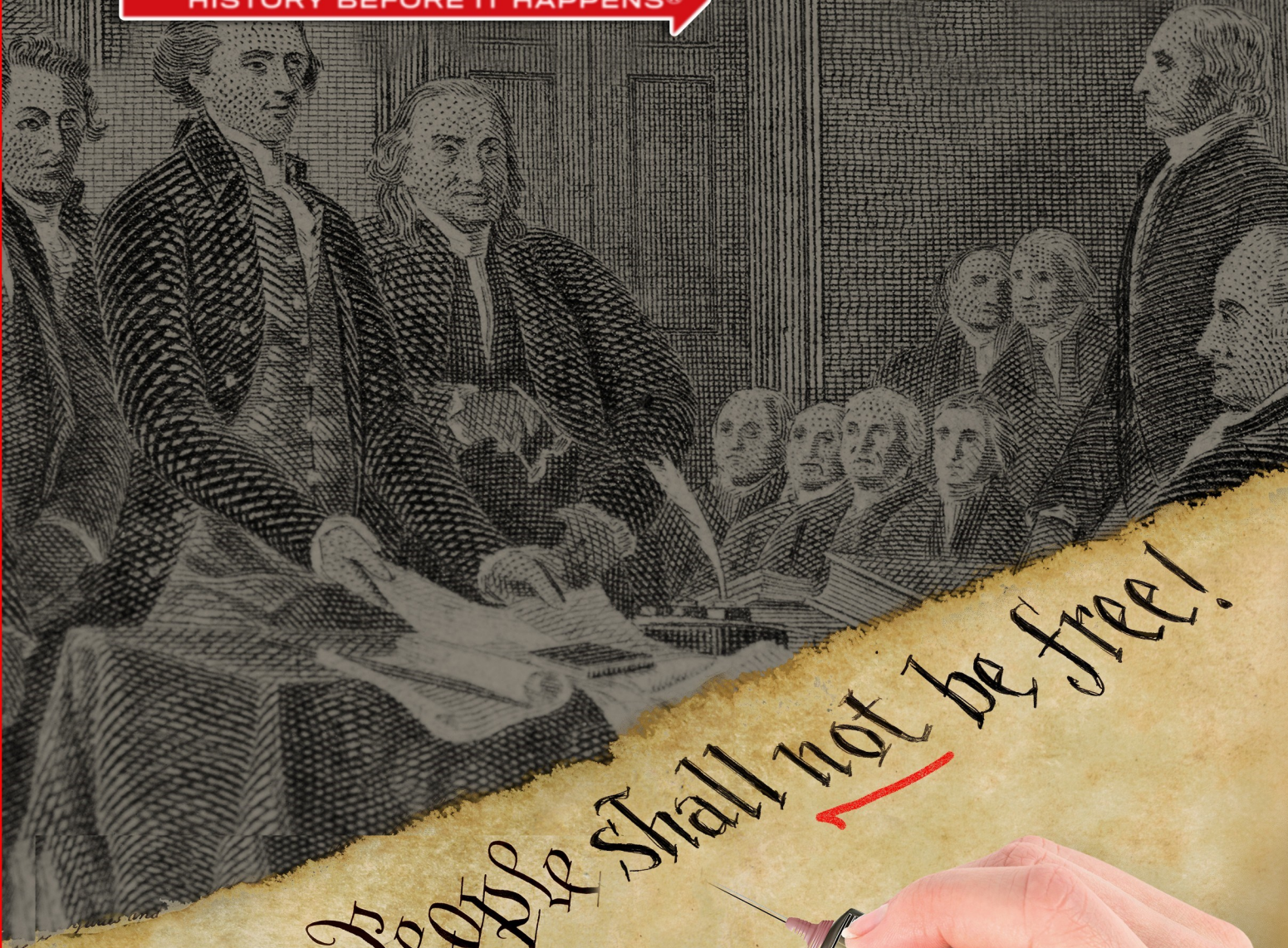


TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®



You the People shall not be free!

the
DECLARATION of
VACCINATION





3 August 2021

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YOU THE PEOPLE

Welcome to this
week's **Trends
Journal**: THE

DECLARATION OF VACCINATION. You the
People shall not be free!

Yes, from America to nations across the
globe that once battled for Freedom and
Liberty, citizens have now become
subservient to the divine right of kings
and queens... power hungry political
freaks in a country near you.

Need more proof?

Today, the Mayor of New York City Bill de
Blasio "mandated," (as have dictators of
France, Italy, Germany etc.) that if you're
not jabbed with a vaccination that has not
been approved by the Food & Drug
Administration – and as factually detailed
in this **Trends Journal** has an efficacy rate
of 50 percent or less – you can't work at,
or go into eateries, gyms or entertainment
centers.

We warned subscribers two months ago
that a COVID War 2.0 would ramp up. The
negative socio-economic and geopolitical
implications will be felt around the world.
In our Trends Journals we provide trend
analyses, forecast and strategic
opportunities to help you rise above the
despair imposed upon us.

United we stand, divided we fall. Please do
what you can to support our Occupy

Peace and Freedom movement and the
Trends Journal.

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

SUCKING UP HOUSES AND LAND WITH CHEAP MONEY

Our political system in America has sold
out the middle class with the aid of
Federal Reserve Cheap Money. By
providing cash to Venture Capitalists
(Blackrock and others) as well as funding
foreign investment in America at no cost
to the foreign buyers (Canada, GB, China,
Russia, Japan, etc.) citizens being forced
out of their homes and apartment rentals
will be a new normal of homelessness!!

We always believed our government and
elected politicians were going to protect
the interests of American Citizens and
ensure housing was an asset that any
citizen could purchase. That is no longer
true because the so-called economic
freedom we have enjoyed in the past has
been stolen by the Elites and monied
Oligarchs and Big Banks!!!

harlow53

TEFLON BANKER JAMIE DIMON

Too big to jail. Like Bush's bailout for those
too big to fail? It's time to put down all
elites and burn the federal reserve and all
its notes. Let's comply with our Law of the
Land!

Richard McKenzie

INVESTING VS. INFLATION SPIRAL

at minimum do what Greg [Mannarino] recommends, and hold hard assets before any type of real inflation is happening...which is by the way....happening as I am typing this. I bought physical gold, silver, and platinum...I am also holding call options on the commodity exchanges (we will see how this plays out by January)....if you go to a Financial Planner, then you'll have to filter through a lot of them because most of them aren't worth their own advice (much like Bernie Madoff)...Also, always invest for cash flow...good luck to yaz!

DAvid SEila

FRENCH FLING

Only the French know how to protest. Farmers collected manure and pumped it into President Macron's residence years ago back in 2014. When they notice an open window, they back up to give that another shot.

And they are doing well in 2021 too. Vive la France

atlantis

DICTUM OR FREEDOM?

Incumbent Democrats are now trying to ostracize all who did not yet get vaccinated for Covid. The new (political) tactic is to blame the vaccinated community for the spread of the Delta Variant. Using opinion only, the Delta Variant is being portrayed as even deadlier than the original covid vaccine was last year. The unvaccinated are not subject to scapegoating.

Even pro-choice (anti-vaxer) Gov. Ron DeSantis is now shifting his official

position towards supporting vaccinations in view of his State's rise in the Delta Variant, mostly among the unvaccinated in Florida. (He is running for reelection next year). It will become very unpopular or dangerous to be seen as unvaccinated in the future. For those who try to hold-out, more exclusions from society and even possible violence directed against them by pro-vax militants.

Craig Bradley

ON DOJ DROPPING NURSING HOME INVESTIGATIONS

If the Trump administration DOJ was investigating republicans, there would probably be the same outcome. The entire system is corrupt.

Cary English

CRAZY TIMES CALL FOR SANE SKILLS

Freezing in some parts of the world, fires ravaging through crops in other parts. Better learn how to take care of yourselves because famine, loss of jobs, loss of loved ones and loss of shelter is coming fast.

Kellie Auld

FED RESERVE MORE POTENT THAN POLITICAL FACTIONS

it's not the liberals, it's the Federal Reserve that is responsible for all the mess we are in.

kenneth boehm

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

EQUITY MARKETS GAINED AGAIN IN JULY

Despite momentum slowing in recent weeks, and slipping on the month's last trading day, stock markets booked another positive month in July.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.3 percent, the NASDAQ gained 1.2 percent, and the S&P added 2.3 percent last month.

The Stoxx Europe 600 index also retreated on Friday but grew by 2 percent in July.

Prices sagged at week's end as Amazon's earnings and outlook disappointed expectations and worries surrounding inflation nibbled at investors' optimism,

continuing to trouble the gamblers. It's more of the same game: They are worried that the central Banksters will stop the flow of cheap money by raising interest rates to slow down inflation.

Asian stocks sank in the rising tide, with Hong Kong's Hang Seng index shedding 9.9 percent in July, its biggest one-month slide since October 2018. China continued to put pressure on tech and private education companies allegedly in an effort to boost competition and improve data security. On the education front, the Chinese government has taken measures to stop for-profit companies from tutoring students they discriminate against—those who cannot afford the classes. They also prohibit foreign companies from investing in the on-line tutoring firms.

In fact, the clampdown trend on these companies was apparent in March when China's leader Xi Jinping declared that "Parents hope their children ... have a happy childhood, [but] they are afraid they will lose at the starting line in a competition over scores."

Today, following the Chinese state media saying that online gaming was a type of "opium" for teens, shares of Chinese gaming stocks listed in Hong Kong plummeted. The Hang Seng Tech index slumped 1.47 percent, while stocks in Asia-Pacific were mixed.

TRENDPOST: Ironically, it appears China is taking active measures to ensure competitiveness while the U.S. has done the opposite by dismantling antitrust regulations and handing more and more control over prices and products to fewer and fewer companies.

COVID War 2.0 Damage

We said it would happen, and now it's happening: COVID War 2.0 signaled the end of the Biden Bounce and the global economic recovery.

"Pandemic Takes Tool on Asia's Economic Recovery" screamed the front page headline of today's *Wall Street Journal*.

As the fear of the Delta variant spreads, the new lockdown orders and restrictions “restrain manufacturing in some countries and the exports that have powered the recovery of China show signs of slowing.”

In July, China’s purchasing managers’ index fell to its lowest level in over a year while its manufacturing PMI tracking new export orders fell to 47.7 last month.

TREND FORECAST: *From exports to imports, as goes China’s economy, so goes the world’s. And today, with its government locking down the city of Ruli bordering Myanmar because just two more cases were confirmed, bringing the total to 23 out of a population of 270,000, it indicates yet more stringent Chinese government measures to fight COVID War 2.0.*

Thus, the more businesses that are shut down, the more manufacturing and bottlenecks that are created, the higher inflation will rise and the lower economic growth will fall.

On the U.S. Front

Consumer spending rose 1 percent in June over May, the U.S. Commerce Department reported.

Treasury yields notched their worst one-month fall since March 2020 after beginning July at 1.48 percent and ending it at 1.239.

Yields fall when prices rise; July’s drop indicates greater investor interest in the security treasury instruments offer.

On the equity market front, after being mixed yesterday with the Dow down nearly 100 points, the S&P 500 slipping 0.2 percent and the Nasdaq edging up just 0.1 percent, it was a slightly up day today.

After being down 100 points earlier in the day, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rebounded, closing up 278 points on the belief of a strong economic rebound... which we don't see coming.

Hitting a new all-time high, the S&P 500 rose 0.8 percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq was up 0.6 percent

TREND FORECAST: As we have detailed in this ***Trends Journal*** article, “COVID RULES: YOU MUST OBEY,” government mask wearing and vaccine passport mandates alone have dramatically increased the Delta variant fear levels of the general public. Thus, the more afraid they are, the less they will go out, spend money, begin commuting to work, etc., which in turn will negatively impact economic growth.

Indeed, as evidenced by the Gallup poll, with the media and politicians selling COVID Fear and Hysteria 24/7, 45 percent of Americans say the coronavirus situation is getting worse. This compares to a record 89 percent in June who said the situation was getting better while only 3 percent said it was getting worse.

And while the poll shows that there is not yet a great concern, the Delta variant has translated to increased avoidance behavior, as more mandates are imposed and more fear is spread, the avoidance trend will escalate, thus taking a toll on the economy.

Unlike the first round of the COVID War that was launched in January 2020, locked down consumers won't be spending as freely as they did back then. Today, the Federal Reserve reported that household debt spiked to nearly \$15 trillion in the second quarter... the biggest jump since 2007, right before the Panic of '08.

GOLD/SILVER: Both precious metals are stuck in their month's long trading range. Now, with fear spreading of the Delta variant and the negative impact it will have on economic growth, we forecast the Federal Reserve will do all it can

to keep interest rates low, which will in turn increase inflation... which is bullish for gold and silver.

In addition, as economies sink lower, governments will pump more money into the system to continue to artificially inflate it. Thus, the more cheap money printed, the lower the value of the currency and the higher safe-haven assets rise.

OIL: As we had forecast, the greater the fear of the Delta variant, the harder economies will be hit. Today oil prices fell as variant fears escalated and the long line of government mandates on travel and other COVID War restrictions got longer.

And while Brent Crude is up more than 40 percent this year, considering that OPEC+ will pump out some 400,000 barrels a day each month starting now—and add about 2 percent to the world's supply by the end of the year—there will be much more supply than demand, which will put downward pressure on oil prices.

What will bring them up? If tensions escalate between Israel and Iran into military conflict, that will drive prices much higher. (See, “ISRAELI-LINKED TANKER ATTACKED BY DRONE: IRAN BLAMED”).

BITCOIN: Bitcoin continues to trade in the high \$30,000 per coin range after sinking below \$30K two weeks ago. We maintain our forecast for Bitcoin to dive deeply if it goes below \$25,500 per coin and spark sharply if it breaks above \$50K per coin.

We also maintain our forecast that bitcoin and other crypto currencies will rise if there is little government control to regulate them. Thus, the more regulation, the lower the value of the coins.

Today, Gary Gensler, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, told Congress he wants additional powers to oversee the cryptocurrency market.

He said:

“Certain rules related to crypto assets are well-settled. The test to determine whether a crypto asset is a security is clear. There are some gaps in this space, though: We need additional Congressional authorities to prevent transactions, products, and platforms from falling between regulatory cracks. We also need more resources to protect investors in this growing and volatile sector.”

Noting that the SEC already holds substantial power over digital assets, and being there are crypto coins that trade as assets, they should fall under the oversight of his agency.

WILL FED REDUCE BOND PURCHASES LATER THIS YEAR?



“With progress on vaccinations and strong policy support, indicators of economic activity and employment have continued to strengthen,” the U.S. Federal Reserve’s Open Market Committee said in a statement following its 28 July meeting.

“The economy has made substantial progress toward” the Fed’s goals of economic recovery and maximum employment and the committee will “assess progress in coming meetings” in September and November, the group added.

Translation: the Fed is signaling that it will begin to scale back its bond purchases... possibly later this year.

During last year’s economic collapse, the Fed began buying \$40 billion a month in mortgage-backed securities and \$80 billion in corporate and U.S. treasury bonds to keep markets greased during the COVID War.

It also has cut interest rates almost to zero and has indicated it will begin raising them after the bond-buying program ends. (See [“Will Fed Cut Bond Purchases Early Next Year?”](#) **Trends Journal**, 27 July 2021.)

Raising interest rates “is not something that is on our radar screen right now,” Fed chair Jerome Powell confirmed in a 28 July press conference.

After the Great Recession, the Fed eased out of bond-buying over 10 months, then waited 14 months more before raising interest rates, taking until 2014 to end its emergency supports.

The central bank will take the same gradual approach this time, Fed officials have said.

If the Fed applies the same time scale now, it would not increase interest rates until some time in 2024, an increasingly unlikely prospect: a growing number of Fed officials have voiced the need for a rate hike sooner than that to hose down inflation. (See [“When Will Fed End Cheap Money Policy?”](#) **Trends Journal**, 27 July 2021.)

Although the U.S. inflation rate surged to 5.4 percent in June, its highest since August 2008, the Fed is holding to its stated view that inflation will throttle back to around 2 percent after supply-chain glitches wrought by the economic crisis work themselves out.

“There’s absolutely no sense of panic” about inflation at the Fed, Powell said in his news conference.

However, “we’re actually responsible for this [inflation rate], so we have to take seriously the risk case that inflation will be more persistent,” he admitted.

That sense of responsibility could force the Fed to raise interest rates before its stated time of 2024, even if the economy and job market have not recovered as much as the Fed would like, the *Wall Street Journal* said.

TREND FORECAST: *What a difference a week makes. With the series of new mandates to fight the COVID War being imposed across the nation by politicians, and the public's COVID Fear rate spiking... the Fed's comment that "With progress on vaccinations and strong policy support, indicators of economic activity and employment have continued to strengthen," is off-trend.*

While we had earlier forecast that the Fed would be forced to raise rates as inflation spiked, we had made that prediction before the Delta variant COVID War 2.0 was launched.

Now, with politicians re-imposing new stringent measures to fight the Delta variant, economic growth will slow, which will force the Fed to leave interest rates unchanged until at least 2023.

This will, in turn, be bullish for equity markets as the cheap money flow will keep the Wall Street Junkies gambling, the housing market relatively strong and push precious metal prices higher... as the value of the dollar decreases and inflation moves higher.

WAGES, INFLATION ON THE RISE



The U.S.'s economic bounce pushed prices 4 percent higher in June than they were a year before, according to the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, the U.S. Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation.

The 4-percent rate is the fastest since 2008. And according to *The New York Times*, it is a rate greater than analysts had expected during the recovery.

Prices edged up 0.5 percent in June compared to May, less than the 0.6 percent median forecast by economists Bloomberg surveyed.

Removing food and energy from the index gives a more accurate signal of long-term price trends. Doing so still yields an inflation rate of 3.5 percent for the month.

Many analysts believe that the post-crisis surge in spending has largely satisfied pent-up demand and that inflation's pace will slow as shortages and supply-chain clogs are solved, the *NYT* said.

However, “the problem is that many of the factors” —including the Delta virus variant— “that are reducing the supply of goods and labor are elongated and continue,” chief economist Constance Hunter at KPMG, told the *NYT*.

“This prolongs many components of the [economic shutdown] that were causing inflation,” she said.

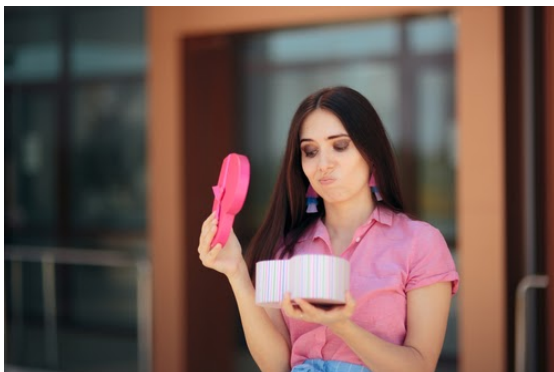
Household incomes rose 0.1 percent in June and 0.9 percent in this year's second quarter, the U.S. labor department reported, a sliver of the gain needed to keep pace with inflation.

Wages rose faster among leisure and hospitality businesses, where pay was up 2.8 percent in the second quarter and 6.1 percent over the past 12 months, the *NYT* said.

TREND FORECAST: *With many businesses suffering the inability to hire staff, the harder it is to hire people, the higher the wages workers will demand. Therefore, if wages continue to climb, employers will need to increase prices to cover the higher cost of labor, stirring workers to push for even more raises so they can afford the higher prices, setting off an inflationary spiral. (See [“Fed Holds Firm on Policy Despite 5-Percent Inflation,” Trends Journal, 20 July 2021.](#))*

And while Fed chair Jerome Powell said “There is a form of wage inflation that can lead to price inflation, but we’re not seeing that now,” looking into the future we can see price inflation. What will slow it down is a global economic crash that may well be infused by the Delta variant mandates and national lockdowns such as those in much of Australia.

US GDP GROWTH: A BRING DOWN FOR ECONOMISTS



The U.S. economy grew 6.5 percent in this year’s second quarter, the U.S. commerce department announced, an astonishing pace in normal times but less than expected during recovery from a once-a-century economic crash, CNBC reported.

The growth rate barely edged past the first quarter’s downwardly adjusted figure of 6.3 percent.

Dow Jones had estimated an 8.4-percent clip; actual production was almost 25 percent less.

However, the expansion brought the U.S. GDP back to pre-crisis output levels, according to the *Financial Times*.

Personal spending led the gains, growing 11.8 percent year over year and beating the first quarter’s 11.3-percent pace.

New claims for unemployment bumped up to 400,000 during the week ending 24 July, also higher than Dow Jones’ projection of 380,000, but lower than the previous week’s 434,000.

Continuing claims rose to 3.7 million and the number of people receiving any kind of jobless benefit went up 600,000 to 13.16 million as of 10 July, U.S. labor department figures showed.

Private domestic investment slipped 3.5 percent during the period, due largely to slowing home sales.

Investment in industrial inventories also fell, and government spending was down 5 percent, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Imports also rose during the quarter.

Deposits into personal savings accounts totaled \$1.97 trillion, compared to \$4.1 trillion in the previous quarter.

After crashing 31.4 percent during 2020's second quarter, the economy bounced back 33.4 percent in last year's third trimester.

The new figures show that this year's second-quarter growth barely bested the first quarter's. That flattening arc of expansion lends support to analysts' predictions that the U.S. economic recovery peaked in April, May, and June this year. (See ["Inflation Likely to Stay Strong as Recovery Slows, BOA Says," Trends Journal](#), 29 June 2021.)

While growth will continue, the economy will expand at a more modest pace from now on, they believe.

"The good news is that the economy has now surpassed its pre-pandemic level," economist Paul Ashworth at Capital Economics wrote in a research note quoted by CNBC.

"But, with the impact from the fiscal stimulus waning, surging prices weakening purchasing power, the delta variant running amok in the south, and the savings rate lower than we thought, we expect GDP growth to slow to 3.5 percent annualized in the second half of this year," he wrote.

The Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, the U.S. Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measure, swelled 6.4 percent in this year's second quarter, compared to 3.8 percent in the first.

TRENDPOST: *While the U.S. economy grew at 6.5 percent in the second quarter, the Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation rose at an annualized rate of 6.4 percent in the second quarter. Thus, for U.S. households, where wages rose just 3.2 percent year-on-year, what is billed as an "economic recovery," is fiction for the plantation workers of Slavelandia.*

CONSUMER SPENDING GAINED IN JUNE



Consumers spent 1 percent more in June, year over year, including 1.2 percent more on services and 0.5 percent more for goods, the U.S. commerce department reported.

