
TRENDS JOURNAL
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SHOW US YOUR VAX PAPERS!

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Inside

SHOW US YOUR VAX PAPERS

Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: SHOW US YOUR VAX PAPERS!

Who would have thought—other than those living in China, the former Soviet Union or Nazi Germany—that "Freedom," as now dictated by leaders in what used to be called the "Free World," would mean forced vaccinations?

It's the New ABnormal: No Vax Passport, no entry. No Jab, No Job.

Then there's the news of Federal Reserve Bankster bandits who, with inside information, made millions in stock trades.

And speaking of the Fed, remember we kept saying inflation will continue to spike while Fed chair Jerome "Fraudster" Powell said it was temporary?

Now, nearly a year later, in anticipation of raising interest rates, Powell says inflation is stronger than anticipated… which is a load of BS. They knew it all along.

Get ready for a very rough ride into the future. And as you know and see in the **Trends Journal**, we are doing all we can to help you Prepare, Prevail and Prosper… now and in the times ahead.

Sincerely,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

COMMENTS

INSIDER TRADING AT THE FED
Resentment is building against the 1%ers for sure. Unfortunately most of the electorate is shamefully ignorant on economic matters. They will most likely demand government action to rectify government and corporate malfeasance!

Akin to getting the big bad wolf to find a better way to protect little red riding hood.

Eagle11

RESTAURANTS ON THE BRINK
Our family owned a restaurant during the late 80's early 90's when things were a little more normal. You still could barely make a living. Food costs were always a huge problem and the price to put a meal in front of a customer was always cutting into your small profit margin. I can't imagine these poor businesses trying to fight this system of destruction in 2021. Our waitresses made more money than the owner. We can only pray for this industry to survive so at the end of a hard week we still have a place to meet friends and talk about the good ole days.

Adam Holgate

ABOUT THAT "ROBUST" ECONOMY
I don't believe that BLS figure of 10.1 million open jobs. They claim they base

their estimates on a survey of 144,000 businesses and government agencies, but it seems they are cooking the books in order to make the economy seem more robust than it actually is. The number of initial jobless claims is up again this week, exceeding expectations by 30,000. The number of continuing jobless claims is up 140,000 over the previous week. If there are 10.1 million 'open' jobs, the statistics do not support that estimate.

Nick Steed

WHAT BILL GATES RATES

I have advocated the prosecution of Bill Gates and his corporate philanthropic predators be hauled before the ICC in The Hague for his and others who are committing Crimes Against Humanity in duplication of NAZI scientific experimentation on humanity. These philanthropists are committing murder and getting away with it because they have the money and influence to sway public and political organizations to turn a blind eye on their criminal activities!! The mRNA experimental gene therapy medical fiasco is a prime example!!!

harlow53

FREE SPEECH BAD FOR HEALTH?

"Klownbachar" [Sen. Amy Klobuchar] is right, the plandemic HAS shown us how lethal misinformation can be. The CDC, who, big tech, corporate media and governments around the world are killing people by pushing false narratives and ramping up hysteria about COVID and pushing the so-called and deadly "vaccines."

Frank Gallo

All along the dems have wanted the masses on welfare. Covid did what decades of politicians couldn't. And now people won't go back to work.

Mandi Serrioz

ON EV RANGE "ANXIETY"

The upcoming Depression will stagnate EV and all Vehicle sales. EV's for the masses are years and years away. Other than the rich *%#@ such as John Kerry, no-one will be able to afford a climate change hoax vehicle.

Correction: the correct term is not "Range Anxiety", the correct terminology is "Range Awareness". Other than short commute city folk, this EV crap will not be viable for North America until new battery technology becomes feasible.

Idaho_7

EVERGRANDE AND NOT SO GRAND

Poetic justice for China to have its economy implode. What better justice for the CCP that spread the bioweapon covid prematurely, of course. They wanted it to be much worse, but now the "warp speed" vaccine is even a worse weapon being distributed to Americans so they will be unable to resist the DC Oligarchs. I pray China falls like the walls of Jericho and America suffers for its sins of omission. Tribulation has slowly been heading our way but it's about to get a lot worse! Keep your powder dry!

Richard McKenzie

TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT

U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

In The Bronx, there is a saying: “Bullshit has its own sound.”
While we have long been forecasting that inflation pressures would continue to rise, we kept noting that Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell and the rest of the Bankster Gang had been spewing out bullshit for most of the year claiming that inflation was “temporary.”

Now, finally, with inflation rising higher across the economic spectrum, Powell told the Senate Banking Committee yesterday that inflation was moving up higher because of longer-than-expected supply chain disruptions and reopening pressures, “These effects have been larger and longer lasting than anticipated, but they will abate, and as they do, inflation is expected to drop back toward our longer-run 2 percent goal.”

And he gets away with this crap.

The Fed Banksters are not stupid. They knew inflation was rising.
They are a brilliant scam artist Gang that knows how to rig markets and get rich from doing it.

Need more proof?

How about the two Bankster Gangsters, Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan and Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren who both resigned yesterday following reports of their playing the markets in alleged violation of ethics rules.

Indeed, to believe Banksters have "ethics rules" is an oxymoron that only a moron would believe.

As we have reported, the recent ethics outcry over stock trades by Robert Kaplan, who worked with Goldman Sachs for some 20 years which we detailed in "Bankster Bandits Get Rich Playing the Inside Track" (14 Sep 2021), were foretold by information in his financial disclosure forms covering 2020, that Wall Street on Parade reported.

Documents show that he had made "multiple" trades of more than $1 million in S&P futures. Kaplan also had at least $1 million in an S&P exchange-traded fund, which trades during market hours.

So, more than $1 million in an S&P exchange-traded fund can mean a hundred million.

As for Rosengren, he traded in and out of REITs last year in amounts of $1,000 to $50,000.

Again, the point being, the Fed Gang is not stupid.

They understand data and numbers and know how to play the game. Thus, they fully knew that inflation was rising higher.

As we had been forecasting, they kept lying about inflation being "temporary" because the higher inflation rises, the more pressure on them to raise interest rates.

And, as we have forecast, when interest rates rise from near zero to 1.5 percent, the equity markets, housing market and national economy that have been artificially propped up with cheap money... will crash.

Gregory Mannarino has been on top of the Fed fraud pitch on inflation and in this week's article, "Expect A Second, Larger Wave of Inflation to Hit," he makes it clear that the worst is yet to come.

Mr. Mannarino says Fed chair Jerome Powell's claim that "The current spike in inflation is transitory... is being used as a tool to suppress the truth, and the truth is this. Not only is the current pace of inflation NOT transitory—but it is also about to get much worse."

And in a recent interview with Robert Kiyosaki and Kim Kiyosaki on their Rich Dad Radio Show, Gerald Celente made it clear where inflation is going: "Inflation is REAL: New World Disorder" (Watch the interview here.)

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *The Fed has lost its last shreds of credibility.*

From its highest officials trading stocks and futures on inside information, as we disclosed in "Bankster Bandits Get Richer Playing the Inside Track" (14 Sep 2021), to Powell either completely misjudging, or deliberately lying about, inflation's trajectory, the central bank deserves to lose the confidence of the American public and should be disbanded.

On the Market Front

We had noted last week that fears over the possible collapse of China's giant Evergrande property developer were being overblown. After a volatile week of trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average squeezed out a 0.6-percent gain last week, boosting the Standard & Poor's 500 index by 0.5 percent.

The NASDAQ dipped four points on Friday, less than 0.1 percent, to end the week flat.

Evergrande bondholders had not received an $83.5-million interest payment by Thursday's deadline. The news blunted Wednesday's and Thursday's gains into Friday.

Evergrande's shares shed 11.6 percent of their value Friday on the Hong Kong exchange and have been stripped of 84 percent of their value so far this year.

Fueled by that fear, investors sold heavily early in the week, then went bargain-hunting Wednesday, the same day the U.S. Federal Reserve said it was preparing to wind down its $120-billion monthly bond-buying program.

Rather than the markets pulling back on the tapering news, the Dow's 2.5-percent rally Wednesday and Thursday became its' largest two-day gain since March.

Why the boost in stocks with the economic outlook uncertain?

As interest rates stay low and money stays cheap, the stock market casino is the gambler's place to be.

But that climate is now beginning to change.

With uncertainty in the air, it was a mixed day yesterday for U.S. indexes, with the Dow Jones up 71.31 points and the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite off 0.3 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

Today was a different story. The line on The Street is that equities are sharply down because there is a budget stalemate in Washington. Congress needs to approve government funding by Friday or else there will be a shutdown.

In a letter to Congress, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned today that D.C. lawmakers need to raise the debt limit by 18 October to avoid a government default.

While these factors are adding downward pressure to stocks, the real fear as we forecast, is the Federal Reserve admitting to rising inflation and the fear on the Street that as inflation spikes so too will interest rates rise. And when the cheap flows of monetary methadone begin to dry up, equities will move sharply lower.

Today the Dow fell 569 points, the Nasdaq Composite dove 2.83 percent, marking its biggest fall since March... and the S&P 500 sank 2.04 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *The media is once again selling fear and blaming market fluctuations on the possibility of a government shutdown while ignoring the fact that there have been 20 of them in the U.S..*

And while it is not mentioned, as though it is ancient history, the 2018-2019 shut down during the Trump Administration, the longest in American history lasted for 35 days and wrecked zero havoc on the economy.

However, considering current market volatility, the fear of rising interest rates and the reality of an overvalued equity bubble ready to burst... a government shutdown as markets are diving will escalate the downward dive.

TREND FORECAST: *In "Fed Officials Send Mixed Signals on Policy Shift" (29 Jun 2021), we noted this: "At his December 2020 press conference, Fed chair Jerome Powell pointed to "disinflationary pressures around the globe" and said "It's not going to be easy to have inflation move up."*

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

The Fed is finally admitting what we have been saying for months: inflation is not temporary or transitory but an economic reality that will continue surging for at least the next six months as materials shortages and supply-line tangles persist.

Also, while the Fed insisted that it would not raise rates until 2024, we predicted that hikes would begin sooner; now half the members of the Fed's Open Market Committee are expecting to raise rates in 2022 (see related story).

Over There

And in Europe today, stocks closed sharply lower on concerns of U.S. bond yields moving higher which indicates rising interest rates. And there are concerns that Chinese growth will slow down, which means so too will European exports to China.

Today, both Goldman Sachs and Nomura cut their 2021 China GDP growth forecasts from 8.2 percent to 7.8 percent and 7.7 respectively.

As the saying goes, "When the U.S. sneezes the world catches a cold." Therefore, minus a U.S. equity market crash, which is still a high probability, we maintain our China GDP forecast of 8 percent. And, even if its GDP dropped to the 7.7 percent range, it is still healthy growth compared to the U.S. and Europe.

GOLD/SILVER: Despite sharply rising inflation which is bullish for safe-haven precious metals, on expectations that the Feds will raise interest rates sooner than expected, today gold slumped more than 1 percent, hitting a seven-week low, closing at $1733.80 per ounce.

While the sentiment of gold and silver is bearish, we maintain that when interest rates go up, despite the dollar getting strong, inflation will still persist. Moreover, when the flow of cheap money dries up, equities will dive and the economy will sink into deep recession. Thus, there will be strong demand for safe-haven gold and silver assets which will spike prices back to the yearly highs... and higher.

On the silver front, today it fell nearly one percent to close at $22.44 per ounce.

OIL: Today Brent Crude briefly hit $80 per barrel, its highest level since October 2018, before falling 0.93 percent to close at 78.79 per barrel... which is up some $4 per barrel from last week's close.

West Texas Intermediate fell 0.21 percent, closing at $75.29 per barrel.

With Brent and WTI up some 50 percent this year and natural gas prices spiking, as we have been reporting, inflation will continue to rise and the higher prices will hit the working class citizens of Slavelandia the hardest.

BITCOIN: As we had forecast when the crypto craze accelerated, bitcoin prices will continue to rise but the greatest threat that will bring them down is when governments do what they can to ban them.

Last week, the People's Bank of China banned all transactions involving cryptocurrencies and the government has renewed its pledge to end crypto mining in the country.

Any crypto transactions will now be considered illegal financial activity, even when handled by exchanges abroad, the bank said.

China has long complained about digital currencies because of their possible ties to money-laundering and other crimes, as well as their ability to siphon money out of the country unnoticed.

The government also has said that mining uses too much fossil fuel energy and is a factor causing China to fail to meet self-imposed targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, China plans to debut its own stablecoin digital yuan next year and is nervous about competing cryptocurrencies.

Beijing banned crypto exchanges from China in 2017 and outlawed crypto mining in June.

China announced the ban on 24 September, dropping Bitcoin's price from above $45,000 to about $42,000 in a few minutes.

The price did not crater because much of China's crypto activity already had been moved elsewhere as earlier strictures on digital currencies were put in place, analysts told Bloomberg.

"News out of China definitely impacts markets because it can shake market sentiment," Clara Medalie, research chief at data firm Kaiko, said, "but the actual effect of another Chinese ban has minimal impact on underlying market structure at this point."

As we go to press, Bitcoin is trading at $41,600 per coin.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast for Bitcoin to dive deeply if it goes below $25,500 per coin and rise sharply if it breaks strongly above $50K per coin and steadily maintains the above mid-$50K range.*

We also maintain our forecast that a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies is dependent 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.

(For more on bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, please see our "TRENDS IN CRYPTOS" section.)

TRENDPOST: *China has complained that cryptocurrency is not real money, should not be used in commerce, and is a haven for criminals' ill-gotten gains, as our articles highlighted.*

We have documented China's dislike of digital money in our "Cryptocurrency Special Report" (25 May 2021), "Crypto Prices Fall as China Shuts Down Most

Bitcoin Mining" (22 Jun 2021) and "China Goes Full Digital Yuan in Beijing" (29 Jun 2021).

***TREND FORECAST:** China will debut its digital yuan stablecoin next year and will continue to suppress and harass all other forms of cryptocurrency in order to ensure that all Chinese domestic residents can only use the official form of digital money, allowing government minions to track each person's purchases.*

When the digital yuan becomes available to China's general public, the event will spur other central banks to speed creation of their own stablecoins.

Over time, stablecoins' widening availability will part the crypto universe in two: investors will hew to digital currencies that tie their value to a stable asset, such as the U.S. dollar; speculators will continue to jump into the crypto sectors the governments can't control. Free-floating cryptocurrencies also will remain the domain of innovators, whose creations then will be adopted by market sectors.

WILL FED TAPER BOND PURCHASES?

The U.S. Federal Reserve could begin paring back its $120-billion monthly purchase of government and mortgage bonds within six weeks and be ready to raise interest rates next year, the Fed announced after its policy meeting last week.

The Fed has been buying $80 billion in government bonds and $40 billion in mortgage bonds every month since June 2020.

"The purpose [of the announcement] is to put notice that" a decision to begin trimming bond purchases "could come as soon as the next meeting" on 2 November, Fed chair Jerome Powell said in a post-meeting news conference.

Most policy committee members agreed that the bond purchases ending "around the middle of next year is likely to be appropriate," Powell said.

Following the announcement, the Dow Jones Industrial Average bounded up more than 500 points on the news; the NASDAQ and Standard and Poor's 500 each added 1 percent.

Nine of the 18 committee members now expect to raise interest rates next year, compared with 13 at the June meeting who thought a rate hike could be put off until 2023, which we reported in our "U.S. Markets Overview" on 22 June, 2021.

Half those present in the meeting think rates will need to increase by a full point by the end of 2023, from their current 0.25 percent, and add another three-quarters of a percentage point in 2024.

Again, as though they didn't know it before, now more Fed officials than previously, expect inflation to run hotter next year than they had forecast at the June meeting. With inflation running higher, they are now selling the line that not only will rates rise next year, but they will jack them up more than once in 2023.

To make such a long term forecast has nothing to do with reality. It is purely a guessing game that is engineered to keep markets flying high now with the reality on The Street that what the Fed will do in 2022 and 2023 will depend on the state of interest rates and the economy at that time.

"I came away thinking Federal Reserve officials are somewhat more concerned about elevated risks of inflation and they see the possibility that inflation could be more persistent," economist Tiffany Wilding at Pacific Investment Management told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Powell is prepared to admit as much in Congressional testimony this week (see related story).

An increasingly successful vaccination campaign and $2.8 trillion in federal stimulus spending has created a swift recovery, but that has sent inflation galloping at more than twice the Fed's 2-percent target rate.

A high inflation rate could be sustained by the impacts of the COVID virus's Delta variant, coupled with commodity shortages and snarls in global logistics, and could slow growth.

Powell, as the Fed's public voice, has previously downplayed speculation about rate increases, saying the criteria for raising rates was more stringent than those needed to start tapering bond purchases.

However, the Fed's internal calculations now are persuading more central bank officials that they likely need to raise rates sooner than they have been planning.

Yields on 10-year treasury notes rose from 1.306 percent before Powell's comments to 1.332 at the end of the trading day, the *WSJ* noted; the two-year yield moved from 0.214 percent to 0.24.

Because yields rise as bond prices fall, the movement indicated investors' cautious optimism about the economy's future in the wake of Powell's statements.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long forecast, when interest rates go up, the equity and housing markets will significantly weaken. When interest rates increase to the 1.5 percent range, both sectors will crash.*

The Fed is fully aware of this, thus, despite the talk of rates rising, even if they go marginally, it will put immediate downward pressure on housing and equities which are bubbles that are ready to burst.

DEFAULT COULD ERASE SIX MILLION U.S. JOBS, MOODY'S SAYS

If Congress does not raise the debt limit and the U.S. defaults on its debts, the country would vaporize six million jobs, bounce the unemployment rate to 9 percent, and the economy could hurtle into a tailspin that would rival the Great Depression, Moody's Analytics declared in a 21 September report, "Playing a Dangerous Game With the Debt Limit."

The government will run out of money next month if Congress fails to act. This Thursday has been set as the deadline to do so.

A decision to not pay its bills would cost the U.S. about six million jobs and slash stock market values by a third, Moody's report said.

"This economic scenario is cataclysmic," Mark Zandi, Moody's chief economist, wrote.

The law limiting the amount of money the U.S. can borrow is an anachronism left over from World War One. It requires Congress to authorize additional borrowing by the federal government.

Congress has raised the debt limit 78 times since 1960, most recently in 2017 when Republicans controlled Congress and the White House.

However, Republicans in the Senate now have promised to filibuster the bill to raise the ceiling in protest of president Joe Biden's proposed $3.5-trillion infrastructure plan, although raising the debt ceiling would address only expenses Congress has authorized previously.

Equity markets have not reacted to the imminent threat, probably because they have become inured to this repeating drama and are confident that Congress will act in time, Zandi said.

In 2013, fears of a default boosted yields on treasury securities, socking taxpayers for an estimated extra $500 billion in interest costs, Moody's report said.

In the report's worst-case scenario, the government will default and Congressional gridlock will linger on, delaying $80 billion in payments due 1 November. If the impasse continued, spending would be slashed deeply or delayed indefinitely in every program except national security.

If the worst comes to pass, "Americans would pay for this default for generations as global investors would rightly believe that the federal government's finances have been politicized and that a time may come when they would not be paid what they are owed when owed it," Zandi warned.

TREND FORECAST: *Considering the rapidly building U.S. debt level of near $30 trillion, and when interest rates rise the cost of servicing it will also escalate, a debt default will sharply rattle the already weakening equity markets while adding downward pressure on the dollar.*

This will in turn push gold and silver prices higher as investors seek safe-haven assets.

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS CLIMB AGAIN

New claims for state jobless benefits bumped up to 351,000 in the most recent week, compared to 335,000 the week before and disappointing analysts' expectations for just 320,000 new filings, labor department figures show.

Continuing claims rose to 2.85 million, passing economists' expectation of 2.6 million.

The figures show the largest increases since July and signal a slowdown in the U.S. job market and, more broadly, in the nation's economic recovery.

On 6 September, the weekly federal $300 unemployment insurance benefit ended, as did support programs for unemployed persons who had used up their state benefits.

TREND FORECAST: *A crashing equity market will greatly increase the unemployment numbers. And what we said in "Unemployment Claims Ticking Up" (27 Jul 2021), has proven yet more accurate now.*

Tens of thousands of businesses have permanently closed, vaporizing millions of jobs. Even under perfect economic conditions where there is steady growth, it would take many years to form and capitalize enough businesses to absorb all of those workers displaced by the COVID War.

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

Although unemployment is decreasing, it will take much longer to settle down to the rate that marked the pre-2020 economy. Also, now that federal unemployment benefits and eviction bans have ended, and millions of people fear catching the Delta virus, the Biden Bounce has flattened out.

Unemployment is unlikely to reach the Fed's dream of "full employment" (see related story) as long as unskilled workers lack work and skilled jobs lack qualified workers.

HALF OF COVID'S JOBLESS GONE FOR GOOD?

Of the 5.5 million U.S. workers still jobless from the COVID War, more than half are not seeking work and no longer plan to, according to a report published last week by JP Morgan.

"About half of the people who lost jobs during COVID are still actively looking for work, while the other half are not," Morgan senior economist Jesse Edgerton wrote in the study.

A little more than 22 American million jobs were lost when lockdowns were first imposed; now, about 17 million have been added back, leaving roughly 5.5 million off of payrolls.

Of those 5.5 million, 2.9 million are not seeking work, Morgan's study calculated.

About 900,000 of those are age 55 or older and could have simply retired early, the report acknowledges.

From February 2020 to June 2021, 1.3 percent of the U.S. workforce retired, compared to the 0.3 percent that would be typical during that length of time, according to figures from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

The remaining two million ex-workers could be remaining jobless for several reasons, the report said.

Some might be waiting for the Delta virus to come under control; others, almost all women, may be handling child care responsibilities, with the future of in-person schooling in doubt and daycare centers now left with 126,700 fewer workers than before the COVID War, according to *The Washington Post*.

Others have reevaluated their work lives and have left low-wage jobs in hospitality or health care to search for something more fulfilling or lucrative, the report suggested.

Also, there is a continuing mismatch between skilled jobs that are open—in manufacturing, for example—and people seeking work but lacking those specialized abilities.

TRENDPOST: *We have said many times that what has been lost is lost forever. The COVID WAR has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of millions.*

The COVID War has reshaped the world job market, wiping out millions of low-wage, low-skill jobs, spurring automation in the workplace, as we detailed in "Virus Speeds Automation: Bye Bye Workers" (21 Sep 2021), and creating a future that has far less use for people who lack specialized training and skills.

END OF FEDERAL JOBLESS BENEFIT WON'T BRING MANY BACK TO WORK

The end of the emergency federal $300 weekly unemployment benefit is unlikely to drive large numbers of workers back into the labor market, several studies by economists and the *Financial Times* have found.

