

TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

THE COVID WAR

THE FIGHT
OF OUR LIVES





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THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal: THE COVID WAR. THE FIGHT OF OUR

LIVES.

When the COVID War began in January 2020, by March most nations began imposing unscientific, made-up, draconian lockdown mandates to fight the virus.

The lines spewed out to the public by Presstitutes, politicians and "health experts" were that if we all did what were told – sanitize everything we touched, socially distance, wear masks, stay home, put up plexiglass dividers in stores and workplaces ... and only shopped at multinational "essential" businesses while small ones were shut down – we would "flatten the curve" and life would return to normal.

Back then we said "they are making this crap up," and forecast that our "leaders" would impose vaccine mandates.

Here we are. Across the world, vaccine mandates have been imposed: No Jab, no job. No Jab, no travel... no restaurants, no events, no museums, no gyms, no college.

No Jab, No Nothing!

We are to do as we are told, and we must only believe what drug dealers who get rich pushing the COVID shot tell us.

We are obliged to take orders from low-life pieces of scum, like sex offender Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York who announced his resignation today, little boys like Macron of France, Bankster Draghi of Italy, Heil Merkel of Germany, etc.

We are in the FIGHT OF OUR LIVES.

Forced vaccines are just the beginning of more authoritarianism and tyranny being forced on We the People.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall. If we do not unite for Freedom now, we will lose it. I'm doing my part, are you doing yours?

Pace e Amore,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

BANKING SMALL AND LOCAL

Let the big banks be for the big guys. Stop feeding the beast. Let's put our money in community banks. It is also time to use cash. Why should we help the big banks skim a percentage off of every credit card transaction? Let your local business have the full transaction price for a change. Imagine the increase in revenue for a small business with just this one change. Only use credit cards when you absolutely have to. If you own a local business, encourage cash payments with a "free pen (or whatever) with every cash purchase" or perhaps a small percentage discount. We can make a huge impact by returning to cash whenever possible! Spread the word!

Mary Beth Frampton

CHINA CHECKMATE?

Children indoctrinated at school into world government spearheaded by CCP – Check.

All products bought from CCP controlled China – Check.

All important products made by the CCP controlled Chinese – Check.

Plandemic introduced by the Chinese to keep us under control – Check.

Dominion voting machines built by the Chinese – Check.

China installs a totally inept President and VP – Check.

America is now a satellite of Communist Controlled China.

Mark Ellis

REASONABLE VAX DOUBTS

I don't know what to think as I am not a doctor, but I know people who have died from the vaccine or been hospitalized or with other injuries. I also know about 5 who died from Covid and who were not unvaccinated. It's confusing if you don't have good data. So confusing but I honestly hate most vaccines.

I suffer from side effects from a lot of meds. My son works for the fed government and has to have a jab. He is 35 and healthy. I worry for him.

melanie simms

THIS MAN FIGHTS

I will be renewing my Trends Journal subscription. We need to do everything we can to support this man and pray for his fight and well-being.

We are living among criminal politicians and complete unmasked lunatics. Every day it gets worse. How the hell do they get away with this? I for one totally agree with

Celente. I will fight to the death if anyone tries to stick a needle in my arm.

ggoldman2020

GOV'T SURVEILLANCE WE CAN LIVE WITH

Surveillance should be limited and restricted to only those who hold office and wield political, military, or corporate power. The exact opposite of what we have allowed to be put in place. The public needs its privacy, to be informed of what is going on, its representatives to be accountable, to be free and liberated people.

Won't be easy to get it right now but will only be getting harder as we give up more freedoms that advantageous think tanks steamroll during past and future shock and awe events. Make the people powerful again! We have been robbed and too busy following to notice.

Brett Phillipson

CRYPTO CLARITY

Max Keiser pointed out this week there is a jurisdictional conflict amongst the feds over who will regulate Bitcoin and other cryptos. The heads of the SEC and CFTC are both claiming jurisdiction. In June I listened to Fed Chair Powell call Bitcoin an asset and Tether a security. Seems like the feds don't have it together and are whoring for media attention on a popular subject. We are still a ways off from anything coherent.

zizisearles

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

STRONG JOBS REPORTS LIFTS DOW, S&P TO NEW HIGHS

Friday's report of better-than-expected job gains in July lifted the Dow Jones Industrial Average to close last week up 0.4 percent to 35,208 and pushed the S&P 0.2 percent higher to finish at 4,436, both new record highs. (See related story.)

The tech-heavy NASDAQ slid 59 points, or 0.4 percent, to 14,835.

The economy took on an additional 943,000 workers last month, cutting the unemployment rate from 5.9 percent to 5.4. Also, June's jobs report was revised upward to 983,000 new jobs.

The leisure and hospitality sector hired 380,000 workers, about 40 percent of July's total job gains. Wages in that sector rose 10 percent in July, year over year, underscoring the shortage of workers willing to take on low-wage jobs. Many employers in restaurants and hotels are offering hiring bonuses to secure enough workers to fill out shifts.

The sector still holds 1.7 million fewer jobs than in February 2020, almost a third of the 5.7 million jobs the economy has yet to bring back.

The strong economy drew sidelined workers back to the job, according to the labor department; 67 percent of July's newly employed workers had not been working or actively seeking work, making July's shift the largest since the COVID War began.

The movie and audio recording industries still have 30 percent fewer workers than in February 2020; performing arts and spectator sports are short 22 percent of their previous workforce according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

New claims for unemployment payments ticked down to 385,000 in the most recent week from an adjusted 400,000 the week before; new claims have continued to hover around 400,000 for several weeks.

However, in the week ending 24 July, continuing claims dropped to 2.93 million, the lowest since March 2020.

Wages rose 4 percent throughout the economy last month, an indication of a labor market in which employers need to compete for talent in virtually every sector. (See ["Historic Labor Shortage: 42% of Biz Can't Fill Open Positions."](#) **Trends Journal**, 20 April, 2021.)

The jobs bonanza is fueled by a combination of government stimulus, an increasingly successful vaccine campaign, and consumers satisfying pent-up demand, and floods of cheap money pouring into the system.

Fast Slowdown

As we have reported, New York City is mandating proof of vaccination for people to enter restaurants, gyms, and other public gathering places. If such policies spread widely, which we quote New York City's mayor claiming they will, it will hobble consumer spending and slow both job gains and the broader economic recovery.

TREND FORECAST: *Should job numbers and the economy weaken in the coming months, the central bank will keep buying bonds into next year and will not raise interest rates in 2022.*

Although the labor market is trending stronger, it still contains an undercurrent of chaos: manufacturers are unable to find enough skilled labor to fill jobs, while workers in services and entertainment are eager but not finding work.

The Fed is aware that the jobs market is likely to stumble over any hike in interest rates. As a result, the central bank's task now is to balance the job market's recovery against the need to throw a net over inflation by raising interest rates.

If June's and July's strong job gains continue in August and September, that will improve chances that the Fed will raise rates before 2023, as we have previously forecast. (See [“Fed Holds Firm on Policy Despite 5-Percent Inflation,” Trends Journal](#), 20 July, 2021)

The Real World

Ignoring the constant drumbeat of Delta variant fear and hysteria being spread by the mainstream media, and the increasing COVID restrictions governments and businesses are imposing upon the public—such as wearing masks, proof of vaccinations to attend events, restaurants, go to gyms, college, travel etc., that will slow down economic growth—the markets instead focused only on July's jobs report.

And while precious metal prices tumbled on the strong jobs report, since a steady economic rebound would cause the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise its artificially low interest rates and curtails its \$120-billion monthly bond purchases... equities keep rising.

Again, what has driven the equity markets to continually hit new highs since the COVID War began in full force in February 2020 has zero to do with economic fundamentals.

With much of the world locked down from much of last year, with the exception of hi-tech that benefited from people being forced to “shelter-in-place,” equities should have crashed. The facts show, however, they were artificially propped up when The Fed and Washington began pumping trillions of dollars of cheap money into the system with bond buying schemes, near zero interest rates and stimulus programs in late March of that year.

What's Next?

Indeed, while July job numbers are up in the leisure and hospitality sector, which hired 380,000 workers and accounted for 40 percent of July's total job gains, the COVID War 2.0 will hit this sector the hardest. Thus, we forecast the unemployment number will begin moving up from August through at least November.

Employment may rise in December as workers are hired for the Christmas season rush, but that may be tampered down should governments and businesses continue to escalate draconian COVID rules you must obey.

Also, as we note throughout this and previous **Trends Journal** editions, history is repeating itself.

Go back to March 2020 when much of the nation was put in lockdown. What did the politicians say, “It was only temporary...we had to flatten the curve.”

And what did the masses say when businesses were shut down and the streets were empty? “It’ll come back.”

It did not come back. The office occupancy rate in the U.S. is well below 40 percent and some 25 percent of the hospitality sector, as we reported, is in depression.

And back in 2020, the word on the Street was “We’ll be back in the office after Labor Day.”

They were saying the same thing just a month ago, and now that has changed as we have detailed in this **Trends Journal** (See “BLACKROCK AND WELLS FARGO ANNOUNCE A DELAY IN RETURN TO THE OFFICE”) and previous articles. More people will be working from home and many companies are postponing their post Labor Day office openings.

What is not reported by the Presstitutes and ignored by politicians are the interconnected negative socioeconomic and political trends that will result from these decisions.

The Markets

While the Dow fell 106 points yesterday and the S&P 500 slipped just 0.1 percent, the tech-heavy Nasdaq squeaked up 0.2 percent.

Today, on the news that the U.S. Senate would pump more cheap money into the system with its \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, the Dow and S&P 500 hit new records, closing up 162 points and 0.1 percent respectively. The Nasdaq fell 0.5 percent.

GOLD/SILVER: Both precious metals were stuck in their month’s long trading range of around \$1,820 per ounce for gold and \$25-\$26 per ounce of silver. However, they had a sharp sell-off following Friday’s news of soaring job numbers with gold now at \$1,730 per ounce and silver at \$23.34 per ounce.

As we have noted, if precious metals were knocked back over expectations that the Fed would taper its bond buying scheme and raise interest rates because of strong job numbers and expectations of solid economic growth... so too should have the equity markets sharply declined, since they have been artificially pumped up with cheap money.

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: Once again, what goes on in the rigged equity markets has next to nothing to do with reality. As we noted, they continue to go higher on expectations despite strong job numbers and fears that the Fed will raise rates and taper their bond buying because the strong job numbers signal strong economic growth.

That's not what the oil barons see ahead. Over fears of the Delta variant lockdowns and China importing less crude in July than in June, yesterday Brent Crude fell to \$69.04 per barrel.

Bullshit Has Its Own Sound

That was yesterday.

Today, Brent shot up \$2 per barrel because, according to CNBC, "Oil prices rose ... as rising demand in Europe and the United States outweighed concerns over an increase in COVID cases in Asian countries."

To us this statement makes no sense. The new rounds of government and business COVID restrictions that we have noted in the travel, hospitality,

restaurant, events and other sectors will slow down economic growth and in turn lessen demand for oil.

BITCOIN: Bitcoin is up some \$6,000 from last week, trading at nearly \$46,000 per coin. It had sunk 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.

For more on bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, please see our Trends in Cryptos section.

WILL FED LIFT RATES EARLY IN 2023?



Due, in large measure, to this year's significant federal stimulus spending, the U.S. economic recovery is progressing well enough that the Federal Reserve should be able to consider raising its key interest rate from near zero early in 2023, Richard Clarida, Fed vice-chair, said in a 4 August

speech.

Current projections for employment and inflation indicate that “commencing policy normalization in 2023 would be entirely consistent with our new flexible average inflation targeting framework,” he said.

Instead of maintaining an inflation target of 2 percent, the Fed now seeks an average inflation rate of 2 percent over the long term, in part to make up for large parts of 2020 when the rate was well below that target.

The Fed adjusted its policy to adapt to a chaotic economic recovery in which prices are surging because of supply-line disruptions, the endings of which are unpredictable.

The current environment has complicated the Fed's task of not only predicting inflation but also reacting to it, the *Wall Street Journal* noted.

However, if his projections are correct, the Fed's conditions for raising rates "will have been met by year-end 2022," Clarida said.

TREND FORECAST: *Fed officials have gradually been reeling back their predicted date for a rate increase from 2024 to 2023; some have argued that a hike will be necessary next year.*

The Fed is gently informing markets that a rate increase is coming sooner than they had previously been led to believe.

If the jobs market maintains the strength it showed in June and July (see related story) and there is no Black Swan event, the Fed will raise rates next year, not in 2023.

However, with the new rounds of selling fear of the Delta variant and new restrictions imposed by governments and businesses to fight it, we forecast an economic slowdown.

Where the economy is going and how deep it falls depends on the degree mandates are imposed upon the public to fight THE COVID WAR.2.0. The greater the draconian, the deeper the economy will fall. And as long as the economy stays weak, interest rates will stay low.

DELTA STRAIN BEGETS CANCELLATIONS, ECONOMIC DISRUPTION



Beijing, China will be canceling all large scale exhibitions and events for the remainder of August, according to a 6 August 2021 article in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Events canceled include the Third Annual World 5G Conference, which was to be held in a 215,000 sq. ft. exhibition facility; the same facility was to host, later in August, the World Robot Conference, which in 2019—before COVID—drew 30,000 attendees; the promoters of that event expect the Beijing government to tell them to postpone.

Since mid-July, China has been experiencing a series of outbreaks caused by the Delta variant of COVID-19, which is said to be more contagious and faster spreading than the variants seen initially.

China's official state-run news agency announced that such measures are deemed necessary because "prevention and control of the epidemic is currently the most important priority in the city of Beijing." The country's National Health Commission logged 62 new cases nationwide on 4 August. (There was no mention of whether those cases had resulted in hospitalizations or deaths; China is a nation of some 1.4 billion people).

China is not alone in exercising extreme caution as a reaction to the Delta variant, with little regard to the economic fallout. The New York International Auto Show has been canceled, and country music's Garth Brooks is said to be considering aborting his stadium tour.

The *WSJ* also notes that Frontier Airlines is experiencing a slowdown in bookings that is atypical for this time of year, and that, too, is attributed to the Delta strain.

TREND FORECAST: *We note this article to illustrate that with the fear of the Delta variant spreading and trade shows and conventions cancelling events, this is just one example of how all the new COVID mandates will result in an economic contraction.*

*Indeed, the last wave of lockdowns and restrictions was especially tough on the trade show and exhibition industry, which has yet to fully recover. We explained this in July 2020's ["U.K. EVENTS INDUSTRY DYING"](#) **Trends Journal** article.*

BLACKROCK AND WELLS FARGO DELAY RETURN TO THE OFFICE



Blackrock and Wells Fargo, two major financial companies, announced Thursday that they will delay their plans to have employees return to the office for about a month.

The companies moved back their September returns to October, citing the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

“Today, given rising COVID-19 case rates around the US, we are announcing a postponement of our return to office plans until October 4 2021,” Wells Fargo said in a memo to its 260,000 employees, according to *The Financial Times*. The report pointed out that the bank offered employees eight hours of paid time off and said staffers should use the extra time to get vaccinated.

BlackRock also announced to staffers that it would delay its return to the office until October and said the additional time will “allow those who are able and comfortable to continue to work from our offices while providing continued flexibility to work from home for those who like or need it.” The company pointed out that only fully vaccinated individuals are allowed to work in U.S. offices.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the return to the office for workers in finance. On 3 August, in an article titled, ["BANKERS AND BANK BANDITS: MASKS ON,"](#) we reported that Citigroup told employees in a memo that they would be forced to wear masks inside the office regardless of their vaccination status.

The *FT* reported that financial companies have been one of the sectors that have been pushing for their employees to get back behind their desks. (These companies have a lot of money in the commercial real estate sector, which is no doubt a motivating factor.)

The report said that Jamie Dimon, the head of JPMorgan, has pushed to get staffers back into the office by July and Goldman Sachs brought their employees back into the office in June, CNN reported.

Andy Cecere, U.S. Bank's CEO, told employees in an email that an increase in Delta variant cases across the globe has forced the bank to delay its return-to-the-office date to beyond 7 September. CNN reported that there is now no firm date for employees to return to the office, but the bank assured employees that they will be given a 30-day notice.

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**.

CRISIS RECOVERY BOOSTS PRIVATE EQUITY SHARE VALUES



Including dividends, the share value of private equity firm Blackstone has tripled since 1 April 2020, the date on which the economic recovery began, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The firm's \$140-billion treasure chest now exceeds that of Goldman Sachs and rival Blackrock.

KKR's stock has done slightly better than Blackstone's, the *WSJ* noted.

Shares of Carlyle Group traditionally have underperformed those of other private equity firms but have skyrocketed 160 percent during the period; Apollo Global Management's market value was hampered by former CEO Leon Black's relationship with accused child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein but its shares have more than doubled.

Those gains far outstrip the S&P's 83-percent growth during the same time.

Artificially low interest rates imposed by the U.S. Federal Reserve when 2020's crisis began have allowed the firms to borrow at rock-bottom costs to expand into real estate, lending, and insurance, the *WSJ* noted.

Apollo has more than half of its assets in insurance firms Athena Holdings and Athora Holdings; Blackstone has moved aggressively into rental housing. (See "[Blackstone Extends Reach Into Housing Market](#)," **Trends Journal**, 29 June, 2021.)

At the same time, investors not content with low yields offered by government securities flooded private equity firms with hundreds of millions of dollars in new capital, which fueled their expansion and diversification.

Also, many private equity firms changed their structures from limited liability partnerships to corporations, which allowed their shares to be listed on exchanges, drawing even more visibility and investors.

TRENDPOST: Like sharks that keep swimming forward and eating, private equity firms keep moving into new areas and buying market share.

In May, KKR established an investment vehicle that offers private real estate to individual investors; Apollo has announced the creation of its own retail distribution system. Blackstone has set up a retail marketing and distribution network targeting well-off households, a market thought to be worth \$80 trillion, the WSJ noted.

While attention has been focused on tech giants' increasing control of the economy, the lengthening tentacles of private equity firms have largely been ignored.

Keeping the Bigs getting bigger trend moving forward, yesterday Brookfield Asset Management's reinsurance arm announced it will buy up the insurer American National Group for about \$5 billion.

TREND FORECAST: The Bigs will continue to gobble up larger and larger shares of the economy unnoticed until high-profile politicians shine the light of publicity on them.

Even then, any potential regulatory remedy will take years, during which these Bigs will continue to take control over more and more of our jobs, businesses, and services.

U.S. JUNE TRADE GAP SETS RECORD



The U.S. trade deficit expanded 6.7 percent in June from May to a record \$75.75 billion, the U.S. commerce department reported, as a resurgent economy boosted demand for foreign-made goods while some sectors of the American economy have yet to return to pre-crisis strength. (See [“Trade War?](#)

[U.S. Lost It,” Trends Journal](#), 9 February, 2021.)

American exports grew 0.6 percent in June to \$207.67 billion while imports reached \$283.42 billion, the department said.

While the U.S. economy has surged, many developing nations have yet to recover from 2020’s lockdown, limiting their ability to buy U.S. goods and services, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund raised its growth forecasts for western developed economies and cut its outlook for emerging markets, especially in Asia, due to the spread of the COVID virus’s Delta variant around the world.

TRENDPOST: *China concentrates on business, while the U.S. spends its energies and assets on geopolitical maneuvering and intrigue. Beijing has learned that lasting world power is more often won through economic might than with diplomats, bombs, or bullets. As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century, the 21st will be China’s. The business of America has been war, the business of China is business.*

We also note the trade deficit to illustrate the failure of the so-called “Trade War” that former President Donald Trump launched against China in 2016. Indeed, just as America has not won a military victory since World War II, by the numbers, so too have they lost the Trade War.

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL RATES SKYROCKETING



Rents for houses and apartments have shot up an average of 10 percent since July 2020, with the median rate reaching \$1,244, a 9.4-percent increase since March 2020, just before the COVID War began, according to the website Apartment List.

Share prices of companies owning rental homes and flats have risen in tandem.

FTSE's Nareit Equity Apartment Index is up 42 percent since January, compared to the S&P's 17 percent bump.

Rental rates have been pushed up as the housing market has tightened.

As employees able to work at home fled cities during 2020, housing prices outside of city centers began a relentless rise, reaching a median \$363,300 in June, according to the National Association of Realtors, a 23.4-percent gain year over year.

As home prices were bid up, the uncertain economy caused banks to tighten mortgage lending requirements, leaving fewer and fewer potential buyers able to qualify for a loan. (See [“Rental Housing Building Boom,” Trends Journal](#), 12 January, 2021.)

Now those unable to buy are renting in the suburbs, needing to save longer to be able to buy.

At the same time, many professionals have decided to return to cities.

In New York and San Francisco, landlords find that they need to offer fewer perks, such as free months' rent, to lure tenants, even as rental rates are rising again, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Rents in the Atlanta area have jumped 25 percent in the last 12 months.

“You’ve had young professionals who were living with their parents being called back to their employer or who feel more secure and now they’re going to rent,” analyst Amanda Sweitzer at Robert W. Baird & Co. told the *WSJ*.

Tenants ages 23 through 34 now make up more of the renters in flats owned by UDR Inc. than before 2020’s crisis began, the company recently told investors, according to the *WSJ*.

The company’s occupancy rate was 97.5 percent in July, the company said.

Houston-based Camden Property Trust raised its rental rates by 19 percent as of July, the *WSJ* noted.

The rental frenzy has brought private equity firms into the rental market, snapping up houses for sale—often buying them out from under families who had already made offers—and paying top dollar in the busiest markets, pushing home prices up even more.

In July, real estate trust Equity Residential began buying residential properties again in Atlanta and Austin, cities it had quit years ago. And as we have reported, Blackstone, the world’s richest asset management company, has agreed to pay \$6 billion to buy Home Partners of America, a company that owns about 17,000 rental houses across America.