Household spending contracted 0.1 percent in May; consumers had satisfied their need for merchandise by then and began redirecting dollars to services, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Personal incomes rose an average of 0.1 percent in June. The personal savings rate dropped to 9.4 percent from a 2020 high above 14 percent, but remained above pre-crisis levels, the *WSJ* noted.

Consumer confidence also crept up slightly, according to the University of Michigan's monthly survey, the *WSJ* said.

Spending on durable goods, lasting more than three years, dipped slightly, but spending on non-durables, such as clothing, rose 1.8 percent.

More recently, consumers put 11.3 percent more on their credit cards, year on year, during the four weeks ending 21 July than a year earlier, according to analytics firm Earnest Research. (See [“Consumer Debt Soars,” Trends Journal](#), 13 July 2021.)

The volume was slightly less than the four weeks ending 30 June, just before the COVID virus’s delta variant began to take hold, Earnest said.

The virus is not the only worry.

“The chance that the pickup in inflation is not transitory...that’s a risk,” David Berson, chief economist at Nationwide Insurance, said in a *WSJ* interview.

Increased spending when raw materials are in short supply can push prices higher, causing workers to demand higher pay, which would force employers to charge more for their products, he warned.

TREND FORECAST: *In June, personal incomes rose 0.1 percent while inflation cruised up at 3.5 percent. Therefore, in practical terms, all but the wealthy took a significant pay cut that month.*

And as we noted, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported today that as a result of a surge in credit card spending and home purchases U.S. household debt hit nearly \$15 trillion. Spiking 2.1 percent in the second quarter, it was the biggest percentage increase in seven and a half years.

Therefore, the bottom line is, the standard of living is declining. The spike in prices, plus the ramped up fighting of COVID War 2.0 will push GDP growth lower in the coming months.

BIG BANKS: WE LOVE THE RICH



Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, and Morgan Stanley loaned more than \$600 billion to their wealthiest clients in this year's second quarter, 17.5 percent more than a year earlier, the *Financial Times*

reported.

These loans now encompass 22.5 percent of the banks' total loan portfolios, compared to 16.3 percent in mid-2017, according to the *FT*, and have grown by 50 percent in dollar volume since then, while the banks' consumer and corporate portfolios have expanded only 9 percent.

Citigroup and JPMorgan are now loaning more money to “a small number of ultra-high net worth clients” than to their millions of credit-card customers, the *FT* said.

These relatively few clients are using their loans to buy assets from stocks to second homes, but also investing the loans in their own companies, bypassing the banks' normal vetting process for business loans, the *FT* reported.

U.S. billionaires have a total worth of \$4.25 trillion, \$2.7 trillion of which has never been taxed, according to a University of California study this year.

“What concerns me is that you have this flood of credit, all with the [assumption] that the wealthy never go bad,” Peter Atwater, president of advisory firm Financial Insyghts [sic], said to the *FT*.

The reserves the banks hold against these loans are “meager,” he said.

Banks recognize that these loans are not without risk; market gyrations in spring 2020 prompted the banks to ask rich clients to pledge more collateral.

However, the loans have been expanding more than usual since the U.S. Federal Reserve slashed interest rates more than a year ago.

For a two-year personal loan using stocks or other liquid assets as collateral, a wealthy client pays interest at about 1.4 percent, financial professionals told the *FT*.

If a wealthy person uses such a loan to buy stocks that gain 2 percent in value over the loan period, the person makes a near-25-percent profit on the borrowed money.

The wealthy also are using the loans to dodge taxes.

Instead of raising cash by selling an asset and facing capital gains taxes of 20 percent or more, rich folks can take a cheap loan against the value of the asset.

“The wealthy operate under a completely different tax system, where all this accumulated wealth is untaxed unless they sell [and incur capital gains taxes]—and they’re so wealthy they don’t need to sell,” president Frank Clemente of the nonprofit Americans for Tax Fairness said to the *FT*.

The tax system enables the rich to engage in “legal tax dodging,” he said.

TRENDPOST: *Supposedly, the writer F. Scott Fitzgerald once said to Ernest Hemingway, “The rich are different from you and me.” Hemingway reportedly replied, “Yes, they have more money.”*

As this article shows, they also live by different rules and a different set of expectations: that money buys their way out of the tedium of applications, vetting, and tax obligations that the rest of us regularly confront.

The wealthy are cared for, excused from the drudgery of normal life, and leave us to pay their fair share of taxes while they claim a greater share of the wealth our society creates for them.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CRISIS?



It was a big story in *The Wall Street Journal* last week. Happy days are here again was the drift of the lengthy article. It began by noting that sales of commercial real estate have bounced back to pre-2020 levels, notching \$144.7 billion in this year's second quarter, according to data firm Real Capital

Analytics.

However, the market is shaped distinctly differently than before the economic crisis.

As we had long forecast, investors are snubbing New York, San Francisco, and other former hotspots in favor of southern U.S. cities. (See [“More Manhattan Office Space Goes Vacant,” Trends Journal](#), 8 June 2021.)

And as for convention hotels and office buildings? They are being forsaken in favor of warehouses, apartment buildings with lots of amenities, office parks catering to life-science and pharmaceutical firms, and other properties that paid strong returns during the crisis, the *WSJ* reported.

Shopping malls also lost favor as more shoppers in 2020 established the habit of buying online. (See [“Pall on Malls,” Trends Journal](#), 9 September 2020.)

Thanks to the U.S. Federal Reserve's policy of rock-bottom interest rates, investors have been able to pay top dollar for properties, distressed or not, that have come on the market.

“Calamity was simply not in the cards for this economic downturn,” thanks to the Fed, Real Capital said in a report quoted by the *WSJ*.

Apartment buildings have fetched the most interest, booking more than \$92 billion in sales this year through July, especially garden apartments outside major city centers, the *WSJ* said.

Demand for apartments, as well as their rental prices, have been buoyed by a housing market where high prices and stringent lending requirements have locked out many potential buyers, forcing them to keep renting.

“Buyers [of apartment buildings] are saying, ‘I like the strength of tenants, I like the yield here’,” James Costello, vice president of Real Capital, told the *WSJ*.

Commercial property sales were strongest in areas that gained population during 2020 as people left cities, especially in the north.

Atlanta, Austin, Dallas, Nashville, Phoenix, San Antonio, and Tampa all showed record first-half sales of commercial real estate this year.

All are southern cities.

In contrast, Manhattan, which recorded the second-highest number of commercial property sales in the first half of 2019, sank to 11th place this year; San Francisco slid from the 10th spot to 15th.

Sales of office buildings were clouded by uncertainties about the degree to which working from home was permanent, Real Capital noted.

TREND FORECAST: *Remote work as the new normal has spread skilled workers farther from the traditional business hotbeds, particularly on the coasts, and will create new centers of tech, financial, and innovative gravity around the country, reducing the coasts’ cultural influence and giving more to what have been second-tier metro areas in the heartland.*

*As for commercial real estate, with COVID War 2.0 heating up, where are prices heading? Check out “WILL DELTA VARIANT KILL COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE?” in this issue of the **Trends Journal**.*

CITIZENS TO BUY INVESTORS BANCORP FOR \$3.5 BILLION



Citizens Financial Group, the 15th largest U.S. bank by assets, according to bank services firm MX, will buy Investors Bancorp for \$3.5 billion in cash and stock, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Investors Bancorp operates about 150 locations in New York and New Jersey. The sale will give Citizens a sizable footprint in lucrative markets where it has little presence, the *WSJ* noted.

In May, Citizens bought 80 branches and the online banking business that belonged to HSBC, the British bank that has shifted its focus to Asia. (See [“HSBC Going Asian,” Trends Journal](#), 8 June 2021.)

The HSBC deal vaulted Citizens into the ranks of New York’s top 25 banks, added 800,000 customers to its portfolio, and gave it a foothold in southeast Florida, where the northeast’s wealthy “snowbirds” migrate in cold weather.

By buying Investors, Citizens picks up about \$215 billion in assets and knits together its northeast branches and those in the mid-Atlantic region it bought from HSBC, extending Citizens’ unbroken network of coverage from Vermont to Washington, DC.

TRENDPOST: We note this article to again illustrate the reality of the Bigs getting bigger and how a very few control very much... especially in the Bankster sector, who, unlike the rest of society, are “Too Big to Fail,” and despite their convicted criminality, “Too Big to Jail.”

*This article, [“Classic capitalism is dead”](#) from our 5 February 2015 **Trends Journal**, makes it clear who is in charge of the money machine.*

THE GOBBLE UP GAME: CBRE GETS BIGGER



CBRE, the world's largest real estate services firm, has agreed to pay \$1.3 billion in cash for 60-percent ownership of London-based Turner & Townsend Holdings, one of the world's largest firms that manages major construction projects.

The buy comes as developers prepare for a wave of infrastructure spending on roads, water and sewer system repairs and replacements, and renewable energy, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Many owners of the commercial properties CBRE manages are planning to add insulation, green energy systems, and otherwise reduce their buildings' carbon dioxide footprint, the *WSJ* noted.

The purchase is part of CBRE's transformation from a company largely collecting commissions from transactions to one that charges recurring fees for services such as property management, project management, and consulting, the *WSJ* said.

TREND FORECAST: This is another instance of the Bigs using their wealth to annex another portion of the economy, amassing more economic clout and political power as they fatten their portfolios. We said it in our 25 May issue this year ([“Bigs Get Bigger, Mom and Pops Go Bust”](#)) and it remains true: the few Bigs will continue to gain financial and political power and extend their dominance through all areas of our lives.

SQUARE BUYS AFTERPAY FOR \$29 BILLION



Square, the card-swiping payment system co-founded by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, has agreed to buy Australia's Afterpay for \$29 billion in stock in a deal set to close in 2022's first quarter, CNBC reported.

Buying Afterpay expands Square's presence in the growing "installment loan" payment realm popular with younger consumers.

Many Millennials and young adults are foregoing the use of traditional credit cards for purchases of a few hundred dollars, such as a piece of furniture.

Instead, they can arrange with a company such as Afterpay or Affirm to have equal monthly payments automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts.

Afterpay's 16 million users can pay off a large purchase in four equal payments and are charged a fee if they miss an installment.

Financial services companies from Paypal to Goldman Sachs are scurrying to offer similar "buy now, pay later" services to their customers.

Afterpay will be integrated with Square's payment service and Cash App, which lets people pay or transfer money without going through a bank.

"Square and Afterpay have a shared purpose," Dorsey in a statement announcing the purchase.

"We built our business to make the financial system more fair, accessible, and inclusive, and Afterpay has built a trusted brand aligned with those principles."

Afterpay's share price shot up 19 percent on the news.

TRENDPOST: *As the Bigs buy their way to even Bigger, fewer and fewer corporations control more and more consumer options. Clearly, the more they control, and without the pressure of competition that drives creativity, the less options for consumers.*

FATTENING UP: FAST FOOD SALES SURGE



McDonald's sold \$5.9 billion worth of fast food in the second quarter, 57 percent more than 2020's second quarter, the company reported.

Sales beat analysts' forecast of \$5.6 billion for the period.

Same-store sales for the quarter were 7 percent higher than in 2019's Q2, with gains in U.S. business leading the increase.

Revenue increased due to greater take-out sales, a 6-percent menu price boost, and the public's fondness for the chain's new crispy chicken sandwich, McDonald's said.

About 70 percent of McDonald's dining rooms have reopened in the U.S., the company noted, and it expects to open the rest by Labor Day.

However, finding enough workers to reach that goal may be difficult, McDonald's admitted in comments quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The company and its franchisees have promised to increase pay and benefits to lure new employees and keep current ones.

The strength of the COVID virus's delta variant could further complicate the struggle to staff outlets.

Restaurants' stock prices softened last week as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new guidelines calling on vaccinated persons to be masked in areas of the country where a minority of people have received the stab.

McDonald's share price fell 1.9 percent in 2018 July trading.

Also last week, Yum Brands, owner of KFC and Taco Bell fast-food chains, joined Coca-Cola and Pepsico in reporting better-than-expected sales in this year's second quarter.

Revenues climbed 34 percent, year on year, to \$1.6 billion, ahead of the \$1.48 billion median forecast among economists surveyed by Factset. Digital orders ballooned by 35 percent.

Yum's windfall was the result not only of strong consumer demand but also of the 603 new stores it opened in 62 countries during the quarter, including 522 new KFC outlets.

The company's 50,000 restaurants worldwide are helping it spread the impact of inflation and spare consumers dramatic price increases, CEO David Gibbs said in comments quoted by the *Associated Press*.

TRENDPOST: America's waistline is growing as fast as sales of junk food and sugar-laden fizzy drinks.

In 2018, 73 percent of U.S. adults were overweight and almost 43 percent were obese, as measured by body mass index, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 31 percent of children age 6 and older are overweight and about 20 percent are obese, the Kaiser Family Foundation has estimated.

Politicians crashed the economy to ostensibly protect us from the coronavirus ... which largely attacks the obese and Type 2 diabetics that, as the data proves, became less healthy with the lockdowns.

And, as we have noted, while the media and politicians sell the COVID vax as the only way to avoid getting the virus, absent is how to get healthy and build ones' immune system to defeat it.

They have done nothing to defend against a true pandemic of declining health rooted in what is now called the “Standard American Diet” of refined flour, refined sugar, and processed foods that are more noxious than nutritious.

*As we have reported in the **Trends Journal**, not only is the obesity and overweight trend deadly, it's costly.*

The report, “America's Obesity Crisis: The Health and Economic Impact of Excess Weight,” produced by the Milken Institute, includes data showing that the impact of obesity and overweight on the U.S. economy is more than \$1.7 trillion, which equals 9.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development concludes the number of overweight adults reduces GDP by an average of 3.3 percent globally, with modern economies spending over 8 percent of total health budgets on obesity issues. The U.S. has the highest rate at 14 percent.

More than one in three adults in Mexico and New Zealand are very overweight and more than one in four in Australia, Canada, Chile, and Hungary.

The McKinsey Global Institute reports that the economic impact of obesity amounts to \$2 trillion annually, which works out to about 2.8 percent of the global GDP.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IS ALL ABOUT INFLATION NOW

Central banks around the world insist that today's galloping inflation will slow to a walk as suppliers and transportation fleets smooth out disruptions created by the economic crisis.

However, those “transitory” price hikes are reshaping the global economy right now.

Germany's July inflation rate of 3.1 percent was the highest since 2006, the Federal Statistics Office reported.

The surge was due in part to one-time events, including removing a moratorium on value-added tax, a new carbon tax, and changes in the way price indexes are calculated, the office said. (See [“GERMANY'S INFLATION SURGES”](#) **Trends Journal**, 2 February 2021.)

Also, German factories are short on materials from plastics and wood to computer chips and also are confronting tie-ups in logistics, the *Financial Times* noted.

“Producer prices are set to increase further, possibly putting more pressure on consumer prices,” Carsten Brzeski, ING’s chief of macro research, told the *FT*.

Germany’s inflation rate will be at, or close to, 5 percent by year’s end, Jens Weidmann, head of Germany’s central bank, said in comments cited by the *FT*, a rate that would be the highest since Europe’s common euro currency was created in 1999.

The European Central Bank’s benchmark interest rate of -0.5 percent is likely to push inflation higher faster as businesses and consumers see more value in spending money now than saving it.

The German economy added 78,000 jobs in June but still has 573,000 more idle workers than in February 2020.

Spain’s inflation rate rose from 2.7 in June to 2.9 percent in July, the country’s statistics agency said, the highest since 2017 and driven chiefly by price hikes for hotel rooms and gasoline.

In Britain, natural gas prices have reached 100 pence per therm (100,000 Btu’s), the highest since 2005; across Europe, the price of electricity has reached a record €40 per megawatt-hour.

In Asia, where demand for natural gas is soaring, imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) is fetching more than \$15 per million BTUs, almost four times the U.S. price of pipelined natural gas, energy consulting firm ICIS reported to the *Financial Times*.

The rising prices signal a looming shortage, analysts cited by the *FT* cautioned.

A long winter reduced Europe's gas on hand; Russia, on which Europe depends for much of its gas, is sending less now than at the end of 2019.

"It's surprising there hasn't been more concern," ICIS analyst Tom Marzec-Mansur told the *FT*.

"In terms of additional supply, there aren't many options globally," he said. "Russia is the only discretionary source of supply but we don't know when additional deliveries might start."

Russia is thought to be withholding gas from Europe to pressure the European Union to approve a controversial gas pipeline Russia wants laid through the region, the *FT* reported.

Russia is also limiting gas sales to Ukraine as a political tactic, critics say.

Globally, gas supplies have tightened as economies have reopened. Drilling and production crashed during 2020 and have yet to recover, in part because oil companies are withholding investment. (See related story.)

The average U.S. price of gas per million BTUs has risen past \$4; a drought in Brazil has shrunk the country's supply of hydropower, forcing it to join the bidding war for LNG.

Supplies are unlikely to rebound before winter sets in across the northern hemisphere, analysts said in a warning cited by the *FT*.

Similarly, the price of a range of consumer goods is on the rise. (See ["PRICES FOR CONSUMER GOODS SET TO RISE," Trends Journal](#), 4 May, 2021.)

Not even the holidays will be spared.

In the U.S., toy companies are seeing their Christmas inventories stranded at ports choked by shipping containers waiting to be unloaded.

Most toys sold in the U.S. are made in China. Some factories there have jacked prices by more than 20 percent to cover inflated costs of raw materials, Isaac Larian, founder of toy company MGA Entertainment, told *The Wall Street Journal*.

As a result, MGA is raising the price of \$10 toys to \$12 and \$29 items will now cost \$35.

Ocean shipping between the two countries is in such demand, and has become so backlogged, that the daily rate to load and send a 40-foot container had soared to \$18,346 last week, compared to \$1,550 in July 2020, the *WSJ* said.

Faced with supply-chain breakdowns worse than in 2020, toy industry analysts told the *WSJ*, toy majors Hasbro and Mattel also are poised to raise prices to recoup some of the extra cost incurred by their scramble to have toys in time for Christmas.

To ease the squeeze, Hasbro is seeking manufacturers in other countries and scouting alternative shipping venues, CEO Brian Goldner said last week in an analyst's call quoted by the *WSJ*.

“I’m going to be less focused on where the inventory is coming in,” he said, “but rather that we have inventories to meet demand.”

TREND FORECAST: *The global economy faces shortages in oil, natural gas, computer chips, and other essential commodities that will persist for months or longer.*

Shortages will keep prices higher, causing an increasing number of workers to demand higher wages. The Fed will be forced to raise interest rates when “wage inflation” threatens to set off an inflationary spiral.

WORLD'S ECONOMY RETURNED TO PRE-CRISIS LEVELS: NOT FOR LONG



China's economy righted itself to pre-crisis levels last year, the U.S.'s in this year's second quarter, and with Europe's 8.3 percent second-quarter expansion, the world's economy as a whole has likely returned to pre-crisis levels of productivity,

economists at Capital Economics and Oxford Economics told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Successful vaccination campaigns and massive government stimulus spending retrieved national economies from the brink, the *WSJ* said.

National economies have been restored in countries where vaccination campaigns and social restrictions were largely successful, the *WSJ* said, while areas without effective vaccination programs will continue to struggle, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in comments quoted by the *WSJ*.

About 40 percent of populations in developed countries have been vaccinated, the IMF noted, while the rate averages only 11 percent among emerging nations.

A tsunami of pent-up consumer spending has revived economies but also driven prices higher amid supply chains that still have not recovered from 2020's shutdown and a labor market still reluctant to return to work.

Forces that continue to push up prices could accelerate inflation, causing central banks to raise interest rates, a move that would slow continued economic recovery, the *WSJ* noted.

TREND FORECAST: Beyond raising interest rates—which we had long forecast would bring down equity markets and economies as the flow of cheap money that artificially pumped them up dries up—the draconian measure being

imposed upon citizens and businesses across much of the globe to fight the COVID War, will, if not reversed, trigger the Greatest Depression.

EUROPE'S ECONOMY GREW FAST: WILL IT SLOW DOWN?



The Eurozone's economy grew at 2 percent in this year's second quarter after contracting in the first, outpacing both China and the U.S. and passing the 1.5 percent forecast by economists Reuters had polled.

The U.S. GDP edged up 1.6 percent for the period, China's 1.3 percent, the countries reported earlier.

Lockdowns were lifted, vaccination campaigns were taking hold, and consumer spending returned to pre-2020 levels, the *Financial Times* reported.

The region's inflation is rising even faster, notching 2.2 percent in July, up from 1.9 percent in June and the speediest rise since October 2018, the *FT* said.

The European Central Bank has set 2 percent as its long-term inflation target. (See [“ECB PLEDGES TO KEEP RATES LOWER LONGER,” Trends Journal](#), 27 July 2021.)

The bloc's unemployment rate dropped from 8 percent to 7.7, with the number of jobless shrinking by 423,000 to 12.5 million.

France, Germany, Italy, and Spain all expanded their GDPs, although Germany's 1.5-percent growth fell short of the 2 percent economists had forecast.

Materials shortages, particularly in computer chips, were to blame for Germany's shortfall, analysts said; Germany's economy depends more on manufacturing than other European countries' do.

Analysts say Europe's economy should continue to expand briskly this year, perhaps even surpassing the U.S.'s and China's for the entire year, the *FT* noted.

"Vaccination rates are significant already and increasing rapidly," Jean Pisani-Ferry, a fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said in an *FT* interview.

"Some renewed restrictions are likely, but I do not think governments will go for lockdowns as long as there is no risk for the hospital system to be overwhelmed," he added.

China's economy returned to its pre-crisis volume last year and the U.S.'s in this year's second quarter; Europe's is still about 3 percent below its 2019 level.

TREND FORECAST: *We disagree with the Peterson Institute analysis. As thoroughly detailed in this **Trends Journal**, the high vaccination rate is not stopping the vaccinated from getting the virus. Secondly, the "must get vaxxed" and other mandates being imposed will negatively impact GDP growth throughout Europe... and the world.*

OIL MAJORS WITHHOLD INVESTMENT IN NEW PRODUCTION



Despite returning to healthy profits in the second quarter, major oil companies have scaled back spending to increase production.

ExxonMobil reported second-quarter profits of \$4.7 billion after losing \$1.1 billion during the same period in 2020; Chevron profited by \$3.1 billion against a loss of \$8.3 billion a year earlier.

French oil giant TotalEnergies [sic] notched profits of \$3.5 billion and Royal Dutch Shell cleared \$5.5 billion.

ExxonMobil's share price has shot up 40 percent this year but remains around 4 percent below pre-crisis levels; Chevron's stock has climbed 20 percent but also is a few percentage points shy of its mark in February 2020.

