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TRENDS JOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS

WELCOME TO VAXWITZ

THE INOCULATION PROCLAMATION

TRENDS JOURNAL
HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

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WELCOME TO VAXWITZ

Welcome to this week's Trends Journal: WELCOME TO VAXWITZ. THE INOCULATION PROCLAMATION.

That is what life has become. As we quoted from politicians across the globe, they have made it perfectly clear by their words and deeds: No Vax = No Freedom.

And those who speak out against the COVID War are blackballed from the media—just as I was when I had forecast that America would lose the Afghan War. Here is a clip from the movie *Zizi and Honeyboy* that shows the price I paid for making that forecast:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoEbxoU0lBI

The woman playing my aunt Zizi, Doris Roberts, was famous for her role as the mother in the hit series, *Everybody Loves Raymond*. She died 15 minutes into the Zizi movie. You can see it here:

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4046250/

Now, some 20 years later, not a peep from the Presstitutes that the Afghan War that Joe Biden voted for and some 90 percent of Americans supported was a losing cause from the start. Instead they debate how the Taliban are taking control of their country.

We note this because this is emblematic of the entire system. Be it the Vietnam War, the Afghan War, the Iraq War ... or the COVID WAR, the masses march off to the orders of political freaks running and ruining their lives.

On the grand scale of trends—from geopolitics to socioeconomics, to EVs, Hi-Tech science, Technocracy, Survivalism, etc.—the **Trends Journal** covers the world.

Pace e Amore,

Gerald Celente, Publisher

COMMENTS

NEW USE FOR OLD MALLS
Conveniently now available for COVID internment [Green zone] camps? Camp FEMA coming to town near you. So freaking obvious....never let a [COVID] crisis go to waste. Seems like the ",unsophisticated & non jabbed" areas get wiped out. Incredible...just Incredible.

New subscriber to Trends Journal here... Good job Gerald & Gregory Mannarino & INFOWARS Alex Jones & crew.

Waking up the world.... Time to wake up the Lions and let Sheeple be Sheeple.

KEVIN KENNEDY

CLIMATE BILLIONS VS. CLIMATE CHANGE
The whole " Climate Change" scam is nothing more than an attempt to move Global Government ahead. World wide Carbon taxes, laws made by International bodies as opposed to the Lawmakers we elect, etc. Wall Street loves carbon taxes

as they stand to make Billions of dollars trading “Carbon Credits”

They’ve been pushing this climate change nonsense for decades; Global Cooling, Global Warming, now the catch all “Climate Change”
They want to kill National Sovereignty. Wake Up!

Why do you think they indoctrinate children in school from an early age about climate change? They do it so as the kids grow up they’ll have been so thoroughly brainwashed that when their Masters say to jump they’ll say; How High?

The powers that shouldn’t be, create these fictitious crises to scare the hell out of the brainwashed masses in order to push forward their evil agendas.

Tommyod

VAX MANDATE WILL COST U.S. DEFENSE
DoD is looking for Full Licensure to happen sometime in Mid-Sept., and quite a few of the people I know in the Military, who are older members with experience, have begun to ask themselves if their careers are worth it. If the Military mandates taking the shot, a lot of them are saying they may walk away. When experience disappears folks, then so too does the strength of the company you work with/FOR.

RICHARD ALLEN

IN THE MEANTIME
I like Lynette Zang’s encouragement to get out of the digital cash system the best you can. She has good practical ideas. She is all into long term intergenerational wealth preservation. The prices of her company are high, so shop around. She thinks the big reset hyperinflation period will be in 2023. Who knows, but the math and history shows it is inevitable.

We do need to prepare. I’m looking into solar panels, paying a friend to make me a big garden since I’m old and lazy, and being not over cash/digital weighted beyond having enough to be able to just get by for a year or so. And some foods and supplements and other supplies are as cheap as they are going to ever be right now. These sort of things are preparing in my mind. I’m too old, contemplative, and fun oriented to ever become a hard core survivalist. Quality of life is way more important to me than living super long. If both can happen, great, but life is getting more dangerous all the time. Making friends with mortality is also a great relief!

Richard Grimaldi

UN CRISIS MANAGEMENT
The UN: on one hand they promote economic shutdown and on the other they beg for food money. On one hand they support a polio vaccine that kills thousands and ask for food money on the other hand. On one hand they send troops into countries that murder and rape populations and the other hand ask for food money… The UN: who in their right mind needs them?

a1achiropractic

TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT

MARKET OVERVIEW

DOW, S&P EDGE UP TO NEW RECORD CLOSES

The Dow Jones Industrial Average and Standard & Poor's 500 index barely moved on Friday, but scratched out enough of a gain to notch new record closes for both.

The Dow tacked on 15.53 points to end the week at 35,515; the S&P nudged up 7.17 to 4,468, its 48th record close this year.

The NASDAQ finished at 14,822.

As the old saying goes, "You can't make this shit up."

This is a headline in the business section of today' *New York Times*: "S&P Hits Record Amid Rising Covid Concerns."

Despite the latest round of new COVID lockdowns, draconian restrictions and vaccination passports that will take a heavy toll on economies, the Dow and the S&P 500 hit new records yesterday.

However, it should be noted that it's summer time, and the living is easy. Thus, trading has been light, with many traders and money managers on vacation; on 12 August, just 3.4 billion shares were traded, well off 2021's average pace of 4.7 billion, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

With 86 percent of Fortune 500 companies having booked quarterly earnings stronger than forecast, Chris Zaccarelli, the Independent Advisor Alliance's chief investment officer told the *WSJ* that, "There's been a lot of reasons for people to remain optimistic," and that "I think the stock market moves higher from here."

"It's a quiet market but the underlying tone still seems fairly positive, despite background concerns," agreed Paul O'Connor, chief of multi-asset investing at Janus Henderson Investors in comments to the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *We disagree with the above forecasts. Again, considering the new lockdowns and draconian mandates to fight the COVID War 2.0, there will be a sharp market correction with stocks falling 20 to 30 percent lower by year's end.*

As trend lines are now forming, the deep slump may well begin between the middle of September to late October.

As we have noted before, equity markets have cast off their ties to economic fundamentals and are now cruising on a combination of the U.S. Federal Reserve's cheap interest rates and $120-billion monthly bond-buying spree.

In addition, when the Feds change course and raise interest rates and begin curtailing bond purchases, the markets will snap into a sharp reversal, with *investors rushing for the exits before prices tumble, igniting a self-driving bear market.*

What a Difference a Day Makes

As if yesterday never existed—a Monday that followed weeks of denial that the COVID War 2.0 lockdowns and draconian mandates would not have a negative economic impact—today, after falling some 500 points at midday, the Dow closed down 282 points. The S&P was off 0.71 percent and the Nasdaq fell 0.93 percent.

Snapping the 5 day winning streak, was the U.S. July retail sales report that showed a 1.1 percent decline... a steeper fall than the 0.3 percent drop economists surveyed by Dow Jones expected.

Doing the 180

The background concerns that were not heard yesterday were blared out today by BMO Wealth Management's Yung-Yu Ma. He told CNBC, "These challenges aren't going to go away quickly." He warned; "When we're looking at the expectations for consumer strength going forward, some of the edge is being taken off by the rise in the delta variant."

Yes, the rise of the "variant" shot was fired. We had warned subscribers that the launch of COVID War 2.0 would collapse equities and economies if it was fought full force by the arrogant, ignorant, narcissistic, sociopaths, psychopaths and pathological lying politicians... running a country, city, or state near you.

No clearer proof than New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian who, after imposing new lockdown rules and a $5,000 fine for breaking them, declared last week, "This is literally a war—and we know it has been a war for some time but never to this extent. The Delta strain is diabolical."

Yes, "literally a war." As we noted when it all began, the politicians and the media said they were fighting a war to defeat the virus... and they still are.

And we had accurately forecast that, just as the masses marched off to Mussolini, saluted Stalin and Heiled Hitler, so too would they obediently march off to the COVID War.

And as Anthony Freda's 28 April 2020 **Trends Journal** cover illustrates, "DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE BUSHES WARS – DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THE COVID WAR."

And it is not the "diabolical" Delta strain that is the most deadly, as Berejiklian claims. It is, as we noted with the rise in suicides, homicides, mental illness and drug overdoses... that are a result of the "diabolical" actions taken by politicians to fight the COVID War that has robbed the masses of their human spirit and will crash equity markets and the global economy if the War persists.

Total bullshit

We have greatly detailed the solid facts and scientific data in this (See "DOWN UNDER, UNDER MORE LOCKDOWNS" in this issue) and previous **Trends Journal**s that proves the numbers of dead in Australia, that were allegedly killed over the past 17 months by the virus, add up to next to nothing... and the vast majority are the very elderly and those suffering pre-existing chronic conditions.

Why is Berjiklian imposing these tough COVID War measures? Because she is in the ruling class of arrogant, ignorant, narcissistic, sociopaths, psychopaths and pathological lying politicians... running a country, city, or state near you. And with the COVID Vax rate at only 20 percent, she is pushing to sell the jab.

Doubling down on the destruction of the economy and human spirit and doubling up on excessive control of power... today, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden put the country on a strict lockdown after one man tested positive for COVID-19.

That's correct. One case—possibly a fake case since, as we have detailed in numerous **Trends Journal**s the PCR tests are highly inaccurate. (See "PCR TESTS ACCURATE? THINK FOR YOURSELF", 3 August 2021).

Yet, her Highness of NZ declares that starting midnight, the plantation workers of Slavelandia may only leave their dwellings to exercise, go to and from "essential" supermarket, "essential" medical care and going to the drug store to get a COVID test... and everybody must get masked up.

Thus, across the business and general population spectrum—except for the "essentials"—New Zealand and Australia will be going down economically, spiritually and socially.

And as with Australia and other nations that are being locked down and/or new restrictions have been applied when vax rates were low, with the jab rate at only 18 percent in New Zealand, the PM is also pushing to sell the jab.

TREND FORECAST: *"All things are connected, like the blood which unites us all," observed Chief Seattle. Thus, in making our economic forecasts, we note the above occurrences "down under" to illustrate the interlocking connections that will determine the socioeconomic and geopolitical future.*

The free spirit of the world is being sapped out of humanity.

Should the COVID War continue, hundreds of millions—possibly billions—of lives and livelihoods will be destroyed from the businesses that permanently close, the destruction of the education system that will discourage advanced degrees... and hostile social climate that will divide nations between COVID War hawks and COVID draft dodgers.

Thus, should these conditions persist, there will be extreme equity market turmoil followed by a market crash and widespread economic despair.

TREND FORECAST: *As goes the motto of the* ***Trends Journal****, while we provide the data, analyses, trends and forecasts, the bottom line is to "Think for*

Yourself." Where are the markets heading? A time to buy or a time to sell? For a view from a top pro in the field, read Gregory Mannarino's article, "Markets: An Extreme Paradox-When To Dump Stocks."

GOLD/SILVER: While gold and silver were hit hard last week following strong job numbers and expectations of solid economic growth that will push the Fed to taper its bond buying and raise interest rates, today gold closed down some $4 an ounce, closing at $1,783 per ounce... but it's up some $60 from last week's low.

On the silver front, last week it was at $23.34 per ounce. While down some 18 cents today and closing at $23.61... silver is essentially stuck in the recent low range.

TREND FORECAST: *Should the COVID War 2.0 continue to escalate as it currently is, we forecast a sharp decline in the retail, hospitality, restaurant, travel, convention, trade show and tourism and commercial real estate sectors. And, so too will residential real estate prices be driven down.*

And unlike when the COVID War was launched in 2020 and governments and central banks pumped in trillions to artificially boost equities and economies, this time around the cheap money binge will devalue the dollar and other currencies... which in turn will drive up the prices of safe haven assets such as gold and silver.

Thus, we maintain our forecast for gold to move above $2,000 per ounce and silver to more than double in value.

OIL: Read the CNBC headline: "Oil prices weighed down by weak Asian demand." No kidding...would have never guessed that weakening demand would drive down prices as nations lock down and impose more restrictions to fight the COVID War. Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate registered their fourth consecutive session of declines closing at $69.39 per barrel and $66.91 per barrel respectively.

TREND FORECAST: *Minus a wild card event, such as war in the Middle East, a natural disaster, etc., we maintain our forecast that 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 essentially flat, still trading in the $46,000-$47,000 per coin range as it has been since last week. The coin had sunk below $30K three weeks ago.

TREND FORECAST: *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 a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies will depend on government regulations.

Thus, the more regulation, the lower the value of the coins, the less regulation, the higher the prices rise, especially as more small time traders keep jumping into the crypto market. And what is also of concern in the U.S. now, is if Washington enforces proposed cryptocurrency tax regulation.

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

T-NOTE YIELD SLIPS ON INVESTORS' JITTERS

When investors are optimistic, they lose interest in the safety of bonds and sell them so they can buy stocks, which are riskier but offer higher returns.

When a lot of people sell bonds, bond prices fall as supply is greater than demand. As a result, bond yields go up to attract investors.

Conversely, when investors see economic clouds on the horizon, they flee stocks and shift money into bonds, considered a relatively safe place to protect value during economic storms.

In those scenarios, bonds offer lower yields because demand is stronger than the supply.

As a general rule, bond yields and prices move inversely to each other.

Early this month, yields on the 10-year treasury note fell to 1.13 percent, the lowest since February.

Translation: more investors are taking refuge in bonds as they grow more anxious about the economic future, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

"The market seems to be worried that growth is at risk because [the rise in COVID cases] is going to lead to restrictions," James Bianco, president of advisory firm Bianco Research, said to the *WSJ*.

The T-note's yield plunge highlights a dramatic reversal of market sentiment, which pushed the yield to 1.74 percent on the last day of March.

Now the Delta variant has arrived, frightening more people back into their houses and forcing many businesses to reconsider future plans to rehire and return to business as usual.

Government spending and the U.S. Federal Reserve's low interest rates and bond-buying have done much to keep the economy afloat and stock prices at or near record highs.

“You’re seeing a lot of people say, ‘I can’t buy bonds [because the yield is so low], so I have to buy equities [to make a decent return]’,” Amy Raskin, chief investment officer at Chevy Chase Trust, said in a *WSJ* interview.

However, the bond market is seeing a darker future as Portugal has imposed curfews at popular tourist destinations, China threatens Draconian lockdowns, and virus infection rates climb across manufacturing hubs in Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam.

“Setbacks in Asia could spill over to the U.S. at a time when supply-chain disruptions are already the most severe and widespread in decades,” Goldman Sachs analysts wrote in a research note earlier this month, cited by the *WSJ*.

Supply-line glitches already were slowing the U.S. growth rate below what the bank had predicted earlier, the note said.

Also, investors see an end to generous government stimulus spending: federal unemployment benefits are ending, Congress is more reluctant to enact new debt, the federal government will make no new rescue payments to individuals, and the payments made already have largely been spent, the *WSJ* noted.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *The bond market will provide a more reliable “canary in the coal mine” than stocks to give an early signal of the onset of a bear market.*

INFLATION SLOWS FROM GALLOP TO A TROT

The U.S. month-to-month inflation rate fell from 0.9 percent in June to 0.5 percent in July, the U.S. labor department reported.

The core inflation rate, which ignores the always-volatile prices of food and fuel, was

0.3 percent for the month, compared to 0.9 percent in June, the department said, which gives a more accurate snapshot of inflation's long-term trend.

Translated to an annual rate, July's inflation pace was 5.4 percent above that of a year earlier.

A key reason inflation moderated: after zooming 10.7 percent in June, the price of used cars edged up just 0.2 percent in July. (See "Used Car Prices Skyrocket," **Trends Journal**, 8 June, 2021.)

Those prices may be easing even more.

A price list from auction company Manheim, which tracks data ahead of the labor department, shows prices of used vehicles dropping 2.6 percent in July from June.

The rise in used-car prices may be easing, but it is unlikely to halt: the chip shortage that has slashed production of new cars probably will continue into next year, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, which will continue to buoy demand for second-hand vehicles.

Room rates at hotels and motels rose 6.8 percent in July from June and now stand 8.8 percent above rates a year previous.

The higher rates reflect not only the resumption of leisure travel, but also the lodging industry's difficulty in recruiting and keeping staff, the *WSJ* noted.

TRENDPOST: *A slowing inflation rate may be good news, but the bad news is that prices are still going up at a brisk pace—and will continue to, well into 2022 at least.*

Although inflation may be slowing, this year's price increases are unlikely to reverse: history shows that, once inflated, prices rarely come down except during deflationary cycles, which are a sign of economic distress.

And while an economic collapse will drive down prices, with governments pumping in tens of trillions to artificially prop them back up, currencies will decline in value, thus pushing up the cost of goods. Thus, it will be weak currency issues rather than the supply and demand issue that is currently driving prices higher.

CONSUMER SENTIMENT TANKS

Consumers' outlook for the economy turned its gloomiest since 2011, according to a monthly survey by the University of Michigan.

Consumer sentiment fell from July's 81.2 to 70.2 this month, below the 71.8 notched in April 2020 as the economic collapse was under way.

Observers had expected a consensus reading of 81.3 for August.

"Over the past half-century, the Sentiment Index has only recorded larger losses in six other surveys, all connected to sudden, negative changes in the economy," Richard Curtin, chief economist for Michigan's Surveys of Consumers, said in a statement announcing the survey's results.

Two of those bigger drops were in April 2020 and in October 2008, as the Great Recession reached its deepest.

This month's plunge is due to the rapid spread of the Delta variant and resulting strictures, travel shutdowns, and business limitations, CNBC reported.

"Consumers have correctly reasoned that the economy's performance will be diminished over the next several months, but the extraordinary surge in negative economic assessments also reflects an emotional response, mainly from dashed hopes that the [health crisis] would soon end," Curtin noted.

"In the months ahead, it is likely that consumers will again voice more reasonable expectations," he added, "and, with control of the Delta variant, shift toward outright optimism."

TREND FORECAST*: Consumers fearful of the future curtail spending; business owners uncertain of the economy cut back on hiring and investing.*

The surveys' results portend our forecast that should the COVID War 2.0 continue to intensify, the U.S. and world economies will decline for the rest of this year.

As a result, financial organizations will reduce growth-rate forecasts for the fourth quarter of this year, and perhaps longer, for the U.S. and the world.

UNLIKE THE "OLD DAYS," NO PLACE TO PUT YOUR SAVINGS

High inflation, low interest rates, and strong economic growth make this "a terrible time for savers," a *New York Times* headline declared last week.

Because a savings account is now earning interest at a rate below the pace of inflation, money saved is losing purchasing power day by day.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has tied down short-term interest rates close to zero and has shown no interest in raising them until some time next year at the earliest. That bodes poorly for savings accounts for the next several months at least.

Even investing in the highest-earning bonds now fetches a little more than 1 percent annually, less than a fifth of inflation's increase.

However, to earn higher rates, a person would have to venture into the economic unknown, with stock prices hovering at precipitous heights and a bumpy economy now beset by another surge in the COVID virus (see related stories).

"People who are risk-averse…have to get used to the worst of all possible worlds… watching their little pool of capital go down in real terms, year after year," Sonal Desai, Franklin Templeton Fixed Income's chief investment officer, told the *NYT*.

"Nominal yields are low because of how much the Fed is buying," she said, referring to the Fed's $120-billion monthly purchases of treasury, corporate, and mortgage bonds.

Considering inflation's brisk pace and robust economic growth, "it's ludicrous," she said.

What about a Treasury Inflation Protected Security (TIPS), which is supposed to defend against rising prices?

Last week, a TIPS was yielding -1.83 percent. At July's official inflation rate of 5.4 percent (see related story), your TIPS would fetch 5.4 percent minus 1.83 percent, or 3.57 percent—better than a savings account but still a third below inflation's level.

"It's hard to make an argument for fixed income [investments, such as bonds] at these levels," Rob Daly, fixed income director for Glenmede Investment Management, said in an *NYT* interview.

Instead, Daly advises holding cash.

It will pay almost no interest and will lose value against inflation, he admits, but it will be ready and waiting when better opportunities come along.

In contrast, investors in bonds can be locked into their purchases until certain dates or periods of time have elapsed.

“This is one of those periods of time when fundamentals are completely detached from reality,” Rick Rieder, Blackrock’s chief investment officer for global fixed income, said to the *NYT*.

“Real rates…make no sense relative to the reality we live in,” he added, calling the savings environment “surreal.”

For the medium term, Rieder recommends a mix of stocks, to take advantage of any gains that might help negate inflation’s erosion, and cash.

From the mid-1970s into the early 1980s, inflation was out of control, exceeding 12 percent in 1974, 1979, and 1980.

However, at that time, the U.S. Federal Reserve ratcheted up interest rates to try to lasso price increases.

Now, the Fed is wedded to rock-bottom rates until the economy and job market have recovered to an extent that satisfies the central bank’s governors.

One of the few alternatives is to invest in something that will appreciate, such as improving a home in a desirable area or building a business in a growing economic niche, the *NYT* noted.

TRENDPOST*: This may be a terrible time for savers, but Bigs continue to profit from artificially low interest rates, investors eager for high rates of return, and an economy toting both a horde of troubled companies and sectors ripe with merger and acquisition opportunities.*

The “hourglass economy,” with a top and bottom but no middle, becomes more real day by day.

Indeed, although the plantation workers of Slavelandia get no credible interest for money they deposit in banks, the Banksters charge them interest rates when they borrow money that the banks got for free.

COVID VARIANT SOURS SMALL BUSINESS OUTLOOK

We had forecast this would happen when governments began ramping up the COVID War 2.0 in May. Two new surveys have found small businesses' confidence in the economic future has plummeted.

The COVID virus's surging Delta variant is forcing six in ten small businesses to alter their plans and outlook for the rest of this year, according to a survey of more than 2,000 business owners by CNBC and Momentive Small Business.

In the survey, small business confidence is languishing at a meager 45 out of 100, the same outcome as during this year's first quarter and about 25 percent below the 61 rating reported from the first quarter of 2020.

In a *Wall Street Journal* survey of 560 small businesses, 39 percent of owners said they expect the U.S. economy to improve over the next 12 months, compared to 50 percent in July and 67 percent in March.
The proportion of business owners expecting conditions to worsen rose from 15 percent in July to 20 percent in August, the survey found.

Business owners' outlook for their own investment and hiring was its most pessimistic since March, the *WSJ* said.

More than half have raised prices and 61 percent plan to, either again or for the first time.

Businesses with fewer than 500 workers employ 47.1 percent of the U.S. labor force, the *WSJ* noted, and showed stronger hiring so far this year than larger companies, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Among firms with $1 million to $20 million in sales, 22 percent told the *WSJ* survey that their business already had been adversely affected by the resurging COVID virus and another 22 percent expect to be.

In the CNBC survey, a quarter of the general public has changed its view of the future “a lot,” the survey found, with 41 percent reporting “a little” shift in their outlook, and 32 percent saying current conditions are making no difference in their expectations for the rest of this year.

Forty-eight percent of businesses in the arts, entertainment, and recreation can survive another year under present conditions, the survey found, the lowest proportion of any of the sectors surveyed.

Complicating their future, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and other cities are implementing mandates that gyms, bars, restaurants, and similar venues require proof of vaccination for anyone entering.

Disney, United Airlines, and Walmart are among large employers requiring workers on-site to be vaccinated.

