

# TRENDSJOURNAL

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# CRYPTO

# TECHNO

# REVOLUTION



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## THE CRYPTO TECHNO REVOLUTION

Welcome to this  
week's [Trends  
Journal](#): CRYPTO

### TECHNO REVOLUTION

Yes, the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the Industrial Age, now we are in the early stages of the Crypto-Techno Revolution. And as with the Industrial Age, it will be for better or for worse... as we detail in the [Trends Journal](#).

We are at a very critical time, and the COVID War that began in China in 2020 has changed the world as we knew it. As we report in the [Trends Journal](#), on the geopolitical front there are grave concerns regarding China's planned takeover of Taiwan, while on the economic front, Beijing is doing all it can to prevent its giant real estate bubble from bursting.

The implications of these events will be shots heard around the world—and these are just a few of the many danger signs flashing that will change the course of history—that we are doing our very best to help you prepare for.

Wishing you all the best that life has to offer,

*Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal  
Team*

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## COMMENTS

### BLACKS HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN TUSKEGEE

The NBA pushed back hard when black superstars spoke out against mandatory vaccination. Blacks are of course underrepresented in vaccination rates. As you would expect them to be, given the Tuskegee experiments and other ways the US government has used and abused them. Keep an eye on this story. I want to see which of these stars- Kyrie Irving, Jonathan Isaac, Bradley Beal, et. al.- succumb to money over liberty.

**lowbornhighbrow**

### GLOBAL CHIP SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS

When you live in a nation that invented and developed the chip market you have to wonder if greed was the motivation to move chip manufacturing and supply chains away from the US.

If so, this is another case of greed bringing a nation to its knees while punishing the citizens of a free enterprise country and ultimately destroying a Republic as planned by the WEF and Banksters!!!

**harlow53**

## **UNDERSTANDING STOCK MARKET RISK**

Greg's MMRI equation is this:  $MMRI = (10 \text{ Year Yield} * DXY) / 1.61$ . He said the denominator, 1.61, is derived from another equation. I haven't been able to find where he gets this from. Is it a fixed constant, or can it vary?

In any event, obviously when the 10 year is 1.61 and higher, the MMRI is dominated by the dollar index, DXY. If it's proprietary, that's fine. Any other indicator's formula can be looked up, MACD, RSI etc...It would be good to know it's derivation. Many thanks to Gerald, Greg, and all the others at the Trends Journal!

**Bill Walsh**

## **BRINGING UP BABY FROM SCRATCH**

Also Johnson and Johnson were caught putting asbestos in baby talc. I've never bought their brand as it was expensive plus there were supermarket brands animal friendly and better than Johnson's but I was kind of shocked when I found this out and now they're making vaccines or as we say kill shots!

I always made my daughter up food from scratch and never bought the tinned or packet stuff as I always thought it never looked or tasted that great when friends or family members fed their babies with it. Now that I know all this is going on, I thank God I never gave my daughter any of this crap. Thanks for the great article.

**Sarah Krupinski**

## **HOW THE CCP WENT VIRAL ON COVID**

Wow....I just had to look up the term "client state."

A client state is a state that is economically, politically, and/or militarily subordinate to another more powerful state. Is this what America is becoming, or already is? A subordinate state to China?!

It seems China has bought our media, institutions AND government, the deep state had no problem selling us out. The news is all bullshit, you have to read between the lines to piece together what is really happening. Thank you for the Trends Journal, it truly helps us wade through the sea of bullshit.

**Thomas Francisco**

## **A PROPER FOCUS FOR GENE THERAPIES?**

The officials need to get out of the way and let people have a chance of living.

What is better: giving healthy people a jab that can kill them, or giving people with genetic conditions a chance to live a better/healthier/longer life?

We must spend the energy on helping those that got a bad set of cards genetically, rather than tampering by force with the healthy!

**Ned Kelly**

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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## U.S MARKET OVERVIEW

October started off with a market bang, as U.S. equities posted their biggest weekly gains since June.

The word on The Street is that with expectation of the Delta variant waning and the piling on of more government debt following the U.S. Senate's stopgap deal to avoid a government default... that happy economic days are here again.

Market players also focused on rising energy prices, pushing up the S&P's group of energy stocks 3.1 percent for the week and touched a seven-year high, far outperforming the rest of the index and closing the week at its highest since early 2020, according to Dow Jones Market Data.

Stronger oil demand, crimped supplies and the cold-weather winter season approaching are expected to push energy prices higher in the months ahead.

As equities rose, totally ignored were the rotten job numbers.

While The Street projected that 500,000 new jobs would be created, when the numbers came in on Friday employers added just 194,000 jobs in September—the lowest number since December 2020—according to the Labor Department.

Adding up the job numbers and looking at the facts, since politicians launched the COVID War, there are 5 million less people employed now in the U.S. than in February 2020... yet job openings are at a record high.

## **I Quit**

And today, the Labor Department reported that a record 4.3 million workers quit their jobs in August, with the food and retail sectors taking the biggest hit.

Why are people quitting?

As we have pointed out, these jobs don't pay living wages. (See, ["RETAIL WORKERS QUITTING IN DROVES."](#) 29 Jun 2021.)

Overall, new claims for unemployment benefits fell to 326,000 in the most recent reporting week, 38,000 less than the 364,000 booked the week before, the U.S. labor department reported.

The figure was close to the COVID-era low of 312,000 reached during the week ending 4 September.

Continuing claims for jobless payments also fell sharply to 2.71 million, 97,000 less than the previous week.

The economy sprouted 366,000 new jobs overall in September, including 317,000 in the private sector; business, leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, and retail all posted gains.

The big decline was the 123,000 job losses in the public sector as fear of the Delta variant temporarily shut down the sector.

About 1.6 million people reported not looking for work last month due to fear of the COVID virus, the first time since January the number has risen.

Even though the economy created relatively few jobs, the unemployment rate fell to 4.8 percent last month, compared to 5.2 percent in August, as people stopped looking for work and left the labor force.

## **Women Exit**

Those volunteering to leave the workforce were almost entirely women, labor department figures show, indicating that family responsibilities, including the lack of affordable child care, or any child care at all, is still forcing many women to remain focused on family.

The trend of women leaving the workforce during the COVID War is a long-term issue we signaled in [“Women Dropping Out of the Workforce”](#) (13 Oct 2020).

Other factors include the number of workers lacking needed skills to fill open jobs; and older workers deciding to retire early.

## **No Vax, No Job**

As we have noted, and again reported in this **Trends Journal**, (See “SOUTHWEST AIRLINES: NO JABS, NO JOB... NO FLIGHTS”) the forced vaccine controversy also played a part in the job losses as companies shed workers who refuse to take the jab.

Overall, the number of workers with a job or actively looking for one was 61.6 percent of those of working age last month, compared to 63.3 percent in February 2020, when the COVID War was launched.



To lure workers, employers raised wages 0.6 percent in September, totaling a 4.6-percent rise during the past 12 months. Yet, as we noted, real inflation is spiking at much higher levels than wage growth.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The unemployment rate falling as more people leave the workforce adds evidence to our forecast ([“End of Federal Jobless Benefit Won’t Bring Many Back to Work.”](#) 28 Sep 2021) that fewer people are willing to accept low-paying, dead-end jobs and have gone in search of a more fulfilling work life.*

*For some, that might mean starting their own business, seeking OnTrendpreneur® opportunities, returning to school to learn marketable professions and or/going to work to learn hands-on trade skills.*

## **Back to the Markets**

While last week the markets were up, this week, with fears of inflation rising and economic growth slowing, they opened on a low note

After rising in the morning, U.S. equities did a 180 yesterday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 250 points, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq closed down 0.7 percent and 0.6 percent respectively.

Today, the Dow slid down 118 points, the S&P 500 fell 0.2 percent and the Nasdaq slipped 0.1 percent lower as The Street awaits September’s consumer inflation numbers that will come out tomorrow... which they expect to jump 0.3 percent.

## U.S. INVESTORS: THE BEST IS YET TO COME?



U.S. investors are paring back investments in hedges—instruments that pay a return when equity markets fall—according to the *Financial Times*, and taking profits in derivatives that would have protected them from a market slump.

This signals investors' belief that the worst of the markets' recent tumble is over, the *FT* said.

Cboe's Skew Index, which monitors the options market and serves as a measure of investors' interest in protecting against a market slide, fell last week to its lowest level in 11 months.

Why are these investors shrugging off a looming energy crisis, persistent inflation, a debt ceiling crisis on the calendar for December, and a recent market sell-off?

“There are concerns out there right now but all of them are low-probability events” in the view of high-volume hedgers, Barclays strategist Maneesh Despande told the *FT*.

Still, the Skew Index remains above its long-term average, indicating investors are not ready to relax quite yet, the *FT* pointed out.

Cboe's Vix Index, which measures investors' fears of market volatility, has risen back above 20, its historic average.

Recent slides in market prices have not spooked investors but have given them space to rethink their portfolios as the bull market appears to be slowing, analysts told the *FT*.

Despite the economy's persistent ailments, analysts are expecting strong fourth-quarter earnings.

Last week, strategists at JP Morgan Chase advised clients to “buy the dip” in stock prices.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Stock prices may continue to float above economic reality for a little while longer, buoyed by the Fed's low interest rates and handouts of cheap money for as long as they last.*

*However, we maintain our forecast for a major market correction when artificial props are no longer in place to support unrealistic equity prices.*

*As we have reported, while the Fed Banksters were bullshitting that inflation was temporary, we had forecast that it was not. And today, the International Mafia Fund—or the International Monetary Fund as they promote themselves—parroted our Trend Forecasts.*

*We had forecast that with inflation rising (minus a wild card such as wars, market crash, natural disaster etc.), the Fed will raise interest rates gradually, 25 basis points at a time. And as rates rise, equities and the economy will decline.*

*Today, the IMF said it concurs with our forecast that inflation will eventually ease, but in the meantime due to the “high uncertainty” central banksters should be prepared to stop the cheap money flows and consider raising interest rates.*

*It should be noted that the U.S. Fed has not raised rates since 2018 and was pressured to lower them by President Donald Trump as equity markets were swooning and the economic growth was slowing.*

*However, with inflation now running at a 30-year high in the U.S., the IMF said, “In settings where inflation is rising amid still-subdued employment rates (as we detailed in this **Trends Journal**) and risks of expectations de-anchoring are becoming concrete, monetary policy may need to be tightened to get ahead of price pressures, even if that delays the employment recovery.”*



*Again, the higher and faster interest rates rise, the deeper and quicker equities and the economy will fall. As the current events forming future trends are unfolding, again, minus a wild card, we forecast the Fed will raise rates now and begin to sharply lower them in the lead up to the 2024 U.S. Presidential Reality Show®... which will in turn reinvigorate the “Biden Bounce” which has now flattened.*

## **What’s Next, Where Will the Market Go?**

You know the motto of the **Trends Journal**: Think for Yourself.

The game is rigged. As Gregory Mannarino writes in his article this week,  
**Distortions In the Markets Will Become Even More Extreme:**

“The mechanism of suppressed rates and vast asset purchases by central banks have stripped out ANY AND ALL remnants of a free market and are responsible for massive distortions across the entire spectrum of asset classes.

“What we can expect moving forward is simple- *a continued expansion of global debt on an unprecedented scale, and this expansion will continue to distort the markets.*

So, what does this mean?”

Check the “TRENDS IN THE MARKETS” section to see what Mr. Mannarino forecasts.

**GOLD/SILVER:** Last week is this week. Gold and silver prices are still trading at the same range. Gold moved up just \$2.46 per ounce today, closing at \$1,760 per ounce on expectations of higher inflation and a weakening dollar. Silver remained slumped, falling 29 cents to close at \$22.57 per ounce.

We maintain our forecast that when the Fed raises interest rates, despite the dollar getting strong, inflation will still persist, which will in turn drive up gold and silver prices.

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.

**OIL:** Sharply rising energy prices will negatively impact U.S. economic growth. Oil nears its three-year high on fears of an energy crunch, with Brent crude, now trading at \$83.42 per barrel, spiking some 60 percent this year. West Texas Intermediate was flat today, closing at \$80.52 per barrel.

As wages slump in comparison to spiking inflation, for the peasants of Slavelandia, prices at the gas pump have jumped \$1 dollar per gallon since last year.

As winter sets in, they are paying 68 percent more for heating oil... while coal burning plants are paying record high prices. According to the U.S. Labor Department, electricity prices had their biggest spike since 2014, rising 5.2 percent in August.

Again, the higher prices are being driven by rising demand and tighter supplies. And according to Moody's Analytics, they forecast oil prices will trade between \$80 to \$90 a barrel by early 2022. By 2025, JPMorganChase projects Brent Crude to hit nearly \$200 per barrel. They now estimate that rising oil prices will push up inflation at least 0.4 percent in the coming months.

With American consumers now spending some seven percent of their income on energy, this will sap consumption from other sectors.

**BITCOIN:** The bitcoin bounce flattened a bit today after hitting around \$58,000 per coin yesterday, it was down nearly 4 percent, trading in the \$55,000 range as we go to press... but still up some \$4,000 from last week. Some of the

downward pressure came as JPMorgan Chase Bankster, Jamie Dimon told CNBC Pro yesterday that “I personally think that bitcoin is worthless.”

***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... which it is now flirting with.*

*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.)*

## IS THE DOLLAR TOO STRONG?



As the U.S. dollar grows stronger, precious metals prices go lower, since they are dollar based, it costs more to buy them.

Thus, prices are slumping as *The Wall Street Journal's* Dollar Index reached its highest reading in 13 months last week, having risen steadily since June and 2 percent in September alone, the *WSJ* reported.

The dollar's value has moved up steadily as expectations have grown that the U.S. Federal Reserve will reduce its \$120-billion monthly bond purchases, a policy shift the Fed signaled last month. And as we have forecast, they will raise



interest rates. Thus, the higher rates rise, so too the value of the dollar will increase.

## **Bad for Blue Chips**

However, the stronger the buck becomes, the more it bodes poorly for U.S. blue-chip stocks.

Companies listed on the Standard & Poor's 500 index collect about 40 percent of their revenues from outside the U.S., the *WSJ* said.

"A stronger dollar can be a bit of a wrecking ball," investment manager James Athey at Aberdeen Standard Investments told the *WSJ*.

"Broadly, it's a tightening of global financial conditions," he said.

The dollar generally gains strength under two conditions, the *WSJ* said: first, when the global economy is weak and investors shelter value in the relative safety of the dollar; and, second, when the U.S. economy is doing well compared to that of other nations.

***TREND FORECAST:*** While the *WSJ* claims that both conditions are currently in place, we disagree. Yes, the dollar is stronger than other currencies, but not because of its intrinsic value, but rather because there is a global decline ahead and there are no real currency competitors.

*And as for the U.S. economy doing better than other nations, when the U.S. economy falls it will signal the onset of the Greatest Depression, and it will fall as hard and deep as other major economies in Europe and Asia.*

## **Taper Tantrum?**

After the Fed announced it would taper its bond purchases, yields on 10-year U.S. treasury rose above 1.5 percent, a level not matched since June.

The Fed also is considering raising interest rates next year, which would make dollar holdings more attractive, as we reported in [“Will Fed Taper Bond Purchases?”](#) (28 Sep 2021).

Investors are buying bonds to lock in those higher rates, driving up demand for dollars and dollar-denominated investments.

“Would you rather own a German bond with a yield around -0.3 percent or a [bond] denominated in the world’s reserve currency that yields 1.5 percent?” Athey said. “It’s a no-brainer.”

The European Central Bank has begun to discuss plans to curtail stimulus spending but, unlike the Fed, has given no clues about when it might begin to do so. (See [“ECB Pledges to Keep Rates Lower Longer.”](#) 27 Jul 2021).

The euro slid 1 percent against the dollar last week.

Also, copper, oil, and many other commodities are priced in dollars, so a stronger dollar makes them more expensive.

Higher costs for those goods might weaken demand, relieving some pressure on inflation, the *WSJ* said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have long been reporting, a stronger dollar shrinks the value of money earned outside the U.S. and poses special risks to economies of developing nations, where a stronger dollar makes it harder for those countries to make payments on what already are enormous dollar-denominated debts.*

*And when emerging market economies dive, social unrest will escalate as people take to the streets to protest the lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence.*

*This will also escalate the already tenuous refugee crisis as people leave their countries to seek safe haven nations. Thus, there will be strong anti-immigration*

*populist movements that will unite under the anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-establishment political umbrella.*

## **U.S. HOMES: PRICES SPIKE, FEWER CAN AFFORD THEM**



In America, once the Land of Opportunity, renowned for its strong middle class, continues its economic divergence as the rich are getting richer and the rest keep getting poorer.

It's in the numbers.

With U.S. home prices spiking, they are less affordable to Americans than at any time since the Panic of '08. Now, the median U.S. household would need to spend 32.1 percent of its income to make mortgage payments on a home for which it paid July's median price of \$342,350, according to a study by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

The bank's calculations included mortgage principal, interest, taxes, insurance, and related costs.

The share of income that a mortgage payment requires grew at a rapidly astounding 23 percent rate from July 2020.

During that same period, the wages of the plantation workers of Slavelandia have risen just 3 percent, the bank said.

That proportion of income spent on mortgage payments is the most since November 2008, early in the Great Recession, when the figure climbed to 34.2 percent, the bank noted.



We have been documenting the disappearing American dream of home ownership for young and moderate-income families in [“Home Prices Soar to 14-Year Record”](#) (29 Sep 2020) and elsewhere.

Thus, first-time buyers will either have to sacrifice more of their incomes to own a home, buy a less desirable place to live, or follow the trend and continue to rent for the rest of their lives.

Potential buyers seem to agree: in August, 63 percent of consumers surveyed by the Federal National Mortgage Association, known as Fannie Mae, said this was a bad time to buy a house, compared to 35 percent a year earlier.

***TRENDPOST:*** *In August, the median U.S. home price had climbed to \$356,700, according to the National Association of Realtors, a 4-percent gain from the month the Fed bank used to make its calculation. That means that in the month after the bank released its report, the amount a household needed to make the required payments would have claimed 33.4 percent of its income, edging even closer to the all-time record.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Rising commodity prices, such as lumber, and available land will crimp the number of new housing starts for the foreseeable future.*

*Millions of potential homeowners will be forced to rent longer, perhaps permanently, as home prices stay aloft for the foreseeable future.*

*Demand for houses is washing over into the rental market, where prices also are in record territory, thanks in no small part to the trend of private equity companies buying houses in the most desirable real estate markets. We have documented this seizure of residential property by wealthy corporations in articles such as [“Invitation Homes to Buy \\$1 Billion Worth of Houses This Year”](#) (1 Jun 2021) and [“Private Equity Partners Target \\$5 Billion in Rental Housing”](#) (27 Jul 2021).*

*The inability to build equity in a home will be a key reason why future generations will be poorer than past ones.*

## AUGUST TRADE DEFICIT SETS RECORD



Remember the Trade War during the Trump administration.

Remember how we kept reporting what bullshit it was when the business media Presstitutes kept peddling the crap that nearly every time the markets fell or rose it was related to the “trade war” between the U.S. and China.

And, remember how we said that there was more talk than action and the sanctions etc., being imposed on China added up to next to nothing?

Well, in August, a new trade gap record was set, with the U.S. importing \$73.3 billion more in goods and services than it exported, passing June’s trade gap of \$73.2 billion. The U.S. trade chasm with China widened in August to \$31.7 billion, the deepest since July 2019 .

Imports rose 1.4 percent for the month, totaling \$287 billion, also a new record, while exports rose a measly 0.5 percent from July to \$213.7 billion.

U.S. consumers’ demand for imports remained strong, pushing prices higher amid shortages of a range of basic and luxury items and unrelenting tangles in global supply chains.

Demand was especially high for items that, once-upon-a-time were made in the U.S.A.: clothing, pharmaceuticals, and toys according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Reflecting the strong demand for imports, consumer spending edged up 0.8 percent in August from July, while personal income rose only 0.2 percent, the Commerce Department noted. Thus, as we keep forecasting, middle class America and its standard of living will keep shrinking

*and inflation will keep rising for months to come... as citizens pay more and earn less.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *Manufacturing is the foundation of a country's GDP and factory output for the U.S. accounts for only 10.8 percent of America's economy, as we noted in ["U.S. Trade Deficit Widens Again in May"](#) (13 Jul 2021). As a result, our trade deficit will remain wide; the U.S. is a nation of consumers, attesting to the growing number of self-storage cubicles for rent where we can store the junk that overflows our houses.*

*Again, the only way to reverse this trend is to create a self-sustaining economy that the United States, which is rich in human and natural resources, can create. However, under the decades of crime syndicates running and ruining the nation (that morons and imbeciles call Republicans and Democrats), this will not occur until there is a strong "America First" Declaration of Independence movement.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *There is a continuing shortage of skilled workers for manufacturing jobs, which we reported in ["Half of COVID's Jobless Gone for Good?"](#) (28 Sep 2021) and elsewhere.*

*Factories are beginning to respond to the shortage by offering not only higher wages but also training at basic and advanced levels as well as other benefits.*

*The shortage is giving new energy to the old idea of apprenticeships. Many high schools now offer career-oriented curricula, in which students study technical subjects in classes and spend part of their school time in high-tech factories, learning hands-on skills under the eyes of master technicians.*

*However, unless the current trends are dramatically reversed, at best, it will take at least a decade for U.S. factories to fill their shortage of skilled workers, leaving the country in thrall to China for its endless supply of merchandise.*

## HOTEL INDUSTRY SUFFERING FROM COVID WARS



About a billion room-nights will be booked in U.S. hotels this year, data service STR reported, a respectable gain from 2020's 829 million but still well below 2019's record 1.3 billion.

Hidden in those larger numbers is a bit of bad news: business travel continues to decline, a trend we noted early in [“Travel Succumbs to Virus”](#) (3 Mar 2020).

Business bookings, on which many hotels depend to make a profit, will drop \$59 billion below 2019's total, more than the \$49 billion lost from those customers in 2020, according to the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

“It comes down to liability,” AHLA Chip Rogers explained to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Much of hotels' business travel bookings are tied to conventions and meetings. Employers are concerned that they will be found liable if they send workers to events at which those employees catch the COVID virus.

Inns that gain much of their bookings through meetings are finding that such bookings often are made last-minute now, perhaps because people are unsure in advance whether they will attend.