About 7.5 million potential workers were impacted when the COVID-era weekly subsidy ended on the 6 September federal cutoff date, the *FT* said.

Twenty-six states already had ended the program in June, July, or August for their residents, hoping to push them back to work.

From May, when most of those states announced they would end the program early, through August, states that curtailed the benefit and those that kept it both saw jobs added at a rate of about 1.3 percent, according to U.S. labor department figures.

The view that federal unemployment benefits was the only major barrier to bringing people back to work is “misguided,” Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, said to the *FT*.

“It was one factor but not the only one,” he said.

From May through August, unemployment did fall slightly faster in states that ended federal benefits early, Indeed’s chief economist Jed Kolko told the *FT*, but that was matched by the additional jobs created in states that kept the federal checks coming.

A study by Columbia University researchers of 18,000 low-wage workers receiving unemployment payments found that 26 percent of those in the study took jobs in states where the federal benefit was cut off early, compared to 22 percent in states that kept it.

For most of 2020, the federal bonus was set at $600 a week for unemployed workers and self-employed people who lost gigs. The money was in addition to state unemployment checks.

The federal top-up channeled $850 billion into the U.S. economy from March 2020 through August 2021, according to investment firm Evercore.

The U.S. economy welcomed back about one million workers in each of June and July, still leaving about 5.5 million out of work.

Because the early end to federal jobless support in half the states failed to drive workers back into the labor force, the problem of persistent unemployment is rooted more deeply, economists told the *FT*.

Nearly three million women left the labor force during the COVID War and 1.8 million are still jobless, labor department figures show.

Many are staying home to supervise children learning remotely or out of fear of the Delta virus.

Others, including many men, have reevaluated their low-wage, dead-end jobs and have returned to school or are seeking more meaningful work.

The impact of almost 5.5 million jobless workers suddenly losing $300 a week lays the foundation of a different kind of study, the *FT* noted.

"The expiry of these benefits could end up doing more damage for families' finances than good for their employment situation," Daco said.

TREND FORECAST: *What the COVID War has done—with much of society locked down and out of work—it gave people lots of time to assess who they are and what they are doing with their lives. And what millions saw was a bleak picture.*

Now, with the Big's in control of the economy and no room to move up the corporate or small business ladder, many would rather not work at all than work at a job that pays $15 an hour or less, that will take them nowhere.

Thus, we forecast that unemployment numbers will remain high and hiring difficulties will persist. And, with more companies mandating and/or requiring employees to be vaccinated, this too will add to the job gap.

RISKY LOAN BACKERS BEWARE

The next default crisis is taking root in the junk-bond and leveraged-loan markets, according to analysts at the S&P Global credit ratings service.

As risk rises, interest rates typically do also to compensate investors for the greater chance of losing their money, the analysts note, but "just the opposite is now true," they wrote in a research report.

As an example, Coinbase, rated as a high-risk loan prospect, has just secured a 10-year bond carrying an interest rate of 3.625 percent, within half a percentage point of what the U.S. government paid to borrow in 2018, the analysts noted.

From 1 January through August this year, the combined value of planned and completed mergers and acquisitions worldwide totaled a record $3.6 trillion, with half in the U.S., as we reported in "M&A Spree Continues as the Bigs Get Bigger, Rich Get Richer" (14 Sep 2021).

Avenue Capital Management, a private equity firm, has turned down "hundreds of deals" recently, CEO Marc Lasry told a conference last week, because of concerns that borrowers would have trouble making payments in years to come, according to the *Financial Times*.

"There are a lot of knuckleheads out there and a lot of people making huge mistakes," he said, making risky bets for fear of losing out on deals that others seem eager to fund.

U.S. financial conditions are as loose, and loans are as easy to get, than at any time since at least 1982, according to a Goldman Sachs analysis cited by the *FT*.

The current lack of broader investor safeguards likely will persuade private equity companies to pay themselves lavish dividends when they take over companies of questionable worth or by using high leverage, analysts at Moody's warned.

This year has already seen a record number of leveraged buyouts, surpassing the previous record set when the economy collapsed in 2007, data firm Refinitiv noted.

In 2020 and 2021, 8.4 percent of high-leverage private equity deals defaulted on loans, compared to just 5.2 percent of heavily indebted companies that lacked private equity involvement, Moody's found.

Lenders are lured into these outlandishly risky deals because they are "aggressive and highly optimistic," according to a research paper by economists at New York and Stanford universities.

"Investors appear to be making a bet that is highly asymmetric to the downside," the paper noted.

During the Great Recession, Wall Street banks were left holding a bag of failing loans. During the current crisis, asset managers have made the loans on behalf of pension funds, endowments, and individuals, the *FT* pointed out.

"We've learned…not all bets pay off," the *FT* said.

TREND FORECAST: *We repeat what we said in "Risky Companies Snapping Up Cheap Loans" (23 Feb 2021): the junk bond and leveraged loan markets are gamblers' games and many of their bets will come up craps when interest rates rise, as they will next year (see related story).*

We said in "Bond Market Tightens, Junk Bonds in Crisis" (24 Mar 2020) that the "Greatest Depression" will trigger a wave of defaults larger than that of the Great Recession. Bottom-of-the-barrel junk bonds, those rated B3 or lower, made up

38 percent of the junk bond market in July 2019, compared with 22 percent in 2008, according to Moody's Analytics.

After another year of cheap money, market euphoria, and $250 billion in SPAC speculation, the problem has become enormously worse.

"Investors probably will be surprised at the extent of their losses," said Oleg Melentyev, a Bank of America investment strategist, in spring 2020. He estimated 29 percent of junk loans will fail when credit tightens again, as the Fed is preparing to do next year, compared to about 20 percent during the Great Recession; and that investors will recover only about 50 cents on the dollar against 58 cents in 2007 through 2009.

They will be lucky to collect even their 50 cents now.

BACKLOGGED SHIPS: NEW ABNORMAL

As of 19 September, the number of ships anchored off the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles waiting to load or unload cargo totaled 73, up from the 44 on 28 August that we reported in "Ships Clog = Inflation" (14 Sep 2021), according to the Marine Exchange of Southern California.

Before the COVID War, ships virtually never had to wait for a berth at a terminal, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Ships continue to add to the clog because there are so few other places to go, given the physical supply lines that have been built up over decades, the *WSJ* reported.

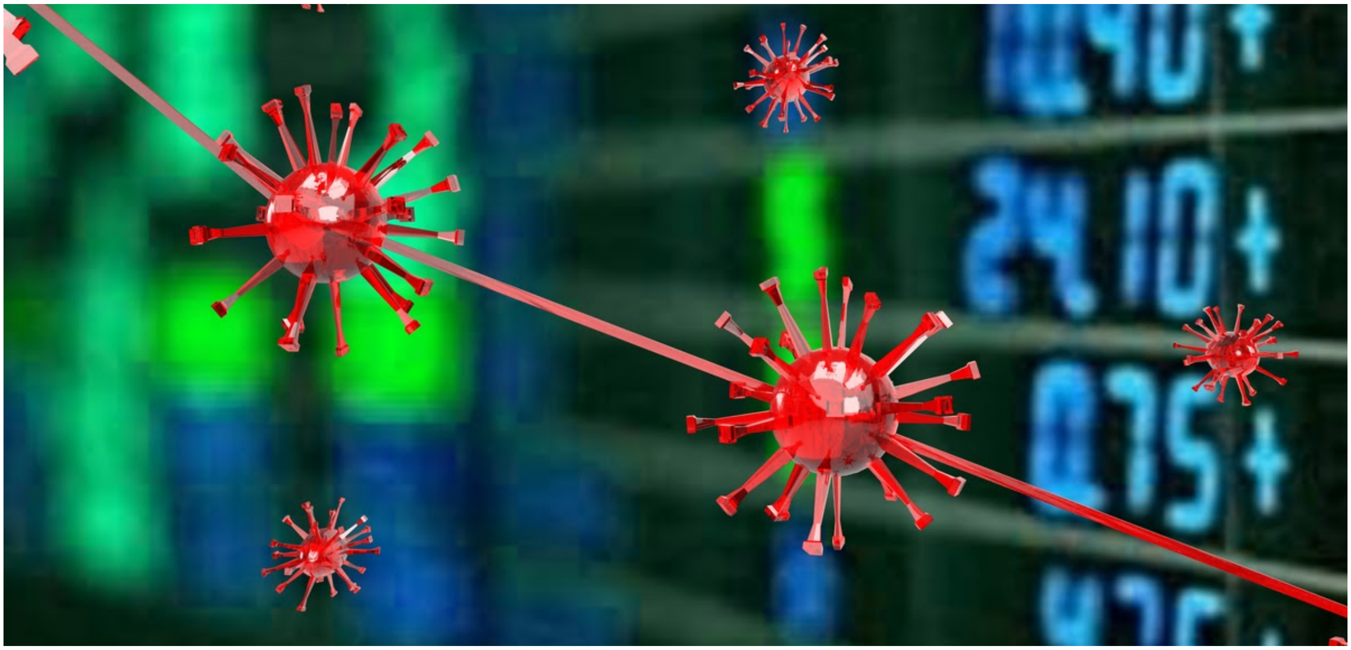
They are the closest U.S. landing point to China and Asia's factories.

The two ports have dozens of cranes to handle a constant flow of containers and vast warehouses to store goods.

In 2020, the two southern California ports handled 8.8 million loaded cargo containers, more than twice as many as the ports of New York and New Jersey, the nation's second-busiest shipping docks.

TREND FORECAST: *Should politicians and Presstitutes start selling a winter of COVID Fear and Hysteria, there will be more backlogs and delays in shipping deliveries which will further drive up prices and increase inflation rates.*

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



DELTA VIRUS HAMPERING GLOBAL RECOVERY, OECD SAYS

The COVID virus's Delta variant is slowing the world's economic recovery but will not cripple it, according to new forecasts from the 37-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its latest quarterly report published 21 September.

The U.S. economy will grow 6 percent this year, the OECD now says, not the 6.9 percent it predicted in May.

In September, U.S. business activity slowed to its lowest pace in 12 months, with service businesses reaching their most sluggish activity in 14 months, according to business surveys conducted by IHS Markit.

Airlines, restaurants, and other service businesses have reported slowdowns as politicians imposed new social mandates and consumers stayed away for fear of catching the Delta virus, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

U.S. hiring in August slowed from earlier in the summer, with the hospitality sector adding no net new jobs last month, according to labor department figures.

European businesses suffered from the same shortages of materials, higher prices, and supply chain snarls, IHS Markit surveys found.

In August, business activities in Germany slowed to their slowest rate in seven months; France's economy settled at a five-month low.

Consumers in Europe also are more cautious now about venturing out with the Delta virus unchecked, the *WSJ* said.

British manufacturers faced the same supply disruptions, leading that nation's economy also to slow in September, IHS said.

Because of this confluence of negative factors, the world economy will expand by 5.7 percent this year, not the 5.8 percent the organization predicted last spring, the OECD thinks.

The OECD raised its 2021 outlook for the European Union's growth from 4.3 percent to 5.3 percent.

It left its prediction for China's GDP growth unchanged at 8.5 percent for this year but the calculation was made before China's Evergrande property development company revealed the extent of its teetering debt.

If Evergrande is allowed to default on its loans, the economic damage could echo through the country's economy.

The OECD also predicted inflation will ease next year as vaccination campaigns inoculate more Asians and as supply chain disruptions work themselves out.

The Delta virus has spurred new slowdowns and shipping bottlenecks in Asia, which have translated to a shortage of finished parts and consumer goods in the West, the OECD report said.

Current inflation rates are largely a result of tangles in the global supply chain, which will ease as more people are vaccinated, OECD chief economist Laurence Boone said in a statement quoted by the *WSJ*.

Asian manufacturing hubs had not carried out successful vaccination campaigns before the Delta variant swept through, prompting politicians to impose new lockdowns, which has created shortages of products for manufacturers and consumers, the *WSJ* said.

While inflation will ease elsewhere next year, it will accelerate in China, the OECD said.

With more of the world's population becoming vaccinated, the U.S. economy will expand 3.9 percent next year, up from the OECD's spring forecast of 3.6 percent, and the world's GDP by 4.5 percent, compared to 4.4 percent foreseen four months ago.

TREND FORECAST: *As we predicted in "Will Delta Variant Cut Growth Forecasts?" (24 Aug 2021), the Delta fear will have people going out less, and the growing resistance to continue fighting the COVID War among a sizable sector will dampen economic growth.*

Delta also has inspired politicians to impose new mandates and lockdowns, a trend we foresaw in "Delta Variant Surges in U.S." (27 Jul 2021).

These factors will damage the holiday spending spree, which most brick-and-mortar retailers depend on to turn a profit for the year.

More failures of stores and malls will be only one consequence of a slow holiday shopping season.

Demand for goods that are not there, due to materials shortages and transit snafus, will spur price hikes even more. Job growth will slow as more businesses lack the additional means to hire. New business formation will be retarded.

What other variants lie beyond Delta that will continue to jolt the world's economy? Wait until the winter sets and see how politicians and Presstitutes start selling more COVID Fear and Hysteria.

Indeed, the more fearful people become, the less they go out, travel, dine and intermingle. And with demands for Vax passports greatly increasing, this will put more downward economic pressure on economies since a sizable sector of potential customers who will not get the jab will evaporate from the marketplace.

CHINA'S ECONOMY SLOWING?

Beyond the potential collapse of Evergrande—the Chinese conglomerate toting more than $300 billion in debt, that missed a $83.5-million bond payment last week, and that has 1.6 million unfinished apartments on its hands—there are signs that China's overall economy is losing momentum.

However, we do not see as drastic a slowdown as Wall Street is selling, since a correction of the long term housing market spike, for example, was long overdue.

Residential real estate sales slid 7.1 percent by value in July and 18.7 percent in August, year over year, with developers reducing the number of new projects over the summer and hurrying to finish ones already under way.

The property sector contributed 7.3 percent to China's GDP last year, compared to 2.3 percent in 2010, but the Chinese government recently has cracked down on borrowing by property developers.

Several industry sectors have more production capacity than is being used, *The New York Times* noted.

Another trouble sign: the production and sale of heavy trucks plunged by half in August, year on year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, the worst performance since 2015 in the wake of China's bungled currency devaluation.

Alan Greenspan, former chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, used to cite the market for big trucks as a favorite gauge of the health of the American economy, *The Times* said.

Car sales weakened last month, dented by the global shortage of computer chips, and consumer spending overall pulled back, adding to warning signs that have prompted economists to reduce their forecasts for China's economic performance this year.

On 21 September, Bank of America trimmed its prediction for China's 2021 GDP growth from an 8.2-percent expansion this year to 8 percent and, for 2022, cut its outlook from 6.2 percent expansion to just 5.3.

China's official outlook calls for a 6-percent boost to GDP in 2021.

Chinese economists are more optimistic than observers in other countries about their nation's ability to rise out of economic dips, citing the government's control of the banking industry, interest rates, and the flow of money in and out of the country.

The government has deep pockets to bail out troubled industries, they point out, and the People's Bank of China has room to loosen monetary policy.

However, that expansive control also is hampering China's economy, analysts warn, noting that recent crackdowns on property developers, tech companies, and cryptocurrencies could be beginning to weigh down the broader economy.

Those regulations that are intended to reduce financial inequality, curb monopolies, rein in reckless borrowing, and cut carbon emissions, are popular with the public, the *NYT* noted.

The government had thought that the COVID-inspired economic surge would offset any upset caused when regulators asserted greater control over companies' operations.

That gamble seems to be a losing one, many observers say.

The tutoring industry, one of the biggest areas of job growth for college graduates, has suffered from greater government controls, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. Tech workers face pay cuts.

Because of Beijing's heavier hand, China also has lost some of its allure among foreign investors, the *NYT* said.

TREND FORECAST: *As we see it, the Chinese government is taking measures to minimize a major meltdown by slowly slowing down its economy to prevent the bubble from bursting.*

China was the world's only major economy to grow during 2020. While the current new figures indicate that its momentum is slowing, we maintain our forecast for a strong 2021 Chinese Gross Domestic Product... in the 8 percent range.

As we have noted, while America's trade deficit hit a record high, China's trade surplus keeps rising. And the higher their trade surplus, the higher their GDP rises as much of the world buys Made-in-China.

TREND FORECAST: *China's economic policy of "dual circulation" signals a shift in the country's economic outlook as it prepares to become the world's largest economy by 2030.*

Since the 1980s, China has relied on exports to grow its GDP. "Dual circulation" formally splits the country's production between exports and imports, with a growing emphasis on fostering growth at home.

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

DEVELOPMENT BANK TRIMS ASIA GROWTH FORECAST

Collectively, Asia's developing nations will grow the region's economy 7.1 percent this year, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) projected, instead of 7.3 percent, as the bank had forecast earlier.

COVID's Delta variant, the area's slow and uneven progress in vaccinating citizens, and renewed lockdowns and restrictions on businesses and movement are to blame for the reduction, the ADB noted.

"Developing Asia remains vulnerable to COVID…as new variants spark outbreaks, leading to renewed restrictions in some economies," ADB economist Joseph Zveglich Jr. said in a conference call with reporters cited by the Xinhua news service.

New outbreaks remain “the main risk” to economic performance, he said.

As of 31 August, only 28.7 percent of the region’s eligible residents had been vaccinated, compared with more than 70 percent in the U.K. and 60 percent in the U.S., Xinhua noted.

The ADB raised its 2022 outlook for the region from a 5.3-percent expansion to 5.4.

Separate from Asia’s emerging nations, China will grow its economy 8.1 percent this year, thanks to continued strong exports, greater government support, and a continuing growth in consumer spending, the bank expects.

However, China’s expansion will slow to a 5.5-percent pace in 2022, the ADB thinks.

Different regions of Asia face different futures, the bank’s report noted.

East Asia’s outlook for this year rose from 7.4 percent to 7.6 percent, in the bank’s estimation, based on global demand for its exports. The ADB’s forecast for 2022 remained unchanged at 5.1 percent.

In contrast, the bank pared its forecast for southeast Asia from 4.4 percent this year to 3.1 and from 5.1 to 5 percent for 2022.

South Asia, dominated by India, will deliver 8.8 percent more economic output this year than last, though less than the 9.5 percent the bank foresaw in April. India’s outlook was trimmed to a 7.5-percent expansion next year, up half a percentage point from the 7 percent the ADB predicted five months earlier.

Inflation across Asia’s developing economies should stay subdued at 2.2 percent this year and 2.7 percent in 2022, although rising food and commodity prices could accelerate the pace, the bank said.

TREND FORECAST: *Many Asian nations will slide down the slowing growth curve into yet another round of debt crises and looming defaults.*

And as U.S. interest rates rise, many emerging market nations will go down. Once again, we renew our forecast noted in “Strong Dollar Threatens Developing Nations” (27 Jul 2021): A new round of debt crises will consign millions of people to poverty and spark political turmoil across the southern half of the globe.

NORWAY BECOMES FIRST “GROUP OF 10” COUNTRY TO RAISE INTEREST RATES

Norges Bank, Norway’s central bank, has raised its base rate from zero to 0.25 percent, citing business activity’s return to pre-COVID levels, a high COVID vaccination rate, and unemployment of just 2.7 percent.

Another hike is likely in December, bank officials said, and as many as five more next year.

Norges Bank is the first central bank of an economy included among the world’s 10 most-traded currencies to raise rates since the COVID War began in March 2020, the *Financial Times* noted.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is contemplating a rate increase in 2022; the Bank of England is likely to do the same, analysts say (see related stories).

Brazil, Russia, and South Korea have already raised rates at least once.

Sweden’s Riksbank has said it will hold its rate at zero until at least late in 2024; Switzerland’s bank has said nothing about lifting its current -0.75-percent rate.

"Other countries have different policy considerations," Norges Bank governor Oystein Olsen said to the *FT*.

"There is a strong recovery in the Norwegian economy [therefore] it's fine to start a gradual normalization of the policy rate," he said.

Norway's inflation rate has been low but is likely to begin to move toward the bank's 2-percent target because wages will grow as the economy strengthens, the *FT* noted.

TREND FORECAST: *Norway's economy might be strengthening, but it remains connected to the rest of the world, where the economy remains less than steady. However, the oil rich nation will remain economically sound as oil prices continue to rise since it is among the global top seven exporters of crude and its oil and gas sector constitutes almost 20 percent of its Gross Domestic Product.*

However, raising rates six times over the next 14 months will damage growth and destabilize the economy. We predict that Norway's central bank will not enact such an aggressive rate structure but will be forced to scale back its planned schedule of increases.

IRON ORE PRICES SLUMP ON DEMAND OUTLOOK

Iron ore prices have fallen by nearly half from their 20 July high above $219 per ton under pressures from China's slowing property market, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The price opened this week at $119 after plunging to $94 on 20 September.

Evergrande, China's largest property developer, owes more than $300 billion that it has announced it might not be able to repay; the company missed an $83.5-million interest payment last week on a dollar-denominated bond.

Evergrande's troubles sent shock waves through China's real estate and financial industries, already nervous following the government's tighter restrictions on borrowing by property developers.

Also, the country has seen fewer construction starts this year and the value of China's home sales in August was 20 percent below that of a year earlier.

Together, those signals have led investors to think the market for steel might be shrinking.

China's real estate developers use about 25 percent of China's steel and aluminum production, as well as 20 percent of its aluminum.

A slowing property development sector in China is sparking fears of a sudden glut of those materials that the rest of the world, still recovering from the COVID-inspired economic crisis, will be unable to absorb, the *WSJ* noted.

TREND FORECAST: *Beijing will not let Evergrande collapse outright; the wider economic damage would likely be too great.*

Instead, the government will help Evergrande settle its difficulties but still find a way to punish it for its excesses as an example to others.

More broadly, China produced 53 percent of the world's steel in 2019, according to the World Steel Association, and an estimated 57 percent in 2020.

A much sharper drop in steel prices will damage the country's export markets and further slow its economic growth.

SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION STILL INFLATING

INFLATION WILL GET WORSE, NOT BETTER, OECD SAYS

Through 2022, prices will increase significantly more than expected in the world's most advanced economies, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

Inflation's pace will quicken to 4.5 percent in this year's final quarter, the OECD said, boosted by logistics tangles and climbing commodity prices.

"There are risks of much more persistent pressure on inflation in the future," Luis de Guindos, vice-president of the European Central Bank, told a *Financial Times* online conference, especially in light of spiking energy costs in Europe and Asia that could ripple throughout manufacturing and consumer economies (see related story).

Natural gas prices have quadrupled in Europe so far this year, prompting governments to consider billions of euros in aid to households and affected businesses, the *FT* said.

Energy price jumps in Europe will boost inflation there by 0.2 to 0.3 percentage points this year, Morgan Stanley has calculated.