“Even with mask adoption and vaccine passports, the public’s concerns about the Delta variant could still shift as the perceived risk ebbs and flows,” CNBC commented. “Small businesses will have to continue to adapt.”

TRENDPOST: *Once again, as small businesses continue to go down, the larger companies will step in to take their place, their customers, and their market share, as we noted in “Bigs Get Bigger, Mom and Pops Go Bust,” in our 25 May, 2021 issue.*

DEMAND FOR HOMES COOLS AMID RECORD PRICES

The median price of U.S. homes held steady at $385,000 from June through July, according to the online Realtor.com.

That figure shows a 10.3-percent increase above July 2020's median, a slower pace than the 12.7-percent yearly gain posted in June, the realty website noted.

In this year's second quarter, home prices rose at least 10 percent in 94 percent of the 183 metro areas monitored by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the group reported. (See "Median U.S. Home Price Sets Another Record," **Trends Journal**, 29 June 2021.)

The median price failed to rise from June through July, in part, because more smaller starter homes came into the market over the summer, Danielle Hale, Realtor.com's chief economist, told *The New York Times*.

However, because of high prices and stringent lending requirements, "housing affordability for first-time buyers is weakening," Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist, said in comments quoted by the *WSJ*.
The price of a 2,000-square-foot single-family home was 18.7 percent higher in July than a year earlier, Realtor.com said.

Despite high prices, the housing market is beginning to slow, data show.

Active listings during the four weeks ending 1 August were 13 percent more numerous than during the year's lowest four-week span, which occurred in March, the NAR said. High prices drew more sellers into the market, giving buyers more choices, the *NYT* noted.

Also, “people who are more investment-oriented or who maybe already own a home have pulled back,” John Burns of John Burns Real Estate Consulting said to the *NYT*.

Many markets will see prices dip in coming months, though not dramatically, he said.

“It is just moving from super-hot to normal-hot,” Yun said. “It’s still a seller’s market.”

The real estate market also usually sees a sag at summer’s end as people squeeze in late vacations and get children ready for school, the *NYT* noted.

However, the Delta variant’s plague is likely to continue to propel demand as the shift to working at home prods households with means to move farther from urban centers or to less expensive cities, especially while interest rates remain low, according to analysts cited by the *NYT*.

The trend sent prices soaring in suburban and exurban areas and across the western U.S. and Sunbelt, with home prices in Austin, TX, up 40 percent year-on-year last month, Burns said.

Nationally, homes sold in July were on the market an average of 38 days, one more than in the month before, another sign of a cooling market, Realtor.com noted.

“It’s still going to be a competitive market,” Hale said, “but we’re going to start to see more balance.”

TREND FORECAST: *The housing frenzy is losing energy: the best properties in the hottest markets have been bought, more houses are coming onto the market, and more prospective buyers are waiting for prices to return to Earth instead of taking part in senseless bidding wars.*

We maintain our forecast that home prices will moderate somewhat and the current U.S. housing shortage will remain in place for at least three more years.

A 2007-style housing crash remains unlikely not only because of the ongoing home shortage but also because, this time, lenders have been much more selective about who they loaned mortgage money to and there are no Bankster subprime loan scams as there were back in the early 2000's.

However, should the COVID War 2.0 dramatically escalate, the Greatest Depression will deeply sink many sectors of the home real estate market.

As reported today, the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index reported that sentiment among single-family homebuilders dropped 5 points to 75 in August.

DINERS AVOIDING RESTAURANTS FOR FEAR OF COVID

Again, as the COVID War 2.0 began to heat up in May, we had forecast an economic slowdown. Today the U.S. Commerce Department reported that consumer spending in both retail and in restaurants declined in July. While still up and growing, restaurant and bar sales increased at lower rates than they did in June.

After seeing diners flooding back after COVID-related restrictions were lifted, restaurants are now seeing business soften as people stay away for fear of catching the COVID virus's virulent Delta variant, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The city of Los Angeles reimposed an indoor mask mandate on 15 July; during the week ending 1 August, restaurants there saw 17 percent fewer diners compared with the same time in 2019, according to mobile device location data from research firm Placer.ai.

The city is mulling a requirement that people entering public indoor spaces also show proof of having received at least one dose of COVID vaccine.

On 9 August, the city of New Haven set a new indoor mask mandate, saying that cases were on the rise and that vaccinated persons still could spread the Delta virus.

New York City's new requirement that people dining indoors show evidence of at least one dose of vaccine took effect 16 August; San Francisco has announced a similar rule.

Nationally, for the week ending 25 July, same-store restaurant sales experienced their worst week of the last five, analytics firm Blackbox Intelligence reported, also sales were still greater than the same time window in 2019.

Some restaurateurs are contemplating putting Plexiglass screens back between tables and marking social distances on floors, the *WSJ* reported.

"It's challenging," David Boenigghausen, CEO of the chain Noodles & Co., told the *WSJ*. "We're all tired of this."

TRENDPOST: *Restaurants are a leading indicator of economic trouble ahead. If diners are not dining out, other business from hospitality, travel, tourism, convention, trade show, concerts, and other socially driven sectors will decline.*

Weak restaurant sales presage economic decline for much of the overall economy. Indeed, even the big winner of COVID War I, online shopping took a hit with spending at online and other nonstore retailers falling 3.1 percent.

DESPITE STEADY DEMAND, HOME BUILDERS LIMITING SALES

Although the demand for new homes remains strong, many builders are limiting sales to catch up on building the houses they already have promised, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Low interest rates, the desire to escape cities during the COVID War, and newfound freedom to work from home has pushed home sales to record rates late last year and early in 2021, the *WSJ* noted.

The boom has led builders to run short of materials, labor, and available land to build on. (See "Home Prices Up, Commodities Costs Soar," **Trends Journal**, 23 March 2021.)

"To have someone walk into our models and to tell them, 'We don't have a house for you to buy today' is foreign to us," CEO David Auld of builder D.R. Horton told the *WSJ*.

"We're managing through a market that none of us have ever seen," he said, adding that Horton's sales slid 17 percent in this year's second quarter compared to a year earlier, due to a combination of shortages and the company's decision to not over-commit itself.

Some buyers are still selling on a first-come, first-served basis, while others are holding lotteries among interested buyers, the *WSJ* said.

Continuing housing shortages are likely to push prices beyond the record median of $363,300 set in July, according to the *WSJ*; the website Realtor.com has reported a median price for the month of $385,000. (See "Home Sales, Prices Still Rising," **Trends Journal**, 27 July 2021.)

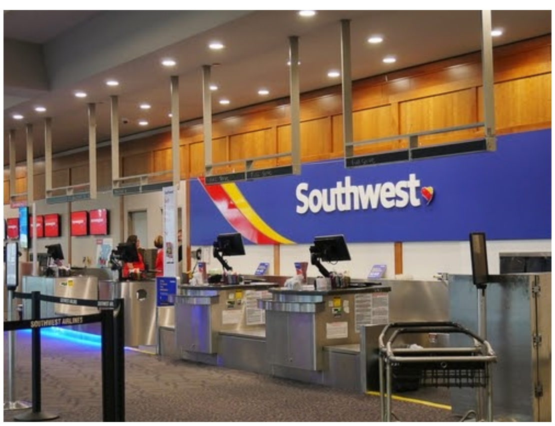
“Because builders are deliberately not selling, it’s creating a lot of pricing power,” Alan Ratner, a director at advisory firm Zelman & Associates, said to the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *The construction industry will continue to be burdened by shortages of materials and available land, and high prices for items that are available, keeping home prices at a premium until equity markets and the economies crash.*

As the National Association of Home Builders Chairman Chuck Fowke said to CNBC today, “Some prospective buyers are experiencing sticker shock due to higher construction costs.”

And the NAHB chief economist, Robert Dietz chimed in with a warning that “While the demographics and interest for home buying remain solid, higher costs and material access issues have resulted in lower levels of home building and even put a hold on some new home sales.”

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES LOWERS FORECAST



With ticket sales slipping and cancellations climbing with the surging rate of COVID cases, Southwest Airlines no longer expects to make a profit in this year’s third quarter, despite turning a profit in July, the airline said in a statement.

The revised outlook is a dramatic change from earlier this summer, when several airlines reported expanding their schedules and routes. (See “Vacationers Taking to the Skies,” **Trends Journal**, 8 June 2021.)

In late July, United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby said in an analysts’ call that the COVID virus’s Delta variant was not affecting sales and that “the most likely outcome is that the recovery in demand continues largely unabated," *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Airlines have begun adding fights to business centers after seeing an uptick in corporate travel plans ("Business Travel Rebound?" **Trends Journal**, 8 June 2021).

However, ticket sales have leveled off in recent weeks, hovering at about 80 percent of 2019's volume, according to the Transportation Security Administration.

TREND FORECAST: *The new round of Delta variant fears will not only slow the economic recovery in the travel industry, but also strengthen corporations' habit of swapping road trips for Zoom calls. And in a fight to win COVID War 2.0, today Reuters reported that sources told them President Joe Biden's administration will extend mask requirements for travelers on airplanes, trains and buses and at airports and train stations through 18 January. Thus, the more fear, the lower the number of travelers.*

As we have noted, softening ticket sales also spell long-term harm to hotels, airport retailers, and shops surrounding hotels and convention centers, particularly in urban cores.

That loss of revenue will ripple through city budgets, forcing municipalities to cut services such as police patrols and trash collection, making them even less desirable places to visit.

STATE STREET QUITS TWO MANHATTAN OFFICES

State Street, a $12-billion banking and financial services firm with $3.5 trillion under management, is vacating its two offices in midtown Manhattan as it allows employees to work from home much of the time.

The change frees about 500 employees from a daily commute, CNN Business reported.

The company is adding a shared workspace in Manhattan and giving its workers access to existing offices in New Jersey and Stamford, CT.

"To accommodate our hybrid workforce, we [are] ensuring that our realty needs are in line with where our employees will be working," the company said in a statement.

"Our NYC-area employees, including members of our global executive leadership team who call New York home, have welcomed and are embracing our hybrid working model," which was revealed to workers in May, the company's statement said.

TRENDPOST: *State Street is the latest in a growing cadre of companies, including Facebook and Twitter, opting to give up lease payments and call the Internet their new office.*

Clearly, not all companies are surrendering their New York office space; JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley, which are invested in commercial real estate and/or hold massive loans on commercial properties, already have ordered their desk jockeys to come back downtown.

*However, as we reported in “New York Office Vacancies Set Record” (**Trends Journal**, 13 July 2021), a third of leases in many large Manhattan office buildings will expire over the next three years, real estate services firm CBRE says. Many of those tenants have already announced that they will need much less office space, according to the New York Times.*

*Also, new buildings that began construction before last year’s crisis will soon be completed, adding 14 million more square feet of offices at a time when several companies have announced plans to move out of town. (See “U.S. Financiers: Bye, Bye Wall Street,” **Trends Journal**, 2 February 2021.)*

***TREND FORECAST:** We continue to see a bleak future not only for office landlords, but also for the shops, bars, restaurants, salons, and other businesses that form the economic ecosystems that depend on commuters.*

In cities with commuter-based economies, such as New York and San Francisco, tax revenues will slide as office buildings lose their value. These cities now face a choice of shrinking services and degrading residents’ quality of life, or entirely reinventing themselves and their revenue streams.

GAS STATION OWNERS SKEPTICAL OF EV BOOM

Gas station owners have begun to weigh the cost of installing fast charging stations—typically costing at least $100,000—for electric vehicles (EVs) against the risk of sitting pat on a fading technology: the petrol-powered vehicle.

The prime market for chargers is the nation’s 121,000 convenience stores that now sell gasoline and diesel, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

A fast charge would take 15 to 30 minutes and the stores could sell coffee, snacks, newspapers, and other time-passing items to customers while they wait to refuel.

Some chains are installing EV chargers in key locations to test the market and gain experience with them.

Other owners whose pockets are less deep have run the numbers and decided that the cost, in addition to the attendant expenses of tearing up pavement and closing some or all of their pumps during construction, makes no sense—at least not yet, the *WSJ* noted.

While president Joe Biden has called for EVs and hydrogen-powered vehicles to comprise 50 percent of U.S. new vehicle sales by 2030—and has earmarked $7.5 billion in his infrastructure plan to install a national network of chargers—alternative-fuel cars and trucks hold just 3 percent of the American vehicle market, a slight uptick from 2 percent in 2020, the *WSJ* noted.

“We don’t see an investable marketplace,” A.J. Siccardi, president of Metroplex Energy, a subsidiary of RaceTrac Petroleum, which owns and operates about 750 gas stations, told the *WSJ*.

“We’re perfectly OK putting capital at risk,” he said, but “we’ve got to have a viable business case.”

It has yet to find one, even after two years of research, he added.

Pilot Co., which operates about 900 gas stations in North America, has installed chargers at its 58 most popular sites.

The chargers are in use about 5 percent of the time, the company reported; they would need to be in use 30 percent of the time for the chargers to be profitable, according to Pilot CEO Shameek Konar.

“The economic case today for EV charging investment does not exist,” he told the *WSJ*.

Also, most U.S. personal vehicles travel an average of less than 30 miles a day, according to a study by the American Automobile Association.

A fully-charged EV can travel over 200 miles without refueling, a task that most owners accomplish by plugging in at home overnight.

In addition, many electric utility companies are contemplating their own networks of charging stations; gas station owners may fear making an investment that would put them in competition with those, the *WSJ* pointed out.

A survey by Murphy USA, which owns more than 1,650 fuel stops, found that its typical customer drives a 12-year-old car worth about $15,000.

The sticker price of a basic, all-electric Chevrolet Bolt is about $31,000; the starter price of a gas-powered Toyota Camry is about $6,000 less.

“Electric vehicles have to be affordable, which they aren’t,” Murphy CEO Andrew Clyde said to the *WSJ*.

Clyde predicted a long, slow adoption period for EVs, giving gas stations years yet in which to dispense gasoline and diesel fuel.

TREND FORECAST: *EVs face the same problem of affordability as solar electric panels: the operating cost is less than traditional technologies but the up-front price is too often prohibitive, even with state and federal tax incentives.*

Barring a crash program in which governments massively subsidize EV purchases and chargers, or place drastic bans on petrol-powered vehicles, EVs will need years yet to become competitive with gas buggies among vehicle buyers.

The breakthrough to mass-market appeal will come when battery technology makes significant improvements to ranges and charging times.

THE “BIGS” BRIGADE BUYING UP THE WORLD

Each week, we report at least one instance where the money junky hedge funds, private equity groups and the already big company swallows another piece of the global economy. Last week, we saw several and note them in the following articles...

POULTRY INDUSTRY SEES TWO BIG TAKEOVERS. Food giants Cargill and Continental Grain have formed a joint venture, owned in equal parts, to buy Sanderson Farms, a $3.5-billion Mississippi company ranked as the U.S.’s third-largest poultry producer, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Sanderson shareholders will receive $203 per share in cash, a 30.3-percent premium above the stock’s 18 June price, the day before reports of the sale broke in the news media.

By taking over Sanderson, Cargill will expand its U.S. poultry business at a time when demand for chicken is soaring, the *WSJ* noted.

Under the deal, Sanderson will be delisted from NASDAQ, taken private, and combined with Wayne Farms, a Continental subsidiary, to form a new, privately held poultry business.

The blended business will employ 26,000 people in at least 25 processing plants in the southeastern U.S. Last year, the two companies processed 7.4 billion pounds of poultry and together will produce about 15 percent of the U.S. poultry supply, according to the *WSJ*.

Sanderson has been a takeover target because it is among the best financial performers in the agricultural sector, the *WSJ* said.

Cargill, founded in 1865, is the largest privately-held U.S. company in terms of revenue, dealing in products and services ranging from human and animal nutrition to beauty items to risk management.

The $14-billion Continental Grain Co. owns agribusinesses around the world, as well as the brands Panera Bread, Dr. Pepper, Keurig and KraftHeinz.

In the second big poultry-industry merger announced last week, JBS S.A., the world's largest meat processor, will buy the 20 percent of Colorado-based Pilgrim's Pride that it does not already own in a deal that will value Pilgrim's, the U.S.'s second largest poultry processor, at about $6.5 billion.

Pilgrim's, founded in 1946, operates 30 processing plants around the country and dozens of hatcheries, feedlots, and rendering operations and has been expanding into the market for organic meat.

In June, Pilgrim's paid $952 million to buy Britain's Kerry Consumer Foods.

CHESAPEAKE BUYS VINE ENERGY FOR $2.2 BILLION. Chesapeake Energy, one of the original U.S. shale oil producers, completed bankruptcy in February and now has agreed to buy Vine Energy, another shale producer, for $2.2 billion in cash and shares.

Chesapeake completed the deal with help from Blackstone Inc., one of the largest U.S. private equity firms, which controls almost three-quarters of Vine's share.

When the sale is completed, Blackstone will own almost 10 percent of Chesapeake's shares, making the private equity giant one of Chesapeake's largest shareholders.

The purchase will expand Chesapeake's production from 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day to 600,000.

The company has pledged to distribute 50 percent of its free cash flow to shareholders every quarter, beginning in 2022.

Buying Vine will enable Chesapeake to expand its base dividend by 27 percent, the company said.

The combined $9-billion company will be a dominant player in the gas-rich Haynesville Shale, a formation in northwest Louisiana.

The formation is close to terminals being built in the Gulf of Mexico to export liquefied natural gas.

Chesapeake has pledged that its gas will be produced in accordance with environmental, social, and regulatory strictures regarding waste and emissions.

Chesapeake pioneered hydraulic fracturing in oil shales but was burdened by debt and rarely profitable.

The U.S. shale oil industry collapsed amid 2020's economic crisis that drove oil prices below shale's break even point. (See "Oil and Gas Company Defaults Still on the Rise," **Trends Journal**, 5 January 2021.)

The collapse has left struggling shale producers to be takeover targets: the industry saw $30 billion in mergers and purchases during this year's second quarter and analysts expect more to come, according to the *Financial Times*.

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM BUYS GERMAN PET SUPPLY HOUSE. Zooplus, a German online retailer of pet supplies, has agreed to be bought for €390 per share in cash, a total of about €3 billion, by U.S. private equity firm Hellman & Friedman.

The sale price represents a 40-percent premium to the share price before the sale was announced; after the news broke, the stock price jumped 40 percent to €394, the *Financial Times* reported.

The company's stock price has risen about 300 percent since March.

Zooplus booked sales last year of €1.8 billion, 19 percent above 2019's level, and its stock price has risen about 300 percent since March 2020, when people bunkered at home began adopting more pets to keep them company.

Spending on pets rose 8.7 percent worldwide last year, the *FT* noted, with about 17 percent of sales made online.

Zooplus has set a goal of taking 10 percent of online pet supply sales by 2025.

Through its new ownership, Zooplus will "gain additional sector expertise, hands-on support, financial flexibility, and the long-term focus needed to seize this unique market opportunity," Cornelius Patt, who will continue as Zooplus's CEO after the sale, said in a statement announcing the deal.

Private equity companies have been especially active in the pet market in recent years, as consumers have shown more willingness to spend on companion animals, from premium foods to comforts to fashion.

BC Partners bought PetSmart in 2015 and online pet food retailer Chewy in 2017; EQT in Sweden bought IVC Evidensia in 2016, which itself had bought hundreds of independent veterinary practices.

Hellman & Friedman manages about $50 billion in assets, including AutoScout 24, a European online car dealer, and German online publisher Axel Springer.

TRENDPOST: *Largely unnoticed outside the financial community, private equity firms and other Bigs are munching their way through the global economy, swallowing the most profitable opportunities—not by out-innovating, out-competing, or out-managing competitors, but simply by using the weight of their wealth to buy what they please.*

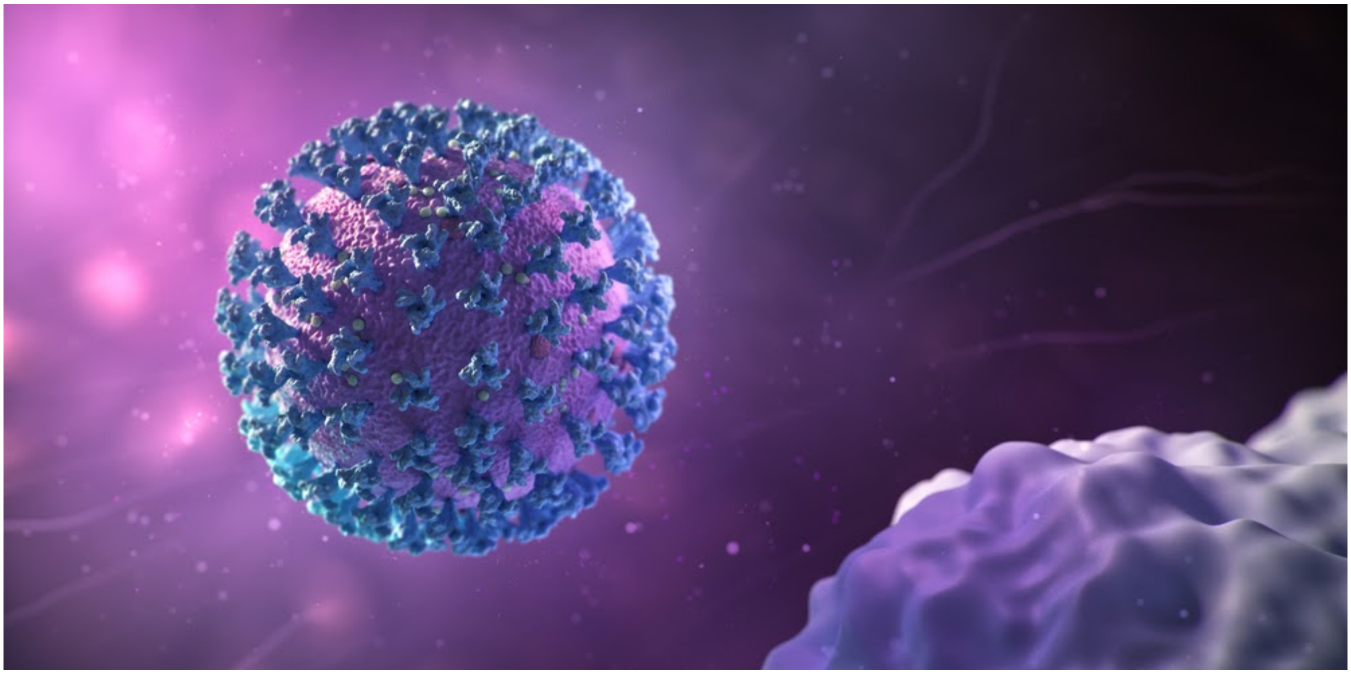
Private equity companies have made 6,928 acquisitions or takeovers in the first half of this year, their busiest six months since records began to be kept in 1980.

The more of the economy they own, the more power and control they can swing—not only in the business world, but also in politics and in influencing social norms.

With the desecration of the Robinson-Patman Act, Sherman Antitrust Act, Clayton Antitrust Act and Glass-Steagall Act by American politicians who get paid off with "campaign contributions," aka bribes and payoffs... the small business, mom and pops, local bank have been replaced by the few who own the most.