Late bookings are “dreadful when it comes to events,” Sandi Robinson, sales director for the event-oriented Godfrey Hotel Chicago, told the *WSJ*.

“We end up having to turn down some events because we're too short-staffed,” she said.

However, reservations in the category of “group demand,” which mixes business and pleasure travel, rose 5.7 percent during September's last half, STR found.

Also, nightly rates for such bookings grew to \$214, a COVID-era record last matched in February 2020.

That might not last.

About 68 percent of Americans are considering traveling in the near future, according to a late September poll by Destination Analysts, down from 78.7 percent who were planning or considering a trip in the group's June survey.

Almost 27 percent of respondents postponed travel because of concerns regarding the Delta virus; more than 23 percent had canceled a trip for that reason.

Of those polled, two-thirds said they expect the COVID virus to be of concern for the next several years.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Our readers know that it will be years before business travel industry recovers its pre-COVID War size, particularly as dozens of large corporations are permanently slashing their travel budgets, as noted in [“Travel and Tourism: Crashing”](#) (21 Jul 2020).*

*While leisure travel will return gradually over time, by fits and starts, the business travel on which many metro-area hotels depend to turn a profit will not.*

*As a result, the hotel and convention industry will shrink, permanently vaporizing tens of thousands of jobs and leaving hundreds of large properties up for sale or foreclosure. And, as the markets tighten, the Bigs will grow bigger, eating up more market share as the heavily-in-debt and smalls go bust.*



# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## CENTRAL BANKS: “WORST NIGHTMARE” COMING?

Central banks are beginning to face the very real prospect of national economies shaped by slowing growth and rising prices, a fiscal disease which we term, Dragflation, which we reported on last week in articles [“ANALYSTS WRONG. NOT STAGFLATION, IT WILL BE DRAGFLATION”](#) and [“Spotlight: Inflation Spreads”](#) (5 Oct 2021).

To head off the emergency, central banks are adjusting their policies in different ways.

Brazil, Norway, and other nations have raised interest rates; the U.S. and U.K. are taking steps to withdraw cash from the economy. The European Union and Japan have taken no actions.

And in Turkey, despite inflation soaring some 20 percent officially, and 40 percent “unofficially,” under pressure from its President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the CBRT, the Turkish central bank, lowered interest rates last month. Thus, with inflation rising and interest rates slumping, the Turkish lira hit a record low.

## **Guessing Game**

These changes in monetary policy, the domain of central banks, usually are effective at quelling inflation because they make borrowing more expensive, reducing companies’ urge to take loans to expand or cutting back consumers’ ability to borrow to buy a new car or remodel a bathroom. (In the U.S., the cost of an average new car according to J.D. Powers is \$42,368... up 17 percent from last September.)

However, the COVID War has created an economic climate unparalleled in recent history. Thus monetary policy is much less effective when basic goods are scarce, supply chains are broken, key jobs are vacant and unemployment numbers rise... as they are now.

Monetary policy also does not always get it right.

The German Bundesbank’s tight monetary policy successfully guided the country’s economy through the oil shock of the 1970s. However, in 2011, the European Central Bank (ECB) raised interest rates during a food and fuel shortage, a move that worsened the crisis instead of easing it.

Now central banks face similar risks: tightening policies too soon could strangle an incomplete economic recovery, while waiting too long could allow inflation to embed itself in the economy, most likely through a spiral in which wages and prices chase each other higher.

U.S. Federal Reserve officials have continued to insist that today’s inflation rate is fueled largely by supply line snarls and will ease once those are smoothed out, however, as we note, it is more than just supply lines that are pushing up inflation...it is the cheap money they and governments injected into the

economic system that has artificially propped it up. ([“Fed Leaves Policy Unchanged, Acknowledges Brighter Outlook.”](#) 4 May, 2021).

The Fed view also downplays long-term shortages of basic goods such as metals and computer chips ([“Chip Shortage Hampers Global Manufacturing.”](#) 23 March, 2021 and [“Commodity Supercycle Underway?”](#) 11 May, 2021).

Still, a growing number of Fed officials see the bank boosting U.S. interest rates at least three times before 2024.

### **Liars, Inc.**

In contrast, the ECB plans no action, bank president Christine Lagarde has said, even with Europe’s inflation running at a 13-year high.

Bankers must “look [beyond] temporary, supply-driven inflation, so long as inflation expectations remain anchored” and wages do not spike.

Neither wages nor broad expectations for spiraling inflation are present across Europe at the moment, she said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Europe’s exploding energy crisis, which threatens everything from food supplies to factory output, will send prices higher, forcing the ECB to choose between two risky options: boost interest rates and risk crippling the incomplete economic recovery or keep rates low to prop up the region’s GDP while inflation erodes the value of money.

*As the saying goes, when the United States sneezes, the world catches a cold. Therefore, when the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates, we forecast so too will the ECB... since failure to do so will crash the euro (which is already sharply down against the dollar year-to-date), and dramatically spike inflation rates.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Get ready for war in parts of the Middle East. As for the Turkish lira diving and interest rates sinking, please refer to our article last week, [“TURKEY: A CRIME TO TELL THE ECONOMIC TRUTH?”](#)*

*We noted that in March, the sinking lira and rising inflation are symptoms of a much more troubling Turkish socioeconomic and geopolitical environment. (See [“Turkey: No Political Opposition Permitted.”](#) 23 March, 2021.)*

*As the global economy decelerates and inflation keeps rising across the globe, the lira and Turkey’s economy will continue to deeply slide. With the lira hitting record lows against the dollar and with its President Erdogan’s popularity near record lows, we had forecast that when all else fails, he will take the country to war.*

## **CANADA’S STRONG JOB NUMBERS. WILL INTEREST RATES RISE?**



Canada gained 157,100 jobs in September, far exceeding analysts’ expectations and regaining all three million jobs lost to the COVID War, Reuters reported.

The jobs report makes it much more likely the Bank of Canada (BoC) will now boost interest rates to lasso inflation, now running at 4 percent, twice the bank’s target rate.

However, in a 7 October statement, BoC governor Tiff Macklin contended that the labor market’s troubles are not over, with slow wage growth and a lack of needed skills.

Wages rose 1.7 percent in September, year on year, compared to 4.3 percent in the 12 months ending with February 2020.

Inflation remains transitory, he said, but will remain at or above its current 4.1 percent through this year and may last longer than policy makers initially thought.

“We are working through these supply disruptions, but they are proving more complicated than we’d previously thought,” Macklin admitted.

“We still have emergency levels of stimulus...we’re way above our inflation target,” Derek Holt, chief economist at Scotiabank Economics, said to Reuters.

“We should be looking at a rate hike before the end of this year but they’re going to be loath to do that,” he added. “I think they’re going to fight it for a while yet.”

When the bank announces its next rate decision on 27 October, it likely will begin reducing its weekly bond-buying program from C\$2 billion to C\$1 billion, analysts told Reuters.

New bond purchases would simply replace those that mature, keeping the bank’s bond investment levels steady, not growing, they said.

Actually withdrawing money from the economy would be preceded by a rate hike, which the bank will not do until the last half of 2022, officials have said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *With shortages of basic goods and supply-line kinks lasting at least into next year and, for some items such as computer chips, longer... and inflation rising across the commodity spectrum, we forecast the central bank will raise interest rates sooner than it now has publicly stated.*



## SOUTH KOREAN BATTERY MAKERS RUNNING SHORT OF MATERIALS



South Korea produces almost half of the world's batteries for electric vehicles, but as demand for EVs is rising, the country's battery makers are facing shortages of a range of materials, as the global commodities supercycle gains momentum

([“Commodities Supercycle Underway?”](#) 11 May, 2021).

The country has relied on imports of rare earth minerals and other commodities, most of which come from China.

As we note in this **Trends Journal**, South Korea, has a prickly relationship with China that we forecast they will not jeopardize. (See “SOUTH KOREA’S BOTTOM LINE: THEY WON’T SUPPORT TAIWAN OR U.S. AGAINST CHINA.”)

And understanding the reality of China having banned cross-border tourism and Hyundai cars in 2016 after South Korea hosted a U.S. missile array, Seoul will do what it must not to upset its important trading partner.

South Korea's relations with Japan also are strained, with Japan capping exports of its computer chips to the country in 2019.

South Korea's manufacturers of rechargeable batteries increased their global market share from 35 percent in 2018 to 44 percent in 2020, according to SNE Research and B3 Intelligence, but relied on imports for 60 percent of their materials, according to Kim Kyung-man, a legislator of the ruling Democratic Party.

“Our country is a battery powerhouse,” he said, “but we fear becoming a profitless intermediary due to heavy dependence on imports.”

He called for “large-scale support” for developing domestic and alternative supplies of key materials.

The global annual EV battery market is expected to grow tenfold by 2030 to \$304 billion, SNE has predicted, and South Korea will invest the equivalent of \$34 billion by then to maintain market dominance, the government has vowed.

“Importing materials could be cheaper, but [South Korea] is trying to increase domestic supply, given increasing global supply chain risks,” Lee Hang-koo at the Korea Automotive Technology Institute told the *Financial Times*.

China is the second largest maker of rechargeable batteries for EVs, at 33 percent market share, followed by Japan at 17 percent, giving both countries an incentive to short South Korea on needed materials.

Posco, a South Korean steel company, is building a plant to extract lithium hydroxide, a key component in EV batteries, from ores supplied by Pilbara Minerals, an Australian mining firm.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *China, which holds the world’s largest deposits of rare earth minerals and controls about 80 percent of their current supply, will put limits on mining and exporting 17 of the minerals, which are essential to components in everything from DVD players to smart bombs and MRI machines.*

*The limits would “protect national interest and ensure the security of strategic resources” and would be administered by the country’s security and military agencies, China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.*

*And while nations such as South Korea are taking measures to extract rare earth minerals, as we reported, it will take years to extract and process them, thus China’s near-monopoly on the world’s rare earth minerals will continue.*

*Also, China holds more than a third of the world’s estimated rare earth reserves; the U.S. has slightly more than a tenth of one percent, according to data from Statista.*

*When the U.S. does produce rare earths, they are currently sent to China for processing and refining. The U.S. lacks refining capacity because of the pollution created in processing.*

## **SPOTLIGHT: THE “BIGS” KEEP GETTING BIGGER**



Each week, we report instances where the money junky hedge funds, private equity groups and the already big companies swallow another piece of the global economy. Here are some more of what the BIGS have been gobbling up...

### **PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS OFFER SKY-HIGH PRICES FOR BUYOUTS**

Private equity firms are bidding for acquisitions with offers that are the highest this century, in some cases offering 70 percent above share prices in effect before bidding began, the *Financial Times* reported.

This year, takeover companies have bid an average of 45 percent above prevailing share prices for European targets, 41 percent for U.S. acquisitions, and 47 percent in the U.K., according to data service Refinitiv.

The European premium is the highest Refinitiv has seen since it began keeping data in 1980, the U.S. average its greatest since 1999, the service noted.

Those stellar averages have been far exceeded by U.S. equity firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice shelling out a 61-percent premium for Wm Morrison Supermarkets, a British grocery chain (see related story).

Earlier, Sweden's EQT paid 69 percent over the base share price for German pet supply company Zooplus, as we reported in [“The ‘Bigs’ Brigade Buying Up the World”](#) (17 Aug 2021).

Private equity firms have record hoards of cash built up during the COVID era, when people had little chance to spend and instead saved at higher rates.

A number of large companies raked in windfall profits since February 2020, piling up cash and deciding that private equity firms were places to find yields higher than today's meager interest rates allow.

“There's tremendous competition in the private equity industry,” Brenda Rainey, managing director of Bain & Co.'s private equity practice, told the *FT*.

“There's over \$1 trillion in dry powder in buyouts alone that's looking to do deals,” she said. “We will absolutely see prices go up when competition is that stiff.”

Also, private equity companies are taking advantage of share prices that fell during the COVID crisis, the *FT* pointed out, so what seem like astronomical bids are less so when compared to pre-COVID premiums.

Still, some analysts see signs of a bubble forming, with the market now resembling bloated conditions that were in place before the Great Recession, one lawyer who advises buyout firms told the *FT*.

***TREND FORECAST: Private equity firms' buying frenzy is a mirror of the same mania that has dominated the U.S. housing market this year.***

*Buyers overpay for properties for fear of missing out on a deal; then, as markets cool and interest rates rise, what seemed like a prize becomes a money pit, something that can never recover its purchase price.*

*Buyouts involving private equity companies go sour at a much higher rate than takeovers that exclude private equity partners.*

*Therefore, look for many of the deals being closed at stratospheric prices now to crumble when interest rates rise and markets cool.*

## **AMAZON TAX BREAKS: FU CAPITALISM**



It used to be called “capitalism,” but now it is “fascism”... the merger of state and corporate powers.

Indeed, the bigger the corporation, the bigger the money deals governments give them.

In the U.S. Amazon has been awarded at least \$650 million in grants, tax breaks, and other incentives from states and local governments bidding to lure the giant retailer to locate facilities in their locales, Good Jobs First reported.

The estimate likely is conservative, the group added, because terms of many of the deals have remained secret.

The sum is more than Amazon collected in any other year since 2000, when Good Jobs First began compiling the data and excludes sweeteners for film projects, office development, and the \$750 million Virginia gave up to bring a second Amazon headquarters building to its city of Arlington.

Amazon has invested at least \$150 billion in the U.S. this year to open 100 facilities in 40 states, creating 400,000 jobs, the company claims.

“These incentives are typically available to any firm that meets the criteria and companies do not receive a penny until after they have created jobs and made capital investments,” Amazon said in a statement quoted by the *Financial Times*.



A new Amazon distribution center typically boosts the number of warehouse jobs in its local area by 30 percent, but often draws workers away from other companies, resulting in no net job gains, according to a 2018 study by the Economic Policy Institute.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we noted in ["Amazon Takeover Expands"](#) (21 Sep 2021), Bigs such as Amazon will continue to absorb more and more of nations' economies..

*Beyond the tax breaks given to the Bigs, other clear fascist deals are exemplified with central banks buying up corporate bonds—junk and otherwise—plus pumping in tens of trillions to Bankster Bandits that are “too big to fail.”*

*This trend will not reverse until grassroots movements rise up to pressure governments to enact, tighten, and enforce antitrust laws that have been all but abolished across the business, industrial, manufacturing, technology and health spectrums.*

## **MAERSK BUILDING END-TO-END LOGISTICS SERVICE**



AP Moeller-Maersk, the world's largest ocean shipping line, is expanding its footprint onshore.

In the last three years, Maersk has bought Vandegrift, a New Jersey customers broker; a European customs house; two U.S. e-commerce fulfillment companies with 33 warehouses between them; the Portuguese e-commerce tech firm Huub; and has more closely integrated Damco, the air freight company it bought in 2005, into the company's overall operations.

The purchases are part of the company's plan to build an end-to-end global logistics chain.

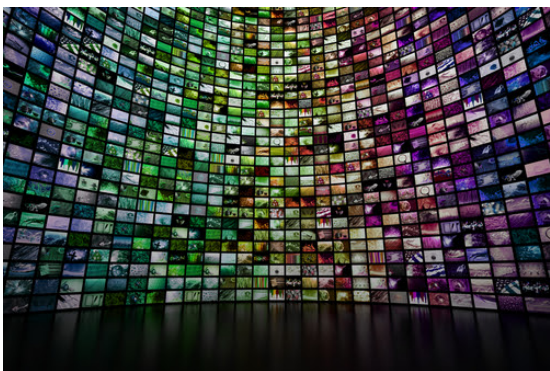
The plan, hatched by CEO Søren Skou, will wean Maersk away from dependence on ocean freight, especially crude oil, and create a service that will pick up merchandise from manufacturers or sellers and take it anywhere in the world without it leaving Maersk's hands, a bid to compete with UPS, FedEx, and especially DHL's international shipping service, industry analysts told Agence France-Presse.

Maersk's future takeovers likely will focus on operations that can speed shipping, the analysts said, a move that would give it an advantage in a gridlocked global supply chain.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Maersk has the cash to buy what it needs to carry out its plan. Ocean shipping companies have booked windfall profits during the ongoing COVID crisis, as we reported in [“Shipper Books Tenfold Increase in Net Profits.”](#) 17 August, 2021.*

*It is unclear that the market will support another global shipper alongside UPS, DHL, and FedEx, which dominate, in that order, worldwide parcel delivery. Rather than making room for another competitor, it is more likely that one service will attempt to buy out any other that shows any sign of weakness.*

## ONE MEDIA GIANT BUYS ANOTHER



IAC/InteractiveCorp, a holding company owned by Fox Broadcasting Co. founder Barry Diller, will pay \$42.18 a share, or roughly \$2.7 billion, to buy Meredith Corp.

Meredith, a holding company itself, owns magazines such as People, Travel and Leisure, and Better Homes and Gardens, among more than 20 other publications.

Among its 27 brands, IAC/Interactive counts Brides magazine, Angi (formerly Angie's List), Investopedia, and the Daily Beast online magazine focused on news and pop culture.

The merged entity will be called Dotdash Meredith. Dotdash is the name of IAC's online publishing division.

In June, Meredith sold its portfolio of 17 television stations to Gray Television for \$2.8 billion.

IAC grew from owning the Home Shopping Network to becoming a buyer of web-based entities that it eventually has spun off, including Expedia, LendingTree, and Ticketmaster.

The deal with Meredith, which is expected to close later this year, still leaves IAC with lots of cash to buy more companies, CEO Joey Levin said in a call with reporters announcing the purchase.

***TRENDPOST:*** *IAC's compulsive purchases of lifestyle, personal service, and soft news websites mirrors a major long-term trend in hard news: journalistic outlets are being bought up by corporate owners focused on bottom lines instead of informing the public.*

*As more media outlets are owned by fewer corporations, the public has access to fewer points of view and a restricted diet of news. Indeed, some six media corporations control over 90 percent of America's media.*

## GROCERY CHAIN GOBBLE



After months of escalating competitive bids, the British government's Takeover Panel held a one-day auction on 2 October to determine which bidder would capture Wm Morrison Supermarkets, the U.K.'s fourth-largest grocery chain with 497 supermarkets as well as a number of gas

stations and convenience stores.

Morrison provides groceries to Amazon Prime and other online services and tripled its web-based sales through 2020, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The winner: a group led by U.S. buyout firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice (CDR), whose \$9.4 billion bid edged out a rival group headed by Softbank's Fortress Investment Group.

The Takeover Panel oversees buyout deals in the nation.

By the end of the auction, Morrison's shares had been bid up 61 percent from their price before the contest began.

CDR's group, which includes Ares Management and a division of Goldman Sachs, bid £2.87 a share against Fortress's final offer of £2.86, the Takeover Panel reported.

Morrison owns most of its stores and the value to be gained by selling or leasing those properties was a key calculation in formulating bids, an unnamed person familiar with the contest told the *WSJ*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In the New ABnormal, in virtually every business sector, it has become a world of "chains" to which the peasants of Slavelandia are chained. They work for them and buy from them.*

*Indeed, the world has gone from grocery stores, to grocery chains; drug stores, to drug chains, stationary stores, to stationary chains; hardware stores, to hardware chains, etc. And as we have forecast, until, and if, there are strong populist movements to restore anti-trust acts that have been decimated, the Bigs will keep getting Bigger.*

*On the upside, the more consolidation, the less competition which leaves wide market gaps for new products and services that OnTrendpreneures® can fill that bloated Bigs can't see... or are too small for them to consider.*

*[End of "Spotlight: The 'Bigs' Keep Getting Bigger"]*

## SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION SPREADS



### SUPPLY CHAIN CLOG COMPLICATIONS

Snarls in global supply chains are due, in part, to different areas of the world addressing the latest round of COVID infections at different rates, *The Wall Street*

*Journal* reported.

In the West, vaccination campaigns are well under way; countries and companies have emerged from shutdowns or cutbacks and need materials from Asian manufacturers, the *WSJ* noted.

However, Asia has been much slower to vaccinate and remains in the midst of strict lockdowns in many areas; Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City manufacturing hub had imposed orders that had closed most factories before relenting earlier this month (["With Vietnam Lockdown Sending Business to Other Countries, They Do An About Face."](#) 5 October, 2021).



The mismatch is complicated by workers unready to return to work due to family and child care responsibilities, fear of the virus, or because they have retired early, as we have noted in the U.S. MARKET section (See Women Exit).

Shortages and bottlenecks are damaging manufacturing in particular, the *WSJ* noted.

The global auto industry will lose about 7.7 million vehicle sales this year, about 10 percent, due to the ongoing shortage of computer chips, which will linger into 2023, Daimler CEO Ola Kallenius said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

Factory output powered the global recovery but has stagnated recently, according to data from Germany's Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

Kiel recently lowered its forecast for this year's global growth from 6.7 percent to 5.9 percent.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The tangles have sent cross-ocean shipping rates up by two to five times or more, compared to pre-COVID rates, as we have detailed in [“China Closes Key Port Terminal: Trouble Ahead”](#) (24 Aug 2021).*

*And, the shortfalls and tie-ups, should they continue to maintain at their current levels and/or escalate will lower holiday shopping season expectations. (See [“Spotlight: Inflation Still Inflating.”](#) 28 September, 2021.)*

## GROCERIES: PRICES CLIMBING AS SUPPLIES DISAPPEAR



Global food prices rose in September for a second consecutive month, pushed by higher costs of cereals and vegetable oil, according to a 7 October report from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The FAO's Food Price Index, combining costs of a variety of cereals, dairy products, meats, sugar, and vegetable oils, rose 1.2 percent to 130 in September, 32 percent above the index's rating a year previous.

Only meat prices remained level during the month, the FAO said.

Food prices have climbed 27 percent in calendar 2020 to date, according to RT, the Russian news service, in a trend we have documented in ["Food Companies Raise Retail Prices"](#) (15 Jun 2021) and elsewhere.

"This is one of the most dynamic price increases since the '70s," Ivan Fedyakov, CEO of the INFOLine research service, told RT.

"Prices are growing not only for fruits and vegetables or milk, but also for feed and fertilizers," he noted. "This triggers a price spiral, and prices will continue to rise, but purchasing power is not unlimited."

Especially with commodities shortages, scarce labor, and supply-line breakdowns, higher grocery prices are inevitable, an executive of U.S. grocery chain Kroger said last month in comments referenced by ZeroHedge.