The OECD's U.S. inflation forecast for the fourth quarter has risen from 2.9 percent earlier this summer to 3.6 percent now; the prediction for the U.K. went from 1.3 percent three months ago to 2.3 percent now.

In France, inflation will shoot to 1.6 percent, double the OECD's earlier prediction. In Germany, prices will grow by 2.1 percent instead of the 1.6 percent forecast earlier.

The revised predictions come as the U.S. Federal Reserve and Bank of England are planning to cut back their economic stimulus and support programs.

Governments must communicate to their publics that rising inflation has "many temporary features" and is "mostly an adjustment of prices to levels that had always been expected after temporary dips" caused by the COVID-era economic shutdown, the OECD urged.

Policy makers face "a very difficult balancing act" managing inflation and they must discard the idea that they can fund anything simply by borrowing, OECD chief economist Laurence Boone said in comments quoted by the *FT*.

TRENDPOST: *Blather about "temporary features" and "price adjustments" aside, Boone's comment about central banks' balancing act recognizes what we have been saying since before the COVID War: when Banksters shut off the flow of cheap money to fund speculation, markets will crash.*

We continue our forecast from articles such as our 1 June, 2021 Market Overview that when the Fed bumps interest rates to 1.5 percent, the housing and equity markets will crumble.

EUROZONE COSTS RISE FASTEST IN 20 YEARS IN AUGUST

Snarls in supply chains pushed costs for manufacturers and service businesses to rise at their fastest pace since 2000, with the price of factories' raw materials close to all-time highs, according to IHS Markit's monthly purchasing managers surveys.

The survey results “highlight an unwelcome combination of sharply slower economic growth and steeply rising prices,” Chris Williamson, IHS’s chief business economist, said to the *Financial Times*.

Businesses said they are “often losing sales and customers” because of materials shortages, shipping delays, and higher costs, he noted.

Many of those higher costs are being passed to consumers and end-users, boosting those prices this month at their third-fastest rate in two decades, the surveys found.

The surveys also suggest that “inflation will rise further in the coming months than we have so far been assuming,” Jessica Hinds, Europe economist at Capital Economics, admitted in an *FT* interview.

In August, Eurozone consumer prices were rising at a 3-percent annual rate, a pace that may be slowing the region’s economic recovery.

IHS’s manufacturing output index slid from 59 in August to an eight-month low of 55.6 this month.

The services index dropped to 56.3, its lowest in four months.

Ratings above 50 indicate growth; numbers below 50 signal contraction.

TREND FORECAST: *As we said in “Eurozone Inflation Rate Highest in a Year” (13 Apr 2020), years of low or negative interest rates and cheap money have failed to ignite sustained economic growth in Europe; Germany was edging into a recession when the COVID virus arrived.*

As inflation surges, the European Central Bank will face growing pressure to raise its base interest rate from -0.5 percent, where it has sat for more than five years.

If it raises the rate beyond 0.25 percent quickly, Europe's economy would be in turmoil. Any significant Europe-wide rate rise will be slow and gradual, regardless of the inflation rate.

Indeed, today, the European Central Bank Chief Bankster, Christine Largarde played down rising inflation rates: "The key challenge is to ensure that we do not overreact to transitory supply shocks that have no bearing on the medium term, while also nurturing the positive demand forces that could durably lift inflation towards our 2 percent inflation target."

U.K. INFLATION TO STAY NEAR 4 PERCENT FOR MONTHS, BOE SAYS

Inflation throughout the U.K. economy will peak at 4 percent this year and remain at or near that level at least into next year's second quarter, the Bank of England (BOE) has warned.

However, the bank's policy committee voted to hold its base interest rate at its current 0.1 percent until government support programs end this month, then see how the labor market reacts.

Still, relentlessly rising prices have "strengthened the case" for "modest tightening of monetary policies" in the years ahead, the bank said in a statement.

The bank also discarded its previous guideline that it would not change policy until the kingdom had "materially recovered" from the COVID era's economic shutdown.

The bank is likely to raise interest rates next year, analysts told the *Financial Times*, and markets immediately priced in a rate hike for February 2022 and another later next year, the *FT* reported.

"Our hunch is that the second half of [next] year seems more likely" for a rate hike, Ruth Gregory, senior U.K. economist at Capital Economics, said to the *FT*, "but the clear risk is that it happens earlier."

The BOE's Monetary Policy Committee voted 7 to 2 at its September meeting to continue buying government securities, a program that will total £895 billion when it closes at the end of this year.

INFLATION IS A LUMP OF COAL IN CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS?

FedEx and Nike have joined Costco and other major U.S. companies in warning that this year's holiday shopping season will be defined by higher prices, as we detailed in "Costco CEO Confirms Trends Journal Forecast: Inflation 2021" (8 Jun 2021), and likely shortages of goods that usually are plentiful.

As we reported in "China Closes Key Port Terminal: Trouble Ahead" (24 Aug 2021), the cost of sailing a loaded shipping container across the Atlantic or Pacific ocean has risen from around $2,000 pre-COVID to as much as $16,000 now and, by some estimates, has been above $18,000 at some points this year.

These higher shipping costs are "permanent inflationary items," Costco CEO Richard Galanti said in a recent conference call with analysts cited by CNBC.

Rising costs for labor, ground transport, and some commodities are "somewhat permanent," he said.

Together, the higher costs mean higher prices for this year's holiday gifts.

“We can’t hold onto those,” he said. “Some of that has to be passed on. We’re being pragmatic about it.”

“Retailers are really challenged right now by ‘how much can I pass on to the consumer’ versus ‘can I get other efficiencies out of my operation in order to hit my total margin?’,” retail consultant Keith Jelinek at Berkeley Research Group told CNBC.

At Costco, inflation is running between 3.5 and 4.5 percent, Galanti noted, adding that the cost of paper products is up 4 to 8 percent, and shortages of some plastic and pet items have pushed up prices from 5 to 11 percent.

Costco announced on 27 September that it will once again limit customers’ purchases of toilet paper and cleaning products.

Nike plans to raise prices this year due to “additional transportation, logistics and airfreight costs to move inventory,” CEO Matthew Friend said in a 23 September earnings call quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*.

General Mills has hiked its prices around the world for everything from cereal to cake mixes as labor, packaging, and trucking costs added 7 percent to the company’s expenses, CEO Jeff Harmening said in a June *WSJ* interview, adding that the company’s profits could dip as much as 2 percent this year.

Last week, FedEx announced a 5.9-percent bump in domestic U.S. shipping costs at a 7.9-percent hike for other services.

UPS also is making “market-rate adjustments” to its rates in some parts of the U.S. in response to labor shortages, CEO Carol Tome said in a 23 September CNBC interview.

“This is going to last for a while,” she warned. “These issues have been a long time coming and it’s going to take all of us working together to clear those blockages.”

“The combination of strong demand and supply-chain challenges could last longer than I anticipate and could lead people and businesses to raise their expectations for future inflation more than we have seen so far,” Loretta Mester, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, noted in a 24 September speech.

TRENDPOST: *As we have detailed throughout this **Trends Journal**, even the Fed admits it: a faster pace of inflation is now becoming somewhat of a fixture of the U.S. economy..*

Inflation’s rate will slow somewhat as supply chains untangle and more goods make their way to manufacturers and consumers. However, prices will never return to their pre-COVID levels, which will look like bargains in the years ahead.

Steadily higher prices will force workers to demand higher wages. The two conjoined pressures are increasingly likely to set off an inflationary spiral that will be difficult to end without a significant economic recession or crash that will be brought on by sharply rising interest rates.

OIL, MINERAL PRICES CLIMBING AS A “GREEN” OUTLOOK CUTS PRODUCTION

Oil prices finished strong last week amid supply chain disruptions and strong demand from a recovering global economy, with Brent crude’s November futures price topping $80 per barrel on 28 September.

Equally important: investors see supplies shrinking as producers, especially major oil companies, cut back production for two reasons.

First, major producers have decided to hoard cash and reward shareholders with higher dividends instead of investing in exploration and new development that might never be pulled from the ground, analysts told *The Wall Street Journal*, highlighting a trend we detailed in "Betting on Oil" (22 Jun 2021).

Second, global pressures are growing on companies and consumers to reduce carbon emissions; the global fossil-fuel divestment movement directed at investors has drained more than $14 trillion from oil, gas, and coal companies since its beginning in 2013, as we reported in "Shareholders, Court Darken Oil Industry's Future" (1 Jun 2021).

Spending on exploration and new production will edge up in future years, but will not return to 2019 levels and will reach no more than half of 2014's record outlays, Rystad Energy predicted.

Natural gas prices in Britain and Europe are soaring, as we noted in "Will Surging Gas Prices Sink U.K, E.U. Economies?" (21 Sep 2021), and U.S. prices recently touched a 7.5-year high above $5 per million Btu's, just as the winter heating season arrives.

Global prices for tin and aluminum have risen along with China's restrictions on how much energy its processing plants can consume, due in part to recent floods knocking out electric generating capacity, which we noted in "Tin Prices Remain at Record Levels" (27 Jul 2021).

Copper's price remains near its all-time high, due not only to supply disruptions but also to environmental concerns around mining and smelting operations, the *WSJ* reported.

Even with metals such as copper and tin demanding record prices, as we reported in "Commodities Supercycle Underway?" (11 May 2021), miners will spend, at most, about 30 percent less than 2012's record amounts for each of the next five years, according to Jeffries investment bank.

That tightening outlook, along with environmental concerns, has drawn investors who see surging prices ahead and are encouraged by analysts' warnings, cited by the *WSJ*, that commodities may be entering a cycle marked by erratic supplies and volatile prices.

TREND FORECAST: *We concur that supplies of raw materials will be erratic and prices turbulent as environmental pressures and the needs of an industrialized world collide amid shortages of labor, transportation, minerals and fuel.*

Also, it takes years to bring a new mineral mine or oil field to production, an investment of time and money that producers are now less willing to make, as noted above.

The environmental ethic is strong among young adults, as shown by companies that make consumer products adopting green sourcing, processing, and packaging.

Over the next decade, the "green shift" will gain momentum but will not eliminate consumers' desires to own smartphones, mattresses, SUVs, and other essentials. As a result, recycling and "green manufacturing" will claim a greater place in the economy as a compromise between the green ethic and consumers' needs.

ASIA OUTBIDS EUROPE FOR U.S. NATURAL GAS

Europe is facing a near-crisis-level natural gas shortage, as we reported in "Will Surging Gas Prices Sink U.K., E.U. Economies?" (21 Sep 2021), but Asian buyers are outbidding Europe for U.S. supplies that could offset the shortfall.

Gas prices in the U.K. rose to the equivalent of about $26 per million BTUs on 20 September, about five times the price in the U.S, the *Financial Times* reported, and October futures contracts zoomed to record high prices on 27 September, according to Oilprice.com.

The U.K.'s soaring prices have not yet lured producers of liquefied natural gas, the form in which gas can be shipped across oceans from the U.S.

The gas continues to travel to Asia, and sometimes South America, where it fetches even higher prices.

Countries in Asia "have more purchasing power now," one unnamed liquefied gas broker told the *FT*.

"Europe has pipeline supplies and China and Japan don't have any alternatives," the broker pointed out.

Liquefied gas can be shipped to Japan for a cost of about $10 per million BTUs and draws buyers willing to pay slightly more than Europe's current prices.

Prices will continue to rise as the regions try to lock in fuel, the broker said, adding, "It's a race to secure the supplies."

Trafigura and other commodity brokers, as well as Shell, BP, TotalEnergies, and other oil majors, have gas supplies and sales contracts that enable them to profit from the bidding war, the *FT* said.

Much of Europe's gas is pipelined in from Russia, which reports itself unable to meet Europe's current demand; some European critics believe the shortage is a political strong-arm tactic.

TREND FORECAST: *Fuel is the commodity that underlies every economic sector.*

Shortages and rising prices will define the pace of inflation around the world, meaning that prices throughout the global economy will be driven higher through the northern hemisphere's winter heating season and into next summer as gas supplies are replenished, assuming that the supplies can be had and transport for them can be arranged.

Today's fuel shortages and price inflation presages a longer arc of the same well into next year.

HOME SALES, PRICES RISE

New home sales edged up 1.5 percent in August from July to an annualized rate of 740,000 dwellings, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported on 23 September.

The median sale price edged up $400 to $390,900, while the average selling price was $443,200.

The average home sold spent 17 days on the market, unchanged from July, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

Low mortgage interest rates and a shortage of houses for sale, especially new homes, continues to spur high demand and higher prices, keeping both above their rates before the COVID virus arrived.

The median price of a new home has ballooned 20 percent over the past 12 months. In August 2020, the median was $325,500, according to government figures.

About 1.29 million existing homes were available for sale in August, according to the NAR, 1.5 percent fewer than in July.

The number represents about 2.6 months of inventory, still near a record shortage of supply.

In recent months, home sales have averaged an annualized rate of just below six million, NAR figures show, near historic highs, which peaked last October when homes sold at an annualized pace of 6.73 million.

Despite continued strong numbers, several indicators point to a cooling housing market.

First-time home buyers made up only 29 percent of sales in August, the lowest monthly proportion since January 2019.

"High home prices make for an unbalanced market, but prices would normalize with more supply," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for NAR, adding that securing a home remains "a major challenge for many prospective buyers."

Most households shopping for a home but unable to buy fail because they are unable to find a home in their price range, according to a recent report from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

Two-thirds of those who shopped for a home during this year's second quarter spent at least three months looking without success, the NAHB study found.

Also, sales of existing single-family homes, condos, and co-ops slipped 2 percent last month, the sharpest decline since April, after growing by 2.2 percent in July and 1.6 in June, the NAR noted.

August's existing-home sales also declined 1.5 percent year over year, the first such retreat since June 2020.

The median price of existing homes dropped from $359,500 in July to $356,700 in August, still roughly 15 percent higher than a year earlier.

In August, fewer offers were made on homes for sale, the NAR said, and fewer potential buyers waived home inspections and appraisal contingency provisions. Both were common tactics in the summer's bidding contests.

The rate of price growth slowed in 43 of the 50 biggest metro areas, Zillow reported, and the number of listings showing price cuts rose for the fourth consecutive month to 12.3 percent.

"These data suggest that the surge in new home sales during the pandemic has ebbed and inventories of unsold homes have risen to a more normal level in relation to sales," Conrad DeQuadros, Bream Capital's senior economic advisor, told Reuters.

TREND FORECAST: *Home price growth may be slowing, but it will not reverse until interest rates rise: more and more households have been permanently priced out of home ownership unless they inherit a house from a family member.*

This will add even more energy to the boom in apartment construction, which had 21.6 percent more units under construction in August this year than in August 2020, according to the U.S. commerce department.

"A shift to rental buildings means less access to home ownership over the long run and less opportunities for wealth gains," NAR's Yun told the Financial Times, echoing a disturbing trend we have underscored frequently in articles such as "Private Equity Partners Target $5 Billion in Rental Houses" (27 Jul 2021).

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS

EXPECT A SECOND, LARGER WAVE OF INFLATION TO HIT

By Gregory Mannarino TradersChoice.net

The current narrative coming directly from Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell is this, “The Current Spike in Inflation Is Transitory.” This supposed “inflation is transitory narrative” is being used as a tool to suppress the truth, and the truth is this. Not only is the current pace of inflation NOT transitory—but it is also about to get much worse.

Economics 101 tells us this regarding the current environment. The Federal Reserve has been on a money creation binge, which has been unlike anything which has ever been seen in the history of the financial world, since the meltdown of ‘08. This mechanism has introduced a tsunami of dollars, most of which only exist in digital form, disbursed all around the world.

I have warned people for many years that there would be a time when all these extra dollars, in whatever form they exist, would eventually begin to chase the same or existing amount of goods—well we are seeing the opening act right now. Moreover, there is no way to stop it.

Fed Chairman Powell also said that he is not concerned about the current pace of rising inflation because it is “not widespread,” in other words, he believes that inflation is contained.

Contained? Where have we heard that before?

How about when then Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke was talking about the housing bubble? Yes, Bernanke said then that the issue with subprime mortgage meltdown was also “contained.” Ben Bernanke’s “contained” played out to be totally false and led to a global financial meltdown—and public bailout of the banks.

Today more and more corporations are posting warnings about more inflation to come, and it is not contained. Several CEOs of Blue-Chip companies are coming right out and saying “inflation is not transitory;” it is going to be sustained and it is structural.

Once the floodgates of inflation have been opened, and they certainly are now, there is no way to stop it.

There is a lot of talk about the Federal Reserve “tapering,” or cutting back on asset purchases—well this will have ZERO effect of slowing the pace of inflation. Theoretically the ONLY way in which the Fed today can even just slow the current pace of inflation would be to dramatically increase rates rapidly, and the effect of that would lead to a total meltdown of the stock market and a bursting of the current housing bubble.

I expect that over the next several weeks the narrative coming from the mainstream media outlets will be this—inflation is slowing. But this will be a false narrative, meant to distract the general population from what is really going on.

This false narrative on inflation slowing or waning will then leave people vulnerable and unprepared for the next, larger wave of inflation which is coming. Unprepared and vulnerable—just as it is meant to do.

Nothing whatsoever of what we are seeing today is by accident and as I always say, “be ready for anything.”

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM

JUSTIFYING BRUTALITY

by Bradley J. Steiner, [American Combato]

There can never be any justification, rationalization, excuse, or alibi for initiating violence against someone who is not himself placing you in danger or in some way commencing violence against you.

If you start trouble with someone because you have poor impulse control, because you are "angry," because they "disrespected you," because you think it's enjoyable to push someone around, or because you simply do not happen to like a particular individual then, in our opinion, you should be excised from human civilization. You are a detestable life-form—not even an animal—and whatever damages you suffer, you fully deserve.

Because there can be no excuse for initiating violence against someone who is not posing a threat of injury to you, it should be clear (but unfortunately is not clear to some) that using violence to stop another from violating yourself or another innocent person is resoundingly justifiable—even necessary and commendable.

But how far is it really justifiable to go in self-defense? That question is posed by decent people who seek a reasonable and righteous solution to the problem of violent crime. Being decent, a good person has no desire to brutalize and destroy another individual whom he assumes (we believe, incorrectly) is human, also.

The system of British Common Law, upon which the American system of jurisprudence is based, provides evidence of what we say. Being in earnest about seeking justice (as opposed to mere "satisfaction" or "revenge") the laws of England and America specify that the victim of violent attack may defend himself with whatever degree of force may be required to stop the attack against himself; but having achieved that objective, he may go no further in directing violence against his assailant.

Sounds good. Obviously it is well-intentioned. The result of thoughtful consideration of the problem of violent crime, and a sincere and humane desire to provide for a person's act of self-defense, while not allowing rampant savagery to dominate an already bad situation.

"Brutality" as such is a very emotive word. It automatically implies to many who hear it used, unjustifiable violence—or uncivilized savagery.

We challenge that idea.

We further insist that the most savage brutality possible for a man to generate can be and normally is quite justifiable when and if he is subjected to extralegal violence in a criminal attack; or if he finds that he must defend his loved ones against such an onslaught.

Please remember and bear forever in mind when you train in self defense that...

• There is no possible way to accurately determine the motive and intention of the individual who attacks you. That remains inside the attacker's head. And in fact it could range from an intention to merely scare or intimidate you, to a burning determination (for any number of insane "reasons") to maim or to kill you. You might think you can tell what degree or level of force an assailant intends to employ against you, but you cannot possibly know.

• There is no possible way to accurately assess the abilities of any attacker—or if he isn't or is armed with one or more weapons, or if he isn't or is accompanied by one or more cohorts who may be approaching you from behind, or possibly lurking nearby. Appearances are very deceptive; both of the attacker and of the totality of the situation presenting. The wise defender always assumes the worst. He never underestimates or forms a snap-judgement about his attacker. True enough, the defender may not have given his assailant (whom he may not ever have seen before in his life) the slightest objective reason to direct any hostility whatsoever against him.

So what?

The world is full of crackpots and crazies who do not need "objective reasons" for anything that they do.

They run on impulse—are guided like beasts of the jungle, by feelings—and as far as these creatures are concerned, their feeling that they wish to violate someone is ample "justification" for their proceeding to do so. They enjoy it.

What you require as justification for using force must not be confused with that which a violent offender requires before he attacks you.

Violent types, to repeat what we are convinced is an absolute truth about them, are impulse-driven savages whose place is not in civilized society amongst human human beings.

Thus, if and when you are ever subject to unprovoked physical violence do not waste time, thought, or energy worrying about "why" this individual may be violently disposed toward you. Accept the obvious fact that he is, and do what you need to do to stop him and defend yourself.

The image that most people have of someone who is formidable is one thing. The actual way that formidable individuals "look" is quite another.

The fellow who is relatively small and who appears to be lacking in muscle may possess incredible physical strength.

The guy who looks overweight and flabby (like a long time ago Russian weight-lifting champion by the name of Alekseyev) may be as agile as a cat; he may be fast, powerful, and a ruthless, dangerously determined combatant.

The guy with the "washboard abs", V-shape, and thick arms may be a non-violent fellow who has—very literally—no real ability to inflict injury on another person in unarmed battle. He may be a complete bluff.

How do you know?

You can't know...and that's the point we wish to convey here. Because a real-world attack may be launched by literally any individual with any crazy motivation or objective, and he may possess any degree of potential for maiming, crippling, or killing (including weapons, which he has momentarily concealed), self-defense demands that you assume the worst so that you are prepared and ready to defend yourself against the worst possible level of physical violence.

If you assume less than the worst—and the worst happens—where will you end up?

Not a pretty thought.

This is why rational, sane, civilized human beings absolutely refuse to regard any violence as excusable or acceptable (save in controlled, modified form in combat sports, or in legitimate self-defense). It is also why authentic teachers of self-defense address the subject with deadly seriousness, and instruct their students in the physical, tactical, technical, and mental aspects of absolute brutality, should they ever need to act in self or family defense.

BRUTALITY IS JUSTIFIED IN SELF-DEFENSE. Often a real-world attack is clumsily and obviously mounted by an overconfident street scumbag (or multiple street scumbags) who has no doubt about his inevitable victory, and the vulnerability of his intended victim.

Here and now the act of personal defense is relatively simple and very easy to carry out IF the defender does so with immediate, brutal savagery. Such will cancel out the aggressor's action, injure him severely, and turn him off psychologically—leaving him immediately convinced that he has bitten off way more than he can chew!

However, if hesitation and at best a half-hearted non-injurious action is undertaken to "discourage" the aggressor instead, then the only type of aggressor who might be deterred is one who is really not that motivated or capable, at all. You aren't worried about that kind of a—hole. You must be concerned with the truly dangerous aggressor...the tough, hardened, psychopathic killer whose onslaught may be fueled with drugs and or liquor, and who will provide you no second chance to survive if he is not stopped forthwith.