And as the Bigs grow bigger without limits, there is little need for advancement and innovation since there is no competition in the fight for market share. Overall, with a few selling the most, there are less consumer choices for wide varieties of products and services that would be available if there were more businesses in the sectors.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



OECD PARROTS TRENDS JOURNAL: DELTA SURGE SLOWING GLOBAL RECOVERY

What is old news for **Trends Journal** subscribers who were warned back in May that the launching of COVID War 2.0 to fight the Delta variant, has now, some three months later, made its way into the mainstream mindset.

According to data analyzed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) last week, the COVID virus's Delta variant sweeping the globe is slowing economic recovery among some of the world's major economies as more people avoid restaurants, theaters, shopping centers, and public transport. Again, this is precisely what we had forecast.

The group looked at figures on employment, manufacturing, retail sales, and wage growth in its 38 member countries, which include the world's richest nations.

The numbers show the pace of economic expansion is slowing in Brazil, Britain, China, France, Germany, much of the rest of Europe, Russia, and the U.S., the OECD reported.

China has toughened business and social strictures in the face of the new viral surge, leading some economists to predict that the manufacturing spurt that drove China's recovery could begin to reverse.

In France, people need to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test to be allowed inside concert halls, theaters, and museums.

In Brazil, food shortages have led to scenes of teens at traffic intersections holding signs that say "hunger."

Nations' economic recoveries could feel more bumps than expected because of the virus's return, "despite the gradual lifting of COVID-19 containment measures and the progress of vaccination campaigns," the report warned.

TREND FORECAST: *Analysts and institutions will reduce their expectations for global GDP growth this year. Fear of COVID, as much and perhaps more than the virus itself, will embolden politicians into imposing stricter controls than are necessary.*

IEA SLASHES OIL OUTLOOK FOR REST OF 2021

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has cut 550,000 barrels a day from its forecast for global oil use for the rest of this year, as several major oil-importing countries imposed new restrictions and lockdowns in attempts to control the COVID virus's Delta variant, the *Financial Times* reported.

The world will burn an average of 96.2 million barrels of oil daily for the rest of this year and add another 3.2 million next year, the IEA now forecasts.

Next year's predicted 99.4 million barrels of daily consumption will return the world's oil use close to pre-2020 levels, the *FT* noted.

"Growth for the second half of 2021 has been downgraded sharply as new COVID restrictions imposed in several major oil-consuming countries, particularly in Asia, look set to reduce mobility and oil use," the agency said in a statement announcing its revised outlook.

After adding 3.8 million daily barrels in June, the global economy shed 120,000 barrels a day of demand in July, it found, "as the rapid spread of the Delta variant undermined deliveries in China, Indonesia, and other parts of Asia."

China alone lost 100,000 barrels of daily demand in July, the IEA said, falling to 9.7 million, compared to 12.1 million in July 2020.

Global oil prices have slid 6 percent this month, the *FT* noted.

As the IEA cut its forecast, OPEC's long-awaited production increase of 400,000 barrels a day took effect this month and is scheduled to continue, month by month, until the cartel is producing as much oil as it did before the 2020 crisis.

(See “Saudis to Boost Oil Production as Prices Strengthen,” **Trends Journal**, 23 February, 2021.)

If OPEC fulfills that plan, and non-OPEC producers also pump more to cash in on $70 oil, the world could once again see an oil glut next year, the IEA warned.

Producing countries outside of OPEC’s influence already have boosted production by 600,000 barrels a day so far this year; the IEA expects that figure to rise to 1.7 million by January.

With U.S. gasoline prices pushing past $3 a gallon, the Biden administration has called on OPEC to boost production further to tamp down prices in aid of the global economic recovery.

However, “we imagine there will be a lot of reluctance from the Saudis and the broader [OPEC] group to increase output further, particularly given continued uncertainty over the spread of the Delta variant,” Warren Patterson, ING’s chief commodities strategist, told the *FT*.

TRENDPOST: *A looming oil glut and the possibility of falling prices is yet another sign that the economic recovery may stall. Yet, stock prices continue to push higher, another sign that equity markets are detached from economic realities.*

When markets disconnect from fundamental realities, their movements become unpredictable, turning them from investment venues into gambling dens.

TREND FORECAST: *If oil prices fall below $65 and remain there, the likelihood grows that OPEC+ will cut back production to raise prices, a move that would spur inflation and cast additional doubt over the world’s economic recovery.*

EUROPEAN STOCKS LOG RECORD RUN

The pan-European Stoxx Europe 600 index gained another 0.2 percent on 13 August to notch its 10th consecutive record high in as many sessions, a record unmatched since at least 1990, the *Financial Times* reported.

Consumer and financial stocks led gainers.

Earnings reports on the continent so far have averaged 11 percent above expectations, according to Goldman Sachs data; more than half of companies reporting have surpassed predictions by at least 5 percent, the *FT* said.

After 2008, amid the Great Recession, Europe's earnings per share needed 11 years to return to pre-crash levels; "now earnings are easily above" 2019's peak, Goldman Sachs' European strategist Sharon Bell told the *FT*.

"Europe has had no banking crisis, no debt crisis" during the COVID War, she noted. "European equities have done just as well as the U.S. this year." (See "European Union's Recovery Outlook Improves," **Trends Journal**, 16 February, 2021.)

TREND FORECAST: *Europe imposed severe, long-lasting lockdowns in 2020 and several countries were slow to lift them this year.*

And now, as we have detailed in this and other ***Trends Journals****, with a slew of vaccine passport rules that limit business and an array of travel restrictions that will cripple the already slowing tourist sector, we forecast an economic downturn, not an uptick, in the Eurozone.*

COVID WAR 2.O HITS ASIAN EQUITIES

Asian share prices fared less well than Europe's as the Delta variant has spread through the region, largely under the weight of China's new restrictions on movement.

In addition to cracking down on its tech sector, China also had imposed a "zero tolerance" policy regarding COVID's Delta version, which spurred authorities to close down one terminal at the world's third largest port after a single case of the virus was found there.

"The leadership views the economic cost of the zero-tolerance policy as manageable and much preferable to the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19," China analyst Ernan Cui at Gavekal Research, told the *Financial Times*.

"That means domestic travel and consumer services will continue to be depressed by restrictive measures for at least the rest of 2021 and that prospects for reopening international travel are remote at best," he said.

TREND FORECAST: *We agree with the analysis and forecasts made by Eran Cui. We suggest it is illogical to expect economies to grow as governments impose draconian restrictions. That China would close down a major shipping terminal because a worker had tested positive for the coronavirus not only seems illogical, but it will also negatively affect the supply chain which will in turn drive up prices and inflation.*

SKIES NOT CLEARING FOR CATHAY PACIFIC

Due to “restrictions and quarantine requirements in Hong Kong and many of our key markets,” Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific airline, a carrier with no domestic market, is unable to predict when its financial troubles will end and must wait for other countries, especially China, to reopen their borders to travelers, board chair Patrick Healy said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*. (See “Long-Haul Air Travel Recovery Still Not Lifting Off,” **Trends Journal**, 22 June, 2021.)

The carrier reported losing HK$7.6 billion in the first six months of this year, after losing HK$9.9 billion during the same period in 2019, although a strong cargo business helped moderate the loss.

“Unlike many of our global peers, who have seen encouraging signs of recovery in some domestic markets, Cathay Pacific remains wholly dependent on cross-border air travel,” Healy said.

The airline hopes to be flying at 30 percent of capacity in this year’s final quarter, but that depends “on operational and passenger travel restrictions being lifted,” he added.

In the first half of this year, Cathay Pacific flew 47 percent of its cargo capacity, the company reported, but only 5 percent of passenger capacity, with passenger revenues down more than 92 percent compared to the first half of 2019.

Hong Kong’s vaccination campaign faced strong hesitancy early on and authorities left business and travel restrictions in place longer than many other locales did.

Also, Hong Kong must persuade mainland China's government to reopen its borders to travel, an unpredictable proposition.

Singapore Airlines, also lacking a domestic market but facing less stringent government restrictions, reported flying 28 percent of its passenger capacity by the end of June, the *FT* said.

TREND FORECAST: *The increasing emphasis on vaccine passports and negative COVID tests—plus the Delta variant fear spreading among the masses—will continue to weigh on airlines' sales, delaying the sector's return to positive cash flow even longer.*

SHIPPER BOOKS TENFOLD INCREASE IN NET PROFITS

Global shipping giant Hapag-Lloyd reported a tenfold increase in net profits during this year's first six months, year over year, to €2.7 billion, almost triple the company's net profit of €977 million booked over the past ten years, the *Financial Times* reported.

Shipping costs have skyrocketed over the past 16 months as containers have been in short supply and ships have been queued, sometimes for weeks, at overwhelmed ports partially locked down by virus-related government mandates.

At the beginning of this month, the daily rate to load and send a 40-foot container on the most popular routes had soared to $18,346, compared to $1,550 in July 2020, and now exceeds $20,000, the *FT* said. (See "The Global Economy is All About Inflation Now," **Trends Journal**, 3 August, 2021.)

In contrast, Hapag-Lloyd's average cost for a 20-foot container was $1,612 during the first six months of this year, up 46 percent from a year before.

Hapag-Lloyd and rival Moller-Maersk, the world's largest shipping line, have both reported recent windfall profits and have raised their outlook for the rest of this year.

Hapag has predicted its annual gross earnings this year will fall between €7.5 billion and €9.5 billion, again better than the previous ten years' results combined.

The closure of one terminal at the Chinese port of Ningbo, the world's third busiest ocean terminal, after one worker tested positive for the COVID virus portends even more weeks, and perhaps months, of choked supply chains, the *FT* noted.

"Looking at the market environment today, we do not believe that the situation will return to normal any time soon," Hapag CEO Habben Jansen said in comments quoted by the *FT*.

"We expect the situation to ease in the first quarter of 2022 at the earliest," he said.

TRENDPOST: *A tenfold increase in net profits during a year of global crisis could be seen as price-gouging, otherwise known as "charging what the market will bear."*

The continued snarl in global supply chains, now dealing again with travel restrictions and closed port terminals, may well help keep inflation's rate strong into 2022.

Again, what may bring down prices is a sudden equity market crash. However, inflation may still spike as governments flood markets and economies with cheap money which will in turn lower the value of currencies. Thus, the lower *currencies fall, the more it costs to purchase products and services... which equals inflation.*

CHINA'S CONSUMER ECONOMY LOSING MOMENTUM

China's retail sales gained 8.5 percent in July from a year earlier, disappointing analysts polled by Reuters who had forecast a median rise of 11.5 percent, CNBC reported.

"The impact of multiple factors including the growing external uncertainties and the domestic COVID-19 epidemic and flooding situation" around China weakened consumer spending, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement, adding that the nation's "economic recovery is still unstable and uneven."

Passenger vehicle sales were the only spending category that shrank, dropping 1.8 percent year over year.

Urban unemployment stood at 5.1 percent; 16.2 percent of people ages 16 to 24 remained jobless.

Factory output added 6.4 percent in July compared to a year earlier, also short of Reuters analysts' forecast of 7.8 percent.

Fixed asset investment for the first seven months of the year also lagged expectations, rising 10.3 percent instead of the 11.3 percent predicted.

Economists are now scaling back their outlook for China's economy this year, due in large part to China's "zero-tolerance policy" regarding COVID infections, setting off a new round of lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Earlier this month, the government shut one terminal at the world's third-busiest port when a single worker tested positive for the virus. (See related story.)

Goldman Sachs now predicts an 8.3-percent expansion of China's GDP this year, no longer the 8.6 percent it had expected; Nomura sees 8.2 percent instead of its earlier forecast of 8.9 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *Although China's economy is slowing, the slowdown is in proportion to that which is underway across the rest of the world.*

Most importantly, as goes China, so goes much of the world. If its export market dramatically slows it is a blaring signal that the entire world economy is slowing down since more countries will be buying less.

And as go exports, so too go imports. If the Chinese consumers slow down purchases of imported products, it will also push the GDPs down among nations and the profit margins of businesses that depend on exporting to China.

However, we maintain our forecast that China's economy will replace the U.S.'s as the world's dominant economy. In the past, we have predicted that the U.S economy will be dethroned before 2030; the ongoing COVID infections may push that date back a few years.

CHINA'S EV SALES SURGE IN JULY

July's sales in China of alternative-fuel vehicles, including hybrids, all-electrics, and hydrogen fuel-cell cars and trucks, jumped 164 percent year over year to 271,000 units, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers reported.

Those vehicles made up 10 percent of all passenger vehicles sold in China for the month, even though wholesale deliveries sank 12 percent in July, year over year, to 1.9 million units.

So-called “new energy vehicles” will make up 13 percent of all passenger vehicles sold in China this year, the association has predicted.

However, Tesla sold only 8,621 cars in China last month, 69 percent fewer than in June and 26 percent less than the same month a year ago.

The company has been battered recently by consumer complaints regarding quality problems and also by China’s toughened stance on tech companies, in Tesla’s case raising concerns that the cars’ onboard cameras compromise individuals’ privacy, the *Financial Times* reported.

In contrast, alternative-fuel vehicles made by Chinese firm BYD, backed by Warren Buffet, booked sales of 50,492 last month, tripling sales from July 2020.

Chinese makers Xpeng and Li Auto reported record year-on-year sales last month of 8,040 and 8,589 units, respectively.

TREND FORECAST: *One advantage of a centralized economy is the ability to direct national resources toward one economic sector and away from another. China has emphasized EV production, putting more than 300 models in its showrooms in 2020.*

By 2030, China will lead the world in EV manufacture and exports.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS

MARKETS: AN EXTREME PARADOX—WHEN TO DUMP STOCKS

By Gregory Mannarino TradersChoice.net

If you are a follower of my work here in the **Trends Journal**, then you are already aware of the epic distortions which are now occurring in the financial markets. For some time I have been detailing for you how, in the face of everything being thrown at this market, **stocks would continue to hit record high after record high.**

Just last week the S&P 500 hit a series of new record highs despite round after round of abysmal economic news. In fact, in the many articles I have written for the **Trends Journal** and in my own work, I have stated that if the bad economic news keeps coming, one should expect this record run in the stock market to continue.

Today's market is completely disconnected from the economy—and there is the paradox. Even during the deliberate shutdown of the economy at the previous height of the scamdemic, which wiped out 60 percent of U.S. small business, stocks hit a series of record highs.

The driver here is exploding debt and a hideous merger between corporate entities and this new government system here in the United States.

The bad economic news is a guarantee to the market that the Fed will continue buying assets, moreover, it is also a guarantee that the US debt to GDP ratio will continue to get much worse—**as a percentage of GDP the U.S. economy is contracting rapidly, and this as well is fueling a stock market bubble.**

The value of the U.S. equity/stock market is derived from four factors:

1. **The debt market.** The debt market is a hyper-bubble. It is continuing to be fueled by the Fed, along with other central banks, including the IMF (International Monetary Fund) **which is issuing record amounts of their currency called SDR's—a default/supplemental reserve currency.**

2. **The U.S. Dollar.** The U.S. stock market is dependent on a weak dollar, as are commodities which are priced in U.S. Dollars—henceforth why the Fed is deliberately creating inflation attempting to weaken the dollar.

3. **Crude oil.** Crude oil IS the lifeblood of the market. The entire energy sector and financial sectors of the market are dependent on the price of crude being high.

4. **The Federal Reserve's balance sheet.** If the balance sheet of the Federal Reserve continues to balloon, stocks will gain. The Federal Reserve balance sheet is now over $8.5 Trillion and going much higher.

Today equity prices act independent of PE ratios, forward guidance, earnings, valuations, etc. Instead, the price action of the market is dictated, and derives value from, the above four factors I listed.

Therefore, the stock market itself is a derivative.

The paradox, or a stock market which will propel higher as the economy continues to freefall, will continue… until it doesn't. But there are clues.

By understanding the four factors driving the market we can stay ahead of the moment of reckoning, a stock market crash which will occur because of the massive distortions which now exist.

If these four drivers continue their current trend, the stock market will gain.

The biggest clue to when a real stock market meltdown will occur is in the 10-year yield. A stable 10-year yield will drive stocks higher as the Fed continues to suppress rates, but when the 10-year yield begins to spike in an uncontrolled manner—it will be at that time when we dump stocks and run for the hills.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM

FAIRBAIRN, SYKES, APPLEGATE, O'NEILL, CARLIN, LEATHER, BIDDLE, STYERS… WHAT'S WITH US?

by Bradley J. Steiner, American Combato

Over the past 20-30 years we have caused a few people to wonder what, exactly, is it that "gives" with us. We incessantly refer to the teachers listed in the title of this piece as though they were the be-all and end-all of close combat and self-defense.

Are we not aware that their methods and courses are from the 1940's and 50's, and that now—in this 21st century—"martial arts" have grown beyond those WWII programs? (By the way, if the WWII methods are "outdated" then virtually every method and system of classical karate, taekwon-do, jujutsu, etc. is hopelessly ancient! The 1940's are certainly closer to the present time than the 300 to 2,000 years!)

We suggest that anyone who hears someone in the martial arts field sneer at or downgrade the WWII masters, simply ask to see the background, credentials, record of experiences, and combat history, etc. of the detractor; he whose "brilliance" and "superior modernity" (hah!) supposedly surpass that of these real-life veterans of the real world, and of the harshest wartime experiences this very real world has to offer!

Men who have not only been and done, but who have trained tens of thousands of others who also have been and done—successfully—in the arena of REAL COMBAT.

We unapologetically hold up the WWII experts as The Authorities whose core principles and tenets are no less valid today in this 21st century as they were during WWII, in the last century.
Every single one of those teachers that we have been strongly influenced by, and whose wartime methods are part and parcel of American Combato have been in actual combat.

They have formulated doctrine based upon real combat experiences (theirs and that of many others), have trained many thousands of actual, honest-to-goodness fighting men—fighting men who used that which they had learned from them in actual wartime combat, and have brought the art of individual armed as well as unarmed combat from the feudal age to the modern age.

The teachings of these men, moreover, was so successful during WWII that it was adopted directly by the FBI, and other federal agencies, and by state and city police departments nationwide, in the USA.

Military, law enforcement, and intelligence organizations in the U.K. have also been directly and greatly influenced by the excellent methodologies of these men.

The human body, and the environments of urban and suburban as well as rural societies have not changed essentially since the 1940's, and probably will not change much for another two hundred or more years (if mankind does not blow itself off the planet).

Those men we constantly allude to, and their methods, remain state-of-the-art as far as their core principles are concerned, and serve today as the springboard off of which has been launched all authentic, valid, reliable, present-day combative methods.

In fact the validity of additional combative methods may be ascertained very accurately by holding them up to the wartime (i.e. Applegate) standard, which we have published and discussed numerous times, elsewhere.

THAT'S why we have for decades, and will continue to, emphasize the tremendous value and importance of the works of these men for all whose interest is self-defense and close combat, exclusively.

The classicists and sportsmen are no less legitimate in their objectives as we are in ours; but there is a big difference between us, and this we hope to enlighten seekers-after-combat-doctrine so that they understand.

We respect those who are avid competitors and who love the classical disciplines, but theirs are not total close combat methods, and those in search of practical combatives training have a right to know this, and need a venue via which they can learn and practice what they are looking for.

We have no illusions about converting antagonists to our position, and we have no desire to try. But we do hope that we can reach, educate, and benefit those persons who are looking for honest, no-frills, practical close combat training.

P.S. We have trained in jiu-jitsu, taekwon-do, ch'uan fa, varmannie, and kenpo-karate. All of those arts contain gems of techniques which, when selected and included in curricula along with the WWII methods (because they were tested against and have met the Applegate Standard) enhance, increase, and build upon the practical repertoire for which the WWII Masters have laid the foundation.

(photo source: National Navy UDT SEAL Museum)

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

HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY

A handful of Big Tech companies currently control the lion's share of e-commerce, web advertising, social media, cloud services and more. Everyone knows the players: Amazon, Google, Facebook, Apple, Microsoft and Twitter.

They make more the GDP of many countries, escape fair taxation (ie. levels average citizens in many places pay), and manipulate policy debates. They have intimidated and banned opposition, including rival start-up companies, media organizations, and elected representatives such as Senator Rand Paul and former sitting President Donald Trump.

How have these companies maintained their monopolistic abuses of power? One way has been to neutralize competition, by either buying it out or crushing and banning it. Another way has been to inject huge amounts of cash into the campaigns of politicians who protect their interests.

Acquire Or Crush: The Big Tech Response to Competition

Like any oligarchic handful of powers, big tech companies share power among themselves with some competitive jockeying. But they close the club to new players, by either absorbing them before they become economic threats, or crushing them, if their founders refuse the game.

An April 2021 *Washington Post* (owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos) story detailed how the largest tech companies have systematically acquired hundreds of companies that might otherwise have upended their lucrative monopolies.

The *Post* referenced a House Judiciary Committee report that called out the dominance and acquisition strategies of some of four major tech companies.

Some of the acquisitions were on public record, but some were not public, or deemed too small to be reported. In other words, Big Tech is constantly buying out innovative emerging companies, and absorbing their innovations long before they can even become threats.

Google purchased small tech companies and their engineers on the way to establishing their Google Apps suite, including Google Docs. Apple made similar small company acquisitions to establish iTunes.

Not all acquisitions have resulted in development. Many are bought out, then left to wither, and are quietly shuttered.

Plenty of acquisitions have involved entities big enough to have made news. For example, the Post noted that Zappos, IMDb, Twitch and Goodreads were all independent companies that Amazon saw as useful or competitive to their media and software empire. They were all snatched up.

Amazon become the “everything store” via billion dollar level buyouts in the good and grocery sphere (eg. Whole Foods), and acquisitions in the electronics and automotive sectors, among others.

Google's acquisition of Motorola Mobility covered its designs on the cellphone space. As far as its lucrative dominating video platform, many people don't even realize that YouTube was once an independent company.

Google Maps in another area where Google dominates, with 80 percent of the market, but not solely via its own in-house wizardry. It notably bought out Waze in 2013, a competitor at the time with a loyal user base.

Concerning Google Maps, Judiciary committee member David N. Cicilline (D-R.I.) commented "[Google] protected that market power, that monopoly power dominance through a series of acquisitions that eliminated any meaningful competitive threat."

Apple's control of music was bolstered by buying out Beats Electronics, which has allowed it to evolve its iTunes music service to compete with Spotify.

Snapchat's story is an interesting case. It began as an app called Picabo in 2011. Its founders, who went to Stanford University, counter-programed against Facebook's idea that people wanted to memorialize their lives in photos forever. The evolving Snapchat app offered photo communications that self-destructed, which appealed to young users unconcerned with leaving something to be remembered by.

Facebook tried to buy out Snapchat in 2013 for three billion dollars, but was rebuffed. So they acquired a rival start-up instead, Instagram, and did everything in their power to promote it to the younger audience. A 2017 MSNBC headline noted: *"Mark Zuckerberg couldn't buy Snapchat years ago, and now he's close to destroying the company."*

That's how the game works. Snapchat has managed to stay independent into 2021, partly thanks to intentional structuring. The company's voting power is distributed between two founders, Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy. Despite being publicly traded, the structure means other entities can't acquire enough voting power for a hostile takeover.

But Facebook has also made other successful acquisitions to capture a younger demographic, including the popular messaging service Whatsapp.

Twitter's Jack Dorsey chose to branch out in a novel area, leveraging the success of his micro-blogging platform that has become a defacto standard the world over. He co-founded Square, now a small business payments processing giant centered on mobile phones.