The current energy crisis afflicting Europe may have the knock-on effect of cutting food production and sending prices higher, ZeroHedge noted. (See ["Will Surging Gas Prices Sink UK, EU Economies?"](#) 21 September, 2021.)

Fertilizer production relies on natural gas, the cost of which is soaring out of sight across the continent.

Most farmers rely on fertilizer to boost yields of staple commodity crops such as wheat and soy.

Also, with fossil fuels in short supply or prohibitively expensive, greenhouses will remain unheated, cutting short the indoor growing season.

Meanwhile, major U.S. food companies are warning grocers that many staples will be available only in limited quantities, thanks to shortages of labor, materials, and adequate transport, CNN reported.

Scarce items will include McCormick gourmet spices, which have run out of glass bottles, Marie Callender's pot pies, some Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavors, and Rice Krispies Treats, according to messages from food companies CNN obtained.

Some suppliers also are telling retailers to cancel sale prices and promotions for these and other items in the weeks ahead so limited supplies can last longer.

Some suppliers are preparing for possible shortages of glass jars and packaging containers, CNN said.

During the week ending 3 October, 18 percent of beverages and bakery items, 16 percent of snacks, and 15 percent of candy and frozen foods were out of stock on the nation's supermarket shelves, according to data from IRI, which tracks stock levels at major food retailers.

Before 2020, an average of 7 percent of items were out of stock, IRI noted.

Earlier this month, Kellogg told four grocery distributors that the volumes they receive of Pringles Snack Stacks, Eggo frozen pancakes, and Morningstar Farms plant-based hot dogs and bacon will be subject to limits.

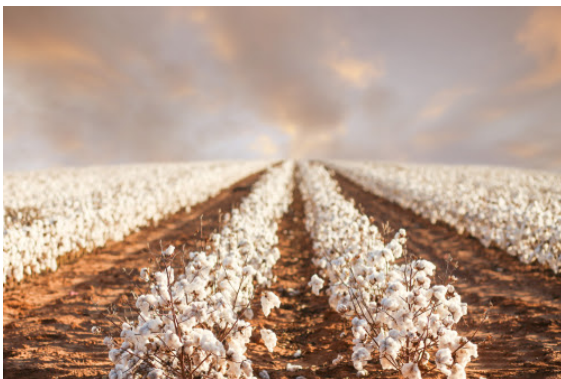
Mondelez, which makes Oreo cookies, Philadelphia brand cream cheese, and Ritz crackers, among other foods, has warned at least one distributor of limited availability of some brands into at least January, due to labor and logistics “challenges.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Ending food shortages is not as easy as just planting more crops or waiting for more delivery truck drivers to apply for jobs.*

*The growing frequency of floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events will continue to make farm yields unreliable, pressuring prices higher for the long-term future in wheat, corn, and other crops that make up the foundation of entire nations’ diets.*

*Therefore, inflationary pressures on food prices will persist even as supply chain difficulties are minimized. Indeed, should food production escalate, companies will not lower prices on packaged/canned goods or in fast food sectors.*

## **COTTON FUTURES TRADE AT 10-YEAR HIGH**



On 8 October, cotton futures closed up almost 7 percent in four days at \$1.16 per pound, rising more than 6 percent for the week and 25 percent over 12 consecutive trading sessions to reach a price untouched since July 2011, CNBC and *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Much of the price rise is due to China’s rising demand for U.S. cotton, thanks to a wrinkle in U.S. sanctions.

Much of China’s own cotton is produced in its Xinjiang province, where many activists and governments say China’s government has herded minority Muslim Uyghur people into slave labor camps to work the crops.

China denies the charge.

As a result of China's policies, the U.S. and other countries have banned imports of products made using Xinjiang cotton, which we reported in [“Top Trends 2021: The Rise of China”](#) (30 Mar 2021).

However, the U.S. ban does not extend to cotton goods made in China from cotton grown elsewhere.

As a result, China is buying more and more American cotton to spin into clothing that it then sells back to the U.S.

Sales of U.S. cotton to China has soared 83 percent since 1 August, year on year, the U.S. agriculture department (USDA) reported.

This year, 62 percent of the U.S. cotton crop is in good or excellent condition, compared to 40 percent last year, the USDA said, meaning that the U.S. should be able to supply any amount that China orders.

China will use 24 percent more cotton this year than during the last two years, the USDA predicted.

China also is importing cotton from India and other countries, the *WSJ* noted.

However, the clothing industry is less concerned about higher cotton prices now than it was a decade ago when the fibers' price passed \$2 a pound.

“Then, we needed a prayer meeting,” Levi Strauss & Co. CEO Chip Bergh said during a 6 October earnings call cited by CNBC. “It’s a very different situation today.”

The company is passing on higher prices to consumers without losing sales, he noted, and will continue to do so as long as the market will stand it.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Major makers such as Strauss may be able to handle higher cotton prices, but smaller companies are less so.

*Spiking prices in cotton will force many small competitors to close their businesses or offer themselves for sale to bigger entities.*

## **FED LOSING CHANCE TO CONTROL INFLATION, PRINCE WARNS**



The U.S. Federal Reserve will be hard-pressed to control inflation, Robert Prince, co-chief investment officer at private equity giant Bridgewater Associates, warned in a 9 October *Financial Times* interview.

The view that today's high inflation rate is “transitory,” voiced by Fed officers and other central bank officials around the world, is based on the idea that high inflation rates are caused by supply bottlenecks, as we noted in [“Fed Holds Firm on Policy Despite 5-Percent Inflation”](#) (20 Jul 2021).

However, current inflation rates are being driven at least as much, if not more, by a long-term shortage of high-demand commodities from tin to computer chips, Prince pointed out.

“The Fed is in a box,” Prince said, “because tightening [Fed policies] won’t really do much to reduce inflation unless they do a lot of it because it’s supply-driven—and if they do a lot of it, it probably drives financial markets down, which they probably don’t want to do.

“It’s just not going to be that easy to resolve these supply constraints, especially as COVID remains an issue,” he added.



The yield on 10-year treasury notes topped 1.6 percent Friday, a measure of the market's view that inflation will remain strong for the foreseeable future, the *FT* noted. (See related story.)

In Germany, yields on some government bonds reached their highest since 2013; in the U.K., where the Bank of England (BoE) has said it could raise rates this year to combat inflation, some yields rose to levels not seen since 2008.

The BoE's warning that rates could rise in the next three months was "a wake-up call to investors," Prince said.

He compared today's plight to the 1970s, when OPEC cut oil supplies to the West, sparking rampant inflation while stagnating the economy.

"Raising interest rates isn't going to increase oil supplies," he said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Prince is right. Normally, inflation might be subject to control through a tweak to central bank policies.*

*However, these are not normal times.*

*Inflation has roots not only in record-low interest rates and buckets of cheap money sloshed out by Banksters.*

*Prices are being pushed higher by shortages of basic materials such as computer chips and copper in some cases. A persistent shortage of workers will continue to drive up wages.*

*Some prices will ease as supply-line disruptions untangle themselves; but central banks' actions alone will not solve this round of worldwide surging prices.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In times like these, authoritarian governments such as China's have the advantage of being able to command private corporations and state-owned enterprises to open a new mineral mine or build a new chip factory, for example.*

*That power will lead those countries to respond more quickly and effectively than private-enterprise economies of the West, which are likely to become even more dependent on production in Asia as a result.*

## **DUH? INFLATION MIGHT LAST LONGER THAN EXPECTED, BANKERS SAY**



Prices are rising faster than expected, prompting policy makers at the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England's (BoE) chief economist to doubt previous forecasts that inflation's pace would ease early in 2022.

In September, the ECB predicted that inflation would ease to 2.2 percent by the end of this year, drop further to 1.7 percent in 2022, and settle to 1.5 percent in 2023.

"The balance of risks is quickly shifting to great concern about the inflation outlook, as the current strength of inflation looks set to prove more long-lasting than originally anticipated," Huw Pill, the BoE's new chief economist, said in his first public statement since taking the job.

Isabel Schnabel, a member of the ECB's executive board, echoed the view.

"It would be premature to assert that current price dynamics will fully subside next year," she said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

"There are several sources of uncertainty that might entail more persistent inflationary pressures," she added.

In Europe, Norway and Poland already have raised interest rates in response to inflation; Brazil, New Zealand, and Russia are among other nations that recently hiked rates.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have long noted, the Central Banksters were fully aware that inflation was not temporary. They know that high inflation was not only caused by them and governments pumping in trillions of cheap money to artificially pump up equities and the failing economies... They were fully aware of supply chain disruptions, shortage of basic goods such as copper and computer chips; and a shortage of labor, which pushes up wages.

However, they kept claiming inflation was short term because they did not want to disrupt the equity markets, knowing full well that when The Street knows interest rates are rising and it will cost them more to gamble, the overvalued markets will tank.

Now, with inflation an undeniable reality, a growing number of Fed officials are signaling the need to raise rates no later than next year, as we reported in [“Will Fed Taper Bond Purchases?”](#) (28 Sep 2021).

The Fed also has said that it will close out its \$120-billion monthly bond-buying program, which it expects will take 12 months, before boosting rates.

Therefore, it is likely that the Fed will announce at its meeting next month that it will begin to wind down its bond purchases this year, laying groundwork for a rate increase no later than the end of 2022.

However, the real key is the inflation rate. The higher inflation rises, the quicker they will lower interest rates.

## BRAZIL'S INFLATION HIGHEST IN FIVE YEARS



Brazil posted a 10.25-percent annual inflation rate in September, the worst since 2016.

A drought has dried up the country's hydropower industry, which normally provides as much as 70 percent of Brazil's electric power. Utility companies have been forced to tap more expensive methods of generation, which pushed up electricity prices 6.5 percent in September from August and 30 percent so far this year.

Gas for cooking has soared 35 percent in price since January, leaving many poor Brazilian families to cook meals on open fires.

The drought dried up crops, driving an 11-percent hike in the cost of rice. A lack of pasture and feed for cattle has boosted meat prices 25 percent.

Consumer prices also have risen in the past few weeks in Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

Chile's 12-month inflation rate reached 5.3 percent in September; Mexico's rose to 6 percent. Colombia's rate topped 4.5 percent.

## POLAND RAISES INTEREST RATE FOR FIRST TIME IN NINE YEARS

For the first time since 2012, Poland's central bank has raised its base interest rate, moving it from 0.1 percent to 0.4 percent, a move that sent the value of the zloty, the country's currency, up 1 percent against the euro.

Poland's inflation rate reached 5.3 percent in September, its greatest in 20 years, the *Financial Times* reported.

The hike surprised analysts. Of 29 polled by Bloomberg, none had predicted it.

“Consensus was that the first rate hike would be delivered in November,” economist Piotr Bujak at PKO BP, Poland’s biggest bank, told the *FT*.

The bank may notch up the rate once again when it meets in November, then take a wait-and-see approach, Bujak noted.

Factors fueling inflation are beyond the reach of monetary policy, National Bank of Poland officials said in a statement, but the bank boosted its rate because food and energy prices will continue to move up and inflation “could be elevated longer than expected.”

The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania also recently bumped up interest rates.

## **NEW ZEALAND RAISES INTEREST RATES TO TAME INFLATION**



New Zealand had one of the lowest COVID infection rates in the world because it closed its borders for an extended period and launched a range of stimulus programs to keep its economy functioning.

That strategy has led now to a nationwide shortage of key materials and pushed up home prices 30 percent, setting inflation alight and prompting the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to bump interest rates from 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent, the bank’s first rate increase in seven years.

The bank has warned of future interest rate increases, which it hopes will tamp down a runaway housing market.

The cost of building a new home was the chief contributor to New Zealand's leaping inflation rate over the past three months, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

*[End of "Spotlight: Inflation Spreads"]*

## INVEST IN CHINA DESPITE EVERGRANDE RECKONING?



Wall Street firms have brushed aside concerns about recent upheaval in China—including the crackdown on businesses by the Chinese Communist Party—and see the country as a good bet.

*The New York Times* reported that BlackRock, the largest asset manager on the planet, recommended that investors increase their exposure to China while bankers from J.P. Morgan and Goldman Sachs also see China as a viable investment. BlackRock called China an “undiscovered” market.

Not everyone agrees with the strategy, including billionaire investor George Soros, who called the investment a “tragic mistake” that hurts U.S. national security.

The paper said it viewed a July memo from China's deputy chairman of its securities regulator, calling on top officials from BlackRock and other asset managers to assuage their concerns about a selloff in the country. Shortly after that meeting, BlackRock offered glowing praise for Beijing.

China, with its 1.4 billion population and between 400 and 500 million people considered middle class, is an attractive market to most businesses. But despite the size of the market, the country poses some challenges, including intellectual



property concerns and trade, the report said. President Xi Jinping's tighter control on businesses is also a source of concern among investors.

But *The Times*' report said that Wall Street companies see China as "too big to ignore and that its stocks are too undervalued to pass up."

(See ["TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA."](#))

Morningstar reported that U.S. mutual funds have also seemed to take note and increased their exposure to China by 43 percent from last year.

CNBC reported that the MSCI China Index is down about 20 percent in 2021 compared the S&P 500 Index up nearly 16 percent.

"China has gone on sale," Mary Erdoes, the CEO of J.P. Morgan Asset & Wealth Management, said at a CNBC conference.

She continued, "All of the hand wringing the world has about words coming out of China is the same thing you hear out of the U.S. government so I am not sure why it causes so much consternation."

She was referring to Beijing's so-called "common prosperity" plan.

The CNBC report pointed to an interview in late June with Charlie Munger, the Berkshire Hathaway billionaire who praised China's attempt to rein in market excess.

"And our own wonderful free enterprise economy is letting all these crazy people go to this gross excess. People who are avoiding it are the communist Chinese. They step in preemptively to stop speculation...Communists did the right thing...And I wish we had...I don't want all of the Chinese system, but I certainly would like to have the financial part of it in my own country."

***TREND FORECAST:*** While the Chinese government is doing what they can to prevent a sharp economic decline, as we have been reporting, the nation has been in a decade's long real estate market bubble.

*According to Kenneth Rogoff and Yuanchen Yang research analysis, the real estate sector and construction industries account for nearly 30 percent of China's economic activity... a rate far beyond other nation's economies.*

*And, as reported by The Wall Street Journal, China's property market faces a day of reckoning because real estate developers have taken on more than \$5 trillion in debt... and two fifths of the developers have borrowed from international bond investors.*

*However, we maintain our forecast that minus a dramatic global equity market crash, considering the measures Beijing is taking too slowly deflate the real estate bubble, while housing prices will pull back, they will not bust.*

*And, we also maintain our forecast that China will be the dominant military and economic power of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

## **ETFs' RETURNS DEPEND INCREASINGLY ON CHINA'S PERFORMANCE**



Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) focused on U.S. stocks have a hidden vulnerability: as much as 25 percent of the revenues of the U.S. companies the funds own are dependent on China's economic performance, according to a Bank of

America (BoA) analysis.

“What happens in China doesn't stay in China,” the report said, noting that Beijing's crackdown on its domestic tech, financial, and property markets ripple through U.S. equities.

In 2010, there was no correlation between the U.S. and China in growth in earnings per share, the bank's report said, but now the correlation is 90 percent: nine times out of ten, when earnings rise or fall in Chinese equities, U.S. stocks do the same.

The connection is more important to U.S. stock prices than growth in the U.S. GDP, according to the bank.

In the past decade, 30 percent of the world's GDP growth has come from China and 21 percent from the U.S., BoA noted.

During the same period, 80 percent of the S&P 500's margin expansion has come from global exposure, not strictly U.S. growth, the study found.

Wynn Resorts' revenue is 70-percent dependent on China, with Macau's casinos; chip companies Qualcomm and Texas Instruments 60 and 55 percent, respectively; and laser company IPG Photonics at 42 percent.

At least 79 of the Fortune 500 companies have no less than a 5-percent dependence on revenue from China, BoA said. Worldwide, the figure rises to 303 companies with a collective market capitalization exceeding \$19 trillion.

Of the 251 ETFs the bank's research branch follows, 138 derive at least 3 percent of their revenue from China, the *Financial Times* reported.

"A lot of U.S. companies have built up quite a lot of dependence on revenues from China," Jared Woodard, head of BoA's research division, said to the *FT*.

"Investors might not be aware that companies around the world have become increasingly dependent on China," he added.

Emerging-market ETFs were even more China-dependent, with anywhere from 25 to 45 percent of revenue of the companies in which they own stock relying on China's performance, the *FT* said.

***TRENDPOST:*** China has become the world's manufacturing center and is on track to become the world's largest economy by 2035 at the latest. For that reason, China's financial performance has woven itself throughout the global economy. Therefore, equity and investment markets will not be able to escape dependence on China's ups and downs.

# FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



## FACE MASKS: ENOUGH ALREADY

By *Michael J. Talmo*

It's been over a year-and-a-half since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic and the battle over wearing masks is still going on. Who would have thought.

Cities and school boards in some states like [Florida](#) are [defying](#) governors who got rid of mask mandates claiming that they have the authority to impose them.

Other school districts like some in [York County](#) Pennsylvania are refusing so-called CDC guidelines, which aren't laws, and won't impose mask mandates. President Joe Biden is being [sued multiple times](#) for imposing his latest mask mandates. And let's not ignore the fact that nowhere in the U.S. Constitution does it say a president can mandate anything. He has absolutely no right to tell

anyone what to do except for government employees and even then there are limits.

It both angers and saddens me that so many of my fellow Homo sapiens are utterly clueless. I'm truly fed up with all of the nitwits I see walking around in masks. What is it going to take to wake them up? I see frail, sickly, old people hobbling along in masks. These people need all the oxygen they can get. The last thing they need is a diaper on their face.

I just recently saw a guy at the gym I go to wearing a mask while exercising with heavy weights who almost passed out. He was literally gasping for air. But he wouldn't take off his trusty mask. The first time I ever saw him, I politely pointed out that the WHO [explicitly states](#) not to wear a mask while exercising. He assured me that he knew what he's doing because he's a doctor. Somebody, anybody, God, space aliens, beings from another dimension, please rescue us. We need HELP!

## **Fauci Fatigue**

Back in early March 2020, three days before the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, Anthony Fauci was [interviewed](#) on 60 Minutes. He emphatically stated that "people should not be walking around with masks...there's no reason to be walking around with a mask." He then later retracted that statement as [reported](#) in *The Washington Post* in July 2020, explaining that he was concerned about a shortage of masks or personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers, and that "We didn't realize the extent of asymptomatic spread."

Yet, at a press conference back in January 2020, Fauci [clearly stated](#) that "in all the history of respiratory borne viruses of any type asymptomatic transmission has never been the driver of outbreaks. The driver of outbreaks is always a symptomatic person."

All the way back in May 2019, months before anyone even heard of COVID-19, Fauci was interviewed on the David Rubenstein Show. The entire interview can



be watched [here](#). It was all softball questions. But at the end of the interview Rubenstein asked Fauci if he was his doctor what would be the best way for him to prevent getting an infectious disease, “wearing a mask?” Fauci ridiculed the idea, referring to it as “paranoia” and told him a “low tech” approach was the best way to go, as in eat right, exercise regularly, don’t smoke or consume alcohol, and get plenty of sleep. Here is the [excerpt](#).

What’s going on? Is Fauci, lying, insane, senile, or a combination of all three? For the Fauci apologists who still think he is all knowing, all wise, and that some new scientific evidence must have come out that contradicts what he previously said about masks, read this March 31, 2020 NBC news [report](#). This was three days before Fauci started telling everyone to wear masks on [April 3](#). It says:

“While the science behind whether masks can prevent a person from catching the coronavirus hasn’t changed (a mask does not help a healthy person avoid infection), public guidance may be shifting.”

The article further declares:

“There is no scientific evidence that wearing face coverings would have a measurable impact on flattening the coronavirus curve.”

Is it any wonder that a recent [Rasmussen poll](#) shows that “Fauci fatigue” has set in. Less than half the country has a favorable view of Fauci. I’ve got them all beat. I’ve been fed up with Fauci since the AIDS fiasco back in the 1980s. In my case, it’s Fauci exhaustion.

## **Hypocrites and liars all**

Once COVID-19 was declared a pandemic government officials all over the world at every level turned into petty tyrants. But it also rapidly became abundantly clear that these little Hitlers and Mussolinis didn’t think that their stupid rules should apply to them. They have flagrantly violated their own mask and social distancing rules with impunity.

Here are but a few examples:

Tucker Carlson [reported](#) that at a \$30,000. per plate Democratic fund raising event in Napa Valley California last August, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi gave a speech. In spite of Pelosi being a mask zealot who [imposed](#) a mandatory mask rule on the House of Representatives back in July 2020, neither she nor any of the people attending wore masks. As pictured [here](#), they all sat at long tables huddled together—no masks, no social distancing. But the peons serving them had to wear masks.



*Source: Duty to America News*

Back in September 2020, NBC News [reported](#) that Pelosi who chided then President Donald Trump and other Republicans for not following coronavirus safety protocols, got her hair done at a San Francisco beauty salon that was closed to the public due to the lockdowns which violated the city's COVID-19 rules. Security camera footage showed Pelosi with wet hair and no mask.

Here is a YouTube [video](#) of Anthony Fauci, the poster boy for mask virtue, quickly removing his mask when he thinks the cameras aren't rolling. A July 2020 WUSA9 [article](#) also caught Fauci with his mask pulled down at a baseball game. He claims he was dehydrated and that he pulled it down to drink some water. The cell phone in his hand doesn't look like a water bottle. In another

photo he's sitting with his mask pulled down and doesn't have anything in either hand.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, another raging petty tyrant, also played hippity-hop to the beauty shop to get her hair done back in April 2020 despite the fact that such businesses were shut down due to the state's stay-at-home order. Lightfoot shamelessly defended her haircut by saying she's the face of the city and out in the public eye. This is the same Lightfoot who [vowed](#) to vigorously prosecute anyone who violated stay-at-home orders. And last May she was [caught](#) partying maskless at a restaurant after declaring she will continue to wear masks in public and urged everyone else to do the same.

Check out more acts of blatant hypocrisy by government officials in this and other countries [here](#).

And let us not forget back in September 2020 when Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and state legislator Wendy Ulman didn't realize that the podium mic at a [press conference](#) was turned on and laughed about masks being "political theater."