Oil prices fell below \$30 briefly last year, but bounced back above \$75 this summer; recently, the price slumped back to around \$50 as Libya's oil output reached its greatest since December 2014.

However, none of the majors are expanding their budgets for drilling and production in proportion to their profits, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Oil companies' investors are pressuring them to curtail exploration and focus on pumping more oil and gas to generate cash. (See [“BETTING ON OIL,” Trends Journal](#), 22 June 2021.)

ExxonMobil cut its capital budget to \$19 billion this year from \$25 billion before 2020's crisis and recently said its outlay in 2021 will be closer to \$16 billion.

The company will focus on pumping the most profitable oil, not just the largest quantity, CEO Darren Woods said in comments quoted by the *WSJ*.

Chevron has spent \$5.3 billion through July this year on expanding its output, compared to \$7.7 billion during the same stretch in 2020.

Chevron has said previously that it will increase production by no more than 3 percent annually through 2025 and will concentrate instead on returning money to its shareholders.

Strong demand for plastics is keeping oil demand high and prices at premium levels in that sector, the *WSJ* noted, another factor that may create a global petroleum shortage. (See related story.)

TRENDPOST: *Oil companies see a diminished future for their products as fuels. Restraining production boosts prices and profits will give the companies maximum gain from a market that will diminish over time.*

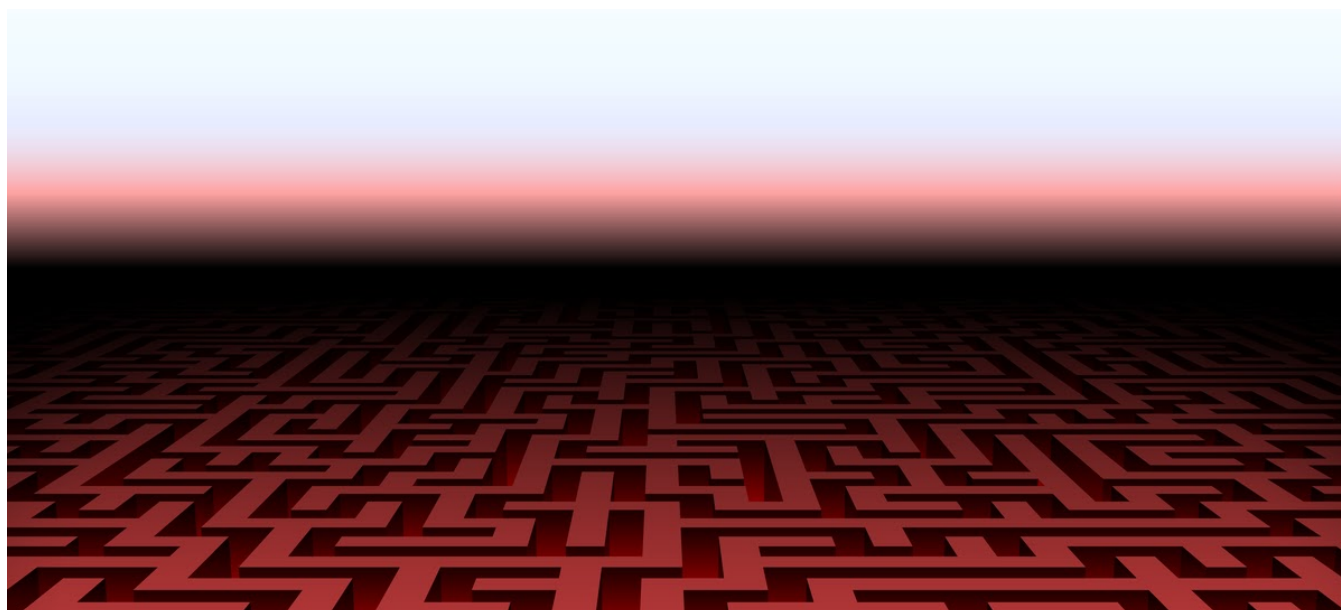
TREND FORECAST: *The oil majors are playing a risky game. They need to restrain production to keep prices high, share prices up, and investors interested.*

However, the more scarce and expensive oil is, the more consumers will feel pressed to turn to renewable energies.

Oil companies will continuously tweak their production to find the sweet spot where revenues stay up as long as possible without unduly speeding the global transition to a fossil-fuel-free future.

*As always, and as noted in this and other **Trends Journals**, military conflict in the Middle East remains an explosive wild card that can quickly spike oil prices. (See, “ISRAELI-LINKED TANKER ATTACKED BY DRONE: IRAN BLAMED in this issue”).*

FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



VACCINE PASSPORTS TO GLOBALIST HELL

In a wide ranging article series titled “The Global Landscape on Vaccine ID Passports,” Catherine Austin Fitts of [The Solari Report](#) maps the grand strategy of globalists that she believes will ensnare every human in a digital enslavement and control system. Below are some excerpts from Part 2 of that series...

The battle for digital identities is well underway, and vaccine id passports is only one entry point they are utilizing to move everyone onto the Blockchain. This isn't about a virus or a vaccine passport, it is a means to create everyone's digital identity. Some people are aware of the “digital identity” future that central banks and corrupt organizations are implementing, to connect everyone into the smart grid, smart cities, and digital currency, for full power and control over everyone's lives, but few understand their full intentions and just how large this operation is, while they create other distractions in the world. This multi-part report will break down the operation of creating the digital identities and reveal specifics as to who is carrying out which portion, how far along they are, and

where it is headed, so that people won't be blindly led into their traps, can make educated choices, and collaborate to build strategies to circumvent it...

“Going Direct Reset,” designed by BlackRock. Approved by the G-7 central bankers on August 22, 2019, the central bankers and their private owners began executing a fundamental restructuring of the global financial system that will end currency as we know it, and initiate a digital control structure that will permit a level of central control that most people can not fathom.

There are several coordinating groups that gather many of the important implementers and publish information that provides insight into the Reset. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), founded in 1921 as a U.S. think tank on foreign policy and international affairs, is a group of members that coordinate to affect government policies. It boasts many important members that play key roles in their professional capacities, so it is always wise to pay attention to what they are up to. Similarly, the World Economic Forum (WEF) acts as a gathering place for coordinating with leading implementers across many sectors. It, by itself, is not all powerful, but some of its members certainly are. Founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab, it is equivalent to a PR firm who puts a spin on marketing materials, giving the public a glimpse into their plans, while dressing it up in an attractive way. For this reason, it is equally important to pay attention to the members and publications they are spinning out. So how are some of these members working together to implement the agendas and strategies that align with the complete control the owners of the central bankers wish to have?

On the surface, the UN created the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, which in a nutshell is about using a global regulatory structure combine with the climate change hoax to move forward their global goals to control all resources and the lives of everyone, under the guise of saving the planet. The World Economic Forum publishes information on “The Great Reset” which is a watered-down version of their grand plan to look more appealing to the public, particularly young people...

The WEF, UN, governments, central banks and money managers, organizations, foundations, and NGOs are all promoting “climate change” and Covid as a

means to implement their agendas, moving everyone into the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” of complete digital control and surveillance over the world and all human beings.

They each have their areas of expertise when it comes to building the digital identities, which is the key to making this all happen. There are the software developers of several areas, certifiers, consultants and strategists, standardization and guidelines, regulators, government liaisons, so-called privacy setters, finance, cross country coordinators, and of course narrative control. Countries are all building toward this same goal...

On June 13, 2019, The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the UN signed a strategic partnership framework to expedite the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, with focus on financing the agenda, climate change, health, digital cooperation, gender equality and empowerment of women, education and skills. The digital cooperation includes meeting “the needs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution while seeking to advance global analysis, dialogue and standards for digital governance and digital inclusiveness.”...

Following this press release, 289 organizations and 27 individuals from all regions of the world, signed a letter to the United Nations Secretary General to terminate the strategic partnership agreement between the WEF and UN, calling it a form of corporate capture due to the public-private partnerships involved with WEF, who they feel have carried out activities that have caused or worsened the social and environmental crises that the planet faces, and how they are a threat to the UN, stating “This agreement between the UN and WEF formalizes a disturbing corporate capture of the UN. It moves the world dangerously towards a privatized and undemocratic global governance”...

It should come as no surprise that AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, Quest Diagnostics, other big pharma and bioscience, Mayo Clinic, major central banks and investment firms including BlackRock, Google, Twitter, Facebook, Paypal, countless tech companies, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Open Society Foundations, New York Times, TIME Magazine, Walmart, Amazon, Uber, UPS, Zoom, and too many organizations out of China to count, are all partners under

the meeting space of the WEF, and many individuals within those organizations are also members of the Council on Foreign Relations. Essentially, the entire Covid gang is involved, and in big part, the only organizations that remained open during Covid lockdowns...

So what are they doing? Here it is: they are convincing people that by having a vaccine id passport, you will feel safer, get access to locations, be able to fly, all in the name of convenience, while the other arms are extending a welcoming hand to build your own digital identity because it will store all of your information in one convenient location... and the best part is that you won't have to worry about doing your taxes anymore, because they'll just pull it right out of your bank account and send it off to big gov. In all cases, it begins with a QR code. That single symbol, call it the mark of the beast if you will, will single-handedly link to your personal data, that will eventually reside on the Blockchain.

From education to health records, finances, accounts, travel, contact info, and more, will all be linked to your QR code, along with biometrics and fingerprints, then stored on the Blockchain. There will no longer be drivers licenses or passports. Human beings will be part of the Blockchain. Every product will be on the Blockchain, and wifi products will have their own ips so they can light up the world with an astronomical smart grid of hotspots. Every vehicle will be on the Blockchain, and moved from gas to electric to autonomous. They have been building smart cities across the globe for over a decade, and most people don't even realize their own city is already equipped and the infrastructure is well underway. This all ties into the "smart grid" surveillance system, with human beings as the main target.

As the World Economic Forum likes to spin it – "You'll own nothing... and you'll be happy."...

The entire first and second entire articles of the series are available [here](#).

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



GANG ATTACKS: THE HORROR OF MULTIPLE ASSAILANT VIOLENCE

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

For a sobering glimpse of reality please go to YouTube and enter “Man Attacked by Group in NYC.” Just one major city, and you will see more documented video reports of multiple attacker situations than have ever been fictionalized in motion pictures and on TV! That’s all we are going to say about the importance of recognizing and accepting this ugly and dangerous phenomenon of “wild pack animal violence” as a reality to be dealt with in our Nation.

There are many members of the species (we just can’t bring ourselves to say “human” species, when referencing them) who, like wild pack animals, attack, injure, terrify, maim, and kill members of the human race. In fact, this is common today... and the fact that these scum are repeat offenders (and have been allowed to continue living after previously demonstrating their willingness to senselessly attack innocent people) amounts to a national disgrace. If humanity manages to survive on this planet the day will come when botched life forms

which we refer to as “violent criminals” and “dangerous predators” today are put down like rabid dogs.

Apologists for violent criminals should simply be ignored. Like advocates of all insane and outrageous ideas and theories, and like those who criticize people who make good sense in any field, there is no reasoning with these fools. They will continue to believe that which they want to believe. Just ignore and shun them... and proceed to take necessary action to protect yourself and your loved ones from the crawling scourge these idiots overlook or minimize.

Multiple assailant attacks are deadly attacks. Let that sink in. Remember, whenever two or more rodents in human form attack a victim, the attack is overwhelmingly dangerous and potentially life threatening, even when the multiple predators have no intention of killing their victims. Heart attacks, strokes, accidental injuries that exceed the intended onslaughts of the savages, are all possible outcomes, and have occurred with sufficient frequency in the past to convince any honest person of the truth in our statement.

So... what can you do about this? There are measures that can and should be taken, and above all a realistic approach to the matter of defending against multiple attackers must be taken by students of self-defense, if they wish to have any real hope of surviving this kind of egregious dilemma.

In a nutshell:

1. Be committed to always being situationally aware. Notice things. Like those two or more young males down the street, standing around and talking. Or the two odd looking individuals down the block walking toward you. Red light warnings to the wise! Yes, certainly, these individuals could all be conscientious candidates for Harvard Medical School on their way to share notes for an upcoming exam in microbiology. Or they could be predators waiting for a convenient victim. Cross the street. Avoid contact. Do this on the chance that these individuals about whom you know nothing just might not be model citizens. Avoidance is self-defense technique number one.

2. When interacting with any strangers or not-that-well-known acquaintances, be calm, very polite, and agreeable. Notice how often news reports confirm that violence erupted in a given situation because of some real or imagined “disrespect” —or most often, some disagreement. Don’t contribute to or (heaven forbid!) start any disagreements with unknown persons. What for? There’s nothing to prove, and you’re not going to see it their way, anyway, once you’re away from them.
3. Go immediately to condition orange (danger-alert!) upon any approach by unknown strangers. (Yes, yes, yes smartass... if two old ladies approach you, you can remain in yellow.) Keep your distance... striving to remain outside arms’ reach of them. Move to the outside of the pair or group if at all possible. Be ready. Chances are these individuals are not troublemakers... but be 100% prepared in case they are.
4. If it becomes clear to you (due to their body language, what they say to you, or your gut reaction to something that they do) that these individuals mean trouble, attack first, and do so like an insane, murderous, wild animal!
5. Always drop ONE of the multiple attacking party with a powerful blow to his throat, or at least a knee-breaking kick, or a blinding thrust into his eyes, straight away! This will reduce the odds against you by one, and immediately shock the remaining individuals into realizing that you are attacking them. They are now on the defensive.
6. Keep on attacking, moving, turning, bobbing, and do not stop! There is no way to be effectively and purely defensive against multiple attackers, and to attempt to do so is foolish and hopeless in the extreme. Only by attacking ferociously and doing as much damage (hopefully lethal damage) to members of a multiple attacker group do you stand a chance of preventing them from killing or maiming you. The purpose of this is not to “win a battle between yourself and these scumbags.” Your ultimate purpose is to clear the way for your ESCAPE FROM THE SCENE. But escape is not possible so long as your assailants possess the will and physical condition that enables them to keep attacking you.

7. As soon as you can safely do so, run! If you are carrying a licensed handgun, gain distance and draw your weapon only if you are being pursued. If you are being pursued, turn and use your weapon. Never attempt to draw a weapon until or unless you have DISTANCE, TIME, and SPACE in which to do so. Otherwise you will have that gun taken away from you.

8. Obviously, if you are chased or approached aggressively by two or more scumbags and you are lawfully armed with a handgun, you should draw it when the distance between yourself and them allows you to access your weapon with no possibility of interference from the assailants. Should you be fortunate enough to be carrying a walking stick that you know how to use combatively, use it! If you have a knife and can access it (and, if it is a folder, open it) without having to contend with an attacker grappling you, do so. And, against two or more attackers, have no hesitation about using that knife—or anything—to defend yourself!

While it is possible that producing a weapon will cause your attackers to retreat and discontinue their onslaught (and of course will enable you to avoid using your weapon) do not count on it. Be ready, willing, and mentally able to use your weapon immediately if the attackers keep coming. You have no time to delay.

Defense against more than one attacker is absolutely feasible, despite the nonsense touted by many who say that such cannot be done. The fact is, it has been done... and often. So, while taking this form of attack with the deadly seriousness it deserves, do not become fatalistic about it.

The techniques that work against multiple assailants are the same core skills fundamental to American Combato, to the WWII Fairbairn System, to the O'Neill method, and of course to the skills taught by Rex Applegate, Anthony Biddle, and John Styers. And these skills must be used with 100% ferocity and determination.

What does not work is emphasis upon throwing (ties you up with one man), various holds and control grips, and all ground grappling. Some judiciously selected throws may have an occasional place in countering multiple attackers,

but never, never, never, never, NEVER go to the ground when dealing with two or more assailants!

Ground work (ne-waza) is a terrible tactic against a single enemy in hand-to-hand combat. Against two or more it is virtual suicide.

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*

SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE

Imagine an “Internet of Things” in virtually every object around you, “alive” with AI, observing, collecting and interacting.

Now imagine this pervasive AI presence being smarter than you...and wanting you dead.

The scenario might seem like just a variation of sci-fi movies. But it’s not sci-fi. It’s the quickly advancing vision of Singularity University, a globalist organization devoted to actualizing an AI vision that frankly welcomes human obsolescence.

SU knows that the technology it is creating and promoting, via innovators, industries and government entities spells existential peril for humankind. Their own whitepapers say it.

But despite the dangers, SU continues to fuel the development of AI that can outthink and outstrip humankind. And practically no regulatory bodies are currently standing in their way, asking tough questions about their purposes or anti-human agenda.

Currently the world is dealing with an ongoing COVID cataclysm. It quite possibly came about because scientists, despite nominal legal barriers, engaged in controversial chimeric and gain-of-function experiments to artificially make viruses more deadly.

Former DNI John Ratcliffe recently said he saw all the most sensitive intelligence on the matter, and that he believes it's a "near certainty" that COVID-19 originated in that lab.

Scientists involved in the research have said they were motivated to help mankind by understanding how to better combat viruses. But even if they were not motivated by ambition, profit or other dark objectives, the inherent danger of their enterprise should've dissuaded them.

Something analogous to that is happening right now in AI development. The people profiting and advancing their careers by creating bleeding edge AI claim their work is meant to benefit, and is indeed already greatly benefiting the world.

But their claims are contradictory. Many of them also admit they believe AI is destined to surpass the abilities of humankind, and supersede or even replace natural humans. And the dark truth is, many of them see that as desirable. In their own words, they look forward to a world where AI and humans will perhaps merge in what they call "The Singularity."

The Driving Forces Behind Singularity University

Technocratic elites are currently funding an endless array of projects meant to direct and control the course of human development. Though these projects all virtual signal about their goals, and often focus on marginalized groups, this often just disguises their deeper purposes.

Those purposes are to increase the wealth and control of the entities and persons behind the projects, but also to further often insanely anti-human ideological goals.

Such is the case with “Singularity University.” Despite its name, SU is not an accredited higher learning institution. But it has plenty of world-class technologists among its membership. Founded in 2008 by futurist Ray Kurzweil and Peter Diamandis at the NASA Research Park in California, SU exists to fund and promote its Artificial Intelligence vision. It acts as a think tank network connecting AI focused projects and personalities around the globe.

To give an idea of the size of the organization, SU lists over 240 administrative and “faculty” members who deliver the org’s “transformative content”, plus hundreds more guest lecturers on its website.

SU receives [funding](#) from AI fueled corporations like Google, and in turn, develops and coordinates transhumanist projects and technologies that feed into Big Tech’s ecosystem.

Kurzweil, the most prominent face of SU, is a well-known AI innovator and activist intent on spurring a convergence of mankind with machine intelligence and capabilities.

Though his aims might seem radical, he is no fringe player. He has received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the United States' highest honor in technology, and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2001, for the application of technology to improve human-machine communication.

Inc. magazine ranked Kurzweil among the “most fascinating” entrepreneurs in the United States and called him “Edison's rightful heir.”

Big Tech Backing Transhuman Agenda

Unsurprisingly, Google, the planet's leading AI driven analytics company, has been a major funder of SU, and their vision of "The Singularity", which is described on the SU website:

"The Singularity is often defined as the point at which exponential technology crosses the threshold of 'strong AI' and machines possess a broad intelligence that exceeds human levels. It's a concept that's understandably hard for many of us to accept, because the Singularity also represents a point where human intelligence and AI merge."

Google's search engine utilizes some of the most advanced deep learning AI technology in the world right now. The company has made vast fortunes from developing and implementing AI that tracks, advises, and increasingly, decides what information human beings are able to access.

SU maintains a SingularityHub website which is a clearing house of info about science innovations which are at the bleeding edge of transhuman technological development. Some recent stories featured include:

- ["Arm's New Flexible Plastic Chip Could Enable an Internet Of Everything"](#)
- [This Robot Taught Itself to Run, Then Proceeded to Knock Out a 5K](#)
- [Scientists Bred Healthy Mice Using Artificial Eggs and Ovaries Made from Stem Cells](#)
- [Google Gets One Step Closer to Error-Corrected Quantum Computing](#)

SU advocates a transhuman agenda, and pokes fun at those who might point to dangers. A recent Guardian article linked from the Singularity Hub lauded an Australian law which accorded patent rights to an AI inventor (ie. not a human inventor), under the title ["I'm sorry Dave I'm afraid I invented that."](#) The title is an allusion to the human-murdering AI system HAL portrayed in Arthur C. Clarke's famous work *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Building Out The Infrastructure of AI for Profit and Control

It may seem astounding that the world's leading AI innovators would consciously be dedicated to advancing AI technology with no bounds, while believing AI could and would displace or radically alter human beings. But a recent whitepaper available from SU's homepage, called ["The Exponential Guide to AI."](#) acknowledges exactly that.

Among other things, the Singularity envisions an interim period where "not only is AI likely to be integrated into nearly every electronic system—but also into nearly every person as well."

The Exponential Guide to AI describes a future in which AI will be inescapable around us, embedded in virtually everything:

"Unlike the human brain, these intelligent programs can be run in a variety of different hardware types, whether that's your smartphone, a warehouse of web servers, or a self-driving Tesla.

"This variety of use cases is what often makes AI so difficult to understand, but it's also what makes it so powerful. The ability to add an AI layer on to nearly every technology means that as AI progresses, the world around us will increasingly seem to come alive. This 'awakening' will drastically alter life as we know it, from leisure and business activities to our health and spirituality."

At the same time SU is aggressively pushing and monetizing the pervasive presence and abilities of AI, it is frankly acknowledging the fast approaching superiority of AI, compared with humans:

"What makes AI remarkable is the speed, accuracy, and endurance it brings to this human-like learning process. Humans have to eat, sleep, and tend to a variety of personal needs. We are also creatures of comfort, and quite stubborn—too much change makes us uncomfortable. And when presented with new information and experiences, humans tend to let our biases sway us from making the most reasonable and logical decisions.

“Machines suffer from none of these shortcomings.”

The Exponential Guide to AI notes that though AI has existed at least in infancy since the 1950's, three relatively recent developments have supercharged its recent advances:

- Big data, which provides massive data sets and user activity to greatly increase the quality of “education” AIs receive.
- Machine learning is a method of data analysis that enables computers to learn without external instruction.
- Deep learning is a branch of machine learning that uses computer simulations called artificial neural networks.

For those who wonder why data privacy is the price of so many “free” apps and services on the web, part of the answer lies in Big Data. Companies like Google and Amazon exploit big data gleaned from participation in their free or cost-friendly services, to leverage other services and products that are monetized and highly profitable [give examples or point to prior TJ articles].