TREND FORECAST: As we have said before ([*“Home Sales, Prices Still Rising,”*](#) 27 July, 2021), home prices will soften as this year continues, but not greatly: land and materials are, and will remain, in short supply and demand will not slow, due in part to Millennials and younger adults entering the life stage at which families typically seek to buy homes.

TRENDPOST: Although corporate landlords own just a fraction of the country’s single-family homes, that fraction is concentrated in the most desirable markets,

giving those corporations even more presence in the places people most want to live.

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

AIRLINES DOWN ON TRAVEL’S RETURN



Airlines have predicted that business travel will return this fall, but now the companies may be wondering if their optimism is premature.

Business travelers slowly have been returning to the road, with business bookings reaching 40 percent of pre-crisis levels, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. (See [“Business Travel Rebound?,” Trends Journal, 8 June, 2021](#).)

American Airlines is adding flights connecting business destinations, such as from New York’s LaGuardia airport to O’Hare in Chicago, the company has said.

Delta Airlines is adding flights to the traditional business hubs of New York and Boston and cutting back on leisure flights that have been popular this summer.

“We’re pivoting our capacity to now supplying more business seats,” Joe Esposito, Delta’s vice-president of planning, told the *WSJ*.

The company has been polling business customers about their travel plans.

“We don’t want to put the seats in before they fly,” Esposito said.

Delta might need to wait a little longer.

On 4 August, Frontier Airlines reported that its bookings were slowing more than is usual at this time of year, a glitch “directly related to the increased COVID-19 case numbers,” the company said in a statement quoted by the *WSJ*.

Before 2020, business travelers took up about 10 percent of airline seats but made up as much as 70 percent of some airlines’ profits, industry figures show. Road warriors contributed a similar profit percentage to many hotels, particularly in city-center business hubs such as Houston, New York, and San Francisco.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have been reporting, scores of major corporations have announced that they are permanently scaling back their travel budgets, having discovered that an hour-long Zoom call can be just as effective as three days on the road... and cost nothing. Thus, they will be saving big by traveling less.*

Business travel will return to a degree, but as a last choice, not a first choice, for many companies.

That shift will echo through the travel economy, leading not only to scaled-back airline schedules but also to urban hotel closures and downward pressure on the convention center, restaurants and other businesses in the service and supply chain that service these sectors.

Also, the less business travel, tourism, trade shows and conventions, the less tax revenue for cities that depend on them. Thus, there will be pressure to raise taxes to make up for lost revenue which will in turn escalate new anti-tax, anti-establishment political movements.

BIDEN PUSHES 50-PERCENT EV PRODUCTION BY 2030



By 2030, half of all passenger vehicles produced in the U.S. will be all-electric, president Joe Biden declared, signing an executive order to that effect on 5 August.

Leaders of the United Auto Workers, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and Stellantis—the Dutch auto company that is the latest owner of Fiat-Chrysler—were on hand at Biden’s White House announcement.

Although the 50-percent target is voluntary, auto companies have set similar targets for themselves.

Ford has said it expects 40 percent of its global passenger vehicle sales to be all-electric (EV) by 2030 and 100 percent of sales in Europe by then. General Motors has announced it will stop making petrol-powered passenger vehicles by 2035.

Volkswagen has ceased further development of gasoline and diesel engines and will be selling nothing but EVs by 2035; Fiat previously set a goal of making only EVs by 2030.

“This industry is going to spend \$330 billion over the next five years on electrification,” John Bozella, president of the lobbying group Automotive Alliance for Innovation, said in comments at an 8 August conference quoted by *Wall Street Journal*.

“Even in Washington, that is real money,” he said.

To support the transition to EVs, the infrastructure bill now in the Senate includes \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of EV charging stations.

Also, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors each are building their own webs of charging stations.

While building and maintaining EV charging stations will create new jobs, the shift to EVs will eliminate swaths of assembly-line jobs, as EVs have far fewer moving parts and a much simpler drive train than gas-powered cars and trucks.

About 37 percent of U.S. vehicle buyers are willing to consider an EV as their next purchase, according to a UBS survey earlier this year, a jump of 15 percentage points from a year earlier.

However, EVs made up only 3 percent of vehicles sold in the U.S. in May and June this year, the *Wall Street Journal* noted.

TRENDPOST: *As the UBS poll shows, Americans are becoming more interested in owning EVs at the same time that automakers are beginning to emphasize them. Advanced battery technologies are in development that can cut charging times and vastly extend EVs' range, the two key barriers to EVs' public acceptance. (See [“New Battery Could Double EV Range, Slash Charging Times,” Trends Journal](#), 15 December, 2020, and [“Machine Learning Slashes EV Battery Development Time,”](#) 10 March, 2020.)*

Also, studies by the American Automobile Association and U.S. transportation department found that most people drive less than 30 miles in a day, about 15 percent of the distance a fully-charged EV passenger car can go between charges.

TREND FORECAST: *We have noted that car makers have not yet mastered EV technology, which limits public acceptance. (See [“Will EVs Juice the Economy?”](#), 27 April, 2021.) However, the question remains, by 2030, will that issue have been solved.*

While the transition to multi-fuel cars is under way, the technology of electric or new-energy vehicles is not being mastered. The problem of recharging batteries,

an 1800 invention, limits EVs' mass-market acceptability. And they are much more expensive... at a time when real wages are declining.

However, we also forecast that breakthroughs in combustion-engine development and higher-efficiency motor oils that significantly increase miles per gallon and diminish pollution also will help stall the move toward NEVs.

In the future, when advanced battery production is invented, when there is quick and convenient charging, longer ranges between charges, and falling prices, EVs will become the mainstream vehicle. In addition, auto companies will offer fewer petrol-powered vehicles, leaving more and more buyers to opt for electric vehicles.

MALL OWNERS DUMPING MARGINAL SHOPPING CENTERS



Last year's economic crisis has divided the world of shopping malls in two.

So-called "Class A" malls, offering luxury shops and top-tier restaurants to well-off households that held their jobs through

2021, have survived more or less intact and are still able to charge premium rents.

In contrast, owners of Class B and C malls, which have been anchored by second-tier stores such as Sears or JCPenney, are scrambling to unload poor performers.

These centers tend to be older, shabbier, serve working-class clientele, and are concentrated in areas where the economic crisis erased jobs and shrank paychecks.

Retail chains that failed during the crisis tended to be more numerous among B and C malls, giving shoppers even fewer reasons to visit them, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Since November, three publicly-traded mall owners have filed for bankruptcy.

International mall owner Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield sold three such U.S. malls last year and hopes to further thin its 25-mall U.S. portfolio, executives said in an earnings call last week cited by the *WSJ*.

In 2018, Unibail bought Westfield Group and its 33 malls for almost \$16 billion, taking on stellar properties such as Manhattan's Westfield World Trade Center and the Westfield Garden State Plaza in New Jersey.

Recently, however, the company simply walked away from four U.S. malls, surrendering the properties back to lenders.

"We have other direct off-market discussions as well on regional malls that are part of this strategy to really streamline our portfolio," CEO Jean-Marie Trifant said in the earnings call.

In recent months, Simon Property Group, the largest U.S. mall owner, stopped paying debt on two malls, letting lenders foreclose.

"For a large number of B and C malls, there is just no equity left," Manus Clancy, senior marketing director at real estate services firm Trepp. Told the *WSJ*. (See ["Pall on Malls," Trends Journal](#), 9 September, 2020.)

"COVID-19 might have hastened the process of owners giving up on malls, but it wasn't the core reason for the current issues," he noted.

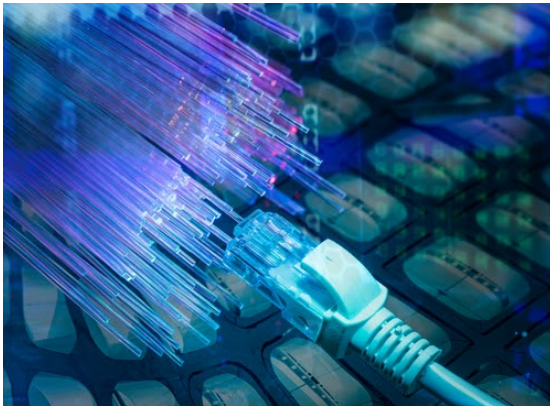
TREND FORECAST: As Gerald Celente predicted in ***Trends 2000***, his best-selling 1996 book, that there would be a "Pall on the Malls"... shopping malls in the new millennium would become a fading phenomenon. Some will

endure, serving people who are financially comfortable and like the experience of shopping in person; many more will fail.

Some mall owners are scrambling to reinvent their vacant spaces as gyms and yoga studios, walk-in medical clinics, or spaces for community colleges or corporate offices.

*However, as we reported in [“Mall Owners Facing Ultimatums”](#) (**Trends Journal**, 3 November, 2020), only 15 percent of these conversions have been financially successful.*

APOLLO BUYS PART OF LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES



Private equity firm Apollo Global Management will buy a portion of Lumen Technologies' broadband and telephone infrastructure for \$7.5 billion and assume \$1.4 billion of Lumen's debt, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The transaction covers about 5 million Lumen residential and business customers, mostly in the U.S. Midwest and Southeast.

Around the purchased networks, Apollo will form a new company, led by veterans of Verizon's FIOS broadband service, and speed the transition of equipment from wires to fiber optic cable.

Last month, Lumen sold its Latin American assets to Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners, another private equity firm, for \$2.7 billion. Stonepeak rebranded the purchased assets as the "New LATAM Co."

Lumen is the new name of CenturyLink, which rebranded itself last year.

Lumen is one of the last remaining vestiges of the old AT&T telephone monopoly.

TRENDPOST: *We note again that private equity firms are turning the U.S. economy into their wholly-owned subsidiary, buying their way deeper and deeper into our financial lives to enrich the few and eliminate competition and choice for American consumers.*

As we have said ([“Private Equity Firms Buying Chinese,”](#) 8 June, 2021), as the Bigs gain wealth and power, there are fewer forces to stop them from buying politicians to write rules that will keep their taxes low and their ability to amass wealth unchecked.

PENN BUYS SCORE MEDIA FOR \$2 BILLION



Penn National Gaming, which operates 43 casinos and racetracks in 20 U.S. states, has agreed to buy Score Media & Gaming for \$2 billion, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Score Media's Score app sends scores, sports news, and betting information to its subscribers. Score had about 3.7 million active users in May, the *WSJ* said.

Buying Score will “enrich” customers’ experiences with Penn, the company said in a statement, and extend the reach of Penn’s partnership with Barstool Sports, a digital media company broadcasting news in sports and pop culture.

Penn’s purchase comes as more states legalize gambling, which has ignited competition for fans who bet on sports, the *WSJ* noted.

TRENDPOST: Rather than innovate and compete, Bigs simply buy their way into industries, consolidating power and financial clout into corporate hierarchies that, as often as not, are more interested in maximizing short-term profit instead of investing for consumers' benefit.

And, as we have noted, the less competition, the less innovation.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



TOURISTS' ABSENCE CRIPPLES EMERGING MARKET ECONOMIES

For the second consecutive summer, emerging nations are facing an absence of the tourists that have been the lifeblood of their economies, which already are burdened by debt and drained by the cost of fighting the COVID War, the *Financial Times* reported.

In January through May, international arrivals were 85 percent fewer than 2019's 540 million, according to the UN World Tourism Organization. During the same period in 2020, arrivals fell 65 percent.

Asia-Pacific nations have seen a 95-percent plunge in tourist arrivals during the period, due largely to the absence of the usual Chinese tourists, the *FT* noted.

China has kept tight limits on cross-border travel since 2020 began, denying neighboring countries their chief source of tourists.

About 20 percent of Thailand's GDP and jobs market relies on tourists, primarily from China, the *FT* said.

Developing nations were in dire fiscal condition already: average government debt in those countries climbed from 52.2 percent of GDP in 2019 to 60.5 percent in 2020, according to the Institute of International Finance. (See [“Emerging Markets Pile on Debt, Sparking Future Default Fears,” Trends Journal](#), 2 February, 2021.)

“Last year, there was an assumption that in 2021 we would see a rebound,” Luiz Peixoto, emerging markets economist at BNP Paribas, told the *FT*.

However, “this year, things are not recovering as expected,” he said.

In contrast, U.S. tourists have returned to the Caribbean, helping to resuscitate the leisure and hospitality economy there.

TREND FORECAST: *The COVID virus's Delta variant will hit not only emerging nations hard. The U.S. has chosen not to lift travel restrictions; other countries may re-impose tourist blockades and individuals likely will reconsider travel plans now that the virus is on the rampage again.*

A lack of tourists will be felt in major destinations such as New York City, Paris, Rome, and other traditional travel hotspots, slowing economic recovery and the return of jobs in those areas and nations as well.

And as we have noted with the cancellation of events, trade shows and conventions... plus declines in tourism, millions of dollars in economic activity for host cities, endangering hotels, restaurants, and retailers who depend, even in part, on tourists to survive.

The loss of tax revenue resulting from canceled events also shrinks cities' tax revenues, forcing them to curtail services.

That loss could set off a downward spiral in which those cities with poor services become places that conventions no longer choose to host and that people no longer want to visit.

GERMANY'S FACTORY OUTPUT FALLS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT MONTH



Germany's manufacturing economy turned out 1.3 percent less value in June than in May, bringing its three-month slide to production levels 6.8 percent smaller than in February 2020, the country's statistics agency reported.

Materials shortages and kinks in supply chains caused the drop, the agency said.

Short of computer chips, Germany's vehicle makers shrank output 0.9 percent during June, compared to May, about a third below pre-crisis volume.

The industry has slashed 400,000 units from its 2021 production forecast and said the chip shortage will hobble the European vehicle industry for the "medium term," an industry lobbying group cited by the *Financial Times* said.

Construction activity shrank 2.6 percent but production of consumer goods rose 3.4 percent.

Materials shortages will last through this year, economists warned, and will slow Germany's economic recovery, the *FT* reported.

"Supply bottlenecks for important intermediate products are now making themselves felt," Klaus Wohlrabe, chief of surveys at Germany's ifo Institute said in comments quoted by the *FT*.

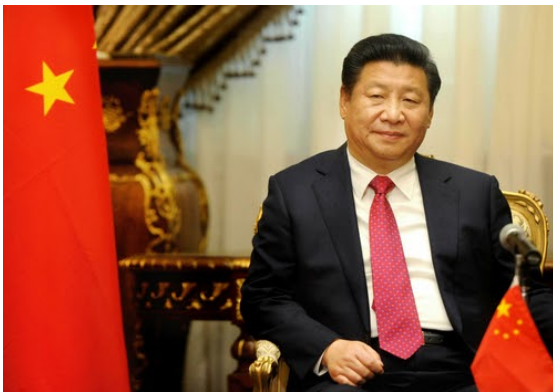
Because Germany's economy relies heavily on manufacturing, it posted lower economic growth in this year's second quarter than analysts had expected.

In contrast, growth in France, Italy, and Spain exceeded economists' forecasts.

"With manufacturing still not firing on all cylinders, there is now a question mark over whether the economy will regain its pre-pandemic level [in this year's final quarter] as we, and many others, have been forecasting," Andrew Kenningham, Oxford Economics' chief economist for Europe, said to the *FT*.

TREND FORECAST: Shortages of materials and choked transport networks for German factories will translate to higher inflation and a slower economic recovery not only for Germany, but also for the entire Eurozone.

CHINA'S GDP SWELLS 12.7 PERCENT IN 2021'S FIRST SIX MONTHS



After expanding 18.3 percent in this year's first quarter and 7.9 percent in the second, China's economy posted a cumulative 12.7-percent growth during the first half of this year to 53.2 trillion yuan, the National Bureau of Statistics reported, the equivalent of about \$8.2 trillion.

After adding 2.3 percent in 2020, the bureau calculates the two-year annualized growth rate so far at 5.3 percent, the government-controlled *Global Times* newspaper reported.

China's government has set an annual economic growth target of more than 6 percent for this year, although Gerald Celente and many economists expect the final figure to be closer to 8 percent.

The current pace of growth is a “miracle,” the *GT* quoted Chinese economists as saying, citing the country’s rebound from its economic shutdown early in 2020 to become the world’s manufacturing powerhouse during the global economic collapse.

“The growth shows that China’s economy has walked out of the impact of coronavirus and has already returned” to its pre-crisis level, Dong Dengxin, director of Wuhan University’s Finance and Securities Institute, told the *GT*.

TREND FORECAST: China’s “dual circulation” economic policy, combining manufacture for exports and a strong consumer economy, will speed China’s ascent among global economies, especially because China has avoided becoming deeply indebted to foreign countries.

We stand by our forecast that China will surpass the U.S. as the world’s largest and strongest economy, possibly as soon as 2030.

FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



ANTHONY FAUCI'S UNSCIENTIFIC MANIFESTO

By *Richard Gale* and *Gary Null, PhD*

"Formerly, when religion was strong and science weak, men mistook magic for medicine; now, when science is strong and religion is weak, men mistake medicine for magic."

Thomas Szasz, *The Second Sin*, 1973

For those who have managed to hold onto a thread of sanity amidst our government's surreal handling of the SARS-2 frenzy, Szasz's quote drills down into the dark basement of the medical fantasies, fabrications, and deceptions. This is misinformation now being preached from the pulpits at the CDC, NIAID, the World Health Organization, and presidencies throughout the developed world.

Perhaps the most mistaken magic at this moment is the promise about Covid-19 vaccines: the repeated mantra that the science is now sealed that they are safe and effective. We are harangued that unless we get vaccinated the virus will continue to spread. Those who refuse are threats to public health safety. In light of the actual evidence, this is voodoo medicine at its worst. It is the paragon of pseudoscience and “woo.” It also illustrates our health officials’ callous disregard towards every citizen—old, young, ill or pregnant. And this stubborn unsound belief has reached criminal proportions.

Indeed, every effort should be made to investigate and evaluate the available medical science before slipping into either of the two opposing camps; those embracing irrational conspiracy theories and those adhering to official medical magic. We must also take into account the real-life empirical evidence and professional accounts of physicians in the field.

Of course, not all conspiracy theories are false. The US government’s Tuskegee syphilis experiment was a conspiracy as was the CDC’s intentional whitewashing of its own research showing a vaccine-autism association. In an earlier investigation we enumerated many documented examples of the CDC’s malfeasance. Now the agency’s manipulation and falsification of research and data convinces us that the CDC and its sibling health agencies no longer warrant the public’s trust.

The current conspiracy theories about the SARS-2 virus as well as the governments’ response raise very legitimate concerns about the emergence of a growing conspiratorial fundamentalism. Such conspiratorial thinking is largely based upon uncritical a priori assumptions that everything issued from the medical establishment is an orchestrated sedition to wrestle democratic control, personal freedoms and civil liberties away from citizens.

There are other alternative explanations to be weighed. For example, it might simply be the case that those leaders calling the shots are horribly delusional and have forgotten the basic principles of every science course they took in college.

Medicine has been hijacked by these entitled authorities. Medical fundamentalism, now being endorsed by Anthony Fauci at the NIAID, the CDC's Rachel Wolensky, Bill Gates and the World Health Organization, refuses to budge from its zealous, religious-like love affair in the value of its own research; similar to a vicious feedback loop, their biases reconfirm and strengthen a vested authoritarian control over the narrative.

What both sides fail to realize is that each is empowering and inflaming the other. Unfounded conspiratorial illusions, such as those being promulgated by trackers of invisible Illuminati and pedophile cartels, as well as the inquisitorial dogma of the government's medical fundamentalism, contaminate the discourse and narrative. Both are equally destructive repudiations of the fundamental basis for how science reaches plausible facts.

In Washington, the widely accepted methods of scientific inquiry, including inductive and deductive reasoning, have been mauled by the political and economic agendas of conquest and rule in the name of "science." Its odor is reminiscent of the stench that wafted through the halls of science during the Stalinist era in the USSR.

This fanatical frenzy has more in common with a crusade's "god on our side" marching orders than objective scientific investigation. Its anti-evidence-based platitudes are grist for the mill to feed carefully massaged statistics, such as Covid infection cases and adverse vaccine reactions, to a thoroughly compromised media, particularly the armies of irresponsible journalists at the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, MSNBC, CNN, PBS and NPR, BBC and the *Guardian*, and the Daily Beast.

Over the course of the pandemic we have been at loggerheads to make rational sense about the outright stupidity that infects our federal health agencies. It is not always easy to distinguish between intentional malice from simple blind ignorance and gross ineptitude, even among the most highly intelligent and professional people.

American medical science has failed to evolve beyond the scientific fundamentalism launched by Thomas Huxley in the mid-19th century. Huxley, famously known as Darwin's bulldog, is properly regarded as the father of a growing aberration within the biological sciences that he termed "the Church Scientific" or what today is known as Scientism. Scientism is a dogmatic form of scientific materialism taken to a radical and farcical extreme. It might best be defined as an "excessive belief in the power or value of science." It is also a form of secular imperialism or expansionism, as it was Huxley's ambition to see science displace religion as the world's universal belief system.

At best, human biology and medicine should be regarded as "soft" sciences. They lack the rigor of the "hard" sciences such as physics, inorganic chemistry, engineering and mathematics. In fact, there is ample evidence to suggest that the practice of medicine is not a true science at all. Authentic science makes every effort to observe and investigate very carefully that which it is trying to understand. It doesn't exclude anomalies that might challenge prior partiality, prejudices and conflicts of interest.

After we can appreciate the legitimate questions raised by this premise, we can realize the media's blather "to follow the science", to get vaccinated, to surrender yourself to useless PCR testing, to wear masks and obey lockdowns is a dangerous bromide. There is no consensual data aside from groupthink to convincingly validate any of these orders.