Connect the dots folks. How come we weren't told to wear masks in previous flu seasons or pandemics? How about because during the 1918 Spanish flu, mask mandates were passed in some cities and [studies](#) from that time showed that they didn't work. How about the numerous quality studies that have been done long after that time and in modern times that also show masks don't work? So, why did public policy on masks shift when there is no scientific evidence that wearing them does any good? The fact that government officials violate the COVID restrictions they are imposing on us should tell you that they know all of this is a gigantic fraud. Wise up people: you're being played.

## Corona Mask Mandates: Science or Political Dogma?

### **Real science vs junk science**

Ah, but hold on a second. Last September the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) cited [three new studies](#) showing that masks work. In reality, these were observational and modeling studies which prove nothing. Here is why.

There are [two main types](#) of medical research: observational and experimental along with a murky third type called [computer modeling](#).

[Observational studies](#) deal with statistical correlations or epidemiology and the study of human behavior and emotions without any kind of intervention. Cohort studies, case control studies, asking people how they feel while doing something or after they did something, cultural observation, such as anthropologists living among primitive peoples to learn how they think and behave—the proverbial “fly on the wall.” Such studies are usually cheap, can be conducted over a long period of time, and sometimes they are all that can be done in regard to what is being studied.

The worst kind of scientific research to rely on is [computer modeling](#). It is used to create simulations and representations of real world events as well as make predictions or explain what might happen in certain situations or areas. In other words, it explores the great WHAT IF. But computer models aren't reality and can't know all of the variables. To [quote](#) Science Learning Hub: “Models have always been important in science and continue to be used to test hypotheses and predict information. Often they are not accurate because the scientists may not have all the data.”

Example: computer models used to flesh-out and determine the size of the prehistoric mackerel shark otodus megalodon which swam in our oceans for almost 20 million years before going extinct about 2.6 million years ago. It was the largest fish that ever lived and had a bite force more powerful than Tyrannosaurus Rex. Turns out the original models were wrong and instead of 50 feet long it was more like 65 ft. long. The size uncertainty is because shark

skeletons are mainly cartilage which doesn't fossilize so all paleontologists have to work with are its teeth and jaws—the only parts that were bone. But the new estimate could just as easily be wrong and so what.

If computer models are wrong about how fleshed-out dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals looked and behaved it's no fuzz off my peach. No harm done. But if inaccurate computer models are used to determine public health policies then it matters a whole lot.

Case in point: epidemiologist Neil Ferguson, also known as “Professor Lockdown” of London's Imperial College. This is the fool who did a flawed [computer model](#) showing that there would be 510,000 COVID-19 deaths in the UK and 2.2 million deaths in this country unless, as reported in [Business Insider](#) on April 25 2020, “herd immunity” was scrapped in favor of a “suppression strategy” or “weeks of lockdown.”

Herd immunity means that people go about their normal lives, the virus runs its course, and the surviving population, which is just about everyone, develops antibodies and is immune. This is the nonintervention strategy governments should have followed instead of listening to an idiot like Ferguson who's computer models suck. Read the MSN 9-18-2021 [report](#) on Ferguson's reign of error.

The third type of scientific research are experimental studies which involve testing, measuring and examining an actual something. This kind of scientific research is the realm of controlled experiments which are a lot more expensive to do, but are the best way to determine the truth. The [gold standard](#) of controlled experiments are randomized controlled trials with verified outcomes (RCTs) along with meta analysis (combining different studies) and systematic reviews of RCTs. When testing a drug or a vitamin supplement RCTs are referred to as double-blind, placebo-controlled studies.

All observational mask studies can do is claim that there is a correlation between wearing masks and COVID-19 cases and death numbers. Such studies are contradictory. There are plenty of observational studies that show masks

don't work. They are also heavily subject to bias because there are too many variables in the real world. There is no way to know who wore masks consistently, if they wore them properly, and it's easy to cherry-pick data.

As the old saying goes: “correlation doesn't prove causation.” In other words, when it comes to masks, you have to verify observational studies with RCTs because they eliminate bias and speculation by testing the masks directly to see if they actually work. Get it folks? You don't need to rely on weak observational and computer studies when you're dealing with an actual something like a mask.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, one of the world's [top ten](#) medical journals, warned about relying on observational studies to guide policies on COVID-19 in a July 2020 [article](#) because they might “reduce the likelihood of a properly designed trial being performed, thereby delaying the discovery of reliable truth...if leaders, commentators, academics, and clinicians cannot restrain the rush to judgment in the absence of reliable evidence, the proliferation of observational treatment comparisons will hinder the goal of finding effective treatments for COVID-19—and a great many other diseases.”

The WHO's [“Interim Guidance”](#) on page 6 states that there is no high quality direct scientific evidence that supports the use of masks by the general public. Instead, they admit that it is “a growing compendium of observational evidence,” the kind of evidence that *JAMA* warned against relying on, that indicates their possible effectiveness.

Every properly conducted RCT on masks ever done over the past 80 years has shown that masks regardless of what kind, cloth, surgical, N95, are worthless against viral diseases. There has never been an exception which includes the Danish [study](#), the first RCT conducted to determine if masks are effective against the COVID-19 virus, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* last November. It found the benefits of wearing masks “was not statistically significant.” Read the results of some of the other rigorous RCT mask studies [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).



Notice that I said every properly conducted RCT. This excludes the recent Bangladesh mask [study](#). It was the only RCT that showed some benefit to wearing surgical masks. But there were all sorts of problems with it and proper protocols weren't followed. In spite of this, the study also found what all the properly conducted RCTs found: cloth masks are utterly useless. N95 masks, also known as respirators, weren't included in the study. For a thorough debunking of this flawed RCT read Dr. Denis Rancourt's [article](#) and Dr. Scott Atlas's interview on Fox News [here](#).

Bottom line: masks don't work—even a lot of the [packages](#) they come in say that they won't protect you from SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses. For example, a [study](#) from the University of Waterloo, Canada found that blue surgical masks were only 10% effective in stopping COVID-19 infection. This is because all masks, regardless of what kind, have a network of microscopic pores which are larger than the viruses they are supposed to keep out. If they didn't, you wouldn't be able to breathe in them at all. Viruses go right through masks as Fauci pointed out in a [February 2020 email](#).

This is demonstrated in [mechanistic studies](#) which test masks to determine the quantity of viral particles and droplets they block. Studies, such as [this one](#), always show that plenty of viral particles will go through and around the sides of any mask. This is especially true in the case of men who have beards. The FDA admits some of this [here](#). But saying that masks are 75%, 80%, 95% or even 99% effective is saying that they are 0% effective. This is why N95 masks, which means they filter out at least 95% of pathogens, fare no better than other types of masks in RCT studies. If you want to use an analogy, don't think of a raincoat and umbrella preventing most parts of you from getting wet in a torrential rain storm. Instead, think of a screen door on a submarine because that's how useless masks are.

### **Wearing a mask isn't a small thing to ask**

A common mantra uttered by some members of the brainwashed public along with politicians and bureaucrats whose mental processes have atrophied from

non use is that wearing a mask is a small thing to ask—no big deal—a minor inconvenience. Oh, really? I think not.

As explained in some of my previous articles, numerous studies in the scientific literature demonstrate that masks are extremely damaging to the health of adults and children in numerous ways. A huge [comprehensive review](#) of those studies was published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* last April. It included numerous systematic reviews and meta-analysis of experimental and observational studies.

The study documents that by obstructing the nose and mouth, oxygen deprivation increases CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the blood causing: [hypoxia](#), [hypercapnia](#), facial lesions, damage to teeth and gums such as gingivitis that along with less oxygen increases the risk of heart attack and stroke, cancer due to lower oxygen levels and toxic substances in the masks, psychological deterioration, physical and mental exhaustion, headaches, and confusion which the authors of the study call MIES (Mask-Induced Exhaustion Syndrome). Masks are even more harmful to children.

Masks create a warm moist environment on the face which is a veritable petri dish for all sorts of pathogenic microbes that “can cause clinically relevant fungal, bacterial or viral infections.” In addition, mask wearers exhale more fine microscopic aerosol particles than non mask wearers which can remain suspended in the fluid air for hours and are the primary mode of viral transmission, not droplets. This is why plastic shields at store counters are worthless. The viral aerosols are everywhere and everyone is breathing the same air.

The study further explains:

“The mask-induced adverse changes are relatively minor at first glance, but repeated exposure over longer periods in accordance with the above-mentioned pathogenic principle is relevant...According to the scientific results and findings, masks have measurably harmful effects not only on healthy people, but also on sick people...”

No, folks, wearing a mask isn't a small thing to ask—it is far too much to ask.

### **Additional facts to consider**

When you hear some doctor or scientist extolling the benefits of wearing a face diaper, keep in mind that there is no such thing as a PhD in masks. Medical doctors can specialize in many areas, but none are specialists in masks. No such zebra exists. Like everyone else, MDs and PhDs have to educate themselves on this topic or they won't know jack. It doesn't matter how many diplomas are hanging on their wall.

A doctor may learn how to use masks and respirators in medical school. For example, surgeons are taught to use masks in operating rooms to prevent droplets from their nose and mouth from going into a patient's open wound. But this doesn't mean that they know if masks actually work. Doctors aren't taught to question the procedures they learned in medical school who's curriculum is heavily influenced by [Big Pharma](#).

And let us not forget that a lot of doctors and scientists are [paid whores](#). For centuries science was dominated by wealthy aristocrats and innovative thinkers who did science for the pure joy of it. But as [Dr. Peter Duesberg, PhD](#) explained in his 1996 book "Inventing The AIDS Virus," the lone pioneer, the Isaac Newton, the Albert Einstein, intrepidly exploring the mysteries of the universe in his laboratory has been kicked out of mainstream science. In his place is a huge bureaucracy that controls teams of scientists who are dependent on huge government grants.

To get along in science today you have to follow whatever the corporate agenda is or you won't get funded. If doctors don't play along they can lose their medical license. This creates a herd mentality that ostracizes doctors and scientists who dare to speak out. As [Upton Sinclair](#) (1878-1968) put it: "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

Some people will argue that they are educated and informed on a topic because they watch a lot of news or read the paper. Dead wrong! They aren't educating themselves—they are brainwashing and indoctrinating themselves because they aren't verifying if what they're being told is true. And this doesn't mean verifying what Wolf Blitzer is saying on CNN by listening to Rachel Maddow on MSNBC because they are all reading from the same corporate script as demonstrated [here](#).

Some good reporting creeps in here and there, but for the most part you're in an echo chamber getting spoon-fed propaganda by a bunch of corporate lackeys who are there to please their [advertisers](#). Bringing the public reliable news isn't a priority. For example, look at all the pharmaceutical ads on TV. That's billions of dollars in network revenue—most are not going to upset the Big Pharma applecart.

Also consider that if COVID-19 is so deadly, why aren't there any biohazard bins for discarded masks? How come we can just throw them in the garbage and litter our streets with them?

Masks along with all other irrational COVID rules are about maintaining the illusion of a pandemic. Masks create the illusion that there's something to be afraid of. They also divide us. Unmasked people and those actively opposing this global tyranny threaten the fearful brainwashed masses because they make a lot of them think that if there isn't a scary icky microbe to be afraid of, maybe they should get off their asses and fight for their rights. They resent this because they need to believe they're being righteous and patriotic by following the rules rather than realize that all they are doing is contributing to their own oppression.

People wearing masks because Anthony Fauci and other authority figures told them to is a classic example of groupthink. Another name for groupthink is mass stupidity.

Masks are about virtue signaling. The exhaustive study in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* that I cited earlier

documents Fauci, the WHO, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, etc. admitting this.

Virtue signaling to promote lies isn't new. With AIDS it was condoms. With COVID-19 it's masks. At least condoms usually worked when it came to preventing unwanted pregnancies and venereal diseases. They didn't work when it came to preventing AIDS because there was never any virus to transmit. And if condoms aren't your thing because for a lot of people they ruin the sex act, there are other ways to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. But masks are utterly useless. There is no reason for anyone to be wearing them.

### **Wake the hell up**

Get it through your heads once and for all folks. Masks are not about controlling the spread of COVID-19—they are about controlling the spread of freedom. Masks are about controlling you. I beg you, I implore you, wake the hell up. All you're going to get by obeying authoritarian orders are more authoritarian orders. The longer you comply with this nonsense the longer it will go on.

Even if you aren't bothered by wearing a mask you are still being oppressed because there is no reason to wear a mask. By continuing to wear a mask you are advertising your submission to the tyrannical world order that they are trying to impose on us. Masks make it easier to identify who the sheep are. So stop complying. There are lots of ways to get out of wearing masks.

In areas where there are no mask rules it's easy. Just take off the masks. Stop wearing them. It's that simple. If you're in an area that has mask mandates and ordinances and confrontation isn't your style you don't have to die on that hill. Read the mask mandates and rules for your area and you will find that they very likely allow exemptions for medical, religious, and in some cases even psychological reasons. Just politely tell a business that requires masks that you have an exemption and that will usually be enough. Read the CDC and WHO mask guidelines as well. Get a medical mask exemption letter from your doctor. If your doctor won't give you one try other doctors. Keep at it.

See if your employer will recognize mask and vaccine exemptions. If not, look for another job that will. There are plenty of jobs available now which in some cases is due to a lot of people being afraid to work because they believe the fear narrative. But the main reason could very well be because a lot of people have died and been seriously injured by the COVID vaccines. Just keep in mind that masks, like the tests and the vaccines (except for the Comirnaty vaccine), are under an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization). Under Federal Law you have the right to refuse to wear them as explained [here](#) and [here](#). Additional websites to resist mask rules: [Peggy Hall](#), [Peggy Hall interview](#), [Jason Hommel](#).

And to all businesses who are tired of this mask nonsense listen up.

My physical therapist who I'm seeing for a shoulder injury is an example of what not to do. She had stopped wearing a mask for quite a while once the mask mandates in our state were repealed. She's a wonderful person who I like a whole lot. She has read my articles. She knows the science. She knows that masks are worthless. But she told me that a couple of masked customers complained and now the mask is back on her face and she won't take it off even if no one else in the place has a mask on.

I implore all business people who think like my physical therapist: take off those stupid, ridiculous, useless masks and throw them in the garbage. Losing some customers isn't worth losing your freedom. It isn't worth the destruction of our world as we know it. It isn't worth the dystopian world order you will be leaving to your children and to future generations. Don't help the Bill Gates and Klaus Schwabs of this world bring about your demise. Don't allow other people's fear to control you. Start educating brainwashed mask wearing people. Get them out of this cult. Because that's what mask wearing is: a cult ritual. Refuse to go along with it any longer.

Grow a spine and throw those masks away.

**Michael J. Talmo** has been a professional writer for over 40 years and is strongly committed to the protection of civil liberties. He also did three music videos on



COVID-19. [\*The Masker Mash\*](#), [\*COVID Vaccine Man\*](#), and [\*The Corona Globalists\*](#).  
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# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## **DISTORTIONS IN THE MARKETS WILL BECOME EVEN MORE EXTREME**

By *Gregory Mannarino* [Traderschoice.net](http://Traderschoice.net)

Despite the current economic freefall, the S&P 500 is now only 3 percent off from a new record high. Just last week we got the worst miss regarding job creation ever for the previous month. Crude oil, which is the **LIFEBLOOD OF THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX** is surging. Debts and deficits are at new record highs and the Federal Reserve continues to deliberately fuel surging inflation.

Amidst all of this, we are witnessing the largest and fastest wealth transfer in the history of the world—with an entire class of people, the middle class, moving closer to extinction. Moreover, as a percentage of GDP the US economy is cratering at its fastest pace on record.

Today world markets are being deliberately distorted, there is no real price discovery mechanism behind them whatsoever—and central banks are running the entire show.

The mechanism of suppressed rates and vast asset purchases by central banks have stripped out ANY AND ALL remnants of a free market and are responsible for massive distortions across the entire spectrum of asset classes.

What we can expect moving forward is simple—a continued expansion of global debt on an unprecedented scale, and this expansion will continue to distort the markets.

So, what does this mean? We can expect that the stock market will continue higher. The stock market will continue to move farther and farther away from reality as the debt hyper-bubble continues to grow—it is ballooning debt fueling the markets via suppressed rates.

This mechanism of rate suppression by the Federal Reserve is hitting the citizenry hard, by not allowing them to earn anything even remotely close to a real rate of return on their interest earning accounts—it is GRAND THEFT on an epic scale. Moreover, surging inflation is making it increasingly harder for average people to make ends meet.

Make no mistake about it, all of this is BY DESIGN.

Today is in many ways the golden age for the rich and well off, meanwhile for everyone else not so much.

Yes, there will be a moment in time which will come without warning, when global stock markets will crater on a scale which I believe very few people are prepared for. This will finish the end game which has been set in motion over a century ago by central banks to one day own it all, to be the lender and buyer of last resort, to be THE One World Government.

What can we do to stay on the right side of this?

The answer to that is this—stay hedged. In this kind of environment, one should be in the market owning large cap stocks that pay a dividend—make these companies pay you to own their stock.

Physical gold and silver also need to be in your investment portfolio. People should own stocks in a risk-on environment and stay hedged by owning risk-off assets, as in physical gold and silver.

By holding both risk-on and risk-off assets at the same time one should have little fear from being exposed to the market, and can capitalize on it no matter which way it goes.

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

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

The *NY Daily News* online carried a story back in December (Christmas Eve, in fact) about a man who, in a bar fight, punched another. It was an imbecilic, meaningless argument, of course. The serious, civilized, intellectual discussions take place in settings other than neighborhood taverns. In any case, the recipient of the punch died.

Reaction of the impulse-driven, out-of-control piece of sh-t who killed him? “I feel terrible.”

Gee whiz.

Personally, we would like to see the killer hanged. Who gives a rat’s ass damn if the bastard “feels terrible” or not? If your reaction to verbal disagreement is to punch someone, then you do not belong in civilized society. And that means, as we see it, if by some tragic error you happen to already be amongst the civilized

and you give vent to your physical rage, then it's time for you to be put down like the mad dog you are.

The killer was 47 years old. The victim was 49 years old. No one can argue that these men—theoretically, anyway—knew better than to physically fight over some trivial nonsense involving a girlfriend (the "reason" for this insanity, according to the news report we read).

If toddlers in a sandbox become hostile and aggressive over a toy, the mothers can separate the two-year-olds and we can allow for a state of immaturity as being responsible for the misbehavior. But when anyone over the age of six resorts to violence outside any need for self-defense, there is a serious problem present that requires immediate correction by adults. And after the individual reaches the age of 10 or 11 and is inclined to physically attack others, well... we'd just as soon see him excised from human society.

People seem to not get a simple fact: That is, actions have consequences; and the actor is responsible for the consequences of his actions.

Above all, we want YOU to get it. As an enthusiast of close combat and self-defense skills you have a serious, permanent responsibility to avoid violence whenever possible. You are not a "sportsman", and physically damaging another person, except in self-defense, cannot be written off as a competitive event during which an accident occurred!

If a segment of the so-called "martial arts community" chooses to follow that which we, personally, find shameful and dumb (i.e. MMA/UFC type brawling) that's OK... so long as these people involve no one beside themselves. But anyone who carries an inclination to be a goddamn social nuisance and danger outside the competitive arena and participates in violent encounters is little more than a dangerous savage whom the rest of us have a right to be free of.

"Tough guys" end up in hospitals, prisons, and cemeteries, where they rightfully belong. The unfortunate thing is when they injure innocent people before ending up where they belong.



Martial skills certainly should be held in rigorous check until or unless one finds oneself or one's loved ones in danger. Then, do whatever it takes, whatever you can, and however you wish, to deal with an unprovoked threat to innocent life and limb.

Whatever happens to some out-of-control-subhuman predator who decides to victimize an innocent person is unimportant. To hell with him. He doesn't belong on earth, anyway. But keep your hands and your temper in check when the normal vicissitudes of day-to-day existence cause friction, disagreement, and irritation with others. That's life. Keep your hands to yourself.

We believe and teach that violence outside of fighting sports is unacceptable, criminal human conduct. Because tragedies such as the one described at the beginning of this little article occur often, there should be very, very serious consequences for anyone who resorts to violence outside the clear and present need to take self-defense action. That there often are not such serious consequences accounts for why violent human garbage continues to terrorize and to injure normal human beings.

Actions have consequences. The person who unjustifiably offers you violence ought properly to bring hell down upon himself; the appropriate consequences for his particular actions. His injuries are the result of his actions, and—we hope you'll agree—to hell with him.

# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## TECHNO EUGENICS: SUPERIOR BABIES JUST A POLYGENIC RISK SCORE AWAY

*"Don't tempt me Frodo. Understand that I would use this Ring from a desire to do good. But through me... it would wield a power too great and terrible to imagine."*

Gandalf, from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord Of The Rings*

The siren song of power is always that it can be effectively wielded by good people.

But as human genome biophysics is rapidly advancing, the vast power such technology represents should give pause to anyone acquainted with history.

So far at least, little is being done to limit or dissuade various researchers and their corporate and government backers from literally racing to achieve new milestones in “science-based” eugenic selection and transhuman genetic experimentation.

Case in point: a company called Genomic Prediction is touting its recent success in using “polygenic risk score” technology to select an embryo for a couple, in the course of an IVF procedure.

The child that resulted, a girl named Aurea, is now 16 months old.

At least one of the parents of the child is reportedly a committed transhumanist who learned of Genomic Prediction from a story about their research and goals in 2017.

## **The Forgotten Controversies of IVF**

The first successful In Vitro Fertilization, or as it was more commonly called at the time, “test tube baby” occurred in 1978. The place, perhaps appropriately, considering English author Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, was England.

IFV was controversial, in part because multiple embryos were almost always lost, before one successfully took in the mother’s womb.

Some of those who objected to IVF also warned about a slippery slope of eugenics that would likely ensue from the nature of the process, and the precedents it established.

By the 1990’s, a screening procedure called PGD (Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnostic) embryo selection process was available for couples opting for IVFs.

A PGD is a narrowly focused test that screens for relatively uncommon medical problems linked with a mutation in a single gene (monogenic illnesses).

Initially, PGD was most often used when parents were aware via personal or family history that they were at danger of passing on a severe disease to their children.

But PGD testing has become standard in IVF cases, since scientists [found](#) it led to more successful fertilizations. According to The Fertility Institutes:

“Recent advances however, have shown that even embryos receiving the highest ratings from scientists based on their "normal" or "excellent" appearance under the microscope, may in fact be highly abnormal and totally incapable of ever producing a pregnancy. “This discovery was brought about by the addition of preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) to the tools available to scientists in the IVF laboratory. PGD has offered physicians and scientists, for the first time ever, the ability to examine far beyond the superficial appearance of an embryo.”