Techniques involving controlling and restraining an individual are necessary for law enforcement and security professionals. These individuals have a responsibility that you and I do not have, when it comes to self-defense. They are charged with arrest-and-control of disruptive, resistant, uncooperative, mildly violent types whom they—the officers—have approached.

Self-defense is undertaken when a would-be victim of attack is set upon by an offender or approached by some lout who is bent on starting trouble. Brutality is justified if and when such a situation occurs because mind-reading and predicting the capabilities of your assailant are utterly impossible feats. So do not foolishly attempt them!

“Brutality” may indeed be a loaded or emotive word...even one that, when one speaks of self-defense...is regarded in polite circles as being politically incorrect.

Too bad.

Pleasant thoughts, nice motives, and a desire for peaceable, minimally violent encounters affect nothing. Reality is as it is, and self-defense is neither pleasant, nor sporting, nor easily manageable with “secret skills.”

It is a fast-paced, dangerous, undesired circumstance for its victims, and for those who may be victims to stand a good chance of handling a violent encounter well, they must realize and appreciate that brutality is completely justified when you are forced to defend yourself. And that applies to YOU.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY

By Joe Doran

BY LAND AND BY SEA: RE-THINKING OCEANIA

The rift between France and the U.S. over nuclear submarine contracting with Australia is a blunder that the West can't afford right now.

In announcing that the U.S. would be taking over the submarine contracting, Defense Secretary Loyd Austin said the new trilateral relationship:

> "is a testament to the strength, resilience and foresight of our relationship. President Biden has noted that no regional divide separates the interest of our Atlantic and Pacific partners, and AUKUS [Australia, United Kingdom and the United States] is designed to build on our existing alliances."

Austin's comments came at meetings that also touted enhanced security partnerships with India and Japan.

The U.S. could've bolstered the alliances in question without predicating it on undercutting a major ally.

But just as importantly, the thrust of America's quest to counter and contain China in the far east, especially in the light of foreign policy failures that have played out from post-WWII to the present moment, deserve careful re-examination.

Should we be trying to maintain ourselves as a globalist economic and military power, which has long been predicated on dominance over the seas?

Or is it perhaps time to shift to a different paradigm, based on strengthening our hemispheric overland relationships in the Americas, and revitalizing our core alliance with Western Europe?

China's oft-cited Silk Road initiatives, with ambitious rail systems and partnerships, can be seen as a 21st century tech fueled re-imagination of routes and centres of trade and influence that have a long history.

The **Trends Journal** has recently covered some of the more grandiose aspects of that vision in articles such as "CHINA WANTS A BULLET TRAIN INTO THE U.S." (1 Jun 2021).

Can America respond with its own overland initiative?

The Lure of Oceania and Empire

The latest "trilateral" security agreement between the U.S., the UK and Australia is not hard to understand in terms of the historical strengths of the players involved.

Also tapping partnerships with Japan and India, the U.S. is counting that enough counter forces exist in the region to dissuade China from trying to take Taiwan by force.

Despite the agreements, U.S. naval power remains the lynchpin in containing China. Whether it can or should even try to be the instrument of strategic policy is another question.

Part of America's heritage from Britain, and Western powers more generally, including France and the Netherlands, was the ability to build and leverage a world-class naval power.

By the mid-1800's, America was not only sustaining fleets for commercial trade, immigration and maintaining close cultural ties with the European continent.

It was engaging in a growing trade and geopolitical interest along Pacific routes that extended to China.

As the U.S. Office of History notes about U.S. Maritime expansion:

> "The appeal of profits to be earned from the China trade served as the initial impetus to motivate U.S. citizens and officials to enter into the Pacific region. China was the source of some of the world's most sought after commodities—tea, porcelain, and silk—and Western merchants had sought access to this highly lucrative trade since at least the 17th century. Following U.S. independence, U.S.-based merchants continued to seek opportunity in China…
>
> "During the first decades of the 19th century, U.S. merchants amassed sizable fortunes that they subsequently invested in the development of their homeland. As this trade grew, U.S. traders built a small outpost in China and their interactions with Chinese subjects became more complex and occasionally contentious. The U.S. Government realized that it had to establish formal diplomatic ties in order to protect the interests of its citizens. In the wake of war between Britain and China, and the subsequent opening of diplomatic relations between those two countries, the United States moved to negotiate its own treaty with the Chinese

> Government. The resulting agreement, the Treaty of Wangxia, was ratified in 1844…"

The bloody infighting of the West in World War I had many disastrous consequences that would play out over the rest of the century. But one effect of the war was that the vacuum of power that came with Britain's exhaustion was increasingly filled by America, especially on the seas.

The ultimate test of American naval dominance came with World War II, and conflicts literally spanning across both the Atlantic and Pacific, and indeed, around the globe.

Given the history, and the vast wealth America accrued via its command of the seas, it's easy to see how and why it has favored and tried to maintain that hegemony, from the Atlantic into the middle east, and from the Pacific to Asia.

In the post WWII era, the U.S. experienced another great period of economic ascendence, fueled by wartime technologies and infrastructure, and the fact that the nation escaped domestic damage, unlike many other countries.

The rebuilding of Europe and Japan, among other places, effectively made American trade relationships and its dominance of the seas even more integral to its economy and geopolitics.

Self-Inflicted Wounds and The Rise of China

But a combination of strategic blunders eventually gave away much of that game.

In 1948, America, along with a plurality of the world as represented in the UN, backed the creation of the state of Israel.

America has borne the brunt of maintaining Israel's existence, and the cost over the years has been hard to overstate. Not that biblical Zionists would've accepted it, but it would’ve been less controversial and costly to establish a Jewish autonomous zone stateside.

As far as America’s economic interest in the oil riches in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, America's backing of Israel has not made pursuing those interests any easier.

The other long term consequential event was the loss of China to Communist revolution. The whole sordid history of U.S. State Department policies that allowed it to happen are available in histories, though not ones commonly taught as part of politically correct curriculums.

Like other self-inflicted wounds, America has been contending with the repercussions ever since.

Birthed in rancid communist ideology, China visited devastation and misery in bloody and barbaric forms of internal warfare to consolidate and maintain its regime, from the 1940’s into the ‘60’s.

But by 1972, U.S. President Richard Nixon calculated that the West could influence China for the better with normalized relations.

In the 1980’s China, seeing not only the success of rival Japan, but also the failure of the Soviets, embarked on a “communist revision,” loosening economic strictures to allow more economic freedom for companies, while maintaining strict ideological social and political control of its people.

Again, China benefited from decisions of American policy makers. A calculation was made that off-loaded “lower level” industrial production abroad could be made cheaply by the Chinese working at much lower wages.

Americans would benefit from cheap goods, and meanwhile America would develop a market to sell more sophisticated American technology, including computer chips and software.

By the end of the century, China had gained entrance into the World Trade Organization.

Despite calculations by both Republican and Democratic presidents that China could be drawn into a comity with a global framework, it has not happened.

As China has grown in economic strength, it has more aggressively revealed ambitions to bring nations into a mercantilist style economy where it dictates terms, and derives disproportionate benefit.

It has plowed resources into becoming a world-class naval power (see “CHINA: FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA,” 9 September 2020).

While it has kept its own borders closed to immigration a multicultural influence, it has exploited the openness of the West to infiltrate, influence politics and policies, and steal vast sums of IP and innovations (see “CHINA BUSINESS ESPIONAGE NETS $500 BILLION A YEAR,” 29 June 2021 and “AMERICA DRIFTS TOWARD CHINA’S “TECHNO-AUTOCRACY,” 9 February 2021).

That has allowed it to now vy with the U.S. at higher levels of technology innovation (see “CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE,” 13 July 2021).

Getting America Back On Track: Stepping Away From Oceania

Afghanistan hopefully sounded a death knell for American regime-toppling and nation-building.

Instead of trying to maintain far flung adventures and alliances via a geopolitics of “Oceania”, America could choose to focus on stabilizing and strengthening the economies in its own hemisphere.

In that regard, it would have to begin with itself. Monetary and financial policies need to be overhauled, and fast. The integrity of political institutions needs to be addressed. And the power of mega billionaires and mega corporations to usurp democratic institutions and Constitutional rights of Americans needs to be reigned in with Teddy Roosevelt style zest.

An intelligence apparatus that was predicated on combating "terrorism," but which has instead been progressively aimed at domestic political dissidents, should be strictly redirected and limited to protecting again subversion for foreign nations, with China at the top of the list.

There is much to route out from our businesses and institutions, and doing so would put China at a disadvantage. They don't have the higher education system to match, nor the edge in technological innovation that the West, together with Japan, still holds.

To give an idea, the U.S. and Japan hold 11 of the top 17 slots for the best technology companies on Earth in 2021. China still lists only three, and one of those is a joint China / U.S. pc maker Lenovo, which was spun off from IBM:

As of 2021, *Fortune* lists Amazon (revenue of $386.064 billion) in the retailing sector rather than the technology sector.[3]

Rank	Company		Revenue ($B) USD[2]	Employees[2]	Headquarters
1		Apple	$274.515	147,000	Cupertino, California, US
2		Samsung Electronics	$200.734	267,937	Suwon, South Korea
3		Alphabet	$182.527	135,301	Mountain View, California, US
4		Foxconn	$181.945	878,429	New Taipei City, Taiwan
5		Microsoft	$143.015	163,000	Redmond, Washington, US
6		Huawei	$129.184	197,000	Shenzhen, China
7		Dell Technologies	$92.224	158,000	Round Rock, Texas, US
8		Facebook	$85.965	58,604	Menlo Park, California, US
9		Sony	$84.893	109,700	Tokyo, Japan
10		Hitachi	$82.345	350,864	Tokyo, Japan
11		Intel	$77.867	110,600	Santa Clara, California, US
12		IBM	$73.620	364,800	Armonk, New York, US
13		Tencent	$69.864	85,858	Shenzhen, China
14		Panasonic	$63.191	243,540	Osaka, Japan
15	/	Lenovo	$60.742	71,500	Hong Kong, China/ Morrisville, North Carolina US [4]
16		HP Inc.	$56.639	53,000	Palo Alto, California, US
17		LG Electronics	$53.625	75,000	Seoul, South Korea

Source: wikipedia

South Korea has as many companies on the list as China. The point is America retains an important advantage.

The days of the American military and equipment being sold to defend an "alliance empire," should be phased out on an orderly timetable. Nations or Unions who can't or won't defend themselves, will face the consequences. So will countries that try to extend their empires too far.

Instead of Oceania being routes to global entanglements, the oceans can provide the protection that has always made America the hardest of nations to attempt to invade and subdue. America should play to that strength.

Investments in China could and should be redirected to investments in countries in America's hemisphere, including primarily Central and South America.

American companies should receive incentives for doing so. The greater economic opportunities that could be fostered would lessen migration upheavals that are not solving the underlying problems.

These are only a few initiatives that could see America develop its own overland initiatives.

NAFTA, President Bill Clinton's attempt at integration, obviously had fatal flaws. But the premise that nations of the Americas need to function in a more mutually beneficial economic and political relationship, is an objective worthy of prudent pursuit.

China's 21st Century a Foregone Conclusion?

As Gerald Celente has said, America has put itself in a position where the 21st Century will belong to China.

But despite his prediction, it's not a foregone conclusion. As has been briefly shown, there are factors America and the West more generally can leverage.

Number one is freedom. Number two is Peace. And number three is Justice.

All three of those things happen to be available in our Western heritage.

It exists in the limitation of dictatorial power, won in a long history, from Greece and the idea of democracy, through Roman federalism, to the Magna Carta and limitations on the rights of Kings, to the Constitution and the dispensing with Kings and radical institution of limited, electoral government and a Bill of Rights.

Now is not the time to lay down, either to China, or would-be despots within our borders.

Neither are invincible. China has signaled weakness, first and foremost by its COVID gambit, which has every appearance of a calculated event. Its recent cultural and economic crackdowns are not signs of strength (see "XI RAMPS UP ECONOMIC 'CULTURAL REVOLUTION' IN CHINA," 27 July 2021 and "THE GEOPOLITICS OF BITCOIN," 27 July 2021.

The Evergrande default is another tell that the regime is struggling with forces that may portend more unrest.

The Biden administration appears intent on pursuing a policy of Oceanic projection of power. But As China projects a future along a Silk Road, America might take a cue and work to strengthen overland economic integrations in the Americas.

Now is a time to conserve and build strength with new stratagems, not squander it.

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE

WITH AMAZON TV, YOU'RE WHAT'S ON TONIGHT. Amazon is rolling out fully branded Amazon TV's this October.

The offering is being reported by tech outlets as a natural evolution from the tech giant's "Fire TV" platform, available until now as a pluggable hardware add-on to TV's, and also built into TV's by some manufacturers.

The new Amazon TV's will have all those convenient features which make life easier, like being able to enlist Alexa, Amazon's AI in finding programming, or answering questions.

And as usual, many users won't mind that Amazon TV's will have the company's advanced far-field mic tech built-in, as a review on The Verge tech website notes.

Amazon will be listening to everything going on in your living room, and likely, beyond.

The company has noted that customers who used voice features interacted with material twice as much as those who didn't during the past two years. As an industry matter, TVs with built-in microphones are becoming more popular. Sony currently offers models with them, and TCL just announced Google TVs with far-field microphone arrays.

Big tech companies have predicated their revenue models on acquiring detailed data on users, and using that data to market and sell to, as well as manipulate and control consumers.

Amazon widening its reach using Amazon TV is part of that. There should be no doubt that in an age of video face-time and an emerging metaverse of interactions that are combinations of virtual and real-world experience, Amazon is looking to literally position its technology to take advantage.

Cameras, augmented reality and interactive entertainment, but also more serious educational and virtual experiences will be mediated by corporations like Google, Facebook and Amazon and Apple.

And their consequent power to shape and manipulate information and even the “new reality” will be considerable.

Watchdog outlets have noted further concerns that have to do with privacy and government access to information collected by the entertainment surveillance equipment increasingly finding its way into every object and space, whether on the job, in a car, or at home.

As surveillance.news observed:

> “Since they are connected to the internet, that means they are subject to ‘monitoring’ by a plethora of government agencies, as well as hackers...
>
> “Would these tech companies make products the government can exploit? You bet; allowing that access means Uncle Sam’s deep state won’t come after the tech giants with regulatory regimes that would put them out of business.”

The **Trends Journal** has recently addressed some of the dangers and issues involved with the Internet of Things and tech manipulation and control of an emerging metaverse in “PULL THE PLUG ON TECH POWER OR THE PLUG WILL BE PULLED ON YOU” (24 Aug 2021).

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS

BITCOIN TIPPING NOW AN OPTION ON TWITTER

Lightning wallets, which overcome Bitcoin transaction speed and cost problems, were officially rolled out for Twitter users last week.

The integration of the Strike bitcoin Lightning Wallet allows users to send and receive bitcoin, and is meant to spur crypto-typing for popular users who post on the social platform.

Twitter's move gave a boost to the king crypto at the same time that China was pronouncing all cryptocurrencies as illegal within its jurisdiction.

Because of its high prices and lengthy processing times, bitcoin critics have long claimed that the cryptocurrency cannot be scaled for widespread use. On bitcoin's main layer, average transactions cost about $8 and take as long as half an hour to complete.

The Lightning network solves these problems by processing bitcoin transactions off-chain via a secondary layer capable of processing millions of payments per second in principle.

The **Trends Journal** noted projects like the Lightning Network and Wasabi Wallet that are improving bitcoin privacy and transaction features, in “MAKING BITCOIN TRANSACTIONS FASTER, CHEAPER AND MORE PRIVATE” (14 Sep 2021).

Strike founder Jack Mallers said in announcing the company’s Lightning enabled wallet on Twitter, that uses of the system would likely quickly go beyond just tipping influential posters:

> “We just made an instant, free remittance payment, from Chicago, Illinois, USA to San Salvador, El Salvador over Twitter. Why would anyone ever use Western Union WU, 1.10% again? When you take one of the world's largest social internet networks and you combine it with the world's best open monetary network, Twitter accidentally becomes one of the best remitting experiences in the world.”

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, who also owns Square, a payments processing company popular with small businesses and independent entrepreneurs, is a known advocate of Bitcoin.

As the **Trends Journal** reported on 27 July 2021 in “DORSEY AND ELON (BACK) ON BITCOIN BANDWAGON”, Dorsey has recently spoken from his personal experience with "predatory" and "obtuse" financial systems, mentioning some of his motivations for starting Square. He has called Bitcoin an opportunity to leave traditional financial systems behind:

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

In El Salvador, which formally rolled out its Lightning Network empowered Chivo Wallet this month, citizens are making micro-payments for products and services, including government services.

RIPPLE CEO SOUNDS OFF ON MUDDLED SEC SUIT

The Securities and Exchange Commision not only has no case, they have no clue.

So said Ripple (XRP) CEO Brad Garlinghouse in a series of Tweets this weekend criticizing an SEC lawsuit that could figure big in whether the cryptosphere continues to flourish in the U.S..

Garlinghouse said the SEC's lack of clarity with regard to regulations, and lack of understanding of what different crypto projects even do, is hurting the explosive potentials of the industry:

> "American innovation is on the line because of the SEC's refusal to provide a clear framework for crypto. Instead of working with the industry, the SEC is using their meetings with companies as lead generation for their enforcement actions."

Garlinghouse also sounded-off on Fox Business Friday, saying that SEC chairman Gary Gensler was contradictorily claiming the agency was providing clarity, while at the same time pushing Congress to write new laws.

The SEC and Ripple have been at odds for several years, embroiled in a lawsuit over the status of Ripple and what it represents. The SEC is trying to claim that the crypto project has the qualities of a security, and as such, violated laws applicable to securities.

Ripple, meanwhile, touts itself as an enterprise-class blockchain based global payments system,with products in commercial use by hundreds of customers across 55+ countries.

According to Ripple, businesses have access to alternative liquidity solutions through a global network, which uniquely uses the XRP Ledger and its native digital asset XRP to help improve payments services worldwide.

Concerning the SEC lawsuit, Garlinghouse noted:

“[The SEC] allowed XRP to be listed and traded very freely across the United States.” Consequently, “more and more people got involved” and XRP “traded for eight years, and then [the SEC] brought a suit driving the price down 60% or 70%.

“If the goal is orderly markets and the goal is to protect investors, I think we lost sight of the big picture of what the SEC’s main mandate is.”

Thousands of Ripple holders have filed a class action suit against the SEC, which Garlinghouse says shows that investors think the SEC, and not XRP, is doing damage to their interests.

Some crypto observers believe there’s a lot riding on the outcome of the SEC’s lawsuit. If it prevails, many other projects, including Ethereum, could become targets, and the U.S. would lose out dearly on the innovations of the industry.

INSTITUTIONAL CRYPTO INVESTING SET FOR BIG RISE IN 2022

A new survey of institutions is signaling a big increase in crypto investing in 2022, despite current uncertainties in the market.

According to a recent study by European investment firm Nickel Digital Asset

Management, as many as 62 percent of worldwide institutional investors with no current exposure to cryptocurrencies plan to make their first investments in cryptocurrencies within the next year.

The poll questioned 50 wealth managers and institutional investors from the US, Europe and the UAE.

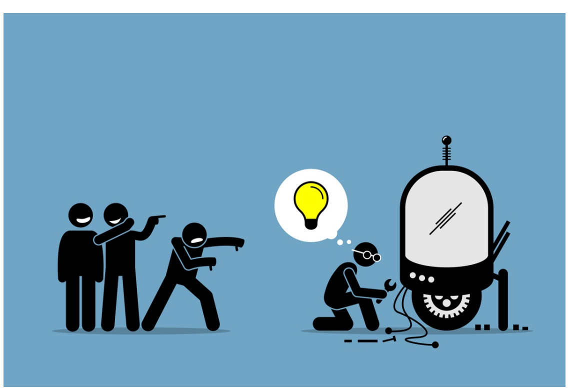
Cointelegraph reported the primary motivation for institutional investors' initial cryptocurrency investment, according to findings, is the potential for long-term capital growth (cited by 47 percent of respondents.)

With corporates and fund managers increasingly investing in cryptocurrencies, a plurality of respondents also noted rising trust in crypto as an asset class.

Because of the better regulatory climate, 41% of respondents said they were ready to invest in crypto for the first time, and 34% said crypto was a suitable inflation hedge.

The **Trends Journal** reported back in February 2021 that crypto investing was poised for mass adoption, based on user sentiments being gauged at that time (see "ELON MUSK: TECH OUTSIDER?" and "CRYPTO SANITY"). Crypto Investor numbers doubled between February and August of 2021.

GENSLER: CRYPTO NOT VIABLE LONG-TERM



Cryptocurrencies have little chance of long-term viability, U.S. Securities and Exchange (SEC) chair Gary Gensler said during a 21 September virtual event hosted by the Washington Post.

"I don't think there's long-term viability for five or six thousand private forms of money," he said.

Gensler likened the crypto craze to the so-called "wildcat banking" days of U.S. finance, lasting from 1837 to 1863, when banks lacked federal regulation and issued their own currency, which they sometimes would refuse to redeem for their face value in gold or silver.

"I think it's worthwhile to have an investor-protection regime placed around this," he said.

Gensler taught a course on blockchain technology at MIT before taking his current job, leading crypto fans to believe he would be a friendly regulator.

Instead, he has frequently compared the crypto realm to the Wild West and urged crypto platforms to register with the SEC; Gensler thinks the platforms are offering unregistered securities, a violation of federal law, as we reported in "SEC Chief Sets Regulatory Sights on Cryptocurrencies" (10 Aug 2021).

Gensler also critiqued stablecoins, cryptocurrencies that tie their value to more stable assets, such as the U.S. dollar.

These digital currencies, including Binance USD, Tether, and USD Coin, are usually used to trade other cryptocurrencies, the WP noted.

"We've got a lot of casinos here in the Wild West and the poker chip is these stablecoins," he said.

Although stablecoins often share features with banking products and SEC-regulated investment contracts, the SEC lacks authority to fully oversee them, Gensler said.

Gensler's skeptical view of cryptos was echoed by Michael Hsu, U.S. Acting Comptroller of the Currency, in 21 September comments to a meeting of the Blockchain Association, the crypto industry's lobbying group.

Cryptos are on a trajectory resembling credit derivatives just before the Great Recession that began in 2007, Hsu said.

"I've seen one fool's gold rush up close in the lead-up to the 2008 financial crisis," he said.

"It feels like we may be on the cusp of another with cryptocurrencies and decentralized finance," he added.

Hsu also expressed doubt that cryptos are achieving their goal of promoting financial inclusion.