In 1892, the Canadian physician Sir William Osler, regarded as the father of modern medicine, was a co-founder of the now prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital. Sir Osler believed that medicine may never become a true science. "The practice of medicine is an art, based on science," Osler wrote. "Working with science, in general, it has not reached, perhaps never will, the dignity of a complete science, with exact laws, like astronomy or engineering."

He further posed the question whether there can be any authentic science in medicine. "Yes, but in parts only, such as anatomy and physiology." In other words, if a body doesn't move, breathe or have a heartbeat, medicine can commence with real scientific inquiry and evaluation.

One stark example of the anti-science employed by drug and vaccine makers is the reliance on placebos in double-blinded clinical studies. To realize how a placebo is incorporated and understood by the medical establishment is rather comical. It has long been believed that the gold standard for conducting randomized controlled trials (RCTs) is to test for the efficacy and safety of a new drug or vaccine against a placebo group.

Unless new products are tested with a control group receiving an inert substance, such as a sugar pill or saline solution, the study cannot be given much credibility. The majority of vaccines currently administered in the US were in fact never tested against a valid placebo group. Why the CDC and FDA do not require this of vaccine makers remains a weird mystery. It is not just bad regulatory policy; it is terrible science.

When a trial placebo recipient has a positive outcome that is similar to or in some cases identical to having taken the actual drug or vaccine, there is no way to quantifiably measure the non-pharmacological mechanism that brought about the result. This led Dr. Ted Kaptchuck at Harvard-affiliated Beth Deaconess Medical Center to postulate that many positive results of clinical trial participants receiving the actual drug may also display a placebo effect.

The same is equally true for vaccine trials. In other words, although we are told that the Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccines are approximately 95 percent effective, based upon the data after comparing vaccine and placebo groups, the actual effectiveness may be much lower due to placebo effects among vaccine recipients. On the other hand, a nocebo may account for the remaining estimated 5 percent of vaccine recipients. In either case, scientists have no means at their disposal to determine whether antibody immunity is induced by mind-body activity or the vaccine in any given individual.

The absurd irony is that if one were to ask a random sampling of a thousand federal health officials and scientists, physicians and clinicians, drug company executives, and university medical school professors to explain the actual mind-body mechanisms contributing to the placebo effect, there would be a

thousand different answers or a chorus of shrugged shoulders. How scientific is it that for almost every human clinical trial required to bring a pharmaceutical drug and vaccine to market, modern medicine relies on a principle it has yet to understand?

Consequently vaccine-friendly data that makes newsheadlines is largely based upon institutionalized bias. Skeptic medical materialism's hypocrisy is further compounded when the placebo effect is used in a disparaging context to discredit natural non-conventional medical therapies. To jump to such conclusions, medicine has had to rely heavily upon metaphysical realism as its starting point. This is where modern medicine departs from being a true science and enters a make-believe world where we find its evidence standing on shaky ground.

A recent anomaly during the current Covid-19 vaccine trials last autumn violates conventional standards. The placebo control groups were not carried through to their full conclusion. Contrary to common sense and clinical trial protocols, placebo participants were vaccinated long before the trials were completed. In effect the vaccine companies wiped out any potential clinical trace to properly observe and evaluate long-term adverse vaccine events.

In addition, the vaccines are being administered indiscriminately aside from very small selected populations. Physicians and immunological experts now admonishing Fauci and government and institutional mandates are raising legitimate medical concerns that vaccinating individuals who had already contracted the virus could put these persons' health and lives at risk.

Moreover, published research on the nature of the placebo effect is scant and unimpressive. There is no serious interest within the medical establishment to fund the necessary studies to get down to the bottom of this phenomenon despite its central role in clinical trial protocols and methodologies. The logic for this avoidance is likely the petrified fear that pervades the federal health regime in general.

Yet this guarded fear has served well to barricade medical orthodoxy against acknowledging mind-body relationships beyond a strict reductionist hypothesis. It could thoroughly disrupt the establishment's faith in scientific materialism upon which so much medical research is based, especially within the pharmaceutical industry.

Similar to Galileo's threats to the Church's geocentric universe, it could shake the cathedrals of our now dominant medical Scientism and the doctrinal edicts it levies upon the American public. Galileo's persecutors too wanted to preserve the common good; albeit it was a good framed by tyranny and the mistreatment of dissidents.

As we make efforts to unravel the trail of contradictions, and often the outright lies promulgated by our medical authorities, regarding mass vaccine mandates and irresponsible diagnostic testing with imprecise tools to identify a viral infection, we may heed MIT's Thomas Kuhn's analysis of dominant paradigms within the sciences and their tendency towards dogmatic and authoritarian control.

In order to understand the truth or falsehood of the government's medical declarations, the very nature of these authoritative voices should be investigated. What values do they hold? What are the boundaries between what they tolerate and what they disdain?

In our opinion, the official Covid narrative's boundaries are exceedingly narrow, compartmentalized and heavily attired with grotesque armor forged with religious-like faith and zeal. Repeatedly we note that Fauci's pogroms against alternative viral therapies by front line doctors and medical experts, who are providing sound evidence about the Covid-vaccines' risks of long-term injury and death, are blatantly American-Eurocentric. China for example regularly prescribes Traditional Chinese medical treatments against SARS-2 infections as do many other countries with strong traditional medical systems.

Frequently, medical research laboratories and medical schools outside the American-Euro arena are discovering natural molecules both for prevention and

treatment. Worldwide there are nations that require treating Covid patients with ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, vitamin D and other inexpensive safe drugs and supplements. But such promising and cheaper alternatives that compromise the CDC's and Wall Street's interests in the drug industry are categorically ignored or ridiculed.

This highlights one sharp distinction between dependable research and pseudoscientific fraud that might explain Washington's frequent ridiculous decisions and its aggressive public relations endeavors to silence medical opponents. Their reactive diatribes, which either brazenly or casually advocate for censorship, contribute nothing constructive to the medical arts; rather it makes us all the less wise and naive. For the younger generation of future physicians and medical researchers, it is coercive brainwashing into a materialist creed that once found a home in the USSR.

Leninist and especially Stalinist science too made efforts to institute strict legislative control over the areas of scientific research permitted at Soviet technological and medical institutions. For example, Linus Pauling's theory of resonating structures earned him a Nobel Prize; however the Soviet scientific bureaucracy ruled the theory was "bourgeois pseudoscience."

Today, of course, resonance is no longer questioned and is a standard entry in science's lexicon. Starting in 1949, an antiresonance campaign arose to force Soviet supporters of the theory "to confess their ideological sins and to publicly denounce resonance."

For the Soviets, the resonance theory was not "materialistic" enough. The defining roots of the Soviets' strong belief in the doctrine of scientific materialism had more in common with theology. Any scientific theory that hinted of idealism was censored.

In order to advance their science within the limited confines of a materialist ideology, Soviet scientists had to creatively invent new definitions. We are again witnessing a similar practice as the CDC redefines the very definitions of a

vaccine and the parameters of vaccine efficacy in order to fit its economic and political agendas. And these redefinitions have little plausible basis in reality.

The Soviet example serves as a dire public warning against the growing influence of radicalized and dogmatic scientific materialists in the US. These include groups that identify themselves as Skeptics who now infiltrate our universities and control large portions of the medical discourse on Wikipedia.

Leading proponents of the American medical fundamentalist project, particularly outspoken Skeptics such as vaccine guru Paul Offit, Doris Reiss and Skepticism's army of internet trolls, give their support to the Fauci Manifesto and frequently come to the defense of the nation's most rabid vaccine proponents such as California state senator Richard Pan and New York governor Andrew Cuomo.

Skeptic platforms, and its' penetration into the mainstream media, is our nation's version of Soviet grassroots movements to banish critical scientific voices questioning the state-sanctioned narrative.

More recently discussions commenced to launch a Stalinist-styled campaign to reprimand physicians for holding medical views and opinions contrary to the Fauci Manifesto. Last month the Federation of State Medical Boards, the umbrella organization representing all US state boards, issued a statement that doctors could lose their medical license for communicating misinformation about the pandemic, without any further definition.

University of Southern California chemistry professor Anna Krylov remembers her education studying quantum physics in Moscow under the Soviet regime. She recounts the censorship and horrible fate of scientists who dared to follow the path of reliable scientific inquiry, which demanded unbiased and objective evaluation of the phenomenon under investigation. "Textbooks and scientific papers," Prof Krylov recalls, "tirelessly emphasized the priority and pre-eminence of Russian and Soviet science."

Today our American science only differs in that it has been thoroughly mutilated by corporate interests and greed, instead of a political ideology seeking world domination. In her article appearing in the Journal of Physical Chemistry, she writes:

“... the USSR is no longer on the map. But I find myself experiencing its legacy some thousands of miles to the west, as if I am living in an Orwellian twilight zone. I witness ever-increasing attempts to subject science and education to ideological control and censorship. Just as in Soviet times, the censorship is being justified by the greater good.”

It is doubtful that our federal health agencies' leaders, nor the corporate and media interests the agencies bed with, are consciously aware that they are following the Soviet script. As in the USSR, they plot behavioral schemes to seduce the American public to give obeisance to a perverted medical system erected with straw and mud.

In order to keep the pseudoscience of masks, unproven patented drugs and vaccines front and center, our medical bureaucracy, with the support of Silicon Valley and the mainstream media, has few options but to purge its critics to keep the fictions alive. It is a familiar pattern that was reenacted during the Church's Inquisition, Nazi Germany, Maoist China, and the McCarthy era. It is being revived again as the CDC and NIAID seek to realize Thomas Huxley's dream of a Church Scientific and take its seat on the throne of a politicized directorate of medicine.

By now it is no longer a secret that coercive propaganda was being employed very early during the pandemic. According to released documents, SAGE behavioral psychologists advising the UK government, according to Piers Robinson, co-director of the Organization of Propaganda Studies, recommended “the use of the media to increase fear levels amongst the public and talked coercive measures to use to get people to buy into lockdowns.”

Before the documents were obtained, the names of the Covid pandemic committee members were kept secret. Other measures to covertly persuade and

control the British public included education, incentivization, training, restrictions and environmental restructuring. Of course none of these efforts would have succeeded without the captured mainstream media acting in full compliance with the government's political overreach.

And let there be no mistake that US health agencies and British health authorities work in lockstep together. Federal health officials escape respectable journalists' and the public's scrutiny over their pseudoscientific pronouncements, which are ambiguously presented as consensual research, because it is intentionally worded and framed to dodge the need to provide actual data. Consequently, it is difficult for the average American to agree with or disprove the official narrative. This is classical behavioral indoctrination at its worst.

Genuine science seeks objective, independent scientific consensus regardless whether a truth is aligned with personal values and beliefs. At this moment numerous orthodox physicians and medical researchers are coming forward to give very credible evidence to challenge and devalue the US government's campaign to vaccinate the population without exception. This important battle is not being waged by conventional versus alternative medical systems. It is an uprising within the ranks of the medical establishment, the first in our history.

Tens of thousands of professional critics are conventional doctors whose careers were never antagonistic to the value of vaccines. They had always acted as devoted comrades to the ruling medical establishment. Their commitment to save American lives, even at the cost of their professional careers and reputations, has been an extraordinary motivating force. They have energetically applied their intellectual acumen to get down to the fundamentals in the medical literature and then uncover the truths about the efficacy of masks, vaccines, and various inexpensive proven drugs such as ivermectin.

Unlike Fauci and the bureaucratic elite who sit at his table, most have actually treated infected Covid patients and now are witnessing the carnage from mass vaccination. The Fauci Manifesto on the other hand clutches desperately to a dogmatic belief that refuses to consider contrary evidence. Its authoritarian

control over the media's airwaves doesn't permit the Manifesto to introspectively evaluate whether its policies may be spurious or downright counterfeit. Its anti-scientific claims solely echo those who are being courted, notably the pharmaceutical industrial complex and the American public who want an end to the nonsense.

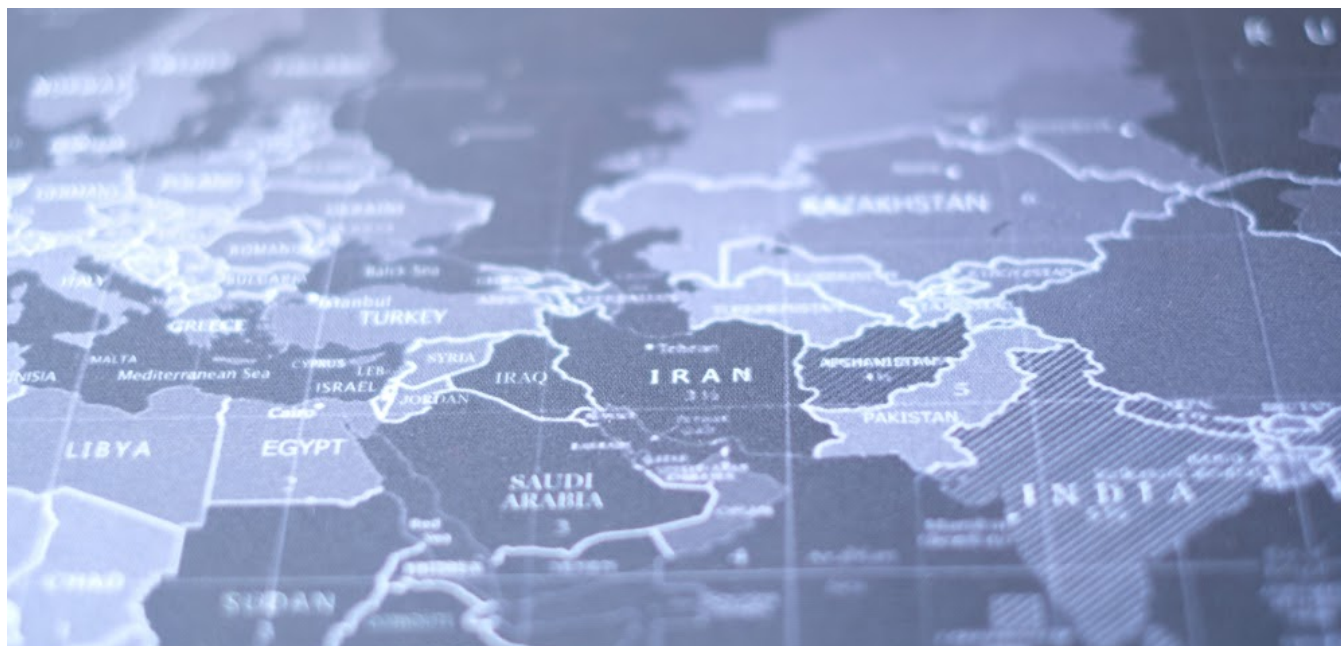
Today we are facing the serious challenge to restructure society. The new chant by many world leaders, including Biden, Trudeau, Boris Johnson, Merkel and others is to "build back better" or launch a Great Reset. Concurrent with the meager efforts to restore sound resilient policies and democratic securities, there has been the erection of a massive censorship apparatus to marginalize and silence critics and dissenters of federal policies.

If history is to serve as a lesson, such state-controlled censorship, according to Russian scholar Frank Ellis, contributed to the collapse of Soviet Union. During the pandemic, we are observing the Washington-Silicon Valley axis following the Soviet example. Unless it takes a hard right turn and becomes entrenched in an Orwellian nightmare, the narrative is bound to collapse.

Fortunately there remains the fact that conventional medicine is not an exact science. When Fauci publicly defends himself by stating, "A lot of what you're seeing as attacks on me, quite frankly, are attacks on science," we can now pause and acknowledge that there is no consensual evidence to back it.

Many of Fauci's medical critics have already shown this to be the case. And this should give us hope. There will always be observable gaps in authoritarian pseudoscientific narratives, such as the Fauci Manifesto, that can never reach a consensus to become laws of science as in physics or mathematics. This is medical Scientism's weak dark spot that is now being exposed by the swelling number of medical professionals who are uncovering the farce.

WASHINGTON'S TERRORIST FRIENDS: PROMINENT AMERICANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A MURDEROUS CULT



By *Philip Giraldi*

MEK is a curious hybrid creature that pretends to be an alternative government option for Iran even though it is despised by nearly all Iranians.

One might ask if Washington's obsession with terrorism includes supporting radical armed groups as long as they are politically useful in attacking countries that the US regards as enemies?

It is widely known that the American CIA worked with Saudi Arabia to create al-Qaeda to attack the Russians in Afghanistan and the same my-enemy's-enemy thinking appears to drive the current relationships with radical groups in Syria.

Given the fact that Iran continues to be the Biden Administration's enemy du jour, it is perhaps not surprising to observe that the US also supports terror groups that are capable of attacking targets in the Islamic Republic.

To that end, recently a number of former senior government officials and politicians were involved in cultivating their relationships with the Iranian terrorist

group Mojahedin e Khalq (MEK), which held its most recent annual international summit in Paris for three days starting on July 10th.

The event was online due to French COVID prevention guidelines and the featured speaker was Michele Flournoy, former US undersecretary of defense for policy under President Barack Obama.

Flournoy was once considered a front runner to be President Joe Biden's defense secretary and she currently heads a consulting firm, WestExec Advisors, that she co-founded with current Secretary of State Anthony Blinken which has had considerable influence over staffing and other issues in the White House.

In her talk, she accused Iran of posing a danger to the security of the Middle East, the United States, and to its own people, elaborating how "Since 1979, every US administration has had to deal with the threat posed by Iran's revolutionary regime and the Biden administration is no different. Iran is one of the most urgent foreign policy issues on the president's desk." She called for an "internal regime change" in the Islamic Republic.

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers also spoke before the online gathering. Speakers included House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senator Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as well as Democratic Senators Cory Booker of New Jersey and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

Also participating were Republican Senator Rick Scott of Florida and both Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz. Former Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Donna Brazile also spoke as did former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who said that the MEK should be "blessed and protected."

The summit self-described as "the largest-ever online international event dedicated to liberating Iran" with the objective of "inciting uprisings against the government in the Islamic Republic."

Though it would be charitable to suggest that the congressmen and former officials were largely involved to pick up the generous fees paid to speakers, it must also be noted that knowledge of MEK and its history is readily available on the internet and elsewhere.

Flournoy in particular should have known better but even she, after the fact, claimed implausibly that she did not know that she was speaking to a former terrorist group that had killed Americans.

It should also be observed that the participating Congressmen all have extremely close ties to Israel and its domestic lobby, which have been assiduous in their efforts to vilify Iran as America's designated enemy. To be sure, no one at the summit even mentioned Israel's use of MEK operatives to carry out assassinations of scientists and sabotage operations inside Iran.

MEK is a curious hybrid creature in any event in that it pretends to be an alternative government option for Iran even though it is despised by nearly all Iranians. It is considered to be both irrelevant and ineffective but Iran hatred is so prevalent that it is greatly loved by the Washington Establishment which would like to see the Mullahs deposed and replaced by something more amenable to US and Israeli worldviews.

MEK is run like a cult by its leader Maryam Rajavi, with a number of rules that restrict and control the behavior of its members. One commentary likens membership in MEK to a modern-day equivalent of slavery.

A study prepared by the Rand corporation for the U.S. government conducted interviews of MEK members and concluded that there were present "many of the typical characteristics of a cult, such as authoritarian control, confiscation of assets, sexual control (including mandatory divorce and celibacy), emotional isolation, forced labor, sleep deprivation, physical abuse and limited exit options."

The group currently operates out of a secretive, heavily guarded 84 acre compound in Albania that is covertly supported by the United States intelligence

community, as well as through a “political wing” front office in Paris, where it refers to itself as the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).

MEK is financially supported by Saudi Arabia, which enables it to stage events in the United States and in Europe where it generously pays politicians to make fifteen-minute speeches praising the organization and everything it does.

It’s bribing of inside the Beltway power brokers and its support by Israel proved so successful that it was removed from the State Department terrorist list in 2012 by Hillary Clinton even though it had killed Americans in the 1970s.

As indicated above, MEK made the transition from terrorist group to “champions of Iranian democracy” by virtue of intensive lobbying of Iran haters.

A Guardian article also describes how:

“A stupendously long list of American politicians from both parties were paid hefty fees to speak at events in favor of the MEK, including Rudy Giuliani, Joe Lieberman, John McCain, Newt Gingrich, Elaine Chao and former Democratic party chairs Edward Rendell and Howard Dean – along with multiple former heads of the FBI and CIA. John Bolton, who has made multiple appearances at events supporting the MEK, is estimated to have received upwards of \$180,000.

“According to financial disclosure forms, Bolton was paid \$40,000 for a single appearance at the Free Iran rally in Paris in 2017.”

It apparently has never occurred to the congressmen and senior officials that the MEK group had a whole lot of history before it appeared on the scene in Washington and began buying American politicians.

MEK, which consisted of a group of dissident students having Marxism inspired anti-capitalist and anti-colonialist roots, had a bloody falling out with the Iranian revolution leaders in 1979, forcing it to resettle at Camp Ashraf, near Baghdad.

It was protected by Saddam Hussein and used to carry out terrorist attacks inside Iran. It was also fiercely anti-American beginning back in the 1970s when it was still in Iran, to include attacks on US businesses and denunciations of the United States presence in Iran under the Shah. In 1979 it supported executing the US Embassy hostages rather than negotiating their release.

One of its songs went “Death to America by blood and bonfire on the lips of every Muslim is the cry of the Iranian people. May America be annihilated.”

Within the US government, MEK was notorious for its assassination of at least six US Air Force officers and civilian defense contractors. One particularly audacious ambush in which two air force officers were murdered by MEK while being driven in from the airport was reenacted for each incoming class at the Central Intelligence Agency training center in the late 1970s to illustrate just how a perfectly executed terrorist attack on a moving vehicle might take place.