### **New Kind of Screening A Step Forward...In Eugenics**

The Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) screening developed and put into use recently by Genomic Prediction, greatly expands genomic selection. And that has raised the concern of watchdog groups including the Center for Genetics and Society (CGS).

A PRS is calculated by an algorithm that quantifies the anticipated effect of hundreds to millions of genetic variants on a person's probability of getting an illness or having a feature.

The analysis, for example, may reveal that one embryo will develop into an adult with a lower risk of heart disease than the overall population. However, such predictions are far from certain, since environment and habits often play a key role in the expression of many genes and potentials that come under the purview of PRS testing.

Genomic Prediction is the brainchild of Stephen Hsu, a Chinese scientist known for participation in a controversial “Genius Genes” initiative in that country.

Hsu has long advocated and pursued means of testing embryos for intelligence. In what they have touted as a guard against eugenics, Genomic Prediction has previously said they would limit testing for low IQ, but not high IQ.

But CGS says those assurances are hollow, and that the company is effectively pursuing, and has now introduced eugenics selection on a new level.

The organization has pointed out that Slate and other media outlets have examined the science behind Polygenic Risk Score, and found it wanting.

But even if the technology was scientifically proven to produce superior offspring, would it ultimately result in betterment of humankind, or a pandora's box of destructive consequences?

The CGS has advocated more open discussion and consideration of the ramifications, at the very least:

“Essentially, this process is leading to entrenching socioeconomic advantage in claims about biology, contributing to further discrimination. The next step would presumably be editing the embryos; if this process becomes part of the standard menu of IVF ‘add-ons,’ it is likely to make further ‘enhancement’ seem more acceptable. There is currently much debate about heritable human genetic engineering; the issues around polygenic selection should be discussed just as seriously.”

The prospect that genomic biophysics might usher in much more harm than good to the world, by way of an all too familiar slippery slope that began with those controversies surrounding IVF, is progressing by the day.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on issues surround transhumanism and genomic experimentation in recent articles including:

- [“THE ‘PROGRESS’ OF LEAVING HUMANS BEHIND”](#) (1 Jun 2021)

- [“ARE HUMANS ALREADY BEING GENETICALLY LEGISLATED?”](#) (8 Jun 2021)
- [“CRISPR CREATOR SAYS GENE EDITING JUST GETTING STARTED”](#) (22 Jun 2021)
- [“SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE”](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- [“PULL THE PLUG ON TECH POWER OR THE PLUG WILL BE PULLED ON YOU”](#) (24 Aug 2021)



# TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



## THE CRYPTO “AGE OF UTILITY” HAS JUST BEGUN

Back in February we noted that 2021 would likely see exponential growth in cryptocurrency adoption. (See [“CRYPTO SANITY,”](#) 16 Feb 2021)

That happened, with crypto users and investors more than doubling in the space of six months.

The year has also marked a sea change in the attitude of traditional institutions toward cryptos. Speaking at a “Token 2049” conference in London this past week, Darren Jordan, managing director of EMEA at BitGo, noted:

"The dramatic change—and I have this conversation many times per week—is with corporates. And they are looking to allocate a small percentage of their balance sheet. That has been the most significant change we've seen over the last 12 months."

But it doesn't mean there still isn't a long way to go.

Despite cryptos moving considerably into mainstream consciousness, most people still don't own, trade or use cryptos. Institutional exposure and investment is in its infancy.

What's more, much crypto use is still narrowly focused on financial use cases, and raw speculation. It's no wonder that many people still wonder whether there's really any "there" there, when it comes to cryptos.

The answer is that not all crypto projects are alike. But make no mistake, the technology powering the best and most advanced projects has revolutionary potential to change how people live.

The Age of Crypto Utility may very well define the next decade, offering enormous opportunities along the way.

Those looking to participate don't need to sift through the more than 12 thousand crypto projects currently out there.

There are a relatively small number of backbone layer 1 and even layer 0 network technologies that are proving their real world relevance and utility.

Constellation is working with the U.S. Airforce. Hedera, a 3rd generation distributed ledger technology that is tops in terms of low energy consumption, has completed more transactions on its network in two years than Ethereum has in its entire existence.

It also boasts relationships with some of the world's top technology companies.

CBDCs might be issued on Hedera, which offers high compliance and security. Ripple (XRP), a leader in working with financial institutions in currency exchange and cross border payments, is another contender, though its legal fight with the SEC is currently clouding its picture.

Quant and Cosmos offer ways to link DLTs (Distributed Ledger Technologies), which is more and more important.

Blockchain networks like Solana, Algorand and Cardano all are developing relationships with companies to offer NFT and DeFi platforms, and are all offering rival solutions to Ethereum's relatively slow transaction rates and high network "gas fees" for projects that build on top of it.

But Ethereum and Bitcoin, the two oldest and largest crypto fueled networks are far from fading. Via upgrades and integrations with other technologies, their use and adoption continues to grow.

The projects just mentioned are a good starting point when looking for the backbone of crypto utility that will define the coming decade.

### **It's 1977, 1991 and 2001 and 2011**

Most of the web is still built on centralized services and companies, dominated by "web 2.0" social media platforms and commercial and digital service providers.

That is going to change. So what time is it? It is 1977 in the age of personal computers. Or 1991 in the age of the internet. Or 2000 in the age of social media. Or 2011 and the dawn of cryptocurrencies.

In other words, for those that haven't already, it's time to recognize and take advantage of the "next big thing."

But by any reasonable estimate or metric, the wave is still in its infancy. Worldwide, an estimated 200 million people currently hold or trade cryptos. That's about half the population of just the United States.

How many people will have crypto wallets, use crypto exchanges, and own and trade crypto assets in 2030? A billion? Two? The entire planet?

The total global crypto market cap was \$762.9 billion at the end of 2020. As this sentence is being written, the global market cap is 2.3 trillion.

What will it be in 2030? Some say 20 trillion. Some say 200 trillion.

The **Trends Journal** is about making the most of the trend. As Gerald Celente explained himself in 2014:

“Are you an astrologer? Maybe some other kind of fortune teller? What can you tell me about fashion trends? How about entertainment trends?”

“When I started trend forecasting, these are the types of questions that people asked me. I would reply that I was neither a fortune teller, tarot card reader or astrologer. In fact, I was not predicting the future. Rather, my work was to analyze the myriad social, geo-political, cultural and economic events that occur daily. My mission was to assess their implications and forecast how those trends would affect us near and long term.”

The trend that will define the next stage of crypto adoption is utility (sorry to all those “cute” meme coins).

It’s important to understand what utility specifically means regarding different crypto projects.

By identifying which projects represent real world utility via introducing novel and valuable uses, efficiencies, etc, those wishing to take advantage of crypto technology can make wise investment decisions.

### **Next Generation Technology, Expanding Utility: NFTs**

Imagine a music artist financing their album by selling ownership of their songs with investors, via NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens). Or fractional real estate purchases of properties in hot markets like Austin or Miami being issued as NFT stakes.

It’s already happening.

Crypto outlet The Block reported this past week that investment platform Republic is introducing “Security NFTs,” to give music fans the opportunity to share the rights to artists’ royalties.

“The same membership units that may typically be represented by an LLC Membership Certificate will novelly be represented by the S-NFT instead,” explained Republic’s Chief Strategy Officer Paily Aditya.

Initially, fans will be able to invest in a new song called Mona Lisa by rapper Lil Pump. Artists could eventually offer tickets, merchandise and “non-security” NFT drops to investors as well, via Republic.

The whole initiative relies on a decentralized peer-to-peer loan platform, Opulous, which offers DeFi loans for musicians and NFTs that allow music fans to have a share in artists’ music copyright. Opulous is built on the Algorand blockchain.

NFTs represent an unrivaled way to establish and confer ownership rights over digital property, and, via tokenization, to establish ownership over real world property as well.

In other words, anything that has provenance today via a contract, deed or key, may one day have an NFT in a digital wallet that confers ownership.

Crypto networks like Algorand, Solana, Cardano and Hedera all offer next generation technology that reduces costs for companies building NFT platforms. The tokens of these crypto networks are still extremely cheap, compared to what their potential valuations might be, if their networks attract more NFT usage.

Ethereum is currently king of this space, and in many other areas of utility, including DeFi, for example. But Ethereum is working to overcome transaction speed and costs that some newer generation networks like Hedera and Algorand have solved.

In some respects, more established Crypto projects have an edge of being there first, while newer networks have an advantage in terms of technological efficiency and capability.

But no matter which networks prove most successful, it's clear that the opportunities of NFTs are only just beginning.

## **A World of Decentralized Autonomous Organizations: DAOs**

DAOs and the crypto networks they are built on, will likely see widespread growth in the coming decade.

What is a DAO, and what can it do?

Conceptually, DAOs are like a corporation with no mediating board, or a business without the layers of human management. The collection of smart contract codes that make up a DAO can handle many of the administrative and financial functions of businesses and organizations, via code, and a system of decentralized participation and widespread governance.

As Investopedia notes, there are many blockchain projects working to bring the DAO revolution to real businesses.

For instance, DAOStack offers a platform that allows organizations and companies to build and access DApps via a simple dashboard, basically introducing a Wordpress-equivalent for blockchain DAOs.

Some predict that by 2030, digital, democratic, transnational co-operatives organized as DAOs will power countless business and social initiatives, and guarantee a degree of financial participation and fairness to stakeholders that current corporations and organizations can't match.

According to crypto outlet Blockonomi, "There will be venture DAOs, esports DAOs, lobbying DAOs, social DAOs, and so on. Basically if you can imagine any



kind of group now, someone will likely have DAO-ed it, or something akin to it, by 2030.”

For those wishing to take advantage of DAOs, it's not necessary to know every technical aspect of how they work. But basic research on the networks and projects that enable and power them, can help determine potential participation and investment opportunities.

The Blockchain Council identified some of the top DAO projects of 2021 in an article [here](#).

## **Finance Is Turning to DeFi**

Lending, borrowing, financing and leveraging: from safe and steady interest yields, to risky advanced capital leveraging, cryptocurrencies arguably made the biggest “utility” splash in 2021 in the area of DeFi (Decentralized Finance).

Again, DeFi projects and platforms built on Ethereum represented the lionshare of activity. Maker, Compound, Aave and Uniswap are all Ethereum-based platforms.

DeFi offers a way of accessing the utility of banking, while dispensing with traditional banking institutions.

The just mentioned platforms can all be used to stake, lend and borrow crypto. Their tokens can also be purchased and held as investments.

Other crypto networks either work with or compete with Ethereum in offering the smart contract functionality that is used to build DeFi apps. For example [Raydium](#) and Mango Markets, both built on Solana, offer DeFi.

DeFi and DeExs (Decentralized Exchanges) often work by going to a website and connecting a wallet. From there, users can do things such as stake or lend their crypto assets, exchange crypto tokens, etc.

[BlockFi.com](https://blockfi.com), one of the more conservative players, is not a true DeFi, though it utilizes blockchain DApps to offer users the ability to lend crypto assets like Bitcoin to yield interest.

Again, whether users choose to utilize DeFi via more or less anonymous avenues or platforms, or to just invest in the tokens that power promising related networks, the point is that the sector is likely to see further significant growth in the coming years.

## **Liquidity And Frictionless Payments For Individuals and Institutions**

Remittances have been an area that has arguably seen some of the most real-world crypto utility for average, non-tech savvy users. Many people working in other countries opt for crypto payments to cut down on transaction and other fees that previously were gobbled up by companies like Western Union.

Stellar and Celo power platforms that end users are using in remittances.

According to a report by payments industry news leader Pymnts.com:

“Out of the 16% of United States consumers who send a total of \$76 billion annually in remittances, the majority of those who own cryptocurrencies have found it to be a viable method for cross-border payments—and a more attractive alternative to traditional forms of payment.”

Many consumers increased the frequency with which they sent funds overseas over the past two years, and their need for cheaper, more convenient alternatives led them to turn to virtual currencies for cross-border remittances, according to the [study](#), which was published in collaboration with the Stellar Development Foundation.

But cross border payments between financial institutions are also increasingly leveraging crypto networks. One of the most established players in the arena is Ripple.

A legal battle with the SEC is currently holding its price down. Should Ripple prevail in the case, its utility and relationships will likely spell good things for its token price.

### **Bitcoin: Still King, But Does it Have Utility?**

This past week saw Bitcoin surge to some of its highest levels of the year, apart from the run to an all time high back in February. In doing so, it has, at least for the moment, grabbed back attention and market cap from next generation cryptos and blockchain projects.

But the age old (or at least decade old) question: does Bitcoin have any real utility?

An answer to that question, for those who haven't read it yet, can be found here: ["WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CRYPTOS AND BLOCKCHAINS?"](#) (15 Jun 2021).

To sum up, as crypto technology continues to evolve and innovate, look for speculation and obsession with meme coins to transform more and more decidedly to real work problem solving and utility. The best crypto projects have utility that can't be denied, and that will make a lot of fortunes in the coming decade.

*NOTE: No information in this or other **TJ** Crypto articles should be construed as investment advice. Due diligence should always be done in participating in any financial investments or activities, especially in the sometimes perplexing world of cryptos.*

## A PERVERSION OF CRYPTOCURRENCY



As the U.S. and China, the two major global powers, grow more alike in their appetite for surveilling and controlling their own citizenries, China has decisively banned crypto and aggressively rolled out a digital Yuan.

The U.S. is facing increasing pressures to come up with its own CBDC (Central Bank Digital currency).

So what are the chances of the land of the free of designing a CBDC that doesn't try to surveil and even control behaviors of users?

Unfortunately, the answer may be slim and none.

Perhaps a more suitable acronym for "Uncle Sam digital cash" might be the USSCDC.

It might stand for U.S. Surveillance and Control Digital Currency. The moniker could also refer to the fact that a United Socialist States of the Centers for Disease and Control are in charge of all economic activity of citizens.

Protecting the "health" of citizens (as opposed to rights guaranteed by the Constitution) will surely be one of the rationales for the features built into the new USSCDC.

But the fact that the dollar sooner or later will be issued and exist as a government controlled token should not lead people to assume that it will be like Bitcoin, Ether or Zcash.

If you hold your bitcoin in a non-custodial wallet, and keep your private key in your head, no one can take it from you.

Our theoretical USSCDC, on the other hand, will include controls rendering it unable to purchase certain items and services, depending on a holder's social credit status. And no doubt for sufficiently serious violations, like spouting a conspiracy theory or unsettling a local school board member, it will be subject to being turned off entirely, or whisked away from a user's digital wallet.

## **Snowden Outlines the Twisted Crypto Truth**

The original ethos that inspired crypto currencies was the desire to restore the integrity of money and the world's financial systems more generally.

In the wake of the crisis of 2007-08, the time certainly seemed ripe for the debut of Bitcoin.

Bitcoin was designed to be:

- decentralized (existing on a peer-to-peer network of computer nodes)
- permissionless (anyone could run a node)
- Un-inflatable (with a hard cap of 21 million bitcoin that would ever be produced)
- directly transactable between holders (via transfer between wallet addresses, recorded in its distributed blockchain ledger)
- Highly resistant to confiscation (thanks to its encryption and use of private keys to access and re-constitute wallets)

In short, Bitcoin, the first “cryptocurrency,” was an antidote to the control and manipulation of money by elites.

For a significant period of time, it was considered something unserious. A plaything of geeks, no more consequential than points in a video game.

The world knows now how that turned out.

In September 2021, El Salvador became the first country to accept and promote the use of bitcoin as legal tender. Some other nations are considering similar recognition and utilization of cryptocurrencies.

Many other nations are at some stage or other of implementing a CBDC.

But cryptocurrencies like bitcoin and a CBDC like the Yuan (or our theoretical USSCDC) are not the same thing at all, and shouldn't be confused.

None other than Edward Snowden is stressing that very point.

In an article just published on substack, Snowden wrote:

“Neither is a Central Bank Digital Currency a State-level embrace of cryptocurrency—at least not of cryptocurrency as pretty much everyone in the world who uses it currently understands it.

“Instead, a CBDC is something closer to being a perversion of cryptocurrency, or at least of the founding principles and protocols of cryptocurrency—a cryptofascist currency, an evil twin entered into the ledgers on Opposite Day, expressly designed to deny its users the basic ownership of their money and to install the State at the mediating center of every transaction.”

Snowden, a former NSA consultant, is renowned for having exposed the pervasive nature and mechanics of domestic spying by U.S. intelligence agencies, in 2013.

His latest article takes a brief look at the history of money, before positing how CBDCs will likely be the antithesis of cryptocurrencies.

An example he presents focuses on how government might intervene in the name of health, to stop, say, a pre-diabetic individual (Snowden uses the example of an old overweight bank guard) from making certain purchases:



“The next time he goes to the deli and tries to buy some candy, he’s rejected—he can’t—his wallet just refuses to pay, even if it was his intention to buy that candy for his granddaughter.”

Money might be seized in a digital “civil forfeiture,” the same way suspicious property is now, without due process. A U.S. CBDC would almost certainly contain that functionality.

Snowden rightly points out that CBDCs will likely attempt to stuff the genie of cryptocurrencies into the bottle of government control:

“This “crypto”—whose very technology was primarily created in order to correct the centralization that now threatens it—was, generally is, and should be constitutionally unconcerned with who possesses it and uses it for what. To traditional banks, however, not to mention to states with sovereign currencies, this is unacceptable: These upstart crypto-competitors represent an epochal disruption, promising the possibility of storing and moving verifiable value independent of State approval, and so placing their users beyond the reach of Rome.”

Few would believe it now, but there was a time when the U.S. did not create money. It merely authenticated and ensured its value, via minting coinage that contained amounts of precious metals that could be trusted, and issuing certificates backed by reserves that were redeemable in full for precious metals.

In an age where cryptos like bitcoin solve the problem of integrity of money, the U.S. could choose to hold reserves of it, or perhaps foster a next generation bitcoin with quantum resistant private key technology.

But the America that would pursue such a project no longer exists. Its official CBDC, when it arrives, will be perverted, because the nation producing it has become unmoored from its foundation and thoroughly lost its way.

Snowden’s suggestion is that America would do best to allow cryptocurrencies to continue to exist, and not attempt any kind of CBDC:

“I believe that the US doesn’t need a CBDC despite the banks, whose activities are, to my mind, almost all better and more equitably accomplished these days by the robust, diverse, and sustainable ecosystem of non-State cryptocurrencies (translation: regular crypto).

“I risk few readers by asserting that the commercial banking sector is not, as Waller avers, the solution, but is in fact the problem—a parasitic and utterly inefficient industry that has preyed upon its customers with an impunity backstopped by regular bail-outs from the Fed, thanks to the dubious fiction that it is ‘too big too fail.’”

Snowden’s full article on the subject can be read [here](#).

The **Trends Journal** has previously written about some of the larger questions of economics and freedom surrounding cryptos and CBDCs, in articles such as:

- [“WILL BLOCKCHAIN SAVE THE DAY?”](#) (20 Apr 2021)
- [“HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS ‘BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION’”](#) (29 Jun 2021)
- [“THE GEOPOLITICS OF BITCOIN”](#) (27 Jul 2021)
- [“KYB: KNOW YOUR BLOCKCHAIN”](#) (24 Aug 2021)

## THE EROTIC BLOCK



A few months ago one of the web’s larger platforms for independent adult content, OnlyFans.com, got blowback for banning explicit content—something on which their site was basically predicated.

The ban, which turned out to be temporary, was the result of pressure by financial institutions including Bank of New York Mellon and JPMorgan Chase.

Some are now suggesting that the blockchain might not just be an avenue for avoiding political censorship or being beholden to financial powers many view as corrupt.

Along with many other use cases, it seems porn may be setting up on the blockchain.

Cointelegraph recently interviewed Dominic Williams, the force behind Internet Computer, a general purpose blockchain network launched by the Dfinity Foundation.

Williams said that while OnlyFans succeeded for the moment in turning back the attempts to censor its content, its battles might not be over.

“[OnlyFans] could also be censored by any of the traditional IT services it uses to run its online services, such as cloud services and data centers, in the same way Amazon Web Services switched off the Parler social media service.”

Williams made the case that persons and projects will be increasingly turning to censorship resistant blockchain networks and technologies to escape censorship.

There’s no doubt that the same entities that fund Hollywood, and Hollywood’s “Hidden Kingdom” (as David Lynch termed it) porn industry, have little moral authority to target sites like OnlyFans.

Williams told Cointelegraph that he’s inviting developers to build a more decentralized version of OnlyFans using Internet Computer. He acknowledged that some blockchain networks are constituted in ways that still can be disrupted by connections to centralized services by traditional IT providers.

“This is because they cannot scale to store large amounts of user content themselves, and cannot serve interactive web content directly to users, and therefore builders must incorporate cloud or private servers into their Dapps.”

He said the Internet Computer project is fully decentralized and highly resistant to such vulnerabilities.

In addition, Dfinity's grants program is funded to the tune of 250 million dollars, which can provide seed money for initiatives.

Over 80 projects have already been awarded via the program, which Williams says is meritocratic and intended to assist teams in developing on the Internet Computer.

“Today, people have built things like chat, professional networks and games that are running entirely from the Internet Computer blockchain. It’s only been four months since Genesis and there are already more than 500 developers building. Services like Open Chat are rapidly growing, and already have many tens of thousands of users.”

This summer, OnlyFans CEO Tim Stokely told the *Financial Times* that his company “had no choice” but to bow to pressure from banks and ban adult content on its site.

After a huge backlash from independent sex workers and their fans who utilized the site the company reversed itself and again allowed sexually explicit content.

## SEC CHIEF OVERREACHED HIS AUTHORITY ON CRYPTO, LAWMAKER SAYS



Gary Gensler, chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), has overstepped his authority in his attempts to regulate cryptocurrencies, according to Tom Emmer, a Republican member of the House of Representatives from Minnesota.

Emmer is a member of a group of legislators interested in crypto, known informally as the blockchain caucus. His charge is part of a GOP push against Gensler's attempts to further regulate the \$21-trillion crypto market, according to the *Financial Times*.

We detailed Gensler's views on controlling digital currencies in ["SEC Chief Sets Regulatory Sights on Cryptocurrencies"](#) (10 Aug 2021).