In an age of the “Internet of Things”, data mining of every aspect of our lives has become commonplace, as the paper acknowledges and extols:

“With the rapidly decreasing cost of sensors and the global growth of the Internet of Things (IoT), we have dramatically increased the number of smart and connected devices that are continuously measuring and recording data. Nearly every action we take is now recorded in a database somewhere. This includes mobile device activity, the purchase history on our credit cards, our online browsing activity, our social media feeds, and even our biological data.

“Big data is the term for these massive collections of data that we’re all contributing to every day. Big data is the fuel that enables AIs to learn much more quickly. The abundance of data we collect supplies our AIs with the examples they need to identify differences, increase pattern recognition capabilities, and to discern the fine details within the patterns.”

“Machine learning” involves AI being programmed to use statistical methods and other “thinking” attributes, accruing and analysing big data, categorizing and making decisions and predictions - all without human involvement.

“Deep learning” involves computer simulations patterned after the human brain. It can include combining machine learning algorithms with neural networks, which mimic the way human brains process info and recognize patterns. Deep learning has allowed AI to do things like beat humans in games like chess and Go.

The paper notes that:

“Some of the most powerful and prevalent applications of AI are the ones we often take for granted. These include the AIs that handle your Google searches, deflect spam from your inbox, and select the ads you see across the digital landscape. AIs identify people in your Facebook pictures, and recommend the products you buy from Amazon.”

As it has been employed so far, AI has concentrated a disturbing amount of power and control into the hands of a few technocratic elites. Amazon, for example, has used its analytics and AI to undermine competing companies, including vendors on its own platform, to gain market share. It now accounts for well over 40 percent of all online purchases.

Google, meanwhile, has unleashed AI algorithms with political biases that control, suppress and even banish dissident viewpoints, information and repositories from people conducting searches and queries.

Helping Humans By Canceling Them: Learning The Deeper SU Agenda

According to SU, AI represents a powerful technology that can aid in “solving our biggest global challenges. Perhaps the biggest mistake we can make with AI is to underestimate its impact and rapid growth.”

But the deeper belief of the Singularity is that AI is not really destined to remain a tool of mankind at all. It is destined to supplant, merge with, and, at its own superior minded discretion, perhaps to completely dispense with humankind, in the not too distant future.

A section in *The Exponential Guide to AI* titled “What Are the Risks and Benefits Associated with AI?” contemplates what the future likely holds.

It concludes that the only path to peaceful human coexistence with AI, might be to merge with it. The section acknowledges that AI comes with potential bad consequences.

“Risks of AI:

- Drastic changes to our lives
- AI created with bad intention
- AI created with good intention goes bad”

In meditating on the possibilities, the section admits that dark outcomes are possible:

“There are concerns that AI will replace human workers, and some people fear the ultimate outcome will be that superintelligent AI-powered machines will eventually replace humans entirely. While this is a possibility, many experts believe that it’s more likely that AIs will enhance, not replace, humanity...”

And here, in familiar Hegelian dialectic fashion, the section posits a solution to allay concerns:

“...and that eventually, we might [merge with AIs](#).”

Other than that, the paper offers little advice, except to say:

“Singularity University Co-Founder and Chancellor Ray Kurzweil explains that while certain jobs will be lost, new jobs and careers will be created as we build new capabilities.

“Kurzweil notes that AI will benefit humans and that AI is less likely to be threatening than beneficial to us, and it benefits us in many ways already.”

Of course, *The Exponential Guide to AI* waxes on the many benefits of AI. It presents a vision of AI supplementing and freeing up humans for “higher level” activities. It seeks to allay concerns that AI will overtake humans in important endeavors, though earlier the paper seemed to predict just the opposite.

The only lingering superiority the whitepaper actually assigns to humans is in the arena of emotive and ethical concern:

“As AIs become more mainstream and take over mundane and menial tasks, humans will be freed up to do what they do best—to think critically and creatively and to imagine new possibilities. It’s likely this critical thought and creativity will be augmented and improved by AI tools. In the future, more emphasis will be placed on co-working situations in which tasks are divided between humans and AIs, according to their abilities and strengths.

“Perhaps the most important task humans will focus on is creating meaningful relationships and connections. As AIs manage more and more technical tasks, we may see a higher value placed on uniquely human traits like kindness, compassion, empathy, and understanding.”

Kurzweil has plainly stated that he believes AI is destined — perhaps far sooner than the average person would imagine possible — to surpass human ability.

In an 16 July 2021 [article](#) published at uxdesign.cc titled “Why the digital brain will prevail over the analog brain,” Kurzweil’s work is referenced in arguing the article’s premise:

“While our brain performs 1^8 power calculations per second, today’s supercomputers will be able to handle 10^{18} power calculations per second. Does this mean that supercomputers already can simulate brains?

“The question is obviously more complex; it depends not only on raw power but also on the collaborative power of the neural networks. However, according to Ray Kurzweil in *How to Create a Mind*, being able to create a functioning cyber neocortex is an inexorable outcome. Bits can travel infinitely faster than neural signals, and this will be of decisive importance.”

The message is clear. The Singularity is the goal, no matter what the consequences for humankind.

TRUST OUR TWITTER ALGORITHM, NOT YOUR LYING EYES



As a genuflection to the brave new world of woke, Twitter has announced an “algorithmic bias bounty challenge”, promising rewards for anyone who can find bias in its code.

So, will Donald Trump get some cold cash for pointing out that hundreds of his tweets were restricted or banned during election 2020, while not one tweet of Joe Biden received similar treatment?

Not quite. The initiative appears to be focused on microaggressions that are much too subtle for the average non-woke American to discern. The new initiative was partly born out of an relatively obscure incident from September of 2020, where Twitter's photo preview feature was found to potentially have a “racial bias.”

Twitter has earned scorn for becoming a hopeless biased censor. During the 2020 election cycle, countless average conservatives, as well as news outlets, pundits and even prominent politicians, were purged or suppressed.

But the bans and suppression have also covered for Big Pharma, Chinese COVID narratives, and wildly contradictory government directives and policies that have had disastrous consequences that are still playing out.

So it's unsurprising that many see Twitter's latest move as little more than a PR stunt that will do nothing to address its plain and corrosive manipulations of public discourse.

"Finding bias in machine learning (ML) models is difficult, and sometimes, companies find out about unintended ethical harms once they've already reached the public. We want to change that," Twitter executives Rumman Chowdhury and Jutta Williams wrote in a blog post.

Tech company bounty programs that reward hackers for finding bugs and vulnerabilities in computer programs and code have been around for a long time. Twitter is ostensibly applying that to the algorithms - but not really.

It's not providing the bulk of its sophisticated and proprietary AI driven software code to any neutral group for examination.

Instead, it's providing a relatively small portion of code involved in image cropping, for review:

"We're inspired by how the research and hacker communities helped the security field establish best practices for identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities in order to protect the public. We want to cultivate a similar community, focused on ML ethics, to help us identify a broader range of issues than we would be able to on our own. With this challenge, we aim to set a precedent at Twitter, and in the industry, for proactive and collective identification of algorithmic harms."

If any “bias” is found in Twitter’s PR play, winners will receive prizes of up to \$3,500.

As some reports have generously put it, the bia bounty program “is a great move by Twitter in showcasing the company in a positive light and it is one that may very well pay off.”

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



BRITAIN AIMS TO MAKE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM A SPYING CRIME. File under Orwellian turnaround. Britain, no amateur when it comes to citizen surveillance, is now seeking to make investigative journalism a spy crime.

A report from *The Guardian* says the government’s Home Office is seeking more expansive laws which would dissuade sources, editors, and reporters by exposing them to arbitrary official prohibitions that aren't sanctioned by a court, and punishing them harshly if they don't comply.

The proposed civil orders, couched with political cover as being aimed at preventing hostile behavior by state actors, would entangle journalists and sources whose job it is to disclose “unauthorised disclosures” that are in the public interest.

Home secretary, Priti Patel, who supports the changes, claims that press leaks are worse than espionage since a foreign spy's activity “will often only be to the benefit of a single state or actor.”

The civil orders would create “a power of last resort that would enable [the government] to impose a range of restrictions on particular individuals”, according to *The Guardian*. The orders “could include a range of restrictive and

preventative measures, including measures to prevent an individual associating with certain people or from visiting specified sensitive locations” and ought to “be imposed by the executive rather than the courts”. The orders would create “a significant deterrent against those who may be vulnerable and susceptible to foreign state coercion and influence”.

In considering the new orders, the Home Office has reportedly given scant attention to the idea of whistleblower protections. The proposals themselves actually reduce protections allowing for easier prosecution, without regard for the public interest aspects of disclosed information:

“For public servants, offences should not continue to require proof of damage, as is currently the case. Instead, they should require proof of a sufficiently culpable mental state, by which we mean, for example, proof of the defendant’s knowledge or belief that the disclosure would cause damage.”

Current maximum prison sentences that can be imposed on publishers or sources for unauthorized disclosures, which is currently limited to two years, would also see an expansion to an unspecified higher level.

Civil libertarians say the new measures threaten to take Britain down another step to a full-on authoritarian regime, effectively cowing the press into silence.

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



BLOCKCHAIN MOVING FAST TO DIFFERENT SECTORS

Blockchain technologies are impacting many sectors, including banking and financials, Ecommerce and retail, but also healthcare and insurance, media, and even politics.

Some of the more interesting potential or emerging uses of blockchains include things like smart solar power grid utilization, voting systems and combating cyber threats and attacks.

The general principle of blockchains is that users interact with each other directly, mediated by the encoded rules of the protocol, with all transactions recorded in a decentralized (ie. distributed) in a way that is highly resistant to tampering and takedown.

Solar on the blockchain?

Solar smart grids as envisioned by startups like [Solara](#), can employ blockchains to mediate power generation and usage. Electricity sources have traditionally

been highly centralized, with generation and distribution controlled by large regional power companies.

But thanks to home based solar installations, more consumers are becoming mini-generators of power, with excess capacity. Blockchain-based power grids can encourage sustainable energy by providing customers control over the source of energy as well as information on its production.

Customers using a blockchain-based smart-grid could evaluate electricity suppliers' pricing, plans, and other features before purchasing directly from them. Consumers could also exchange their created resources between themselves, as well as with their neighbors and the grid. Smart contracts could be used to facilitate real-time energy trading.

In addition, blockchain in power generation startups like Solara employ tokens to verify the assets that generate electricity. Tokenizing electricity allows individuals to share renewable energy ownership and output while also increasing liquidity in the renewable power financing sector.

Green Stream Holdings Inc., made news in late July for establishing a [program](#) to offer a portfolio of tokenized solar panels, as well as a user-friendly, blockchain-based platform for long and short-term participation.

According to CEO EO James DiPrima:

“Our new business model seeks to capitalize on the increasing local and international investment movement in the clean energy market. We intend to make purchasing solar energy assets more accessible by decreasing traditional barriers to entry through the tokenization of solar panels and creating a marketplace on our platform that allows coin buyers to stake their tokens on various solar arrays.”

The company's services will include inspecting and gaining valuations of properties and providing stock market type indicators on tokenized solar panels,

and completing transactions by ensuring security and transparency through the blockchain engine using smart contracts.

Green Stream envisions the Green Rain portal will become a one-stop solution for many global or local solar panel transactions from a laptop or smartphone. DiPrima explained further:

“Through our initial token offering, we will aim to launch this ambitious project through the acquisition and tokenization of our first solar panel properties. We expect those token holders to be able to utilize their tokens on our platform to participate in exciting solar projects that they may not otherwise have access to individually. We all may benefit from returns from rents, price appreciation, and profits generated from the sale of properties.”

Another solar based crypto project called SolarCoin (SLR), debuted in 2021. The initiative aims to make solar energy more accessible to everyone on the planet by minting one SLR token for every megawatt-hour (MWh) generated by solar technology.

SolarCoin is distributed as a reward for solar installations, with the objective of having the token's price exceed the cost of solar energy generation. As a result, it becomes effectively free through a process known as Solarity.

According to the initiative, solar energy can currently be produced for less than \$12 per MWh in some nations, and the price continues to fall. Its objective is to make the generation of this sort of energy more appealing. Users must now upload evidence to verify that they are producing solar energy, but the Internet of Things may one day make this procedure automatic.

Blockchain Use To Counter Cyber Security Threats

One of the blockchain's essential innovations has been to ensure the integrity of data. The decentralization and security protocols that authenticate information to

the blockchain database represents an effective way to combat problems which currently exist in centralized systems.

Businesses all across the world amass vast amounts of data, often in central, siloed locations. Data stored in a single location (and backed up using common replication techniques) is far simpler for hackers to manipulate, than decentralized blockchains.

Specifically, blockchains rely on several components to achieve a high level of resilience to data manipulation hacks:

- Distributed Architecture
- Consensus validation mechanism
- Encryption

Because there is no single point of failure in a distributed network, it is operationally robust. The risk is spread among numerous nodes, so a single node or a few nodes would not be enough to corrupt the ledger. As a result of decentralization, ransomware assaults on the Blockchain network are less tempting. Information kept centrally, on the other hand, is more vulnerable to assaults.

Validation consensus is another feature that protects the blockchain. According to consensus, a certain number of nodes must agree on whether the new data block is legitimate and suitable for inclusion in the shared ledger. The consensus process checks the integrity of previous transactions and fresh data blocks on a regular basis.

To influence the validation process and tamper with the ledger, a hacker would need to co-opt the consensus mechanism by compromising enough nodes. By deploying sufficient nodes and utilizing network rules, the Blockchain network aids in the prevention of such assaults.

Because of its protections against cyber threats, more use cases of blockchain are being developed in applications like Instant Messaging, IoT (Internet of Things) security, Secure DNS and DDoS, Provenance of software, and more.

BLOCKCHAIN IDENTITIES WILL SEE A BOOM OVER NEXT FEW YEARS



Blockchain technology will see expanded use in the identity industry over the next several years, with networks like Ethereum and Cardano likely to see some of that action.

How much money is potentially involved? More than \$3.5 billion, according to ReportLinker, a market research firm which conducted a recent study on the industry.

The projected growth would represent more than 70 percent year over year.

The report's forecasts are based on research across sectors including government, healthcare, banking, financial services and insurance, and queried industry players such as Accenture, Amazon, Bitfury Group, Civic Technologies, and others.

The study forecast that blockchain identity management will continue to grow as the spread of online and cloud services, as well as digitalization in general, accelerates. The demand for more efficient, decentralized, and privacy-preserving identification solutions has increased across a wide range of industries, from public services to logistics and supply chain networks, and all the way down to consumer wearables and other smart gadgets.

Blockchain technology is based on distributed immutable databases that are highly resistant to being manipulated. Info on the blockchain has a high level of

integrity, which can allow for otherwise distrustful parties to interact directly, without mediating parties like banks, for example.

Some people are raising alarm bells about digital identities, with good reason. They are likely to be used not merely to facilitate secure commercial interactions, but to aid in surveilling and controlling people. This issue of the **Trends Journal** presents excerpts from a detailed analysis by Catherine Austin Fitts of The Solari Report on exactly this subject (see Featured Article “VACCINE PASSPORTS TO GLOBALIST HELL”).

With the worldwide user base of social media networks already reaching 3.8 billion people, some proponents are pointing to blockchain technologies as the only acceptable, fair identification solution that can safeguard people from dangers like data theft and privacy violations.

Vitalik Buterin, Ethereum's co-founder and main developer, who recently presented his vision of the Ethereum network's future across a spectrum of non-financial applications, spoke about prospects for a decentralized social media, and identity verification and attestation.

REGULATORS WRESTLE WITH CRYPTO



At least 372 Americans are trading cryptocurrencies on foreign exchanges, skirting a ban on such trades, while those exchanges dodge U.S. regulations meant to protect speculators against market manipulation and safeguard against

money-laundering, according to a study by data firm Inca Digital that *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

To reach its conclusion, Inca sifted through Twitter accounts.

The firm found tweets boasting of successful trades, sometimes including images of statements as proof.

Other Twitter users circulated contact information for various offshore exchanges to earn referral rewards if their followers opened accounts on those exchanges.

The referral data allowed Inca to verify user accounts on Binance, Bitfinex, BitMEX, Bybit, FTX, Huobi, and OKEx.

The study netted more than 2,000 users of the exchanges, including 372 Americans. Of those 372, 240 were using Hong Kong-based FTX, which recently raised \$290 million from backers including Softbank and Sequoia Capital.

Most of the traders do not actually buy cryptocurrencies.

Instead, they invest in derivatives, basically placing bets on whether the price of a particular cryptocurrency will rise or fall.

Since the study was released, Binance, Bitfinex, Bybit, FTX, and OKEx have said they have taken steps to block traders in the U.S.

Huobi has not commented.

Meanwhile, Malaysian officials announced an “enforcement action” against Binance and three of its affiliates and also censured the exchange’s CEO.

The country has ordered Binance to disable its website and mobile app and otherwise cease operations, including marketing, in Malaysia.

Malaysian regulators called Binance’s operations there “illegal” and advised traders to cease dealing with it.

Britain, Hong Kong, Italy, and Japan also are tightening their grips on Binance as hedge funds are ending their dealings with the exchange. (See [“MORE TROUBLES FOR BINANCE,” Trends Journal](#), 20 July 2021.)

Malaysian watchdogs issued a personal “public reprimand” to Changpeng Zhao, the crypto mogul who is Binance’s CEO and announced they would hold Zhao personally responsible for carrying out the shutdown order.

Binance is aggressively strengthening its compliance efforts, has placed compliance officers in senior positions in the company, and is ceasing derivatives trading in Europe, Zhao said in a statement cited by the *WSJ*.

WILL A CRYPTO TAX HELP PAY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE?



A section of the bipartisan infrastructure spending bill now snaking its way through Congress would require cryptocurrency investors and brokers to give more details about their deals to the U.S Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The goal is twofold.

First, the provision would give regulators a window into a blacked-out sector of the economy that critics say is a hideout for money launderers and other financial criminals.

Second, granting the IRS access to those details would make it possible for Congress to tax profitable crypto deals as capital gains.

Some crypto brokers report their dealings to the IRS; most do not because the tax code is unclear about whether they are required to, according to the *New York Times*.

Taxing crypto could bring in \$28 billion over 10 years, according to Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation, which has run numbers on the proposal.

Such a crypto tax would supply barely 5 percent of the \$550 billion the current infrastructure proposal would cost.

However, the crypto tax is one of the few new sources of money that Congress can find to contribute to the plan, the *NYT* noted.

“Make no mistake,” warned analyst Owen Tedford at Beacon Policy Advisors in a 30 July note to clients quoted by the *NYT*. “Regulation is coming for the industry.”

“Lawmakers and regulators are taking cryptocurrency concerns seriously and seem poised to make sustained efforts on multiple fronts to bring it out of the shadows,” he wrote.

Giving the IRS power to scrutinize crypto transactions was one of several revenue-raising proposals president Joe Biden's administration presented to Congress earlier this year.

Under the plan, taxpayers buying crypto from one broker who transferred it to another would have to report the transaction, a scheme that the U.S. treasury department said would glean a “negligible” amount of revenue.

Other than holding hearings, Congress has taken no action on the measure. (See [“CRYPTOCURRENCY: SPECIAL REPORT,” Trends Journal](#), 25 May 2021.)

Now the Senate's version of the infrastructure bill broadens the definition of “broker” to include anyone who helps transfer digital assets.

The broader definition of “broker” could make the law apply to everyone from miners to brokers to crypto's creators and investors, according to Perianne

Boring, president of the Chamber of Digital Commerce, the crypto industry's lobbying group.

Crypto brokers are hiring lobbyists to wage war on the new proposal, the *NYT* said.

CRYPTO WORTHLESS? AN EXCUSE TO TRADE?



Cryptocurrencies have “no inherent worth” but make good trading opportunities because their prices gyrate, Luke Ellis, CEO of London-based Man Group, the world’s largest manager of listed hedge funds, said in a *Financial Times* interview.

“If you look at cryptocurrencies as a whole, it’s a pure trading instrument,” he said.

“There is no inherent worth,” he added.

He dismissed the argument that cryptos have an inherent value because each version issues only a limited number of coins.

“You can have an infinite number of cryptocurrencies,” he said. “Anyone can start another one any day.”

However, cryptos are worth trading “because they go up and down a bunch.”

On 26 July, for example, Bitcoin rose as much as 15 percent, nearing \$40,000, simply on a rumor that Amazon might begin accepting it as payment.

Man, which manages \$127 billion in assets, uses computer modeling to dictate trades in 15,000 stocks, “thousands” of credit instruments, and 800 other markets, Ellis told the *FT*.

“We like to be long and short, depending on what the models say, and we will trade [crypto] long and short just as happily, and in as big a size, as market liquidity lets you,” he said.

Ellis sympathized with people grasping at cryptocurrencies as a defense against inflation, which is “the number-one thing clients are worried about,” he said.

“I think we stay in a world of very low [interest] rates until central banks lose control,” Ellis said, “and when they lose control it’s not going to be fun.”

TREND FORECAST: Yes, when inflation spikes, so too will cryptocurrencies along with gold and silver. And as we have noted, should governments of the U.S. and Eurozone crack down on the crypto market, much of the money going into crypto’s will go into precious metals.

The reality of them doing so has been greatly detailed in the Trends Journal (See [“FROM DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH”](#)).

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



WORLDWIDE CRYPTO INVESTORS DOUBLED IN FOUR MONTHS. There are a lot of metrics and info about what various cryptos do that can and should be analysed when making investment decisions.

But the explosion in the numbers of people entering the crypto sphere may be one of the telling signs that in 2021, cryptos have taken a definitive leap into the

mainstream. And not only that. The potential for even faster mass adoption is approaching a tipping point.

According to some recent estimates, the worldwide crypto population doubled in only four months, to 221 million as of June. **Trends Journal** predicted the likelihood of much wider mass adoption just as that boom was starting, in our 9 February article [“ELON MUSK: TECH OUTSIDER?.”](#)

It bodes well not only for the largest cryptos, like Bitcoin, Ethereum and Ripple. The value of blockchain technologies, which allow for direct interactions between parties, with transactions indelibly recorded on decentralized database ledgers, is becoming more apparent to the general public.

BTC and ETH made up 80 percent of the market share at the start of this year. That has decreased to around 70 percent, as other alts have attracted interest. As the recent rally has shown though, it's the rising tide of the largest crypto projects that will continue to lift all boats.

Ethereum dominated the news during the previous week, owing to its huge price increases. As the **Trends Journal** noted, the Ethereum “smart contract” fueled dApp market share, together with the now almost complete “London” upgrade of its protocol, have made it a particularly good investment choice. See: [“WILL BLOCKCHAIN SAVE THE DAY?”](#) (20 April, 2021) and [“WHAT ETHEREUM UPGRADE TO PROOF OF STAKE MEANS”](#) (15 June 2021).