Given how currently nearly every news cycle includes stories about fake news on social media, it is surprising that MEK is never mentioned. Its current Albanian operational center uses banks of computers manned by followers, some of whom are fluent in English, who serve as bots unleashing scores of comments supporting regime change in Iran while also directing waves of criticism against any pro-Iranian pieces that appear elsewhere on social media, to include Facebook and Twitter.

By one account, more than a thousand MEK supporters manage thousands of accounts on social media simultaneously. The objective of all the chatter is to convince the mostly English-speaking audience that there is a large body of Iranians who are hostile to the regime and supportive of MEK as a replacement.

It is an indisputable fact that over the past ten years, members of both major parties in Congress have either traveled to the group’s compound in Albania or spoken via video messages or live appearances in exchange for hefty speaking fees.

The support provided by prominent officeholders and policymakers to include effusive praise of a terrorist group that is viscerally anti-American and has killed US officials is a disgrace. It is also a symptom of deeper problems in terms of how our foreign policy has been developed through the ascendancy of special interests.

That America's Iran policy should lead to praise of a radicalized extremist cult that is funded by authoritarian Saudi Arabia and politically supported by apartheid Israel ignores US actual interests at our peril.

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MAJOR ISRAELI STRIKE IMMINENT?



By *Daniel McAdams*

Executive Director, Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity

On April 6th, 2017, the Ron Paul Institute received credible information from its network that a US missile attack on Syria by President Trump was imminent. Just a couple of hours after we put out this urgent update, missiles were launched by Trump on Syria under the false pretense that they were retaliation for a Syrian government airstrike on civilians.

That claim has since been proven bogus—cooked up by US government spooks and amplified by the media.

We reported it to you in real time, where we were told by a source that the "TLAMs were being loaded." Sadly, we were right.

We are currently hearing from our sources that Israel may be planning a major "retaliatory" strike on Iran this weekend over the alleged involvement of Iran in the drone attack on a Japanese-owned but Israeli-managed ship, in which a British citizen was killed.

It's hardly an Iranian attack on Tel Aviv, but the new government in Israel has been ratcheting up the rhetoric for days, recently claiming that it is "ready to attack Iran alone" over the alleged incident.

We are told it may happen over the weekend.

The Israeli defense minister is on the warpath, repeating an endless Netanyahu talking point that Iranian nuclear weapons would be rolled out tomorrow, or in a week, or a few weeks, etc. The Israeli government is tenuously positioned, with recently dethroned Bibi breathing down its neck, so what better way to shore up domestic support—where the "left" parties are as hawkish as the "right" parties—than to launch a big attack on Iran?

That would solve the ongoing problem of US President Biden's negotiations—even if half-hearted and fruitless—with the Iranians over the return of the US to its commitment to the JCPOA ("Iran Deal") the return to which Biden openly campaigned on.

There is nothing that would excite Israel's bipartisan "Amen Corner" in the Washington Beltway more than a reckless Israeli attack on Iran (over a minor incident not at all related to Israeli national interests) and an Iranian response, which must come considering the incoming Iranian government is politically obliged to defend the conservative voices of those who recently elected it.

And the pro-Israel fanatics in the Biden Administration seem to be facilitating the escalation. Indeed, our source informs us, this Israeli attack may have some coordinating help from its friends in the Pentagon.

Speaking of Pat Buchanan, once again he has it totally on the mark when he warns of a "Gulf of Tonkin incident" in the Gulf of Oman. Writing in an article Friday, he blows apart this bogus narrative: while the Israelis are hysterically trying to frame this as some kind of existential threat to their existence, in fact, as Buchanan writes, such a frontal assault by the incoming Iranian Administration would make no sense.

Writes Buchanan:

'We are confident that Iran conducted this attack,' said Secretary of State Antony Blinken. 'We are working with our partners to consider our next steps and consulting with governments inside the region and beyond on an appropriate response, which will be forthcoming.'

Iran, however, has repeatedly denied that it ordered the attack.

What makes the attack puzzling is its timing, as it occurred just days before the inauguration of the newly elected president of Iran, the ultraconservative hardliner Ebrahim Raisi.

Query: Would Raisi have ordered a provocative attack on an Israeli-managed vessel, just days before taking office, when his highest priority is a lifting of the 'maximum pressure' sanctions imposed on his country by former President Donald Trump? Why?

Would Raisi put at risk his principal diplomatic goal, just to get even with Israel for some earlier pinprick strike in the tit-for-tat war in which Iran and Israel have been engaged for years? Again, why?

Indeed: why? We are providing this information to you, again, to let you know how things work inside the Washington war machine. Conflict is always good from the perspective of those who make millions off the rest of us to keep the tension high. High enough to justify more weapons sales but not too high where it all boils over.

This may boil over. Israel has been bombing Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, etc with impunity for years, and even its very friendly ally Russia is getting annoyed by Tel Aviv's relentless attacks on its neighbors.

So keep an eye open. And, as ever, do NOT trust the mainstream media. Information from our sources may not play out as we have warned. And in fact we would be happy to be wrong, as there is nothing to be gained by Israel, the US, Iran, or any country in the region from a major war.

Our view is that, were the US to disengage from the Middle East, Israel would have to face the music that it must find a way to get along with its neighbors—and the Palestinians who are its closest neighbors—and that would be good not only for the neighborhood, but for Israel as well.

The problem is not solely Israel or Palestine or Iran. The problem, as Americans, is US foreign policy is a major enabler for conflict for the benefit of special interests.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



WHEN THE HYPERBUBBLE BURSTS

By *Gregory Mannarino* TradersChoice.net

When you finally realize that today you are existing under the threat of an impending catastrophic financial event which will change the financial landscape of the world when it occurs, it is certainly life changing.

The fact of the matter is we are indeed living in unprecedented times, and a financial Frankenstein is going to be unleashed on the world in the not-so-distant future. We are living in a moment of time for which the mechanism of which has been put in place over a century ago.

Central banks, none more so than the Federal Reserve, are deeply, darkly, and clandestinely instituting a plan to literally own the world. Today developed nations around the world are NOT being governed by elected officials who are supposed to answer to the will of their constituents, instead we have puppet governments being ruled by their respective central banks who have indeed now

become the lenders and buyers of last resort—which has been their goal since the inception of central banking.

The entire financial system of the world is ruled and governed by an interlocking system of central banks who dictate monetary policy, and it is also they who are solely responsible for inflating the largest hyperbubble in history—the debt market hyperbubble.

The current debt market hyperbubble is the deliberate result of central banks fulfilling their end game, creating nation slaves and individual citizen debt slaves, while at the same time making the 1 and 2 percenters rich beyond their wildest dreams. This mechanism robs anyone with an interest earning account blind, and many trillions of dollars in realized gains have already been literally stolen from savers because of central banks artificially suppressing rates. By falsely controlling rates, central banks create a deliberate environment of risk, and cash flows into the stock market—which is also in a hyperbubble on the back of the debt market hyperbubble.

Rates being artificially suppressed since the meltdown of 2008 is responsible for a massive and ongoing wealth transfer from the masses right up to the rich and well connected.

This entire thing is leading up to a GRAND FINALE—a deliberate implosion of the debt market hyperbubble.

An implosion of the debt market hyperbubble will cause a rapid spike in bond yields which will in turn place enormous pressure on the stock market which will then sell off rapidly—I am talking about a stock market meltdown of unprecedented proportions. As this occurs, a massive sell off in the debt market and stocks simultaneously, a tsunami of cash is going to look for places to go—cash does not go to money heaven.

Cash is going to flow primarily into commodities. Assets especially like gold and silver which have been rigged, and continue to be rigged to the downside,

mostly by the Wall Street Superbank JP Morgan, can potentially rise multiple fold. I also believe that cryptocurrencies can potentially skyrocket as well.

People who are NOT in the right spots when the hyperbubble bursts are going to suffer catastrophic financial losses—while those in the right spots will prosper greatly.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



USE ADULT JUDGEMENT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

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

A recent news story reported that a woman producing a handgun and leveling it at another woman over a dispute regarding —of all stupid things—the armed woman's alleged refusal to apologize to the other woman's 15 year old daughter after bumping into her!

Look, if you bump into someone (or step on their foot accidentally, or inadvertently knock something out of their hand, or accidentally spill coffee on them, etc.) stop and apologize to them immediately. Without being asked. And if you caused them any loss, tell them you will pay for it.

That's how human beings who have been properly civilized behave. Got it?

This applies if the individual is a child, a young adult, a mature adult, or an elderly person. Why is it necessary to offer this as instruction!? It seems that something is missing in some people.

We note that this armed woman likely had been mis-trained in the proper use of a handgun. First, because at a distance of about three feet (initially) from the individual at whom she pointed her weapon, she was in a “Weaver” stance, presumably ready to use the handgun’s sights.

Second, she had her finger outside the trigger guard. (And in this entirely absurd “ready position”, we note with amusement that she demonstrated the absolute truth of the point shooting doctrine, in that she had her eyes riveted on the lady at whom she pointed her gun!)

Third, whoever taught her how to use a handgun taught her not only the wrong technique (of course a whole slew of True Believers will disagree with us when we say this), but also completely neglected to hammer home the understanding of when bringing a firearm into play is legally justifiable. and moral.

We saw the entire video of this encounter the previous day, when the incident occurred, by the way. The entire situation could have been avoided. Apologize, and then leave. Instead, the armed woman and her husband now face felony charges. The husband was fired from his job. Their weapons have been confiscated, and they may lose their right to own firearms if they are convicted of a felony!

And... it is going to cost them a small fortune in legal fees to mount a defense in court to somehow prove that they didn’t act unlawfully! Seems a lousy alternative to merely having said: “I’m terribly sorry! Please excuse me.”

No one is a stronger believer in and advocate of the right to keep and bear arms, and the need to use them without hesitation when necessary to save human life than us. But we are equally adamant about NEVER bringing a firearm into play unless necessary for the purpose of saving human life.

You don't draw a gun because you're miffed, are having a bad day, are too proud to acknowledge that you owe someone an apology, or are having an argument with someone and find yourself getting angry.

We see an avoidable confrontation like this one as simply tragic. LEARN FROM IT, WILL YOU?

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*

GAB ADS WILL OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO GOOGLE ADSENSE

GAB founder Andrew Torba was one of the first people to envision a need for an alternative ecosystem for free-thinking and freedom loving Americans.

With an announcement last week of “Gab Ads”, the alt tech entrepreneur is taking another step in building out important aspects of that ecosystem in the online space. Gab Ads is being envisioned not only as an advertising platform for the Gab social network, but as a rival to Google AdSense across the internet.

According to Torba:

“The first phase of Gab Ads will be for advertising on Gab’s platforms Gab Social and Gab TV. Early next year we will be opening this up beyond our own platforms by allowing publishers to place Gab Ads on their websites. Our goal with this product is not only to replace Facebook and Twitter ads,

but also to replace Google AdSense and help publishers monetize their web traffic with Gab Ads.”

Many websites have come to rely on website ads served by Google’s AdSense network, and by Amazon’s Affiliate network. Those tech giants and others have cut off services from media outlets, bloggers and influencers with dissident viewpoints about vaccines, election fraud and other matters.

The chilling effect on free speech and exchange of ideas has raised concerns, especially since Congress has skirted Constitutional prohibitions by pressuring tech firms to censor protected rights of citizens. The **Trends Journal** has covered the disturbing trend in [“CONGRESS PRESSURES BIG TECH TO CENSOR EVEN MORE”](#) (30 March 2021) and other articles.

The Economics of Free Expression

Andrew Torba launched Gab, a social network with features similar to Twitter and Facebook, in the summer of 2016.

At the time the creation of an alternative social network was derided by media pundits as an attempt to create a “safe space” or “echo chamber” where conservatives wouldn’t have to face challenges to their views.

But Torba didn’t envision Gab as a safe space. He said he was motivated by reports that Facebook employees were suppressing conservative articles on their platform.

Torba’s predictions about the need for a social network that would protect first amendment freedoms turned out to be prescient. Inconclast Alex Jones and his Infowars media network was banned almost simultaneously by multiple Silicon Valley tech giants in 2018.

The claim that Jones represented an extreme case, and that the censorship fires would not grow, turned out to be some of the strongest disinformation the MSM peddled in the lead-up to the 2020 election season.

That year, big tech co-ordinated and conspired in a myriad of ways to engineer Joe Biden's electoral "victory." Facebook spent heavily on mail-in ballot initiatives in multiple states. Google rigged its search engine to show biased results and democrat get-out-the-vote reminders. The bias was quantified by former Psychology Today editor Dr. Robert Epstein and a group of over 30 [researchers](#).

But one of the most obvious and effective means of influencing the election was to disrupt the communications of disfavored viewpoints and politicians on social media platforms. What had happened to Alex Jones was imposed on a sitting President, as well as dozens of mainline populist and conservative media outlets and personalities.

In 2021, the purge of dissident viewpoints has moved quickly beyond social media, to banking and financial services, web hosting and cloud services, crowdfunding, affiliate networks and more. Business owners and average Americans who don't tow a woke line regarding vaccines and lockdowns, the origins of COVID, 2020 election fraud, BLM and CRT (Critical Race Theory) have faced loss of employment and livelihoods, and pervasive de-personing.

Torba saw the way the winds were blowing before many others. His overall observation has been that no longer is there any broad agreement on the foundational aspects of American society that remained common even 30 years ago.

First Amendment rights, for example, are longer seen as sacrosanct. Neither are privacy protections from government and corporate surveillance. The rights of individuals to make personal medical decisions in privacy has only been the latest casualty.

In the absence of a general cultural landscape where certain fundamental rights are respected by power arbiters of commerce, Torba has said that freedom-minded Americans have no recourse but to build an alternate economic ecosystem in order to survive.

In his announcement of Gab Ads, Torba said:

“Earlier this year I wrote about creating a new online economy separate from the Globalist American Empire that has a death grip on our culture and commerce. We must stop feeding the beast that is using profits from our purchases to fuel the destruction of our country, our faith, and our families.

“We must support business owners and creators who share our values. This is the only way that we will free ourselves from the globalist system of enslavement, degeneracy, and destruction.”

The **Trends Journal** has previously covered the efforts of disaffected groups to support alternative economic ecosystems, in articles including [“ARE AMERICANS HEADING TOWARD A SILENT SECESSION?”](#) (4 May 2021), [“GAINING FREEDOM FROM THE TECHNOCRACY”](#) (20 July 2020) and others.

Also, much of the ethos of the crypto blockchain innovations, which were borne amid the Financial Crisis of 2008, appears more prescient than ever. So-called “cypher punks” have been focused on creating technologies that can’t be manipulated or taken down by narrow groups or authorities.

With initiatives like decentralized blockchain storage, social media and domains, as well as cryptos payments that can occur without intermediaries like Paypal, the path to ecosystems more resilient to corporate-government censorship is easier.

Gerald Celente noted the likelihood that blockchain technologies would initiate a sweeping decade of tech revolution in 2018, in articles including [“Blockbuster profits coming from Blockchain technology.”](#)

Torba says he hopes the incipient advertising system will help sustain businesses targeted by Big Tech and Big Business censorship, so they can continue to reach customers.

“Advertising on the internet doesn’t need to be some complex intrusive process in order to be powerful and effective,” said Torba. “It simply needs to get the right message in front of the right audience for the right price.”

Torba said the Gab Ads platform will be offered on an Invite-Only basis while in a Beta version. He expects that later this year, a self-serve version will be rolled out that will allow any business owner to create, manage, and monitor their ad campaigns on Gab.

And next year, the system will enable publishers to place Gab Ads on their own websites. “Our goal with this product is not only to replace Facebook and Twitter ads, but also to replace Google AdSense and help publishers monetize their web traffic with Gab Ads.”

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



WE’RE IN YOUR HOUSE, SAYS BIG TECH CALL CENTER TO EMPLOYEES.

According to an NBC News investigation, Colombian contact center employees who offer outsourced customer care to some of the country's biggest businesses are being pushed to sign a contract that allows their employer to place cameras in their homes to

monitor job performance.

Teleperformance, one of the world's biggest contact center businesses, with customers such as Apple, Amazon, and Uber, is reportedly rolling out the controversial surveillance.

The **Trends Journal** has actively reported on invasive corporate spying on employees in articles such as [“AMAZON CITES ‘SAFETY’ TO BIOMETRICALLY TRACK DRIVERS.”](#) 30 March 2021.

A number of Teleperformance employees in Colombia expressed worry about the new contract, which was introduced in March. The deal allows for AI-powered cameras to be installed in employees' homes, as well as speech analytics and the storage of data gathered from family members, including minors. Teleperformance has about 380,000 employees worldwide, including 39,000 in Colombia.

Employee rights advocates are reacting to the news. According to Veena Dubal, a labor law professor at the University of California, Hastings, the COVID War has normalized the notion of companies using invasive monitoring of home workers:

“Companies see a lot of benefit in putting in software to do all kinds of monitoring they would have otherwise expected their human managers to do, but the reality is that it’s much more intrusive than surveillance conducted by a boss.”

Teleperformance, meanwhile, tried to apply a positive spin to its new surveillance requirements in countries like Colombia. Spokesman Mark Pfeiffer said:

“[We’re] constantly looking for ways to enhance the Teleperformance Colombia experience for both our employees and our customers, with privacy and respect as key factors in everything we do...

“We are committed to fair practices, equality, inclusion, diversity, non-discrimination, labor sustainability, ethics, and transparency,” Pfeiffer said, “and we will continue to do everything we can to uphold these values for both our teams and all our key stakeholders.”

The surveillance isn't limited to Teleperformance's Colombian employees. According to the company's website, it provides comparable monitoring via its TP Cloud Campus product, which allows employees to work remotely in more than 19 countries. By monitoring camera feeds, Teleperformance utilizes AI to monitor "clean desk policies and fraud" among its remote employees, according to a promotional film for TP Cloud Campus.

Teleperformance stated in a June 2020 financial statement that TP Cloud Campus had enabled 240,000 of its roughly 380,000 workers to work from home.

EFF CALLS BIDEN CRYPTO CLAUSE A GIANT FAIL. The Biden administration infrastructure bill might force developers and others who do not hold digital assets on behalf of people into a reporting regime aimed at helping the government in tracking cryptos.

The proposal expands the definition of "broker" under section 6045(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include anybody who is "responsible for and regularly providing any service effectuating transfers of digital assets" on behalf of another person. These newly designated brokers would be obliged to comply with IRS reporting rules for brokers, which include collecting user data such as names and addresses for IRS Form 1099s.

According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the ambiguous wording allows virtually any business in the bitcoin ecosystem to be labeled a "broker," even software developers and cryptocurrency companies who aren't custodians or controllers of their customers' funds. It even puts miners, who validate and verify blockchain transactions, into the mix. The need to gather client names, addresses, and transactions implies that virtually any business even remotely connected to cryptocurrencies may be compelled to monitor consumers.

Of course, as many people are pointing out, a lot of persons and entities covered by the ill-conceived legislation literally don't have access to the information that the government would be demanding they supply.

According to the EFF, the crypto related reporting clause, meant to raise some \$28 billion toward the bill's higher than \$1 trillion price tag, would have significant negative effects. The impact could drive crypto innovations and to other jurisdictions, and be financially self-defeating. Among other things, the EFF noted the clause would:

- Require fresh monitoring of bitcoin users on a daily basis;
- Forcing software developers and others who do not hold bitcoin for their customers to install onerous monitoring systems or cease to provide services in the US;
- Lead to more honeypots containing sensitive information about bitcoin users to be set up to attract hostile actors; and
- Increase the legal difficulty of creating blockchain initiatives or validating transactions in the United States, which will likely lead to more innovation being moved abroad.

The law might also introduce doubts about the capacity to perform anonymous cryptocurrency transactions with others using open source smart contracts and decentralized exchange technologies.

At press time, the Senate was considering several amendments to crypto provisions in the bill, including excluding developers and miners, but many in the sector have said the changes would still leave huge problems.

An EFF analysis by Rainey Reitman outlined what that organization believes are crucial for any crypto legislation to account, including that it:

- Should be technologically neutral;
- Should not apply to those who merely write and publish code;
- Should provide protections for individual miners, merchants who accept cryptocurrencies, and individuals who trade in cryptocurrency as consumers;
- Should focus on custodial services that hold and trade assets on behalf of users;

- Should provide an adequate on-ramp for new services to comply;
- Should recognize the human right to privacy;
- Should recognize the important role of decentralized technologies in empowering consumers;
- Should not chill future innovation that will benefit consumers.

Reitman concluded “The poorly drafted provision in Biden’s infrastructure bill fails our criteria across the board.”

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



DEX OR CEX? INVESTORS HAVE EXCHANGE OPTIONS

Centralized Exchanges like Coinbase are seeing more competition from so-called decentralized exchanges like Uniswap.

Each option carries certain advantages and disadvantages. But with U.S. politicians and regulators making moves to require more reporting from centralized exchanges, there has been a discernable growth in decentralized alternatives for crypto investing.

The main benefit of decentralized exchanges is that they don't need a middleman to conduct transactions. This has a number of advantages for traders, including reduced transaction costs owing to fewer overheads.

Orders on DEXs are submitted against a smart contract rather than a person. The DEXs themselves are not companies or persons, but rather collections of smart contracts running on a particular blockchain network.

For example, Uniswap consists of two smart contracts running on the Ethereum blockchain. It's neither a company nor a person. It's code, developed by a community of developers.

It can be interacted with by going to the online app address (<https://app.uniswap.org/#/swap>).

Uniswap allows low cost swapping of hundreds of Ethereum based tokens, directly between parties, controlled only by the code of the smart contracts involved.

DEXs can get away with a lot more than centralized exchanges since they don't deal in fiat currencies, but there's a high possibility that regulators won't sit on the sidelines and watch the show. They may also come after them in the future. But because DEXs are essentially Dapps, and not a company or formal group of profiting individuals, it may prove a hard target indeed to regulate.