Interest and investments in crypto have soared in recent years and especially during the COVID War, drawing regulators' concerns as unwary investors have jumped in.

Regulators in various countries have sought to clamp down on the digital coins, noting that they can easily lure naïve investors and also cloak money-laundering and other crimes.

Gensler has sought to bring cryptocurrencies more closely into the regulations governing regular securities.

"I disagree with [Gensler] strenuously when he suggests that almost all of these [crypto] products are securities," Emmer said to the *FT*. "I think the vast majority of cryptocurrency offerings or related offerings are actually currencies or commodities."

“The SEC is not involved” in regulating things that are neither securities nor commodities, he noted.

“If the SEC were to deem one of these coins a security, the value of that token would plummet and those retail investors would be seriously hurt,” Emmer added. “That’s directly the opposite of [Gensler’s] mission and authority.”

SEC member Heather Peirce said earlier this year that regulating crypto would hobble innovation, as we reported in [“Regulator Calls for Few Rules on Cryptocurrencies”](#) (15 Jun 2021).

The blockchain caucus has introduced several bills in Congress that would make trading crypto easier in various ways.

***TREND FORECAST:*** We noted in [“Regulator Calls for Few Rules on Cryptocurrencies”](#) (15 Jun 2021) that regulators are driven to regulate. Cryptocurrencies will fall under some form of regulation—probably not as much as Gensler would like, but more than Peirce or Emmer would endorse.

As we said in [“Regulators Urge Tightest Rules for Crypto”](#) (15 Jun 2021) and elsewhere, as governments introduce stablecoins—digital coins whose value is tied to national currencies—investors will gravitate to their stability, while speculators will continue to gamble on less restricted cryptos.

The regulated market will give legitimacy to cryptocurrencies, while the less-regulated market will give play to fun-seekers and remain the territory of innovation.



## BOND MARKETS TURN THUMBS DOWN ON CRYPTO



Bond markets gave cryptocurrencies a vote of no confidence recently.

In mid-September, El Salvador became the first nation to accept Bitcoin as legal tender (see [“El Salvador Recognizes Bitcoin as Cash.”](#) 15 June, 2021). Shortly after, the country’s bond values crashed.

Later that month, Coinbase, a major crypto trading platform, issued \$2 billion in high-yield, meaning risky, corporate bonds, which quickly shed 4.5 percent in value.

An index of high-risk bonds lost 1 percent while Coinbase’s offering lost more than four times as much over the same period.

Goldman Sachs peddled the bonds to investors at 100 cents on the dollar; then the bonds’ price immediately slid under regulatory scrutiny of a lending scheme Coinbase had initiated and then soon abandoned.

Coinbase sold bonds instead of issuing more stock because a new stock issue would have diluted the principals’ ownership share of the company, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The crypto craze that has enveloped hedge funds to retirement funds has not spread to bonds.

The reason: bond investors seek safety of principal and stable returns, while cryptocurrencies are known for their rollercoaster values that can gain or lose thousands on an offhand comment from Elon Musk.

Cryptos' wild rides are “a level of uncertainty that bond markets are not accustomed to,” analyst Lisa Ellis at MoffettNathanson said to the *WSJ*. “Bond markets are risk-averse.”

## SINGAPORE ANGLES TO BECOME ASIA'S CRYPTO HUB



China has outlawed cryptocurrencies ([“CHINA SEES CRYPTOS AS EXISTENTIAL THREAT,”](#) 28 Sep 2021); U.S. regulators dither; and Hong Kong and South Korea have become hostile to them and have banned or restricted crypto dealings.

In contrast, Singapore has laid the legal and regulatory groundwork to become crypto's new home in Asia.

In January 2020, the island nation's Payment Services Act allowed crypto companies to apply for operating licenses there.

Applicants include Coinbase, Crypto.com, and Gemini, among others; Binance, effectively banned in Lithuania, Italy, and Japan and under attack in the U.K. ([“More Troubles for Binance,”](#) 20 July, 2021), also has found a haven in Singapore.

Singapore has granted waivers to many companies that have applied, meaning that they can offer services to individual and institutional investors while they await approval.

On 1 October, Australia's Independent Reserve was granted the first full operating license.

Singapore's 5.5 million people have relied on financial services to grow their \$344-billion economy. The country's leaders see crypto as the next step.

“Singapore thinks long term about this stuff,” one crypto founder said to the *Financial Times*.

“Years ago, I went to hear [Ethereum’s cofounder] speak and in my row there were three people from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) painstakingly taking notes,” the founder recalled.

“Singapore balances being extremely socially conservative with being bold in capital markets,” Haseeb Qureshi, managing partner of crypto venture capital fund Dragonfly Capital, said in an *FT* interview.

“They show they are open to innovation—businesses and people taking financial risks,” he noted.

Singapore’s banks also have signed onto the crypto movement. The MAS granted approval in August to the brokerage division of DBS, the country’s biggest bank, to provide crypto trades and other services to clients.

Singapore itself has become a crypto player, with its sovereign wealth fund investing in the Hong Kong parent of crypto exchange OSL; Temasek, the government’s investment company, has bought into Binance Asia, which is based on the island.

The moves are part of Singapore’s plan to emerge as Asia’s financial center and then a key global player, according to the *FT*.

Singapore’s chief rival for that role is Japan, whose Financial Services Agency (FSA) was the world’s first to recognize crypto as legal, and in 2017, became the first to define in law what a crypto exchange is.

Still, Japan is less comfortable with digital currencies than Singapore is, the *FT* noted.

The Tokyo-based Mt. Gox exchange once handled 80 percent of the world's Bitcoin trades but has since collapsed; Coincheck's Japanese customers were victims of a \$500-million theft of XEM coins.

The FSA is “desperate to present Japan as the pre-eminent hub of financial innovation and a welcoming face for crypto is a good way to do that,” one crypto exchange director said to the *FT*.

“At the same time, they can see how significant the risks are because of just how many young Japanese are invested in this now,” the executive added.

Governments' crucial challenge is to balance the threat posed by cryptos' potential for chaos against the benefits of the financial activities it creates, Cathie Wood, founder of Ark Invest and a crypto enthusiast, said in comments cited by the *FT*.

“Countries understand that if they want to attract innovation, they need friendly regulatory regimes working alongside the innovators as opposed to at cross-purposes,” she said.

## **CRYPTO CAN BE PART OF A TAX PLAN, ADVISORS SAY**



A growing number of financial advisors are not only allowing clients to trade cryptocurrencies inside their fund or retirement accounts but also are advising clients to use cryptos' price gyrations as a tax gimmick.

The scheme: investors can buy crypto through their brokerage accounts. If the coins' value falls below a preset amount, the coins will automatically be sold and investors can write off the loss against profits from other investments.

The accounts can then quickly buy back the coins, if the investor wishes, and wait for the price to bounce up again, selling them at a profit.

The tactic is forbidden by Internal Revenue Service rules governing stocks and bonds but is allowed for digital currencies, which the IRS defines as property and not investment vehicles.

The automated sale and repurchase of the coins is a key selling point for asset managers; individuals trading on their own often must place buy and sell orders manually and can easily miss the moments to maximize profits or losses.

Also, benefits of automated “tax-loss harvesting” usually more than cover any fees for the service, brokers told *The Wall Street Journal*.

A poll of 529 asset managers earlier this year by financial planning associations found 14 percent already were recommending crypto as part of clients’ portfolios and 25 percent planned to increase their use of crypto in the next 12 months, the *WSJ* reported.

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



### A “TIK-TOK” WITH TOKENOMICS.

Inspired by blockchain fueled gaming sensation Axie Infinity, Chingari, an Indian short-video sharing site, is looking to integrate blockchain “tokenomics” into its

platform

The firm announced on Friday that it has raised \$19 million in financing to build its mainnet and hold a token sale for its Solana-based GARI token.

The token sale is set for Nov. 2, with the mainnet launch and application integration anticipated by the end of the month.

Venture funds and individual investors of the initiative include the Kraken crypto exchange, Republic Crypto and Galaxy Digital.

Chingari co-founder and CEO Sumit Ghosh likened the efforts to introduce token incentives into the sharing site, to the model used by Axie Infinity in its gaming metaverse.

The **Trends Journal** reported on Axie Infinity, and how it is already impacting the traditional gaming sector, in [“METAVERSE GAMING HITS BILLION DOLLAR PAYDIRT WITH AXIE INFINITY”](#) (5 Oct 2020).

“What Axie Infinity did for gaming, we want to do for social media,” Ghosh said, explaining that the Chingari blockchain platform will allow users to obtain tokens for creating or watching content.

“The idea that a lot of people can make a small amount of money and uplift themselves by participating in a social platform is very powerful and Chingari wants to make this vision possible.”

### **BITCOIN STILL THE LEAST RISKY CRYPTO INVESTMENT, SAYS MILLER.**

Miller Value Partners founder Bill Miller says though altcoins may represent a plethora of uses and possibilities, he still considers the original crypto, Bitcoin, to be the safest bet.

Miller, a longtime Wall Street investor, placed 30 percent of his portfolio into Bitcoin. The purchases had an average value of five hundred dollars at the time.

More recently, Miller’s firm filed with the SEC for Miller Opportunity Trust to invest in BTC via the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust.

In an interview this past week, Miller compared the risks of his early acquisition of Bitcoin to the current situation:



“Bitcoin is a lot less risky at \$43,000 than it was at \$300. It’s now established, huge amounts of venture-capital money have gone into it, and all the big banks are getting involved.”

Miller’s comments on altcoins hewed to a conservative assessment. He noted that with some 12 thousand plus crypto tokens and projects in existence, many are going to fail.

“There are 10,000 various tokens and stuff floating out there. The chances of more than a handful of them being worthwhile is very, very small. Bitcoin, ethereum, and a few others are probably going to be around for a while.”

**BUTERIN SEES BIG THINGS FOR DAOs.** Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin gave his thoughts on some current crypto trends and future likelihoods, in a recent The Stakeborg Talks podcast interview.

The Russian language podcast is popular with crypto investors and enthusiasts.

Buterin, who was featured in Time Magazine’s 100 top influential people of the year (2021) said he has always had a philosophical bent, and he has brought that to his views on crypto.

Comparing Ethereum and Bitcoin, he commented:

“I think the big difference between Ethereum and Bitcoin is that Bitcoin is a platform where the value of the ecosystem comes from the value of the currency, but in Ethereum the value of the currency comes from the value of the ecosystem.”

Ethereum saw a major upgrade this year (EIP 1559), and rose to a more than 400 billion dollar market cap

During the interview Buterin also said he believed DAOs (Decentralized Autonomous Organizations) would be much more prevalent in the future.

“I think DAOs are definitely going to be more important over time... In terms of what’s still missing from the DAO space, I don’t think there’s any one big thing, but more a lot of little things. When will be the first time a DAO decides to make a strategy pivot, or when will two DAOs decide to merge? It's the ability to make big decisions and not just continue incrementally on the same path, that’s something I think we’ll see soon.”

**STRIPE SCRAMBLES FOR CRYPTO TECH TEAM.** Two years ago, Stripe payments processing founder expressed serious doubts about cryptocurrencies, saying he was “dubious” of them.

Now TheBlock.com is reporting the company has tweeted out a call for crypto experts:

"At @Stripe, we're forming a new crypto team. I'm recruiting engineers and designers to create the future of Web3 payments."

The tweet came from Guillaume Poncin, director of Stripe’s crypto engineering.

The move puts Stripe in a rising number of conventional financial institutions interested in the crypto industry.

According to the job posting, the engineering team will “lay the foundation to support and inform Stripe’s crypto strategy,” affecting everything from Stripe's user interface to its backend operations, as well as its payment and identification systems.

Only engineers located in the United States are eligible for the jobs, which need a background in cryptography development as well as more than 10 years of engineering experience.

# TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



## HERD IMMUNITY HERESY: LIES AND DAMN LIES

What's the deal with herd immunity, in terms of the COVID War? Is it real? Is herd immunity an attainable goal? Is it an alternative to vaccination, or an adjunct? Can it be achieved when a certain percentage of the population has been vaccinated? Or is herd immunity a nebulous concept, even a myth?

When the term first entered the common lexicon, with regard to COVID-19, we were told that when some three quarters of the population got the jab they would be immunized, transmission ceases and "the herd" is impervious to the virus. With nobody to infect, and nowhere to go, the virus is no longer contagious and will die off.

At such a point, even those who are unvaccinated and have never contracted the virus (even, for example, newborns) are still, theoretically, protected by the high level of immunity in the population.

## Lies, Damn Lies

But just when, if ever, is such a state achieved?

The answer would seem to depend on who's being asked, and even on just when the question is asked.

More and more, it seems that the "experts" are giving up on the idea of herd immunity, and perhaps with good reason. Dr. Andrew Pollard, head of the Oxford Vaccine Group, was quoted by CNBC on 12 August telling British lawmakers that, with vaccines not offering complete protection, vaccinated persons still able to be infected and transmit the virus (especially with the Delta variant and other variants yet to appear), the idea of herd immunity was "mythical."

"I suspect that what the virus will throw up next is a variant...even better at transmitting among vaccinated populations," Pollard said, "and so that's even more of a reason not to be making a vaccine program around herd immunity."

In the U.K., Israel and elsewhere, the notion that vaccination conferred immunity was proven false. Studies showed that those with natural immunity were far better protected than those vaccinated—see ["A PANDEMIC OF THE UNVACCINATED,' OR JUST THE OPPOSITE?"](#) (14 Sep 2021)—but it still moved the goalposts of herd immunity into faraway territory.

And Dr. Andrew Freedman of the Cardiff Medical School said that, because of the more transmissible nature of the Delta variant, "the proportion of people needing to be fully vaccinated for herd immunity is probably not achievable."

So, will herd immunity to COVID-19 ever be possible? It seems that the only thing certain is uncertainty. For one thing, nobody seems to know whether even the protection afforded by natural immunity is permanent, or whether it, like the vaccines, wanes over time.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Dr. Anthony Fauci, for example, ordained by the Presstitutes as "The Greatest Epidemiologist the World Has Ever Known," first bullshitted that*

*herd immunity from COVID-19 would be reached in the U.S. when 70 percent of the population had been vaccinated. But then he "adjusted" his estimate, first to 75, then 80, then 85 percent; see ["FAUCI THE FAKE: THE ROOT OF ALL PANDEMIC LIES"](#) (2 Mar 2021).*

*Kit Yate, of the U.K.'s Bath University, said that herd immunity would be impossible with less than 90 percent of the population vaccinated. But that was when the Delta variant, and the fading effectiveness of the vaccines, had changed the equation; see ["THE VAX NOT WORKING?"](#) (27 Jul 2021).*

*There are countries and regions where an apparent high level of herd immunity, while not absolute, seems to have been achieved; see ["SOUTH AMERICA: JAB OR NATURAL IMMUNITY SLOWING COVID SURGE"](#) (14 Sep 2021) and ["SOUTH AFRICA MYSTERY: WHERE DID THE VIRUS GO?"](#) (23 Mar 2021). But those are the exceptions, not the rule.*

## **TEACHERS: "WE SPEW OUT CRAP, CENSOR THOSE WHO DEFY US"**



Have you heard of the "Slap a Teacher Challenge"? Allegedly, it's one of several "challenges" issued to users of the social media platform TikTok, daring them to carry out various activities and post videos of themselves doing so. So far there have been only a couple of incidents that might be attributed to this "challenge," but talk about it has certainly "gone viral."

An article in *The Wall Street Journal*, on 9 October, tells how Becky Pringle, in her official capacity as president of the National Education Association (the largest union representing teachers) sent a letter on 8 October to the operators of TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The letter seeks sympathy for all the stresses that teachers are suffering as a new academic year begins and many students are returning to school after a COVID-driven absence of more than a year-and-a-half. "We're all exhausted, stressed and stretched so thin it feels like we'll crumble," Pringle wrote, "and now we're facing growing violence fueled by corporations with no oversight and no accountability to the communities they harm."

Her letter appeals to those tech leaders, on behalf of the nation's teachers, to pledge to better regulate their platforms and "to put public safety over profits."

### **You are Stupid! We Know Best**

But then Pringle makes the grand leap of conflating the threats posed by viral "challenges" like "Slap a Teacher" with the "vitriol against school leaders" spread, on those same social media platforms, by those who dare to question or oppose "safety protocols" like mask requirements or vaccine mandates.

She then doubles-down on her conflation fallacy by including the "conspiracy theories" advanced by those who have the effrontery to confront educators and school boards over curriculum issues such as the teaching of [Critical Race Theory](#).

All of this, Pringle whines, has "helped create a culture of fear and violence with educators as targets." Her remedy is to call for not only federal assistance (as one group representing school boards has done) in "managing" the "harassment and intimidation" of educators, but for the social media giants to step up and quash the dissemination of such dangerous "misinformation."

***TRENDPOST: Trends Journal*** has seen, for some time now, the desecration of the sanctity of free speech and the clamor for more censorship, identifying it as a "megatrend"; see, for example:

- ["CENSORSHIP 2019"](#) (11 Dec 2018)
- ["FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES"](#) (27 Oct 2020)



- ["MORE AMERICANS FAVOR CENSORSHIP"](#) (24 Aug 2021)
- ["A HIDDEN HAND BEHIND BIG TECH CENSORSHIP"](#) (23 Feb 2021)
- ["GOVERNMENT: FREE SPEECH IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH"](#) (21 Sep 2021)

And, moreover, the [current education system](#) is an antiquated relic of the Industrial Age which is both costly to the general public and inefficient as a learning mechanism.

**TREND FORECAST:** When the COVID War was launched in February 2020 and universities and schools began shutting down, we noted it was the beginning of the upending of the industrial age education system that was long ready for a facelift and heralded in a new, more effective approach to education: online learning. (See ["INDIA'S ONLINE-LEARNING AN INVESTMENT WINDFALL. SOLIDIFYING 'INTERACTIVE U' FORECAST IN TRENDS JOURNAL."](#) the 2017 article ["INTERACTIVE-U: THE INDIA MODEL"](#) and the August 2020 article ["INTERACTIVE U IN THE U.S.A."](#))

Gerald Celente had forecast 25 years ago that online learning would replace the factory model education methods that got their footing in Prussia after the Napoleonic Wars. The coronavirus outbreak has shown that in-person learning can be replaced, which will only further accelerate the move to all-interactive learning.

## NEW YORK TIMES: SOLD IRAQ WAR LIES, SELLS COVID WAR LIES



Go back to the lead up of the Iraq War. The Toilet Paper of Record, *The New York Times*, [sold the lies](#) that Hussein loaded up with enough uranium tubes and baked up enough yellow cake to destroy life on earth!

Continuing to sell fear and hysteria based on lies, *The Times*, which sells the line that its bullshit is “All the News That’s Fit to Print,” reported that nearly 900,000 children have been hospitalized with COVID-19 since the COVID War began.

Yes, that's what *Times* readers were told in an article (dealing with the debate over the need to vaccinate children) by Apoorva Mandavilli, published on 6 October. But it wasn't true.

In fact, the actual number, between August 2020 and October 2021, was 63,000, and the *NYT* admitted it.

## Toilet Paper Crap

As reported on 9 October by the *National Review*, Mandavilli had exaggerated the number of hospitalizations by 837,000. *NR* notes that Mandavilli "has been a controversial figure at the *Times* for her ideologically-colored pandemic coverage," and cites a Tweet she posted in May: "Someday we will stop talking about the lab leak theory and maybe even admit its racist roots. But alas, that day is not today."

***TRENDPOST:*** *One might be forgiven for surmising that Ms. Mandavilli's ideology colors far more than just her pandemic coverage.*

*Regarding that "lab leak theory" (and its alleged "racist roots"), see ["WORKERS AT WUHAN LAB SOUGHT MEDICAL CARE BEFORE OUTBREAK"](#) (25 May 2021), ["LOOK WHO'S DOUBTING CHINA'S WUHAN LAB DENIALS NOW"](#) (25 May 2021) and ["BATSH\\*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI"](#) (18 May 2021).*

***TRENDPOST:*** *As to the susceptibility of children to COVID-19, and whether they should be vaccinated, that debate continues. But even the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not changed—even in light of the "more transmissible, more deadly" Delta variant—its statistic that 99.997 percent of 1-to-20-year-olds recover from the virus. And the number of children who have*

*actually died from COVID stands at around 500, a number that is statistically minuscule.*

*Nevertheless, the Biden administration and the American Federation of Teachers are among those favoring vaxxing kids to "protect" both children and adults; see ["KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID"](#) (17 Nov 2020), ["DRUG DEALERS: GET KIDS VACCINATED"](#) (23 Mar 2021) and ["VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"](#) (13 Jul 2021).*

## **Operation Warped Speed 2.0**

*And the Food and Drug Administration is mulling whether to authorize Pfizer's vaccine for children aged 5 to 11, and may rule on it on 26 October.*

*As Dr. Paul Craig Roberts reported Monday, “The criminal organization, Merck, announced today that they filed an “emergency use authorization” request with the company’s agent, the FDA, for an oral antiviral medicine for treating Covid-19. Former FDA commissioner and shill for Big Pharma, Scott Gottlieb, lobbied for the emergency use authorization on CNBC, declaring the untested pill to be “a profound game changer.”*

*What bullshit! For the entire length of the orchestrated “pandemic” there have been two safe and effective treatments—HCQ and Ivermectin—tested all over the world by billions of doses for 60 years. Yet Big Pharma had its agents—FDA, NIH, CDC, WHO, and the Presstitutes—block the use of the known effective treatments and maintain a campaign of disinformation against the inexpensive cures.*

## VAX EFFECTIVENESS: LIARS LIE, THE NUMBERS DON'T



To all the studies indicating that the protection afforded by the COVID vaccines (and the Pfizer vaccine in particular) is short-lived, another can now be added. The Daily Sceptic reports, on 6 October, on a study conducted between 14 December

2020 and 8 August 2021 by *The Lancet*.

The subjects were 3,436,957 people, all over the age of 12 and all enrollees of Kaiser Permanente Southern California. It compared fully vaxxed persons to unvaxxed, and found that 5 months after the second dose, the Pfizer vaccine's effectiveness dropped from 88 percent to 47 percent. Similarly, protection against the Delta variant dropped from 93 percent to 53 percent after only 4 months.