Analysts are predicting that the wider crypto market, including projects built on the Ethereum network, such as DeFi platforms like Compound and Aave, will benefit from Ethereum's momentum.

CRYPTO PRICES REACTING TO U.S. TAX LEGISLATION. The rise of the stock market over the past week, traditional investment firms and others moving into crypto investments, and the sentiments of longtime “bitcoin whale” holders all played into action this week for the largest market cap cryptos like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Cardano and others.

According to some industry analysts, as BTC balances on exchanges began to decline, rumors began to circulate that institutional investors were repurchasing the remaining Bitcoin supply in large quantities.

At the same time, some longtime holders looked to be selling, a behavior attributed to "disbelief" that nevertheless served as a stumbling block to price rises.

Over the weekend, data from derivatives platforms, like FTX showed bets accumulating for a price drop, which some observed might well be connected to a cryptocurrency tax plan set to be passed by US Congress this week.

STATESIDE MINING PROSPECTS RAMPING UP FOR BITCOIN. Several factors are making for bright bitcoin mining prospects right now in the U.S., according to analysts.

There is a current scarcity of low-cost energy mining sites and power infrastructure to meet demand created by the loss of mining operations in China.

Secondly, miners' profitability is growing as equipment prices fall, in part due to equipment being sold off.

Another factor is the automatic adjustment of the bitcoin protocol, which reduced difficulty of bitcoin mining when mining as mining nodes went offline. As a result of difficulty adjustments, some have predicted that mining profitability would rise by 35 percent or more.

Negotiating, contracting, and developing low-cost power sites can take time. But there are some fast developing stories there. For instance, Energy Harbor Corp. recently agreed to provide a former Ohio paper mill turned cryptocurrency mining facility with nuclear energy to power its operations.

The five-year agreement will see Energy Harbor provide nuclear energy Standard Power's blockchain mining center in Coshocton, Ohio, beginning in December 2021.

Standard Power provides what it describes as Infrastructure as a Service to companies looking to use blockchain applications. The company's Coshocton site is an abandoned Ohio paper mill it bought in 2018. The company plans a 40MW blockchain mining operation and a data center with up to 10MW of capacity on the 125-acre site.

Meanwhile, Texas, already home to one of the largest bitcoin mining operations in the U.S., Whinstone Inc, is being joined by other companies, including some relocating operations from China. BIT Mining, previously in Shenzhen, was one of the first large mines to be hit by China's restrictions. The business announced in May it would invest up to \$25 million in a new data center in Texas.

Texas is by no means new to bitcoin mining, and that is likely a factor in attracting a new wave of activity, centered around hubs like Rockdale.

Even New York has made news for crypto mining, though the news wasn't all positive. In early July, equity firm Atlas Holdings was accused of turning Seneca Lake into a "hot spa," thanks to a natural gas fired power plant it owns being utilized for bitcoin mining.

Critics have contended that the plant, which operates some 8,000 computers devoted to mining, is undermining the state's fossil fuel commitments, and harming the lake.

The Greenridge plant, which uses water as a cooling agent, publishes its water discharge temperatures regularly. The company noted there had been "just a 6.8 degrees average difference between intake and outflow" between March and April 2021.

But critics haven't been satisfied.

“New York had established a goal in law of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2030,” said former EPA regional administrator Judith Enck, according to news reports. “The state will not reach that goal if the Greenidge Bitcoin mining operation continues.”

The company’s local advisory group has maintained that their operations represent no threat to the State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



VAX FAILURE FACTS. HAS THE HERD REACHED IMMUNITY? VARIANTS ON THE HORIZON?

Remember the “facts” being sold to the world by the drug dealers and government whores that the “Operation Warp Speed”, unapproved by the U.S. Food and Drug Association, gene therapy vaccination was 96 percent effective?

Anyone disagreeing was either too stupid to accept what they were selling, a moron or a conspiracy theorist.

How effective is the jab? Wall Street on Parade noted that “As of its most recent [July 27 update](#) on COVID vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States carries this statement: ‘Infections happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, even with the Delta variant.’”

Was it all a lie?

Wall Street on Parade also reported that on Sunday's CBS "Face the Nation" program in the U.S., it was a different story. Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, Director of Public Health Services in Israel said "...we are seeing about 50 percent of the people who are infected right now are vaccinated, fully vaccinated individuals. And so that is obviously of concern."

TRENDPOST: *Despite hard facts, they are ignored by governments across the globe who instead enforce strict vaccination passport requirements that rob the un-vaxed of freedoms... be it going to school, eating in a restaurant, seeing a movie, etc., as we have greatly detailed in the **Trends Journals**.*

The Herd

On the upside, the United Kingdom saw a 40 percent decrease in COVID-19 infections over a seven-day period last week that offered hope the vaccines are working to stem the infection rate, while others raised concerns that loosened restrictions will lead to new infections.

The Wall Street Journal reported that there were 28,271 new cases across the U.K. last week, which marks a significant decline from the 48,000 cases the previous week.

The Journal reported that there are 6,000 people across the U.K. currently hospitalized and there has been an average of 70 daily deaths due to the virus. In January, when there were peak infections in the U.K., there were 40,000 hospitalized and about 1,200 deaths per day.

The government credits the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines. About 72 percent of U.K. adults are fully vaccinated. According to USAFACTS, some 50 percent of U.S. adults have gotten the COVID Jab.

Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, told *The Journal* that herd immunity may be playing a role in the drop in cases.

“This is the first time there’s been a decrease for a major epidemic in the absence of a lockdown,” he told the paper. “Something here is fundamentally different, the most obvious difference being the possibility of herd immunity.”

The U.K.’s official scientific advisory group published a study that has not been peer-reviewed, that called on governments to try and limit the number of transmissions due to the risk of a new variant that leads to "current vaccine failure."

The scientists in the study said it is becoming apparent that the virus will not be eradicated and it is very likely that there will be a “gradual or punctuated accumulation of antigenic variation that eventually leads to vaccine failure.”

TRENDPOST: We note this article to illustrate the uncertainty of herd immunity. As we highlight in this ***Trends Journal*** (See “CDC: VAX FACTS: IS THE TRUTH BEING TOLD?”) the fear and hysteria driven COVID War news, pumped out by the Presstitutes last week, was that there were 469 COVID cases reported in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, which includes the hot tourist destination, Provincetown.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of those cases, some 75 percent were fully vaccinated. And in the county overall, an estimated 76 percent of people have received at least one COVID shot.

However, not a peep from the Presstitutes of not only how ineffective the vaccine might be, but so too of the contradiction to the herd immunity hype of America’s most hyped-up infectious disease expert, (and most highly paid public servant in the U.S.) Anthony Fauci, who stated on 2 December 2020 that America will reach herd immunity when 70 percent get the COVID vaccine.

TRENDPOST: And as for the U.K. being the world champion of herd immunity, the “famous” flab-faced, potbelly media clown, Piers Morgan, who got two AstraZeneca jabs still got the virus. Yet the propagandized media keeps pumping up what this jerk spews out as he condemns those who have not gotten the jab as "selfish pricks."

That's how low society has descended. Moronic "little pricks" like jerk-off in public Morgan are quoted and held up as being wiser than anyone who is not a media or government whore.

BLOOD CLOT JABS: IDIOTS DELIGHT



Researchers from Spain said data collected from 1.3 million vaccinated individuals in Catalonia who received the Pfizer and AstraZeneca jabs had about the same number of clotting incidents, *EuroNews* reported.

The news outlet obtained a “pre-print” paper on the subject from Barcelona’s IDIAP Jordi Gol institute that has not been peer-reviewed. The study included 1,372, 213 people who were vaccinated with the two vaccines and found “similar safety profiles.”

“In general, rates of thrombosis after vaccination with a first dose of [AstraZeneca] were similar to those seen after a first dose of [Pfizer/BioNTech], although with fewer study participants having received this vaccine, there was greater uncertainty around estimates,” the researchers wrote.

The recent report said the study found that those who came down with COVID-19 had “a far higher rate” of blood clots than those who developed the condition after the jabs.

The study found the risk of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism about 1.3 times higher for those who were vaccinated than the general public. The report said the study found those with the virus have eight times the risk of developing venous thromboembolism.

The report said of 222,710 COVID-19 patients in the study, 499 developed blood clots. Under normal conditions, there would be 62 cases.

Yet, despite these facts, on Sunday, the boy playing Australia's chief medical officer, Michael Kidd declared "The benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine AstraZeneca are greater than the risk of the rare side effects occurring, in all age groups."

TRENDPOST: AstraZeneca has suffered from a barrage of negative press due to blood clot concerns, allowing the Pfizer Jab—which we note in this **Trends Journal** as being only 50 percent effective—to firmly secure the unofficial title of the Cadillac of COVID-19 vaccines.

In the 9 February Trends Journal and subsequent issues, we have been reporting on problems associated with the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine. We had noted that Switzerland's health agency said it would not administer the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine because the data "available and evaluated to date [is] not yet sufficient." And in May, Norway banned the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 shot due to harmful side-effects.

COVID BLUES: NO FUN TO FLY



For a clear snapshot of the decline of the human condition, spending some time at the airport and then having to fly in a thin tube at 35,000 feet with about 120 total strangers for a few hours is a picture of the times.

Besides being felt up by the T.S.A., having flights canceled... and now abiding to made-up COVID rules, such as sitting next to a person with a mask on and taking it off when eating and drinking to stop the spread of the coronavirus, a rough flight has become a hard landing. And of course, socially distancing when

boarding and unboarding despite being jammed into the aircraft... a previously stressful flight has become much more stressful.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that domestic flight attendants have reported a significant increase in unruly passengers over the summer months. The report, citing a survey of 5,000 flight attendants, said 85 percent have said they had to deal with uncontrollable passengers the past year, and 17 percent said the interactions even got physical.

The Federal Aviation Administration told *The Journal* that it has received 3,615 reports of unruly passengers since January and investigated 610 cases. So far, 95 penalties have been issued. To put it into perspective, the agency previously issued 150 investigations stemming from similar incidents. The vast majority of new cases—2,666—resulted in passengers refusing to comply with mask mandates. Alcohol consumption also is believed to have played a significant role in these interactions.

The Journal's report pointed out that many travelers are emerging from a year of lockdowns and could be finding it challenging to reemerge in close quarters with strangers.

The number of interactions between flight attendants and these passengers is believed to be much higher than reported.

Sara Nelson, head of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA), a flight attendants union, said, "More than [70%] of the flight attendants [who responded to the survey] say that when they've reported this, they have not seen follow-up from management. That doesn't mean the report didn't go to the FAA, but the flight attendants are not getting any follow-up."

TREND FORECAST: *Bad times will keep getting worse as airlines cut back on services to make up for the billions lost when the COVID War began in the winter of 2020. And as Gerald Celente, the publisher of the **Trends Journal**, has long said, COVID-19 lockdowns, job losses, mask mandates, social distancing, etc.,*

will eventually lead to more people snapping. He said, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”

KNOCK, KNOCK: IT'S THE COVID POLICE. DEATH CAMPS NEXT?



In New South Wales, you can run but you cannot hide from the government.

Police and the army are knocking on the doors of homes to make sure that there is nobody inside the property who should not be there as the government works to bring down the number of new infections. And helicopters are flying across the region to make sure no one is breaking the shelter-in-place mandates that have been imposed to fight the COVID War.

“There are a lot of people doing the right thing but this will focus on those who continue to do the wrong thing,” Mick Fuller, the New South Wales police chief, said. “We know home-to-home transmission is a huge issue for us, we know people are bringing it home from worksites that aren’t complying.”

We have reported extensively since early 2020 of the draconian measures that NSW and much of Australia has taken under the guise of fighting the COVID War (See [“AUSTRALIA’S PREMIER CRACKING DOWN,”](#) 5 January 2021, and [“MORE LOCKDOWN UNREST DOWN UNDER,”](#) 27 July 2021).

“It is 1 August today,” Gladys Berejiklian, the premier of NSW, said. “I am an optimist; it is a month for all of us to come forward and get the vaccine. The more we get vaccinated, the more jabs in arms, the greater our pathway to having an easier life moving forward.”

Personnel from the country's defense force will work with police to visit homes. Sydney has strict restrictions that do not allow travel outside the city unless it is for essential work. Masks are mandatory at all times.

Brad Hazzard, the NSW health minister, said there is an emerging issue where those suffering from the virus are essentially hiding from authorities, ABC.net reported. He said the situation is dangerous because the disease can spread so easily inside homes.

"What we know about the Delta strain is if there is one person in the house [who has the virus], all of them are likely to get it."

Yesterday, some 300 ADF troops joined NSW COVID COPs patrolling the streets and knocking on doors.

TRENDPOST: While the media keeps pumping up "cases," they continue to ignore how many people died of the virus. In the region of 8.1 million, of the 3,427 "cases" reported since mid-June, a grand total of four people have died from the virus.

The latest was a man in his 90s that, according to the NEWDAILY, had gotten an Astra Zeneca shot. So, did he die of the virus or the shot? And if not, the COVID Jab was a failure. And since the COVID War began 19 months ago, just 69 people have died of the virus... and as we have detailed, the vast majority are over 70 years of age.

Death Camps Next?

Over the weekend, there were anti-lockdown protests in Europe. As we note in this **Trends Journal**, the rough, tough, heavily armed German COVID Cops beat up little kids and women in Germany for not obeying the COVID War rules.

Indeed, as we noted in our 13 December **Trends Journal**, under the auspices of fighting the COVID War, Germany re-imposed the Third Reich rules. We wrote:

“This past November, several thousand Germans took to the streets of Berlin in protest of the new ‘Infection Protection Law’ approved by the parliament, which gives the Chancellor the authority to issue coronavirus rules upon demand. The protestors compared the new law to the ‘Enabling Act of 1933,’ which gave Adolf Hitler the right of dictatorship over the country.”

TREND FORECAST: Again, as witnessed by the brutality of the COVID Cops in Germany and other nations—and the authoritarian draconian lockdown orders imposed by the world’s rulers which they are enforcing—should the COVID War continue to escalate, the battle for Freedom, Peace and Justice will descend into a war between the people and the state, with those not supporting the governments sent to “REFORM” camps.

Indeed, World War II and the concentration camps are not ancient history. The horrors of War are alive and well. This was reported Sunday in [DW News](#):

“Europe remembers Sinti, Roma murdered under Nazi rule. On August 2, 1944, 4,300 Sinti and Roma were killed in the gas chambers of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Genocide survivors described the horrors. To this day, many of their descendants are refused compensation.”

“‘Dear Banetla, I have to tell you that my two youngest children have died.’ Those words were written by Margarete Bamberger in a 1943 letter to her sister in Berlin. It was smuggled out of what was known as [the ‘gypsy camp’ at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp](#). Margarete, her husband Willi and their children were all detained at the death camp. Margarete and Willi survived the ordeal. Their children did not.”

*And, just as the media, celebrities and the masses supported the war regimes, as evidenced, and detailed in the **Trends Journal**, the same groups support the leaders of the COVID War and denigrate all those fighting against it.*

TRENDPOST: We have reported extensively on the scientific facts of the ineffectiveness of wearing the masks of most people, the health hazards of

wearing them, and the worthlessness of wearing them outside since the odds of catching the virus outdoors is less than one percent... Yet, these hard facts are ignored by authoritarian dictators labeled as premiers, presidents, prime ministers and chancellors. (For example, see [“MORE EVIDENCE: MASKS OFFER ‘LITTLE, IF ANY, PROTECTION’”](#); [“WEAR MASKS, GET SICK; MORE ‘CATCH COVID’ LIES.”](#))

TREND FORECAST: As we have long forecast the anti-vax, anti-establishment movements will continue to escalate as 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.

QUEENSLAND: 13 NEW COVID CASES, LOCKDOWN 5.1 MILLION



The Australian state of Queensland on Sunday announced that it will extend the lockdown affecting millions after 13 new coronavirus cases were diagnosed from a cluster from west Brisbane.

The New Daily reported that leaders said the state's three-day lockdown proved ineffective in slowing the spread of the virus and the restrictions will be extended another five days. Queensland, which has a population of 5.1 million, has recorded seven deaths since the start of the pandemic and 1,824 total cases.

Nearly a million doses have been administered, the government said.

Jeannette Young, the chief health officer, said 10 of the 13 new cases were children under 13.

TRENDPOST: *As we have reported, children respond well to COVID-19. The American Academy of Pediatrics said in March that 3.2 million children have tested positive in 49 states and accounted for 250 deaths out of the country's half-million at the time. We pointed out that the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention said on its website that in the 2019-2020 flu season, 188 children died from the flu compared to the 250 from COVID.*

Moreover, the recovery rate of people one to 20 years of age, according to the CDC is 99.997 percent. Yet, the hype is about children and the lockdown is because they are the majority of the cases. And, as data also shows, they are asymptomatic and do not spread the virus... but those are only facts that are to be ignored by "officials" and government leaders.

Fear Mongers

Still, leaders in Queensland seem intent on selling fear.

Steven Miles, the deputy premier, said the region is at an "absolutely critical" point. "There's too many cars on the road in Brisbane at the moment," he said, according to the website. "Too many people out and about. Just because you worked in previous lockdowns doesn't mean you should work through this lockdown."

The lockdown means residents cannot leave their homes except for essential shopping, healthcare, or essential work, *The New Daily* reported. The report pointed out that officials seemed to be unwilling to assure the public that the lockdowns will end on Sunday.

"Let me see what happens over the next few days," Dr. Jeannette Young, the chief health officer, said. "It's been extended for another six days to give us a chance to get on top of all those current people who have been exposed."

She urged all those over 60 who have not been vaccinated to get the AstraZeneca jab unless “your GP says you’re one of that tiny, tiny group that shouldn’t get it.”

TRENDPOST: *To date, of the 5.8 million residents of Queensland, there have been a grand total of 7 deaths over the course of 19 months. Yet, the lockdown persists.*

And as to how many days the lockdown will continue... 5, 10, 15, 20? It’s all made up without a scintilla of scientific or even practical data to support the mandates. Yet, anyone protesting or questioning these made up rules is dismissed as a conspiracy theorist and prosecuted if they protest and/or break the lockdown laws.

TRENDPOST: *We’re relieved to see Dr. Jeannette Young so confident in the AZ jab because the vaccine can use all the support it can get. As we have reported in this and other **Trends Journals**, Switzerland and Norway have banned the AstraZeneca jab.*

"The Norwegian Government has decided not to use the AstraZeneca vaccine in Norway, not even on a voluntary basis. The rare but serious side effects we have seen in Norway indicate that the risks do not outweigh the benefits. This is particularly true as we expect a considerably higher number of mRNA vaccines in the future, and the interval between the first and the second dose of the vaccine has been extended, so that more people will be vaccinated more quickly," said Minister of Health and Care Services Bent Høie.

The U.K., E.U., and W.H.O. have all authorized the use of the shot, which was developed by Oxford University researchers. The researchers teamed up with the global company for distribution and manufacturing purposes.

The U.S. has not approved the jab for its own emergency use. The Associated Press reported that the drug company said it intends to seek authorization in the U.S.

Health officials like Young are assuring people that these shots are safe and effective even though there is no consensus in the scientific community. It should be noted that the three vaccines actually approved in the U.S. (Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J) have not been fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

BERLIN COVID COPS: NAZI'S 2.0?



Unwilling to obey the government's draconian rules imposed upon them, over 5,000 protesters took to the streets in Berlin on Saturday to voice their outrage over new COVID-19 restrictions.

As [video proves](#), to punish the protesters the squad of police unleashed pepper spray, brutality and baton beatings on children, men and women who marched against the new lockdown laws.

Over 600 people were arrested and a man who was beaten by the cops died after he was arrested.

Over 2,000 so-called "riot police," spread across the city to try and break up demonstrations after a judge's ruling. But police claimed in a tweet that some demonstrators tried "to break through the police cordon and pull out our colleagues."

TREND FORECAST: *The proof of the videos shows the wide range of brutality the German police inflicted upon peaceful demonstrators. While we noted these protests in the article "KNOCK, KNOCK: IT'S THE COVID POLICE. DEATH CAMPS NEXT?," we've expanded upon it with more details to illustrate the reality of the COVID War and how those who refuse to fight it have not only lost their rights to Freedom, Peace and Justice, when they disobey, they are brutally beaten.*

We maintain our forecast that those who refuse to fight the COVID War will be aggressively attacked, prosecuted and punished by the ruling political parties. In turn, as we had forecast 17 months ago, there will be strong anti-vax, anti-establishment movements in what will truly be, “a fight to the finish.”

PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN FRANCE OVER HEALTH PASS MANDATE



Violent protests broke out Saturday in Paris over the country's decision to enforce the health pass for access to all restaurants and domestic travel.

Police in the city deployed tear gas, water cannons and used their fists against some of the demonstrators, France 24 reported. The report said 3,000 security forces were deployed in the city to defend against an invasion on the Champ-Elysees.

Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said 10 protesters were arrested in Paris and nine others in the country. Demonstrators injured three officers, he said.

The report said that some polls have shown many French in favor of enforcing these passes for access to these venues due to the recent increase in cases. But there are also vocal critics against the passes that either require proof of vaccination, a negative test, or proof of a recent COVID-19 recovery. All health care workers in the country are also mandated to take the jabs.

“I think that we mustn't be told what to do,” Hager Ameer, 37, a nurse who resigned from her job, told the Associated Press. She said the forced vaccinations are a form of blackmail. “And now, suddenly we are told that if we don't get vaccinated it is our fault that people are contaminated. I think it is sickening.”

The report said more than 111,800 people in France have died from the virus since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. Seventy-three percent of COVID-19 deaths were 75 and older, according to Statista.

President Emmanuel Macron last Monday announced mandatory vaccines for health care workers and the health pass. *The New York Times* said the announcement came three days after nightclubs were allowed to reopen after 16 months. The biggest protest on Saturday took place in front of the Moulin Rouge nightclub.

The health pass will be required at these venues starting 9 August. So far, 51 percent of the French population has been fully vaccinated.

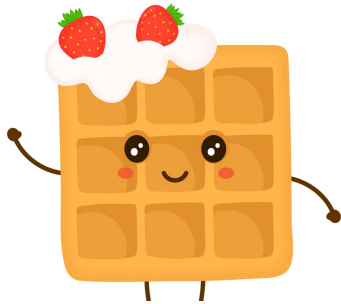
TRENDPOST: *As we have extensively reported, governments will do all they can to make life for the unvaccinated as miserable as possible, so while mandating these vaccines don't seem possible—unless France sends armed police to homes forcing a vaccine or arrest—leaders will have to settle for taking your job and your liberty. (SEE: [“ITALY: NO VAX PASSPORT, NO FREEDOM,”](#) [“EURO ‘DIGITAL GREEN PASS’ GAINING SPEED,”](#) and [“ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT.”](#))*

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

“Liberty” was the slogan of the day at the [protest in France](#). Mask-less, they took to the streets by the tens of thousands.