TREND FORECAST: *Gensler is correct; thousands of competing cryptocurrencies will not survive indefinitely.*

The crypto universe resembles the personal computer market in the 1980s. There were dozens of makes and brands, most of which were there to cash in on an economic bonanza, not to build an industry, and most disappeared over time.

Similarly, most cryptocurrencies will not attract enough of a dedicated following to endure.

Bitcoin, Ethereum, and some other majors will live on and upstarts will pop up from time to time, but most of today's cryptos will fall away, especially as stablecoins are introduced by central banks.

BANKS OBJECT TO STRICT BITCOIN RESERVE RULES

The Global Financial Markets Association (GFMA), a trade group of banks such as JP Morgan Chase and Deutsche Bank, and five other financial lobbying groups are objecting to a rule proposed by the Basel Committee for Banking Supervision that would require the banks to have $1,250 cash in reserve for every dollar's worth of Bitcoin they own. (See our article "Regulators Urge Tightest Rules for Crypto," 15 June, 2021.)

The Basel group was formed by several central banks and the G20 group of nations to set standards for global banking practices.

The rule reflects regulators' anxiety about crypto markets' spasmodic fluctuations as well as concerns about money laundering and terrorist financing, the Wall Street Journal reported.

However, if Bitcoin is regulated so stringently, banks will be unable or unwilling to hold crypto, relegating the currencies back into shadier corners of the financial world, the GFMA wrote in a 21 September letter to the Basel regulators.

"We find the proposals…to be so overly conservative and simplistic that they would preclude bank involvement in crypto asset markets," the letter said.

The regulatory agency also viewed stablecoins so narrowly that they would effectively fall under the same capital reserve standards as Bitcoin, the letter added.

Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies with values tied to some more stable asset, such as the value of gold or a national currency.

If the regulators permitted a 0.25 percentage-point differential between a stablecoin and its related asset – not the 0.1 percent the regulators proposed – banks would find it more practical to handle digital assets, the letter said.

In addition to the GFMA, the letter was signed by the Chamber of Digital Commerce, Financial Services Forum, Futures Industry Association, Institute of International Finance, and International Swaps and Derivatives Association.

TREND FORECAST: *The Banksters want their share of the $2 trillion plus crypto market and will do what they can to get it. Thus, in many nations where there is* *not tight government control Bitcoin and other major cryptocurrencies may become part of the financial system as already evidenced with El Salvador. (See [“SPOTLIGHT: CRYPTOS GO MAINSTREAM,”]() 17 September 2021)*

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES

CHINA SEES CRYPTOS AS EXISTENTIAL THREAT. There China was again last Thursday night, trying to smother Bitcoin.

The People's Bank of China (PBoC), the country's central bank, declared all digital currency operations unlawful.

Specifically, it stated:

"[Cryptocurrency] services providing trading, order matching, token issuance, and derivatives for virtual currencies are absolutely banned.

“Overseas virtual currency exchanges that utilize the internet to provide services to local people are likewise deemed unlawful financial activity.”

The central financial organ announced a prohibition of financial institutions and non-bank payment institutions from providing services to activities and operations linked to cryptocurrencies. That’s according to CNBC.

The PBOC also touted “enhanced” crypto-related transaction monitoring systems.

Bitcoin and the cryptosphere in general didn’t think much of China’s latest attempts to torpedo the revolution. Bitcoin dipped 5 percent, a blip compared to the surges and dives that have characterized a choppy, but overall upward summer.

The story of China's increasingly strident moves against cryptos has to do with the technology itself. Permissionless blockchains, cryptographic keys to digital property that can't be confiscated, and decentralization and privacy that can't be easily thwarted, all spell big trouble for China's system, more than any other on earth.

And that doesn't even touch on all the incredible revolutionary efficiencies and use cases which are exploding in the crypto world, creating value and wealth. It's not an exaggeration to say that crypto networks are already changing the way people are accruing and controlling the fruit of their labor and interactions.

Communism was supposed to decide things like that.

Forbes contributor Martin Leo Rivers commented about China's latest move:

> "China is worried because bitcoin gives its citizens the freedom to teleport their wealth around the world instantly at the click of a button—side-stepping the short-sighted, arbitrary capital restrictions that Beijing is no doubt planning in response to the Evergrande debacle.
>
> "If recent price action is anything to go by, their concerns are well-founded. A global superpower just declared war on bitcoin... and the market barely even noticed."

SENATOR ECHOES "TRENDS IN CRYPTOS" ABOUT U.S. CRYPTO OPPORTUNITY. We previously reported that China's need to exert political control to maintain its oppressive communist system is a weakness that the West could exploit via the crypto revolution.

In "THE GEOPOLITICS OF BITCOIN" (27 Jul 2021) we noted:

> "China's system cannot take advantage of the decentralized blockchain revolution, because their political, and increasingly, their economic vision is directly opposed to the decentralization and autonomy literally embodied in the code of blockchain protocols.
>
> "The U.S. and the western nations that still, at least by heritage and a residue of common experience, value freedom, have an opportunity right now. They can embrace the crypto revolution. China can't. By supporting crypto innovations, the West can supercharge its economies, and move to restore the integrity of money."

Now at least some politicians are catching on to the idea. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) echoed this line of thinking in 24 September tweet:

> "China's authoritarian crackdown on crypto, including #Bitcoin, is a big opportunity for the U.S. It's also a reminder of our huge structural advantage over China.
>
> "Beijing is so hostile to economic freedom they cannot even tolerate their people participating in what is arguably the most exciting innovation in finance in decades. Economic liberty leads to faster growth, and ultimately, a higher standard of living for all."

The Block noted that Toomey's remarks followed the People's Bank of China's (PBoC) recent moves to treat fiat-crypto trading, crypto-crypto trading, and crypto derivative trading as all illegal.

The decision to prohibit crypto trading comes after a bitcoin mining crackdown early in the summer.

China attempting to restrict the emergence and use of cryptos is not exactly new. Over the years it has periodically warned its citizens against using Bitcoin, for example.

But with the country now aggressively rolling out its digital Yuan, a currency it centrally controls and can granularly surveil and cut-off, China appears ready to enforce its anti-crypto policies more stringently.

The U.S., meanwhile, has had its own muddled response to the crypto phenomenon. As cryptos decisively broke into the mainstream in 2021, prominent figures including Janet Yellin and Jerome Powell have periodically talked them down. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-CT) has been among the most vocal anti-crypto voices, calling for tight regulation, and even criminalizing some use cases, ala China.

The recent ham-handed inclusion of crypto regulation provisions in an infrastructure bill, was another indication that the U.S. has no coherent approach, let alone any strategic vision.

Some observers believe that Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Gary Gensler is honestly trying to figure out how to regulate the crypto space in a way that satisfies both advocates and skeptics.

But that's not much of a vision either.

Instead of complaining about the privacy and efficiency of cryptos, or dealing with them in a reactive and often negative manner, Western politicians would do well to recognize their revolutionary power to create wealth and economically evolve in ways China can't allow.

For more on China's blunder and the West's opportunity, read:

- "THE GEOPOLITICS OF BITCOIN" (27 Jul 2021)
- "XI RAMPS UP ECONOMIC "CULTURAL REVOLUTION" IN CHINA" (27 Jul 2021)
- "CHINA MADE A TRILLION DOLLAR MISTAKE, SAYS MICROSTRATEGY CEO" (29 Jun 2021)
- "BITCOIN MINING GROWING IN U.S. AFTER CHINA CRACKDOWN" (20 Jun 2021)

- “HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS ‘BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION’” (29 Jun 2021)
- “WILL BLOCKCHAIN SAVE THE DAY?” (20 Apr 2021)

SCAMMING FEDERAL RESERVE PROMISES TO “DO BETTER.” The same Federal Reserve that has helped the term “stagflation” make a comeback, and lost more credibility thanks to an insider trading scandal, is painting cryptocurrencies as a criminal “failure.”

Chairman Jerome Powell told a Senate Banking Committee in mid-September that cryptos were not a viable payment method, and were only being used by “privacy diehards.”

"With cryptocurrencies, it's not that they didn't aspire to be a payment mechanism, it's that they've completely failed to become one, except for people who desire anonymity, of course, for whatever reason," he told Sen. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming.

Powell’s suggestion was that privacy likely had a criminal intention.

But if the Fed Chairman is interested in rooting out criminality, there’s plenty of action to be had in-house.

The savings of Americans are being eroded by money printing at a pace that has even longtime observers sounding alarms.

The spiral is forcing people to try to stay ahead of the inflation monster with riskier investments, in traditional markets and the cryptosphere.

That risk-taking can be tied directly to disastrous policies of stimulus-addicted governments and their central banks.

If that weren't enough, this past week Powell was in the halls of Congress again, answering for a scandal involving regional Fed officials being caught using their positions and insider status to make propitious investments.

Powell was questioned about Robert Kaplan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, during a press conference after a two-day meeting of the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee.

According to recent filings, the two traded assets that were likely affected by Fed policies last year.

"The trust of the American people is essential for us to effectively carry out our mission," he said, while claiming he had no knowledge of the activities of the higher-ups working under his authority.

He announced an in-house "comprehensive review of the ethics rules around permissible financial holdings and activity by Fed officials."

Kaplan and Rosengren are admitting no wrongdoing. They have both stated that their transactions didn't violate the letter of current ethics rules.

Neither is currently inclined to relinquish the gains from their investments, though they announced they would sell the security holdings in question and hold the resultant funds in broad indexes and cash instead.

Powell, meanwhile, signaled that no significant repercussions for Kaplan or Rosengren would result from the insider trading. The reason? Only now are the current rules seen as inadequate.

According to Powell, "[the current rules] are now clearly seen as not adequate to the task of really sustaining the public's trust in us. We need to make changes and we're going to do that as a consequence of this."

[UPDATE: On Monday, Eric Rosengren announced he would retire as President of the Federal Reserve of Boston almost a year early, citing medical issues. Robert Kaplan, President of the Federal Reserve of Dallas, also announced an early retirement.]

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR

MORE COVID JABS, MORE BIG BUCKS FOR DRUG LORDS

As the old Bronx saying goes, "bullshit has its own sound."

Go back to November/December 2020.

Listen to the bullshit that the COVID Jabs had a 96 percent efficacy rate. And go back and listen to all the 'health authorities," comedy clown "celebrities" and Presstitutes sell how great the jabs are and how stupid you are for not getting one.

Now, as we reported in the **Trends Journal**, according to the Israeli Health Ministry, the efficacy rate has sunk to 39 percent. (See "THE DARK SIDES OF VAX," 24 August 2021)

Then go back to April of this year when the Drug Lords started selling the need to get booster shots. And now, as The Canadian Press reported on 25 September, with the COVID-19 booster shots now being approved and administered in many nations, the drug mob is cashing in big.

Enriched by the money the politicians have stolen from the taxpayers who stupidly believe the “vax shots are free,” Pfizer and BioNTech drug dealers, for example, are forecast to rack up $26 billion in global sales next year from boosters alone.

For Moderna, that figure will be about $14 billion if the boosters are approved for all Americans. Wall St. analysts' predictions of Moderna's 2022 revenue have increased by 35 per cent since Biden announced his booster shot plan. And while Moderna sells nothing other than COVID-19 vaccines, it expects to realize some $13 billion in total profits next year if the boosters are widely authorized.

For Pfizer and Moderna the boosters are far more profitable than their original doses, because all the research and development costs have already been covered. In fact, booster shot sales will amount to almost pure profit.

And despite the recovery rate of COVID being 99.997 percent for people aged one to 20 years of age, now that school children are required to be vaxxed in many countries, Pfizer expects the boosters to help drive its COVID-19 vaccine revenues to $33.5 billion.

Drugstore chains like CVS and Walgreens can also expect windfalls, if on a somewhat smaller scale. Those two look forward to more than $800 million each, aided by the fact that they may not face competition from mass-vaccination clinics this time, and all the customer information they've collected will facilitate inviting people to come in for boosters.

Pfizer's COVID revenues eclipse, many times over, the revenues from its Prevnar 13, formerly the world's most lucrative vaccine, and those brought in by AbbVie's Humira, regarded as the world's best-selling drug.

In a related story, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla was interviewed last week on ABC's "This Week," and predicted that, for much of the world, life would return to "normal" within a year.

But "normal" doesn't mean vaccinations will no longer be needed. On the contrary, Bourla said he expects variants to continue to appear, probably necessitating yearly vaccinations for everyone, in perpetuity.

The notion of a need for any booster shot, and especially for annual booster shots, certainly flies in the face of the way the vaccines were originally touted to the public; again, we were all led to believe that the vaccines had a 96 percent efficacy rate and would be a one- or two-shot panacea, vanquishing the virus once and for all; see "MEDIA: GET JABBED, END THE COVID WAR" (13 Apr 2021).

But it was too good to be true, and there was too much money to be made by keeping the COVID pot boiling. And we were warned: see, for example, "FAUCI DECLARES TWO COVID JABS NOT ENOUGH" (1 Jun 2021) and "VACCINES LOSE EFFECTIVENESS, MORE SHOTS NEEDED. HO-HUM" (3 Aug 2021).

Also last week, CDC director Rochelle Walensky overrode her agency's advisory panel and authorized boosters for those in high-risk occupations and institutions, and concurred with the advisory panel in approving boosters at least six months after their original shots for older Americans and for adults with underlying conditions.

TREND FORECAST: *Just like the flu shots, a sizable number of fearful people will get a yearly COVID Vax shot.*

Furthermore, the drugmakers plan to develop vaccines that target particular variants of COVID-19, and people could be encouraged to get them annually, on the model of flu shots. ***Trends Journal*** *reported in "DRUG COMPANIES CASHING IN ON COVID" (11 May 2021) that Pfizer considers COVID-19 as providing a "durable revenue stream."*

AUSSIE VAX PROTESTERS BRUTALLY ATTACKED BY COVID COMMIE COPS

In Melbourne, Australia, clashes continue between the police and those protesting Victoria state's harsh lockdown rules (under which people are permitted to leave their homes only for essential reasons).

And, of the 25 million Australian citizens, a grand total of 319 people have reportedly died of COVID this year, or a grand total of 0.00128 percent of the population.

Yet, as we note in this **Trends Journal** (see "NSW: NO VAX, NO FREEDOM!") draconian lockdown orders have been imposed and "freedom" will not be restored until 80 percent of the population is jabbed.

Down and Out, Down Under

Harsh rules and heavy-handed enforcement are nothing new there; see "AUSTRALIA: FEW VIRUS CASES BUT TOUGH RE-LOCKDOWN" (22 Sep 2020).

And, to illustrate the ongoing brutality of Aussie COVID Commie Cop squad, this video posted by news.com.au, Australia's leading news site, shows a cowardly cop coming up behind a man who was threatening no one, and throwing him down and bashing the victim's head open.

Of course, this is not reported in America or the other now tyrannical "democracies."

However, NPR did report on 21 September that construction workers were at the forefront of demonstrations in Melbourne's Central Business District, angered by a new vaccination mandate requiring them to show proof of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine; the new rule was in reaction to some 13 percent of the state's active COVID-19 cases being linked to construction sites.

On 20 September crowds gathered outside the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union headquarters to protest the mandate. With agents provocateurs inciting, a melee ensued in which bottles were allegedly thrown, and police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the protesters.

The union condemned the violence but distanced itself from the protesters, claiming that the demonstration had been hijacked and that actual union members had been in the minority. A union statement attributed the violence to the crowd having been "heavily infiltrated by neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremists" who donned "hi-viz" clothing and purported to be construction workers.

Other marches have continued across the city, again with objects hurled and property damaged, and also attributed by media to "protesters dressed as construction workers." Indeed, photos and videos of the events are reminiscent of the "Yellow Vest" strikes and protests in France; see "FRANCE: NATIONAL STRIKE IS BREWING" (3 Dec 2019).

Responding to those events, state officials imposed a two-week shutdown of construction sites in Melbourne and other regional areas.

Meanwhile, a protest at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance was met with not only tear gas and volleys of rubber bullets but with an escalation of rhetoric.

9News.com.au reported on 23 September that the previous day some 400 persons, also protesting the vax mandates for the construction industry, had "hijacked" the memorial to war veterans and heroes. Allegedly the demonstrators, who gathered on the steps of the memorial, were given four hours to disperse and, when they failed to do so, police opened fire. A video of police firing on the crowd can be seen here.

215 persons were arrested and will be subject to AU$5500 fines for breaching the lockdown orders.

Most of the coverage of this event (in what might strike some as an orchestrated "propaganda offensive") centers on how "shameful," "disgraceful" and "disrespectful" it was for the protesters to have chosen that particular location.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the protesters should be "ashamed of themselves." And Senator Jacqui Lambie declared, "Blood, sweat and tears is the reason that you have your freedoms because all those people fought for this country."

TRENDPOST: *Apparently no irony was seen in attacking demonstrators (whom even the media labeled as peaceful "freedom protesters") who chose a monument to defenders of freedom as a place to protest limitations on their own freedoms. And while the protests are being reviled as "disrespectful," it should be noted that the crowds were chanting "Sacred Ground" and "Lest We Forget."*

NSW: NO VAX, NO FREEDOM!

Since the start of the COVID War, Australia's state of New South Wales (largest city, Sydney) has, like its southern neighbor, Victoria (largest city, Melbourne), imposed upon its residents some of the most repressive, draconian and tyrannical restrictions in the guise of protecting the public health; see, for example, "COVID CLAMPDOWNS IN AUSTRALIA: NO RIGHT TO RIGHTS" (9 Sep 2020) and "KNOCK, KNOCK: IT'S THE COVID POLICE. DEATH CAMPS NEXT?" (3 Aug 2021).

No Vax, No Freedom

Now comes word, as reported 27 September by *The New Daily*, that NSW is now on track for a return to "normalcy," based on projections for meeting its goals for fully vaccinated coverage. The first stage of a three-stage plan calls for 70 percent of residents to be fully vaccinated, and that goal is expected to be reached on 11 October. The second stage, at 80 percent coverage, is expected to kick in around 25 October.

At each stage, restrictions will be lifted and "freedoms will be restored." However, those “freedoms” are not for everyone. In fact, Deputy Premier John Barilaro has stated that individuals who choose not to be vaccinated "will lose their freedoms" on 11 October.

Nor will the unvaccinated regain their freedoms on 25 October; on that date travel restrictions will lift, as will limits on the number of people permitted to gather in private homes and in public, and there will be greater access to theaters, shops, hairdressers etc., but only for the vaccinated. Gathering limits will be lifted for weddings, funerals and religious services, but only the religious services will be open to the unvaccinated.

At 80 percent, vaccinated workers will have the choice of continuing to work from home, if practical; the unvaccinated will have no such choice. Not until the third stage, expected to be reached on 1 December, by which time 92 to 93 percent of the adult population is expected to have been fully vaccinated, will unvaccinated persons be released from their status as second-class citizens (and perhaps cease to be vilified); see "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS DEAD. EDITOR DEMANDS ANTI-VAXXERS ARE 'RUBBISHED' FROM PAPER" (27 Jul 2021).

TRENDPOST: *Just as the digital world has destroyed the soul of music that once had humans playing instruments, so too has the God of Nature and Natural healing been destroyed by the god of science that politicians, Presstitutes and the general public now worship.*

Thus, the mass majority believe only vaccination—not getting in the best spiritual, mental and physical health—will win the COVID War.

And, totally ignored in the COVID War coverage by the Presstitutes is, for example, that as of 27 September, NSW, with a population of some 8.2 million, just 363 citizens died of the virus. That equals 0.00443 of the population. And over the course of 18 months, there were just 0.000246 percent virus deaths per month!

That's it... a nothing number, yet, little political freaks who look like comic book clowns dictate their demands to the general public and the masses obey while those who march for Freedom are brutally beaten, arrested and heavily fined.

BIG PHARMA BRIBES U.S. POLITICIANS. MORONS CALL IT "CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS"

The U.S. based news site, CommonDreams.org, a non-profit that bills itself as serving the Progressive community, posted an article on 17 September about its campaign in its battle with Big Pharma to lower their drug prices.

They noted that on 15 September, three Democrat members of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee voted against giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices. One of those, Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) who got over $84,000 in campaign contributions from pharmaceutical and health corporations. The other two, Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) and Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR), have collectively received $1.7 million from the Drug Lords.

Trends Journal reported, in "TAX DOLLARS BOOST DRUG DEALER PROFITS" (2 Feb 2021), that from 1999-2018, for example, Big Pharma "spent $4.7 billion, an average of $233 million per year, on lobbying (buying out) the U.S. federal government; $414 million on contributions to presidential and congressional electoral candidates, national party committees, and outside spending groups;

and $877 million on contributions to state candidates and committees. Contributions were targeted at senior legislators in Congress involved in drafting health care laws and state committees that opposed or supported key referenda on drug pricing and regulation."

In an October 2020 campaign ad, Rice pandered to her constituents by promising to "always put the health and safety of Long Island first." But then she voted against the interests of the 90 percent of her constituents who favor Medicaid having that negotiating power. That vote inspired CommonDreams to pay for a billboard in Rice's district informing her constituents of her "betrayal."

And Big Pharma is fighting back with its own multi-million dollar TV ads and increasing its lobbying efforts by 19 percent over last year, to the tune of over $6 million.

CommonDreams vows to win, and believes it will by virtue of having the American people plus "the vast majority of the Democratic caucus and President Biden" on its side, aided by $4 million in advertising just purchased by AARP.

The article concludes, "That is why carrying water for Pharma is not only a moral failure, it is also a political failure. Any politician who puts Pharma profits before the needs of their constituents will lose their jobs. And they will deserve it. Pharma shills simply aren't fit to represent the people of their districts."

TRENDPOST: *The belief of Americans that they have a "representative" form of government is true. The political whores they elect represent those who enrich them, as the Drug Lords do, with "campaign contributions.*

According to STAT:

> *Seventy-two senators and 302 members of the House of Representatives cashed a check from the pharmaceutical industry ahead of the 2020 election—representing more than two-thirds of Congress, according to a new STAT analysis of records for the full election cycle.*

> *Pfizer's political action committee alone contributed to 228 lawmakers. Amgen's PAC donated to 218, meaning that each company helped to fund the campaigns of nearly half the lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Overall, the sector donated $14 million.*

While CommonDreams labels itself "progressive," believing that President Biden is on the side of the American people, according to Drug Discovery and Development, some three weeks before the 2020 U.S. presidential race, "donors with links to drug companies have donated $2.5 million to the Biden campaign—significantly more than the $647,000 given to Trump's reelection campaign."

LATEST VAX SIDE EFFECTS STATISTICS

VAERS is the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, created in 1990 and co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (who spoke at Dr. Ron Paul's "War on Us" event following Gerald Celente's presentation on 4 September) published VAERS data on his web site, The Defender, on 17 September, which details that side effects of COVID vaccines are hardly insignificant or inconsequential.