The SEC did make news in early August for busting up a DeFi related scam. But the players in that case were two [grifting](#) brothers, not a widely disbursed development community with an established protocol.

Due to regulatory concerns, many centralized exchanges are unable to serve consumers in specific countries. DEXs are free of these restrictions, enabling them to access markets that were previously unavailable to centralized trading platforms. They are also exempt from disclosing personal information to other parties and have very minimal registration requirements in order to utilize the exchange platform.

Centralized Exchanges Offers Some Protections, With Downsides

Centralized exchanges are represented by companies. They can provide certain services that aren't available in a decentralized exchange, such as insurance.

Money lost in centralized exchange hacks are often reimbursed to investors, providing a feeling of responsibility to one of the world's most risky financial

markets. They also provide client assistance, fiat currency on-and off-ramps (meaning for example that dollars can be exchanged via debit card or bank account for tokens, and vice-versa), and more liquidity in general.

That isn't to suggest that decentralized exchanges won't continue to cut into their market share; although centralized exchanges will always be needed, the industry is showing signs of a growing shift toward crypto trading without mediating institutions or companies.

WILL BIDEN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL CRASH CRYPTOS?



*[Press Time Update: In this fast changing story, **TJ** can report that the U.S. Senate turned down a crypto-tax amendment to a \$1 trillion infrastructure package. The proposed amendment had been offered at the last minute by legislators arguing over which crypto brokers should be subject to*

new tax reporting requirements.

Late Monday, the compromise proposal, which required unanimous approval to be included, was sunk by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL). Shelby had tried to attach his own unrelated amendment calling for a \$50 billion boost in military expenditure, which had been rejected.

Senators Mark Warner of Virginia, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Rob Portman of Ohio, and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming co-sponsored the crypto amendment, which was offered by Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.]

Fight for the Future, a digital rights advocacy organization, said over the weekend that it will oppose an amendment proposed by Senators Mark Warner, Rob Portman, and Kyrsten Sinema to clarify the wording used in the bipartisan infrastructure bill regarding cryptocurrency.

According to the group, both the original provision in the bill, and the revision, are deeply flawed and would visit havoc on one of the few economic bright spots of the past 24 months.

“The original provision and the Portman-Warner amendment fundamentally misunderstand that decentralized technology is decentralized,” Fight for the Future said in a statement. “The law as-written is completely unworkable, requiring many in this ecosystem to produce data that they never have and cannot get access to—by the very nature of the technology.”

Both the Biden administration and Democratic supporters of the amendment, according to the organization, "have not done their research on decentralized technology."

Sheila Warren, head of the World Economic Forum's blockchain and digital assets counsel, was among those siding with Fight for the Future's assessment. She said the amendment's negative treatment and misguided dictates would hurt innovation and progress:

“Bewildering is an understatement for what is unfolding in the U.S. Senate around the crypto-related provisions of the infrastructure bill. It was remarkable to see language endorsed that was not neutral about technology. This has massive implications for a relatively nascent industry.”

The amendment has nominal bi-partisan support, with several moderate Republicans joining Democrats. Senators Ron Wyden, Cynthia Lummis, and Pat Toomey introduced the amendment to the Senate's existing infrastructure bill, HR 3684, on Wednesday. Senator Rob Portman, a lead Republican engaged in the bill, as well as 114 signatories from the crypto and blockchain sector, including Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, have endorsed the idea.

Senators offered the amendment because the original bill proposes stricter regulations for companies dealing with cryptocurrencies and expanded reporting

requirements for brokers, including requiring that digital asset transactions worth more than \$10,000 be disclosed to the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS.

It would also require sweeping tax reporting for digital transactions, and virtually anyone involved in any aspect of crypto mining or crypto development. That includes having anything to do with mining software or hardware, “validating distributed ledger transactions,” or “developing digital assets or their corresponding protocols.”

The amendment proposed by Wyden, Lummis and Toomey revises the bill’s definition of a broker and could allow many players in the crypto space to avoid the additional reporting requirements.

But a “modified” amendment put forth by Warner, Portman and Sinema the following day proposed excluding proof-of-mining and sellers of hardware and software wallets from the bill, while suggesting crypto developers and proof-of-stake validators would still be subject to expanded reporting.

Critics say this modification would essentially allow the U.S. government to pick and choose which technology is acceptable in the crypto space.

TRENDPOST: *The multi-trillion dollar infrastructure bill has been projected to pile on budget deficits and reams of new regulations. The Congressional Budget Office projected on Thursday that the infrastructure plan would add \$256 billion to the deficit over the next decade.*

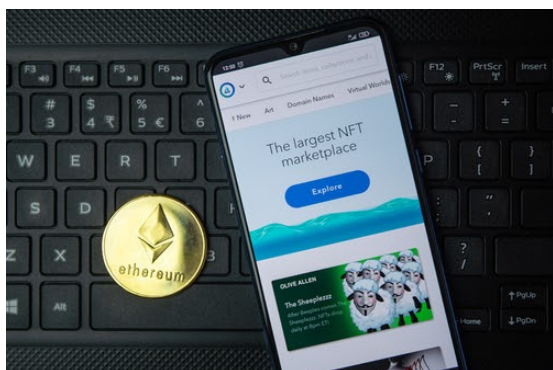
But jamming poorly conceived crypto regulations into the measure to try to raise revenues for the bill will only compound the mess.

The U.S. has seen an uptick in crypto projects and mining as a result of China’s clampdown. Meanwhile, blockchain innovations in Defi (decentralized finance) and other spheres are exploding, creating new efficiencies and broadening access and fairness for participants.

The general level of crypto investment participation has doubled in the space of four months. Clearly, average people want in on crypto innovations. The area has been a bright spot in an otherwise bleak economic period of lockdowns, inflationary stimulus, productivity and supply chain disruptions, and employment and housing nightmares.

If the U.S. joins China in trying to supplant or co-opt blockchains, they may succeed in stifling innovations, and imposing centralized, controlled alternatives. But it would be a pyrrhic victory, with ramifications going beyond economics. It would add another ton of bricks in the wall of a new 21st century feudal serfdom.

ONE OF A KIND: THE WORLD OF NFTs



One area of blockchain innovation that traditional investors may find harder to grasp is the world of NFTs, or Non-Fungible Tokens. What purposes and uses do they have?

Fungible tokens such as Ethereum and Bitcoin are the rewards for participants in those blockchain networks. People who fire up their computers and run software to provide network services such as verifying transactions and storing info (eg. copies of the blockchain database) earn amounts of Bitcoin, for example, as a reward.

Non fungible tokens have a different purpose. They are not meant as a payment to be exchanged for other tokens, for goods or services, or for fiat currencies.

Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are one-of-a-kind and are not meant to be exchanged the way currencies are often calibrated and exchanged. They are designed as a way of authenticating and verifying an asset as an original, to establish or confer ownership in a way that is immutable, on the blockchain.

Non-fungible assets can include digital or non-digital assets. For example, a piece of digital art can be established and verified as original using NFTs. But NFTs are also being envisioned as a way of authenticating ownership and transferring rights of real world items with a substantial reduction in mediating authorities (like lawyers and banks).

Using An NFT to Sell a House?

A world-first for blockchain technology was announced in May 2021: a residence in Ukraine was auctioned as a non-fungible token (NFT). Propy, a firm pioneering the representation of real world assets as NFTs, previously utilized the same property to showcase the potential of the blockchain use case, enabling the initial sale in 2017 via a Smart Contract.

As a result, when the flat was re-offered to the public, it drew a lot of attention. A buyer paid 36 Ether, equal at the time to \$93,429.72, to prevail in the auction and gain ownership of the real world asset by acquiring possession of its Non-Fungible Token.

Propy itself described the transaction as the purchase of a business:

"The ownership of the property was actually held and recorded in Ukraine as a U.S. LLC," explains the site. "The auction winner became the owner of the NFT that gives the rights to the LLC, with Arrington [the seller] signing proprietary-developed legal papers for NFTs to transfer ownership to all future buyers."

Such a usage of NFTs is obviously in its infancy. But players innovating in this area bear watching.

An NFT record on the blockchain can stay with an object throughout its life cycle, making it simple to monitor ownership and other details. In principle, this could be used for almost any object or asset.

In real estate, a title search is typically done in the U.S. and many other countries, to establish ownership. With a clear chain of title, a buyer can secure title insurance, etc.

NFTs could help real estate transactions by creating a bulletproof chain of ownership for both the buyer and the seller. Although properties with a lengthy pre-NFT history could still carry risks of a clouded title, new construction properties registered on the blockchain to establish ownership would have a clear immutable provenance.

Growth Ramping Up in 2021

Right now NFTs are most often used to purchase and sell digital goods and monitor them on the blockchain. But their expansion to real-world assets is not being overlooked by entrepreneurs who made fortunes in older digital technologies.

"NFT may be used to sell anything electronically. Anything our mind can conjure up: virtual Mavs clothing, shoes, art, photos, movies, and experiences," Mark Cuban has observed.

Firms like Microsoft and Binance have recognized the rising potential of NFTs, and are already using blockchain technologies by Enjin to engage and reward their users with branded NFTs.

Enjin, one of the trailblazing [companies](#) in the space, established a commonly utilized NFT token standard on the Ethereum network. It currently supports billions of digital assets on the blockchain.

Since being introduced in 2017, NFTs have seen rapid growth while undergoing significant technological developments and milestones.

The market capitalization of the NFT sector was slightly over \$30 million in 2017. Trading volume in the first several months of 2021 surpassed \$342 million, more than all of 2020.

NFTs have quickly gained traction as a means for businesses, artists, celebrities, and influencers to digitize their brands, with over 630,000 Ethereum wallets creating NFTs as of early 2021.

A recent article in Cointelegraph envisioned how NFTs might be used in the [future](#) to enable more efficient transfers of non-fungible assets.

SEC CHIEF SETS REGULATORY SIGHTS ON CRYPTO CURRENCIES



Gary Gensler, chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), again promised a regulatory offensive against fraud, market manipulation, and other misconduct in cryptocurrency markets in 3 August comments to the Aspen Security Forum. (See [“Cryptocurrency: Special Report,” Trends Journal](#), 25 May, 2021.)

Stablecoins and decentralized finance are two priority areas, he said, because they are attracting mainstream investors.

Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies whose values are tied to real-world assets, usually national currencies, and some may meet the definition of a mutual fund, the SEC has said. (See [“Crypto Sanity,” Trends Journal](#), 21 February, 2021.)

The value of stablecoins in circulation has tripled to \$113 billion this year, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Decentralized finance (DeFi), which has exploded this year, seeks to replicate traditional financial services using only blockchain and the Internet, avoiding banks and other regulated venues. (See [“A DeFi Primer,” Trends Journal](#), 27 July, 2021.)

DeFi operations have skirted regulations, including those meant to block money laundering and other crimes.

DeFi could be a form of investment that falls under SEC control, the agency also has said.

However, DeFi transactions often are automated over peer-to-peer Internet networks without intermediaries such as banks.

As yet, the SEC has no means to oversee such transactions.

Crypto should be subject to the same regulation as stocks, bonds, and other conventional investment venues, Gensler has said previously in Congressional testimony and other remarks. (See [“Cryptocurrency: Special Report,” Trends Journal](#), 25 May, 2021.)

“There is going to be more aggressive enforcement and that is one way to bring order to chaos,” veteran crypto lawyer Lee Schneider told the *WSJ*, “but perhaps not the most effective or the most evenly distributed way.”

Gensler’s efforts are hampered by regulators’ past acknowledgment that cryptocurrencies are commodities.

Market regulators lack the same authority to control the purchase and sale of commodities that they have over stocks and bonds.

Instead, the SEC has had to take enforcement action after a misdeed has been committed, a process of bringing individual miscreants to court instead of addressing categories of behavior through regulation.

Last year, for example, the SEC successfully sued Ripple Labs and two of its executives for selling \$1.3 billion worth of the XRP cryptocurrency that was not registered with the SEC but should have been.

In the wake of that case, major exchanges dropped XRP.

To date, the SEC has won every such action, an outcome that has largely halted the public sale of cryptocurrencies and relegated the transactions to deals by private investors.

Regulation of what Gensler has called “the Wild West” world of crypto likely will be painful for those who have thus far not dealt with it, CEO Charles Cascarilla of Paxos, the blockchain company that created the stablecoin Binance USD, said to the *WSJ*.

However, “oversight creates trust and trust can lead to widespread adoption,” he said.

Gensler has called on Congress to authorize a regulatory regime for crypto trading but, other than holding hearings, lawmakers have not acted.

Legislators tend to act only after a crisis, the *WSJ* noted.

WEALTH MANAGERS READYING CRYPTO FUNDS FOR CLIENTS



JPMorgan Private Bank is offering clients a managed Bitcoin investment fund in partnership with NYDIG, an online platform offering secure transactions and custody, online crypto data firm Coindesk reported.

The bank is pitching its fund as a safe, cheap way to bet on Bitcoin, Coindesk said.

JPMorgan Chase took on Coindesk and crypto exchange Gemini Trust Co. as banking customers in 2019 and has launched JPM Coin, a blockchain-based

digital token that can be used to transfer payments instantaneously among banks and corporate clients.

French asset manager Melanion Capital has announced it will offer a crypto fund, regulated by the European Union (EU), that will include shares of 30 companies, including crypto miners and businesses based on blockchain technology, that closely track Bitcoin's price movements.

The fund, called Melanion BTC Equities Universe Ucits ETF, will be listed on Paris's Euronext exchange.

"Ucits" is the acronym for the EU's investment regulatory regime.

"Most pipes of the traditional financial system stop at access to Bitcoin," Melanion CEO Jad Comair told the Financial Times.

The new ETF "was a challenge because of the sensibilities and politics currently surrounding Bitcoin and Bitcoin investing," he said.

The fund will be the first to operate according to EU regulatory standards, even though how regulators will deal with cryptocurrencies and related funds is "all somewhat up in the air," investment funds lawyer Winston Penhall told the FT.

Singapore's DBS Private Bank already offers clients access to secure crypto trading platforms and Morgan Stanley is planning to offer wealth management clients access to three crypto funds, Bloomberg has reported.

TREND FORECAST: As we noted in our article [*"Crypto Sanity"*](#) (16 February, 2021), *"a move by any of the nation's largest banks to embrace Bitcoin would be taken as a pivotal moment for digital currencies."*

That moment has arrived. Other banks will now follow suit, moving cautiously to offer access to crypto exchanges for select customers.

Pressure will now increase on the SEC to structure regulations and approve applications for crypto investment funds now sitting in the agency's inbox.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



DECENTRALIZED EXCHANGES SAW VOLUME DROP IN JULY. Overall crypto action in August so far might well spell a different story, but July action on DEXs (decentralized crypto exchanges) was muted.

According to The Block, During the month of July, decentralized exchanges witnessed \$56.47 billion in volume, a monthly decrease.

Uniswap accounted for 65 percent of monthly volume—\$10.6 billion and \$26.57 billion, respectively. SushiSwap and Curve had monthly volumes of \$6.07 billion and \$5.13 billion, respectively.

When compared to June's \$80.85 billion, the monthly number represents yet another month-over-month decrease. As seen in the graph above, the DEX ecosystem peaked in terms of volume in May, with \$162.02 billion traded. That month, Uniswap's v3 became online.

The proportion of spot trading volume on DEXs compared to centralized exchanges was 8.98 percent for the month, according to the Data Dashboard, a small rise from June's number.

UKRAINE LAW WOULD ALLOW CRYPTO PAYMENTS VIA

“INTERMEDIARIES”. Crypto payments will be permitted in Ukraine, according to the deputy minister of Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation, in the same way as payments based on the US currency are.

According to reports, a new law in Ukraine will enable bitcoin payments.

The bill would not technically change the status of cryptocurrencies. But though not recognizing cryptocurrencies as legal money, the law would enable payments in Bitcoin (BTC) or other cryptos, according to a government official.

Oleksandr Bornyakov, deputy minister of Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation, said the law would open the way to utilize intermediaries to handle crypto-to-fiat conversions as a step in payment processing. That step would make crypto payments “quite legal” in Ukraine.

In a Friday interview with local financial magazine Minfin, the official acknowledged that Ukraine's draft law on virtual assets “clearly says” that cryptocurrencies are not legal currency in the nation and that only crypto purchases are permitted.

But payment processors would be officially allowed to offer services for converting crypto to fiat to enable payments derived from crypto, according to the proposal, which states:

“Today, the legislation in Ukraine also does not allow you to pay in dollars, but you can easily pay for purchases with a dollar card. Currencies are converted instantly during payment. [...] Therefore, it will be quite legal to pay with cryptocurrencies in Ukraine, but through an intermediary.”

The announcement comes only days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed yet another digital currency-related legislation, the Payment Services Law. The legislation made it legal for Ukraine's central bank to create a digital currency known as the digital hryvnia.

VIRTU MAKES CRYPTO MOVE. Trading giant Virtue Financial company has been market making on Coinbase. It revealed the news during second-quarter earning result reporting.

Market making is a service that companies like Virtu and Jump offer to exchanges by buying or selling an asset when there isn't enough organic liquidity. The company is extending those services to cryptos, with futures and exchange-traded products in Canada.

CEO Doug Cifu acknowledged the expanding activity, saying "Our growth into cryptocurrency market making is also progressing, with crypto market making tripling in Q2 compared to Q1."

It's the first time Virtu has said publicly that it trades spot bitcoin, and it is being taken as the latest sign that Wall Street is growing in acceptance of digital assets as a class. Virtu's market making is happening via Coinbase and Gemini, according to reports.

Cifu also said the company planned to include crypto as part of its VFX single dealer platform. "We're also in the early phases of establishing our capacity to broadcast cryptocurrencies via our direct-to-dealer streaming liquidity technology, VFX."

That system sends out prices for assets such as foreign currencies, precious metals, and treasuries to its counter-parties.

The crypto news represented a highlight of the company's financial reporting, which otherwise was lackluster. Net trading income fell to \$341.8 million, a nearly 50 percent drop from the year prior.

I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER: FTX IMPLEMENTING PHONE NUMBER CHECKS. FTX crypto exchange CEO Sam Bankman-Fried has spoken plainly about his ongoing attempts to adapt to new laws surrounding operating crypto companies.

He recently highlighted efforts to develop methods for simplifying its “Know Your Customer” (KYC) processes in the midst of crackdowns by governmental authorities.

“As we mature as a company, we’ve been building out our checks, finding and incorporating more signals,” Bankman-Fried said recently, in remarks announcing a feature on the trading platform that confirms a user’s jurisdiction based on their registered phone number

According Bankman-Fried:

“We check users’ phone numbers against their submitted names in KYC1, in order to further verify them. When this doesn’t work or there isn’t data, we’ll require KYC2 to access some features of the site, including futures.”

FTX is clearly responding to the ongoing regulatory developments in the U.S., including the current crypto legislation being worked into a major infrastructure bill.

Bankman-Fried has made some bold statements in the past about how the crypto sphere might one day overtake traditional finance and investment institutions. He has said that purchasing Goldman Sachs and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange “is not out of the question at all” if FTX exceeded other companies to become the largest crypto exchange.

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



LIAR WALENSKY? CDC FRAUDSTER?

The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, has made another pronouncement, this one on Thursday, 5 August, as reported that day by CNN.

Dr. Walensky proffered the reasoning behind her agency's latest mask wearing flip-flop. Back in mid-May the [CDC declared](#) that the fully vaccinated did not have to wear a mask in most settings because vaccines work exceptionally well.

Now, the CDC did a 180, recommending even people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should resume wearing masks indoors, even though, according to Walensky, the jabs work exceptionally well... except that, actually, they don't.

What, Exactly, Does "Works Exceptionally Well" Mean?

As reported by [CNBC Health and Science on 23 July](#), "Israel says the Pfizer Covid vaccine is just 39% effective as delta spreads"

Yet, spewing out more bullshit, Dr. Walensky told CNN's Wolf "Mouse" Blitzer last Thursday that "Our vaccines are working exceptionally well. They continue to work well for Delta, with regard to severe illness and death—they prevent it. But what they can't do anymore is prevent transmission."

TRENDPOST: *If the COVID Jab can't "prevent transmission," then why take the Operation Warp Speed, gene therapy jab at all... and how can they be "working exceptionally well"?*

This fact was barely reported in the mainstream media and the reality is Walensky is a fraud. Again, to drive home the point, how can she in one sentence declare "Our vaccines are working exceptionally well," and then say they "don't prevent transmission"?

And this is not a so-called conspiracy theory. This is a fact, reported by the mainstream media, that the words were spewed from Walensky's mouth! The jabs are virtually worthless at stopping the virus. As we reported last week, in mid-July there was an outbreak of virus cases in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Yet, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of those cases, some 75 percent were fully vaccinated.

Yet, again, the hard data is ignored while nations, states, cities and individual establishments impose draconian "must get vaccinated" mandates.

We also noted that the "herd immunity" numbers are also made up.

America's most hyped-up infectious disease expert, Anthony Fauci, stated on 2 December 2020 that America will reach herd immunity when 70 percent get the COVID vaccine.

So, if 75 percent of the herd got the jab, how come so many got COVID cases?

Why, because the vaccine is a failed "Operation Warp Speed" gene therapy shot still not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration... but those are only facts that the masses and mass media ignore.

Idiots Delight

The CDC director elaborated, "If you're going home to somebody who has not been vaccinated, to somebody who can't get vaccinated, somebody who might be immunosuppressed or a little bit frail, somebody who has comorbidities that put them at high risk, I would suggest you wear a mask in public indoor settings."

