, a Chinese digital behemoth registered in the U.S. that invests in education businesses among other things, dipped almost five percent. Didi Global resumed its slide, falling 13 percent. Tech companies JD.com, Baidu, NetEase, Xpeng and Nio all were also negatively hit.

The Nasdaq Golden Dragon China Index marked its worst losing streak in three years. And the end is not in sight, given the ideological warfare unleashed by the communist regime against some of its best performing companies.

With losses in Chinese tech and education companies totaling more than \$1 trillion since February, traders from Shanghai to New York are wondering where authorities will strike next and if markets are correctly pricing regulatory risk.

## FORGET DEMOCRACY, AI CAN ADVISE, SAYS “PROJECT DEBATER” CREATOR



From Israel comes a report that AI is being developed with the idea of offering alternatives to democratic voting.

As literally dehumanizing as that sounds, it provides insight into the minds of AI innovators like Dr. Noam Slonim, part of an IBM Research Lab endeavor dubbed “Project Debater.”

The abilities of AI developed by the initiative were previewed recently in a debate between AI intelligence, and humans. It scored highly, even against elite debaters, as judged in a blind test by a virtual audience, who were provided transcripts of the encounters.

According to Slonim:

“The demonstration suggests AI may have the ability to participate in complex human activities. AI makes it possible to produce machines that can perform human tasks. The autonomous system can debate with humans in a meaningful way.”

### Garbage In, Garbage Out

Currently around a hundred subjects can be discussed using the gadget, including topics like preschool subsidies, space exploration and telemedicine. It creates starting remarks and counter-arguments by sifting through a database of 400 million media stories and Wikipedia pages.

If that sounds suspect, considering the kinds of sources that probably aren’t part of the AI’s “database”, there are other problematic aspects to AI. For one thing, AI can never personally draw on any experience of what it is to be human.

For another, it has little demonstrated ability to leverage knowledge that may seem to have nothing to do with a given subject, but which imaginative thinkers often excel in bringing to bear, in finding new answers and approaches to human endeavors. For example, Philo Farnsworth, the inventor of television, came upon his innovation from the way the farm tractor he drove as a teenager “broadcast” seeds in his family’s field.

Many people believe machines, unlike humans, lack soul. And they are certain that AI can have no actual concern for anything, human or not, though they may be equipped with the illusion of being able to demonstrate concern. That crucial lack is what concerns many thinkers, from moralists and theologians, to sci-fi authors, who say when it comes to the prospect of ceding decision-making powers in human affairs to AI, it’s a path to disaster.

But AI innovators like Slonim see things differently. He even postulated that AI might be better than humans exercising democratic voting, supposing that they could objectively advise CEO’s and politicians.

“Imagine the Mayor of London considering more green space in the city. One approach could be to ask everyone to vote. But perhaps a more informed approach would be to collect the arguments pro and con from all citizens who might be impacted by the decision. With Project Debater technology we can do that and then summarize numerous arguments into their most prominent key-points—along with their prevalence—for the mayor to consider.”

Others see AI as capable of performing as “objective” arbiters of human speech rights. According to Chris Reed, a professor at the Centre for Argument Technology at the University of Dundee:

“Its successes offer a tantalizing glimpse of how an AI system could work with the web of arguments humans interpret with such apparent ease. Given the wildfires of fake news, the polarization of public opinion and the ubiquity of lazy reasoning, that ease belies an urgent need for humans to

be supported in creating, processing, navigating and sharing complex arguments—support that AI might be able to supply.”

# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## CHINA REVEALS COMMERCIAL MAGLEV TRAIN

After 20 years of tinkering and testing, China has unveiled its first passenger-ready magnetically levitated, or “maglev,” locomotive.

The engine is capable of a ground speed of 600 kpm, or more than 350 mph, according to CRRC, China’s national railroad company, making it the world’s fastest ground vehicle made to carry passengers.

A train traveling nonstop at that speed could go from New York to Chicago in about 2.5 hours or from Berlin to Rome in four.

China’s maglev can pull up to ten passenger cars, each holding as many as 100 people, CRRC says.

But Shanghai is the only city in China with the ability to host a working maglev railway, with one running between the city's airport and downtown. CRRC has used it as a testbed for years.

Other cities have started to make plans to be part of the nation's eventual maglev train network, which supposedly will unite the country's major cities by 2035.

The network is part of China's "123" transportation plan: no more than a one-hour commute within a major city, a maximum two-hour trip between nearby cities, and three hours tops to get from any city cluster to any other anywhere in the country.