Snuffing Anti-Trust Legislation By Stuffing Campaign Coffers

Just as the largest tech companies have used buy or crush methods to increase and consolidate their dominance of lucrative economic sectors, they have used the same methods to deal with political regulation.

Political forces deemed harmful or unfriendly to their power have not only been suppressed and banned on their platforms and services by the thousands. Tech companies including Google and Facebook have funded efforts to institute mail-in ballot voting changes, secure state house acquiescence, and to control debates over things like net neutrality.

Bill Gates, lacking any medical training or expertise, used his billions to reform his 1990's nadir public image as a predatory capitalist, to become the world's dubious vaccine proselytizer.

Recently Twitter's Jack Dorsey insinuated himself into the crypto provision debate of the Senate trillion dollar infrastructure bill (to be fair, his suggestion was better than what ended up in the bill).

The point is that big tech has increasingly nakedly exercised their power, subverting electoral democracy and Constitutional rights of citizens along the way.

They have amassed armies of lobbyists. Indeed the revolving door between tech companies and U.S. administrations has become a politicially incestuous hotbed all its own (see “TECH GIANTS AND NATION STATES: WHO CONTROLS WHO?”, 2 Feb 2021).

With all that said, one of the oldest and surest ways to influence politics has also been plied: donating to political campaigns. A recent story by The National Pulse website detailed some of the details. April-June 2021 FEC filings showed Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) leading the way in funding from big tech:

> “Over two dozen executives from Microsoft gave over $116,000 combined to the Schumer campaign in June. Among these executives, 13 gave the maximum legally allowed donation, $5,800. Two of the max-out donors were Microsoft President Brad Smith and also Fred Humphries, who leads Microsoft’s Washington lobbying team.”

The Pulse noted that Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the third ranking member of the Senate, was given $67,000 from the Amazon PAC and Amazon employees, and $48,000 from Microsoft.

Meanwhile the most aggressive anti-trust legislation introduced in Congress has been opposed by many of the same politicians receiving lucrative donations.

According to the Pulse, California’s Silicon Valley has been protected by votes against antitrust measures, cast by Eric Swalwell, Zoe Lofgren, and Lou Correa. All those politicians received donations from big tech companies in the run up to votes on the legislation. The National Pulse story can be read here.

The **Trends Journal** has both predicted and chronicled the disturbing evolving reality of Big Tech monopolistic and political power in many previous articles, including:

- “Silicon Valley the new Wall Street?” (20 May 2015)
- 5. Rust Belt 2.0 (4 Dec 2016)
- “Media censorship trend to escalate” (19 Sep 2018)
- “The HI-TECH HEROIN trend” (11 July 2019)

- “CHINA: LEADING THE WAY IN SURVEILLANCE” (11 Dec 2019)
- “FACEBOOK: FU, WE’LL TELL YOU,” (6 Oct 2020)
- “FACEBOOK PULLS PLUG ON ‘STOP THE STEAL’ GROUP” (10 Nov 2020)
- “ALL THE PRESIDENT’S APPS: TECH COUP 2021” (19 Jan 2021)
- “TECH GIANTS AND NATION STATES: WHO CONTROLS WHO?” (2 Feb 2020)
- “FACEBOOK BLOCKS AUSTRALIA NEWS” (23 Feb 2021)
- “AMAZON USING DIGITAL BOOK DOMINANCE TO CENSOR” (16 Mar 2021)
- “TWITTER, FB, APPLE GET A PASS WHILE TEXAS GOV. CONDEMNS GAB” (16 Mar 2021)
- “FACEBOOK EXEC EXPLAINS DYSTOPIAN AI FUTURE” (23 Mar 2021)
- “DHS PARTNERING WITH SOCIAL NETWORKS ON CITIZEN SNOOPING” (13 April 2021)
- “NEXTGOV: WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS” (27 Apr 2020)
- “ARE AMERICANS HEADING TOWARD A SILENT SECESSION?” (4 May 2021)
- “TECH GIANTS BIG WINNERS IN PANDEMIC ECONOMY” (4 May 2021)
- AI MIGHT POWER “1984” BY 2024, SAYS MICROSOFT HEAD (1 Jun 2021)
- “BILLIONAIRE TAX SCOFFLAWS PLOW SAVINGS INTO WEBS OF CONTROL” (15 Jun 2021)
- “REUTERS “EXCLUSIVE” CROWS ABOUT BIG TECH MERGING WITH
- U.S. INTEL TO TARGET POLITICAL DISSIDENTS” (27 Jul 2021)
- “SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE” (3 Aug 2021)

I'LL TAKE THE VACCINE WHEN…

I'll take the vaccine when…

Dr. Anthony Fauci is held in contempt for lying to Congress concerning funding gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab where COVID-19 likely originated.

I'll take the vaccine when the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is stripped of his position for covering up his role and the role of others in supporting banned and dangerous experiments with viruses.

I'll take the vaccine when Anthony Fauci loses his professional licenses for prohibiting frontline doctors from prescribing safe, cheap medicines on an emergency use basis, at a time when no vaccines for COVID were available.

I'll take the vaccine when Anthony Fauci is stripped of any patent rights to medications or products whatsoever, related to COVID vaccines.

I'll take the vaccine when Anthony Fauci goes to jail for his crimes.

I'll take the vaccine when…

The World Health Organization is disbanded and responsible parties face charges for assisting China in covering up the outbreak and origin of COVID-19.

I'll take the vaccine when China, the U.S. and any other nations found to have conspired or been involved in creating man-made viruses are barred via international agreements from all future experimentation.

I'll take the vaccine when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) accurately tracks COVID illness and death numbers without distorting and abusing data.

I'll take the vaccine when the CDC accurately and actively pursues the best possible statistical information regarding adverse events from experimental vaccines, and when that information is published and aired regularly by mainstream media.

I'll take the vaccine when institutions charged with the public trust conduct unbiased, peer reviewed studies regarding the efficacy of lockdowns, ventilators, masking, social distancing and other policies that many believe have crippled the nation far more than the virus itself.

I'll take the vaccine when…

Big Tech and Big Pharma relinquish all profits from the COVID pandemic to a fund for people who were prevented from operating their businesses and working at their jobs, and deemed "unessential", while corporations have despicably profiteered to the tune of hundreds of billions.

I'll take the vaccine when vaccine makers, businesses and governments are all subject to individual liability claims for adverse events and harm caused by vaccines.

I'll take the vaccine when corporations that have made trillions promoting unhealthy, fattening products hand over their fortunes to fight obesity, one of the most highly correlated factors in serious COVID illness.

I'll take the vaccine when…

Governors who ordered COVID-positive hospitalized elderly patients back into nursing homes, causing others in that most vulnerable population to become sick and die, meet justice.

I'll take the vaccine when every politician who violated their own COVID edicts resigns and faces enhanced fines and punishments for abusing the public trust.

I’ll take the vaccine when elected representatives who violated Constitutionally recognized rights and freedoms of Americans meet the full weight of justice for defying the rule of law.

I’ll take the vaccine when…

The flood of illegal immigrants allowed entry in the U.S. during the pandemic, and shuttled around the country, are all sent back to their countries of origin.

I’ll take the vaccine when the governmental authorities that have proscribed and enforced restrictions for Americans, while facilitating a illegal immigration crisis, are arrested and face jail for being super spreaders.

I’ll take the vaccine when…

Media organizations that promoted overblown fears and false data thoroughly examine all past coverage and issue front page and top of the broadcast corrections.

I’ll take the vaccine when media organizations relinquish all the profits they made instilling COVID panic.

I’ll take the vaccine when…

Someone explains why forcing people to undergo genetic interventions to deal with manmade scientific maladies sounds like a reasonable idea.

I’ll take the vaccine when someone can explain why unprecedented mass violations of Constitutional freedoms are legitimate.

I’ll take the vaccine when I believe it’s the right medical decision for me, since anything else is a violation of my fundamental human rights.

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE

1984 TO 2021: HOW APPLE LEARNED TO LOVE BIG BROTHER. Some are old enough to remember an iconic commercial from 1984, where a woman at a dystopian gathering of prisoners smashes a telescreen screen showing a "Big Brother" like figure.

That commercial was debuted by Apple (during Superbowl 18) to promote its new MacIntosh personal computer.

A narrative voice-over proclaimed "You'll see why 1984 won't be like *1984*."

At the time, Apple was vying with IBM personal computers and nascent rival Microsoft.

It's surreal enough to contemplate that an upstart computer company would use an evocation Gerorge Orwell's masterpiece of totalitarian oppression to mass market a product, though the year was certainly right for it.

And the commercial made a huge impression.

But the history didn't stop there, unfortunately. Apple has literally evolved to become a major cog in the dystopian present of 2021. Their announcement of "NeuralHash", an initiative that will scan all files in the Apple ecosystem, and report violations to the Government for criminal action, is a culminating step in the growing convergence of a technocracy bent on purging all privacy rights of individuals with respect to the state.

According to *Engineering & Technology* magazine (https://eandt.theiet.org/), the system has supposed limitations built in, but many privacy advocates say

NeuralHash is a shocking precedent that opens the door to abuse and deprivations of human rights.

Matthew Green, a John Hopkins University Security Institute said that Apple “has sent a very clear signal. In their opinion, it is safe to build systems that scan users’ phones for prohibited content. This will break the dam – governments will demand it from everyone.”

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) also decried NeurahHash, saying it was a “shocking about-face for users who have relied on the company’s leadership in privacy and security” while the Center for Democracy and Technology called on Apple to abandon the changes, which it said compromise its guarantee of end-to-end encryption.

As the **Trends Journal** has previously reported in “APPLE BETRAYS CHINESE USERS FOR PROFIT” (1 June 2021), the company has already betrayed its Chinese user base by handing over user iCloud access to Chinese authorities, to cement its opening of a mainland data center in partnership with the state-owned firm Guizhou.

What Does NeuralHash Do?

"NeuralHash," references images from a database provided by child safety organizations to identify known child pornography, and can identify altered images. It reportedly isn’t designed to detect fresh child abuse material.

The system can block user attempts to upload an image to its servers. It can also trigger a manual review of suspicious content, send a report to law enforcement, and suspend a user’s account.

Apple has stated that NeuralHash would only apply to iCloud Photos, and that no third parties would be able to access or scan images on a user’s camera roll.

Constitutional attorney and legal expert Jonathan Turley is warning about the wider privacy abuses of NerualHash and other Big Tech initiatives:

> “Apple will now use its phones to actively spy on over a billion users to see if any have photos that may be CSAM in order to report them. Imagine the post-privacy world unfolding literally before us. People will have no choice if they have an iPhone in allowing a corporation to monitor their photos. Then, when they use their phones on social media, Twitter and Facebook will censor any views that they object to on subjects ranging from Covid to gender identification to Hunter Biden’s laptop to election fraud to even criticism of governments.
>
> “At the same time, the Biden White House has decided that it does not want to deal with the legal or political challenges of seeking to impose a national vaccine mandate. Instead, President Biden has called on corporations to carry out the mandate.”

A Pretext “Key” To Unlock Next Level Surveillance and Suppression

Some might contend that Apple’s move is a noble one meant to fight only egregious criminal activities like child exploitation and pedophilia.

But Big Tech, MSM and extremist LBTQT activists have colluded for years in promoting the normalization of sexualized exposure and treatment of children. They have also excused and suppressed organizations that have opposed extremist agendas sexualizing and abusing children.

They have openly advocated not only for exposing children to sexual content, but for allowing children to undergo hormone treatments and deforming cosmetic surgeries to “transition” to the opposite sex. They have also led the way in propagandizing for boys to use girl bathrooms in schools, under the guise of recognizing those who “self-identify” as a particular gender.

To give only a few other examples:

- In 2018, an 11-year-old boy in drag, “Desmond Is Amazing,” became a media darling for his sexualized, supposedly personally initiated transexual flamboyance. There were viral Youtube videos, and at one point he even danced on stage at the 3 Dollar Bill, a "queer owned & operated" bar in Brooklyn, and had money tossed his way by patrons. As Lifesite news reported at the time, "[Desmond] is barely 11 years old, yet homosexual and mainstream media have thrust him into the spotlight as the face of the growing prepubescent gay/transgender movement.

- In February 2021, Amazon, Chromebook (by Google), Discord and OnlyFans all made an annual "Dirty Dozen" list of entities that profited from sexual exploitation that encompassed minors. The list is compiled by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE). Amazon reportedly made the list because "the world's titan of e-commerce, logistics, data storage, and media, also peddles endless amounts of sexual exploitation. As a social platform, Amazon's Twitch is rife with sexual harassment, predatory grooming, and child sexual abuse." Twitter was also called out for making the list: "Twitter allows countless posts and accounts that function as advertisements for the trading of child sexual abuse materials (i.e. 'child pornography'), sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography. Twitter also fails to adequately respond to child abuse and sex trafficking victims when they are being exploited on the platform. Twitter must be held legally accountable".

- Hunter Biden, President Joe Biden's son, was shielded by the MSM during the 2020 election, despite video from an abandoned laptop showing him sexually consorting with underaged women. The media refused to cover the story, with some claiming the laptop was an invention of the Russians. But just last week, new video surfaced from Hunter. It showed him naked, telling a prostitute "the Russians have videos of me doing crazy f-cking sex!" According to a *Daily Mail* story on the unearthed video, Hunter can be seen telling the prostitute that he nearly overdosed from drugs while partying in Las Vegas with his drug dealer and two other guys in the summer of 2018. When he awoke from that bender, "there was this Russian 35-year-old, really nice, pure brunette," he explained. He then discovered his laptop had disappeared.

Clearly, the government, the MSM and Big Tech have been on the bleeding edge of pushing for the sexual exploitation and abuse that Apple suddenly purports to want to guard against.

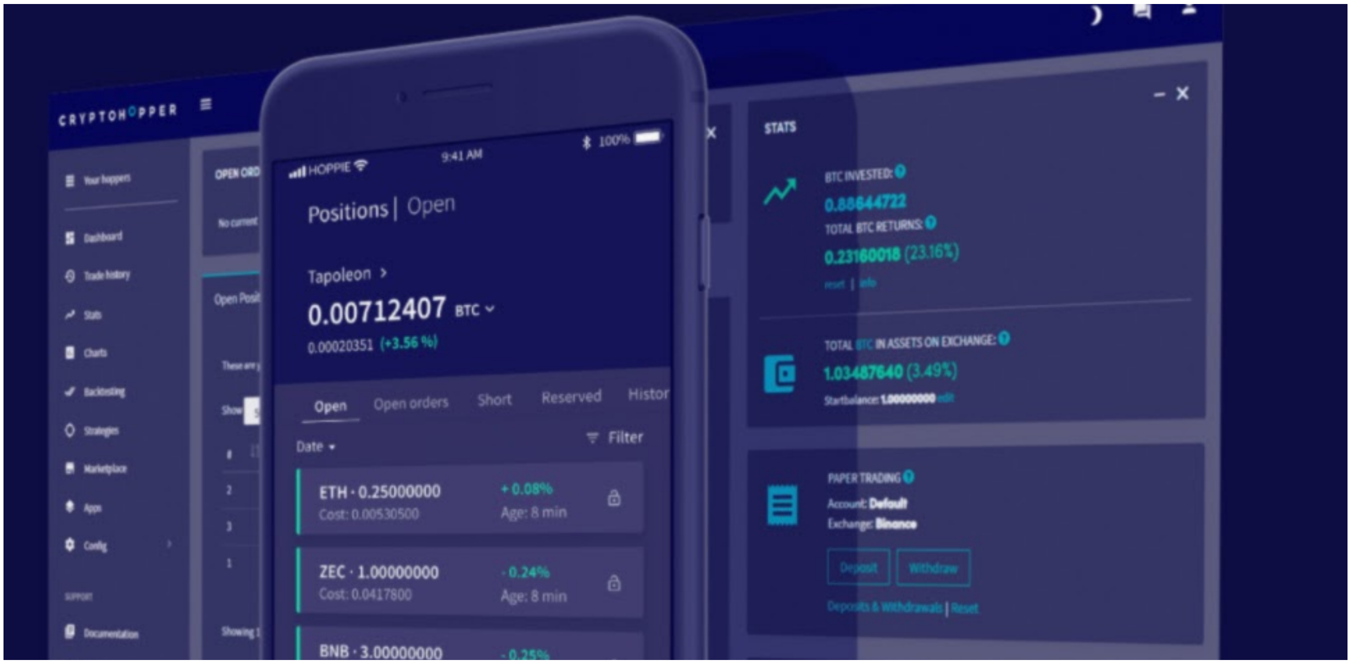
Anyone who's been paying any attention shouldn't buy a word of the dystopian "product" they're now selling with NeuralHash.

As Jonathan Turley noted in a recent column on his website:

> "The current limited function of the NeuralHash is simply the decision of Apple. However, it is a new technology that can be expanded to other images and could potentially be used by the government… We already have ample powers to investigate and prosecute child pornography but this function will now be taken up by the corporatocracy which is not directly controlled any more by the Fourth Amendment than the First Amendment."

NeuralHash is set to be rolled out later this year as part of updates to Apple's iOS and iPadOS 15.

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



CRYPTOHOPPER: FOR THOSE NOT CONTENT TO HODL

Advanced investors comfortable with doing more than buying and holding cryptos, can use trading platforms with features similar to traditional stock trading platforms.

One popular crypto platform that uses bots, AI algorithms and other features to execute trades according to highly configurable trading strategies, is Cryptohopper.

After signup, users can select a free version, or choose tiered services that offer more capabilities. There is also a free trial for the most popular feature set, the “Explorer”, which is normally $19.95 a month.

Cryptohopper works by syncing with a user’s preferred exchange. Most major exchanges are supported. Many of the trading fundamentals should be familiar to anyone who has used popular traditional stock trading platforms.

Users can design their own buy and sell criterias, which are automatically executed when desired criteria are met. Limits can be placed on how much is bought at any time, how many different coins, what coins are in the pool of potential purchases, etc. Cryptohopper can track up to 75 coins simultaneously and scan them all against selected profit goals and indicators.

The overall purpose of the software is to help users realize profit margins via actively trading cryptos as they are trending up or down.

There are many tools and advanced aspects of Cryptohopper including:

- Bot trading, including Market Making Bots
- A Strategy Designer with AI capabilities
- Mirror Trading
- Exchange Arbitrage
- Trailing Stops
- Backtesting

Though the crypto sector is rightly seen as more volatile than the traditional stock markets, that volatility is potentially what can make trading cryptos especially profitable. For example, a wider swing upward can be capitalized on, with sells triggered if a sudden reversal occurs, and a downtrend reaches a certain percentage.

Cryptohopper offers tutorials and even presets of trading strategies that can be set up very quickly. And its advanced features allow even the savviest of investors to tinker and fine-tune to their heart’s content.

ALONZO PURPLE UPGRADE BRINGING DEFI TO CARDANO

In early September, the Cardano network is projected to complete a hard fork upgrade termed “Alonzo Purple”, that will bring smart contract DeFi capabilities and non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

Cardano tokens have been surging off the news, from $1.25 to $2.17 at one point over the weekend.

The upgrade could also allow the utilization of ERC20 tokens (ie. any Ethereum network based tokens) on the Cardano blockchain.

Ethereum has recently been trading higher, in part due to an upgrade of its platform in early August. **Trends Journal** readers were alerted to that upgrade and the potential upside for Ether in “WHAT ETHEREUM UPGRADE TO PROOF OF STAKE MEANS” (15 June 2021) and other articles.

“We’re targeting 12 September 2021 for the ‘Alonzo’ upgrade, bringing smart contracts to Cardano via a hard fork combinator event,” the network’s governing group tweeted.

Cardano is currently not fully decentralized in governorship via voting of all node operators, the way bitcoin is, for example. But the crypto project has said it will eventually move to a fully decentralized consensus network in the future.

The Cardano group noted that partners are already designing dApps (decentralized applications) to take advantage of Cardano’s upgrades.

EMERGING NATIONS LEAD IN CRYPTO ADOPTION, SAYS NEW SURVEY

A New Finder's study has identified emerging economies including Vietnam, Indonesia and India as leading the way in crypto adoption.

The survey, which polled 42 thousand people in 27 countries, looked at metrics like using digital assets for remittances, and overall financial inclusion of crypto currencies.

A Cointelegraph story noted that Vietnam has the greatest adoption rate. Twenty percent of Vietnamese people stated they have bought Bitcoin (BTC), the highest percentage of any country surveyed.

With the 53rd biggest economy in terms of gross domestic product, Vietnam placed 13th in realized Bitcon profits for 2020, Cointelegraph noted.

Avoiding exchange fees in remittances (ie. money sent home by citizens working out of country) was a major reason given for crypto use.

Adoption was also notable in Asia, with 30% of respondents in Indonesia and India claiming to have bought cryptocurrency. The Philippines and Malaysia posted similar numbers.

The study also found relatively strong adoption patterns in several Latin American nations. For example, 22 percent of Brazilian respondents said they have purchased cryptocurrency. The survey found that rising inflation, and tighter capital restrictions were factors in digital assets expanding throughout the continent.

El Salvador scored a first in history by adopting Bitcoin as legal tender, in June. Paraguay was reportedly considering a similar move, but so far only very different—a crypto tax proposal from legislators—has emerged there.

As far as countries with the lowest adoption rates, there might be a silver lining there. It turns out some of the richest nations, including the U.S. and United Kingdom, have adoption rates in the high single digits. With inflation currently gripping the states, the upside potential for greater use is high.

WALMART FOLLOWS AMAZON IN SEARCH FOR CRYPTO TALENT

A few weeks ago there was news that Amazon, the web's largest retailer, had posted a position for a cryptocurrency specialist to head up possible integration and acceptance of crypto payments.

Now Bloomberg is reporting that Walmart is seeking to recruit a cryptocurrency expert to help create a blockchain strategy. The company joins a growing number of big businesses looking into the feasibility of digital currencies like Bitcoin.

According to a job advertisement on the retailer's website listed over the weekend, the role would be responsible for "developing the digital currency strategy and product roadmap" and seeking out crypto-related investment and collaborations.

Walmart remains one of the largest brick and mortar retail chains in the U.S., but has ceded market share to Amazon in recent years, due to a shift to online purchasing, where Amazon was focused from the start.

The owners of both companies saw huge gains in profit due to COVID lockdowns in 2020 that forced many Americans to do even more purchasing online.

Walmart's job search post mentions a "broad set of payment options for its customers" in stores and online, though they've made no public announcements regarding their exact objectives regarding cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin, Ethereum and other major cryptos have seen a price recover after a late winter surge and bust that saw BTC drop in the summer to under 30 thousand, from previous highs of around 65 thousand.

The Walmart news in itself may not move the needle much on Bitcoin's current price, but it adds to overall trends that have bolstered the crypto space in recent weeks.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES *by Joe Doran*

GOING LONG ON BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY. If there's one thing that Blockchain Battles has been trying to convey, it's that finding sensible ways to participate in the blockchain revolution is a smart move.

Decentralized crypto projects like Bitcoin and Ethereum are proving positive and transformative, not only as financial investments, but also as ways of taking back power from corrupt money-controlling authorities and intermediaries.