TRENDPOST: *Walensky's recommendation that if going into someone's home or in a public setting where someone "might be immunosuppressed or a little bit fragile ... has comorbidities that put them at high risk," is more of the same imbecilic dictates.*

If the masks are supposedly effective, then just the people who are immunosuppressed, frail or with comorbidities should wear them! And if this segment is at high risk in public indoor settings, they can choose not go out... rather than imposing mandates on the healthy masses.

Double Down Shot

CNN also reported that the FDA has been in internal discussions over a September timeline to determine a strategy for COVID-19 booster shots, the implication of which seems to be that the vaccines' shortcomings will be used to justify the need for booster shots.

And even though the Delta variant is allegedly behind the current surge in case counts (it is questionable that the PCR tests distinguish between Delta and COVID-19) which Walensky cautions has yet to reach its peak... other, even more aggressive variants can be expected to arise, so the need for more and more vaccinations and boosters will probably never go away.

Admiral Brett Giroir, the coronavirus testing czar under Pres. Trump, has warned that "the next variant is just around the corner, if we do not all get vaccinated." Or even if we do.

TREND FORECAST: *That booster shots may be more clearly on the horizon come as no surprise to **Trends Journal** subscribers because, in addition to chronicling Dr. Walensky's repeated flip-flops (as in 3 August's ["THE WALENSKY WAFFLE: DOING THE BACKTRACK SHUFFLE"](#)), we reported, on 20 April in ["PFIZER CEO: THIRD TIME IS A CHARM,"](#) that the Drug Lords were long planning booster shots... year in and year out.*

Thus, we noted back then, such projections were not only contrary to the efficacy of the COVID Jab when it was broadly sold to the public last December, but with the call for annual shots, we noted that the Drug Lords profits would continue to grow.

Thus, we forecast government mandates for yearly jabs for not only the coronavirus, but for future “viruses.”

And as we have forecast, the stricter the government rules, the more aggressive confrontations will erupt between anti-vax vs. pro-vaccine proponents. In addition, we maintain our forecast for anti-establishment, anti-vax political movements.

FLORIDA COVID FEAR HYPED BY PRESSTITUTES



COVID-19 cases in Florida are surging, hitting levels not seen since last winter, according to an article appearing 4 August in *The Wall Street Journal*.

And COVID-19 hospitalizations have reached a record 11,515, many of them younger people. More than 90 percent of those hospitalized are unvaccinated.

The article reports Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis as saying that the media are "fixated on cases and fear mongering," but that this outbreak would be less deadly than prior ones, largely because vaccination campaigns had focused on elderly people.

As pointed out on 11 August 2020 in ["FLORIDA FREAKOUT."](#) Florida has one the highest percentages of senior citizens of any state; and, according to the CDC, COVID mortality is highest among persons with underlying medical conditions, the majority of whom are over 65.

TRENDPOST: *The WSJ article reports that Florida's COVID average death count for this latest surge is about three times what it was in mid-July, but as the "surge" is hyped, they also note that the COVID rate is still less than a third of the state's peak average one year ago.*

MEDIA BLAMES DESANTIS FOR FLORIDA SPIKE IN COVID CASES



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has been a target of the mainstream media for refusing to enforce economy-killing COVID-19 guidelines, has faced new scrutiny as his state sees a jump in cases and is considered to be the new U.S. "epicenter."

The **Trends Journal** has reported on Florida's unique approach to dealing with the virus compared to other states that have enforced strict lockdowns. On 2 March, in an article titled, ["DESANTIS: 'FLORIDA GOT IT RIGHT,'"](#) we pointed out that the Sunshine State never enforced strict COVID restrictions and did not suffer more cases or fatalities than other states with tougher limitations. We predicted that DeSantis' actions will make him a prime candidate in the 2024 presidential election.

NPR reported that as of Sunday, about 1 in 4 hospital beds in the state was occupied by a patient with the infection. The report also pointed out that there were 23,903 new cases recorded on Friday, which marked a 24-hour high since the beginning of the outbreak.

TRENDPOST: *Reportedly, there were 13,793 COVID-19 patients being treated inside hospitals. The state that has 21.6 million residents recorded 616 deaths for the week ending on 5 August. The state's Department of Health released an in-depth summary of deaths in the state in June and found that 82 percent of those who died were over the age of 65, yet there is a big push by politicians, Presstitutes and politicians across America to force the young and healthy to get the COVID Jab.*

TRENDPOST: *While Presstitutes have sanctified New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's strict lockdown order on the state, and the gutless Hollywood comic clowns crowned him with an International Emmy Award for his fighting the COVID War, absent are the facts of his COVID mandates compared to Florida's.*

As of yesterday, Florida has recorded 39,695 total COVID deaths with a death rate of 185 per 100,000 people.

That compares to New York State, with a population of 19.2 million, that has registered 54,325 COVID deaths and a COVID death rate of 276 per 100,000... which is the second highest COVID rate in the U.S.

And on the scale of "How Low Can You Go," another arrogant political freak, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, who has also locked down the state hard and has still imposed COVID mandates, has recorded 26,650 alleged COVID deaths. With a state of 8.8 million, he ranks #1 with 300 deaths per thousand.

Yet, these facts and figures are totally ignored and instead it's all media hype about the "cases" rising in Florida.

DeSantis: A Fight for Freedom

DeSantis has remained defiant and, according to *The Times*, said, “We can either have a free society, or we can have a biomedical security state. And I can tell you, Florida we’re a free state. People are going to be able to choose to make their own decisions.”

The Times reported that DeSantis blamed President Biden’s inability to secure the border for contributing to the increase of cases in the country. The report pointed out that new cases have been increasing in every state.

Florida has also been dealing with an increase in cases among children. Dr. Aileen Marty, an infectious disease expert at Florida International University, told CNN Friday that children’s hospitals in the state are completely overwhelmed. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported Sunday that there are 172 children hospitalized in the state.

DeSantis has been criticized for an order barring masks in schools and has insisted that we will have to learn how to live with the virus.

“We know this is something that you’re going to have to live with,” he said.

TRENDPOST: *It should also be noted that Mr. DeSantis has gotten the COVID Johnson & Johnson Jab in April, and he said that if you are over “over 70 years old, the benefit is so much better than worrying about some of that...it’s not even close.”*

Yes, the majority of people dying from the virus are the elderly... but not those who are healthy. Young or old, as per the CDC, 94 percent of the virus victims had 2.6 pre-existing comorbidities. So to tell healthy people over 70 years of age to get the jab is “not even close.”

COVID BOOSTERS ARE THE FUTURE?



In a memorable line from the 1967 film *The Graduate*, Benjamin (played by Dustin Hoffman), a young man unsure of what career path to pursue after college, is given some pithy, succinct advice: "Plastics. There's a great future in plastics."

If that film were being made today, that advice might well be "Booster shots. There's a great future in booster shots."

We certainly didn't think that when the vaccines were first developed and touted as the remedy for the "pandemic." Back in 2 December 2020, when the Presstitutes, politicians and "health experts" started selling the COVID Jab, the public was led to believe that, according to America's hyped-up infectious disease expert, Anthony Fauci, the American herd would reach herd immunity when 70 percent got the COVID vaccine.

But now we are being sold the line that booster shots are in everyone's future, and there may be no end to the need for them. There is, indeed, a great future in booster shots, especially for the companies that make them; see our **Trends Journal** 3 August 2021 article ["NO LETUP IN SURGE OF VAX BIZ REVENUES."](#)

Some 165 million people—about half the country's population—have been fully vaccinated. Vaccine producer Moderna expects that recipients of its two-dose vaccine will still need a booster shot in the fall to protect against new variants like Delta, and will seek approval in September for its boosters.

And Pfizer, admitting that its two-dose vaccine loses about 6 percent of its effectiveness every 2 months, plans to seek approval this month for its own booster shots.

So, a U.S. booster shot strategy is needed, to determine who receives them and when, and that is what the FDA expects to have in place by early September, according to a *Wall Street Journal* article appearing 6 August 2021. And that may be just in time for the people most in need of the additional shots: people over 65, the immunocompromised, and those who were first vaccinated in December or January and whose protection is now on the wane.

The *WSJ* article cites Israel as one of the countries that has already authorized boosters for its over-65 or immunocompromised populations. U.S. experts are still unsure whether boosters are necessary for the general population, but the incidents of fully vaccinated persons still testing positive for COVID-19 (even though almost none are being hospitalized nor dying), plus the vaccines' established reduction in effectiveness, may indicate a broader need for boosters.

The World Health Organization has called for a halt to booster shots until late September, because much of the world remains as yet unvaccinated. The U.S. is under pressure to donate vaccines internationally rather than use them for boosters domestically.

The FDA's booster shot strategy, when announced, will enable the U.S. government to determine who gets boosters and when, rather than let people decide for themselves and risk "confusion and combinations of shots that haven't been studied," the *WSJ* article concludes.

TRENDPOST: *Go back to last December when so-called health experts, politicians, and the media began selling the COVID Jab. The line was that after two jabs, you'd live happily ever after, COVID-free for the rest of your life.*

*But as we wrote in the 20 April **Trends Journal**, that line began to fade when the Pfizer Drug Lord said booster shots would be needed. (See [“PFIZER CEO: THIRD TIME IS A CHARM”](#)). We noted a CNBC headline: Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said people will ‘likely’ need a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine within 12 months of getting fully vaccinated.*

Earlier in April, Pfizer put out a press release stating its clinical trial showed the vaccine to be effective six months after a second shot. But the CNBC report clarifies that “more data is still needed to determine whether protections last after six months.”

Bourla also stated, “It is extremely important to suppress the pool of people that can be susceptible to the virus.” He said “it’s possible people will need to get vaccinated against the coronavirus annually.”

He’s not the only drug dealer CEO to be pushing the annual jab:

“The comment comes after Johnson & Johnson CEO Alex Gorsky told CNBC in February that people may need to get vaccinated against COVID-19 annually, [just like seasonal flu shots](#). Researchers still don’t know how long protection against the virus lasts once someone has been fully vaccinated.”

In line with Bourla’s forever shot proclamation, David Kessler, President Biden’s chief science officer, told a House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis:

“We don’t know everything at this moment. We are studying the durability of the antibody response... It seems strong but there is some waning of that and no doubt the variants challenge... they make these vaccines work harder.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: Also see [“PFIZER CEO MAKES WINDFALL PROFIT FROM VACCINE NEWS,”](#) and [“VACCINE DRUG DEALERS: PEOPLE PAY, THEY PROFIT.”](#)

WARREN WILHELM: ACHTUNG: "IT'S TIME TO FORCE VAX COMPLIANCE"



New York City Mayor, Warren Wilhelm, Jr., aka, Bill de Blasio, is now fully embracing vaccine passports, urging the city's private businesses to demand medical proof of vaccination before permitting access. He also called on all NYC employers, including

private hospitals, to "Move immediately to some form of mandate, whatever the maximum you feel you can do."

As reported on 6 August by reclaimthenet.org, de Blasio said that vaccine passports will "unquestionably be seen a lot more" in the near future. Speaking of his "Key to NYC Pass," he declared:

"This is what's going to be happening all over the country. Make no mistake. What we have put in place related to indoor dining, indoor entertainment, indoor fitness is the shape of things to come. You're going to see more and more companies do the same thing. You're going to see more cities, more countries, more states do the same thing, because it's time. And I want to thank President Joe Biden, who embraced this idea immediately, literally within hours. This needs to be done all over this country to stop the Delta variant."

De Blasio also claimed that there is widespread support for such mandates across the country, and that many other cities desire to emulate the Key to NYC Pass, but he demurred from naming them on the basis of his "respect" for how other individuals in power must rule.

"If people want freedom, if people want jobs, if people want to live again," Wilhelm said, "we have got to get more people vaccinated. Of course, this is the moment for whatever mandates we can get."

TREND FORECAST: As we have noted in the ***Trends Journal***, from "health experts to politicians across the globe, "freedom" now means you must comply to be free. Freedom of choice has been abolished.

In response to the 250,000 plus French citizens that took the streets on Saturday in protest of the coronavirus passport that is required to eat in restaurants, fly on airplanes, take a train etc., French President Emmanuel Macron declared:

"Get vaccinated. Get vaccinated. Get Vaccinated. It's a question of being a good citizen... our freedom is worth nothing if we infect our friends, neighbors or grandparents. To be free is to be responsible."

And of course, no one in the Presstitute media questions his statement. If those who chose to get vaccinated did so, then they would not be infected by those who are unvaccinated. Or else, why would anyone be stupid enough to get vaccinated if they were not protected? Moreover, to impose and enforce vaccine rules on citizens is anathema to freedom.

Yet, whether France or the U.S. the clowns in charge spew out what they want and the media whores sell it to the public. Indeed, this was not the first time New York's de Blasio invoked his bizarre assertion equating freedom with forced vaccination, as we noted on 27 July in ["DE BLASIO: FORCED VAXX = FREEDOM."](#)

RIGGING THE COVID NUMBERS



The New York Times, in an article published on 5 August, reports on figures announced the day before by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, which put the total accrued number of COVID-19 cases at over 200 million. That's more than the combined

populations of Germany, France and Spain. What's more, it took a year to reach the 100 million mark, but less than six months to double it.

What About the Death Numbers?

While the *NYT* article acknowledges that case counts are "an imperfect measure," given that so many positive cases are asymptomatic, it still paints the total cases as "a useful tool" for assessing the virus's impact, claiming that rising case numbers are often followed by surges in hospitalizations, which are then followed by increasing deaths.

What it doesn't acknowledge, however, is that the increases in hospitalizations and deaths do not appear to be even remotely on track with the increased case counts, even though it claims that "the number of those killed by the virus" is "staggering."

While the number of cases worldwide has doubled, the worldwide COVID death toll has not (see our April 2021 **Trends Journal** article ["IRISH CORONER: COVID DEATH COUNTS ARE FAKE"](#)).

The accrued global death toll is given at about 4.25 million.

To show that the virus is still "raging" and continues to "find a way to spread" despite mandates, lockdowns and so on, the article points to one week in July in which the WHO reported almost 4 million cases, 8 percent over the preceding week and ostensibly accelerated by the "twice as infectious" Delta variant; the death toll that week was 69,000. So (according to our calculations) the disease proved fatal for fewer than 2 persons (1.725 percent) out of every 100 who tested positive.

The *NYT* also cites Indonesia as seeing as many as 57,000 new cases in one day in mid-July, and 2,000 deaths in a single day twelve days later, bringing that nation's accrued COVID death toll to nearly 100,000. Not mentioned, however, is Indonesia's population of roughly 272.25 million, of which 100,000 is some 0.03 percent.

TRENDPOST: *The U.K., in which some 75 percent of persons over 18 are now fully vaccinated, and where—at least for the moment—most legal curbs on social interactions have been lifted, the rate of infection appears to have significantly slowed. Israel and Germany, however, alarmed at the number of breakthrough infections among those already vaccinated, are offering booster shots to older persons and those deemed more vulnerable.*

Prof. Robert West, a health psychologist who advises the British government, is quoted as forecasting that the world will be seeing "thousands, if not tens of

thousands, of deaths a year from this virus...in the same way that we see deaths from other causes."

OK, but how many of those "other causes," with comparable or higher death rates, are dealt with as much government control over everyday behavior as COVID-19?

NO "WARP SPEED" FOR FDA VAX APPROVAL



Many Americans probably believe, because of the way their government urges or even pressures them to get vaccinated, that the COVID-19 vaccines have the full approval and blessing of the nation's watchdog agency for such matters, the FDA.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The three vaccines in use have only temporary, emergency approval from the FDA, and just when full approval may be granted is the topic of debate within the agency, says an article published 5 August in *The Wall Street Journal*. All the paperwork is in place for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to be approved, but while that could happen as early as 15 August, many believe it's more likely to take until mid-September.

Polls show that three in ten unvaccinated adults would be less hesitant about getting the shots if the vaccine had full FDA approval. But **Trends Journal** readers know that there is still plenty of reason for such hesitancy and suspicion; see, for example, the February 2021 article ["STATS, SIDE EFFECTS & DEATHS."](#)

While the COVID vaccines were developed at "warp speed," the FDA tends to move at a much slower pace. While approval in mid-September is likely, it would still be sooner than FDA approval of vaccines under normal circumstances.

TREND FORECAST: The FDA's full approval of the COVID Jab will make it more likely for companies and federal agencies to make vaccinations mandatory for their employees.

This will in turn ratchet up the confrontation between the vaxxed and unvaxxed, while also accelerating the anti-vax/anti-establishment political movement.

COVID FREEDOM IN SPAIN



While much of the world is imposing strict COVID rules to live by, in Spain, freedom is first.

In Andalusia, the southern coastal region of the nation, the High Court of Justice has rejected a controversial proposal that would have required a COVID-19 passport for admittance to nightclubs.

As reported on 7 August by RT.com, the plan had been introduced last week by Juanma Moreno, the head of the regional government. It would have required an EU Digital COVID Certificate (described in the **Trends Journal** 13 July article ["EU RELEASES 'DIGITAL GREEN CERTIFICATE' FOR COVID TRAVEL"](#)) or a negative PCR test or a negative antibody test in order to enter any indoor nightlife venue in the region.

"Health Passports" Ruled Discriminatory, Unconstitutional

The court ruled, however, that to require such "health passports" was discriminatory and a violation of citizens' constitutional privacy rights. It's unlikely that the court's decision will be appealed.

Spain has, since the start of the COVID War, recorded 4.57 million cases of COVID-19, and some 82,000 deaths. Spain's 2020 population, according to UN

data, was a bit under 47 million. RT.com reports, however, that infection rates are now falling and the more infectious Delta variant may have peaked.

TRENDPOST: *Trends Journal* reported on 11 May that Spain was trending toward freedom, in ["FREEDOM WINS BIG IN SPAIN, SETS TREND."](#) And last month, as we noted on 20 July in ["LAND OF THE FREE NOT U.S.: SPANISH COURT RULES LOCKDOWNS UNCONSTITUTIONAL,"](#) Spain's Constitutional Court declared that the very strict lockdown orders imposed by the central government in 2020 during the first wave of infections were also unconstitutional.

Yet, this Freedom movement is barely reported in the western media which instead sells the fear and hysteria of the need to fight the COVID War and that true "freedom" can only come when entire nations are shot with the Drug Lord's vaccines.

THE TESTS DON'T WORK, THE REAL AGENDA BEHIND THE "PANDEMIC"



Trends Journal has, for some time now, detailed the flaws in the testing procedures for COVID-19.

See:

- ["'GOLD STANDARD' COVID TEST INTRINSICALLY FLAWED,"](#) Nov 2020
- ["FLAWED COVID TEST RESPONSIBLE FOR 'MASS HYSTERIA'"](#) Jan 2021
- ["PCR TESTS ACCURATE? THINK FOR YOURSELF."](#) 3 Aug 2021
- ["COVID CASE "SURGE" HYPE"](#) 10 Nov 2020
- ["WHO ADMITS: COVID TESTS FLAWED"](#) 26 Jan 2021
- ["COVID GOLD TEST PROVES TO BE 'WORTHLESS'"](#) 29 Sep 2020
- ["LEGAL RULING IN PORTUGAL: PCR TEST FOR COVID IS FLAWED"](#) 1 Dec 2020

Now comes another article that explains in relatively simple terms, just why the results from COVID testing shouldn't be relied upon, let alone be allowed to provide the impetus for more and more widespread government intrusions on people's lives.

The article appeared 3 August on OffGuardian.org, which has been around since 2015 and whose name alludes to its founders having been censored on and/or banned from the "Comment is Free" sections of The Guardian.

There's much in this article that bears repeating, and it's not just limited to reiteration of the technical reasons why the tests don't work, or to the puzzling aspects of the so-called "pandemic" (like why you can test positive and have no symptoms, why you can test positive and then negative on the same day, and why COVID seems to kill only those people who are already dying of something else).

And it goes beyond reminding us of some of the clues that should have raised more suspicion than they did (like the World Health Organization warning of the tests tending to yield false positives, tantamount to an admission that the tests don't work).

The article is not at all shy about stating that "the pandemic is as real as the tests. And the tests don't work," and that "The pandemic will never end because it never really began."

What really bears repeating is the way it dares to plainly state the how and why of the virus being used and exploited to manipulate behavior and effect fundamental changes on the world as we know it. In doing so, it doesn't dismiss the profit motive: "That the pandemic has been invented in part to sell the various potentially toxic non-vaccines is undeniable. Profit is part of the motive. Never underestimate the ruling psycho-archy's eagerness to make a quick buck."

But even beyond the profit motive lies what is seen as the true agenda behind the COVID War: "It involves the biggest wealth and power transfer ever

envisaged, the mass destruction of small businesses, home ownership, personal autonomy."

"All we know for sure," the article concludes, "is the 'pandemic' is a lie being used to promote the interests of the most brutal, crazed, fanatical, reality-denying sector of the uber-wealthy—and your safety is NOT their priority."

TRENDPOST: The motto of the **Trends Journal** is "Think for Yourself."
Off-Guardian's full article can be found [here](#).

RETAIL DRUG DEALERS CASHING IN



It should come as no surprise that the COVID War, while devastating to millions of lives and livelihoods, has been very good for others, such as CVS Health Corp., which operates the CVS retail drug stores as well as health insurance and pharmacy services businesses.

An article appearing 4 August in *The Wall Street Journal* reports that CVS's total revenues for this most recent spring quarter rose 11 percent (to \$72.62 billion) over the same period last year.

That earlier period, the *WSJ* notes, was in the early stages of the COVID War, when lockdowns were keeping people at home instead of shopping. The more recent higher revenues have also been helped along by the vaccinations and the more than six million COVID-19 tests administered in CVS stores. Revenues also rose in the corporation's health insurance business, but income declined because more money was paid out in claims.