It's a multi-year project because maglev trains require brand new, dedicated runways.

Here's a thoroughly oversimplified description of how the train works.

In some designs, the maglev train sits in a U-shaped concrete channel.

In China's version, the train straddles a raised concrete plank-shaped roadbed. (Imagine a person straddling a horse.)

But no part of the train touches the plank roadway.

Electromagnets line the surface of the roadbed and the train's underbelly. The magnets display the same poles. When two magnets approach each other with the same pole, they repel each other.

As a result, the maglev train hovers above the roadbed. It has no wheels, axles, or other moving parts or any physical contact with the roadbed itself. It's suspended in air by the sheer force of the magnets pushing each other away.

The roadbed also contains magnets that propel the train.



Electronics in the train create a magnetic field with a polarity opposite to that of the magnets in the roadbed's sides. Opposite poles attract, so the train is pulled forward.

There are several maglev train designs in the works and Germany and Japan are actively planning their own systems.

However, China has the most advanced program, claiming to hold 42 percent of the world's patents in maglev technology, more than double those of Japan, in second place with about 20 percent.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Maglev train technology is hugely expensive and requires a dedicated roadway, so will only be financially practical where large numbers of people need to regularly cross long distances.*

Photo Credit: CRRC

## CONCRETE THAT SEALS ITS OWN CRACKS DEVELOPED AT PNNL



Concrete is the world's most common building material. We use three tons each year for every human on Earth, according to the journal *Engineering Failure Analysis*.

But it doesn't last; patching cracked and broken concrete costs businesses and public agencies \$12 billion annually in the U.S. alone, the journal says.

That yearly tab could drop dramatically now that the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has invented concrete that patches its own cracks.

PNNL engineers mixed polymers – very large or long-chain molecules – with cement, the main ingredient in concrete, bonding the two materials.

They found that when concrete made from the mixture cracks, the polymers draw the cement to the crack and bond across the fissure, sealing it within 24 hours of it appearing.

Even better, the polymerized cement responds to cracks before they become visible, reducing cracks seen by the unaided eye by about 90 percent.

Just as important, the polymerized cement increases concrete's flexibility by 70 percent, giving it the ability to remain intact under the impact of collisions, hurricanes, and other stresses that normally fracture concrete.

According to PNNL, their concrete mixture can triple the lifetime of concrete structures and will be especially important in oil well bores, nuclear power plants, and other high-stress, high-temperature spots.

***TRENDPOST:*** *In 2019, about 230,000 bridges in the U.S. alone needed repair and 47,000 were downright unsafe, according to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.*

*The number has only grown since then, yet politicians are unable to allot the money needed to fix them.*

*PNNL's new "elastic" concrete, coupled with sensors now being tested in concrete structures to alert engineers to impending failures, will allow builders to target scarce repair or rebuilding funds to the bridges, buildings, and other structures where they're needed most urgently.*

## RECYCLING EV BATTERIES WITH BUGS



By 2035, 145 million electric vehicles will be plying the world's roads, according to the International Energy Agency.

That's a lot of batteries eating up cobalt, lithium, manganese, and other metals—and a lot of irreplaceable minerals headed for the dump when those batteries are spent.

But, speaking of eating, those minerals can be reclaimed: they can be eaten out of their batteries, then excreted, by bacteria.

The process, known as “bioleaching,” is common in mining, where bacteria eat minerals out of ores and recently has been put to use in reclaiming metals from electronic waste.

Now scientists at Coventry University's Bioleaching Research Group have put bugs to work eating ingredients out of batteries from electric vehicles.

Different bacteria eat different materials, allowing the group to extract virtually every metal and mineral from a dead battery.

The researchers grow their non-toxic bugs in vats of liquid heated to 37°C (just under 100°F), often using carbon dioxide as a nutrient for their critters.

That process requires much less energy than the conventional method of melting the batteries and bathing them in toxic chemicals to claw back reusable materials.

The research team also has developed an electrochemical technique that draws the purified, reclaimed minerals out of the vats of solution.

***TRENDPOST:*** Much of the attention given to problems surrounding the widespread adoption of electric vehicles has gone to concerns about installing enough charging stations in the right places.

*Because it's unlikely to rise to the level of sustained public attention for at least 10 years, relatively little thought has been devoted to the problem of all those batteries giving up in the 2030s and 2040s, especially as rare metals become more and more scarce.*

*The Coventry researchers not only have a solution waiting, but also have expanded the recycling or circular economy in the process.*