The *Lancet* study also concluded that a history of prior positive COVID-19 tests was insignificant to the results. The Daily Sceptic's article notes that the *Lancet* study may have ended too soon to adequately address the effectiveness against the Delta variant, but it alludes to a different U.K. study indicating that, within 3 months, the AstraZeneca vaccine was powerless to prevent Delta transmission, and the Pfizer shot was hardly better.

Perhaps being true to its name, the Daily Sceptic observes that "One of the main recommendations of the authors of both studies...is for regular booster jabs—in the case of the first, where many of the authors are employees of and investors in Pfizer, this may be deemed hardly surprising." See ["COVID BOOSTERS ARE THE FUTURE?"](#) (10 Aug 2021).

And because, while effectiveness against infection clearly wanes but effectiveness against serious illness seems to hold up, the *Daily Sceptic* dares to ask, "Why give people boosters just to stop them getting and spreading what is effectively a cold, and which bestows more robust immunity as it goes?"

And then the article proceeds, in what appears to be a further challenge to the official narrative, to ask, "If the effectiveness declines after as little as three months, is it even possible to deliver enough boosters to have any impact on infection and transmission? Would it not be much better to say that the vaccines, by offering personal protection from serious disease to those who want it, have done their job?" and concluding with "Better to move on and abandon any ideas of vaccine passports and mandates and boosters, and in general the now almost wholly pointless obsession with COVID vaccines."

***TREND FORECAST:*** The ***Trends Journal*** reported ["ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN SOLD"](#) (27 Jul 2021)—indicating that the efficacy level of the COVID Jab was not maintained in persons 65 and older.

*And, as the data proves, this is the most vulnerable age group to die from the virus. Indeed, as we reported last week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, less than 500 people in the U.S. under the age of 20 have died of the virus since the COVID War began 19 months ago. (See ["VAX KIDS? MORE DROWNED IN THE U.S. THEN DIED OF COVID"](#))*

*Again, it was a total lie that was sold to the public by the Drug Dealers back in November and December 2020 when they said the COVID Jab had a 96 percent efficacy rate. But now they are pushing for "Booster Shots" as we had warned they would back on 27 April of this year.*

We wrote:

*"Barely reported in the U.S. media was the statement last Wednesday by Dr. Özlem Türeci, co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of BioNTech (which developed a COVID vaccine with Pfizer), who told CNBC that people will need a third shot of the two-shot vaccine. She also indicated that like the seasonal flu, people will need to get their COVID jab annually.*



*Using CNBC as their shill network, as we reported in last week's **Trends Journal**, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla told the network people will “likely” need a third dose. We wrote: Go back to when so-called health experts, politicians, and the media began selling the COVID Jab.*

*The line was that after two jabs, you’d live happily ever after, COVID-free for the rest of your life. In a blink of a Drug Lord’s eye, that line changed. Last Friday, this was the CNBC headline: Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said people will ‘likely’ need a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine within 12 months of getting fully vaccinated.*

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

### **No Data needed**

*Less than a month after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer booster shot, this Thursday and Friday the FDA is expected to approve the extra shot of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.*

*To date, some 44 percent of Americans are not fully jabbed, thus there will be an irate tireless minority who will fight not to get the vaccine. This will, as we had long noted, be the foundation of a new anti-vax, anti-establishment political movement.*

## **NEW STUDIES PROVE: 96 VAX EFFICACY RATE WAS PURE BULLSHIT**



Stories about how the power of the COVID-19 vaccines to protect against the virus fades over time are now legion; see, for example, ["ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH](#)

[LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN SOLD](#) (27 Jul 2021). And the news gets worse and worse.

And it is not a “conspiracy theory” that the jab is a drug dealers’ joke. Even the Cartoon News Network (or is it a “net-woke”) CNN reported on 6 October, that two studies—one from Israel, one from Qatar—published that day in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, indicate that the protection from two doses of Pfizer's vaccine diminishes significantly after a mere two months.

That’s correct. Get the Jab and it’s good, maybe, for 60 days!

The study also showed that the natural immunity enjoyed by those who had recovered from COVID-19 enhanced their protection when they then received the vaccine. **Trends Journal** has written about natural immunity, in ["HIGH VAX RATE DID NOT STOP COVID SPREAD, SAYS ICELAND CHIEF EPIDEMIOLOGIST"](#) (17 Aug 2021) and ["SOUTH AMERICA: JAB OR NATURAL IMMUNITY SLOWING COVID SURGE"](#) (14 Sep 2021).

The Qatar study showed that the Pfizer vaccine's protection peaks a month after the second dose, and wanes gradually until, after about 4 months, it fades more rapidly, to about a low of about 20 percent.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The latest Israeli study concentrated on neutralizing antibodies. As **Trends Journal** noted recently—in ["VAX WEAKENS; COVID PILL APPEARS"](#) (5 Oct 2021)—such neutralizing antibodies are not the immune system's only means of defense against the virus, but they are critically important in protecting against infection. And while, with vaccines in general, it's normal to see reductions over time (10 to 15 percent each year) in these antibodies, with this COVID vaccine the decrease was significant and rapid, occurring within months.*

*And that decrease was most prevalent among those most vulnerable: men, persons over 65, and the immuno-suppressed. Thus, that the jab is least effective to the most vulnerable is essentially blacked out by the Presstitutes and politicians across the globe that keep mandating “No Vax, No Job Mandates.”*



*Pfizer hasn't disputed that its vaccine's protection wanes; rather, the company has used that to promote the need for booster shots 6 months or so after the second COVID shot. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises those at high risk of infection (like health care workers) as well as those vulnerable to serious illness if infected, to get boosters. In ["DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING"](#) (8 Jun 2021) we reported that booster shots have been a big part of Pfizer's plans to keep supplying the world with a steady stream of COVID vaccines through at least 2023.*

*The entire notion of vaccine-induced immunity was predicated on the claim that the vaccines were long-lasting and conferred 96 percent protection. Now, the CDC tells us, the rate of people getting booster shots exceeds the rate of those being vaccinated for the first time.*

## **CANADA: “HEIL VAX”, NO FREEDOM FOR UNVAXXED**



Following the path of Italy, Israel, Australia and other totalitarian regimes who have proclaimed, “Your Body, Our Choice,” CBC News reported last Wednesday that the government of Canada has put in place an iron-fisted vaccine mandate.

Canada still has (based on an estimate from CBC News) more than 4 million people over the age of 12 who have chosen to remain unvaccinated against COVID-19. But not for long.

## **No Vax, No Job**

By the end of this month, all government employees in "core public administration" must be fully vaccinated or apply for a medical or religious exemption. The same goes for the 267,000 or so federal contractors;

non-compliance will bar them from entering government buildings and will make them subject to "disciplinary action that could ultimately cost them their job."

Unvaccinated status will mean administrative leave without pay, even for those who work remote, along with disqualification from employment insurance.

And, starting 30 October, all airline and airport staff, even ancillary staff like gift shop and restaurant workers, must be vaccinated. The same goes for rail and marine workers, whose employers will be charged with implementing their own mandatory vaccination policies and must guarantee compliance.

Unvaxxed workers will be forced off the job. Similar requirements will be imposed on the postal service, media and legislative sectors and the armed forces.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada, the union for federal workers, is on board with these policies; its only objection is that federal unions were not adequately consulted.

## **Who Deserves Freedom?**

But the unions, as with most others across the globe, have bought into the rationale provided by the government for its hard-line new policies: that the mandates are intended, as announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, for the public's protection and safety, and are an alternative to even more drastic measures, like lockdowns for everyone.

"If you've done the right thing" and gotten vaxxed, Trudeau said, you and your family "deserve the freedom to be safe from COVID. To get back to the things you love." See ["NO JAB, NO FREEDOM"](#) (2 Mar 2021).

Besides Trudeau's implied belief in the converse of that statement (that the unvaxxed do not deserve such freedom), Trudeau apparently also believes that the vaccinations confer long-lasting protection from COVID-19, despite increasing evidence to the contrary; see, for example, ["THE DARK SIDES OF](#)

[VAX"](#) (24 Aug 2021) and ["VACCINES LOSE EFFECTIVENESS. MORE SHOTS NEEDED. HO-HUM."](#) (3 Aug 2021).

## **No Vax, No Travel**

Also as of 30 October, air, rail and marine travelers in or from Canada must be fully vaxxed before boarding; this applies to everyone over 12.

The National Airlines Council of Canada's position is similar to that of the Public Service Alliance: it wishes it had had more input, but it nevertheless supports the stringent new rules.

To qualify as "fully vaccinated," travelers must have received a full series of approved shots with the last one at least 14 days before departure. Until 30 November a negative COVID-19 test will be accepted instead.

## **"A Nudge"**

88 percent of the eligible population has had at least one shot, but Trudeau says now is the time for more compliance, with case counts rising and vaccines in good supply. And his Deputy Prime Minister, Chrystia Freeland, says that some of the unvaxxed are not firmly opposed to the shots, and just need "a nudge" to get them to take action.

For some, that "nudge" has been the announcement that some provinces will soon require proof of vaccination to enter bars and restaurants. For others, the "nudge" is the threat of loss of their job and unemployment insurance.

***TREND FORECAST: Totally absent in the enforcement of these mandates is the deception in their rationale that the more people that get vaccinated, the greater the herd immunity. Indeed, we detailed the ineffectiveness of herd immunity in this **Trends Journal** (and others) as we noted in the article "HERD IMMUNITY HERESY: LIES AND DAMN LIES."***

*And, also not mentioned by the Presstitutes and politicians is that if those who are vaccinated are safe, why pressure those who chose not to get the jab to get one... since, theoretically, they are endangering no one's life but their own?*

*Again, we maintain our forecast that there will be an irate tireless minority who will fight for their freedom of choice. In turn, there will be a continued shortage of workers, especially in key health sectors who refuse to get the jab... and strong anti-vax, anti-establishment movements that will accelerate as economies decline and equity markets crash.*

## DRUG DEALER TRIO MAKE **FORBES'** "RICHEST" LIST



Now *The New York Times* reports, on 7 October, on the windfall experienced by three individuals associated with Moderna, the Cambridge, Massachusetts firm that markets one and only one product, its COVID-19 vaccine. That windfall has, for

the first time, put those individuals' names on the *Forbes* Magazine list of the 400 richest persons in the U.S.

The three are Nour Afeyan, Moderna's chairman and co-founder, Robert Langer, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and Moderna co-founder, and Timothy Springer, a Harvard Medical School professor and an early investor in Moderna. Each now has a net worth of over \$3.5 billion.

When *Forbes* published, on 5 October, the latest edition of its annual list, it noted that the collected wealth of the 400 richest persons increased by 40 percent over the previous year. The COVID War has certainly done nothing to change the old adage about the rich getting richer; see "[\\$4 TRILLION FOR BILLIONAIRES AS MIDDLE CLASS SHRINKS](#)" (23 Mar 2021).

Their new status shouldn't surprise the three from Moderna; they were certainly aware, as were their investors, that they were sitting on a potential gold mine, as did **Trends Journal**, which reported—in "["DRUG LORD: COVID IS 'FOREVER'"](#)" (19 Jan 2021)—on Moderna's CEO, Stephane Bancel, cashing in Moderna stock worth some \$40 million.

**TREND FORECAST:** *The COVID War has been a financial windfall for many, and especially for those associated with providing the vaccines that the world sees as the main line of defense against the virus; see, for example:*

- ["DRUG COMPANIES CASHING IN ON COVID"](#) (11 May 2021)
- ["DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING"](#) (8 Jun 2021)
- ["DRUG LORDS VAX MONEY GRAB GETTING BIGGER"](#) (17 Aug 2021)

Nor should any **Trends Journal** reader be surprised at reading this article and experiencing a sense of déjà vu, having read ["VAX MINTS NEW BILLIONAIRES"](#) (25 May 2021).

Moreover, in our economic section of the **Trends Journal**, weekly we have been reporting on the record breaking merger and acquisition activity and “Bigs Getting Bigger.”

Indeed, supporting our Trend Forecasts of the rich getting richer while We the People working on the Plantation of Slavelandia keep getting poorer, as [reported](#) by Zero Hedge last week, “THE US IS OFFICIALLY A BANANA REPUBLIC: THE TOP 1% NOW OWN MORE WEALTH THAN THE ENTIRE MIDDLE CLASS.”

## MOST OF AFRICA FALLS SHORT OF W.H.O. VAX TARGET



The World Health Organization set a goal for each of the world's countries to vaccinate at least 40 percent of its population against COVID-19 by the end of 2021.

It was hoped that at least 10 percent would have been vaxxed by the end of September. However, *The New York Times* reported that the entire continent of Africa has lagged behind, with just 4 percent of the continent's population vaccinated and only nine African nations having met the 10 percent goal.

Of the continent's 54 countries, two—Eritrea and Tanzania—didn't supply the W.H.O. with adequate statistics; although not mentioned in the *NYT* article, **Trends Journal** noted, in ["TANZANIA SAYS NO TO VACCINES"](#) (9 Feb 2021), that Tanzania's president was skeptical of the COVID vaccines, of mask-wearing, and of COVID testing. Of those nations remaining, about half, including some of the most heavily populated, like Nigeria, Uganda, Congo and Kenya, had vaccinated less than 3 percent of their residents.

Several of the nine countries meeting the goal have small populations; Mauritius and the Seychelles, for example, are island nations that, according to the *NYT*, have vaccinated two-thirds of their residents. In its article, however, the *NYT* fails to draw a clear distinction between "vaccinated" and "fully vaccinated"; it should be noted that **Trends Journal**, in ["MOST VAXXED COUNTRY SEES INFECTIONS RISE"](#) (11 May 2021), reported that about 85 percent of the Seychelles' 100,000 had been "vaccinated."

The *NYT* reports that, although Africa's COVID infection rates are lower than elsewhere, experts are concerned that the continent's low vaccination rates increase the risk from emerging variants.



Low vax levels are blamed on delivery issues with Covax, the global vaccine-sharing initiative, which in turn are blamed on wealthy countries failing to support the initiative as promised.

South Africa is reported to be at the end of a third wave of infections driven by the Delta variant; the wave peaked in July, with an average of some 20,000 new cases a day, the highest since January; see ["SOUTH AFRICA LOCKS DOWN; NEW YORK OPENS UP"](#) (1 Jun 2021). The country still has lockdowns, a curfew and a limit on the size of public gatherings. Officials there hope to have 70 percent of the population vaccinated by year's end, with 15 percent currently "fully vaccinated."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Considering the economic damage imposed on South Africa's economy by the lockdown mandates, we forecast, as economic conditions continue to deteriorate, there will be civil unrest that will escalate to civil wars if the trends are not swiftly reversed.*

*For example, some 5 percent of the nation's total employment is from the tourism sector which has collapsed. And of the 1.5 million people employed in tourism, SA Tourism estimates that 87 percent are from a disadvantaged background.*

*Thus, as is the global trend, the rich keep getting richer and the poor get poorer. Therefore, as economic conditions continue to deteriorate, as Gerald Celente says, "When people have nothing to lose, they lose it"... we forecast they will be losing it in South Africa.*

### ***Off With Their Heads: 2.0***

*Indeed, according to the GINI coefficient, South Africa has a world-leading level of inequality, for income distribution. Just one percent of the population owns half of all wealth, while the top 10 per cent own at least 90 to 95 per cent.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Another apparent flaw in the NYT's reporting, however, is the complete absence of any mention of death counts. Figures obtained by **Trends***



***Journal** from Worldometer, however, indicate that, between 15 February 2020 and 9 October 2021, South Africa recorded a total of 2,911,497 cases of COVID-19, with 88,292 deaths and 2,790,653 recovered; there's a discrepancy of 32,552, presumably patients who have yet to recover or succumb. **Trends Journal** calculates that 3.032 percent of the cases have so far proven fatal.*

## **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES: NO JABS, NO JOB... NO FLIGHTS**



Just days after Southwest Airlines announced that it will require all 56,000 employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19, the airline was dealing with major flight cancellations across the U.S., denying that it had anything to do with the mandate.

The airline on Monday canceled more than 360 flights—10 percent of those scheduled. More than 1,000 others were delayed, according to FlightAware. More than 1,000 flights were canceled during the weekend.

### **Bullshit**

The airline insisted that bad weather and an air traffic controller staffing issue was the cause of the problems and “not the result of Southwest employee demonstrations.”

Yet, Southwest's explanation was clear bullshit that even the Federal Aviation Administration questioned since it was the only airline to cancel flights and delays over the weekend... because of “bad weather.”

And being who they are, the Presstitutes—who get paid by their corporate pimps and government whore masters—have totally ignored the reason for the

flight cancellations is that there is a movement among the employees not to get the jab.

The truth of the matter has found its way onto social media platforms where the word on the net is that there is an anti-vaccine mandate walkout.

Sen. Ted Cruz took to Twitter and posted, “Joe Biden’s illegal vaccine mandate at work! Suddenly, we’re short on pilots & air traffic controllers.”

The airline has said it has “no viable choice but to comply with the U.S. government (illegal) mandate for employees to be vaccinated.”

As we reported last month, President Biden announced an unprecedented new order that would force any employer with over 100 workers to either mandate vaccines or offer weekly testing. (See [“MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?”](#))

Millions of Americans who work as employees for the federal government—or as contractors—will not have the option to take these weekly tests. The rule would be enforced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Businesses that do not comply could face up to \$14,000 fines per offense. Employers must also give workers paid time off to get vaccinated “or to recover from any side effects” from the vaccine.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on Biden’s effort to force Americans to take the jab. (See [“NO VAX, NO JOB, NO FUTURE: BIDEN KNOWS BEST”](#))

*The Wall Street Journal* pointed out that other airlines have already required their employees to be vaccinated, including American Airlines and Alaska Air Group. The report pointed out that some Southwest employees bristled at the new requirement, saying that they are concerned about the side effects from these vaccines.

The Southwest Airlines Pilots Association filed a lawsuit over the mandate, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. A mechanic's union for the airline also announced its opposition.

“We want to be perfectly clear: SWAPA is not anti-vaccination,” the pilots' union wrote in a news release, “but we do believe that, under all circumstances, it is our role to represent the health and safety of our Pilots and bring their concerns to the Company.”

The filing also accused the carrier of taking unilateral actions that violate terms of the Railway Labor Act, which governs airline-union relations. Those steps include the Covid-19 vaccination requirements.

And as reported by Bloomberg, Southwest Airlines Co. pilots asked a court to temporarily block the company from carrying out federally mandated coronavirus vaccinations until an existing lawsuit over alleged U.S. labor law violations is resolved.

Judge Napolitano has expressed these labor law violations in interviews with Gerald Celente. Essentially, the President of the United States does not have the power to issue such mandates without the agreement of Congress.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have been reporting, anti-vax movements are erupting in nations across the globe that are barely reported in the mainstream media.*

*Yesterday, for example, Northrop Grumman employees in Florida rallied in protest of Joe Biden's illegal COVID-19 vaccination mandate.*

*Some 17,000 Quebec health-care workers may get fired because they refuse to get the COVID Jab.*

*And as Dr. Ron Paul wrote yesterday, “Over the past few weeks, thousands of nurses, medical workers, and first responders have either quit or been fired for refusing to receive a medical treatment they do not want or need.”*

*The “nursing shortage” that Democrat politicians and the mainstream media had been blaming on ‘rising Covid cases’ has been in reality a man-made disaster of historic proportions. The nursing crisis is not caused by “Covid”—cases have been in decline in the US for weeks. It is caused by the firing of medical personnel who refuse to take the experimental Covid shots.*

*From Blue Cross Blue Shield in Tennessee, hospitals across Massachusetts, Northwell Health, New York’s largest health care system, Novant Health in North Carolina to the health care giant Kaiser Permanente in California, etc. ... thousands of unvaccinated employees have been fired.*

*Thus, we maintain our forecast that the COVID War will morph into a VAX War. Despite the pressure by governments to enforce vaccine mandates, there will be an irate tireless minority that will fight to their death rather than get the Jab.*

*The stricter the government and corporate rules, the more aggressive confrontations will erupt between pro-choice vax vs. pro-vaccine proponents. In addition, we maintain our forecast for anti-establishment, anti-vax political movements.*

## **HEALTH CARE WORKERS CHALLENGE VAX ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS, POPE INDICATES THEY DON’T HAVE A PRAYER**



Thousands of health care workers in New York lost their jobs last week after the state’s COVID-19 vaccination mandate took effect, but a federal judge is still considering whether or not a religious exemption should be considered in some of these cases.

*The Wall Street Journal* reported that the Empire State’s mandate is clear. Employees who work in hospitals do not have the option to take weekly tests

and while there were some medical exemptions under the state's law, there were no religious ones, despite the fact that fetal tissue from aborted fetuses was used in medical research for the vaccines.

The paper pointed to a statement from the state's Roman Catholic bishops that said it is morally acceptable to take the jab. Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic church, not only gave the vaccine his blessing, he said that he believes that "morally everyone must take the vaccine."

The *WSJ* reported that thousands of health care employees in the state lost their jobs because they refused the shots. Some filed lawsuits earlier to challenge the mandate. Last month, a federal judge in Utica, N.Y., issued a restraining order to prevent the government from penalizing a health facility that approved religious exemptions.

The **Trends Journal** has pointed out in previous issues that "religious exemptions" are in a hazy area of law. (See ["HERE COMES THE JUDGE: UNIVERSITY VACCINES REQUIRED."](#))

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

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

Teachers in NYC are allowed to apply for religious exemptions but are mandated to submit a letter from a clergy member to explain the request.

Unlike Catholicism, where the pope is the central figure, religions like Judaism are a little more complicated because disagreements are common among rabbis.

*The Times of Israel* reported that many Orthodox rabbis have been opposed to vaccinations.

“I don’t think that Judaism is a monolith, and I don’t think that really any religious leader of any faith can speak for all people within that religion,” Stephanie Edmonds, a Jewish tenth-grade teacher, told the paper. “Definitely for Judaism, there’s no singular voice that can speak for any individual’s relationship with God.”

U.S. District Court Judge David Hurd extended his temporary restraining order until 12 October. Plaintiffs backed by the Thomas More Society claim the mandate violates their rights. Seventeen health care workers sued the state.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said that the state purposely omitted the religious exemption and pointed to the fact that many religious leaders endorsed the vaccine.