Since the vaccine rollout began on 14 December 2020 (and tabulated through 10 September 2021) VAERS has logged reports of 701,561 adverse events, including 14,925 deaths. Factoring out those reports generated outside the U.S. still leaves a total of 559,462 adverse events, including 6,756 deaths and 43,073 serious injuries, all reported in the U.S.

Of those U.S. deaths, 12 percent occurred within 24 hours of vaccination and 17 percent occurred within 48 hours of vaccination. Another 31 percent occurred in persons who first reported symptoms within 48 hours of vaccination.

Some 20 percent of the deaths were related to cardiac disorders; there were 1,076 cases of miscarriage or premature birth. There were 2,783 cases of Bell's Palsy and 593 cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

VAERS does not assume a causal relationship between the vaccine and the adverse events until such is confirmed via investigation.

The Defender also on 20 December reported the latest weekly figures from VAERS for children aged 12 to 17. In that group there were 19,827 adverse events, including 19 deaths (2 of which were suicides). There were 488 cases of inflammation of the heart and its membranes (myocarditis and pericarditis); **Trends Journal** reported on this particular side effect in "YET ANOTHER REASON FOR VACCINE HESITANCY" (29 Jun 2021). That age group also logged 2,972 cases of anaphylaxis (an allergic reaction) and 106 cases of clotting disorders.

And The Defender also cited a preprint study which found that healthy boys between the ages of 12 and 15 with no underlying medical conditions faced four to six times more risk from vaccine-related myocarditis than from COVID-19.

TRENDPOST: *Also cited are studies indicating that natural immunity confers far better protection from COVID-19 than vaccines do; Dr. Marty Makary of Johns Hopkins University is quoted as saying that, in order to support a political narrative, the CDC was "cherry-picking" data regarding vaccines vs. natural immunity. See "SOUTH AMERICA: JAB OR NATURAL IMMUNITY SLOWING COVID SURGE" (14 Sep 2021).*

ROLLING STONE = A ROLLING MOCKERY

Eric Clapton, whom *Rolling Stone* rated Number Two (behind only Jimi Hendrix) in its “100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time" has now become the object of that same magazine's scorn and ridicule.

In an article on 20 September, *Rolling Stone* declares that, when Clapton performed in New Orleans on 18 September, it was in contradiction of an "absurd promise" the guitarist had made to never appear at a venue that required proof of vaccination.

The arena where Clapton performed (the Smoothie King Center) follows the New Orleans regulations requiring all persons at such venues (ticket holders, staff and participants) to prove they've had at least one COVID-19 jab or have tested negative for the virus with 72 hours; mask-wearing is also mandatory, except while eating or drinking.

Reacting to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's July announcement that vax passes would be required at U.K. nightclubs and entertainment venues, Clapton had stated, "I will not perform on any stage where there is a discriminated audience present. Unless there is provision made for all people to attend, I reserve the right to cancel the show."

Characterizing Clapton as a "public health skeptic" and "anti-vax hypocrite" whose "ridiculous stance" put him at odds with the "the rest of the music industry" (which, the magazine tells us, "has embraced vaccination mandates as the only way of ensuring safe concerts"), *Rolling Stone* reminds us that Clapton collaborated with Van Morrison on songs protesting the COVID lockdowns, "Stand and Deliver" and "The Rebels," and one of his own, "This Has Gotta Stop.” This indeed puts Clapton at odds with most of the entire entertainment industry; see "CELEBRITY SELLOUTS SELL COVID VAX" (18 May 2021).

The magazine also states that Clapton had been vaccinated but had "famously regretted" his decision because of the "supposedly 'disastrous' side effects he said he suffered."

For his part, the 76 year old guitarist, singer, songwriter and three-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee says that he should never have taken the jab; he suffers from peripheral neuropathy, which he says was aggravated by the vaccine; as a guitarist, anything that impinges on the use of his hands could certainly be called "disastrous." Clapton evidently believes that, for him, the vaccine poses risks greater than the risk of COVID-19; see "STATS, SIDE EFFECTS & DEATHS" (2 Feb 2021).

"Stand and Deliver" contains the lyrics "Is this a sovereign nation, or just a police state?"; see "COVID-19: POLICE STATE VIRUS" (10 Mar 2020).

Clapton Come Back

In a Facebook post, Clapton takes issue with the *Rolling Stone* article, claiming that the exception for those testing negative means that "the venue did not require exclusively a vaccination as a condition for entry," that he therefore didn't break his promise, and that *Rolling Stone* is guilty of "sensationalist journalism."

That may be a mere loophole, a technicality. But whether Clapton reneged on his promise or not, he has not renounced his anti-vax mandate and anti-lockdown sentiments.

TRENDPOST: *To clearly illustrate the levels of arrogance and stupidity of Rolling Stone, we again note their comment that Clapton, and essentially anyone else who is a "public health skeptic," is a stupid jerk.*

"Public health" = political establishment whores who are paid to do what they are told by the government pimps. These are not alternative/natural healing/complimentary educated "experts."

And, to further note the magazine's low life stupidity, they attack Clapton, and in fact anyone else, who is "anti-vax" as having a "ridiculous stance" that is at odds with "the rest of the music industry."

What moron would give a damn about what the "rest of the music "industry" believes? Yes, an industry that knows zero about medical facts and has degenerated into a mega-corporate "industry" that has sapped the true soul out of what used to be the American spirit. From Ragtime, Swing, R&B, Rock n' Roll, Motown... what is being sold as music has degenerated to one bad rap and synthetic hollowness.

TREND FORECAST: *The world is waiting for a music Renaissance... a rebirth that captures the true sound of instruments and the heart, soul and style of musicians and performers. It is a top-of-the-list OnTrendpreneur® opportunity. Society wants its spirit lifted, which is anathema to the "rest of the music industry."*

The Trends Research Institute has identified what the public wants to hear, how it should sound and how to market it.

AMERICANS GETTING SCREWED: FDA IN BED WITH BIG PHARMA

"The foxes are guarding the chicken coop." "The inmates are running the asylum." Both these phrases accurately describe the corrupt, incestuous relationship that exists between Big Pharma Drug Lords and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

That relationship is the subject of a video (seen here) from Russell Brand, the comedian and actor who has also become an outspoken social critic on issues that include corporate capitalism (as he hastens to explain in this video, he is by no means against free markets or capitalism *per se,* just the corrupt crony capitalism such as he exposes in this video).

In the video, Brand quotes, and comments on, material from a number of different sources, such as The Conversation, Yale News*,* ProPublica and *Science.*

From The Conversation:

> "The FDA has moved from an entirely taxpayer-funded entity to one increasingly funded by user fees paid by manufacturers that are being regulated."
>
> Those user fees have enabled more drugs to obtain FDA approval, and more quickly. Along with that, more drugs have had serious safety issues surface after gaining FDA approval, leading Russell Brand to observe that "... Having a set of pharmaceutical companies regulated by an agency that they fund leads to bad drugs being released..."

Brand also exposes "pay later" or "post hoc" conflicts of interest, in which, rather than more obvious quid pro quo payoffs (which would violate agency rules or federal laws), FDA employees or those who advise the FDA's committees reap their rewards down the line, such as finding jobs or consulting work with the drug companies after leaving the agency's employ, having their research funded, or other ways the drug companies compensate those who have been of service to them.

From *Science*:

> "Of the more than $24 million in personal payments or research support from industry to the 16 top-earning advisers, 93 percent came from the makers of drugs those advisers previously reviewed."

Is it any wonder that the COVID-19 vaccines were so quick to be foisted upon the public, despite the negative issues that are only now entering the public's awareness? Or that the vax makers have done so very well financially, and expect to continue to do so?See "DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING" (8 Jun 2021).

From ProPublica:

> "'Instead of a regulator and regulated industry, we now have a partnership,' said Dr. Michael Carome, director of the health research group for the non-profit advocacy organization Public Citizen."

TRENDPOST: *The* ***Trends Journal*** *has also reported on the FDA's "uncomfortably close and ethically questionable ties to Big Pharma, resulting in the FDA putting the interests of drug makers and their shareholders above those of patients and public health"; see, for example, "FDA & BIG PHARMA, ONE BIG CLUB" and "AMERICAN MEDICINE, AMERICAN MALFEASANCE" (29 Jun 2021).*

Indeed, as we often quote the great U.S. comedian George Carlin who said, "It's one big club, and you ain't in it."

UNITED AIRLINES EMPLOYEES SUE TO RESIST VAX MANDATE

In August, United Airlines became one of the first large U.S. companies, and the first major airline, to announce that it was requiring all U.S. employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19, on pain of termination.

Trends Journal has been reporting on the trend toward companies instituting forcing employees to get the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy shot; see "NEW TREND: 'JAB HECTORING'" (23 Feb 2021), "NO JAB, NO JOB?" (1 Jun 2021) and "WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB? GET THE JAB!" (14 Sep 2021).

The policy is set to go into effect this week, but United claims that most of its employees already welcome or have at least accepted the mandate, and that 97 percent of its workforce has been vaccinated, excepting those who have sought exemptions.

Earlier this month, the Biden administration announced that all companies with 100 or more employees would have to require vaccination or have the employees submit to weekly testing. United's policy hasn't offered testing as an alternative.

Now comes word, on 23 September in *The Wall Street Journal*, that a group of six United employees (two pilots, a flight attendant, an aircraft technician, a customer service representative and a station operations representative) are bringing a lawsuit against the airline, claiming that it discriminates by failing to make or offer adequate accommodations for those seeking medical or religious exemptions. The suit claims the airline makes it difficult for employees to secure such exemptions, and that it fires them when they do.

This shows the difficulties that companies face in complying with government mandates and trying to do what's right for their employees. United's chief executive officer believes that requiring all employees to be vaccinated is critical to their safety. Clearly, not all employees, at United or elsewhere, would necessarily agree; see "MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?" (14 Sep 2021).

The six employees bringing the suit say they hope to represent a class of over 2,000 United employees worldwide who have sought exemptions.

TREND FORECAST: *You know the facts, we have been reporting on them since the COVID War broke out and it is now part of the daily headlines. Across the business spectrum—from health care workers to truck drivers, from retail shops to drug stores—there is a dire shortage of workers.*

Now, with the "No Jab, No Job" mandates being imposed by governments and imposed by businesses, the job shortage will greatly worsen and the socioeconomic implications will prove physically and economically deadly.

Indeed, with many hospitals and nursing homes already short staffed, the crisis will greatly worsen as people are fired for refusing the COVID Jab.

Yesterday in New York, for example, hospitals across the state fired and suspended thousands of healthcare workers for what they called "defying" a state order to get the COVID Jab. Short staffed, a number of hospitals cut services and postponed elective surgeries.

Besides putting the health of those that need surgery in jeopardy, Reuters reported that as a result of the staff shortages and the cutbacks in elective surgeries, Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, which brings in about $1 million per week from elective surgeries will be losing money: "Financially, it's a big deal," the hospital spokesman told Reuters.

Again, as the COVID War continues, and more people are being forced to lose their Rights if they are not jabbed, we forecast strong anti-vax, anti-establishment, pro-freedom movements will rapidly escalate across the globe.

TREND FORECAST: *Yesterday, a federal appeals panel reversed a court decision made over the weekend that halted a New York City vax mandate requiring adults working in public schools to get the COVID shot. Thus, there will be a shortage of workers in public school sectors as well. And many of the displaced workers will also become supporters of anti-vax, anti-establishment Freedom movements.*

MIT STUDY: THOSE REFUSING THE COVID JAB ARE NOT RIGHTWING CONSPIRACY THEORY IGNORANT MORONS

Contrary to the moronic, imbecilic Presstitutes, politicians and comedian clowns constantly chanting that those who are hesitant to take the COVID Jabs are ignorant and irrational, they are smarter than those who got the shots.

PJMedia.com reported on 17 September, a study of vaccine hesitancy by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that ascribing vaccine hesitancy to irrational thinking or ignorance is wrongheaded, and the (often politically-based) condescension toward the un-vaxxed is counter-productive.

The MIT study found that a substantial portion of those expressing vaccine skepticism were "highly-intelligent, scientifically-literate, and sophisticated in the use of data."

Furthermore, the skeptics' opinions and the opinions of those who enthusiastically rolled up their sleeves for the jabs were formed around the same information. According to MIT, vaccine hesitancy can be logical and rational; it can be based not on conspiracy theorizing so much as on assessments of risk vs. benefit.

This is why, for example, the older you are and the more dense your community, the more likely you are to be vaccinated, whereas the younger you are and the more rural your community, the less likely that you see yourself at risk and therefore don't see the need to be vaccinated. The MIT study states, "Those who are in less danger, act like it."

And the article asks, "Why have the same mandate for someone who lives in New York City and someone who lives in rural South Dakota?"

Don’t Think for Yourself

The skepticism that is standing in the way of the Biden administration's goal of vaccinating the entire U.S. population against COVID-19 is known as "vaccine hesitancy," and it has effectively stalled the vaccination program. To date, some 56 percent of Americans are fully vaccinated.

Even when the vaccines were first approved for emergency use, 40 percent of Americans were skeptical. As **Trends Journal** has reported, there's no shortage of reasons for such skepticism; see, for example, "YET ANOTHER REASON FOR VACCINE HESITANCY" (29 Jun 2021).

TREND FORECAST: *The administration's response has been to try to shame people into compliance, to ridicule them as "ignorant" or "morons," or to vilify them as "conspiracy theorists," and even to threaten to send its minions door-to-door to vaccinate (presumably by force?) the unwilling.*

As we had forecast, these tactics have been successful only in generating more, and more determined, resistance and are building blocks for new anti-vax/anti-establishment movements.

These resistance movements will intensify for the Biden Administration and states that support his “No Jab, No Freedom” mandates.

GM CRACKDOWN: GET VAXXED OR GET OUT

The **Trends Journal** has long reported: "NO JAB, NO JOB?”

General Motors, the American car giant, informed employees last week who have not reported their vaccination status that they could receive a safety violation letter in their personal file unless they comply, according to a report in *The Wall Street Journal.*

“We are pleased that virtually every GM salaried employee has reported their vaccine status via our confidential reporting tool,” the company said, according to the report. “We continue to work with a very small number of employees to reach 100 percent completion.”

The *Journal* reported that the move by GM is “significant” because they are one of the first large companies to show a "willingness to exact penalties, such as withholding a part of a yearly performance bonus, in order to enhance access to data that can help ensure a better response to the virus.”

The directive was sent to its white-collar workforce. The company last month asked its 48,000 U.S. white-collar workers to disclose their vaccine status to determine “when GM may need to increase or be able to relax or rescind certain COVID-19 safety protocols.”

The company has not forced employees to be vaccinated. Ray Curry, the UAW president, who represents 400,000 workers, said at a business roundtable last month that the organization does not plan to mandate vaccines for its members. He said the union encourages members to be vaccinated but “our ultimate” is that we would “respect the wishes of our membership.”

The Detroit Three automakers have been working with the UAW on workplace safety and vaccinations, *The Detroit Free Press* reported.

GM is trying to balance protecting lives with allowing people to keep their jobs, Mark Reuss, GM's president, said.

"You look at those two things together because we've got to protect peoples' lives and protect their livelihood," Reuss said. "We're trying to be respectful of many different people who may have health issues or for some reason can't do it."

TREND FORECAST: *As noted in the following **Trends Journal** articles, we have long forecast that governments and corporations would enforce unprecedented measures to get as many people jabbed with the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy shot as possible. Among them are these articles:*

- *"NO JAB = NO JOB" (23 Feb 2021)*
- *"NEW TREND: 'JAB HECTORING'" (24 Aug 2021)*
- *"HONG KONG: NO JAB, NO JOB, NO FREEDOM" (4 May 2021)*
- *"GOLDMAN SACHS IN CONTROL: GET YOUR JAB" (15 Jun 2021)*

And, regardless of the nation, state or city, we maintain our forecast that those mandating "No Jab, No Freedom" will face growing pressure among anti-vax, anti-establishment Freedom Fighter movements.

SELLING BOOSTER SHOTS, CDC'S WALENSKY SAY "FU" TO AGENCY ADVISERS

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, took a rare step Thursday and overruled agency advisers who did not recommend COVID-19 booster shots for younger, at-risk workers like teachers and nurses.

"As CDC Director, it is my job to recognize where our actions can have the greatest impact," Walensky said in a statement. "At CDC, we are tasked with analyzing complex, often imperfect data to make concrete recommendations that optimize health. In a pandemic, even with uncertainty, we must take actions that we anticipate will do the greatest good."

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), on the same day, recommended the booster for Americans 65 and older and for those over

50 with underlying medical conditions but voted against the younger at-risk worker recommendation. Walensky disagreed, saying it aligns with a U.S. Food and Drug Administration booster authorization from earlier this week.

The New York Times reported that the statement from Walensky was announced past midnight, "a sign of the complicated and confusing decision-making surrounding the boosters. The CDC advisers similarly spent two days debating who should get boosters and when, and could not agree on whether occupational risk should qualify as a criterion."

“I am surprised that Dr. Walensky overturned one of the four ACIP votes today, and I believe others will be as well,” said Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, an infectious disease expert at Stanford and the American Academy of Pediatrics liaison to the committee, told the paper.

Dr. William Schaffner, a nonvoting member of the CDC’s vaccine advisory panel and chairman of the department of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, told *The Times* that the process has “not been done according to the rules.”

“It started in Washington with the president’s announcement,” he said, pointing out that the steps usually work their way from the Food and Drug Administration to the CDC. “This has been confusing all along.”

The Times article noted: "Walensky’s decision revealed the continuing divisions and confusion among federal regulators and outside advisers about how to contain the virus nearly two years into the pandemic."

TRENDPOST: *Following Ms. Walensky’s mandate, yesterday President Joe Biden got a booster shot, and noted that "Boosters are important, but the most important thing we need to do is get more people vaccinated.”*

Attacking those who refuse the COVID Jab, the President moronically stated that "The vast majority of Americans are doing the right thing. Over 77 percent of adults have gotten at least one shot. About 23 percent haven't gotten any shots, *and that distinct minority is causing an awful lot of us an awful lot of damage for the rest of the country."*

Moronic statement?

Yes!

What rest of the country is Biden talking about?

The "rest" who have chosen for themselves not to get the jab, are causing no "harm" to the fully vaccinated. As the "story" sold to the public goes, if someone is fully vaccinated the vax has a 96 percent efficacy rate, thus they are not in harm's way of getting the virus.

As for what to expect next?

Blaming the virus on the unvaccinated, Mr. Biden declared "This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated. That's why I'm moving forward with vaccination requirements wherever I can."

Thus "more vaccination requirements" equals more loss of Freedom.

TRENDPOST: *In this and previous* ***Trends Journal*** *has reported extensively on the vaccine rollout during Operation Warp Speed and the subsequent rush to get the third jab into American arms. (See "BIDEN'S BOOSTER PLAN: VAX YOU," "ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN SOLD," and "COVID BOOSTERS ARE THE FUTURE.")*

We also pointed out that these vaccines mean a fortune for drug makers like Pfizer and Moderna. We have been documenting the windfall profits Pfizer, Merck, and other vaccine producers have been collecting for almost a year in our stories "Pfizer CEO Makes Windfall Profit from Vaccine News" (17 Nov 2020), "Drug Companies Cashing in on COVID" (11 May 2021), "Vax Mints New Billionaires" (25 May 2021), "Drug Lords Rake in Big Bucks with Bad Shot" (3

Aug 2021), and “More Booster Jabs, More Windfall Profits for Drug Lords” (24 Aug 2021).

In “Drug Lords’ Vax Money Grab Getting Bigger” (17 Aug 2021) we noted that Pfizer reported $10.8 billion in revenues during the first half of this year and, thanks to its coronavirus vaccine, has raised projections and now expects to book $33.5 billion in sales for all of 2021, triple its take in the year’s first half.

FDA ALLOWS "WHISTLEBLOWER" TESTIMONY

On 18 September, Health Impact News published its report on the meeting, the day before, of the Food and Drug Administration's Vaccine Advisory Committee to discuss the agency's authorizing a COVID-19 "booster shot" from Pfizer.

There were already cracks in the official narrative about the value of the booster shots and of the vaccines in general; two of the FDA's top vaccine researchers had recently resigned over frustration with the Biden booster policies and procedural conflicts (the CDC had been making decisions that should have been made by the FDA).

And 18 FDA officials had published a report in *The Lancet* opposing Biden's booster plan; see "BIDEN'S BOOSTER PLAN: VAX YOU!" (21 Sep 2021).

The meeting was remarkable, not only because the committee voted 16 to 2 against approving the boosters (although it later endorsed approval for those over 65), but because dissenting doctors were permitted to speak out, opening the floodgates to data and opinions not usually given much exposure, or even censored.

The Vax Hesitant are Better Informed

For example, an ER doctor from New Orleans stated that no trials had as yet been broad enough to prove that the vaccines' benefits outweigh the risks. He also allowed that his experience indicated that the "vaccine hesitant" were better informed than those who embraced the vaccines. Indeed, we note this fact in this **Trends Journal**. (See story in this issue, “MIT STUDY: THOSE REFUSING THE COVID JAB ARE NOT RIGHTWING, CONSPIRACY THEORY IGNORANT MORONS.”)

He further explained vaccine hesitancy in nurses, because, having observed COVID patients firsthand, they have a realistic perception that, for those who aren't elderly, obese or diabetic, the risk is low; otherwise healthy 30 year old females have a 1 in 7000 chance of catching COVID and being hospitalized, and young males face a greater risk from vaccine-induced heart inflammation than their risk of hospitalization for COVID.

And the Executive Director of the COVID-19 Early Treatment Fund cited as "the elephant in the room" that the vaccines kill more people than they save, citing that COVID-19 vaccines carry 71 times more risk of preceding a heart attack than any other vaccine.

Dr. Jessica Rose gave a presentation showing a 1000 percent increase in adverse events following COVID vaccines, compared to previous vaccines in prior years.