In the time since this column debuted in February 2021:

- Blockchain investments have doubled their total from 2020, and outpaced a previous high set in 2018

- The number of Crypto investors has also doubled
- Governments and financial institutions have markedly stepped up in interest, investment and regulation of blockchain assets and related crypto currencies
- The most recognized blockchain and crypto projects, including Bitcoin, Ethereum, Cardano, Binance, Ripple and Uniswap, have continued to offer opportunities to investors
- DeFi, built on smart contracts which allow direct lending and borrowing without intermediaries, much of it built on the Ethereum blockchain network, has experienced explosive growth
- NFTs, or Non Fungible Tokens and tokenized assets, have gained public awareness and seen rapid growth
- El Salvador become the first country in the world to officially adopt bitcoin as legal tender for payments; a number of other countries are watching closely and considering their own moves to bitcoin

It's clear that a lot is happening in the blockchain sphere. In fact, there are so many things happening, it is understandably overwhelming to try to keep track of and comprehend it all, much less decide how to participate.

Keeping It Simple

Have the opportunities sailed on the largest market cap crypto projects? In a sense, yes. The days are gone when buyers and sellers exchanged 10,000 bitcoin over a pizza. No one is going to spend a hundred dollars at this point and become a bitcoin or ethereum millionaire.

But to consider just the past eight months, Bitcoin has traded as low as 29 thousand (at the start of 2021 and again in late June and early July), and as high as 65 thousand. Ethereum started 2021 at $731 per coin. It outperformed Bitcoin in an astounding late winter run-up to past $4000, then retreated to less than half that, at $1700, in early summer. It has since rebounded to the $3000 range.

Clearly opportunities for the King Crypto and number one “alt coin” haven’t ended. Both cryptos, and indeed the whole sector, has experienced some prolonged obvious periods of downturn. Those who purchased on dips are likely very happy with their investments.

The largest market cap cryptos can be purchased in increments on centralized exchanges like Coinbase or Robinhood. Signing up to such purchasing and trading exchanges can be accomplished in a matter of minutes, via a website or downloaded phone app.

Bitcoin and Ethereum to cite the two obvious examples, solve real world problems and / or create efficiencies that have made them valuable in the eyes of many investors.

Other projects like Cardano, Uniswap, Polygon and Solana either compete with Ethereum (Cardano and Solana), or add efficiencies (Polygon and Solana) or build things like DeFi on the Ethereum network (Uniswap and Aave).

Investing prudently, largest market cap crypto projects, with an eye on middle and longer term growth is one way of keeping it simple.

In general, blockchain and crypto investors should keep in mind, what problem or purpose is a particular crypto asset or project solving? What specific value is it representing or creating?

Managed Options

Another way of participating in blockchain growth and innovation, is via ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds) that invest broadly in the blockchain sphere. It’s currently a hot area, to say the least, with many traditional investment firms racing to establish ETFs.

To give an example, the Global X Blockchain ETF currently lists Coinbase, Hive Blockchain and Hut 8 Mining Corp among its top ten holdings.

ETFs have professionals choosing the most promising blockchain innovators and companies. History and performance of any ETF, and the managers behind a fund, should always be done before Investing.

Some of the current top blockchain related ETFs include:

- Amplify Transformational Data Sharing ETF (BLOK)
- Siren ETF Trust Siren Nasdaq NexGen Economy ETF (BLCN)
- First Trust Indxx Innovative Transaction & Process ETF (LEGR)
- Bitwise Crypto Industry Innovators ETF (BITQ)
- VanEck Vectors Digital Transformation ETF (DAPP)
- Capital Link NextGen Protocol ETF (KOIN)
- Global X Blockchain ETF (BKCH)

Source: etfdb.com

To sum up, the blockchain revolution, and the potential for higher ground for established cryptos, doesn't have the stuff of rags to riches, to hold attraction for investors. By taking a prudent approach, and investing with an eye to riding out volatility for longer term gains, based on some pretty simple and solid metrics, opportunity is there.

IS GOLD VS. BITCOIN THE RIGHT QUESTION? If it was an MMA fight, spectators might be screaming for a ref to stop the massacre.

Quite simply, anyone who bought Bitcoin at any point from 2009 to 2020 and held it into 2021 ran rings around gold. That includes people who bought Bitcoin at 20-thousand in 2017.

As the crypto trading platform FTX recently observed, "A single bitcoin is now worth 21 ounces of gold. Poetic."

Gold was trading at around $1,800 in 2011, during the vicissitudes of the "Great Recession." At the time of this writing, gold sits at $1750.

It's trading range over the past decade has been between roughly $1,050 (2016) and $1,950 (2011):

(source: SD Bullion)

Gold isn't the only competitor Bitcoin has bested. It has outperformed every major commodity in terms of dollar gains, over the ten-year time frame from 2011 to 2021.

But those who hold gold as a stable store of value haven't been wrong in an important respect. Gold has been much more stable. From 2013 to mid 2019, for example, the price of gold fluctuated mostly within a 300 dollar range.

Since then, inflationary pressures have seen it rise to a higher trading range of $1700 to $1,900.

The volatility of Bitcoin is legendary, even if the story to this point has been a happy one for "HODlers" (crypto investors who buy and hold).

Gold, Dollars and Bitcoin

Gold, everywhere, in all times, has been valued for its rarity, fungibility (use in trade and coinage) and beauty. It has a track record throughout history second to none.

People who accrue and hold gold to retain the value of their hard-earned labor have been rewarded. In the early 1970's, when gold was fully restored as a tradeable asset in the U.S., it stood at $50 an ounce. A person who put an ounce of gold and 50 dollars in a drawer, would have 50 dollars in 2021, and $1750 worth gold.

The dollar has undergone considerable inflation, and thus gold has outperformed the fiat currency as a store of value.

What gold has not done, is introduce new values or efficiencies. Yes, it is used in some industrial processes. But it has not found any earth-changing new value there.

Enter Bitcoin in 2009. For the first time in over a hundred years, a fungible, rare (ie. limited in terms of effort to mine, and quantity that would ever exist) medium of exchange not controlled by government was introduced. Few, and virtually none in the established world of government and finance, took it seriously. It was a plaything of computer geeks.

Bitcoin has literally been a performance monster since its inception. But what it hasn't been is a stable store of value, if by that one means an asset which behaves more or less predictably, according to broad economic factors.

Bitcoin is not digital gold.

Bitcoin is an amalgam of innovation, boom and bust speculative fever, and evolving use case that the world is still coming to grips with in many ways. It may be the oldest blockchain project in existence, but it's still very much a work—and a phenomenon—in progress.

But already, Bitcoin's ride has been one of the wildest in the history of humankind, and that's saying something. Even if something replaces the King of Cryptos in the future, with just 21 million bitcoins in existence, the first digital coin will likely always have value as a relegated "original NFT."

Solidity vs. Excitement

Of course, it's quite easy to invest in both precious metals and cryptos like Bitcoin, Ethereum and Cardano. Any basic investment strategy contains a mix of hedge and higher risk growth assets.

But the debate of whether Bitcoin is "Digital Gold", "Digital Money", etc., has nonetheless created camps that apparently eschew investments in one or the other.

It's a debate that doesn't need to exist. In short, the answer to the question "Bitcoin or Gold?" is BOTH. And Ethereum. And silver.

And in that respect, Bitcoin might be a lot like gold after all.

SOLANA TRENDING AFTER CROSS ETHEREUM UPGRADE FEATURES. Several factors are powering all-time highs for Solana, a blockchain solution that uses novel innovations to scale to 50 thousand transactions a second, and theoretically much more.

According to the Solana website the trick to speeding transactions involved a feature at existed from day one in the Bitcoin protocol:

> "The Bitcoin feature is called nLocktime and it can be used to postdate transactions using block height instead of a timestamp. As a Bitcoin client, you would use block height instead of a timestamp if you don't trust the

> network. Block height turns out to be an instance of what's being called a Verifiable Delay Function in cryptography circles. It's a cryptographically secure way to say time has passed. In Solana, we use a far more granular verifiable delay function, a SHA 256 hash chain, to checkpoint the ledger and coordinate consensus. With it, we implement Optimistic Concurrency Control and are now well en route towards that theoretical limit of 710,000 transactions per second."

Nasdaq noted Monday that Solana's rise, according to analysts, reflects the market's increasing demand for higher scalability, as the recent non-fungible tokens (NFTs) craze has brought crypto to a more mainstream market.

Solana's release of "Wormhole," a cross-chain communication protocol between Ethereum and Solana, has fueled its momentum.

Despite that, many investors and traders continue to bet that Ethereum's impending migration from a proof-of-work (PoW) blockchain to a proof-of-stake (PoS) blockchain will bring crypto to a more mainstream market.

Via Wormhole, the Solana blockchain can be used to add efficiency to Ethereum based token transactions. Specifically, Wormhole allows existing projects, platforms, and communities to move tokenized assets seamlessly across blockchains, while benefiting from Solana's high speed and low cost.

Wormhole's primary network went live at the same time that new methods for transferring digital currencies across different blockchains have shown susceptibility to attacks. Poly Network, a cross-chain DeFi site, was a target last week in a much publicised large scale attack.

But that hasn't stopped investor enthusiasm for Solana, Nasdaq reported.

A BRIEF LOOK AT TRENDS JOURNAL CALLS ON BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTOS. For some prescient articles by Gerald Celente concerning the prospects for a blockchain revolution that made waves in 2018, 2019, and on a seismically different level, in 2021, check out:

- "Betting big on blockchains" (29 Sep 2016)
- Blockbuster profits coming from Blockchain technology (6 Feb 2018)
- "Beyond cryptos…" (26 Oct 2018)

The **Trends Journal** has historically been more circumspect regarding cryptocurrencies. Gold has a track record of basically all of human existence. Acquirable cryptos date from 2009. They have historically been, and continue to be highly speculative investments.

Past articles including "Gold vs. Cryptos" (21 Nov 2018) thoughtfully laid out some of the issues at stake.

As far back as 2013, while pointing out Bitcoin hype, the **TJ** named a use where Bitcoin would likely find traction:

> "Still, efforts to build a legitimate investment environment and to create a vigorous infrastructure for bitcoin as a vehicle for international monetary transfers are being seriously and creatively undertaken. Many of the larger players are focusing on selling bitcoin as a way to avoid the high transfer fees charged by credit card and wire companies. They point to the more than $500 billion annually remitted to third world nations — and the $4.6 billion in transfer fees reaped by Western Union alone — as an opportunity for bitcoin to do good and prosper at the same time." ("The bitcoin bubble: spike, crash, what's next?" 6 December 2013)

After cryptos experienced a major downturn in 2018, Gerald Celente wrote:

> "And as we have forecast, cryptocurrency's growth, despite a turbulent path to legitimacy, is inevitable. It is a key dynamic of the 21st century's financial revolution, and the evolution of the high-tech world that was unimaginable in the 20th century." ("1: Cryptomania Cash-In", 29 June 2018)

Since January of 2021, expanded coverage of the blockchain and crypto space has endeavored to provide actionable insights for **TJ** readers. Some recent touchstone articles include:

- “ESCAPE FROM BITCOIN? NOT LIKELY FOR WALL STREET BANKS” (16 Feb 2021)
- “WILL BLOCKCHAIN SAVE THE DAY?” (20 Apr 2021)
- “CRYPTOS: DOWN BUT NOT OUT” by Gregory Mannarino (25 May 2021)
- “WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CRYPTOS AND BLOCKCHAINS?” (15 Jun 2021)
- “HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS “BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION” (29 Jun 2021)

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR

WELCOME TO EL NORTE: AS FORECAST, BORDER STAMPEDE

When the COVID War was launched in 2020, we had forecast that as countries locked down and economic conditions deteriorated among the poorer nations—which were already experiencing massive demonstrations as people took to the street protests in their fight against government corruption, lack of basic living standards, crime and violence—they would be escaping, seeking safe haven refuge.

Welcome to the new world disorder. In the past, the summer months would see a slowdown in the waves of people moving north across the U.S.-Mexico border; fewer migrants would attempt the dangerous journey in the summer heat. Not so this July, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection called it "the busiest month at the border in 21 years."

200,000 arrests were made at the border in July, 12 percent more than in June. 76,000 parents and children crossed as families, the second-highest total ever. But almost 19,000 unaccompanied children also crossed in July, just short of the record set last March. Monthly crossings have now numbered at or above 100,000 for six months, the longest period in recent history.

And those figures don't include all those who crossed un-apprehended; those are typically single adults who don't ask for asylum. Even though 47 percent of those apprehended were immediately sent back to Mexico, the northward flow of humanity has been relentless.

The Biden Administration Has a Plan

But not to worry. The Biden administration has a plan, according to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who adds, "We are executing our plan, and that takes time." Besides, *The Wall Street Journal* tells us, those figures are somewhat inflated, because they don't account for all those who crossed multiple times; some ("mostly adult men seeking work," we are told) have tried to cross six or seven times.

Nor is it the Biden administration's fault; of course not. We're reminded that it was the years of restrictive policies under President Trump that resulted in all that pent-up demand. And of course, Biden being seen as more welcoming has encouraged migration. And then there are the economic effects on Latin America of the COVID-19 "pandemic."

So many families are arriving daily that Border Patrol agents, rather than letting them go with a promise to appear in court on a specific date, let them go with instructions to report to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office.

The government also works with local border cities and charities to do COVID testing and quarantine when needed. And it puts the migrants up in shelters or in hotels. This week the city of McAllen, Texas set up air-conditioned tents to quarantine 1000 COVID-positive migrants, after no more hotel rooms were available.

TREND FORECAST: *The COVID War has pushed millions into poverty, and because the COVID situation in some Central American countries hasn't* *improved, more families are opting to send their children to El Norte, a decision fueled in part by the improving U.S. economy and rising U.S. vaccination rates. None of this was unforeseen, especially not by **Trends Journal**; see, for example, January 2021's "LATIN AMERICA FACES SLOW, PAINFUL ECONOMIC RECOVERY," the March 2021 article, "BIDEN TO FIX BORDER SURGE," or go back to October 2020's "ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS ON THE RISE."*

And now, with more lockdowns and the poorer nations hit the hardest, the refugee crisis will accelerate across much of the globe. In turn, as we have long forecast, there will be new anti-immigration, anti-vax, anti-tax populist movements that will challenge established political parties.

ALOHA STATE'S GOVERNOR DICTATES NEW LIMITS ON SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Of all the states in America, Hawaii imposed the strictest lockdown rules to fight the COVID War. Now with "cases" on the rise, Hawaii has re-imposed draconian measures.

As reported by *Reuters* on 11 August, Gov. David Ige announced on 10 August that restrictions that had been relaxed in June, with social gathering limits increased to 25 persons indoors and 75 persons outdoors, have now, by executive order, been scaled back to 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors.

The state's health department has logged an increase in cases of 168 percent between 26 July and 8 August, despite more than 60 percent of Hawaii's population being fully vaccinated. The increase is blamed on the Delta variant of the virus, which is said to also account for case counts and hospitalizations across the U.S. reaching the highest level in six months.

The governor's dictatorial executive order also reduces the indoor capacity of bars, gyms, restaurants and social establishments to 50 percent. But proposals for professionally sponsored events with more than 50 people will be reviewed by county authorities to see that "appropriate safe practices will be implemented."

The inference seems to be that inviting more than 10 persons to a private indoor party or more than 25 persons to a family luau is verboten, but a "professionally sponsored" gathering may be deemed permissible.

There's no telling, of course, what kind of economic fallout might ensue from these new restrictions, given that Hawaii is particularly dependent on tourism and, as we noted in September 2020's "60 PERCENT OF CLOSED BUSINESSES WILL NOT REOPEN, YELP SAYS." Hawaii was the state that suffered the greatest rate of business losses in the shutdowns that marked the start of the COVID War when back in late March 2020, its Governor, David “Idiot” Ige declared “I cannot stress enough that we need everyone to please stay at home or in their place of residence.”

Ige also stated during his afternoon news conference, “… As alien as it might be for those of us in the Aloha State, we must avoid physical contact with friends and loved ones to protect all of us in this crisis.”

TRENDPOST: *Totally ignored back then, and totally ignored today as Australia and other nations issue shelter-in-place orders is that the risk of getting the virus outdoors is extremely low, according to data we have provided.*

Indeed, in a 17 May 2021 New York Times article, they noted that “The CDC’s new guidance was issued amid growing debate over why the federal government was still recommending that people wear masks outdoors. Writing in The New England Journal of Medicine last week, Dr. Paul Sax, an infectious disease expert at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Massachusetts, said it was time to end outdoor mask mandates.”

TRENDPOST: *Despite the CDC suggesting that vaccinated people do not have to wear masks outdoors and the numerous studies, such as the one from MIT we reviewed in the* ***Trends Journal*** *of the very low odds of catching the virus outdoors, (See our 27 April article, "MIT CHALLENGES SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES."), now, again, young and old in many states and nations are re-masked up.*

Moreover, The Journal of Infectious Diseases has noted: "Five identified studies found a low proportion of reported global SARS-CoV-2 infections occurred outdoors (<10%)."

FRENCH VAX PASS PROTESTS ESCALATE. MOST MEDIA IGNORES THEM, LIES ABOUT SIZE

Be quiet, don't say a word. Everybody is happy to take government orders and bow down to their "leaders".

Pick up Monday's *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, go to Euronews... not a peep – zip, nadda, nothing – about the massive, ongoing demonstrations raging across France in protest of the COVID War Vax Pass imposed upon the citizenry by their ruler.

Go to France 24. Even they hardly reported on it, and when they did, the headline was a lie: "Thousands march against French Covid health pass for fifth week in a row."

Thousands?

An outright lie. The newspaper even stated that according to government officials there were about 250,000, up from 237,000 last Saturday. Yet their deceiving headline is that “Thousands” protested when it should have read, “Hundreds of thousands...”

As the paper also reports, Nombre Jaune ("The Yellow Number"), the group that was originally created to provide an alternative to alleged mainstream underreporting of the numbers of those taking part in the "Yellow Vest" strikes and protests, stated some 415,000 took the streets.

No Backbones

As only a few Americans, Australians, and others are taking to the streets in protest of draconian lockdown mandates including required Operation Warp Speed gene therapy jabs unapproved by the FDA if you want to go to restaurants, gyms, concerts, college, etc., in many states and nations... the French were again out in force protesting the COVID-19 health passport order for daily activities (see **Trends Journal**'s 3 August article, "PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN FRANCE OVER HEALTH PASS MANDATE").

And as of yesterday, in order to go to some 120 major department stores and shopping centers... from Paris to a number of cities along the Mediterranean coast, the pass sanitaire health permit will be required.

It should be noted that the protests started even before the new rules took effect on 9 August (see, 27 July, "FRENCH FIGHTING AGAINST FORCED VAXX.")

"Vos Papiers, S'il Vous Plaît"

The health pass must now be shown when in public places, to prove that the bearer has been vaccinated or has recently tested negative for the virus. While some leniency was shown at first, the government has promised to get tougher on checking for passes. And, starting in October, the testing, unless prescribed by a doctor, will no longer be free.

The health pass is President Emmanuel Macron's reaction to a "fourth wave" of COVID infections. The number of infected persons in intensive care has more than doubled in past weeks, still less than a third of the number during the country's third lockdown, but enough to warrant new restrictions.

When Macron announced his health pass plan it did spark a rise in vaccine compliance, and almost 70 percent of France's population have now had one dose, with 57.5 percent fully vaccinated.

TREND FORECAST: *The protestors, many of whom carried signs that said "Pass = Apartheid" and chanted "Freedom! Freedom!", represent otherwise disparate groups, from members of the grassroots "Yellow Vest" populist movement that was sparked by rising petrol taxes and held strikes across France in 2018 - 2019 (see December 2019's "FRANCE: NATIONAL STRIKE IS BREWING") to those who are against the vaccine or consider the health pass discriminatory.*

Again, we had long forecast that these groups would unite under the Freedom banner, forming new political parties and/or bringing together small existing populist parties to challenge the ruling class.

And, as economic conditions worsen that the refugee crisis escalates, these movements will gain enough strength to win the highest office.

INDIA'S THIRD COVID WAVE?

The *Financial Times* reports, in an article appearing on 5 August, that India is experiencing another surge in COVID-19 infections, which threatens to become the country's third wave of such infections.

The peak of India's second wave was in May, when the prevalence of the more contagious Delta variant was first becoming evident. Strict lockdown measures were imposed, and were believed to have been effective in bringing down the level of infections.

On 13 July, 2021, in "DELTA VARIANT: INDONESIA HYSTERIA," **TJ** points out that India, with a population of nearly 1.4 billion, suffered a rate of death during that second wave that was comparable to the rate seen in the U.S., which has a population of nearly 333 million. But the press continues to characterize India's second wave as particularly devastating.

Now, with many restrictions having been lifted and business activity returning to near-normal, the number of cases is once again on the rise. The week ending 1 August produced a daily average of 40,460 cases, which the head of India's COVID-19 task force said was a "reminder" that the "pandemic" is still "raging."

While "inevitable," *FT* reports that many epidemiologists believe the new surge will not be as serious as the last, absent the emergence of another new, more virulent strain. A study last month found that about two-thirds of Indians over six had already been exposed to the virus and carried antibodies.

Like so much of the reporting now regarding increasing COVID case counts, the *FT* article makes it difficult to assess the significance of those numbers, since no mention at all is made of accompanying symptoms, hospitalizations or deaths.

TRENDPOST: *Unlike the constant call for a vaccinated herd immunity, less than 10 percent of the people of India have been fully vaccinated, yet, they are doing better than the vaxxed nations in terms of cases and the rebuilding of their economy.*

As reported by Voice of America, much of the country of 1.4 billion people has reopened with daily cases of the virus dropping from a peak of more than 400,000 a day in May, to about 40,000 now. And big cities "like Delhi and Mumbai, are humming—markets are open, hawkers peddle their wares and public transport is back on streets."

They also quote Manindra Agarwal, professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur who said as the country opens up, COVID cases will rise slowly but not significantly, assuming that the delta variant remains the dominant one and we do not see an even more infectious variant."

"It will be more of a ripple really and certainly nothing as dramatic as the second wave."

VOA also quoted Chandrakant Lahariya, a New Delhi-based epidemiologist who said, "The susceptible population in the country has come down. Before the second wave hit, three-quarters of people in India were susceptible." He went on to state, "Now we know through seroprevalence surveys that nearly 68% of the population has antibodies, so any future wave will be definitely smaller."

NO HERD IMMUNITY FOR THE HERD

Go back to 2 December 2020 when America's most trusted highly touted infectious disease expert, Anthony Fauci, declared that America would reach herd immunity when 70 percent of the nation got the COVID jab.

However, in our 3 August **Trends Journal** we wrote that "Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, Director of Public Health Services in Israel said "…we are seeing about 50 percent of the people who are infected right now are vaccinated, fully vaccinated individuals. And so that is obviously of concern."

We noted this to further illustrate the uncertainty of herd immunity which we detailed in our 3 August **Trends Journal** article, "CDC: VAX FACTS: IS THE TRUTH BEING TOLD?", that there were 469 COVID cases reported in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, which includes the hot tourist destination, Provincetown.

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

However, not a peep from the Presstitutes of not only how ineffective the vaccine might be, but also the fallacy of herd immunity.

No Herd Hardly Heard

Now there is more proof of the improbability of reaching herd immunity by mass vaccinating the human herd... but again, it was barely reported.

That's the conclusion of Sir Andrew Pollard, which he shared at a U.K. parliamentary meeting on 10 August (which was reported the following day by Business Insider)... the herd cannot get immunized by getting the virus jab.