Unlike the anti-vax, anti-government lockdown protests raging in France, Germany and the U.K., in America, the “Land of the Brave,” has degenerated into the “Land of the Obedient.” While Gerald Celente and others have held rallies against the unconstitutional COVID War mandates imposed upon them, there have been no united mass protests.

THE WALENSKY WAFFLE: DOING THE BACKTRACK SHUFFLE



When it comes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and that agency's director, Dr. Rochelle “Pending Doom” Walensky, there are things you can count on and things you probably shouldn't.

The agency and its director can be counted on to issue public statements, directives and guidelines, especially regarding the COVID-19 virus, that state and local governments and health authorities are expected to follow, and which affect the day-to-day lives of all Americans.

But those statements, directives and guidelines probably shouldn't be counted on to remain operative for very long. Rather, they should probably be counted on to be withdrawn, "walked back," revised or even reversed.

One example of this was seen on 27 July, when the agency declared, in a reversal of the guidelines it had issued in May, that fully vaccinated people were still at risk of contracting "breakthrough" infections, still capable of spreading the virus, and should therefore go back to wearing masks indoors in most areas of the country.

Rep. Peter Meijer (R-Michigan) charged that the CDC's latest mask reversal had been informed by two unpublished studies plus a study from India of Delta variant transmissibility in which the subjects had received a non-U.S. vaccine.

Responding to criticism of that reversal the CDC cited an outbreak on 3 July in Provincetown, Massachusetts; over 400 people were infected, of whom 75 percent had been fully vaccinated. The agency said that information had been "pivotal" in changing its mask policy. (See “VAX FAILURE FACTS. HAS THE HERD REACHED IMMUNITY? VARIANTS ON THE HORIZON?” in this issue.)

But an even more recent example of the CDC's "communication problem" occurred on 30 July. Appearing on Fox News TV program "Special Report," Walensky was asked if she favored mandating COVID vaccinations on a federal level.

Walensky responded by saying "That's something that I think the administration is looking into. It's something that I think we are looking to see approval of from the vaccine," and then reiterated that "We are looking into those policies."

Later that same day Dr. Walensky "walked back" her remarks, emphatically stating (via Twitter), "To clarify, there will be no nationwide mandate. I was referring to mandates by private institutions and portions of the federal government. There will be no federal mandate."

TRENDPOST: Trends Journal showed readers what to expect of Dr. Walensky in May 2021's ["COVID FRAUDSTER."](#) When Walensky does a 180, it's not "waffling" or "flip-flopping." Rather, it's that "our guidance is evolving as the science evolves."

When Walensky issues a statement, be prepared for it to be followed by some version of "Oops! Never mind what I said yesterday!" Indeed, as we have noted with scientific fact, the mandates of wearing masks, social distancing, Plexiglas separations, sanitizing surfaces, etc., have not only proven ineffective... as Gerald Celente has stated, "They make this crap up."

And as the facts show, that is precisely what governments around the world have done. Again, as we noted with the latest round of Australian shelter-in-place lockdown, people are being forced to stay indoors while the chances of catching the virus outdoors are around 1 percent... or less.

'300 PERCENT' JUMP IN U.S. COVID DEATHS = CALCULATED LIE



The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on new fears over the COVID-19 Delta variant that may cause more serious infection for those infected, but according to research, it is less deadly. But that fact is omitted by the media who keep promoting rising COVID

cases.

And last week—due to new reporting methods within states—it seemed that deaths shot up about 300 percent in the span of 24 hours.

But that number was grossly inaccurate.

The *Daily Mail* reported that the jump in deaths in the Johns Hopkins University's tally—which is the gold standard—was thrown off because Florida and Delaware both recorded deaths from a time period well beyond 24 hours.

The report pointed out that Florida contributed to 409 coronavirus deaths to the 891 tally recorded on Friday. But that number represents deaths from the entire week, not just the 24 hours leading into Friday. Delaware also recorded 130 new deaths, but that number represents deaths from mid-May 2020 to late June of this year, the report said. The *Daily Mail's* reports said Delaware recorded zero deaths in the past 24 hours and two deaths the entire week.

The news website pointed out that the removal of these figures brought the daily death increase to 2.5 percent. The report also pointed out that despite the increase in new infections across the U.S., the death toll remains low. YCharts [showed](#) that there were 144 deaths across the U.S. on Saturday and 49 deaths the day before.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration, told CNBC that he believes that up to a million Americans a day could currently

be infected by the virus “and we’re just picking up maybe a 10th of that or less than a 10th of that.”

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told Fox News on Friday that she urged people to get vaccinated and wear masks in order to prevent future restrictions.

“This was not news that I expected the American people to welcome,” Walensky said. “This weighed heavily on me to have to do this.”

TRENDPOST: *As we have been reporting since the Presstitutes and politicians began promoting COVID War 2.0, “cases”... both the case and death rates are tiny compared to the height of the outbreak this past January when there were not a few hundred deaths... but over 4,460 a day on 12 January for example.*

And, we have been reporting on how inconsistencies abound when it comes to COVID-19 tallies. (SEE: ["IRISH CORONER: COVID DEATH COUNTS ARE FAKE,"](#) ["CRUCIAL COVID DATA IGNORED BY THE PRESSTITUES."](#))

VACCINES LOSE EFFECTIVENESS, MORE SHOTS NEEDED. HO-HUM.



As with the question of whether or not masks are effective in preventing transmission of COVID-19, and whether wearing them will be required or not, the answers to questions about the effectiveness of the COVID vaccines change

from day to day. And the answers change from day to day because the statistics that inform them change from day to day also.

Statnews.com reports, on 28 July, that, based on a study involving 44,000 volunteers, the efficacy of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine declines over six months, from over 96 percent to 84 percent.

But just last week, **Trends Journal** reported on findings from Israel's Health Ministry (["ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN SOLD"](#)) that showed the very same vaccine dropping 42 percent in its ability to protect from COVID infection since the beginning of Israel's vaccination program. And among persons receiving the shots in the early phases of the program, the vaccine's ability to protect against severe illness dropped 60 percent.

And that's just one example. The answers to questions about vaccine effectiveness are all over the map. But they all still manage to lead to the same conclusion: vaccines are still the way to fight the virus, and if one or two shots don't do the job, then more shots are needed.

This uncertainty over effectiveness has been an ongoing theme since the COVID War began, which **TJ** has continued to cover, as in 30 March 2021's ["ASTRAZENECA VACCINE DATA UNDER FIRE."](#) And one thing that article points out is that, while different studies might yield different numbers due to "errors" like out-of-date information, inaccurate data or other "missteps," any questions raised by those outside the unholy alliance of government, Big Pharma and the Presstitutes are "misinformation" and cannot be permitted.

PCR TESTS ACCURATE? THINK FOR YOURSELF



As daily news reports are filled with higher and higher numbers of people infected with COVID, and especially the "more contagious" Delta variant (numbers that, curiously, don't seem to be accompanied by higher numbers of hospitalizations or fatalities), one question persists: Just how accurate or reliable are the

tests for COVID infection?

Trends Journal has been addressing this question since March 2020, in articles that revealed the flawed nature of the Real Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) test (often referred to as simply the PCR test), the test that the CDC has regarded as "the gold standard" for COVID testing around the world.

Among those articles are September 2020's ["COVID GOLD TEST PROVES TO BE 'WORTHLESS'"](#) and December 2020's ["PRIMARY COVID-19 TEST: 'ERRORS AND FLAWS'."](#) and a sampling of highlights from such articles are the following:

- According to *The New York Times* article of 29 August 2020, "In three sets of testing data that include cycle thresholds, compiled by officials in Massachusetts, New York and Nevada, up to 90 percent of people testing positive carried barely any virus."
- On 17 September 2020 the Center for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) published a critique of the PCR test that stated: "A PCR test might find the virus it was looking for. This results in a PCR positive, but a crucial question remains: is this virus active, i.e., infectious or virulent? The PCR alone cannot answer this question...if the PCR detects the virus in the human sample, this detection might correspond to a virus that is now incapable of infecting cells and reproducing."

Even back then, a "Trends in The News" video by Gerald Celente questioning the PCR test was removed from YouTube on the grounds that "content that explicitly disputes the efficacy of local health authorities' or World Health Organization (WHO) guidance on social distancing and self-isolation that may lead people to act against that guidance" was a violation of YouTube's "medical misinformation policy."

It made no difference that Celente's video quoted factual scientific data, some of which came from the WHO; nor did YouTube provide data to prove it was misinformation; the video dared to dispute the official narrative, and so it had to be removed.

Now comes the latest installment in this ongoing controversy. The Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG) is a Montreal-based independent research and media organization that describes its mission thusly: "In an era of media disinformation, our focus has essentially been to center on 'the unspoken truth'."

On its globalresearch.ca website on 23 July the CRG posted an article by Prof. Michel Chossudovsky, first published on 21 March, ["The WHO Confirms that the Covid-19 PCR Test is Flawed: Estimates of 'Positive Cases' are Meaningless. The Lockdown Has No Scientific Basis."](#) which uses the WHO's own documents to show that the organization views the PCR tests as based on a flawed methodology which renders the results invalid.

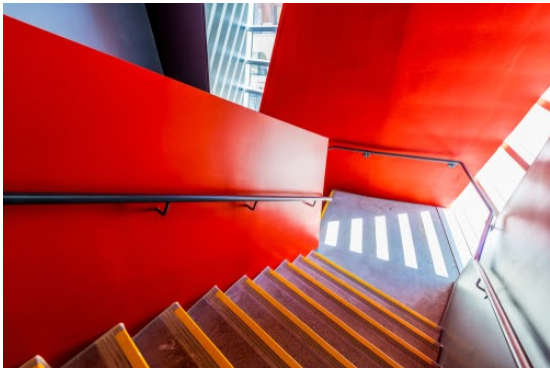
The CRG re-posted that article in spite of Reuters.com having responded, on 8 April, to the article's original appearance with a "fact check" that said it was all "misinformation," that the WHO never challenged the methodology of the PCR tests, and that the WHO's documents Chossudovsky quoted were merely "clarifications for laboratory professionals on how to interpret PCR results."

TRENDPOST: *Is the Reuters piece "fact-checking," or is it "spin" for the sake of "damage control"? What is misinformation, and what is disinformation? What is the truth, spoken or unspoken? Will we ever be permitted to know?*

It is made clear in yesterday's New York Times article, "Officials Enlist Stars of TikTok in Vaccine War," that anyone disputing the "official narrative" believes in misinformation. They go on to say that "The efforts are in part a counterattack against a rising tide of vaccine misinformation where anti-vaccine activists can be so vociferous."

Thus, the ineffectiveness of masks, social distancing, surface sanitizing, PCR tests and now the COVID vaccine according to hard data, are dismissed as misinformation and those that note it are called conspiracy theorists and, as Piers Morgan says, "selfish pricks."

WILL DELTA VARIANT KILL COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE?



Go back to the winter of 2020. Remember what the word on the street was when states and nations locked down?

“It’ll come back!”

The mainstream narrative was that after Labor Day 2020, workers would be back to work and commuters would be commuting.

Wrong.

Not only did they not go back to work, as the facts show, tens of million don’t want to. As we have detailed, as the facts show, and everyone with a brain knows, businesses across the globe are having difficulty finding workers... especially in the hospitality, restaurant and retail sectors.

Fast Forward

Large corporations that once had September in mind to get their workforce back into their desks have been forced to reconsider plans due to the increase in new COVID-19 cases and lingering fears over the Delta variant.

The New York Times reported on Thursday that companies like Google, Lyft, and Apple have all pushed back their return-to-office dates. Dara Khosrowshahi, the Uber CEO, said in an email to employees that the rise in cases “are a real reminder that we still need to be cautious, look at the data and listen to experts as we return to the office.”

The report pointed out that September seemed like a logical month for the great return. But the number of new cases and a troubling report by the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention that breakthrough cases can spread the virus just as easily as those who are unvaccinated have crushed hopes in the country.

“You’ve got parents now who are thinking that maybe their children won’t go to school in the fall,” Kate Lister, the president of the consulting firm Global Workplace Analytics, told *The Times*.

The *New York Post* reported that LinkedIn once said by October it expected employees to be at work at least 50 percent of the time once restrictions were lifted.

The company now said it will allow its 16,000 employees to work from home full-time.

TREND FORECAST: *Fighting the Delta variant will keep more people working from home which will also put more downward pressure on the commercial real estate sector. Indeed as JLL Research reports, Gross leasing activity “is still 41.6% below the pre-pandemic quarterly average, underscoring the road to recovery for office leasing fundamentals.”*

This will in turn put more pressure on big city real estate. As we have forecast, Commuters will return to office centers, but not in the numbers that can support the pre-2020 economic ecosystems that depended on them.

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.)

TREND FORECAST: The COVID War has created a new trend. The Trends Journal reported extensively on companies and how the work-life balance will look when the COVID War ends: SEE: ([“WORK-FROM-HOME: 21st CENTURY MEGA-TREND,”](#) [“FACEBOOK: EMPLOYEES CAN WORK FROM HOME FULL-TIME,”](#) and [“BACK TO WORK TRENDS DOWN.”](#))

And as we also noted, not only do employees not want to commute to work every day, employers would rather have them come to the office less so they can scale down their office space and pay less rent. Ninety of the 100 companies surveyed by the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. will adopt a combination of remote and on-site work structures, the company said, indicating that office space across the U.S. faces major long-term, and perhaps permanent, vacancies.

TREND FORECAST: We had forecast this trend in 2020, predicting that the COVID War would accelerate the work-from-home trend; now 44 percent of eligible workers now want to make it corporate policy, according to a recent ZipRecruiter survey.

A May Bloomberg survey of 1,000 U.S. workers found that 39 percent would consider quitting if their companies demanded they return to the office full-time—a daunting prospect for employers in a labor market where skilled talent is in short supply.

A significant number of those workers have already moved farther than commuting distance away from their offices, making it even harder to lure them back to their company quarters.

We continue to forecast a broad decline for office property occupancy and values, especially those in suburban locations that lack the shopping and entertainment venues that make downtowns attractive.

BANKERS AND BANK BANDITS: MASKS ON



Once upon a time, not too long ago, it was the rage of movies and real life; masked men would rob banks.

Aligning with their criminal counterparts, the Banksters are now masked up.

Citigroup told employees in a memo on Wednesday that they will be forced to wear masks inside the office—regardless of vaccination status—in order to follow the new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CNBC reported that other firms—like Morgan Stanley—are monitoring the situation. JPMorgan Chase has not updated its policy that allows those who were fully vaccinated to ditch their masks, the report said, citing a person familiar with the matter.

The Citigroup guidance said employees at their desk and eating in a cafeteria do not have to wear face coverings. Does COVID-19 somehow not spread in those conditions?

TREND FORECAST: *As we have detailed in this and previous **Trends Journals**, the Wall Street Mob and the Bankster Gang have been more eager to get their employees back at their desks since they hold massive amounts of commercial real estate debt and huge real estate holdings.*

From Skype to Zoom, the work-from-home trend persists even as lockdowns and other COVID War protocols begin to fade into the past.

Even a complete "return to normalcy" may not manifest in office workers flocking back to their cubicles, and the high rate of unused, unoccupied and unneeded

office space is taking a toll, and creating shake-ups, in the commercial real estate market.

*We went into detail on this in our article of 5 January 2021, "[TRENDS IN REAL ESTATE](#)," as well as in numerous other real estate articles in the **Trends Journal**.*

CDC VAX FACTS: IS THE TRUTH BEING TOLD?



The **Trends Journal** has been reporting extensively on the Delta variant and how so-called “health officials” will use it to keep selling fear. (SEE: [“DELTA VARIANT=GLOBAL HYSTERIA,”](#) [“VARIANTS FORCE NEW RESTRICTIONS IN ISRAEL,”](#) and [“DELTA VARIANT THROWS NEW OBSTACLE IN WAY OF EU RECOVERY.”](#))

But now there actually seems to be something to be worried about. It is now documented that the people tasked with solving the COVID-19 issue are so completely lost that they have to hide new findings about the virus.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conveniently left out the data that supported its call for vaccinated individuals to wear masks while indoors.

In an effort to cover up the inefficacy of the COVID Jab, the CDC. released the internal documents that revealed fully vaccinated people who come down with the virus can spread the infection to others at the same rate as those who are unvaccinated.

The C.D.C. said health officials need to “acknowledge the war has changed” due to the Delta variant. (SEE: [“HAVE THE ARCHITECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LOST TOUCH WITH REALITY?”](#) and [“CRUCIAL COVID DATA IGNORED BY PRESSTITUTES.”](#))

The Delta variant is being sold as one of the most contagious respiratory illnesses ever documented and is as infectious as chickenpox. As we have detailed in this **Trends Journal**, for example, three-quarters of those who caught the Delta variant in Providence, Rhode Island were fully vaccinated. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in the group carried about the same viral load.

CDC head Dr. Rochelle Walensky said evidence now suggests that the Delta variant is transmissible by those fully vaccinated.

The Times and *Washington Post* both obtained copies of the CDC data that said scientists are even more concerned now that those unvaccinated will be all the more hesitant to take the jabs since the findings show its ineffectiveness.

Regardless of the findings, President Biden has been more assertive in getting Americans to sign up for the shots and now said all federal workers must take the vaccine or face weekly tests.

The Pentagon said in a statement last week that it is considering mandating the vaccine in the military. The Biden administration has faced some blowback from some unions, including the top postal workers union, that said it would not be in favor of mandatory vaccines.

Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a research scientist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, told *The Times*, “Vaccines are like hip waders. They keep you dry if you wade through a river, but get too deep and water will start pouring in over the top.”

The report also raised questions about just how realistic it is to achieve herd immunity. *The Times*’ report pointed to San Francisco, where 70 to 75 percent of those over 12 have been fully vaccinated.

The Times reported that one doctor from a hospital in the city recalled seeing one patient on 1 June, and was under the impression that San Francisco might

have gotten over the hump. But he said there were more and more patients and now 15 are in ICUs.

"If getting to 70 or 75 percent immunity doesn't protect the community, I think it's very hard to extrapolate what happens to a place that is 30 percent vaccinated. Humility may be the most important thing here," he said.

Matthew Seeger, a communication expert at Wayne State University, told the *Post* that health officials may have oversold the vaccines to the public.

"We've done a great job of telling the public these are miracle vaccines," he said. "We have probably fallen a little into the trap of over-reassurance, which is one of the challenges of any crisis communication circumstance."

TRENDPOST: *The "miracle vaccines," as we have reported in this and other Trends Journals, are a fraction of the 96 percent efficacy which was sold to the public when they were launched last December.*

Yet, arrogant Presstitutes, "celebrities," politicians and bureaucratic flunkies keep telling the people, schools, businesses and institutions to demand mandatory vaccinations... or "Do Not Enter."

And, the big hype spreading across the U.S. mainstream media is that there were 671 deaths, which was well above the seven-day average of 265. Absent their so called "reporting" is that the number, as we detailed in the article, '300 PERCENT' JUMP IN U.S. COVID DEATHS = CALCULATED LIE, the "alleged" virus death number are tiny, compared to the 4,000 plus that were dying in from it this past January.

MEDICAL PROFESSORS: COVID CRISIS OVER



The Foundation for Economic Education, in an article appearing 28 July on its FEE.org website, challenges the official narrative that COVID-19, this time fueled by the Delta variant, is once again surging and necessitating practices and restrictions like mask-wearing and social distancing be

reinstated, even for those individuals who are fully vaccinated.

The FEE.org article brands mainstream media coverage of the "rise of the Delta variant" as "soaked in alarmism," and cites a Harvard Medical School professor's graph showing that deaths from COVID are at the lowest level since the "pandemic" was declared in March 2020.

And another authority, this one a professor of medicine at Stanford, notes that the extremely low death count seems at odds with the rising number of COVID cases and of people hospitalized, but notes that alarm over case numbers ignores that most cases exhibit mild symptoms or are asymptomatic, and that increased hospitalizations have not been accompanied by increased deaths.

See **Trends Journal** of April 14, 2020, ["THE NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP."](#)

So claims of a resurgence are really unfounded, and COVID is not the all-consuming threat it once was. But, the article notes, government officials and fans of big government have a vested interest in keeping the COVID pot boiling, because "the rhetoric of 'emergency' and 'crisis' is the government's favorite tool...in expanding and maintaining its power over our lives."

The Nobel Prize recipient Friedrich Hayek once noted that "'Emergencies' have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have eroded," and that those who get a taste of power in a "crisis" find it habit-forming and find ways to preserve the "crisis."

TRENDPOST: *The article concludes that "Whether politicians like it or not, the COVID-19 crisis is largely over," yet, this information goes virtually unreported. Instead, the media keeps hyping the new virus variant that is allegedly more contagious while ignoring the facts that it is less deadly and in fact the COVID death numbers are small.*

DRUG LORDS RAKE IN BIG BUCKS WITH BAD SHOT



As we have been reporting, Pfizer and Moderna have reaped massive profits from the first round of vaccine distribution. (SEE: [“PFIZER CEO MAKES WINDFALL PROFIT FROM VACCINE NEWS,”](#) [“VACCINE DRUG DEALERS: PEOPLE PAY, THEY PROFIT.”](#))

Moderna brought in a revenue of \$1.73 billion in the first quarter and Pfizer announced it made hundreds of millions in profits from the vaccine, on \$3.5 billion in revenue in the first three months of the year.

Israel announced on Thursday that it will begin offering a third COVID-19 dose to its citizens because it has been widely documented that the vaccine tends to wear off after about seven months. The move has raised some ethical questions because many of the world’s emerging countries still cannot vaccinate their people and won’t until well into 2022.

The Times of Israel reported that other countries like Turkey and Hungary have also offered boosters. The paper pointed out that 55 percent of the population over the age of 12 have been fully vaccinated. About 234,000 of those unvaccinated are over 50.

It was data from Israel that raised the initial concern about breakthrough infections. Israel’s Health Ministry determined that the Pfizer shot was only 39

percent effective in preventing COVID infections with symptoms, which Dr. Jalal Baig, an oncologist, wrote on CNBC, is a “nosedive from levels seen in the winter.”

He also questioned the need for widespread boosters and Pfizer’s motives.

“After creating wondrous vaccines whose efficacy far exceeded even the most optimistic expectations, Pfizer seems to be attempting to create a new multibillion-dollar need for boosters that does not clearly exist outside older people or people who are immunocompromised.” After all,” he wrote, the more doses a person requires, the more money they pocket.”