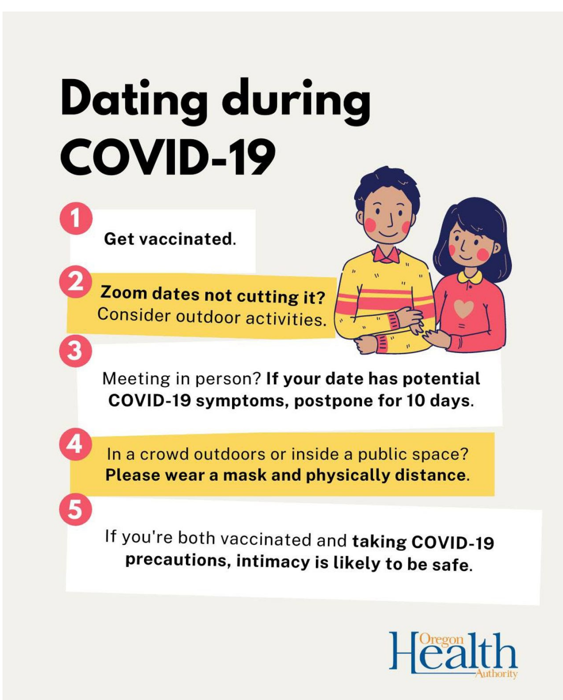
TRENDPOST: *The Health Impact News article allows that such testimony could be driven by Pfizer's competitors seeking to discredit Pfizer and undermine its domination of the vax market, or it could be indicative that the Biden vax narrative is losing its luster, and that the truth of the vax program will soon out, and heads will roll. The article is not shy about characterizing the vax campaign as "an act of genocide and crimes against humanity."*

This article was totally banned by the mainstream news and barely reported by alternative news sources. Yet, it clearly illustrates the facts as we have long been *reporting as to who is dying from COVID and why. And rather than taking measures to protect those most susceptible to the virus, entire nations are being forced to be injected with an experimental Operation Warp Speed gene therapy jab.*

IDIOT'S DELIGHT: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

For those who have learned that, in the age of COVID, it's a good idea to get up each morning and check to see which activities the authorities, in their wisdom, have deemed permissible or *verboten*, the following may come as welcome news.

As reported 23 September by *The Oregonian*, the Oregon Health Authority, which in April 2020 had declared, "You are your safest sex partner," has now announced that dating (and whatever that may be presumed or construed to entail) may now once again be engaged in with the full blessing of the state, just so long as the parties involved have been vaccinated.



Trends Journal reported on the NYC Health Dept. having issued its own "Safer Sex and COVID-19" guide; see "AUTHORITIES DICTATE COVID SEX RULES" (16 Jun 2020).

So, those in Oregon who wish to be intimate with each other (or "with one another" should more than 2 persons be involved) may now feel free to do so, without worry that minions of the state will intrude on their lovenest to enforce the mask or social distancing rules. The participants just have to make sure that the vax requirement is not, er, left unfulfilled.

The Oregonian article also points out that, in order to avoid other undesirable consequences of intimacy, the use of condoms is also encouraged.

TREND FORECAST: *The cartoon nature of the comic illustration depicts the little minds of these arrogant little clowns who call themselves "Health Authorities."*

We note the stupidity spewed out of the mouths and minds of bureaucrats who have, since the COVID War began, made up mandates that reflect their mindlessness.

For example, when walking into a restaurant one has to wear a mask, but when sitting down to eat and drink, the mask can come off because the virus always stops at table height...

Same stupidity on an airplane. It is OK to eat and drink with a mask off. But the mask must go back when the meal is finished because the virus will attack as soon as the passenger takes the last bite and sip.

Violators will be banned, shamed and/or arrested and fined.

The list of bureaucratic bullshit to fight the COVID War goes on.

From social distancing to wearing masks outdoors, locking people in their homes, putting up Plexi-glass dividers, sanitizing surfaces, etc. ... these imbecilic, scientifically proven ineffective orders imposed on the general public are precursors of the worst to come... unless "... an irate tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men," unite to oppose them.

DUTCH PROTESTERS RAIL AGAINST 'CORONA PASS'

The **Trends Journal** has reported for months on the coronavirus lockdowns and the massive protests in response. (See "LOCKDOWN PROTESTS RAGING, NEW LOCKDOWN ORDERS," "FRANCE, GERMANY, UK, DENMARK, CANADA: UPDATES," and "COVID-19: THE VIRUS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPRESSION.")

A new round of protests broke out in the Netherlands on Saturday with hundreds taking to the street to voice their anger against the introduction of the so-called "corona pass," which is their version of the 'Digital Green Pass," and allows people to enter bars and other venues. (For more, see our article, "EU GREEN PASS FOR VACCINATED.")

There appeared to be infighting within Prime Minister Mark Rutte's government. Reuters reported that his Deputy Economic Affairs Minister Mona Keijzer was sacked after questioning the measure.

Keijzer had given an interview with the Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* and she was quoted saying that it is becoming "increasingly difficult to explain why you have to show a proof of vaccination in one place, but not another."

"Which makes me think: are we just going to stick to this course, or are we going to organize ourselves properly?" she said.

The COVID-19 outbreak has led to the cancelation of all those who even question "health officials" and unproven mandates.

Reuters reported that about 72 percent in the country have received the coronavirus vaccination and the launch of the pass "coincided with the lifting of almost all social distancing measures." So the government is essentially creating two categories of people in the country: the vaccinated who can somewhat resume normal life, and the unvaccinated who must be left alone in the shadows.

“Medical Apartheid,” one sign at the protest read, according to the report. “Stop vaccine passports.”

Reuters, citing the country’s Horeca Nederland hospitality industry association, said about 40 percent of bars said they will not ask customers about their vaccine statuses.

"If we end up in a society where we have to be afraid of each other unless we can show proof, then you really have to scratch your head and ask yourself: Is this the direction we want to go?" Keijzer told the paper.

TREND FORECAST: *We had long forecast that groups would unite under the Freedom banner, forming new political parties and/or bringing together small existing populist parties to challenge the ruling class. Watch for Mona Keijzer to become a vocal opposition voice in the country and a future challenger against Rutte.*

FAUCI FAVORITE REMDESIVIR LESS SAFE THAN DRUGS HE SMEARS

Remdesivir has significantly higher incidences of serious side effects than cheaper drugs like hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin, that many frontline doctors say are effective against COVID.

Despite that, Remdesivir remains the only FDA approved drug to treat symptoms of COVID-19.

Other countries including India and Japan have authorized hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin for use in treating COVID.

And multiple studies, including some recent ones available on the NIH website, underscore the efficacy of these cheap, relatively safe drugs.

So why is their use suppressed by the CDC and FDA, while Remdesivir was given the green light?

The answer, like so many aspects of COVID, leads directly to profit-seeking pharmaceuticals and their government partners and allies.

In the case of Remdesivir, government agencies have invested millions in its research and development, and via patent rights and other aspects, have a considerable financial stake in its use.

In contrast, Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine have been in use for decades, are cheap to produce, and are no longer under lucrative patents.

From Failed Drug to FDA COVID Approval

Remdesivir was first developed in 2009 as an antiviral drug for use against Hepatitis C. Later, it was tried against Ebola. In both cases, the drug showed little efficacy, while also demonstrating serious side effects, including kidney (renal) failure, and other organ damage.

The millions poured into the drug by its maker, Gilead, but also by Federal agencies funding its research and development, seemed lost.

But with the advent of COVID, Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of the leading governmental authorities directing COVID response, began to strongly advocate for the use of Remdesivir to treat COVID.

At the same time, Fauci reacted negatively to reports from frontline doctors that hydroxychloroquine, when used with antibiotics and zinc, was showing effectiveness in treating COVID.

Remdesivir was approved by the FDA as an official treatment against COVID in October 2020.

That was despite a study published in April 2020 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that showed serious side effects and limited benefits from the drug.

The study, titled "Compassionate Use of Remdesivir for Patients with Severe Covid-19", found:

> "A total of 32 patients (60%) reported adverse events during follow-up (Table 2). The most common adverse events were increased hepatic enzymes, diarrhea, rash, renal impairment, and hypotension. In general, adverse events were more common in patients receiving invasive ventilation. A total of 12 patients (23%) had serious adverse events. The most common serious adverse events — multiple-organ-dysfunction syndrome, septic shock, acute kidney injury, and hypotension — were reported in patients who were receiving invasive ventilation at baseline.
>
> "Four patients (8%) discontinued remdesivir treatment prematurely: one because of worsening of preexisting renal failure, one because of multiple organ failure, and two because of elevated aminotransferases, including one patient with a maculopapular rash."

(source: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2007016)

In 2021, Fauci, the CDC and FDA have continued to suppress and discount Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine as "unproven" and even unsafe for use against COVID.

The American media has played dutifully along, even as other nations authorized use of the cheap palliatives and reported good results.

In August the mainstream media, led by the AP, ran with an uncorroborated story about Ivermectin supposedly associated with a rash of emergency room visits in Oklahoma. The story was thoroughly debunked.

But meanwhile, studies including one published in May 2021 by the *American Journal of Therapeutics* strongly confirmed the efficacy of Ivermectin:

> "Therapeutic Advances:
> A large majority of randomized and observational controlled trials of ivermectin are reporting repeated, large magnitude improvements in clinical outcomes. Numerous prophylaxis trials demonstrate that regular ivermectin use leads to large reductions in transmission. Multiple, large "natural experiments" occurred in regions that initiated "ivermectin distribution" campaigns followed by tight, reproducible, temporally associated decreases in case counts and case fatality rates compared with nearby regions without such campaigns.
>
> "Conclusions:
> Meta-analyses based on 18 randomized controlled treatment trials of ivermectin in COVID-19 have found large, statistically significant reductions in mortality, time to clinical recovery, and time to viral clearance. Furthermore, results from numerous controlled prophylaxis trials report significantly reduced risks of contracting COVID-19 with the regular use of ivermectin. Finally, the many examples of ivermectin distribution campaigns leading to rapid population-wide decreases in morbidity and mortality indicate that an oral agent effective in all phases of COVID-19 has been identified."

Like many things related to COVID, Dr. Anthony Fauci figures large in the story of how Remdesivir became the expensive drug of choice to treat COVID.

But just as Fauci has come under increasing fire for funding controversial and dangerous gain-of-function experiments that may well have created COVID, he may be destined to account for his role in favoring Remdesivir over other treatments.

Cases of patients in hospitals experiencing serious side effects from Remdesivir including renal failure continue to mount.

And deaths of people denied the right to try safer drugs like Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine are also on the hands of officials who have blocked the "right to try."

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS

WAR MACHINE GETS RICHER AS AMERICANS GET POORER: HOUSE EASILY PASSES $768 BILLION DEFENSE BILL

In celebration of another multi-trillion dollar American military defeat, the end of the Afghan War, the longest war in American history, the U.S. House on Thursday approved its $778 billion fiscal 2022 National Defense Authorization Act.

With a strong 316-113 majority vote, the House injected about $25 billion more in spending than President Biden proposed in his 2022 budget request.

The Hill reported that the additional funding was approved when 14 House Armed Services Committee Democrats "in vulnerable seats" sided with Republicans. Rep. Mike Rogers, a Republican from Alabama added $23.9 billion to the bill after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The Senate will now pass its own bill and then the debate will begin in both chambers over the next few months. (See "MILITARY SPENDING INCREASES AS ECONOMIES DECLINE.")

Politico reported that the bill calls for women to register for a military draft and "also aims to extract information from the Biden administration on the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan and launch a wide-ranging review of the two-decade war."

Representatives on the Armed Services Committee said that the bill will help the U.S. junk old weapons and assist the Pentagon in its "pivot toward emerging technologies that help match threats posed by China and Russia." An additional $62 billion will be added to support the U.S. intelligence agencies which are part of the military industrial complex.

TREND FORECAST: *While much of the world's population suffers from the devastation of the COVID War which has destroyed lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions... politicians keep stealing more of We the People's money to enrich the military-industrial complex.*

America's other "great threat," Russia allocated just $67 billion for its military budget. And Statista, citing SIPRI data, reported that China has increased its military expenditure by almost 800 percent since 1992, reaching about $245 billion 2020... which is a fraction of what the U.S. spends.

As we have forecast, the 20th century was the American century—the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business; the business of America is war. (See "TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA.")

While America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military-industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation's businesses and building its 21st-century infrastructure.

And while America and Europe have outsourced their manufacturing to China and developing nations to increase profit margins, China's dual circulation/self-sustaining economic model is directed toward keeping jobs and trade and profits within the nation, thus relying less on global trade.

MYANMAR'S MILITARY STILL IN CHARGE. NO U.S. PUSHBACK

The U.S. and China showed little interest to collide over who they believe should be the credentialed representative from Myanmar at the United Nations and agreed to block the military junta's envoy from addressing the General Assembly that took place last week in New York.

The agreement was seen as a stinging blow to the junta that has been trying to seize international legitimacy, according to *Foreign Policy.* Part of the agreement required Kyaw Moe Tun, the holdover diplomat from deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's team, to keep his mouth shut during last week's general assembly. (He was allowed to take part in other functions at the event.)

As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, since the 1 February coup and arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets to fight for democracy. The leader is reported to have won by a landslide, the junta claims the election was rife with fraud.

Al Jazeera, citing the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, reported that about 1,080 people have been killed in the country since the military takeover and 6,000 have been detained.

(See "U.N. TAKES ACTION AGAINST MYANMAR RULERS" and "PROTESTS CONTINUE, POVERTY RISING.")

Kyaw Moe Tun struck a defiant tone and said in an interview that the seat will not be taken by someone from the military, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. He brushed off not being able to make a speech at the General Assembly.

“There will be a lot of occasions for me to deliver many, many statements—there will be committees—that’s very important to me and to the country,” he said.

The International Federation for Human Rights earlier this month issued an open letter in support of keeping Kyaw Moe Tun’s credentials in place.

The letter called the November 2020 election “free and fair,” and said it was observed by “accredited international election monitoring bodies. The junta in control of the country seized power by force and its citizens have staged protests and over 400,000 civil servants and private sector employees have been on strike since the coup.

“There is a real risk that complacency from U.N. member states could result in the Myanmar people being robbed of their rightful voice at the U.N., or even in the military junta receiving official U.N. accreditation as representatives of the people they have murdered and tortured so mercilessly,” Khin Ohmar, the founder of Progressive Voice, which was one of the group’s that signed the letter, said in a statement.

The Journal’s report pointed out that the U.N. has a nine-member credentials committee, which includes the U.S. and China. The committee is scheduled to meet in November when the issue will be discussed again. The report said some countries are more forceful than others when it comes to the support for Kyaw Moe Tun.

TREND FORECAST: *As we reported in our 22 June issue, Kyaw Moe Tun is seen as a rogue UN ambassador. CNN said he is essentially “flying solo” when he flashes the three-fingered salute and—in previous meetings—urged the UN to restore democracy using “any means necessary.”*

Unfortunately, he better get used to flying solo because if he thinks the help he’ll need is going to come from the Biden administration, we have a bridge to sell him. President Biden was seen by world leaders as the anti-Trump, and a “return to normal" in terms of U.S. diplomacy.

Not only is Myanmar not on the mind of Americans, like a "Yemen", their internationally limited minds don't even know what a "Myanmar" is. Thus, there is not much of a political win to be had for Biden to support the revolutionaries. And we maintain our forecast that China will exert more influence in Naypyitaw and will eventually demand that the UN recognizes the junta.

MIGRATION TURNS INTO A FULL-BLOWN CRISIS FOR U.S., JUST LIKE WE PREDICTED

For well over a year, the **Trends Journal** has warned that the massive economic consequences of the COVID-19 War will lead to desperation in poorer countries and there will be a flood of refugees seeking safe-haven nations like the U.S.

The report even made the cover of our 3 March issue: "CORONAVIRUS 9/11 – SPREADING TERROR." We also predicted that if the trend continues, the COVID War will intensify into World War III.

"When all else fails, they take you to war," Gerald Celente has said.

The Wall Street Journal reported last Thursday on the crisis unfolding in Del Rio, Texas, and said the situation "reflects a stark change in migration patterns to the U.S., driven by COVID-19."

The report said those traditionally seeking to migrate to the U.S. through the southern border were men from Mexico but there has been a palpable shift over the past few years. More families from Central America have begun to appear during the timeframe and over the past six months, hundreds of thousands of Haitians, Venezuelans, Brazilians, and Cubans have turned up. Besides economic hardship, many are fleeing countries with authoritarian regimes.

From October 2020 to August, about 300,000 migrants who were encountered—or about 20 percent—were from countries outside of Mexico and the Northern Triangle, *the Journal* reported. The paper said the group represented 7 percent in 2007 and 9 percent in 2019. Haitians are the fastest-growing group of migrants, the report said. (See our report from two years ago, “HAITI: NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.”)

The paper said many of these migrants have no prospects in their home countries and feel compelled to travel to the U.S. Many also believe that they will be welcomed by the Biden administration.

Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas told them not to come. The administration is continuing the Trump-era Title 42 that allows federal officers to quickly turn undocumented migrants away due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Encounters on the border this year could reach 1.7 million, which would be a 20-year high. The report pointed out that there was also a major jump in Venezuelans.

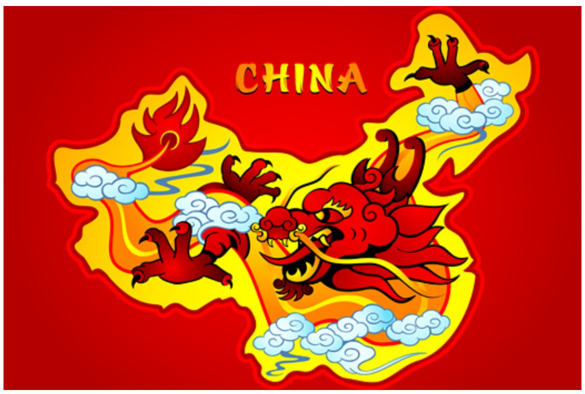
Once the richest nation of South America, Venezuela’s currency, the Bolivar, is essentially worthless, and the country is battling hyperinflation and its economy is collapsing. (Former President Trump issued new sanctions on the country in January to increase pressure on President Nicolás Maduro, who even the Biden administration sees as illegitimate.)

Celente has long noted, “when people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And in a radically divided Venezuela, many have now lost it. More than 5 million Venezuelans have fled the country in recent years.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, be it the U.S. or across the globe, as a result of the devastation caused by the COVID War that has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions, there will be a flood of refugees seeking safe-haven nations to escape poverty, government corruption crime and* *violence. This, in turn, will dramatically escalate anti-immigration anti-establishment populist movements in nations where they seek refuge.*

*And, despite massive U.S. Defense budget as we noted in this **Trends Journal**, (See story in this issue "WAR MACHINE GETS RICHER AS AMERICANS GET POORER: HOUSE EASILY PASSES $768 BILLION DEFENSE BILL"), the U.S. military which has not won a war since World War II, cannot even protect the nation's borders.*

CHINA PUTS CHINA FIRST



The Wall Street Journal, on 24 September, reported that multinational companies operating in China are feeling the effects of China's policies that show favoritism toward Chinese state-owned companies; a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai showed an increase in companies feeling the pinch of such favoritism, especially in fields like technology, pharmaceuticals and medical devices; see "CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE" (13 Jul 2021).

Also impacting foreign companies' operations are China's strict border controls, put in place since March 2020 in reaction to COVID-19. Companies wishing to send workers and executives into China face hurdles such as limited granting of visas (with special government approval needed to enter China) and quarantines of up to 28 days.

Similar outlooks were expressed in an annual report by the E.U. Chamber of Commerce in China, which also forecast that state-owned enterprises would have a greater role in China's economy; China will be buying more "Made in China" products. The E.U. Chamber's president observed that "China is all about balancing growth and control. Now, control is more important."

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that the 21st century will be China's and America will not be able to defeat the communist nation militarily or economically.*

As we have detailed for decades, before U.S. and European nations moved their manufacturing to China to use cheap labor so they could mark up their prices when they sold their goods back home and around the world, China was a struggling nation.

*Again, the business of China is business. The business of America is war. Indeed, we reported in this **Trends Journal** the record breaking U.S. military budget. (See "WAR MACHINE GETS RICHER AS AMERICANS GET POORER: HOUSE EASILY PASSES $768 BILLION DEFENSE BILL")*

Thus, while America builds its war machine, China builds its infrastructure and national economy.

Back in 2017, President Xi Jinping made it perfectly clear at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that the country must focus on the economy. He said the state will invest capital to turn Chinese enterprises into world-class competitive firms.

Politicians lie, but numbers don't. Take a look at the decline of America and the advancement of China. The trend is undeniable.

America's middle-income household has shrunk from 61 percent in 1971 to 50 percent today. China's grew from 5 percent in 2000, just before it joined the World Trade Organization, to nearly 35 percent today.

Xi pledged to increase modernization and improve people's ever-growing needs for a better life, for a strong, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful nation.

You never hear words such as "culturally advanced," "harmonious" and "beautiful" spoken by U.S., or European leaders.

And, now, as we have been reporting, Xi is clamping down on big tech and big businesses in what he is selling as an effort to bring income equality to the nation.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW

GENERAL MILLS SALES UP AND SO IS AMERICA'S WAISTLINE

General Mills, the maker of Lucky Charms, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, and Cocoa Puffs, reported better-than-expected earnings last week, which was seen as a hopeful sign for the packaged-food industry—and likely a devastating indicator for the country's health.

The company's stock has been down about 1 percent this year, which pales in comparison to the S&P 500, which is up about 16 percent. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the company—weeks ago—informed investors that the quarterly results would be on the higher end of their earlier forecast, but the results were even better than expected, riding on the back of a 2 percent increase in organic net sales.

The report pointed out that the company believes that the COVID-19 outbreak has changed the way American consumers appreciate "cooking and baking," in an apparent reference to those heating up Progresso Chicken & Sausage Gumbo out of the can.

When the COVID War was launched over a year ago, on 24 March 2020, we published the article "STAY HOME, EAT, AND DIE," which predicted that a locked-down society would blow up from eating more low-quality foods and exercising less.

We wrote, "As people sit around being fed fear and anxiety by the news coming out of their giant screen TVs, laptops, iPads, and smartphones, they will likely resort to eating increased amounts of snack foods, most of it saturated with sugar, fat, salt, and artificial ingredients."

On 10 November 2020, in our article, "FATTEN UP WITH FAST-FOOD TREND RISING," we reported, "While the economic shutdown has decimated much of the restaurant industry, the junk food sector has suffered less than most others; some chains are thriving."

According to the American Psychological Association, almost 50 percent of Americans reported gaining weight since the coronavirus appeared, with the average gain being close to 30 pounds.

Harvard's Health Letter, which was released on 1 June, pointed to a small study by JAMA Network Open that tracked 270 middle-aged men and women across the U.S. from February to June 2020.

"During that time, participants' weight steadily increased by about 1.5 pounds per month. If that monthly weight gain has continued from February 2020 until June 2021, that would be a 25-pound weight gain," the report said.

TRENDPOST: *For years, the* ***Trends Journal*** *has been offering solid research into developing healthy eating habits, which not only help maintain a proper weight but can quickly improve one's emotional state of mind.*

In October 2019, we published definitive proof that the Mediterranean diet, which includes natural foods without excess saturated fat and chemical additives, as a helpful guide. (See our article, "YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: 'MEDITERRANEAN' MOOD SWING.")