The developer of the AstraZeneca vaccine, a professor of pediatric infection and immunity at Oxford University, told the parliamentarians that it is "not a possibility" that herd immunity will ever be achieved, now that the Delta strain is in circulation.

He cited the growing evidence that, with the Delta variant, even fully vaccinated persons can still transmit or catch the virus (see the 27 July item, "THE VAX NOT WORKING?"). On the bright side, however, they are claiming that vaccines are effective at limiting the severity of the illness; vaccinated people who test positive are 25 times less likely to have a severe case or die. The overwhelming majority will have mild symptoms, if they have any symptoms at all.

What About the Next Variant?

But Pollard raised the specter that the next variant to emerge, and any subsequent ones, will be even better able to circumvent the protection afforded by vaccination, and the unvaccinated will always be susceptible.

It had been hoped that COVID-19 would be like measles, which, in the U.S. and elsewhere, has been all but eradicated after 95 percent of the population was vaccinated against it. But measles and the measles vaccines behave differently from COVID; once vaccinated, one can no longer transmit measles.

Such is not the case with COVID, as is being experienced right now, for example, in Israel [see article in this very issue of **Trends Journal**], where the Delta variant accounts for a surge in cases despite some 80 percent of adults having been vaccinated.

TREND FORECAST: *With the reality that regardless of how many people are vaccinated there will be no herd immunity, governments will push for yearly COVID booster shots for people of all ages. These mandates, which will continue to rob the un-vaxed of many freedoms, will in turn escalate anti-establishment movements as we have detailed in this and previous* ***Trends Journal****s.*

CNN REPORTS ON "FURTHER DEBUNKING OF A MYTH," AS IT IGNORES COVID FACTS

A CNN report appearing on 11 August is headlined "Myth that kids can't get badly ill from Covid is further debunked."

Note the phrasing: "further debunked." As if it had already been debunked; as if the notion that kids can't get seriously ill from COVID had already been exposed as a myth.

If that is, indeed, a "myth," it's certainly contrary to the hard data and scientific proof the **Trends Journal** has been reporting for some time, as in the following articles:

- 18 August 2020: ["U.S. SCHOOL UPDATE: CONFUSION REIGNS"]

- 17 November 2020: "KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID"
- 23 March 2021: "DRUG DEALERS: GET KIDS VACCINATED"
- 13 July 2021: "VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"

And that's just a small sampling.

Several of those **TJ** articles cite CDC figures indicating that 99.997 percent of 1-to-20-year-olds recover from the virus. But those figures were from before the emergence of the Delta variant, which we are now being told is "a game changer," because it is supposedly more contagious, more easily transmissible from person to person.

The CDC says that the Delta variant is "as contagious as chicken pox." It now accounts, the agency tells us, for some 93 percent of U.S. COVID cases, up from 3 percent two months ago.

And the number of cases in children has, CNN tells us, doubled in the two weeks ending on 5 August, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Also increased is the number of children hospitalized; we're not told the age range of those "children," although CNN does report, anecdotally, that more than half of the children recently admitted to the Children's Hospital of New Orleans have been under 2 yrs. old.

While we're told that almost half of all children (again, no age range given) hospitalized with COVID-19 between March 2020 and June 2021 had no known underlying conditions, we're not told of any increase in deaths of children from COVID-19, or whether that over-99-percent rate of recovery has changed.

CNN says that at least 542 U.S. children have died from COVID-19 (out of how many infected or hospitalized?), followed by a quote from CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky (see 10 August's "LIAR WALENSKY? CDC FRAUDSTER") that, "While children are far less likely to die from COVID-19 than adults, the deaths are still significant."

TRENDPOST: *542 people between the ages of 1 to 17 have reportedly died of the virus out of a population of 75 million in that age bracket. That means the death rate equals next to nothing... or 0.000723 percent or 1 death for every 138,377 members of that population.*

Yet, the Presstitutes and politicians keep spreading fear and hysteria and the moron and imbeciles—from government, businesses, schools and institutions—are forcing young people who are not dying from the illness to get a drug lords vaccination, to socially distance and e-mask-u-late themselves by covering their faces with mostly ineffective masks.

CNN, "Most Trusted Name in News"?

Basically, the CNN report, with its assumptions, generalizations and selective facts (often without perspective, and often anecdotal over statistical), seems to advocate vaccinations being expanded to children currently considered too young (those under 12) and mask-wearing for children over 2. It justifies those positions by invoking the need to keep children (who may have only mild symptoms or be asymptomatic and have a recovery rate from the virus of 99.997 percent) from transmitting the virus to adults, such as their relatives or teachers.

And then, to bolster its premise, CNN invokes the specter of long-term, residual effects, chief among them MIS-C (Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children). Once again favoring anecdotes over statistics, CNN tells us that "in some cases" children with mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 have later developed MIS-C.

The real statistics, from the CDC but not included in CNN's report, indicate that, of 4404 MIS-C patients (since mid-May 2020), there have been a total of 37 deaths.

And here's what the CDC, on its own website, tells the public (also not included in the CNN report):

> What we don't know about MIS-C
> CDC is still learning about MIS-C and how it affects children, so we don't know why some children have gotten sick with MIS-C and others have not. We also do not know if children with certain health conditions are more likely to get MIS-C. These are among the many questions CDC is working to try to understand. All CDC recommendations are based on the best data and science available at the time, and we will update them as we learn more.

While we know that what the CDC says today may be entirely reversed by what the CDC says tomorrow, we still find the CDC more reliable and credible than CNN.

TRENDPOST: *At the **Trends Journal** we do all we can to give the truth in trends by providing hard facts and scientific data and not skewing articles to support our findings, analysis and forecasts.*

*Yet, be it the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Afghan War, the Iraq War... or the COVID War, the majority of the population swallows the lies and propaganda from the mainstream media. Please do what you can to spread the "**Trends Journal**" word. The more subscribers we have the more we can do. And our mission is to "Think for Yourself". When more do, we believe we can then march as a society on the path to Freedom, Peace and Justice.*

DRUG LORDS VAX MONEY GRAB GETTING BIGGER

Thanks to a release on 10 August by AFP (Agence France-Presse) we now know just how profitable the COVID-19 vaccines are for their manufacturers. **Trends Journal** has been reporting, since the start of the COVID War, just how enormous the Drug Lords' revenues, and profits, have been, as in May 2021's "VAX MINTS NEW BILLIONAIRES." But these latest figures represent updates to prior projections, and show that, in most cases, even the most optimistic forecasts have been exceeded.

As has been true from the very first, Pfizer, along with its German partner BioNTech, has led the pack, in large part because it was the first to announce positive results from clinical trials (see November 2020's "PFIZER CEO MAKES WINDFALL PROFIT FROM VACCINE NEWS"), and also because its vaccine was the first to be authorized for sale by U.S. and E.U. regulators. Pfizer continues to outpace its competitors, with revenues of $10.8 billion for the first half of this year. But it's raised its projections and now expects to finish the year with $33.5 billion in sales.

Moderna, the Massachusetts-based company that (like BioNTech) sells nothing but its COVID vaccine, has also done quite well (see June 2021's "DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING"). With revenues of $5.9 billion for the first half of 2021, Moderna is now on track to finish the year with a much-higher-than-first-anticipated total revenue of $20 billion.

Bringing up the rear in the vaccine sales derby are the British firm AstraZeneca and the U.S. firm Johnson & Johnson, both of which produce vaccines based on medical technology quite different from that of Pfizer and Moderna, technology that employs a genetically-engineered version of the virus that causes the common cold. AstraZeneca and J&J sell their vaccines cheaper, and the companies vowed to sell their vaccines at cost, which impacts their revenues.

Both firms' vaccines were approved for sale by E.U. authorities later than those of Pfizer and Moderna. AstraZeneca's vaccine still lacks U.S. approval.

But those companies' revenues are still lofty, even if not quite as stratospheric as those of Pfizer and Moderna. Johnson & Johnson has racked up $264 million in sales thus far and expects to take in $2.5 billion for the year. AstraZeneca took in $1.2 billion in vaccine sales for the first half of 2021, but has not released a full-year projection.

TREND FORECAST: *Not only had we forecast and been reporting on skyrocketing drug dealer profits from the COVID Vax, we had also forecast that it would go from a two jab to three jab to yearly jab... like the flu shot.*

Indeed, it has gone in that direction.

It is important to note that this is just the beginning of forced vaccination programs. The Drug Lords will pay their mainstream media whores who they spend billions advertising on, and politicians who they buy off cheaply in the name of campaign contributions... to sell future "waves" of deadly viruses with new names and that will require new jabs.

And they will further mandate... no Jab, no Freedom.

As we had noted there were growing anti-vax movements in America and Italy before the COVID War broke out. Not only did those movements halt as evidenced by high COVID vaccination rates in both countries, but the adults that did not want their children vaccinated did a 180^0 turn by taking the COVID Jab themselves.

If those who believe it is their choice to do what they wish with their bodies—be it refusing to take allotropic drugs the drug lords sell to cure chronic degenerative diseases, or refusing an Operation Warp Speed emergency gene therapy jab—do not unite for Freedom, Peace and Justice... political tyranny will dramatically accelerate across the spectrum of life on earth.

COVID CASES SURGE IN ISRAEL DESPITE WIDESPREAD VAXING

Israel was one of the first countries in the world to launch a comprehensive COVID vaccination campaign aimed at inoculating its entire adult population.

And when, in early April, some 70 percent had received two shots of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, the country lifted most restrictions and effectively reopened its economy and returned to normalcy.

Now, however, as reported by the *Financial Times* on 11 August, Israel is experiencing the highest levels of new infections since February, and is now administering a third booster shot to all those over 50. Over 80 percent of adults are now fully vaccinated, and yet there were 6,000 new cases on 9 August. About 5 percent of tests are coming back positive, which represents a major increase.

The surge is attributed to the Delta variant and to the diminishing effectiveness of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine; see the **Trends Journal** item of 13 July, "COVID JABS: STRIKE THREE." The fading power of the vaccine over time renders particularly vulnerable those over 60, some of whom received their first shots as early as December.

About 90 percent of the new cases are in persons over 50. Israel began administering booster shots two weeks ago which have already been given to some 2,000 immunocompromised persons. The booster shot program was extended, on 3 August, to everyone over 60; with as many as 600,000 Israelis in that age group having now received a third shot, Israeli officials are offering the shot to younger people who are employed in geriatric and health care institutions, or suffer from underlying conditions.

Israel hopes that a third dose will boost antibody levels and thereby stop the spread of the virus, and the rise in the number of serious cases.

Until then, PM Naftali Bennett has asked every Israeli citizen over 50 to "be very careful in the coming weeks." That is probably an allusion to the upcoming Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in September, a time when families gather, putting older relatives at risk.

TREND FORECAST: *To fight the COVID variant, we forecast the Israeli government will at first impose less restrictive new lockdown orders in the hopes* *it would forestall a longer general lockdown that would more negatively affect the economy.*

TRENDPOST: *As we have reported, data from Israel, which is a world leader in vax rates, found that the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID jab that was sold as being 96 percent effective is in fact only 40.5 percent effective in preventing the symptomatic disease and only 16 percent in stopping symptomatic infection for those who got two jabs back in January.*

DOWN UNDER, UNDER MORE LOCKDOWNS

As **Trends Journal** has been reporting for some time (for example, on 8 June, in "DESPITE FLAWED TEST RESULTS, LOCKDOWNS PERSIST"), Australia has been the COVID War's poster child for draconian restrictions meant to control COVID-19 but which frequently appear to be extreme overreactions, informed by a perceived threat that is grossly out-of-proportion to the actual number of cases, let alone the number of fatalities.

So the news from Melbourne, capital of Victoria, according to *The New Daily* on 10 August, shouldn't come as a big surprise. The city's strict lockdown has been extended for another week in reaction to 20 new local cases, 5 of which the authorities admit are "mystery cases," with no clear tracing of their chains of transmission.

That means that some 5 million people will continue under lockdown for another week. There was no mention of whether any of those cases involved symptoms, hospitalization or death.

Did He Really Say That?

The premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, made some remarkable statements in conjunction with extending the lockdown. He declared that "only a fool" would disagree with Victoria's tightening of border rules (which went into effect at 1 p.m. on 11 August (not at noon or at 2 p.m. since they are only making number and times up) with neighboring New South Wales, requiring even residents of the cross-border communities to obtain an Extreme Risk Zone Permit.

And, while acknowledging how "challenging" the extended restrictions are to people "who would like to be going about their business," he also declared that the freedom to which Victorians have become accustomed is "simply not possible because of this Delta variant."

When the history of the COVID-War is written, freedom may be listed among the casualties; something that had to be sacrificed in order to vanquish the virus, and “stupidity,” “arrogance,” and tyranny as the new ABnormal among so-called democracies.

Again, as we have detailed in this and numerous **Trends Journal**s, despite the scientific data of the less than one percent chance of getting the virus outdoors, Danny Andrews declared that playgrounds and skate parks must close... while also ignoring the fact that children are not dying from the virus and have a recovery rate of 99.997 percent.

The shift to tighten rules follows concerns that Melburnians were “turning footpaths into impromptu beer gardens” during the weekend’s warmer weather, plus revelations that 69 people gathered for an engagement party.

It was revealed that doctors may have been among the illegal guests and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency is now investigating. Each adult at the party is facing fines of $5000.

But Wait, There's More!

In New South Wales, where 580 troops are already deployed to patrol the streets of Sydney (streets already near-empty; the city of some 5 million has been under lockdown since 26 June), NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian says (as reported on 12 August by RT.com) she expects the state police commissioner to request even more troops be deployed.

Despite the fact that some of the areas involved reported only one new case, Berejiklian added three more areas to the lockdown, insisting that restricting movement is called for to "stop the front of the spread moving forward."

The current outbreak is blamed on the Delta variant, and on those who are "recklessly" not abiding by the lockdown measures. "Just last week," said a NSW police official, "we saw a person travel out to [a neighboring town] without a valid excuse."

On 12 August NSW reported 345 new cases and 2 deaths, both of which were men in their 90's, and in the preceding 24 hours police issued 407 fines for lockdown violations, including 176 for failing to wear a mask.

UPDATE: On 14 August *Al Jazeera* and *Reuters* reported that NSW had imposed, on that date, a new seven-day "snap lockdown" in response to a sharp rise in COVID infections and 4 more deaths, bringing the state's total death count in this outbreak to 42 out of a population of over 4.4 million.

Premier Berejiklian announced that "this is the worst situation New South Wales has been in since Day One," and also "the worst situation Australia's been in." She also predicted that "September and October are going to be very difficult."

Hundreds more troops will be deployed to enforce the lockdown; fines for breaching lockdown rules have been increased from $1000 AUD up to $5,000 AUD ($3,700 USD) for violating stay-at-home orders or lying to contract-tracing officials, and a new $3,000 AUD fine will be levied on anyone entering the state without a special, official permit. An NSW police official stated, "Those people that have been getting around the orders, taking family vacations to other premises—that is over!"

The head of the Australian Retailers Association said the statewide lockdown could cost the economy $1.5 billion AUD per week ($1 AUD = $.74 USD).

TRENDPOST: *Totally ignored by the Presstitutes and politicians of who is dying from the virus, why and what the percentage of the population that is dying from it.*

With a population of just under 26 million, Australia has, since the start of the COVID War, logged just over 38,600 cases and 966 deaths... and of those, just 56 fatalities for 2021.

Thus, 966 deaths out of 25,831,095 is a death rate of 0.0037 percent of the population. And for 2021, 56 deaths out of 25,831,095 is 0.00022 percent. And over the course of 8 months, seven deaths per month would be 0.000027% per month.

Thus, Australia's leading the world in lockdown insanity.

Moreover, as we have reported, the vast majority of the COVID deaths in Australia are people 80 years of age or older. In fact, just 55 people, according to statista, under the age of 69 have died from the virus.

Yet, despite these facts, they are NEVER reported in the mainstream media. And rather than taking measures to protect the most vulnerable, much of the nation is in lockdown and the lives and livelihoods of millions are being destroyed.

TRENDPOST: *As we have forecast, since it is a Drug Lord's world, the push by politicians in locking down most of Australia is to increase the low vaccine rate which is just 21 percent... compared, for example, to the U.S. where the jab rate is nearly 52 percent.*

And, the AstraZeneca shot the government is pushing has suffered from a barrage of negative press due to blood clots and other concerns.

Indeed, Switzerland's health agency said it would not administer the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine because the data "available and evaluated to date [is] not yet sufficient." And in May, Norway banned the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 shot due to harmful side-effects. Thus, while the media calls those who do not want the vax conspiracy theorists and anti-vaxers... there is resistance among Australians to getting a jab with a bad reputation that other nations have banned.

MCDONALD'S DELAYS RETURN TO OFFICES, MANDATES VAX ORDERS... BUT NOT FOR SLAVE-LABOR WORKERS

McDonald's said in a note to its employees last Wednesday that it will delay the reopening of its corporate offices and require its corporate staff to be fully vaccinated from COVID-19.

The Chicago-based company said its restaurant-level employees, which according to Workstream, is a typical McDonald's worker who earns around US $8 per hour... will not be mandated to take the vaccine.

Heidi Capozzi, McDonald's global chief people officer, said in an internal note viewed by CNBC that the company was informed by a number of its corporate staffers that they would feel more comfortable returning to the office knowing for certain that their colleagues were vaccinated.

"We are also being asked by state and local governments to require vaccinations for corporate employees because getting more of the population vaccinated reduces our own chances of being infected and contributes to community protection," she said.

The *National Restaurant News* reported that the mandate affects the company's U.S.-based office workers and not the employees who work at their restaurant locations. The corporate offices—which were expected to reopen on 7 September—have been delayed until 11 October.

Capozzi said in the note that the company made its decision "in close consultation with our partners at the Mayo Clinic and with guidance from public health officials."

The report said employees who have been fully vaccinated could return to the offices on 7 September. The delay in reopening is so unvaccinated employees have a chance to take the shot. McDonald's said it will pay employees four hours of work to get the vaccine.

Todd Penegor, the CEO of Wendy's Co., said in an interview Thursday that the vaccine will not be a requirement for corporate staff. He said vaccinations were a personal choice.

Ronald Klain, the White House chief, took to Twitter on Friday to announce that vaccinations reached their highest 24-hour total since before 4 July. He said there were 918,000 doses administered and 576,000 people newly vaccinated, which is up from 821,000 and 565,000 respectively last Friday, *NBC News* reported.

The report pointed out that McDonald's made its announcement at about the same time that the New York Stock Exchange and NBCUniversal announced a similar mandate.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on how top companies are planning to approach office work in a post-COVID era. On 10 August, in an article titled, "AMAZON PUSHES BACK RETURN FOR ITS CORPORATE WORKERS, BUT THOSE AT FULFILLMENT CENTERS MUST REPORT TO WORK," we reported that Amazon also announced that it would delay a return to the office for its corporate employees until at least 2022.

Workers at the company's massive fulfillment centers are required to return to work—unlike their corporate colleagues—and will have to wear masks to prevent the spread of the Delta variant. One truck loader at a facility in Washington told *The Seattle Times* that it is "frustrating" that the company would "protect their corporate workers [as] opposed to continually supporting warehouse associates."

TREND FORECAST: *The White House is celebrating the fact that it strong-armed America last week, with more companies mandating their employees get the COVID-19 jabs. The message is now clear: If you do not take the vaccine you will be destroyed financially and socially. You will lose your job and then can't even go out and have a beer after you get the pink slip... without a vax passport.*

And as evidenced by McDonald's and Amazon, different strokes for different folks. While the office employees are deemed vax-essential, the plantation workers of Slavelandia are expendable, replaceable and "non-essential."

Thus, we maintain our forecast for various sectors of society that spread across political spectrums, religions and belief systems will unite under a new Freedom/anti-establishment umbrella.

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

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

SAN FRANCISCO: NO VAX PASSPORT, NO FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Following New York City's Mayor Warren Wilhelm Jr's (aka Bill de Blasio) order, London Breed, the mayor of San Francisco, announced Thursday that the city will begin to require proof of vaccination to visit restaurants, bars, and several other indoor venues to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

KRON reported that 71 percent of the city's eligible residents About 78 percent of San Francisco residents are vaccinated. The city said in a news release that despite the vaccination numbers, there is a 5.6 percent positivity rate, which is higher than the 5.2 percent during the winter surge.

NBC Bay Area reported that workers at some restaurants across the city will have to assume the role of "vaccine bouncer" and confront those who refuse to follow the rule.

"It will be a little bit more challenging for us," Pete Sittnick, the restaurant manager at Waterbar, told the station. "We're already scrambling as it is."

He told the station that one scenario that worries him is how to deal with a large group where one person is unvaccinated.

"We're nimble; we try to be as good as we can," he said. And you know what? We're probably going to piss somebody off."

The report said those who want to dine outside do not have to show any proof of vaccination and retail shops and grocers are not subject to the rule. People still need to wear masks regardless of their vaccination status.

Dr. Susan Ehrlich, the CEO of Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, told the station that the fourth wave may have hit its peak in the city and said "hospitalizations are leveling off."

The hospital had 19 patients with infection and 15 of those are unvaccinated, she said. The other four are breakthrough cases.

San Francisco was the first major city in the U.S. to announce a mandate on showing proof of vaccination in order to enter some venues.

City residents aged 12 and older will now be required to show proof of vaccination to enter indoor restaurants, bars, gyms, and theaters, as well as large event spaces with at least 1,000 people.

FACEBOOK ANNOUNCES DELAY FOR RETURN OF U.S. EMPLOYEES TO THEIR OFFICE TO 2022

Facebook, the social media giant, announced Thursday that it will delay the return of its U.S. workforce to offices until January 2022 due to "recent health data showing rising COVID cases based on the Delta variant."

"We expect this to be the case for some countries outside of the U.S., as well," the statement from the company said. "We continue to monitor the situation and work with experts to ensure our return to office plans prioritize everyone's safety."

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how companies in various sectors have differing approaches to bringing employees back to in-person work. (See: "AMAZON PUSHES BACK RETURN FOR ITS CORPORATE WORKERS, BUT THOSE AT FULFILLMENT CENTERS MUST REPORT TO WORK," "OFFICE WORKERS' SLOW RETURN ENDANGERS LANDLORDS, CITY FINANCES."

We named the work-from-home shift in the U.S. a "21st CENTURY MEGA-TREND," and noted that the Bankster Gang, such as Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, BlackRock etc., have been the most vocal in pushing workers to return to offices because they hold billions of dollars in debt and/or own commercial real estate.

Tech companies have largely taken a different approach on the matter. On 15 June, in an article titled, "FACEBOOK: EMPLOYEES CAN WORK FROM HOME FULL-TIME," we reported that Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook CEO, said many of his 60,000 workers, who have been working from home, will be able to do so on a full-time basis.

"We've learned over the past year that good work can get done anywhere, and even more optimistic that remote work at scale is possible, particularly as remote video presents and virtual reality continue to improve," he said.

Contrast that to James Gorman, the CEO of Morgan Stanley, who told his staffers in New York that they better work at their desks if they want to "get paid New York rates."

Bloomberg reported earlier this month that two vaccinated employees at the Morgan Stanley office in its New York's Times Square headquarters came down with the virus. The bank has not set a firm deadline for a return.

The New York Times reported that there also seems to be less interest among college graduates to start a career in investment banking, which can offer starting salaries of up to $160,000 a year.