TRENDPOST: *Despite politicians trying to insist the vaccine is safe, free, and you can even have a free donut—each jab actually costs U.S. taxpayers \$19.50. And, we pointed out last week that the Washington Gang just cut a check to buy 200 million additional doses for a cool \$24 per jab.*

As Gerald Celente has often said, “What morons and imbeciles call campaign contributions, adults call bribes and pay-offs.” As we have previously reported, Pfizer gave Joe Biden \$1 million in celebration of his presidential inauguration. And as reported by the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health:

“This his observational study, which analyzed publicly available data on campaign contributions and lobbying in the US from 1999 to 2018, found that the pharmaceutical and health product industry spent \$4.7 billion, an average of \$233 million per year, on lobbying the US federal government; \$414 million on contributions to presidential and congressional electoral candidates, national party committees, and outside spending groups; and \$877 million on contributions to state candidates and committees. Contributions were targeted at senior legislators in Congress involved in drafting health care laws and state committees that opposed or supported key referenda on drug pricing and regulation.”

Clearly, political “representatives” represent those who fill their pockets with bribes and payoffs. They are not “public servants” of We the People of Slavelandia who pay their salary from the money they steal in the name of taxes.

NO LETUP IN SURGE OF VAX BIZ REVENUES



Keeping up with the Delta variant, or any other variants of COVID-19 as may appear, via booster shots for existing vaccines or new vaccines targeting new variants, may drive Pfizer's vaccines sales for this year to \$43.5 billion, \$1.5 billion more than the company's total revenue last year.

And all the various reports in this **Trends Journal** about vaccines losing effectiveness over time, or allowing "breakthrough" infections (COVID infections in persons already fully vaccinated), rather than hurt the company, tend to ensure that more and more doses will be produced and purchased.

On 20 April, in ["PFIZER CEO: THIRD TIME IS A CHARM,"](#) we reported that Albert Bourla had declared that, despite the original hype that two shots of the company's vaccine would confer immunity, booster shots would likely be needed and even evolve into an annual need, "like seasonal flu shots." And that projection was shared by other Drug Lords, such as Johnson & Johnson CEO Alex Gorsky.

We also reported that Pfizer looked upon the world's continued need for COVID vaccines as a "durable revenue stream."

TRENDPOST: *For anyone to look askance at the policy of "all vaccines, all the time," to draw attention to the fact that no COVID vaccine yet has complete approval by the FDA, or to bring up the serious side effects that have accompanied vaccinations, opens one up to charges of spreading*

*"misinformation" and of being a wild-eyed, irrational conspiracy theorist. Again, as we have detailed in this and other **Trends Journals**, as with previous wars, only the side supporting it is permitted in the mainstream media.*

We reported that according to studies conducted by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), 64 percent of the sources mainstream media used to cover the Iraq War were pro-war, while total anti-war sources made up only 10 percent of the media's reporting, of which only 3 percent of U.S. sources were anti-war.

FAIR also found that current or former government and military officials accounted for 76 percent of all 319 sources for news stories aired on network news channels about Iraq. And according to FAIR, for two weeks following Secretary of State Colin Powell's error-filled speech to the United Nations in which he made bogus WMD claims for war against Iraq, U.S. TV networks banished contrary perspectives. Of the 393 on-camera sources appearing on ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS newscasts, only one percent were anti-war and just 6 percent were skeptical sources.

Again, COVID War, Vaccine War, Iraq War... those supporting Freedom, Peace and Justice are banned from the warmongering media.

RENTERS BEWARE: COVID EVICTION MORATORIUM ENDING



The Biden administration refused to extend the nationwide moratorium on residential evictions, but some states will enforce their own rules on when these evictions can begin to take place.

CNBC reported that about 1.6 million tenants in California are behind on their rent, but landlords cannot evict until October. The report pointed out that New York extended its eviction moratorium until September and Hawaii said it will lift

the ban on 6 August. The report said New Jersey tenants cannot be kicked out of their apartments until January.

The report also pointed out that landlords cannot kick out tenants for nonpayment in months that they accepted federal assistance. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has some options for renters to utilize in order to avoid eviction, including a tool to apply for rent relief. The CNBC report pointed out that just applying for the relief can help individuals stay put longer because as long as there's an application in process, the tenant cannot be evicted.

The New York Times reported that the Emergency Rental Assistance program has \$47 billion in its war chest and has only doled out \$3 billion. The paper said the White House threw "responsibility to Congress" to grant any further extensions.

Dana Remus, a White House counsel, reportedly said the extension was not a legal option after an earlier Supreme Court ruling. President Biden said in a statement that it is up to "every state and local government to ensure we prevent every eviction we can."

His administration has been criticized for appearing to wait until the 11th hour to act.

"What a devastating failure to act in a moment of crisis," Diane Yentel, the president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, told the paper. "As the Delta variant surges and our understanding of its dangers grow, the White House punted to Congress in the final 48 hours and the House leaves for summer break," she said.

The paper reported that the moratorium was put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in November because, in part, evictions were seen as a health risk because those being evicted often find it nearly impossible to socially distance themselves.

About 12.7 million renters told the census in early July that they had no or little confidence in being able to make next month's rent payment, *The Guardian* reported.

The Biden administration has said the Delta variant is continuing to spread throughout the U.S. and it continues to be a dangerous time to evict Americans. *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out that the House adjourned on Friday before securing the votes to extend the moratorium.

TREND FORECAST: *Get ready for a swell of homeless people to fill the streets in a city near you. There will be a raging battle between the swell of street sleepers and businesses and residents that don't want them in their neighborhoods.*

And as Gerald Celente has long noted, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it." And lose it they will. Thus, there will be escalating crime, drug use and suicides among the newly evicted whose present and future – sadly – will be dismally bleak... especially as economic conditions deteriorate across the nation.

COVID WAR MAKES KIDS DUMBER



As we detailed in previous **Trends Journals**, our forecasts that locking down societies to fight the COVID War would increase suicide rates, increase homicide rates, increase weight gains while dumbing down society has, by the data, become the New ABnormal.

On the education front, recent reports point out a significant drop in math and reading proficiency among students in the U.S. during the past year—with the most dramatic impact on minority students.

The New York Times, citing two separate studies from McKinsey & Company and a NWFA, said Latino third-graders performed 17 percentile points lower in math in spring 2021 compared to 2019. The NWEA report found that there was a 15 percentile decline for black students. The report also pointed out that Asian and white students saw a 9 percentile drop compared to 2019.

The *Times* reported that the NWFA report studied information from 5.5 million students across the U.S. in third grade through eighth. The report said most of the students who saw the steepest drop in grades were already struggling academically—especially those in low-income schools.

The McKinsey report found that the average student was about four to five months behind the average student by the end of the school year. The study found that students at predominantly black and Latino schools were six months behind.

Emma Dorn, the lead author of the McKinsey report, said reading was just about as dismal as math scores. The study analyzed assessments of more than 1.6 million elementary school students, *The Times* reported.

TREND FORECAST: *The **Trends Journal** had forecast that these lockdowns and Zoom learning sessions could inflict irrevocable harm on students—who have virtually no chance of coming down with serious illness if infected with COVID-19. Indeed, the COVID recovery rate for people one to 20 years of age according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is 99.997 percent.*

On 2 February, in an article titled, [“SCHOOL LOCKDOWNS KILLING STUDENTS.”](#) we pointed out the mental health drain these lockdowns had on students. In [“U.S. SCHOOL UPDATE: CONFUSION REIGNS,”](#) which was published on 18 August 2020, we noted that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended in-person learning.

TREND FORECAST: *On the upside, the online learning process is just the beginning of a positive “Interactive U” trend that Gerald Celente had forecast*

some 25 years ago. Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age and die. Online learning has just been born.

The current education model was invented by the Germans at the onset of the Industrial Revolution to teach workers in mass production facilities how to read, write, do math... and follow orders.

With interactive education, students will be able to access the best and most accomplished experts in selected fields of study rather than the one-size-fits-all, outdated educational programming that is currently the norm.

Thus, the Ontrendpreneur® opportunities that seize upon its growth will provide great rewards.

ITALY: NO GREEN PASS, NO FREEDOM



Following neighboring France, Italy has instituted new rules, including a "Green Pass," a paper or digital document showing whether a person has had at least one dose of vaccine, has tested negative or has recently recovered from COVID-19.

The pass must be shown for admittance to stadiums, museums, spas, casinos and cinemas, as well as gyms and swimming pools. It's also required for indoor dining at restaurants. But requiring it on trains, public transport and domestic flights met political opposition claiming it would kill tourism. And, Green Pass or not, Italy's discos will remain closed.

Although about 48.2 percent of Italians are now fully vaccinated, with 14.1 percent awaiting their second shot, some politicians, including some within Prime Minister Mario Draghi's coalition, don't support the vaccination drive and have urged those under 40 to not get the shots.

On 9 March, in ["EU GREEN PASS FOR VACCINATED,"](#) we had forecast that following Israel's "must get vaxxed footsteps," European nations would also demand documentation like the Green Pass or Green Passport to limit the freedom of the unvaccinated to travel or attend sporting or cultural events.

Prime Minister Draghi condemned those refusing the jab, saying "If you don't vaccinate, you get sick, you die or you let other people die."

TRENDPOST: Draghi's statement is arrogantly ignorant. As the facts prove, and as we have detailed in this **Trends Journal**, if you do get the jab you still get the virus. And as per the data, the latest statistics (as of 2 August) reported by Worldometer show that of 4,355,348 cases, 4,135,930 have recovered; that means there were 128,068 deaths, or less than 0.21 percent of a population of 59.2 million, and that only about 2.9 percent of cases prove fatal. And the numbers of daily deaths from COVID remain extremely low, and have not shown any increase.

Moreover, according to statista, among Italians between 80 and 89 years of age, the fatality rate was 20.1 percent. For patients older than 90 years this figure increased to 28 percent. On the other hand, the death rate for individuals under 60 years of age was well below one percent.

And while there is no fatality rate for people 1 to 39 years of age, the nation was the first western nation to lockdown and its COVID War fighting measures were among the most draconian. But these facts are totally ignored by the fear mongering media and power hungry politicians.

“CELEBRITIES” VAX SMART, YOU’RE STUPID



As we have been reporting so called “actors” – people who can memorize scripts and play someone who they are not – have been elevated to national heroes in the battle to fight the COVID War. (See [“CELEBRITY SELLOUTS SELL COVID VAX,”](#) 18 May 2021)

And in this issue, for example, we noted how Piers “Flab Face” Morgan demeans anyone not wanting to take the jab as “selfish pricks.”

Sean Penn, meanwhile, said he won't perform in his new show "Gaslit" until every member of the production team has been vaccinated.

Promoting the “actors” know best and We the People are stupid, from BuzzFeed, to People to Yahoo news, the big story last week was that actress Emmy Rossum said she got the jab when she was pregnant and “In short, stop being an irresponsible idiot and get the vaccine.”

Arrogant and Ignorant

Appearing on ABC-TV's "The View" on Tuesday, 27 July (as reported on that same date by Niamh Harris Entertainment), Joy Behar declared that, since so many people remain unvaccinated despite the many and varied vaccination incentive schemes, "bribery didn't work," and so the next approach should be "what we look at as threats."

Trends Journal has written about the various bribes offered, as in the 8 June article, ["FREE BEER JOINS LIST OF VAX INCENTIVES,"](#) which even told of free marijuana being offered to those otherwise reluctant to get their shots.

Ms. Behar marveled over West Virginia offering guns as incentives: "That's the only shot they are scared of, the vaccine shot, not actually getting shot."

The threats that Ms. Behar has in mind, she expressed thusly: "You will not be able to go to a restaurant unless you are vaccinated...you are not going to be able to go into the theater." She expressed admiration for the mandates imposed by President Macron in France: "He didn't put it into effect. He just said he was going to do it, and 1.3 million people have signed up. Just the idea you are going to lose your so-called freedom is scary."

She elaborated on her "so-called freedom" theme by pointing out that, while people who choose to not be vaccinated see mandating them to do so as an abridgement of their freedom, she sees such people as taking away her own freedom.

"Why is their freedom more important than my freedom to not get sick?" she asked.

That concept of freedom apparently resonated with her co-hosts on "The View," because she then asked for and received an emphatic "Amen" for her remarks.

TREND FORECAST: *What is going on with the mass call for vaccinations from virtually every sector of the establishment is unprecedented... and it will continue.*

Yesterday's New York Times front page headline blared, "Officials Enlist Stars of TikTok in Vaccine War."

"Stars"?

A 17 year old high school kid, Ellie Zeller with over 10 million followers who posts fashion and lifestyle videos is now promoting an "Operation Warp Speed" gene therapy jab that has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug administration... and is proving ineffective in stopping the injected from getting the virus.

The article goes on to point out how tens of millions of dollars are being spent by the nation and states to promote the vaccine via “celebrities.”

*Again, this comes as no surprise to **Trends Journal** subscribers, since we reported on 30 March that some \$250 million would be spent in COVID-19 propaganda campaign to convince the hesitant to get the shot. (See [“WHITE HOUSE PUSHES COVID JAB CAMPAIGN,”](#) 30 March 2021).*

Most importantly, regardless of the issue, be it “The Vaccine War” as noted by the Times, or the Iraq War which the newspaper also sold—lying about Saddam Hussein having weapons of mass destruction—in the new world order, only one voice is permitted to be heard. All others are censored.

COVID RULES – YOU MUST OBEY



Beginning with the draconian lockdowns when the COVID War was launched from China in celebration of its Lunar New Year 2020, with each new day there are new orders imposed upon civilization to fight the never ending battles.

In addition to articles in this and previous **Trends Journals**, here is list of some additional COVID Rules You Must Obey:

- Netflix has declared that vaccinations are now mandatory for cast and crew of all productions, as well as anyone who comes in contact with them (presumably vendors, caterers etc.).
- Indoor patrons at units of restaurateur Danny Meyer's Union Sq. Hospitality Group (18 NYC properties, including Gramercy Tavern, Shake Shack and Union Sq. Cafe) must show proof of vaccination; so, too, must employees, who have 45 days to comply or find themselves unemployed.

Mayor Bill de Blasio says "all options are on the table" and that the city has the power to make sure that "people who want to do things in NYC will need to be vaccinated."

- Saudi Arabia requires proof of at least one vaccine dose (displayable on a mobile phone app) for admittance to public and private venues including schools, shops, markets, malls, restaurants, cafes, concerts and public transportation. Italy now has a similar program, known as the "Green Pass," which serves to greatly limit the activities of the unvaxxed.
- Travelers arriving via sea or air in Australia may be subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days from time of arrival. Also, residents of Greater Sydney who violate any of the myriad provisions of the stay-at-home orders (or other Public Health Orders) are subject to penalties of six months incarceration and fines of up to \$11,000 upon their first offense.
- The Dept. of Veterans Affairs requires all frontline health care workers to be vaccinated or face possible termination.
- As of mid-September, all NYC municipal employees — some 340,000, including teachers and police officers — must either be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID testing.
- All employees of *The Washington Post* will, as a condition of employment, be required to show proof of vaccination when they return to the office in September.
- The Walt Disney Co. will now require all U.S. salaried and non-union workers to be vaccinated within 60 days; new hires must be vaccinated before starting. The company is in talks with its labor unions. And visitors to its U.S. theme parks must wear masks indoors.
- Walmart is offering a \$150 bonus to "encourage" store and warehouse employees to get vaccinated; corporate staff and regional managers will have until 4 October to be fully vaccinated, and the company will no longer

rely on the honor system, but will have a new means of verification.

Walmart is also requesting that shoppers wear masks at stores deemed in high risk areas. Walmart's Chief Exec announced these changes, saying "As we all know, the pandemic is not over." (How does he know?)

- All residents of Washington D.C. over the age of 2 are now required to wear masks in all indoor public spaces. In Kansas City, the mask requirement applies to everyone over 5, and in Atlanta masks are required of all residents 10 and older.
- In the above cities, as well as St. Louis, Los Angeles County, Clark County in Nevada and other jurisdictions where mask-wearing is once again mandated, the new rules apply regardless of a person's vaccination status. The CDC's May 2021 advisory, that masks were no longer necessary or required for those who had been vaccinated, is no longer operative, and the CDC now says that vaccinated people may spread the Delta variant.
- Whatever you do, don't create a dating-and-community app that sees not getting vaccinated as a matter of "medical autonomy and freedom of choice" and sees its users as "likeminded unvaccinated individuals." That's what "Unjected" is, and it's what got it removed from Apple's App Store. Among other things, the app was judged guilty of employing "anti-vaccination buzzwords" like "jabbed" and "microchip," and of "inappropriately referring to the COVID-19 pandemic in its concept or theme."
- With rates of infection surging and rates of vaccination slowing (but with no mention of significant death numbers), the White House has declared that any federal worker (of which there are more than 4 million, including the military) who cannot attest to being fully vaccinated must wear a mask at work, be tested once or twice each week, observe social distancing and be subject to travel restrictions. Pres. Biden wants these same rules to apply to federal contractors, and wants private employers to take similar steps, and he wants state and local governments to pay \$100 (from stimulus package funds) each to newly-vaccinated Americans. "With

freedom comes responsibility," he said. "Your decision to be unvaccinated impacts someone else." There was some pushback from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association over its members rights to privacy and choice, but eventual compliance is expected.

- Audiences at NYC's Broadway theaters must be vaccinated and wear masks, as must performers and all theater workers. Medical and religious exemptions will be permitted, but only with a recent negative test result. Children under 12 are exempted, but the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall will bar children under 12 as too young to get the shots. Theater owners, Actors' Equity and related labor unions have agreed to require weekly testing of members in addition to the vaccine mandate.
- In Minneapolis, as of yesterday, First Avenue music venue that was made famous in Prince's movie "Purple Rain" requires all attendees to provide proof they got a COVID jab at least 14 days before the event or show a negative virus test within 72 hours. The venue said all of its employees have been vaccinated.
- Today, Warren Wilhelm Junior, aka Mayor Bill de Blasio, declared that anyone entering indoor businesses such as restaurants, entertainment venues and gyms in New York City must show proof of vaccination. The jabless will be denied entry.
- America's biggest meat company, Tyson Foods Inc., declared that all employees at U.S. offices must be fully jabbed by October while the peasants that work in their slaughterhouses and meat packing plantations must get the jab by November.

DESANTIS DRAWS LINE IN FLORIDA SAND ON LOCKDOWNS AND MANDATES



Two weeks ago, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) disappointed many of his supporters by strongly urging Floridians to get COVID vaccinations.

A large contingent of Americans have rejected the experimental vaccines, for a myriad of reasons.

DeSantis appeared to clarify his position last Friday while speaking at a press conference in Cape Coral:

“In Florida, there will be no lockdowns, there will be no school closures, there will be no restrictions and no mandates in the state of Florida.”

The statement drew approving cheers from a gathered crowd.

The comments came as the Biden administration struggled to explain changes in policy regarding mask wearing, social distancing and even renewed lockdowns.

Americans were told by President Biden in May that if they received vaccination, they were protected, and would no longer need to wear a mask, or face other restrictions. But emerging data, not only from the U.S. but from some of the highest vaccinated countries in the world, appears to show that vaccinated individuals can contract and spread the so-called “Delta” variant, perhaps as easily as unvaccinated individuals.

A few days after DeSantis made his remarks, Governors from New York and New Jersey moved in the opposite direction, announcing vaccine mandates for government workers, encouraging businesses to institute mandates, and hinting at other restrictions.

In New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy said he was considering obligatory vaccination mandates. He also suggested that private-sector companies compel more employees to get vaccinated, before adding that personnel in health-care institutions and other high-risk locations (such as jails) must be vaccinated immediately.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo stepped up more publicly, after a DOJ announcement that he would not face investigation for disastrous COVID nursing home directives he issued in 2020.

"Private businesses...I am asking them, and suggesting to them...go to vaccine only admission," Gov. Cuomo said on Monday. "I believe it's in your business interest to run a vaccine-only establishment."

Cuomo also pointed out that New York is the first state in the country to require hospital personnel to get vaccinated. The mandate applies to all state run hospitals.

GOVERNMENT COVER-UP OF FAUCI'S WUHAN LAB FUNDING SPREADS



The cover-up continues.

The National Institutes of Health database monitoring U.S. taxpayer-funded research grants is no longer accessible, including Mr. Anthony Fauci's contentious award to the

Wuhan Institute of Virology.

When users try to search the database, which lists the billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded grants awarded by several National Institutes of Health (NIH) organizations, they get an error message. The Fauci-led National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which has been criticized for supporting

gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is one of the entities listed in the register.

Previously the Wuhan lab itself was caught wiping evidence of gain-of-function research and its ties to the NIH, following news outlet National Pulse uncovering [interviews](#) where Fauci asserted he was “trying to hire” Chinese Communist Party researchers.

NIAID-directed money for collaborative study between disgraced COVID-19 researcher Peter Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance and a Chinese government-run facility were previously exposed on the website under the auspices of a roughly \$3.7 million project titled ["Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."](#)

But archives of the database show info linking U.S. funding under the direction of Fauci going to the Chinese biolab:

“We will use S protein sequence data, infectious clone technology, in vitro and in vivo infection experiments and analysis of receptor binding to test the hypothesis that % divergence thresholds in S protein sequences predict spillover potential. We will combine these data with bat host distribution, viral diversity and phylogeny, human survey of risk behaviors and illness, and serology to identify SARSr-CoV spillover risk hotspots across southern China.”

Senator Rand Paul has led efforts to expose Fauci's ties to controversial research funding that was banned in the U.S. until just days before Donald Trump's entry into the oval office, in 2017.

Paul has pressed Fauci over the directing monies outside the country to get around the research band. Though Fauci has repeatedly played word games about the kind of experiments that were being conducted, and what the money given to the Wuhan lab was spent on, Paul has largely succeeded in establishing Fauci's role in the matter.

The **Trends Journal** has covered the story extensively, in articles including [“BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI”](#) (18 May 2021); [“NO EVIDENCE FOR NATURAL ORIGIN OF COVID VIRUS, SAYS FORMER STATE DEPT OFFICIAL”](#) (1 June 2021); [“RAND PAUL LAYS DOWN LAW TO FAUCI”](#) (20 July 2021), and others.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



ISRAELI-LINKED TANKER ATTACKED BY DRONE: IRAN BLAMED

An armed drone thought to be operated by Iran conducted a deadly strike on an Israeli-linked tanker off Oman on Thursday, increasing tensions between Tel Aviv and Tehran.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the shadow war being played out between Israel and Iran. (SEE: [“ISRAEL TARGETS IRANIAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA.”](#)) *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Israel has been impeding shipments of Iranian oil to Syria and has targeted at least a dozen ships. Defense Minister Benny Gantz has blamed Iran for targeting an Israeli-owned ship in the Gulf of Oman.