*In October 2019, months before the COVID War began, we wrote in the **Trends Journal**: Yes, there will be a continuing growing market in sectors such as organic, plant-based, and juicing, however, it will account for but a small percentage of the total population's addiction to junk/fast/low-quality food. For OnTrendpreneurs®, a huge market exists for new, innovative weight loss/fitness products and programs.*

(For more, see our article, "READY TO EXPLODE, READY TO IMPLODE.")

***TREND FORECAST:** As we have forecast, the "Whole Health Healing" trend will find new life, particularly among Generation Z and Millennials who will be forced by economic decline to spend their food dollars wisely and seek alternative health modalities.*

Among the winners in the medical profession will be chiropractors who are more natural healing-based and provide more affordable health care.

In addition, the self-responsibility resurgence will mirror what followed the 1987 stock market crash: the ending of the "shop until you drop" era and the ushering in of a "New Age" movement where people seek a higher meaning in life rather than just spending money.

WORLD'S LARGEST ADVERTISING GROUP A CRIME GROUP

WPP, the world's largest advertising agency, agreed to pay more than $19 million to the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission over allegations that it paid bribes to government officials in India and took part in "illicit schemes" in China, Peru and Brazil.

The *Financial Times* reported that the company is accused of illegally funding the political campaign of the mayor of Peru and spending up to $1 million in bribes to Indian officials. The company neither admitted nor denied the charges, according to the report.

“A company cannot allow a focus on profitability or market share to come at the expense of appropriate controls,” Charles Cain, the head of the SEC enforcement unit, said, according to Bloomberg.

The company said it now has robust “new compliance measures and controls, fundamentally changed its approach to acquisitions, cooperated fully with the Commission and terminated those involved in misconduct.”

The FCAP blog reported that the company made about $5 million in profit on the $1 million in bribes in India from 2015 to 2017. The report said half of the company’s revenue from India at the time was from the Indian States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh’s Departments of Information and Public Relations.

The blog reported that in China, the company avoided paying $3.2 million in taxes by “making $107,000 in payments to a vendor identified by tax officials, and providing $2,000 worth of gifts and entertainment to tax officials.”

The SEC found that the company, which is based in the U.K., failed to ensure that subsidiaries implemented its internal accounting controls and compliance policies, Reuters reported.

TREND FORECAST: *Once again, when the “Bigs” break the law they get a slap on the wrist and no one goes to jail. But when we the little people of Slavelandia break the law, it is punishment to the full extent of the law.*

And as we have been long reporting, across the business spectrum, the Bigs are getting bigger and small businesses, which have now been “officially” deemed “nonessential,” are going out of business.

Take a trip to any town and see the takeover. From Dollar General, to Home Depot, from Staples to Starbucks, the "Bigs" have wiped out the Mom and Pops. Thus, the concentration of wealth at the top will increase while the middle-class in what used to be "The Land of Opportunity," will diminish.

And, the "Bigs" will continue to get a free "Get out of Jail" pass for crimes they commit while the smalls will be pushed down to more servitude and harshly punished for any laws they break.

As more freedoms erode for the masses, new anti-establishment "Off With Their Heads" movements will accelerate.

AMERICA'S RICHEST 400 FAMILIES PAY A TINY PERCENT OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX COMPARED TO THE WORKING CLASS

The White House released a report on Wednesday showing that America's 400 richest families pay an average 8.2 percent federal income tax rate from 2010 to 2018 compared to the average American who paid 13.3 percent, according to CNBC.

The late-great comedian George Carlin noted, "It's one big club and you ain't in it."

The **Trends Journal**'s 15 June issue ran an article titled, "BILLIONAIRE TAX SCOFFLAWS PLOW SAVINGS INTO WEBS OF CONTROL." that pointed to an in-depth report by ProPublica, a non-profit news organization. The report detailed how the wealthiest Americans engage in obscene tax avoidance schemes and records show that they have paid a relative pittance in taxes, all while their fortunes exploded during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Tax avoidance is accomplished in a myriad of ways. As an example, Carl Ichan, claimed interest off huge loans that were being leveraged to finance investments in 2016 and 2017. That helped him in claiming no Federal tax liability for several years, despite $544 million in adjusted gross income. The report pointed out how the 25 richest Americans paid a true federal tax rate of 3.4 percent from 2014 to 2018 while their combined net worth grew by $401 billion.

The 400 American families in the CNBC report represented the top 0.0002 percent of U.S. taxpayers. They were taxed on $1.8 trillion of income over the timeframe, the report said, citing the Council of Economic Advisers and Office of Management and Budget.

President Biden and Democrats want to increase taxes on the richest Americans to help pay for the bipartisan infrastructure bill and the $3.5 trillion reconciliation package trying to make its way through Congress.

"I'm sick and tired of the super-wealthy and giant corporations not paying their fair share in taxes," the president tweeted.

The 400 wealthiest American households have a net worth ranging between $2.1 billion and $160 billion, according to *The New York Times*.

Administration officials posted on a blog post that the fact that the richest know how to game the system is not new, but they said more attention needs to be given to "the lack of transparency in our tax system."

The Times pointed out that the Tax Policy Center, an independent group, claimed in a report that 1,400 of the country's richest households paid an average effective tax rate of about 24 percent compared to 14 percent from the average taxpayer. Different metrics were used. The White House said that the wealthy can choose when their capital gains income appears on their income tax returns and "even prevent it from appearing."

Slavelandia

Robin Kaiser-Schatzlein, a journalist who specializes in economic policy, wrote an op-ed in the paper that pointed to a report by the Institute for Policy Studies that showed "the 27 richest American dynastic families have seen their wealth grow by a combined 1,007 percent since 1983, while the typical family has seen its wealth increase only by 93 percent over nearly the same period. This divergence has only become more pronounced with the onset of the pandemic: Since March 2020, the median growth in the net worth of the top 10 families was 25 percent."

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long been reporting, the rich are getting richer and the "Bigs" keep getting bigger. Indeed, each week, we report instances where the money junky hedge funds, private equity groups and the already big company swallows another piece of the global economy.*
Indeed, from 1 January through August this year, companies, private equity firms, and special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) have announced mergers and purchases worth more than $3.6 trillion worldwide, with about half—more than $1.8 trillion—in the U.S., data firm Dealogic reported.

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 banks, etc have been replaced by the few who own the most. Thus, the rich keep getting richer. (See "A MODEST TAX PROPOSAL FOR BILLIONAIRES," and "BILLIONAIRES BEAT TAXES: LITTLE PEOPLE PAY.")

However, 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.

Therefore, from sounds and style, to health and wellbeing, from hi-tech to heavy industry... across the spectrum there will be OnTrendpreneur® opportunities to fill market gaps in virtually every business sector of society that the "Bigs" won't see, or will be too small for them to invest in.

GEN Z USING LAWMAKERS AS STOCK ORACLES

Can't beat the corruption? Trade on it.

That's the premise of House Stock Watcher and Senate Stock Watcher, two public databases created by Tim Carambat in 2020. And the social media platform Iris. And various Reddit forums and Tik-Tok communities.

Carambat's databases contain up-to-the-moment lawmaker financial transactions, compiled from required financial trading disclosures of members of Congress.

How many filings are part of the databases so far this year? More than four thousand.

"I knocked out a very, very simple version of the project in like a couple of hours. And I posted it actually to Reddit, where it gained some significant traction and people showed a lot of interest in it," Carambat said, as reported by NPR's *All Things Considered*.

The program detailed young investors who swear by the investment strategies of the likes of Nancy Pelosi. Well, not the Madame Speaker herself, since, as she rightly notes, she owns no stocks. Her husband is the trader.

"She knew. And you would have known if you had followed her portfolio," said Chris Josephs about trades in Pelosi's disclosures.

Josephs is a co-founder of Iris, a business that displays other people's stock transactions. He's been taking advantage of the Stock Act, which compels legislators to report their stock transactions and those of their spouses within 45 days.

Josephs' social investing platform can be configured to send out push notifications when required disclosures of lawmakers and others are made public.

The **Trends Journal** previously reported on Nancy Pelosi's timely trading in "PELOSI'S PROFIT FROM PENTAGON SWITCH TO AMAZON," 13 July 2021.

"I'm at the point where if you can't beat them, join them," Josephs said to NPR regarding the Pelosi info. "I typically do buy... the next one she does, I'm going to buy."

If it all sounds a sad commentary on a political class that seems to enrich itself beyond what even generous salaries might predict, that's not of much concern to many young investors.

"We don't want this to… be a left vs right thing. We don't really care. We just want to make money," said Josephs.

But others note the corrosive reality that the use of lawmakers as trading oracles represents.

"If the situation is that the public has lost so much trust in government that they think ... the stock trades of members are based on corruption, and that [following that] corruption could benefit [them]. ... We have a significant problem," noted Kedric Payne, senior director of ethics at the Campaign Legal Center.

Observers noticed that lawmakers appeared to be acting on insider knowledge when many sold off a plethora of stocks in February 2020, as the COVID-19 crisis was first unfolding, and before the markets took a major hit.

Despite accusations and a federal investigation against Congressional heavyweights such as Sens. Dianne Feinstein and James Inhofe, no charges were filed or actions taken.

BLINKEN: EVERY PROBLEM IS RESULT OF "CLIMATE CRISIS"

Did Secretary of State Anthony Blinken actually claim at a UN Meeting on 23 September that every problem currently besetting the world is a result of a climate change crisis?

In so many words, yes.

During comments at a UN Security Council Meeting on Climate and Security, Blinken tied a wide list of conflict spots to the supposed climate crisis:

> "Look at almost every place where you see threats to international peace and security today – and you'll find that climate change is making things less peaceful, less secure, and rendering our response even more challenging. That's the story of Syria, Mali, Yemen, South Sudan, Ethiopia, many other places beset by strife. By agreeing that the issue belongs here in the Security Council, we'll also send a clear message to the international community of the serious implications that climate change has for our collective security."

The breathtaking analysis ignored the effects of political strife and competing ideologies in various countries and regions, ethnic and religious differences, and geopolitical maneuverings of jockeying powers like Russia, China and the U.S..

Blinken's talk sounded more like a treatise of a self-designated climate expert, than a diplomat.

In his address, Blinken also fingered flooding in NYC from Hurricane Ida as a manifestation what he claimed were more frequent "extreme weather events":

> "Right here in New York City where we're gathered today, earlier this month, a punishing storm caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida killed dozens of people, including a two-year-old boy, and inflicted tens of billions of dollars in damage. More than three inches of rain fell in Central Park in a single hour, breaking a record set only a few weeks earlier."

The upshot of Blinken's markedly un-nuanced analysis was an urgent plea to instill more regulation and controls to force an energy and economic transformation that would reduce freedoms, power and wealth of average Americans.

The changes were couched as promoting sustainability and economic growth:

> "We agree that to prevent cataclysmic consequences, all our nations must take immediate, bold actions to build resilience, to adapt to the unavoidable impacts, and move swiftly to a net-zero world. That is our shared charge for COP26, which is now only weeks away. And if we're to keep within reach the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, every nation will need to bring their highest possible ambitions to the table.
>
> "But these efforts—and the investments they will require from all of us—also present an unprecedented opportunity to expand access to affordable, clean energy; to build green infrastructure; to create good-paying jobs—all of which could be the spur to long-term economic growth, reverse growing inequities within and between our nations, improve the lives of people around the world."

But the goals and technologies often have dubious claims to being clean, reliable or practical.

Most agree advances in solar energy represent a huge positive.

But forcing moves to electric vehicles, and initiatives to drive people into clustered and pervasively controlled "Smart Cities," range from problematic to nightmarishly dystopian.

The **Trends Journal** has chronicled some of the dangers in articles including:

- "SMART CITIES WILL BE DIGITAL PRISONS" (30 Mar 2021)
- "VACCINE PASSPORTS TO GLOBALIST HELL" (3 Aug 2021)
- "SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE" (3 Aug 2021)
- "THE FUTURE: MORE TECH NIGHTMARE THAN NIRVANA?" (20 Apr 2021)

Migration policies are another example of using a battle cry of "climate change" to shift power into the hands of elitist corporations and bodies, at the expense of the middle classes of western societies.

Finally, Blinken's proscriptions failed to specifically address the fact that China, which controls more of the world's industrial output than ever, has already signaled they have no intention of taking orders from the U.S. or the UN regarding their energy and other climate related policies.

Their population dwarfs those of Europe and the United States by orders of magnitude. And as noted by sustainabilitytimes.com, China produces more emissions than the EU and U.S. combined:

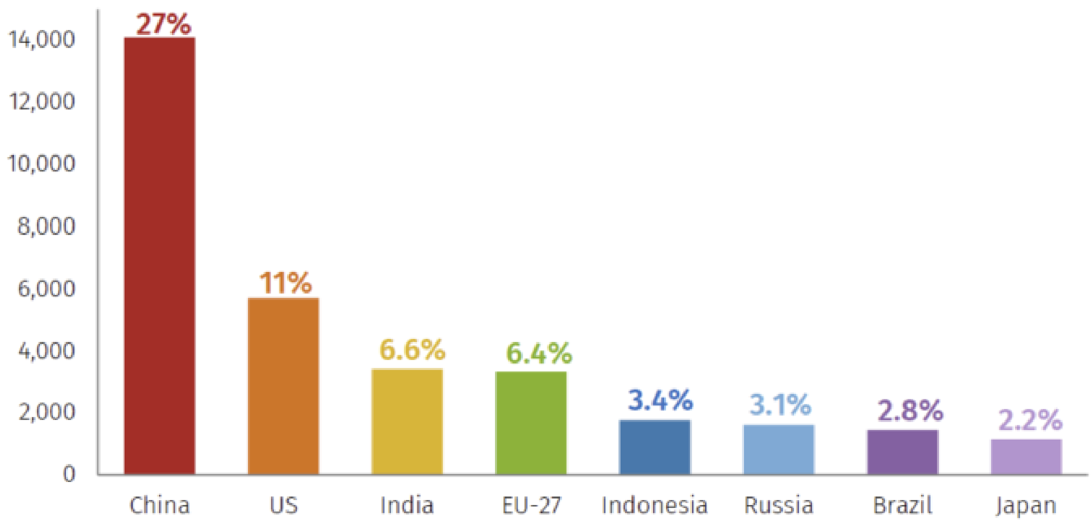
> "In 2019, China's emissions not only eclipsed that of the US—the world's second-largest emitter at 11% of the global total—but also, for the first time, surpassed the emissions of all developed countries combined … When added together, GHG emissions from all members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well

as all 27 EU member states, reached 14,057 MMt CO2e in 2019, about 36 MMt CO2e short of China's total."

FIGURE 1

2019 net GHG emissions from the world's largest emitters

Million metric tons of CO_2e, including emissions and removals from land-use and forests and share of global total



Source: Rhodium Group

John Delingpole observed in a February 2021 Breitbart article about [green energy] and the China equation:

> "There are two key points to be made here. First, China is not remotely interested in green issues—or 'clean' energy—except insofar as it enables it to gain a competitive advantage over the West while it continues full steam ahead with its fossil fuel-powered industries.
>
> "Second, the 'green jobs' promised by everyone from President Joe Biden to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson as one of the benefits of their proposed Net Zero revolutions are a myth. Or, if you prefer, a blatant lie."

BIDEN LETS CHINA SPY TECH EXEC OFF THE HOOK

A top level Chinese operative illegally funneling money to Iran via U.S. and Canadian financial institutions will be allowed to return to China.

Meng Wanzhou, CFO at Huawei technology (which operates a "Huawei USA" subsidiary), had been charged in a Brooklyn Court in 2019 on 13 counts of wire and bank fraud, conspiracy, money laundering and dodging sanctions against Iran.

While Meng, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, was allowed to stay at a mansion in Vancouver pending trial, China subsequently detained and charged two Canadians with crimes, which was widely seen as a "hostage diplomacy" retribution for the enforcement action against Meng.

The Biden administration essentially dropping the case is being taken as a cave to China's intransigence. Meng will be allowed to return to China under a "Deferred Prosecution" agreement.

The DOJ said:

> "[Meng] has agreed to the accuracy of a four-page statement of facts that details the knowingly false statements she made..."
>
> "If Meng breaches the agreement, she will be subject to prosecution of all the charges against her in the third superseding indictment filed in this case."

Huawei has been identified for other illegalities in the U.S., including acting as a spy agent for the CCP.

The Washington Examiner noted that in March, the FCC put out an updated list of Chinese communication companies "that have been deemed a threat to national security." Huawei was among the companies on the list.

According to the *Examiner*, the Commerce Department has reported Huawei as repeatedly "engaged in activities that are contrary to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests."

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on Chinese infiltration, including illegal activities of companies not limited to Huawei, in articles including:

- MYANMAR PROTESTERS FEAR AI FUELED CRACKDOWN (23 Mar 2021)
- "CHINA BUSINESS ESPIONAGE NETS $500 BILLION A YEAR," (29 Jun 2021)
- "LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SURVEILLING U.S. CITIZENS WITH BLACKLISTED CHINESE TECH" (1 Jun 2021)
- "FOLLOW-UP: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ENTITIES THAT BOUGHT SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT FROM BANNED CHINESE FIRMS" (8 Jun 2021)

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE

by Ben Daviss

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAN HEAR EARLY ALZHEIMER'S ONSET

Although some progress has been made, Alzheimer's Disease has always been difficult to diagnose with certainty. The most accurate tests tend to be expensive and health insurance policies don't always cover them.

Now researchers at McCann Healthcare Worldwide Japan and Kyoto University seem to have found something simpler and cheaper: listening to people as they speak.

Past research has shown that in the early stages of the illness, people begin to lose their specific words and substitute generic ones or placeholders. "Hand me the scissors" becomes "hand me the thing."
Those changes can be too inconsistent or subtle for others to hear or pay attention to.

The Japanese study recorded more than 1,500 telephone conversations with 24 patients diagnosed as being in the early stages of Alzheimer's and 99 people judged dementia-free.

Each participant took a standard cognitive test administered over the phone.

The scientists then fed the recordings into an artificial intelligence program and told it to sort the audios from Alzheimer's patients from those who were cognitively healthy.

The AI returned the results with perfect accuracy: no cognitively healthy person was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's and no Alzheimer's patient was misdiagnosed as being cognitively healthy.

Now that the study team has created an AI program with the basic skills to diagnose Alzheimer's by speech, the group will set about refining the program so it can make equally accurate diagnoses among persons with more subtle speech symptoms.

TRENDPOST: *Alzheimer's Disease has been shown to be halted, or even reversed, by lifestyle changes, as we reported in "New Breakthroughs May Cure Alzheimer's" (13 Mar 2019). The earlier the diagnosis can be made, the sooner changes can be made in a person's diet, nutrition, physical activity, and other patterns that can combat the illness.*

By mid-century, Alzheimer's will be widely recognized as a reversible condition.

BMW PLANS COMPLETELY RECYCLABLE CAR

Don't junk that old beater. Drop it off at the recycling center.

OK, not yet, but BMW plans to make a car by 2040 that can be disassembled and recycled down to the tail light LEDs.

The dashboard is made from wood, the carpet and velvet-like upholstery from recycled plastic, the tires from sustainably harvested rubber and recycled tires, and the exterior of the concept car is an unpainted, anodized aluminum in a light gold, capped at the rear with a purple steel shell surrounding the rear hatch door.

Novel joinery methods allow the parts of the car to be snapped apart quickly when replacements are needed or when the all-electric “CirCular,” as BMW has named it, reaches the end of its days, the company said.

The name refers to the circular economy, in which someone’s waste and junk is someone else’s feedstock. The goal: circular birth, life, and rebirth of materials, with no off ramp leading to a scrap heap.

The CirCular has nothing like a traditional instrument panel; instead, a blue crystal-like wedge juts out of the dashboard and projects speed, battery level, and other data onto the bottom of the windshield in front of the driver.

But the car itself is only the beginning.

“A sustainable car cannot just be to reduce, reuse and recycle materials,” Domagoj Dukec, BMW’s design chief, said in an interview with website DesignBoom.

“It also needs to rethink construction, manufacturing processes, and look at our suppliers as well as customers’ desires,” he said.

On its website, BMW says that 85 percent of the components in its cars already can be recycled or are made from recycled materials.

TRENDPOST: *If and when BMW makes its recyclable car, it probably won’t look exactly like this, or perhaps much like this at all.*

The point of the concept car, aside from tickling greenies and car fans, is to nudge the industry toward thinking about how to keep making cars year after year in a world where the resources needed to build them are increasingly scarce and ever more costly.

By BMW's target year of 2040, many of the components in a new car will be made from recycled materials and cars themselves will be designed to be easily disassembled for recycling.

BMW's CirCular concept car

Credit: BMW

NEW CRISPR GENE EDITOR EDITS MORE BETTER

CRISPR, the Nobel-winning gene editing technology, has gotten upgrades that enable the tool to do more—and more detailed—remodeling of a person's DNA.

CRISPR works by using proteins and ribonucleic acids (RNA) to break the bonds of DNA.

Using the right combination of molecules, scientists can break off a specific, precisely defined length of a DNA helix and either stitch the broken ends together or insert a brand new piece of code into the DNA.

Removing a defective section of the DNA code might cure a genetically caused illness, such as breast cancer or hereditary blindness; inserting a new piece of code can give a creature the ability to do something it couldn't before, such as creating a bacterium that excretes a desired chemical when it's given a certain food.

That's all good as far as it goes.

Now researchers at the University of Maryland have added two new tricks to CRISPR's magic act.

The old CRISPR can add or subtract genes but had a limited ability to wake up dormant genes.

This is critical: scientists are discovering that a range of medical conditions result from a necessary gene being permanently shut off.

The new technology is at least four, and as much as seven, times better than its predecessor at activating genes, as many as seven at once.

“We can design, tailor, and track gene activation with this new system on a larger scale to screen for genes of importance,” team leader Yiping Qi said in a statement announcing the breakthrough.

His group plans to apply the technology first in plants. The team will screen for genes that make plants more drought-resistant or produce more food, then use its new tool to amplify those genes.

In parallel work, bioscientists at Stanford University have unveiled CasMINI, a CRISPR version that can work in more detail than the original.

CRISPR typically deals in proteins with 1,000 to 1,500 amino acids.

CasMINI handles proteins with as few as 529, allowing it to make changes in smaller DNA sections and more easily work inside cells, the developers said, portending less difficult treatments of a range of human illnesses.

TREND FORECAST: *CRISPR technology will continue to evolve, eventually becoming able to target the smallest part of our genomes to make fine alterations that coax or quell traits across the full range of DNA-based characteristics and conditions.*

Scientists will perfect this tool using plants before ethics panels will consider permitting routine or extensive use in humans.

That will allow time for fears and complaints to arise, be tested, and be addressed before humans become CRISPR critters.