"The sleep deprivation, the treatment by senior bankers, the mental and physical stress… I've been through foster care and this is arguably worse," one analyst told the paper.

TREND FORECAST: *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.*

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

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

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

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

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

ANTI-VAX PROTESTS OR PRO-FREEDOM MARCHES?

While the Presstitutes and politicians label and demonize people who are opposed to taking an Operation Warp Speed, unapproved by the Food and Drug Administration gene therapy jab as "conspiracy theorists," anti-vaxers," "right wingers" and religious ideologues... as evidenced by the rally call in protests around the world against draconian COVID War rules, one words sums it up: Freedom.

Indeed, as reported by *France 24* on Sunday, the protestors marching in cities across France were chanting "Freedom, freedom."

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively in this and previous editions of government crackdowns on individuals who refuse to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

However, we forecast that few governments, at this juncture, will demand universal vaccinations because that would require some form of law enforcement intervention and a revolt. So the next-best option is to compel people to get the vaccine or face losing their jobs or not be able to have any kind of social life. These are just a few of the numerous articles we wrote that signals this trend: (See: "UPDATE: EURO "DIGITAL GREEN PASS" GAINING SPEED," "ITALY: NO GREEN PASS, NO FREEDOM," "NO JAB, NO JOB?" ; "HONG KONG: NO JAB, NO JOB, NO FREEDOM"

Reuters reported that freedom from jab demonstrators who took to the streets in the country's fifth consecutive week in France in protest of the health pass measure put in place by President Emmanuel Macron were also holding signs that read, Pass=Apartheid.

Further illustrating what we had forecast, the strict COVID guidelines managed to bring together an unusual mix of demonstrators that included the so-called "far-right," yellow vest anti-inequality activists, and anti-vaxxers.

“I detest the idea that the authorities can go as far as they like,” Marie Huguet, a retiree, who joined a protest organized by the yellow vests, told the station. The report said these protests seem to be increasing by the week.

The new law demands all health care workers get vaccinated and other individuals to present a health pass to live a normal social life, like eating a croissant at a café. They must now present a QR code to prove they’ve either had the virus or have recovered. *The Guardian* reported that 66.8 percent of the population are fully vaccinated and is delivering 240,000 jabs per day.

The *Financial Times* also reported on the unusual mix of protesters and wrote, “what unites these groups’ often contradictory beliefs is a fierce opposition to what they view as the loss of liberty under authoritarian governments.”

“There is a strong correlation between vaccine hesitancy and populism,” Karen Umansky, a fellow at Tel Aviv University, according to the *FT*. One protester told the paper, “I am for the vaccine and had it months ago, but not the health pass, which is discriminatory.”

Marine Le Pen, the head of France’s far-right Rassemblement National party, called the health pass requirement “liberty-killing” and establishes “a coercive system of generalized surveillance.”

Protests also broke out in Montreal on Saturday to lash out at the vaccine passports, *Voice of America* reported. Thousands took to the streets after the government announced mandatory vaccines in order to eat out or enter a bar or gym.

“It should be the choice of each person whether to be vaccinated,” Veronique Whalen, 31, who told the outlet that she normally does not attend protests. “With the passports, it means forcing us,” she said.

In February, we ran an article, "ISRAEL: NO VACCINE, NO GREEN PASSPORT," which highlighted Tel Aviv's early move to force a Green Passport in order for its citizens to shop, go to gyms, theaters, hotels, sporting/music events, etc.

Yuli Edelstein, Israel's Minister of Health, said at the time, "there will soon be jobs where, in order to work, the workers will have to either be vaccinated or undergo a COVID-19 test every 48 hours."

TREND FORECAST: *As we forecast back in February, Israel has set the trend. No COVID Jab, no Freedom. Thus, we maintain our forecast "for strong anti-vax political movements in nations across the globe."*

The unusual combination of protesters is not exclusive in France. Germany has seen "a grassroots movement of hippies and neo-Nazis, leftists, and QAnon followers" that has come together in opposition to the "corona dictatorship."

PHILADELPHIA: NEW RESTRICTIONS TO FIGHT COVID WAR

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on COVID-19's Delta variant and subsequent response in various cities across the world. (See: "DELTA VARIANT: GLOBAL HYSTERIA" and "SPECIAL REPORT: NEW TOP TREND, COVID WAR 2.0.")

We have accurately forecast that the new round of "COVID IS COMING BACK STRONGER THAN BEFORE" will be the hype of the new "DEADLY" Delta strain that politicians and the media are, and will continue to sell to the public in their push for power, control... and to sell the "Get Your Vax" which will be the foundation of their agenda.

Philadelphia is one of the latest U.S. cities to put into place new restrictions that have been unsuccessful in the past. One requirement is that businesses in the city require either masks or proof of vaccination for all its employees and customers, *CBS Philadelphia* reported. Venues that require proof of vaccinations will not have to enforce the mask mandate. Outdoor dining will continue to have no restrictions under the new guidelines, the report said.

The city will also require all health care workers and students of colleges to be fully vaccinated by 15 October, *6ABC* reported. There will be exemptions based on religious or medical grounds. Those with the exemptions will be forced to have a PCR test once a week or an antigen test twice a week.

“For those colleges and universities with 90 percent or more of their population vaccinated, they can choose to offer those with exemptions the option of double masking and keeping at least six feet of social distance in indoor so indoor public spaces, or if feasible, colleges and universities may choose to offer those with exemptions a virtual option as their accommodation,” the guideline said.

Any city employee who is not vaccinated will have to wear double masks.

The *CBS* report said Mayor Jim Kenney expressed his frustrations that 30 percent of eligible residents have yet to take the jab.

“I’m upset,” he said. He continued, “This amazes me that this is the most simple thing to do to keep yourself safe and your family safe and your community safe and people still refuse to do it.”

Dr. Cheryl Bettigole, the acting health commissioner, agreed with the mayor and said getting vaccinated “isn’t just a personal decision.”

“It’s a decision that affects all of us,” she said.

The report said the Firefighters and Paramedics Union came out in opposition to the new restrictions.

“We’re not going to sit there and tolerate anyone jamming anything down our throats,” Mike Bresnan, the head of Local 22, said, according to the station.

TRENDPOST: *It was not long ago that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention came out and said fully vaccinated people no longer needed to wear masks in most situations. That's out the window. The health body now recommends that even fully vaccinated people wear masks while indoors due to the risk of infection and new variants.*

So, there's something clearly not working as advertised. Is it the mask or the vaccine? And, if the masks and vaccines are COVID proof, then those who chose them should be safe from those who refuse. Then why force the un-masked and unvaccinated to mask up and get a shot?

There have been three vaccines approved by the Food and Drug Administration under an Emergency Use Authorization: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. The Pfizer jab was the first to receive authorization, on 11 December. The drug has not received full approval but is currently being tested on children from 5-11.

"The FDA placed a warning label on the Pfizer vaccine regarding a 'likely association' with reported cases of heart inflammation in young adults. This inflammation may occur in the heart muscle (myocarditis) or in the outer lining of the heart (pericarditis), and is considered important but uncommon—arising in about 12.6 cases per million second doses administered," Yale Medicine wrote in a report published Thursday.

TREND FORECAST: *When there are reports of increasing numbers of people being vaccinated, equity markets move higher. Moreover, Wall Street analysts and top CEOs continually state that the economy will rebound when a vaccine is approved and the delusional herd immunity is reached.*

Thus, the mainstream media breaks down the willingness – or not – to get vaccinated for COVID-19 as a political issue, simplifying it as a fight between liberals being pro-vaccine and conservatives being anti-vaccine.

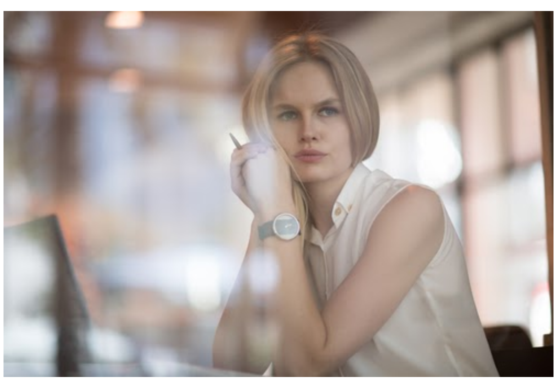
As we analyze the trend, the pro and con vaccine camps spread far beyond those narrow political borders. Should governments mandate that all citizens must get COVID vaccinated, a resistance movement will intensify and evolve into major third party/anti-establishment movements across the globe.

Moreover, the use of the term liberal has been bastardized. Liberals today mean people who have signed up to fight the COVID War and regardless of the issues believe whatever their politicians, government "officials" and Presstitutes tell them.

Indeed, this is the opposite of the true definition of liberal:

> *1. willing to respect or accept behavior or opinions different from one's own; open to new ideas.*
>
> *2.relating to or denoting a political and social philosophy that promotes individual rights, civil liberties, democracy, and free enterprise*

CHICAGO, LA SCHOOL DISTRICTS: MANDATORY VACCINES FOR STAFFERS



Chicago and Los Angeles school public school systems announced that staffers must be vaccinated for COVID-19 or face the unemployment line.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the impact that the virus has on children and their education. (See: "U.S. SCHOOL UPDATE: CONFUSION REIGNS," and "SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS: DON'T RETURN TO SCHOOL.")

The Los Angeles School District said teachers and staff must be vaccinated by 15 October or face some form of disciplinary action, *The Wall Street*

Journal reported. Megan K. Reilly, the district's interim superintendent, said that the "science is clear—vaccinations are an essential part of protection against COVID-19."

The Journal pointed out that the district went further than the guidelines put into place by Governor Gavin Newsom, which call on unvaccinated teachers to be tested weekly for the virus.

"This additional step goes above local and federal health guidelines in order to provide another layer of safety in our schools, especially for our youngest learners," she said.

Monday marked the start of the academic year in Los Angeles. There are 465,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade and 75,000 staffers. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the October date was put into place to give its employees a chance to be inoculated before the cut-off date. The report said that all employees in the district must submit to weekly COVID-19 tests whether they're vaccinated or not.

Cecily Myart-Cruz, the president of the L.A. Unified, said she was strongly behind the measure.

"I am the parent of an LAUSD fifth-grader, and my family has been going through the same uncertainty and anguish as so many other families as we approached the return to school. This Delta variant is unlike anything we have seen so far in this crisis—especially its impact on children—and we all need to step up to do our part to protect the most vulnerable among us," she said.

The Chicago Public Schools also said Friday that all employees must sign up to get the jabs.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot said the public school communities "deserve a safe and healthy environment that will allow our students to reach their greatest potential."

“This new policy enhances the district's comprehensive reopening plan and ensures students and staff can confidently learn in-person. Taking this step will further our citywide vaccination efforts and build on our progress in slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19.”

ABC 7 reported that 78 percent of Chicago employees are fully vaccinated. Both Chicago and Los Angeles districts offered a religious exemption. Public schools in Chicago open on 30 August.

Reuters reported that the number of children hospitalized with the virus in the U.S. hit a record high with just over 1,900. However, as we reported in this **Trends Journal**, there are an estimated 542 people between the ages of 1 to 17 who have reportedly died of the virus out of a population of 75 million in that age bracket. That means the death rate equals next to nothing... or 0.000723 percent or 1 death for every 138,377 members of that population.

And according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website “A study comparing COVID-19 hospitalizations between counties with in-person learning and those without in-person learning found no effect of in-person school reopening on COVID-19 hospitalization rates when baseline county hospitalization rates were low or moderate,” the CDC said.

TREND FORECAST: *There will be many families that refuse to give their children the COVID Jab. Thus, “New Millennium” education is a mega-trend we had forecast.*

*And, as we had forecast at beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak when schools across the globe were shut down, it signaled the onset of a 21st century online learning system, which, back in 1996, Gerald Celente had forecast as “Interactive U” in his bestselling book, “**Trends 2000**.”*

Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and then die.

“Interactive U” has just been born. The new education system that will replace the current one, which was invented by the Prussians at the onset of the

Industrial Revolution, will offer great investment rewards to existing and start-up companies which create the new learning systems and continue to update them.

See our report from last week: "INDIA'S ONLINE-LEARNING AN INVESTMENT WINDFALL, SOLIDIFYING 'INTERACTIVE U' FORECAST IN THE TRENDS JOURNAL."

HIGH VAX RATE DID NOT STOP COVID SPREAD, SAYS ICELAND CHIEF EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Iceland's chief epidemiologist made news last week for saying natural immunity would be the only way to beat COVID.

Iceland, like Israel, has been among the most highly vaccinated populations in the world. But that hasn't conferred herd immunity, Thorolfur Guðnason admitted in remarks reported by the Icelandic news outlet *visir*.

Despite the fact that the bulk of Iceland's population has been vaccinated, a record number of individuals have been diagnosed infected in recent weeks, one and a half months after lockdown restrictions were lifted. The equivalent to 100,000 U.S. infections a day are occuring there.

"We really can not do anything else," said Gunason, when asked whether the nation must be allowed to become infected to achieve herd immunity.

"The vaccination has prevented a serious illness, there is no question about that," Gunason stated.

But he said it’s necessary to acknowledge how many people become infected after vaccination, and to move in a different direction. Mass vaccinations at very high levels failed to stop variants from spreading.

The country’s lead epidemiologist now believes the only method to establish herd immunity is to allow the virus to propagate across the population. "We just need to shuffle the cards and come up with new plans.”

Gunason said the virus should be allowed to run its course, while taking measures to safeguard susceptible populations in order to avoid severe disease. The aim, he added, cannot be to eliminate the virus from society, since trying to do so is likely an impossible goal.

WHO HELPED CHINA COVER-UP WUHAN LAB COVID CONNECTION

A recent Danish documentary has revealed that a World Health Organization (WHO) international mission that looked into the origins of COVID-19 bowed to Chinese pressure to minimize the likelihood of the virus escaping from a local lab.

Dr. Peter Ben Embarek, an expert leading the mission,said in a documentary interview that Chinese counterparts initially refused to include any lab leak hypothesis in the report, according to *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. They eventually allowed the hypothesis to be mentioned, but only on the condition that the theory be labeled as very unlikely.

According to Businesswire, the new admission contrasts sharply with WHO's previous statements regarding the matter. The organization has previously said it was able to accurately assess the likely origins of the virus, and stood by those findings at a critical time when policies were being formed.

Commentating about the change, Dr. Jorge Saavedra, Executive Director of the AHF Global Public Health Institute at the University of Miami, said it

> “It certainly appears China had a stake in molding the report to its purposes by de-emphasizing the possibility of a lab accident. What those purposes are is unknown, but the more China resists calls for transparency on the origins of COVID-19, the more people everywhere will wonder if something went wrong, perhaps there was an accident, or a human error of some kind. Whatever may have caused or contributed to the emergence of COVID-19 – the world must know the truth, so that we can prevent another public health disaster like this.”

Groups including the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) called out conflicts of interest among certain team members, as well China's heavy-handed supervision of the Wuhan mission, while it was still in progress in February.

The Danish documentary "The Virus Mystery," which includes an interview with Dr. Embarek as well as video recorded on his phone while in Wuhan, aired last week on Danish television.

In light of the new information, AHF is urging the international community to demand greater transparency from China, including full access to raw clinical data, and independent interviews with whistleblowers and early COVID-19 patients, together with assurances that witnesses won’t face retaliation for speaking out.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS

AS CELENTE FORECAST: U.S. WOULD LOSE AFGHAN WAR LAUNCHED BY BUSH. THE WORST IS YET TO COME

Pick up the newspapers, listen to the news. What a disgusting freak show.

Blaming Joe Biden—who voted for the Afghan War and every other war America has launched since he's been sucking off the public tit when he was sworn in as a Senator from Delaware at the age of 30—for America's defeat in Afghanistan.

In the lead up to the Afghan War in October 2001, Biden joined the rest of his criminal Senate colleagues in a unanimous vote in support of a resolution that is in direct contradiction to the U.S. Constitution.

Repealing the Constitution that grants Congress the sole authority to enact legislation and declare war, Bullshit Biden signed on to give President George W. Bush the sole power to authorize the use of military force against "nations, organizations, or persons" that Bush determined were behind the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Let's look at the facts.

On 7 October 2001, President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan stating the purpose was to capture Osama bin Laden, leader of the organization Al-Qaeda, which, according to U.S. intelligence, was behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on 11 September 2001.

Bin Laden denied any involvement, and, as we have reported in detail in the **Trends Journal**, President Bush refused to negotiate, provide evidence… or even talk to the Taliban regarding bin Laden's role in the attack.

Long forgotten, but as we again note in this **Trends Journal**, is the report that 15 of the 9/11 terrorists were Saudis, one of America's treasured allies. (See, "DID SAUDIS ENABLE 9/11 ATTACKS?").

Since initiating the war back in 2001 and giving it the name "Operation Enduring Freedom," the justification shifted to a fight with the Taliban, which the Bush administration cited as a direct threat to the sovereignty of surrounding countries.

Fast Forward

Now, nearly 20 years later, under the recent orders of President Joe Biden, American troops have been withdrawn, and in a blink of a cosmic eye the Taliban is now in control of Afghanistan.

And what is the result?

"Chaos Engulfs Afghanistan Withdraw," blares the front page headline of today's *Wall Street Journal*.

Defending his position to withdraw American troops and contractors (i.e., mercenaries), Biden spouted:

> “Here’s what I believe to my core: It is wrong to order American troops to step up when Afghanistan’s own armed forces would not. How many more generations of America’s daughters and sons would you have me send to fight Afghanistan’s civil war? I will not repeat the mistakes we made in the past.”

Seeing the end was near, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country on Sunday and all U.S. Embassy staff were evacuated. Ghani has been called a traitor by many Afghans and after supporting him for years, now two-faced U.S. “officials” depict him as a corrupt leader who was more interested in enriching himself than building the country.

Just hours before, Ghani gave a televised speech—his first since the offensive—he promised not to give up the country’s “achievements” in the past two decades.

“We have started consultations, inside the government with elders and political leaders, representatives of different levels of the community as well as our international allies,” he said. “Soon the results will be shared with you.”

Reuters, citing a senior interior ministry official, said Ghani fled to Tajikistan. He has not been heard from since.

More Bullshit

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said no country should bilaterally recognize the Taliban as the leaders of the country. He admitted that it might be challenging to keep other countries on board with that initiative, and China, as we had forecast, has already shown signs of a willingness to work with the Taliban.

Reuters reported that photos were published that showed Foreign Minister Wang Yi standing with visiting Taliban officials. The report said since the photos were released, “China’s propaganda machinery has quietly begun preparing its people to accept an increasingly likely scenario that Beijing might have to recognize the Taliban."

Lin Minwang, a South Asia expert with Shanghai's Fudan University, told the news outlet that China is "being pragmatic."

"How you want to rule your country is largely your own business, just don't let that affect China," he said. "When a major Asian power like China shows it recognizes Talban's political legitimacy by meeting them so openly, it's giving the Taliban a big diplomatic win."

While we had forecast that following Biden's U.S. troop withdrawal the Taliban would overtake the nation and quickly secure its capital, Kabul... that was not the perspective from Washington or the mainstream media.

Now western intelligence services are expressing dismay that the Taliban can retake so much of the country with such speed and ease. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that officials in the U.S. said they did not expect Taliban fighters to take over any cities until the fall. U.S. intelligence agencies last week warned that Kabul could fall in 90 days.

Indeed, the *AP* reported that up until Saturday, the U.S. was still trying to advance peace talks with the Taliban in Qatar. Doha has called for a ceasefire. Middle East Eye reported that the Taliban's political office is in the city. The *AP* reported that Kabul was offering the Taliban a power-sharing deal in return for peace.

The Great Escape

Many Afghans were unwilling to take a wait-and-see approach and have fled their homes. The Taliban have already detained some citizens in Mazar-Sharif and set fire to schools, the report said.

“There will be no place for women,” Salima Mazari, a female district governor, told the *AP*. “In the provinces controlled by the Taliban, no women exist there anymore, not even in the cities. They are all imprisoned in their homes.”

The fighters have been freeing Taliban prisoners with each city they take and have picked up military equipment left behind by retreating Afghan forces.

Biden on Saturday authorized an additional 1,000 U.S. troops for deployment, bringing the total number to about 5,000. He said that their mission is to ensure that the U.S. can have an “orderly and safe drawdown.” The president OK’d Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s recommendation that the U.S. send the lead battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division—which is an additional 1,000 troops, *Politico* reported. The other two battalions will camp in Kuwait as a “ready reserve.”

CBS News reported earlier that some embassy staffers would stay behind, including special agents from the Bureau of Diplomatic Security Service and other “top decision-makers.”

“Security engineers will also stay behind to continue destroying sensitive hard drives, taking down cameras, and stripping the embassy of alarms,” the report said.

Biden made it clear to the Ghani government that it was on its own while the Taliban advanced last week.

“Afghan leaders have to come together,” Biden said last Tuesday. “We lost thousands to death and injury, thousands of American personnel. They’ve got to fight for themselves…fight for their nation.”

The Wall Street Journal reported: “The Biden administration has said that after two decades in Afghanistan, the U.S. has expended enough money and lives there, and that US priorities are shifting to rebuilding at home and dealing with China and Russia."

Former President Bush, who launched the Afghan War, issued a statement late Monday calling on the Biden administration to make good on its promise to evacuate Afghans who have been on the "forefront of progress inside their nation."

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

As a result of his forecast, Celente, once a popular guest on mainstream media and having appeared twice on Oprah, was blackballed from the press and TV and accused of being anti-American. (See the movie, "ZIZI and HONEYBOY," starring Doris Roberts)

TRENDPOST: *On 15 June, we published an article, "PENTAGON: KEEP THE 20 YEAR LOSING AFGHAN WAR GOING," and pointed out that in April, Biden announced the withdrawal, he promised to support the government of Afghanistan and said that although U.S. military involvement was ending, diplomatic and humanitarian involvement would continue. He said that military strikes would occur only for anti-terrorism or if American interests were threatened.*

*The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the quagmire in Afghanistan and the seemingly endless war. See:*

- *"Bogeymen, terrorists and evil doers" (11 Jul 2014)*
- *"AFGHANISTAN WAR: THE END IS NEAR" (2 Jun 2020)*
- *"TOP DEMOCRAT: KEEP THE AFGHAN WAR GOING" (2 Mar 2021)*
- *"U.S. PANEL: KEEP FIGHTING LOSING AFGHAN WAR" (9 Feb 2021)*
- *"BYE BYE U.S.: TALIBAN TO TAKE KABUL" (29 Jun 2021)*

TRENDPOST: *As we have been reporting, despite Washington's tough talk in challenging China, considering its endless string of military defeats since World*

War II, should war break out between the two nations, the U.S. would be no match against the Beijing dynasty.

Indeed, China is already using the U.S. calamity in Afghanistan as a warning to Taiwan. The Chinese newspaper, the Global Times, wrote that the troop withdrawal in Afghanistan should resonate with Taiwan. "How Washington abandoned the Kabul regime particularly shocked some in Asia, including the island of Taiwan," the editorial read.

DID SAUDIS ENABLE 9/11 ATTACKS?

America or a dictatorship?

We the People or plantation workers of Slavelandia?

As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the 11 September 2001 terror attacks on the U.S., much of the information about those attacks is still being held secret for all these years, and the government has said much of it will remain so for "security reasons."