But CVS evidently feels sufficiently flush to announce that, by July of 2022, its hourly workers' minimum wage will be \$15 per hour, so that full-time minimum wage workers would be earning some \$30,000 per year, on par with the two-thirds of CVS hourly workers who already garner that rate of pay. The *WSJ* reports that CVS joins Amazon, Walmart and other large retailers in pledging to pay \$15 per hour.

TREND FORECAST: *As the big boost for yearly booster shots get boosted by politicians, drug dealers like CVS can no doubt look forward to even more profitable quarters.*

However, despite the revenue boosts, the profitability of the COVID War for largely-retail concerns like CVS pales in comparison to that enjoyed by the true Drug Lords, the producers of the vaccines; see our 8 June 2021 article, ["DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING."](#)

GLOBAL HUNGER FROM COVID WAR WILL MILLIONS MORE THAN THE VIRUS



Since the COVID War was launched by the Chinese in celebration of their Chinese Lunar New Year in 2020, an estimated 4.13 million people allegedly died from the coronavirus.

However, scores of millions more will die not from the virus, but as a result of the COVID War that has destroyed their lives and livelihoods.

The World Food Program, the anti-hunger agency of the United Nations, said Friday that about 120 million more people across the globe are expected to face “potentially life-threatening food shortages” in 2021 than in 2020.

“I have never seen it as bad globally as it is right now. Usually you have two, three, four crises—like conflicts, famine—at one time. But now we're talking about quite a number of significant crises happening simultaneously across the globe,” Amer Daoudi, a senior director from the agency, said, according to *The New York Times*.

The *Times*, citing a joint report by the World Food Program and the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, said countries in Africa, Central America, Afghanistan, and North Korea all face the “economic repercussions of COVID-19 and the climate crisis,” which is expected to “drive higher levels of acute food insecurity in 23 hunger hot spots” in the next four months.

The report also pointed to the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia that has been ravaged by war. The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the conflict and its fallout. (See [“ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA,”](#) and [“MORE WAR CRIMES IN TIGRAY.”](#))

Last week, UNICEF warned that more than 100,000 children in Ethiopia could face extreme starvation in the next 12 months due to the fighting in the Tigray region. CBS News reported that food convoys have been blocked from entering the region and it has been months since one was able to make its way to the people.

Samantha Power, an administrator for USAID, was preparing to visit the region on Saturday. Simon Adams, the executive director of the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, told the network that Power's visit “sends a very powerful signal that these atrocities...can no longer be ignored.”

The *Times* reported that countries in Africa that have a history of being food secure have seen new cases of hunger emerge. The paper pointed to lockdowns that closed down food vendors that forced “some of the country's poorest residents to travel farther to buy groceries and shop at more expensive supermarkets.”

South Africa's unemployment rate is at 32.6 percent after about three million in the country lost their jobs, the report said. The paper reported that by the end of last year, 40 percent of those in the country have been impacted by hunger.

TREND FORECAST: As [*we have forecast*](#) when the COVID War was launched in 2020, the move to shut down the global economy in order to deal with the virus would create a global famine on a scale never seen before.

David Beasley, head of the World Food Program, in addressing the United Nations Security Council in April 2020, stated the economic shutdown “could soon double hunger, causing famines of ‘biblical proportions’ around the world by the end of the year.” He added, “Millions of civilians living in conflict-scarred nations face being pushed to the brink of starvation.”

Nothing points to the incompetent and immoral actions of political leaders and their health “experts” more than this issue of mass starvation, a direct result of the unprecedented global shutdown.

While billions of dollars are easily raised to finance the rush to a vaccine, which may never be effective, and while drones fly around searching for citizens not social distancing and police threaten fines and jail time for those not wearing masks, the UN World Food Program has to beg for money to keep hundreds of millions of people from starving.

And, again, virtually nothing about this global tragedy is mentioned in the mainstream news.

ITALY DEMANDS COVID PASSPORTS



Italy's cabinet has mandated university students and school and university staff to present a Green Pass, which is intended to show proof of either at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine or recovery from the virus within six months.

France 24 reported that the pass will be required for all teachers and passengers taking public transportation. The Green Pass will be mandated at all museums and restaurants with indoor seating. Rome has extended the country's national state of emergency until 31 December.

The report, citing local media, said that any employee who cannot present their cards will face suspension or have their pay frozen. The report, citing Patrizio Bianchi, the education minister, said up to 90 percent of school personnel may have been vaccinated.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on protests that broke out in other countries over these passes. On 3 August, in [“ITALY: NO GREEN PASS, NO FREEDOM,”](#) we reported that 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.

Businesses and customers who are caught breaking the rules could face fines of up to \$1,200, according to the BBC. Those in violation multiple times could be forced to close for 10 days.

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

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

We also pointed out that the initiative has received some criticism.

Matteo Salvini, the head of The League, said he has not been vaccinated. He blasted Mario Draghi, the former Goldman Sachs banker, who decided to exclude “30 million Italians from social life.” Salvini said he refused to see someone chase his 18-year-old son with a syringe while migrants arrive in Sicily without any proof of their COVID-19 status.

But, according to the ANSA.it article, “Salvini gets COVID jab,” the little League player was vaccinated in Milan on 23 July.

Fight's On

This past weekend, ANSA reported that thousands marched at an unauthorized demonstration in Milan to voice opposition to the Green Pass. Some wore yellow star badges that read "not vaccinated."

And as Politico reported on Friday:

“In the beach town of Alghero in Sardinia, a rebellious bar owner, Gianfranco Passero, hung out a star of David, with a message: ‘Since 1961, today, tomorrow, always, everyone can come in.’

The green pass is a deprivation of rights and a reminder of the segregation enforced by fascist Italy’s racial laws against Jews,’ he said.

“‘I am offering solidarity to those who freely and legitimately choose not to get vaccinated and not get the green pass," he said. He already had fewer clients that day, chalking it up to the unwillingness of people ‘to get a test every 48 hours just to go to the bar.’”

TRENDPOST: *Never is there a mention in the media regarding the inaccurate statements that are being made by so-called “health officials” and politicians regarding the COVID Jab and those who refuse to get it.*

For example, Draghi once said “Not getting vaccinated is an appeal to die.”

Is it? Who’s dying from the virus?

[Statista reported](#) that more than 85 percent of the country’s 128,000 deaths were patients 70 years and older. There have been 68 million doses of the vaccine distributed as of August 2021. There are about 60 million people in the country.

And, as with all these statistics, there is no reference concerning details of the 2.6 (on average) pre-existing comorbidities those who died from the virus were suffering from.

We again note these facts that the media, politicians and “health experts” continually ignore to illustrate how all over the world, nations have imposed strict mandates and rules on entire populations despite only a small demographic dying from the virus. And there is never a mention nor are their mandates being imposed to address and assist those most vulnerable to COVID 19 and the variants.

TREND FORECAST: *The COVID Pass mandates will negatively affect the restaurant, hospitality, entertainment, and travel sectors. This will in turn bring Italy, which had still not recovered from the Panic of ’08, into deepening economic distress.*

TREND FORECAST: *As we have detailed in previous **Trends Journals**, Italy’s Five Star Movement and the League—who had sold themselves as being anti-euro and anti-Eurozone, pledging to break Italy from the globalist dictate—has sold out.*

Both parties united by bringing in the former chief Bankster of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi to become Italy’s prime minister. (See [“DRAGHI: ITALY’S NEW BANKSTER PM.”](#))

Therefore, to fill the gap, we forecast there will be a new Italian movement that will unite under a Freedom banner of anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment, anti-Eurozone, and anti-euro.

MORE AMERICANS SUFFERING THE COVID BLUES



There was a jump in Americans polled in July who said they believe the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. was getting worse compared to those polled in June, a Gallup survey found.

The poll showed that 45 percent of Americans in July believe the virus is getting worse. In June, only 3 percent of those polled said they believed the situation was getting worse. The poll said that in July, 40 percent of those polled said the situation was improving and 14 percent said the virus was staying about the same.

Gallup reported that for most of 2020, there was more pessimism than optimism, but the current poll is the first time since January—when cases were exploding—that more adults in the U.S. were pessimistic about the virus than optimistic. The polling firm wrote:

“Americans now expect societal disruptions related to COVID-19 to persist at least through the end of the year, or longer. Whereas in June, nearly half of Americans expected COVID-related disruptions in society to last only a few more weeks or months, now just 17 percent believe they will end by then.”

The poll said 41 percent believe disruptions will continue until the end of the year, which is a noticeable increase from the 17 percent who responded in June.

The Gallup poll showed that more Americans in July were concerned about coming down with the virus than those in June. About 30 percent of Americans said they were very or somewhat worried about coming down with the virus compared to 17 percent in June.

“Worry was last higher in March 2021, at 35 percent, and majorities were worried for much of 2020 through January 2021, with the high being 58 percent in November,” Gallop wrote.

The poll showed that the greatest increase came to those who are fully vaccinated from the virus. The report said 33 percent of those vaccinated have expressed concern about coming down with the virus compared to 20 percent of those unvaccinated.

The poll indicated that while Americans are generally more concerned about coming down with the virus, they are not avoiding public places or making more of an effort for self-isolation. About 18 percent of those polled said they are continuing to isolate themselves, which is unchanged since June.

TREND FORECAST: Again, and again, the mainstream media only quotes those who support the government agenda while banning those providing proof and hard data that challenges them. And, as we continue to note, the mandatory vaccine push and Green Pass mandates will accelerate in the United States and across the globe.

This in turn will both increase the levels of COVID fear while destroying businesses, lives and livelihoods.

Presstitutes and politicians understand that citizens are beginning to see through their Delta fearmongering, so the focus will turn to the "dangers" the variant poses for children. NBC News, with a war record of being whores for Washington, already started the ball rolling by reporting that 20 children in two weeks came down with "severe cases of the virus" in New Orleans.

4WWLTV reported back in October that more than 20 percent of children in Louisiana are obese and the issue became worse due to school closures and other lockdowns. The national average is 15.5 percent.

The report pointed to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that pointed out that children "staying home, not in school, are sedentary behind computers. They have no PE class, recess and there is less access to healthy school meals. This is especially important as the shutdowns cause parents to lose income to pay for more nutritious groceries.

"There is very good documentation in the research, that children with obesity will develop severe COVID-19 complications," Dr. Melinda Sothern said.

TRENDPOST: *The **Trends Journal** has reported on the mass hysteria surrounding the Delta variant. (See ["SPECIAL REPORT COVID WAR 2.0: THE 'DELTA' BLUES,"](#) ["DELTA DYSTOPIA,"](#) and ["DELTA COVID-19 STRAIN IS NOW DOMINANT IN U.S."](#))*

And while the media whores, bureaucrats and politicians keep promoting the new "cases" the numbers are nowhere near the 240,000 cases per day in the U.S. that were being reported in January.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the U.S. is seeing a 7-day moving average of about 90,000 new cases per day, which is a 33.7 percent increase from the previous week.

However, according to CDC data, the moving average is 64.6 percent lower than the peak observed in January.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE: UNIVERSITY VACCINES REQUIRED



A federal appeals court on 2 August sided with Indiana University after eight students from the school challenged the legality of mandating a coronavirus vaccine in order to attend the school.

The *Associated Press* reported that a lawyer for the plaintiffs, James Bopp, took the fight to the U.S. Supreme Court. His argument is that the vaccine cannot be treated like traditional inoculations because of the newness of the jabs and the fact that young people have high rates of recovery if infected.

“IU is coercing students to give up their rights to bodily integrity, autonomy, and medical treatment choice in exchange for the discretionary benefit of matriculating at IU,” he wrote in an emergency petition asking the justices to act by 13 August.

This is the first test of COVID-19 vaccine requirements to arrive at the Supreme Court, [Scotusblog.com](https://www.scotusblog.com) reported.

The *AP* reported that the school announced in May that it would require its 90,000 students and 40,000 employees to take the jabs in order to attend school in the fall. The report said that students who are not vaccinated will have their registration canceled and workers would lose their jobs. The report pointed out that these students and staffers will be able to seek religious and medical exemptions.

On 18 July, Judge Frank Easterbrook, a district judge for the 7th Circuit, wrote that the university’s policy is constitutional.

“Each university may decide what is necessary to keep other students safe in a congregate setting,” Easterbrook wrote, according to the blog. He pointed out

that medical exams and vaccines against other diseases are normal requirements for attending college. "Vaccination protects not only the vaccinated persons but also those who come in contact with them, and at a university close contact is inevitable."

TRENDPOST: *The Chicago-based appeals court pointed out that in the case of the Indiana students, there are "ample educational opportunities" at other schools and these students will not be deprived of an education.*

The AP report also pointed out that the school has a vaccination policy in place that allows for religious exemptions. What ever happened to the separation of church and state?

Hana M. Ryman and J. Mark Alcorn, two educators, wrote in the Middle Tennessee State University's First Amendment Encyclopedia that the "first clause in the Bill of Rights states that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.'"

"Though not explicitly stated in the First Amendment, the clause is often interpreted to mean that the Constitution requires the separation of church and state," they wrote.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State point out that the policies "for getting a religion-based exemption from vaccines vary from state to state. In some states, it's as simple as signing a form; but in others, parents are expected to write a letter explaining their beliefs."

"A religious exemption may be granted if vaccination goes against the fundamental tenets of a faith," said Boston College spokesperson Ed Hayward in a statement.

Erwin Chemerinsky, the dean of the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, wrote in The Los Angeles Times against using any religion-based exemptions when it comes to the coronavirus.

“Religious exemptions, like in the University of California policy, are for those with “sincerely held religious beliefs.” But how can this possibly be determined?” he wrote in the paper. “The Supreme Court has said that religious beliefs are personal and it does not matter whether they are in accord with the teachings and dictates of a particular faith. Under this broad principle, any person could get a vaccination exemption merely by stating that he or she has a religious objection against it. Such an easy opt-out could make the mandate illusory.”

AMERICANS: RATHER WORK AT HOME AND EARN LESS



A new survey revealed that U.S. office workers would be willing to give up a portion of their salaries in order to keep working from home.

Bloomberg, citing a survey by Pollfish and commissioned by Breeze, an insurance company, reported that 65 percent of American workers would be willing to see their pay cut by 5 percent in order to continue working from home.

The poll went further and showed most would not part with more than 5 percent of their salary, but 15 percent of the responders said they'd be willing to take a 25 percent cut in salary to keep working from home.

The poll also found that 46 percent would part with up to a quarter of their paid-time-off and another 15 percent said they would give up all paid time off, the report.

The poll also asked participants if they would be willing to give up the right to vote in the next local and national election in order to stay home to work.

About 44 percent of those from Gen Z, which includes those from 9 years old to 24, said that they would give up the right to vote in order to work from home. Only 27 percent of Baby Boomers said they would give up their right to vote.

TREND FORECAST: *We had forecast this trend last year when the media and politicians launched the COVID War. Two factors are involved: remote working, and that people leaving expensive urban centers for suburban and exurban locations are unprecedented and would not have been possible prior to the advances of 21st-century technology.*

Thus, there will be a steady decline in overbuilt urban areas, especially in the commercial real estate sector, as we have detailed for over a year. And if businesses can lease less space, and workers are willing to take pay cuts, it would be financially beneficial to have them working from home.

TREND FORECAST: *Some 44 percent of eligible workers now want to make working from home full or part time 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.

Despite moves to change zoning laws to turn empty commercial buildings into residential ones, it will not replenish the loss of rental income from commercial

tenants and economic loss for retail, restaurant, tourism, and hospitality businesses that thriving commercial cities generated.

AMAZON PUSHES BACK RETURN FOR ITS CORPORATE WORKERS, BUT THOSE AT FULFILLMENT CENTERS MUST REPORT TO WORK



Amazon announced Thursday that it would delay a return to the office for its corporate employees to at least 2022 while still demanding that its workers in factories report to work.

“We will continue to follow local government guidance and work closely with leading medical health care professionals, gathering their advice and recommendations as we go forward to ensure our workspaces are optimized for the safety of our teams,” the company said in a statement obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The company, which relies on workers at their massive fulfillment centers, also announced that workers in these warehouses would have to wear masks starting on Monday in order to prevent the spread of the Delta variant.

The *Journal* pointed out that the move is a shift from its current policy that generally allows employees who are vaccinated to ditch the masks. Amazon reportedly said that it hopes that the mask requirement only lasts a few weeks.

The *Journal* reported that Amazon was already planning a new strategy for their workers’ return to the office and has not mandated staffers to be vaccinated.

The Seattle Times reported that Amazon’s decision to delay its return to the offices in Seattle raised “fresh questions about the pace of recovery in Seattle.”

Cajeton Mendonca, who owns three Saffron Spice food trucks in the city, told the paper that his employees “were looking to come back and work and now I have to tell them ‘no.’”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how damaging work-from-home employment has been for the economy in major cities throughout the U.S. (See [“OFFICE WORKERS' SLOW RETURN ENDANGERS LANDLORDS, CITY FINANCES.”](#))

One truck unloader at an Amazon facility told *The Times* that it is “frustrating” that the company would “protect their corporate workers [as] opposed to continually supporting warehouse associates.”

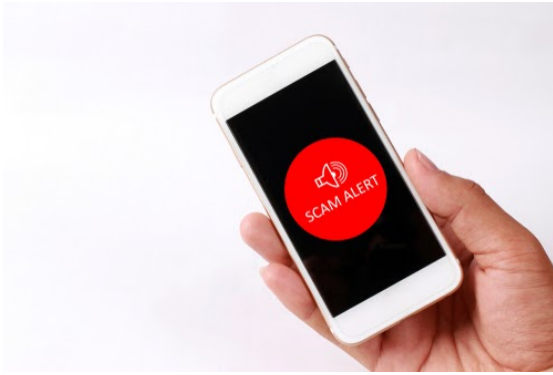
TREND FORECAST: *The Trends Journal has reported extensively on the move to remote working and the effect it will have on commercial real estate. (See: [“WORK FROM HOME=CITY REAL ESTATE DOWN,”](#) and [“REMOTE WORK=COMMERCIAL BUST.”](#))*

The more people who work remotely, the further commercial real estate prices will fall. In turn, businesses and transportation systems that relied on commuters will economically suffer, as will the workforce once employed in those sectors.

The shift to working at home will redefine economic ecosystems, especially in urban centers. Commuters buy lunch, gifts, clothes, gadgets, and other items in locales where they work; as workers stay home, downtown stores and restaurants will lose their traditional customer base and gas stations along commuter routes will see business plummet.

At the same time, owners of commercial real estate will face a reckoning as they slash rents to lure a shrinking base of tenants, forcing them to demand property tax concessions from cities that will struggle even more to maintain police, fire, and public works infrastructures.

SCAMMING NY TAXPAYERS? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT



As New York City deals with new business killing vaccine mandate requirements, reports of a poorly conceived vaccine passport app have surfaced.

A simple non-tech experiment by a cybersecurity expert rendered the app virtually worthless, and now he's raising concerns about NY's whole program.

Albert Fox Cahn of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project detailed how he successfully submitted a photo of Mickey Mouse instead of his vaccination card, as a test of the app. His maneuver was approved.

"The problem here is the heart of why they're saying the app can't be hacked is because the app doesn't really do anything," said Cahn. "It's not a vaccine app. It's a camera app. All it does is take a photo and have you click a little button to say that's my vaccine card. So I took a photo of Mickey Mouse, uploaded it, and they said I was good to go."

NYC authorities have claimed the app can't be hacked, but that doesn't appear to be the case.

According to Cahn, the app fiasco is only the latest example of poor technology being used during the COVID saga. He says he's not anti-vax. But he believes that the state commissioned app was mostly a publicity ploy, noting that taxpayers are on the hook for "\$17 million for this incredibly weak technology."

Many restaurant owners and other small businesses have already said Mayor Bill DeBlasio's vaccine mandates are set to put the nail in the coffin of their livelihoods. They say they don't have the financial overhead to employ people to check and verify passports, and pay fines for breaches. Many have also noted that their customers are likely to stay away, rather than comply.

While some pundits have predicted New York's example will be adopted by other jurisdictions, others are not so sure. Confusion about everything COVID has reigned at the federal level. There have been mixed messages regarding protection from infection, masking, vaccine efficacy, further lockdowns and possible federal mandates.

TRENDPOST: Average citizens are growing frustrated with the “truth of the moment”, wildly shifting vaccine narrative. Where other traditional vaccines for things like measles and polio lasted a lifetime, the new experimental mRNA and DNA “vaccines” are turning out to be even more ephemeral in their protective capabilities than the notoriously unreliable flu vaccines.

And despite suppression by the CDC and MSM, Americans are growing ever more aware of the unprecedented level of adverse events associated with the novel technology. In short, resistance to forced vaccinations isn't going away, and businesses and the entire country will suffer from a bludgeon approach to adoption.

*Targeting vaccines, especially experimental technology, to those most vulnerable makes much more sense, as the the **Trends Journal** has been pointing out since they became available.*

New studies are confirming old ones about the overall superiority of natural immunity for people who overall are not likely to face serious risks from a COVID infection. Sweden has shown the way to deal with COVID, without wrecking economies and trampling human rights.

But the billions going to pharmaceuticals, with cuts to politicians and MSM, and the promise of further lucrative medical dictates to come, is an addiction authorities won't easily quit.

FAUCI FUNDING OF WUHAN LAB BEING EXPOSED BY JUDICIAL WATCH



Judicial Watch has been exposing significant collaborations and funding dating back to 2014 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to the Wuhan Institute of Virology of China.

The info came as part of the watchdog group's request for FOIA documents.

The documents revealed in July show that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) awarded EcoHealth Alliance nine China-related contracts to study coronavirus emergence in bats, and that the Wuhan lab was the NIH's top grantee.

An email from the Vice Director of the Wuhan Lab requesting an NIH official for assistance in identifying disinfectants for cleaning of airtight suits and interior surfaces is also included in these documents.