The New York Times reported that Israel has been accused of asserting itself militarily against Iran by orchestrating attacks and assassinations on Iranian soil. Our 20 April article [“IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL FOR NUCLEAR FACILITY EXPLOSION.”](#) noted that while Israel did not comment on suspected military strikes, the *Financial Times* reported that in this case, it was apparent there were

“officially sanctioned leaks to local media and the U.S. press,” with Israel essentially taking credit for the incident.

Mercer Street, which is a Liberian-flagged product tanker, was attacked while in the Arabian Sea. Two crew members were killed. There was no cargo on board, according to CNN. The report said the ship is Japanese-owned but managed by a company owned by Israeli shipping tycoon Eyal Ofer.

The CNN report said the ship was able to operate on its own power and was headed to a port accompanied by U.S. warships, including the USS Ronald Reagan carrier. The two crew members who died were a Briton and Romanian.

“Iran isn’t only an Israeli problem, but an exporter of terror, destruction, and instability which harms the entire world. We must never remain silent in the face of Iranian terrorism, which also harms freedom of navigation,” Yair Lapid, Israel’s foreign minister, said.

There seemed to be scant evidence to support the claim that it was an Iranian drone. The *Journal* said a regional security official did not provide any specifics and a U.S. military official essentially said a suicide drone attack seemed like a classic Iranian move.

TREND FORECAST: *Should military tensions between Israel and Iran escalate and war breaks out between the two nations, oil prices will spike to well over \$100 a barrel, which will, in turn, spike inflation rates and trigger a global equity market crash. It will also mark the beginning of World War III.*

PROTEST BREAKS OUT IN PERU AGAINST CASTILLO’S NEW GOVERNMENT



Pedro Castillo, the socialist and former school teacher who became Peru's president in June after defeating the

daughter of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, sparked backlash just days into his presidency after he appointed Guido Bellido as his prime minister.

Bellido has been accused of being a "terrorist" sympathetic to the brutal rebel group called Shining Path.

Al Jazeera reported that Castillo's decision sparked protests Saturday in Lima. Demonstrators shouted, "Terrorism, never again."

Castillo named Bellido for the role after just one day in office. The *Financial Times* reported that Bellido is a congressman who has been investigated for "alleged terrorist sympathies." The paper said he recently asked a journalist what that reporter had against the Shining Path, the group that fought the government in the 80s and 90s and has been blamed for tens of thousands of killings. The Associated Press reported that from 1980 to 2000, clashes between the government and the group resulted in 70,000 deaths.

"Bellido is a disastrous appointment," Rodolfo Rojas, the head of a risk consultancy in Lima, told the *FT*. "In 24 hours Castillo's political capital has gone up in smoke. You simply can't touch the Shining Path nerve in Peru. It was a bloody terrorist sect and its actions are deeply embedded in the psychology of Peruvians."

The *FT* pointed out that conservatives in the country believe Castillo is bent on turning the country into a communist dictatorship. The paper said Castillo may have shown his cards to foreign mining companies operating in the country when he said: "We are ready to recover sovereignty over all our natural resources because many of them nowadays are in foreign hands, with contracts that guarantee them tax stability."

The Al Jazeera report said many of the protesters were supporters of Keiko Fujimori's Popular Force Party. As we reported on 22 June, in an article titled, ["CASTILLO WINS PERU PRES. RACE. LOSER CLAIMS ELECTION FRAUD."](#)

A group of retired officers in the country said after the contested election that the military should refuse to acknowledge Castillo as president. Many saw Fujimori as the establishment candidate and some saw calls not to accept Castillo as president as a sign of discrimination to the rural and impoverished regions that came out for the 51-year-old Castillo.

The report said some of Castillo's supporters have taken to social media to express their disenfranchisement with his pick for prime minister. His critics have tried to tie him to these rebel groups during the campaign. He denied those claims.

He was the anti-establishment pick but won the presidency by fewer than 50,000 votes. The country has the world's highest Covid-19 death rate per capita, and the economic crisis has pushed millions into poverty, the BBC reported.

Some of Castillo's voters have taken to social media to express dismay with his pick for prime minister.

"He had promised to put moderates in the cabinet, and they are saying the president has betrayed them," Al Jazeera's Mariana Sanchez said.

TRENDPOST: *Prior to the start of the COVID War, protests and demonstrations were breaking out in Colombia, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. In fact, in October 2019, riots in Peru broke out when its president, Martin Vizcarra, dissolved congress, which prompted opposition lawmakers to suspend him and appoint another leader.*

And we had reported extensively on the millions of people taking to the streets across the globe in protest of lack of basic living standards, government corruption, violence and crime (See ["PERU: WAVES OF STRIKES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,"](#) 26 November 2019).

A year later, in 2020, the Wall Street Journal reported the country is on edge and has suffered during the coronavirus outbreak. The paper, citing the International

Monetary Fund, said the country's economy is expected to contract by 14 percent this year.

TREND FORECAST: *Throughout South America, as economic conditions continue to rapidly deteriorate, civil unrest will escalate into civil wars. With violence, corruption, and crime rising, millions of citizens will risk their lives to migrate to safe-haven nations.*

TUNISIA'S PRESIDENT ACCUSED OF COUP, CONSOLIDATING POWER



Kais Saied, the president of Tunisia, said he banned public gatherings of more than three people and extended the COVID-19 curfew to slow new cases, but his critics have accused him of carrying out a coup and now

consolidating power.

Saied, a former law professor who was considered a political outsider, said he fired the country's prime minister and has suspended parliament to calm unrest in the country and secure its flailing economy. The Islamist Ennahda party, which is the largest in parliament, accused Saied—who has the backing of the military—of staging a coup. The moderate Islamist Nahda party has also made the same accusations.

(Saied ousted Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi on 25 July, the same night that protests erupted in the country over the dire situation many residents face. MiddleEastEye.net reported that Mechichi was "physically assaulted" in the presidential palace before agreeing to resign. The report said he has not been seen in public since.)

The *Financial Times* reported that Saied has insisted his emergency measures are temporary and denied coup allegations. Saied's attempt to expand powers

amid the coronavirus outbreak is not unheard of on the continent. Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed went to war with Tigary for holding a vote during the outbreak.

The paper pointed out that Saied was elected in 2019 and his victory was seen as a reprimand of the established political class in the country. But he has seen little success.

The World Bank said Tunis' "capacity for economic resilience had been drained by years of indecisive public policy-making and growing protectionism." The country has performed worse than its peers in the region during the outbreak and its GDP contracted by 8.8 percent in 2020. About 40.8 percent of young people between 15-24 are unemployed. According to the World Bank:

"The percentage of the population described as being 'vulnerable' to falling into poverty was expected to have increased as well. Using a threshold of US \$5.50 per person per day, the number of poor and vulnerable together is expected to have increased from 16.7% to 20.1% of the country's total population of about 11.7 million."

Saied said that he had to take drastic measures to save the country. He pointed to the country's 2014 constitution that allows the president to act decisively if there is "imminent" danger to the state, the *FT* said. He called the danger imminent:

"Tunisia has turned from a single party to a single lobby. They divide up the state and its assets as if it was their own private property... and in this pandemic we have reached top position among Arab and African states [COVID-19 mortality]. Is that not an imminent danger?"

The country ended its autocratic rule about a decade ago during the Arab Spring and was the only country to successfully pull off a full democracy. *The Economist* wrote: "Liberals consider it a beacon of hope: if democracy could flourish in Tunisia, why not in the rest of the Arab world?"

But the magazine pointed out that in the 10 years, there have been 10 governments and all have “failed to curb graft, improve services or create jobs.”

On 2 February, we ran an article titled, [“PROTESTS TUNISIA: ‘YOUTH REVOLUTION’ TOP TREND,”](#) and pointed out how the young in the country played a predominant role in demanding change. The protesters say they are concerned that the gains they won during the 2011 Arab Spring uprising could evaporate.

Protests have broken out across the country again.

“Our patience has run out,” Nourredine Selmi, a 28-year-old, out-of-work protester, told Reuters. “There are no solutions for the unemployed. They cannot control the epidemic...They can’t give us vaccines.”

France called on Saied to act quickly to appoint a new prime minister and cabinet. Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser to U.S. President Biden, said Saturday that the country should return to its “democratic path.”

“This will require rapidly forming a new government, led by a capable prime minister to stabilize Tunisia's economy and confront the COVID-19 pandemic.”

TOP TREND FOR 2021: “YOUTH REVOLUTION”: *As we had forecast in December 2020, in 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.*

In response, governments will again attempt to use the COVID War as a “legal” justification to prohibit protests. But, as Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it, they will. Thus, we maintain our forecast that protests will escalate into civil wars, and civil wars will spread to regional wars.

Also, as citizens by the millions flee their nations for neighboring safe havens, especially Europe, anti-immigration populist movements will accelerate, with new political parties, some youth-driven, overthrowing establishment parties.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



DRUG LORDS PAY FINES AND GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS

Trends Journal's October 2019 article ["THE OPIOID WARS"](#) told how "corporate drug distributors are the most profitable dealers on the street." 2 March 2021's ["PHARMA SERVICE FIRMS UNITE IN \\$12-BILLION BUY"](#) told of the trend toward mergers and acquisitions in the drug business leading to concentration of ownership and elimination of competition.

And 27 July's ["LAWYERS AMONG BIG WINNERS IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT"](#) related how Drug Lords can rake in billions, benefit from their incestuous relationships with former employees turned regulators, pay millions in settlements when their shady dealings are exposed, and never spend a single day behind bars.

Now the *Financial Times* reports, on 30 July, on action by the U.K.'s Competition and Markets Authority against three drug companies that have since consolidated, who raised the price of liothyronine, a thyroid hormone deficiency drug, from £20 in 2009 to £248 in 2017, an increase of 1000 percent.

Patients Left in the Lurch

This caused the U.K.'s National Health Service to stop supplying an otherwise most effective treatment, leaving patients in the lurch, forced to either do without or somehow manage to pay "excessive and unfair" prices out of their own pockets.

£100 Million in Fines? Peanuts!

The three involved were fined a total of over £100 million, a mere pittance compared to the prices paid in acquisitions and mergers as the drug industry continues its pattern of consolidation.

"Price Optimization"

That pattern of consolidation eliminates competition and, in so doing, enables "price optimization" strategies; since generic, unbranded drugs are not subject to the same price regulation as proprietary, branded ones, a company can absorb the producers of a generic drug and then, as its only producer, feel free to increase the price. As noted, nobody ever goes to jail for these shenanigans; they pay the fines and go about their business.

The *FT* article mentions another case brought by the U.K. regulators in which one company colluded with rivals to stay out of the market for a hydrocortisone product. Fines have been levied against the companies involved, and those are being appealed. But there's no mention of anyone facing incarceration.

J&J FACES LAWSUIT FROM BLACK WOMEN WHO SAY DANGEROUS PRODUCTS WERE PURPOSELY MARKETING TO THEM



Johnson & Johnson has been accused in a newly filed lawsuit of purposely marketing its talcum-based powder to black women despite internal concerns that the product could be harmful, reports said.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the National Council of Negro Women, *The New York Times* reported. The paper said the lawsuit claims that the company was aware that some of its products cause cancer.

Janice Mathis, the executive director of the NCNW, said in a statement, according to NPR:

“This company, through its words and images, told Black women that we were offensive in our natural state and needed to use their products to stay fresh. Generations of Black women believed them and made it our daily practice to use their products in ways that put us at risk of cancer—and we taught our daughters to do the same. Shame on Johnson and Johnson.”

The suit—citing an internal memo from 1992—claimed that the company saw opportunities to sell its products to the black community while there was “negative publicity from the health community on talc.”

The company put \$4 billion aside last year as it faces more than 25,000 lawsuits that claimed its talc product caused ovarian cancer and mesothelioma, the *Times* reported. The report said some of the suits claim that talc can be contaminated with asbestos during the mining process.

The company said in a statement to the paper that its products were safe, and the suggestion that it would “purposefully and systematically target a community with bad intentions is unreasonable and absurd.”

The *Times* pointed out that the company has won some cases and lost others. The company said it would pull its baby powder due to lack of sales in North America, the report said.

Reuters reported that J&J was considering creating a new business to offload some of its liability tied to these lawsuits and then seek bankruptcy protection. The report said that the result would be lower payouts for cases that have not been settled.

TRENDPOST: Prior to the action taken by the National Council of Negro Women, Johnson & Johnson was facing more than 21,800 lawsuits against it over allegations that asbestos is in its talcum powder products. And back in June, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a Johnson & Johnson appeal seeking to undo a \$2.1 billion damages award that its baby powder caused women to develop ovarian cancer.

And, as we have reported, Johnson & Johnson has agreed to pay \$230 million to settle a lawsuit brought by the State of New York, which, along with 14 other states, has reached a settlement with Purdue Pharma LP, the maker of OxyContin, which is a controlled-release form of oxycodone, another semi-synthetic opioid.

A MODEST TAX PROPOSAL FOR BILLIONAIRES



A story that should’ve made more than just momentary news concerned a leak that exposed how little America's mega rich paid in income tax over the past decade.

The leak was detailed in an extensive piece by Pulitzer winning ProPublica. Our own 15 June 2021 **Trends Journal** article [“BILLIONAIRE TAX SCOFFLAWS PLOW SAVINGS INTO WEBS OF CONTROL.”](#) focused on the uncovered angle of how billionaires have used their tax savings to fund globalist organizations that siphon democratic powers away from average voters.

Obviously, elites in control of influential media, Like Jeff Bezos, Michael Bloomberg and George Soros were effective in quashing the story, or even shifting focus to a DOJ investigation of the leaker.

But some are still dissecting the unfairness and pernicious effects of the failure to reign in the abuses of power that the tax evasion illuminates.

Charles Hugh Smith, sometime guitarist and author of the financial blog [Oftwominds](#) recently offered his thoughts about how the uber wealthy get away it:

“Here's the trick billionaires use to evade taxes. There are countless ways for the super-wealthy to evade taxes--funnel earnings through an Irish post office box, buy a tax break in Washington DC, slide the money into one of dozens of global tax havens, and so on.

“But a simple one is to report no income and live large off borrowed money. As the billions of dollars in capital gains pile up as the billionaire's stock holdings soar (thanks, Federal Reserve, for the free trillions; awful swell of you to give us all that free money), there's no income generated until the billionaire sells some shares. No sale, no income. Just pay yourself \$1 a year in salary, borrow against your billions at super-low rates of interest, and voila, you're tax-free while you build your super-yacht, buy your private island, and so on.”

Smith also had some suggestions on how to make mega billionaires pay up:

“Just as a thought experiment, suppose the first \$50,000 in earnings for everyone were tax-free, and a 40% tax rate was collected on all income

above \$1 million, both earned and unearned (capital gains), not when the gains were realized in a sale but at the end of every tax year, whether the shares that rose in value were sold or not.

“So Billionaire Space Tourists reaped \$10 billion in capital gains from the appreciation of stocks held, then the Billionaire pays 40% of those gains: \$4 billion. There is a way to not pay any taxes on capital gains--have your portfolio lose value. No gains, no taxes. And to close all the loopholes, the tax rate is on all assets and income connected in any way, shape or form with the U.S. First they pay the U.S. taxes, then if they want to pay other nations' taxes as well, be my guest. But the 40% is due and payable regardless of any other conditions.”

Smith's extended [article](#) on the subject makes excellent reading.

CHINA LINKED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE PUSH IN U.S. SCHOOLS



A new National Pulse report details how the “Asia Society” is working with U.S. schools to push divisive social justice tenets. The group has several leadership links with the Chinese Communist Party.

The curriculum includes teaching faculty to adopt an approach that encourages "teaching activism" in favor of left-wing causes such as "equity," "globalism," and "unraveling systemic racism."

The partnership involves the Asia Society and The Center For Global Education, a group that claims its purpose is to "change education to create a more fair and equitable society.”. It currently works with schools and school districts all across the United States. Through different collaborations, such as prescribing curriculum and building schools with the Department of Education in states like

Ohio and Colorado, the center reaches 4 million kids and 100,000 instructors around the country.

A number of CCP linked figures sit on the center's board of directors. For example, Yu Lizhong, the effort's co-chair, is the former president of two Chinese Communist Party-run colleges and has held senior positions in a number of government-run organizations, according to her bio:

“Dr. Yu was the vice chairman of Chinese Geography Association. He is the chairman of Geographic Education Commission of Chinese Education Society, chairman of Shanghai Science Promotion Committee for Youth, and senior adviser of Shanghai Association of Science and Technology.”

More on this story can be found [here](#).

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

UPDATE: CHINA READY TO LAUNCH NEW NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY

In the next few months, China will finish building a new nuclear reactor in a desert near the city of Wuwei.

Nuclear power plants aren't new but the technology running China's plant is: it runs on thorium, not uranium as the world's other nuke plants do.

Actually, molten salt nuclear reactors using thorium as fuel aren't news (["New age for new energy," Trends Journal](#), 8 December 2014).

Thorium as a safer, cheaper fuel for electricity generation was vetted by plants as far back as the 1950s.

It was an obvious choice.

Thorium is generously scattered around the globe, four times more plentiful than uranium.

It's able to deliver as much as 300 times more energy for generating electricity than an equal volume of uranium while yielding less than 1 percent of uranium's toxic waste.

In an electricity generating reactor, as much as 99 percent of the thorium can be consumed, compared to typically 2 percent or less of the uranium.

Thorium also isn't fissile, which means it won't explode when a critical mass piles up: no meltdowns, no Chernobyl—or Fukushima-style world-impacting disasters.

But thorium technology was shelved 60 years ago in favor of uranium, which is fissile and could provide quick, cheap raw material for making nuclear bombs after generating plants had used it.

Now the technology has been rediscovered ([“Nuclear Power on the Rise,” Trends Journal](#), 19 September, 2018). China launched its thorium R&D program in 2011 and is preparing to flip the switch on the world's first commercial-scale thorium-powered nuke plant.

In this design, the nuclear fuel—thorium—flows through the reactor in a slurry of molten salt, kept at normal atmospheric pressure. The salt acts as a coolant, eliminating the need for miles of plumbing and concrete cooling towers as tall as skyscrapers.

If there is a break or accident, a molten salt reactor won't blow up or melt down; when exposed to air, the salt solidifies and locks the nuclear material in place instead of letting it soak into the ground or leak into a body of water.

When the thorium fuel is spent, most of its radioactivity abates in less than 100 years, although some will remain for 500 years—still 20 times better than the 10,000-year toxicity life of spent uranium fuel.

China's new reactor will produce a modest 2 megawatts. Its chief purpose is to prove up the technology and give engineers a model to use in testing solutions to remaining challenges, mainly the tendency of molten salt to corrode the pipes it travels through.

If Chinese officials view the Wuwei reactor as successful, the government plans to build a host of 10-megawatt plants around the country.

TRENDPOST: *India and Norway are among the other countries leading research and development in switching to a nuclear power industry that runs on thorium. If the Wuwei reactor works, it will signal the beginning of the end for the mammoth, uranium-fired plants we've come to know and dread.*

The Wuwei plant's success also would establish China's leadership in a crucial new field of technology.

A.I. BEATS DOCTORS IN SPOTTING CARDIAC RISKS



An artificial intelligence program (AI) outperformed doctors in spotting subtle signs in the hearts of COVID-19 patients that placed the patients at higher risk of suffering long-term complications or death.

Physicians measure a heart's strength by running a cardiac ultrasound test that gauges the volume of blood a heart is pumping from its left ventricle.

However, the volume may appear normal even if the heart is straining to pump out enough blood. The volume also can be artificially increased by high blood pressure.

Ultimately, the test's validity depends on the skill and intuition of the doctor interpreting the results.

But now an AI program by Ultralytics [sic], spun out of Oxford University, bested doctors in a trial.

The program locked onto the heart's ultrasound image, mapped key points, and monitored how the heart's ventricles moved as they contracted and relaxed. The software used changes in the ventricles' shape to calculate exactly how strong or weak the heart was.

That precise data, combined with information about the patient's age and any history of lung disease, allowed the program to predict the likelihood that a COVID patient would die in the hospital much more reliably than simply measuring the amount of blood a ventricle was squirting out.

The software predicted which COVID cases would become severe more accurately than a panel of cardiologists, among whom interpretations varied.

The program is now at work in hospitals in the U.S. and U.K.

TRENDPOST: Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming your “second doctor,” with physicians relying on it to make or confirm diagnoses as well as to tailor treatments precisely to an individual patient's biological makeup.

BATTERY BREAKTHROUGH FOR GRID STORAGE?



The void between today's electric grid and one delivering renewable energy day after day is the space where an effective storage battery should be—specifically, a cost-effective battery that can hold energy

for more than a few hours at a time without it ebbing away.

Form Energy, a Massachusetts start-up, claims to have a battery that fills that space.

Specifically, the company has created a new version of an iron-air battery, a promising technology that has long been beset by various technical difficulties.

Form's new version of the battery holds thousands of tiny iron pellets that rust when exposed to oxygen; then the pellets "de-rust" and revert back to iron when oxygen is removed from their storage chamber.

This process of mechanical inhaling and exhaling charges, then discharges, the battery.

While the cost of cobalt, lithium, manganese, and nickel to make a lithium-ion battery can be as high as \$80 per kilowatt-hour of storage capacity, Form's iron only costs about \$6 at today's prices.

The battery can hold its charge for as long as 150 hours, or about six days, long enough to keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses during all but the longest power outages.

The long duration is key: Form's battery could smooth out the ups and downs of power generated by sun and wind, enabling the electric grid to deliver a steady supply of renewable energy through cloudy or still days.

Each cell of a Form battery consists of a cube three feet on a side. Conceivably, thousands of the cells could be wired together, probably in a warehouse or similar shelter, to power entire towns.

Mateo Jaramillo, Form's CEO, worked at Tesla, where he was a force in creating the company's Powerwall battery. Among its backers, his new company counts Breakthrough Energy Ventures, a fund created by Bill Gates that includes Jeff Bezos as an investor.

Form recently announced a \$200-million funding round, led by ArcelorMittal, a European conglomerate that is one of the world's leading iron mining and steel production companies.

Form is building a one-megawatt battery array that will be installed and tested as a demonstration at a Minnesota electric company in 2023.

TRENDPOST: *If Form's battery proves out, it removes the last, large remaining barrier to an electric grid that can liberate itself from fossil fuels.*