The New York Times informs us, in an article appearing on 10 August, that pressure (via litigation) brought by families of the nearly 3,000 victims may have moved the Biden administration to de-classify some documents which may shed light on the connection between the terrorists and the government of Saudi Arabia.

Biden had made a campaign promise to look into the release of the documents. On 6 August his press secretary, Jen Psaki, said that the requests for the documents "would continue to be a priority" for Pres. Biden.

The Justice Department announced that the FBI, having closed part of its investigation of the attacks, would now be reviewing and considering disclosure of documents previously deemed to need to remain secret. "The FBI will disclose such information on a rolling basis as expeditiously as possible," the department said in a letter to the federal judges in charge of the case.

The victims' families have long suspected that the Saudi government funded the attacks, and have exhorted every U.S. president since then to release the pertinent information. The report by the 9/11 Commission failed to unambiguously rule out Saudi involvement, leaving the families to believe that the U.S. government was covering up Saudi complicity.

There was even a slip-up in 2012 which showed that the FBI was, indeed, hiding evidence of Saudi involvement; see the **Trends Journal** article of 19 May 2020, "SAUDI ARABIA: WASHINGTON'S 9/11 ALLY").

The U.S. government position has been that state secrets necessitated keeping the documents classified. The families, after trying for years, finally brought suit in 2017 after Congress overrode President Obama's veto of a bill permitting such a suit, but lawyers for the Saudis have fought it vigorously.

And in 2019 William Barr, U.S. Attorney General under Pres. Trump, cited national security as the reason the documents should remain secret. Recently, however, 20 Saudi officials were questioned under oath, and now the suit's progress is in the hands of the presiding federal judge.

The *NYT* article quotes Brett Eagleson, who was 15 yrs. old when his father, Bruce, perished in the World Trade Center attack, directing his remarks to Pres. Biden and saying, "This has gone on for too long. If you're not going to release the documents and you're going to continue... covering up the Saudi role," the families could not in good faith welcome Pres. Biden to the commemorations of the tragic events.

9/11 Community United, another group of victims' families and survivors, called Biden's announcement a "half-hearted, insufficient commitment to transparency."

TRENDPOST: *As we have continually reported, since the worst attack by a foreign enemy on American soil took place on 9/11, both the mainstream media and Washington have made concerted efforts to underreport the fact that 15 of the 19 hijackers involved in the attack were Saudis.*
The most recent example was revealed on 13 May 2020 when it was reported the FBI had mistakenly revealed the identity of an official in the Saudi embassy who had a direct connection to the 9/11 hijackers. (See, "SAUDI ARABIA: WASHINGTON'S 9/11 ALLY," 19 May 2020)

ETHIOPIA'S CIVIL WAR WORSENING

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed last week called on "all capable Ethiopians" of fighting age to sign up for the country's defense forces to confront the advancing Tigrayan forces that have changed the course of the war after some decisive victories.

Abiy, the 2019 Nobel Prize winner who launched the War in November 2020, said in the statement that it was time for Ethiopians to show their patriotism.

The statement was released as Tigrayan forces continue to make advances in the country after calls of a cease-fire from Addis Ababa and was the latest salvo from Abiy to threaten the stability in the Horn of Africa and seemed to snuff out any hope of a ceasefire.

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the conflict since it began (see "ANOTHER NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER GOES TO WAR," 10 Nov 2020).

These are just a few of the many articles and trend forecasts we have made since then:

- “ETHIOPIA’S TIGRAY WAR HORRORS” (15 Dec 2020)
- “ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN: TENSIONS RISING” (26 Jan 2021)
- “ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA” (4 May 2021)
- “ETHIOPIAN MILITARY CRISIS CONTINUES TO WORSEN” (29 Jun 2021)

Abiy Ahmed launched the war against Tigray in November, saying it was because they had a vote in September, despite a countrywide voting ban due to the COVID outbreak.

He accused the TPLF of attacking a military base. Tigray was considered a potential threat to his power because it makes up about 6 percent of the country’s population of 110 million, and it has ruled Ethiopia for two decades.

He assured the country that his troops would make quick work of the Tigrayan forces, but that has not materialized and there is now a humanitarian crisis.

Oxfam reported last month that millions of people have been impacted by the fighting that broke out in Tigray in November 2020 and about 1.7 million have been displaced within Ethiopia. The UN said that more than five million people could need humanitarian assistance in Tigray and more than 350,000 are experiencing famine-like conditions. The UN report said at the time that 100,000 children in Tigray could face life-threatening malnutrition in the next 12 months.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the international call for peace has fallen on deaf ears.

Leaders from the TPLF announced that they were discussing a military alliance with Oromiya, which is the country’s more populous region. The alliance would be a major threat to Abiy, *Al Jazeera* reported.

“I hope we are going to squeeze this government and if possible—and I know it’s possible—we are going to overthrow this regime and stop this crisis,” Kumsa Diriba, the OLA leader, said. The report pointed out that the government looks at both groups as terror organizations.

Payton Knopf, a former U.S. diplomat, told *The Associated Press* earlier in the conflict that the fight should not be looked at as “just another tribal African war.”

“This is much more akin to what an Inter-state war would look like,” he said, when considering the formidable Tigrayan fighters. “This is no this is not Syria, right? This is not Yemen. This is a different order of magnitude.”

On 29 June, in an article titled, “TIGRAY FORCES RETAKE CAPITAL CITY,” we reported about the Tigrayan forces overtaking the region's capital Mekelle, which was seen as a stunning turn of events.

TRENDPOST: *Jake Sullivan, President Biden’s national security adviser, announced that the U.S. would send a special envoy to Ethiopia to try and get both sides to agree to a ceasefire.*

“Months of war have brought immense suffering and division to a great nation that won’t be healed through more fighting. We call on all parties to urgently come to the negotiating table,” Sullivan said in a tweet.

In a report on 20 April, “MORE WAR CRIMES IN TIGRAY,” we pointed out that Ethiopian forces team up with Eritrean troops to allegedly commit war crimes during the conflict.

Mark Lowcock, the top U.N. humanitarian official, told The New York Times at the time that Eritrean troops killed civilians in indiscriminate attacks. Sexual violence accounts for almost one-third of these attacks and is being used as a weapon of war, officials said. Some women have been gang-raped for several days by Eritrean soldiers, Lowcock said.

It will be interesting to see how the U.S.'s attempt at mediation will go after Biden's troop drawdown in Afghanistan and subsequent carnage. Some political observers see the situation in Afghanistan as a warning for countries not to trust the U.S. with their future.

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

However, as we have forecast, the greater the tensions rise and the deeper the nation falls economically, the more people in this highly-populated nation will seek refuge in safe-haven European nations. This will, in turn, boost populist political party movements throughout the Eurozone.

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

Despite Abiy's Tigray War loss, his ruling Prosperity Party "overwhelmingly" won the general elections on Saturday and he will remain in power another term. The country's opposition and foreign observers raised concerns about the integrity of the election.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW

YOUTUBE BANS SEN. RAND PAUL FOR QUESTIONING FAUCI

Is YouTube (or, for that matter, other Big Tech platforms like Google, Twitter and Facebook) a private entity, and therefore able to arbitrarily determine what it permits users to post and what it chooses to censor or de-platform, or is it somehow beholden to preserving the Constitutionally-protected Right to Free Speech?

That's the question with which Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) is wrestling at the moment, having had two of his speeches removed from YouTube and his account suspended from uploading videos for seven days.

On 12 August JusttheNews.com reported on a conference call with Senator Paul two days earlier, in which the senator told how his posted speeches, which had openly challenged and disputed Dr. Anthony Fauci's dictums regarding masks and vaccinations, had been summarily pulled from view.

This was hardly the first—or last—adversarial encounter between Sen. Paul and Dr. Fauci; consider the exchange **TJ** reported, on 18 May 2021, in "BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI."

According to Sen. Paul, YouTube's action made "the real debate" not about the effectiveness of various masks and whether their use should be mandated, nor about similar concerns regarding vaccines, but about censorship and the First Amendment.

"I've actually been one who thinks private entities really do possess this power as part of private property," he said, "but it doesn't make me any less angry."

Senator Paul said he sees a pattern of censorship on Google properties (Google is the parent company of YouTube, having acquired it in 2006), and believes that, in stifling criticism of the government's official COVID policies (as expressed by the government's mouthpiece, Dr. Fauci), YouTube had become "an organ of the government."

"I think, for the most part, the First Amendment doesn't apply to these entities," Paul said. He explained further:

> "But... if they are taking CDC pronouncements"—which Sen Paul believes have become highly politicized, and to which he believes there exist scientific grounds for dispute—and "if they are taking government edicts and enforcing them, are they a private entity any longer, or are they becoming an organ of the government? I think it's terrible for free speech."

TREND FORECAST: *We have written extensively about the censorship trend and how it would increase. In the 11 December 2018* ***Trends Journal*** *article, "CENSORSHIP 2019," we forecast the proliferation of internet censorship across the globe:*

"Freedom of speech? Freedom of Expression? Forget about it! From the United States to China, from New Zealand to Nepal, Censorship is a megatrend. For

well over a year, social media giants and governments have been silencing voices that challenge establishment agendas."

In our 21 January 2020 issue, we doubled down on the forecast, stating:

Our "Censorship" Top Trend of 2019 has now become a way of life: unchallenged and barely reported by the mainstream media, who are included among social media giants as the chief censors banning those who don't tow their party lines and special interests.

*As the **Trends Journal** has been warning for years, Silicon Valley is silencing users on the internet who dare challenge the official narrative. Unfortunately, ever since the politicians and Presstitutes started the COVID War, censorship has increased dramatically.*

The degree of censorship muzzling the globe is now potentially so comprehensive that it poses an imminent threat to the fundamental concept of freedom.

***TREND FORECAST:** Governments across the globe, regardless of what political doctrine they profess, in collusion with social media giants, will accelerate the Censorship 2019 trend.*

While Google, Facebook and Twitter will dominate market share for the foreseeable future, market gaps will widen. They're ready to be filled by nimble, trustworthy First Amendment-driven OnTrendpreneurs® having 2020 foresight to host sites to circumvent the government/media monopolies.

Beyond the issues of censorship, the Internet has and will serve as the launch pad for major populist revolutions against established political parties, multinationals and globalist interests. New websites and hosting companies "of the people, by the people and for the people" will gain healthy market share.

CNN BLAMES THE SKY FOR SKYROCKETING FOOD PRICES

When all else fails, blame the weather.

A 13 August CNN business story ("Get used to surging food prices: Extreme weather is here to stay") sought to divert attention away from the obvious, with respect to spiraling food costs.

According to the story, a global COVID shutdown egged on by MSM outlets, and inflationary government fiscal and economic policies, aren't the culprits.

"Extreme weather" is to blame. The CNN story found several experts who managed to avoid mentioning debt-fueled stimulus, "non-essential workers", supply chain disruptions and energy policies to account for the out-of-control inflation plaguing the economy.

"There's no doubt that changes in weather patterns are impacting our food supply," claimed Jennifer Bartashus, a senior analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence who covers retail staples and packaged food.

Robert Yawger, an executive director of energy futures at Mizuho Securities, also fingered climate change: "In the past, it wasn't that there was a climate catastrophe rallying everything at once. I've never seen anything like this—where everything is bid to the moon at the same time."

The Biden administration is currently overseeing the largest spike in consumer inflation since 2008. Statistics released last week showed that consumer prices rose 5.4 percent compared to a year earlier.

Producer prices are even worse, reaching rates that have been seen since the recession of 1982. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the latest producer price index showed a July year-over-year inflation rate of 7.8 percent, and that almost certainly means even more consumer pain ahead.

At this rate, Jimmy Carter and 1970's stagflation numbers are in sight.

The CNN story avoided talk of disastrous economic policies that many mainstream media outlets instigated and rooted for as a response to COVID.

Gerald Celente was already warning in April 2020 that misguided COVID policies would end up hurting impoverished peoples the most (see "POLITICIANS CAUSE WORLDWIDE HUNGER CRISIS").

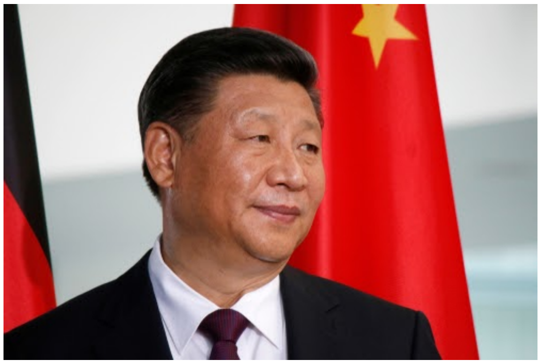
The COVID War fomented a neurotic response in affluent first world nations. In a food price squeeze, third world countries are paying the highest price.

But COVID virtue-signalers evidently aren't comfortable confronting the consequences of advocating prolonged mass shutdowns, and paying people with debt-created dollars to sit at home.

Besides the weather, the story did manage to name one more culprit for the food price problem contributing to Joe Biden's underwater approval numbers: Donald Trump.

"For instance, some food inflation is being caused by a shortage of workers, including in the agricultural sector amid the pandemic and Trump administration's crackdown on immigration."

CHINA EYEING AFGHANISTAN’S TRILLIONS IN RARE EARTH MINERAL WEALTH



There’s a silver lining for the Afghan people, if they can fight for it as well as they throw off invading armies: precious metals and rare earth minerals potentially worth trillions.

CNBC is reporting that China will likely be high on the list attempting to work deals for access to that wealth.

Over the weekend, the Islamist Taliban organization took control of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, as well as the Presidential Palace. Following President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan in April, the Taliban achieved rapid combat gains, and the militants now control almost the entire country.

Some experts, including Shamaila Khan, director of emerging market debt at AllianceBernstein, said Khan the world community should exert pressure on China if it tries to form an alliance with the Taliban.

Khan asserted that China must abide by international rules, since mining rare earth metals is regulated, due to their hazardous properties and other factors.

But what leverage the world community has to influence, let alone dictate to either nation at this point, is debatable, to say the least.

Although counted as one of the world's poorest nations, a 2010 study by US military specialists and geologists showed that Afghanistan has . massive iron, copper, lithium, cobalt, and rare-earth reserves.

Due to the country's continuing conflict, most of those resources remained untapped for the next decade.

But as a result of the worldwide shift to green energy, the value of several of those minerals has soared. According to a follow-up study released by the Afghan government in 2017, Kabul's new mineral riches, which includes fossil fuels, may be worth $3 trillion.

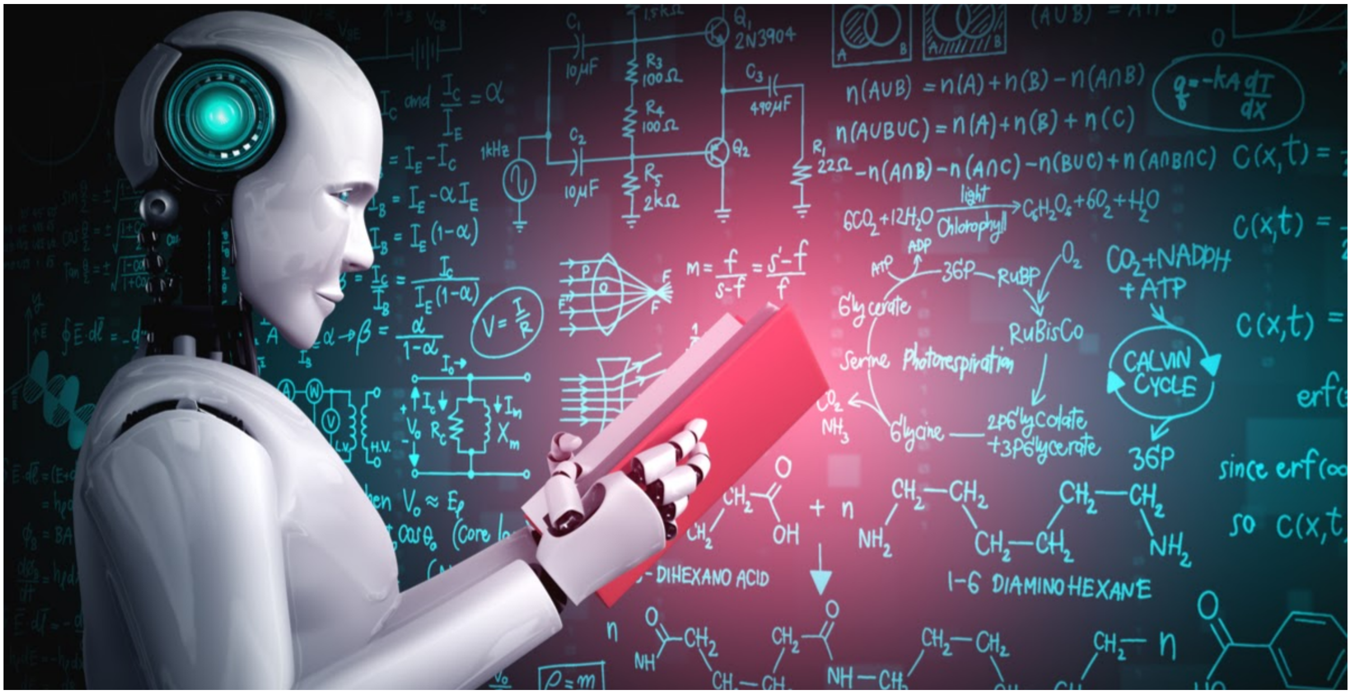
German news outlet Deutsche Welle noted specific stores that might be exploited. Lithium, which is used in batteries for electric vehicles, cellphones, and laptops, is in high demand, with current yearly growth of 20 percent. According to the Pentagon document, Afghanistan is the Saudi Arabia of lithium.

Copper, meanwhile, has risen 43 percent in the last year as a result of the post-COVID global economic rebound. Expanding copper mining operations may unlock more than a fifth of Afghanistan's potential mineral riches.

Michael Tanchum of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy told DW:

> "Taliban control comes at a time when there is a supply crunch for these minerals for the foreseeable future and China needs them, China is already in position in Afghanistan to mine these minerals."

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By Ben Daviss

PATENTS CAN NAME A.I. AS INVENTOR, COURTS RULE

For the first time, courts have ruled that a patent can name an artificial intelligence as an inventor.

The honor went to the "device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience" (DABUS), an artificial intelligence (AI) created by Stephen Thaler, CEO of the research and consulting firm Imagination Engines and a pioneer in AI since the 1980s.

DABUS is credited with inventing, on its own, a novel food container and a "neural flame," a pattern of light pulses that focuses the mind's attention on a particular target.

Patent offices in Australia, Britain, and South Africa had rejected the patent applications because tradition and, in the U.S. and many other countries, law stipulates that inventors named in patents must be "natural persons."

For more than three decades, humans have patented discoveries and inventions created by AIs but always listed themselves as the inventors, often on the advice of attorneys or their employers that would own the patent's rights.

A group called the Artificial Inventor Project pressed DABUS's case in Australian and South African courts to force the legal profession, and society as a whole, to recognize that AIs have the power to invent without human guidance.

It would have been "criminal" for Thaler to claim credit for the inventions when DABUS did the creative work, he said.

Early this month, both courts ruled in DABUS's favor.

"An inventor as recognized under [patent law] can be an artificial intelligence system or device, but a non-human inventor can neither be an applicant for, nor a grantee of, a patent," Australian federal judge Jonathan Beach said in his ruling reversing the patent office's rejection of Thaler's applications.

In other words, an AI can be an inventor but can't own the rights to its creation.

"So to hold is consistent with the reality of the current technology and consistent with promoting innovation," Beach stated.

TRENDPOST: *Although crediting AI for an invention is a small matter of paperwork, symbolically it's crucial: it acknowledges that artificial intelligences have come to inhabit the provinces of creative thought and discovery that, until recently, have been strictly human territory.*

AIs have discovered new drugs, solved fiendishly complex math problems, and even written publishable stories for newspapers. To formally credit them with the *power to invent recognizes that the line between the biological and digital mind is becoming less distinct.*

AUSTRALIA BETS BIG ON VIRTUAL POWER PLANTS

Australia's wide-open spaces get a lot of sun and Aussies are capturing it to fuel what have been dubbed "virtual power plants."

Utility companies and state governments are cooperating to link rooftop solar panels and in-home batteries in local networks connected to the grid. Grids can call on the networks' energy at times of peak demand, using computer intelligence to aggregate and manage the flow of electricity as needed.

Virtual power plants help grid utilities meet peak demand without building power plants that would be used only occasionally. Homeowners whose energy supplies are tapped collect a check for selling electricity to the grid at peak rates.

More broadly, renewable power that's generated isn't wasted but can flow into the grid, allowing utilities to throttle back generation at nuclear, coal-, or oil-fired central plants.

In the latest example, Western Australia's state government is shepherding Project Symphony, which connects more than 500 homes, each with rooftop solar panels and home batteries.

The government has offered to subsidize home battery purchases on the condition that utilities can take power from the batteries as needed during peak periods.

Eventually, but not yet, virtual plants will be able to include electric vehicles and their batteries.

Australia has the world's largest penetration of rooftop solar systems in residential markets, according to the federal government's Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources.

Rooftop solar panels generated 65 percent of the power consumed earlier this year in Western Australia's South West Interconnected System, a utility network covering more than 60,000 miles of transmission and distribution wires, the system reported.

TRENDPOST: *As we've reported previously ("…and goodbye, electric grid," 22 October, 2015), utility companies are looking at a future in which their chief task will be managing the distribution of electricity, not generating it.*

Increasingly, generating power will be the province of microgrids and distributed power systems. Australia is showing the rest of the world how that will look.

MINING METALS FROM PLANTS

Of about 320,000 known plant species, roughly 700 are known as "superaccumulators"—plants that pull metals such as cobalt, nickel, and zinc out of the soil at high rates.

At a time when demand for metals is rising along with the world's hunger for more and more electronic appliances, what has come to be called "phytomining" may be crucial for meeting that demand.

In Malaysia's Kinabalu Park, for example, four acres are planted in a leafy shrub named Phyllanthus rufuschaneyi.

Every few months, local farmers trim off a foot or so of growth from the plants, which can grow to 20 feet in height.

The farmers then burn their harvest, producing an ash known as bio-ore that can produce as much as 25 percent nickel by weight.

The carbon wafting from the burn is far less than what would be produced from traditional mining, with its blasting, excavating, washes of toxic chemicals, and exhaust from diesel trucks hauling raw rock.

The Malaysian nickel field yielded from 170 to 280 pounds of metal per acre, or 150 to 250 kilograms per hectare.

At today's prices, a farmer "growing nickel" in Malaysia could clear about $3,800 per acre, on a par with other high-yield crops in the region with similar operating costs, according to a study carried out at Australia's University of Queensland.

In contrast, farmers in the Pacific Islands growing crops for palm oil are netting around $2,710 per acre, the study noted.

Australian scientists are planning a 50-acre trial nickel crop next to gather additional evidence that phytomining is financially practical on a commercial scale.

TRENDPOST: *Mining with plants can be economically viable with thin deposits not practical using conventional heavy machines and brute-force methods.*

Now that the world is even more aware of the costs of a carbon-heavy economy, phytomining will more easily take root in areas with mineral deposits that are marginal.

Even more important, metal farming will bring a new income stream to subsistence farmers in developing nations.