In addition, a World Health Day announcement lists “successful activities” of the US-China collaboration, including “detailed surveillance throughout China and in other countries on the emergence of coronaviruses” and the NIH receiving influenza samples from China to “assess risks associated with emerging variants for pandemic and zoonotic threat.”

Chen was prompted to send an urgent “night note” to US government authorities as a result of this. “The intranasal nano-vaccine can target broad-spectrum flu viruses and induces robust immune responses,” according to the letter. The papers also contain a photograph taken by Dr. Chen of the Wuhan facility building.

Because the government only processes 300 pages of documents each month, Judicial Watch says records will not be completely examined and provided under FOIA until the end of November.

But already the information so far adds to what Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has drawn a spotlight on, concerning America's "COVID Czar." As the **Trends Journal** has extensively reported in ["BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI"](#) (18 May 2021) and other articles, Anthony Fauci has glaring conflicts of interest regarding his role as a COVID decision maker.

More on the efforts of Judicial Watch can be found at their [website](#).

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



U.S. GENERAL DECLARES U.S. “READY” TO DEFEND TAIWAN IF CHINA INVADES

How low can you go?

How stupid can you be?

AntiWar.com reported on Thursday that Adm. John Aquilino, the head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado that the U.S. military is the “greatest military on the planet” and prepared for any Chinese aggression.

“We are here to continue to operate to ensure peace and prosperity throughout the region, and we have to be in a position to ensure that status quo remains as it applies to Taiwan,” he said.

The report said the conversation drifted to the possibility that China might invade Taiwan. He said the U.S. is prepared for “any contingency” that could occur.

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the rise of China and its growing influence in the region and around the world.

In our 30 March article, [“CHINA TO TAKE TAIWAN: A MATTER OF TIME,”](#) we forecast that at some point, China, as with Hong Kong, would take complete control of Taiwan.

Our 2 February article [“CHINA MILITARY. READY FOR WAR?”](#) focused on the Chinese military conducting exercises that simulated an attack on U.S. aircraft carriers. We reported that the Chinese Defense Ministry said Beijing flew a dozen military jets into Taiwan airspace earlier this month because it was “necessary actions to address the current security situation.” They warned that those who play with fire “burn themselves” and “Taiwan independence means war.”

As we have long stated, the U.S. likes to talk tough when it comes to fighting in countries like Ukraine. But considering Russia is on one side of the civil war in that nation, the U.S. would not send its military to confront them.

We have pointed out in recent issues that Taiwan’s military has no chance against China, which spends 25 times the amount Taipei does on its military. And, with 2,185,000 million troops, and ranked the biggest armed forces in the world, Taiwan, with just 170,000 troops, is no match.

All Talk, No Action

The New York Times published a story on Saturday that said the Taiwanese overwhelmingly supported Hong Kong’s protest movement.

"Taiwan’s democratically elected government issued grandiose statements of solidarity, but when the Hong Kong escapees started to arrive, the same politicians did little to help. Taiwan could see a version of its future in Hong Kong and worried that coming to its aid too overtly would hasten that scenario’s arrival," *The Times* wrote.

They know the hammer is coming.

Col. Wu Qian, China's Defense Ministry spokesman, said in January that Taiwan is an "inalienable part of China."

"The PLA will take all necessary measures to resolutely defeat any attempt by the 'Taiwan independence' separatists, and firmly defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said, according to the network.

TREND FORECAST: *Despite condemnations when they do so, there will be no military forces from other nations that will challenge Communist China's military might. Indeed, America, with the largest military in the world, has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations such as Afghanistan after invading that nation some 20 years ago.*

Should war break out between China and Taiwan, we forecast the Taiwanese military will not aggressively fight back, since doing so would result in millions of deaths and mass destruction.

Aquilino has warned that China has shown a willingness to flex its muscles when it comes to Hong Kong, which could indicate its intentions for Taiwan, Stripes.com reported.

"That view of integrated deterrence is designed for the entire joint force to be able to operate in a synchronized fashion in all domains—as we integrate cyberspace and space capabilities—as we do it with all forms of U.S. national power," Aquilino said. "And as we synchronize those with our most critical asset—and that is our allies and partners. So, when we pull all those together, let me just say that I have a level of confidence that the U.S. military and Department of Defense is in a good place."

TRENDPOST: *How can anyone with a brain bigger than a pea swallow what Aquilino is spitting out?*

“Greatest military on the planet”?

What a moronic, imbecilic sick joke.

America has not won a war since World War II... and the Russians helped the U.S. win it. But of course, anyone stating this fact, which is deleted in the teaching of history in America’s schools and blackballed by the press which sold “Hate the Russians” from the Cold War following World War II and continues today with Russiagate, etc. ... is castigated as being pro-Russian.

“Greatest military on the planet”?

Read the current news of how the U.S. lost the longest war in its history... the 20 year Afghan War that cost hundreds of billions of dollars that enriched the military industrial complex, cost the lives of over 2,100 of its soldiers, destroyed much of Afghanistan and according the Watson Institute at Brown University, “About 241,000 people have been killed in the Afghanistan and Pakistan war zone since 2001. More than 71,000 of those killed have been civilians.”

“Greatest military on the planet”?

Check out the front page headline and photo of today’s Wall Street Journal: “Taliban Seize More Cities, Pressuring Government in Kabul.”

Yes, the tiny Taliban defeated the “Greatest Military on the Planet.”

And remember the “Troop Surge” ordered by America’s Nobel Peace of Crap Prize Winner Barack Obama, and how that would defeat the Taliban?

Not a word mentioned in the mainstream media.

The Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq War, Syrian War, Libyan War, Yemen War... Somalia, Sudan, Mali, Niger, etc. — the list of murderous wars launched by the United States and its allies has killed millions and cost trillions—and not one “victory” for the “Greatest military on the planet.”

ISRAEL BLAMES ROCKET ATTACK ON HEZBOLLAH, RESPONDS



Israel said it responded to a missile attack by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon last week, but the group has distanced itself from the initial aggression and blamed Tel Aviv of essentially looking for a fight.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel's military said it targeted areas in the southern region of Lebanon. *The Journal* reported that three of the missiles believed to have been launched by Hezbollah fighters landed in Lebanon and 10 were shot down by Israel's Iron Dome. The six other missiles landed in vacant areas in Israel. The report said Hezbollah said that it unleashed dozens of 122mm rockets in response to strikes from Israel a day earlier.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the shadow war being played out between Israel and Iran. Israel sees Iran as an existential threat. (SEE: [“ISRAEL TARGETS IRANIAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA.”](#)) Last week, in an article titled, [“ISRAELI-LINKED TANKER ATTACKED BY DRONE: IRAN BLAMED,”](#) we reported that an armed drone thought to be operated by Iran conducted a deadly strike on a tanker off Oman.

Israel considers Hezbollah its most dangerous rival in the region, but reports indicated that no group took responsibility for the initial attack. *The New York Times* reported that there were no injuries on either side and the brief conflict seemed to fizzle quickly. Hezbollah struck open fields that seemed intended to limit the response from Israel.

Hezbollah distanced itself from the attack and said in a statement that the missiles seemed to be launched by fighters in a remote area. Ajaj Mousa, a resident from Kfarchouba, which is in the vicinity of the rocket fire, told the

Associated Press, “We lived a similar period in the 1970s, when Palestinian fighters were carrying out guerrilla attacks against Israel. We are now in the same status and this is causing tension.”

The *AP* reported that Tel Aviv believes Hezbollah has over 130,000 rockets that can hit anywhere in the country. An Israeli official told the news wire that Israel is planning for more options after the recent aggression.

“To sit tranquilly in Tehran and to set the entire Middle East on fire from there—that's over,” Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told a group of soldiers near the country’s border with Lebanon, *The Times* reported. He continued, “Iran knows the price that we exact when someone threatens our security.”

Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Hezbollah movement, vowed a “suitable and proportionate” response to any future aggression from Tel Aviv.

“Our response was linked to the Israeli airstrikes that occurred in South Lebanon for the first time in 15 years,” he said on Saturday in a televised speech, according to *Al Jazeera*. He was celebrating Hezbollah’s self-declared victory in the 2006 Second Lebanon War against Israel.

“We wanted to tell the enemy that any airstrike by the Israeli Air Force on Lebanon will inevitably draw a response, though in a suitable and proportionate way, because we want to serve the purpose of protecting our country,” he said.

Nasrallah called the airstrikes by Israel a dangerous development but said he has no interest in war. The report said the last time Israel launched airstrikes in the country was in 2014.

The Times of Israel reported that Nasrallah said his group chose to launch the rockets during the daytime hours in order to prevent “terrifying Israeli residents.”

“We chose the [Shebaa Farms, which is outside the town of Kafr Shouba] farms because it is a military zone without any civilian farmers. There are other open areas with agricultural workers—we chose everything precisely,” he said.

The report pointed out that Lebanon has been “undergoing a spiraling economic and political crisis” in recent months with some “observers warning the ever-fragile state could collapse entirely.” *The Journal* also pointed out that Hezbollah is facing “multiple crises” due to the collapse of Lebanon’s economy that is “living through a once-in-a-century economic meltdown.”

The report pointed to the massive explosion in the Port of Beirut in 2020. The report said thefts are up 62 percent and brawls have broken out in supermarkets over bread and sugar due to hyperinflation that topped 400 percent. The World Bank reported that its GDP was down 40 percent from 2018 to 2020. The bank said it could take the country up to 20 years to recover.

Hezbollah is closely aligned to Iran but their ambitions “do not always align symmetrically, the Middle East Institute said.

“Hezbollah’s regional adventurism is most pronounced in its expeditionary forces deployed in Syria and elsewhere in the region, but no less important are the group’s advanced training regimen for other Shi’a militias aligned with Iran, its expansive illicit financing activities across the region, and its procurement, intelligence, cyber, and disinformation activities,” Matthew Levitt wrote.

“Together, these underscore the scale and scope of the group’s all-in approach to transforming from one of several Lebanese militias into a regional player acting at Iran’s behest.”

Target Iran

Tensions between Israel and its neighbors are high after recent attacks at sea.

Mercer Street, which is a Liberian-flagged product tanker, was attacked while in the Arabian Sea on 29 July. 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 U.S., U.K., and Israel have blamed Iran for the attack.

“All available evidence clearly points to Iran,” the G-7 foreign ministers said Friday. “There is no justification for this attack.”

The Times reported that tensions between Israel and these Iran-backed groups are at a high after the drone attack. The paper pointed out that there have been similar attacks in recent months that have not received international attention. An Emirati merchant ship was boarded by eight or nine armed men. *The Guardian* reported that “maritime security sources” blamed Iran, but Tehran has denied the charge.

“According to information from security sources, Iran’s armed forces and all branches of the Islamic resistance in the Middle East have nothing to do with the incident in the Gulf of Oman,” Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said in a statement, according to *The Guardian*. Iran said the allegations are an attempt by Israel to “prepare the public opinion of the international community for hostile action against the honorable nation of Iran.”

The U.S. Central Command released images of the drone parts and said evidence points to Iran. *The Journal* reported that officials from the European Union assigned blame to Iran and called it a “deliberate and targeted attack, and a clear violation of international law.”

The Journal reported that there was a joint statement that said, “All available evidence clearly points to Iran. There is no justification for this attack.” The paper reported that the U.S. could not pinpoint where exactly the drones originated but the distance “from the Iranian coast to the locations of the attacks was within the range of documented Iranian one-way attack UAVs.”

TRENDPOST: “All available evidence,” like the little vile of nothing that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, flashed at the United Nations to deceive the world that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Once again, the U.S. is ready to incite and support more wars.

Will Israel attack Iran? Read “Major Israeli Strike Imminent?” in the Featured Article section of this issue, by Daniel McAdams, Executive Director, Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity.

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.*

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



INDIA'S ONLINE-LEARNING AN INVESTMENT WINDFALL, SOLIDIFYING 'INTERACTIVE U' FORECAST IN TRENDS JOURNAL

Gerald Celente, who had forecast “Interactive U” online learning in his bestselling book, **Trends 2000** 25 years ago, accurately noted that it would become a significant new learning model of the 21st century.

Relative to India's online investment, Celente laid out the framework of how he envisioned education would evolve in the next century in a 2017 article titled, [“INTERACTIVE-U: THE INDIA MODEL.”](#)

He called the old-school, brick-and-mortar education system that got its footing in Prussia after the Napoleonic Wars—has come to the end of its useful life cycle. The coronavirus outbreak has shown that in-person learning can be replaced, which will only further accelerate the move to all-interactive learning.

“Interactive, online learning will revolutionize education...” he wrote in 2017. Moreover, he forecast that “the growth of the home education and Interactive-U

trend will accelerate rapidly once tele-videophony or other comparable multimedia-interface technologies become available and affordable.”

“Trends are born, they grow, reach old age and die. The Industrial Age education model is dying, an Interactive-U has been born. While still in its infancy and online courses have been emerging in higher education for several years, the India Model provides a future of education on all levels—from kindergarten through doctoral studies—that is virtual,” he wrote in a 2017 forecast.

He pointed to Byju, at the time an early-stage Indian technology company that combined videos, game-based VR/AI technology, and similar automated technologies to create effective Interactive-U educational courses.

The industry got even more attention after China’s crackdown on the sector, which has further cemented India's lead in the industry.

Charles Li, the former CEO of Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing, told *CNBC* that the Chinese crackdown should be a “wake-up call” for corporate giants. The station reported that Chinese tech companies saw a sell-off due to regulatory oversight. Indian companies saw an opportunity.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Chinese education stocks lost “billions of dollars in market value in the past couple of weeks as Beijing announced regulations that could wipe out much of the after-school sector.”

The Journal reported that Byju, which is backed by Tencent and Sequoia, “is India’s most valuable unicorn at a valuation of \$16.5 billion.”

The report said Byju may become public in the next 18 months, and there is clear momentum for these companies when it comes to investments. In 2020, venture capital companies invested about \$1.5 billion into these companies, which is about six times the level invested in 2019.

TechCrunch reported, “Scores of young startups have cropped up in recent years to tap the education market in India, where more than 200 million

individuals go to schools. Vedantu, Unacademy and Byju's lead the market, and younger firms including Teachmint and Classplus have reported accelerated growth in recent quarters as more students adopt online learning platforms in light of the pandemic."

The tech website reported that Byju recently announced that it purchased the reading platform Epic for \$500 million. Epic is based out of California and the move increases Byju's presence in the U.S.

In August 2020, the **Trends Journal** published an article titled, ["INTERACTIVE U IN THE U.S.A."](#) Celente had forecast an "Interactive U" movement in the country since 1996.

TREND FORECAST: *The Trends Research Institute, in making VR-ED a Top Trend for 2017, forecast the explosion of advanced virtual-reality and artificial intelligence technology would expand to educational and training settings, building a foundation for learning that will replace today's outdated Industrial Age education model with a cost-effective, high-reward, low-risk approach to education.*

That foundation has been built. And India has created the future that Celente had envisioned.

At the time that Celente made the prediction, Byju had about 500,000 subscribers and today that number has exploded to more than 100 million.

Byju, and numerous other interactive learning tech companies, are combining videos, game-based VR/AI technology and similar automated technologies to create effective Interactive-U educational courses.

TREND FORECAST: *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 now the norm.*

Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and die. The Industrial Age education model is dying, and the Interactive U. model is still in its infancy.

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

IMPOSSIBLE MEAT, POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS?



Well, they did describe it as impossible.

A study of so-called “Impossible Meat” commissioned by the company that engineered it reported negative effects in animals, after only a short time frame of consumption.

Impossible Foods, a California-based company that utilizes genetically modified components, has succeeded in getting Impossible Burger products approved for sale in many countries, including the United States and Canada, after some difficulties.

A processing ingredient called GM soy leghemoglobin (SLH) has attracted the scrutiny of advocacy groups including [GMWatch](#). SLH is added to the fake meat to help give it the look and texture of the real thing.

GMWatch recently reported that a study done by Impossible Foods demonstrated worrying results. After only 28 days of being fed “Impossible Meat,” rats showed signs of inflammation or kidney disease, and possible signs of anemia, according to a study analysis written for GMOScience by GMWatch editor Claire Robinson and Dr Michael Antoniou.

The controversy surrounding SLH hasn’t stopped Impossible Foods from efforts to get its products approved in other jurisdictions.

The Australian/New Zealand food authority FSANZ has already approved SLH for use in foods, and it is expected that Impossible Meat will soon be available there. By keeping the amount of the controversial substance to 0.8 percent, Impossible Foods can even avoid having it labeled on its items.

But GMWatch noted that there's an active complaint to the FSANZ approval, filed by Friends of the Earth (FoE) Australia and GeneEthics in 2020.

According to the submission, SLH has never been shown to be safe in food. In its natural form, SLH can be found in the roots of soybeans, but it has never been a component of the human diet.

Furthermore, Impossible Foods' SLH is produced from a GM *Pichia pastoris* yeast strain. *Pichia pastoris* has no history of being used safely in food.

FSANZ has not evaluated the safety of all of the proteins present in SLH. Given that even trace amounts of protein can cause anaphylaxis, FoE/GeneEthics' submission states, "We consider it important that all the proteins produced be identified, characterised and compared with known allergens."

In the EU, clearance of GM yeast-derived SLH is presently being reviewed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Impossible Foods filed an application for its product there in 2019.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

POSSIBLE CURE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Parkinson's Disease, a brain condition affecting 10 million people worldwide that degrades mental function and causes tremors and rigid muscles, normally affects people aged 60 or older, according to the Parkinson's Foundation.

However, over the last five years, the rate of increase among people aged 30 to 64 has risen by 50 percent, a spike for which no one has found the cause, insurance giant Blue Cross Blue Shield reported.

At least now, after decades, there may be a cure on the horizon.

A hallmark of Parkinson's is the loss of the chemical dopamine in a brain region called the substantia nigra.

Autopsies of brains from Parkinson's sufferers show that an enzyme called parkin is missing, which allows a protein known as PARIS to accumulate in the substantia nigra.

Too much PARIS keeps the substantia nigra from defending itself against damage by reactive oxygen molecules, essentially toxic waste from the body's normal metabolic processes.

Absent parkin, the reactive oxygen molecules poison the substantia nigra and it's no longer able to make dopamine.

An international scientific team working out of Johns Hopkins University used computers to screen thousands of substances that might deactivate PARIS.

In the end, they found that the best candidate is farnesol, an antimicrobial molecule common in fruits, herbs, and fungi.

When the researchers fed a farnesol-rich diet to engineered mice that had Parkinson's, after a week the targeted mice performed better on tests of muscle strength and coordination than a control group of sick mice did.

Brain tissue from the mice fed a farnesol diet also showed 55 percent more protective chemicals against PARIS and twice as many healthy dopamine-related brain cells.

The researchers are urging clinical trials to test the effectiveness and proper dosage in human Parkinson's patients.

TRENDPOST: Farnesol is found in foods but also is produced commercially. Levels that can be safely tolerated by humans haven't been established, but the fact that farnesol is a compound we already consume will simplify and speed tests of it as a Parkinson's treatment.

Once again, nature is pointing to a cure that can replace synthetic pharmaceutical chemicals, and their side effects, that have been the standard tool of conventional medicine.

Gradually, the catalog of natural cures is being expanded by credentialed medical researchers, giving physicians safer alternatives with which to treat a widening range of conditions.

TURNING HEAT INTO ELECTRICITY FOR CHEAP



Thermoelectric devices can turn heat wafting off of engines, industrial boilers, and similar sources into electricity.

However, they're too expensive to install under the hood of your car or next to your kitchen oven.

At least, they have been.

Now scientists at Northwestern University have figured out how to make a thermoelectric compound from abundant materials and make it vastly cheaper than previous versions.

A thermoelectric device lays one side against a hot surface—your car's engine, for example—while the other side is away from the heat. As the heat moves toward the cool side, it creates an electrical current.

Keeping the heat from making the cool side too warm has been the key challenge. Solving that problem has involved materials and engineering that made such devices far too pricey for everyday use.

After years of attempts, the Northwestern team has created a thermoelectric material from tin and selenium that can be processed commercially without losing its efficiency.

The developers need to continue to refine their material but the door has been opened to making everyday thermoelectric devices.

TRENDPOST: *The breakthrough can provide a timely new source of distributed or on-site electrical generation as power-guzzling tablets, smart appliances, and the Internet of Things become even more ubiquitous.*

DISSOLVING DISCARDED ELECTRONICS IN WATER



The electronics in every outdated smartphone, discarded computer, or broken-down toaster oven are a hodgepodge of pollution and toxins: cadmium, lead, mercury, polyvinyl chloride, and others.

Recycling electronics can be a laborious process of breaking open the cases, often by hand, and then melting components or using harsh chemicals to reclaim the valuable minerals and rare earth metals inside.

The problem is especially acute with smart watches and other small devices, which often aren't worth the trouble to open up and scoop out the little bit of recyclable metals and components they contain.

Engineers at China's Tianjin University have offered a solution: they made a smartwatch that dissolves in water.

The scientists devised a zinc-based compound laced with silver nanowires to connect resistors and other electronic components inside the watch.

They then embedded the circuitry inside a case made of a polymer that slowly dissolves in water.

The wearable watch resisted sweat and rain, but both the case and the circuitry dissolved in about 40 hours when submerged in water.

What remained was the screen and individual electronic components, such as resistors or capacitors, that could be reclaimed and potentially re-used.

If applied in a large-scale operation, reclaiming dissolved metals from the water could be practical as well.

TRENDPOST: *Using the same process to build larger devices, from tablets to refrigerators, would not only create new sectors in the electronics and recycling industries but also ease a looming dilemma: face a relentlessly growing mountain of electronic waste or pay a messy environmental price for conventionally recycling it.*