“Everybody from the Pope on down is encouraging people to get vaccinated,” she said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Depending on the nations, states and businesses, there will be both acceptance and denial of religious exemptions.*

*As we finalize the Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice, we will be offering religious exemptions.*

*Indeed, these vaccine mandates imposed upon human beings have been issued despite lingering questions about the safety of the vaccine in young people, who have very little chance of serious illness if infected with COVID-19 as reported in our December 2020 article, ["COVID VACCINE: SCIENTISTS WARN"](#)*

['CAUTION'.](#) or our 19 January 2021 article, ["COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS."](#)

***TREND FORECAST:*** We maintain our forecast that the stricter the government rules, the more aggressive confrontations will erupt between pro-choice vax vs. pro-vaccine proponents. In addition, we maintain our forecast for anti-establishment, anti-vax political movements.

## **NORDIC NATIONS: NO MODERNA JAB FOR THE YOUTH**



Last week, the governments of Sweden and Finland announced that anyone under 30 years of age won't be allowed to receive the Moderna Jab while Denmark declared anyone 18 years of age won't receive the shot... due to the risk of heart issues like myocarditis.

“The connection is especially clear when it comes to Moderna's vaccine Spikevax, especially after the second dose,” Sweden’s health agency said. Myocarditis causes inflammation of heart muscle which can limit the organ’s ability to pump blood and can cause changes in heartbeat rhythms, while pericarditis causes inflammation of the outer lining of the heart.

“Men under the age of 30 should also consider choosing Cominarty when they get vaccinated,” Geir Bukholm, head of infection control at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, said in a statement.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the concerns of vaccine side effects, and point to the fact that younger people have nearly no risk of serious infection from the COVID-19 virus.



Moderna has not been the first vaccine to face scrutiny. (See [“ASTRAZENECA VACCINE DATA UNDER FIRE.”](#) [“VACCINE HALTED IN EUROPE.”](#) and [“ASTRAZENECA VACCINE TIED TO HIGHER RISK OF BLEEDING PROBLEMS.”](#))

**TREND FORECAST:** *While there are concerns about the vax’s life-threatening implications, totally absent in the reporting is the true lack of knowledge of the negative side effects and who it hurts the most. This is clearly illustrated by the age groups each nation says should, or should not, get the jab... is it under 18 or under 30 years of age?*

*As Gerald Celente has noted since the COVID War began, from social distancing measures, mask wearing, hand sanitizing, plexi-glass separations, surface infections... “They’re making this crap up.”*

*Thus, as the COVID War continues, absent scientific evidence and hard data, governments will do as they wish to fight the coronavirus.*

**TRENDPOST:** *These vaccine mandates have been issued despite lingering questions about the safety of the vaccine in young people, who have very little chance of serious illness if infected with COVID-19 as reported in our December 2020 article, [“COVID VACCINE: SCIENTISTS WARN ‘CAUTION’.](#)” or our 19 January 2021 article, [“COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS.”](#)*

**TRENDPOST:** *As we have reported, the “Operation Warped Speed” vaccine has been rushed to market with no data to assess long-term negative effects.*

*And we had forecast that regardless of the efficacy or danger of the jabs, there would be a big vaccination push since Wall Street and politicians kept declaring that the economic recovery would be based on mass COVID vaccination of the population. Indeed, the word on The Street was that the slower the vaccine rate, the longer lockdowns would persist and the further economies will fall.*

*The New England Journal of Medicine found that males between 16 and 29 were at an increased risk of developing heart issues after receiving the second jab*

*from both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The report found that about 11 out of 100,000 males in the age group came down with the ailment after receiving the second jab. The most impacted were boys from 16 to 19, The New York Times reported.*

*The paper pointed out that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still recommends the shot for the age group and said out of every million vaccinated in the age range, these shots are preventing 215 hospitalizations and two deaths. About 70 will come down with the heart infection out of the million.*

*There are also new concerns about the effectiveness of these vaccinations. Pennsylvania's Department of Health statistics showed that those fully vaccinated accounted for 5,000 hospitalizations across the state from 5 September to 4 October.*

## **UCLA DOCTOR: NO JAB NO JOB, CALL THE POLICE**



Dr. Christopher B. Rake, an anesthesiologist at UCLA, was escorted out of his workplace on Monday for trying to enter the building without being vaccinated for COVID-19, according to a report.

The school said in a statement that all in-person employees must be vaccinated—unless they have some form of exemption, *The Los Angeles Times* reported. Rake, who has been a vocal opponent of forced vaccinations, appeared to film himself as he was being escorted out by three individuals.

“This is what happens when you stand up for freedom and when you show up to work, willing to work, despite being unvaccinated, and this is the price you have to pay sometimes. But what they don't realize is that I'm willing to lose everything--job, paycheck, freedom, even my life for this cause.”

Rake, who received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in 2004, has been placed on unpaid administrative leave from the UCLA Medical Center in Westwood, Los Angeles. He has been a board-certified anesthesiologist since 2010.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the lockstep effort to silence and banish anyone, regardless of profession, to question the efficacy and dangers of the COVID vaccine. (See [“WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB? GET THE JAB!”](#) and [“NO JAB, NO JOB?”](#) 1 June 2021.)

The report pointed out that Rake spoke out against the vaccine during a rally in Santa Monica in August where he told a crowd, “They want to force vaccination or medication or treatment into my body that I don't want. So they're telling me, ‘Take the jab or we take your job.’ And I’m here to say no. That’s not OK.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *The interesting quote in the video showing Dr. Christopher B. Rake accompanied out of the hospital as though he was intentionally killing patients is when he said he is willing to lose it all to defend his stance as being opposed to the vaccine mandate.*

*He knows that there is no room in the country for debate. You either take the vaccine or give up your freedom or ability to make a living. The individuals escorting him out of the hospital have nothing against him, but they are being paid, and they need a job to provide for their family. It is not difficult to get countrymen to turn on countrymen when jobs are on the line.*

*Rake’s opposition seems to be based on our favorite word: science. His Citizens United for Freedom claims that the safety trials for these vaccines were not sufficient. He said at a rally that he formed the group to “stand up to tyranny.”*

*He was seen in an earlier video talking about last year, when he put his own life on the line, wore protective equipment, and "dealt with COVID patients, and very carefully, painstakingly tried to take off that equipment making sure I didn't get infected and bring some deadly disease home to my wife and kids."*

*"And now this year I'm a zero," he said.*

**TRENDPOST:** *Instead of the media analyzing the scientific vax data and those in the field who question it, they instead, as we have been reporting, continue to report on imbecilic comedians they call “celebrities” who condemn those refusing to take the jab. (See [“CELEBRITY SELLOUTS SELL COVID VAX.”](#) 18 May 2021 and [“CELEBRITIES” VAX SMART, YOU’RE STUPID.”](#) 3 August 2021).*

## ITALIANS PROTESTING VACCINE MANDATES DENOUNCED AS FASCISTS



Tens of thousands of Italians took to the streets in Rome and across Italy in opposition to Italy’s so-called “Green Pass” for employees at the workplace.

The banners read, “Freedom!”

The main focus of the Presstitutes was to instead focus on a few protesters who broke into the headquarters of CGIL, the union that supports the vax passports, damaging some of the office, the report said.

Maurizio Landini, the secretary-general of CGIL, said in a statement that the attack on the office was an attack on democracy itself.

“No one should think they can take our country back to the Fascist years,” he said in a statement.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the controversial Green Pass in Italy and the public outcry. (See [“ITALY DEMANDS COVID PASSPORTS.”](#) and [“ITALY: POPULIST MOVEMENT DEAD, PART II.”](#))

Mario Draghi, the prime minister, said the protests will not deter the government's vaccination drive.

“The right to demonstrate one's ideas can never denigrate into acts of aggression and intimidation,” he said in a statement, according to the AP.

The prime minister called Landini to express “the government's full solidarity for the assault that has taken place today in Rome.”

“Trade unions are a fundamental stronghold of democracy and of workers' rights,” Draghi said in the statement. “Whatever intimidation they face must be repelled with absolute firmness.”

Another group marching to Draghi's office was attacked by police who drenched them with water cannons. Dressed in full Nazi riot gear, the police beat protesters with batons.

While the Italian Press reported there were up to 10,000 participants, the organizers put the number at about 100,000 at Piazza del Popolo.

The Green Pass (first issued by Israel last year and now the global symbol of vaccine repression) is already required throughout Italy, but beginning 15 October, employees and employers—both private and public—risk fines or suspensions if they do not require them from their employees.

Any worker who does not have one of these passes will be suspended without pay, according to Reuters, but they are not allowed to be fired. The wire reported that 80 percent of Italians who are 12 and older are fully vaccinated.

Italy led the way with COVID-19 passports in Europe when in September it became the first to mandate these passports for workers, France followed and Germany will also demand them.

The AFP spoke to one protester who said he and his wife work as nurses and—despite an exemption—were “suspended two months” from their jobs.

Another protester in Rome traveled from Como to protest. He said he has to “pay to work, it’s absurd.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** Although one of our Top Trends for 2021 was the “Youth Revolution,” as per the photos of the protesters, most were adults, not the younger generations. Indeed, it is the working class that knows what they will lose if they refuse the jab... and will never get it back, unlike the young that are just beginning to enter the workforce.

*However, the young generation, who view COVID as an old people’s virus, since few among them die from it and they are less afraid of it, will rebel when it comes to getting booster jabs... and jabs for life.*

*Thus, we maintain our forecast that there will be ongoing resistance among an irate tireless minority to protest the vax passports that will result in the formation of new anti-establishment populist movements.*

***TRENDPOST:*** While the protesters were denounced as “Fascists,” Mario Draghi, the Prime Minister of Italy, by his deeds and who he is, is Fascism personified... since according to Benito Mussolini fascism is “the merger of state and corporate power.”

*How can anyone be so ignorant and blind not to see the reality of a Fascist who, as the leader of European Central Banks, Draghi lowered interest rates to below zero so the “Bigs” can borrow money for nothing and grow bigger while the Peasants of Slavelandia get no interest on their bank deposits?*

*Yes, Fascist Draghi who, as head of the ECB stole trillions of dollars from the people to enrich the “Big” with his quantitative easing plans that buy up corporate debt... indeed, “the merger of state and corporate power.”*

*Mario Draghi, former Director General of the Italian Treasury, Governor of the Bank of Italy, World Bank bandit, head of the Gold Sachs European division... a money Junkie supreme who’s merged state and corporate Fascist powers said regarding those refusing to take an Operation Warp Speed gene therapy*



*vaccine—the first ever to be injected into human beings—“The right to demonstrate one's ideas can never denigrate into acts of aggression and intimidation.”*

*Yet, totally ignored by the media who bow down to him, clearly, Draghi's vax mandates, among the toughest in the world, are prime examples of human denigration, acts of aggression and FASCIST intimidation... as reinforced and exemplified by the Italian Nazi Goon Squad Polizia.*



# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## CHINA/TAIWAN TENSIONS AT ALL-TIME WORST, COMMANDER SAYS

Taiwan's top military official said last Wednesday that the country's military "situation" is at its worst in four decades.

Chiu Kuo-cheng's comments came after China flew 150 aircraft near the island over the previous four days, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the rise of China and its growing influence in the region and around the world. In our 30 March article, ["CHINA TO TAKE TAIWAN: A MATTER OF TIME."](#) we forecast that at some point, China, as with Hong Kong, would take complete control of Taiwan. (Also see ["TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA."](#))

We have pointed out that Beijing spends 25 times the amount that Taipei does on its military. Taipei's parliament is considering a nearly \$9 billion injection over the next five years that would be earmarked for new missile systems, but those will likely not result in Chinese President Xi Jinping losing any sleep at night.

Chiu also said China will be able to launch a full-scale invasion with few losses by 2025.

Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan's president, told Beijing to "exercise a certain amount of restraint to avoid accidentally sparking conflict."

She wrote in *Foreign Affairs* that if Taiwan were to fall, the "consequences would be catastrophic for regional peace and the democratic alliance system. It would signal that in today's global contest of values, authoritarianism has the upper hand over democracy."

Deng Xijun, China's ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, took to Twitter later Wednesday to say that China's People's Liberation Army "sent a strong warning to the Taiwan secessionists and their foreign supporters."

"China will take all measures necessary to crush any 'Taiwan independence' attempts, which are doomed to fail," he tweeted.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called China's recent actions "provocative."

"What I hope is that these actions will cease because there's always the possibility of miscalculation, of miscommunication, and that's dangerous," he said.

When Chinese fighters were contacted by a Taiwanese combat air traffic controller during one of these sorties, the "pilot dismissed the challenge with an obscenity involving the officer's mother," *The New York Times* reported.

The Taipei Times reported that the U.S., Japan, and the United Kingdom have been conducting naval operations in the region.

Danny Russel, a former assistant secretary of state, told *The Times*, "There's very little insulation left on the wiring in the relationship and it's not hard to imagine getting some crossed wires and that starting a fire."

## Peaceful Takeover? Ha, Ha!

Last Saturday, following the China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) sending 56 bombers and other aircraft on sorties near Taiwan, President Xi declared that, "The historical task of the complete reunification of the motherland must be fulfilled and can definitely be fulfilled."

The next day, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said there would be no Chinese takeover, stating that "Nobody can force Taiwan to take the path that China has laid out for us."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Beijing has long declared that Taiwan is part of its territory under its "One China Principle," and it is the mainland's territory under its Constitution. We forecast that just as Beijing has clamped down on Hong Kong protests and taken full control, so, too, will they take control of Taiwan when they are ready.*

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

***TREND FORECAST:*** *China had flown 38 warplanes towards Taiwan on 1 October, which is the National Day of the People's Republic of China. The 3-day celebration marks when Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic.*

*Indeed, as we had long noted, Beijing is making its message clear. China's state media called the missions a demonstration of the country's ability to conduct "a wartime air attack."*

*While the Economist noted the planes did not fly over Taiwan, the question is: What will Taipei's reaction be if these planes do? The magazine reported that two*

*scholars from the Strategic and International Studies think tank said Taiwan may have three zones: the “surveillance zone,” which is 30 nautical miles off the coast, the “warning zone,” which is 24 nautical miles off the coast, and the “destruction zone,” which is 12 nautical miles.*

*This is total “scholar” bullshit.*

*As we noted, should Taiwan attempt to militarily stop a Chinese invasion, the Island will be destroyed and its population massacred. And again, the United States could not even defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan after spending over \$2 trillion in a 20 year disgraceful loss.*

*Thus, if the U.S. and its NATO allies could not defeat an army of lightly armed 80,000 Taliban troops, only idiots, morons, psychopaths and “scholars” would believe America and its war partners will defeat China’s 2.8 million war-ready 21<sup>st</sup> century PLA.*

## **U.S. ‘ALREADY LOST’ AI WAR WITH CHINA, PENTAGON’S FORMER SOFTWARE CHIEF SAYS**



Nicholas Chaillan, the former software chief from the Pentagon, said in an interview published Monday that China has already won the artificial intelligence race with the U.S. and will likely further its lead in other technologies in the future.

“We have no competing fighting chance against China in 15 to 20 years,” he told *The Financial Times*. “Right now, it’s already a done deal; it is already over in my opinion. Whether it takes war or not is kind of anecdotal.”

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.

Chaillan said U.S. cyber defenses in some government departments were at "kindergarten level."

Chaillan announced his resignation on LinkedIn in September, saying, "I realize more clearly than ever before that, in 20 years from now, our children, both in the United States' and our Allies', will have no chance competing in a world where China has the drastic advantage of population over the US."

He also blamed tech giants like Google for not working with the government in the manner in which Chinese companies support Beijing when it comes to AI. Google told Fox News that it currently has multiple projects underway with the U.S. government and is committed to continuing its work with the U.S.

Chaillan took to Twitter shortly after the *FT* published the article and clarified that he "never said we lost."

"I said as it stands and if we don't wake up NOW we have no fighting chance to win against China in 15 years," he posted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast of "The Rise of China" as one of the Top Trends of 2021. We predicted that the 21st century will be the Chinese century because the business of China is business; the business of America since World War II has been war.*

*Totally ignored in the FT article and by Mr. Chaillan is the fact that both China's manufacturing abilities and tech innovation were at third world levels before Bill Clinton and George W. Bush bought the communist nation into the World Trade organization at the turn of the century.*

*It was U.S. and European companies that exported their manufacturing facilities and high technology to China so they could use its cheap labor to make their*

*products... and sell them back to the citizens around the world at much higher prices so they could boost their profit margins.*

*Thus, with the U.S. workforce having slid into the service sector economy—working at Walmarts, janitorial jobs, hospitality sector, restaurant workers, packing and shipping for Amazon, stocking shelves and cashiers at Dollar General, Kroger’s etc.—what was once a nation of manufacturing innovation and creativity has descended into Slavelandia.*

*Indeed, despite all the “Trade War” talk during the Trump presidential years, the U.S. trade deficit hit a record 73.3 billion in August according to the Commerce Department. It’s gap with China was \$31.7 billion.*

*As we have long forecast, the only way the United States—which is rich in natural and human resources—will halt its economic decline is to become a self-sustaining economy.*

*Therefore, in the absence of a Renaissance whereby the people raise their emotional, physical, moral and spiritual levels to their highest degrees, the country will continue its “end-of-empire” decline.*

## **SOUTH KOREA’S BOTTOM LINE: THEY WON’T SUPPORT TAIWAN OR U.S. AGAINST CHINA**



South Korea finds itself in an awkward position as the U.S. tries to form a united front of regional partners to counter China’s increasing economic and military power, while Seoul has shown little interest in alienating its neighbor and most important trade partner.



Seoul exported goods worth over \$136 billion to China in 2019, according to a 2020 report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Victor Cha, the Korea Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, told the *Financial Times* in a Wednesday report that while “major liberal democracies” are forming a “complex patchwork of coalitions” Seoul is acting like the “shy girl at the prom” and is “sitting by the punch bowl.”

The paper reported that China is South Korea’s most important trade partner and Seoul has made it a point not to cross Beijing. But Seoul has recently undergone a \$275 billion defense modernization program, which includes funding for a naval fleet aligned with U.S. forces.

An October 2020 Pew global poll showed that 83 percent of South Koreans had no confidence that Chinese President Xi Jinping would do the “right thing in world affairs,” according to the Carnegie report.

*The Diplomat* reported that even North Korea was viewed more positively than Beijing in Seoul while the U.S. had the most favorable rating.

“The United States is our sole ally, and we also have strategic cooperation with China. There is no reason why we must lean on one side to limit the relations with another,” Lee Jae-myung, the governor of Gyeonggi province, said. “It is wiser diplomacy to induce the U.S. and China to compete to cooperate with us.”

Van Jackson, a former Pentagon official at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, told the *FT* that Seoul’s ambiguity is “reasonable” given the “historical context.”

While “war games” with the United States and South Korea were suspended under President Trump, in his failed effort to secure more favorable trade deals with China, they have resumed under President Biden. And, there are nearly 27,000 U.S. troops deployed on the island, which is the second-largest deployment of U.S. troops behind Japan.



**TREND FORECAST:** Seoul is trying to accomplish a very sensitive balancing act, and while its population does not particularly care for the Chinese leadership, money comes before war.

President Biden and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met in Washington over the summer and issued a statement after the meeting, which did not explicitly mention China but spoke out against “all activities that undermine, destabilize, or threaten the rules-based international order.” The statement—for the first time—mentioned Taiwan.

China responded by condemning the countries for mentioning an “internal affair” and said they are “playing with fire.”

We have reported on Biden's effort to keep Beijing at bay. (See [“BIDEN RAMPS UP PRESSURE ON CHINA.”](#) and [“U.S. LAUNCHES COLD WAR 2.0: CHINA LAMBASTS 'COLD-WAR MENTALITY.’”](#))

South Korean support would be a major coup for the Biden administration. However, we maintain our forecast that despite the latest Aukus deal which unites Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States against China—and even with the military support of Japan and South Korea—the combined militaries would not defeat China's overtaking of Taiwan which Beijing said they want to do peacefully.

And should war break out among these nations, it would be the beginning of WWIII.

Thus, we maintain our forecast that the U.S. will not militarily challenge China over Taiwan, and would likely allow the island to fall to Beijing.

## PROTESTERS KILLED IN INDIA: FARMERS FIGHT TO THE FINISH



Eight protesters were killed in northern India when vehicles drove into them while they peacefully marched on a road last week, sparking a new round of outrage in the country since the son of a government official is accused of being in one of the

cars.

*The Wall Street Journal* reported that two-thirds of the country lives in rural areas that depend on farming for survival. As we have been reporting, it has been a year since India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi dismantled long-standing rules that gave farmers a guaranteed minimum price for their crops.

As a result, fearful that deregulation laws will sink them into poverty, the farmers have launched massive, ongoing protests. They complain that the farm laws were designed without their knowledge, stripping them of earning potential and allowing major conglomerates to come in and crush their businesses. The government said the law is needed in order to modernize farming and increase production.

### The Killer

A chilling video [emerged online](#) that showed a group of protesters walking slowly along a road and getting hit from behind as though they were bowling pins. Uttar Pradesh police issued an FIR (First Information Report) for murder against Ashish Mishra, a government minister's son. He is accused of planning the deadly assault.

CBS News, citing Rakesh Tikait, the public face of India's farmer's protest, reported that farmers demanded that authorities place the man and his father under arrest or face nationwide disruptions. The report said the driver of the first

vehicle and two employees of the country's Bharatiya Janata Party were beaten to death on the spot by protesters. A journalist also died.

Reports said that Mishra is accused of firing on protesters and leading the convoy to the protesters. The Indian government tried to ease the tension by suspending internet service in the area. Schools have been suspended and residents were told to stay inside due to the threat of violence.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on these protests for over a year. (See ["MODI VS. INDIA'S FARMERS: LOST FREEDOMS FEARED."](#) ["INDIA: HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS TAKE TO THE STREETS."](#) and ["INDIA'S FARMERS KEEP FIGHTING."](#))

***TREND-TRACKING LESSON:*** *The success of the farmers' protests is evidenced in their resolve to peacefully fight for their rights without backing down. As Gerald Celente continues to note, one of the most important elements of protests is to continue with them day after day, night after night, week after week, month after month... however long it takes to win the battle.*

*Unlike India's farmers, who work with their hands and are strong and hearty, today's demonstrators in the Western world take to the streets one day, make a big deal about it, and they go home. For success to be achieved, the resolve to protest must continue until demands are satisfactorily met.*

*The alleged homicide that occurred in northern India will inspire more focus, especially since a privileged son of a government official has been tied to the incident.*

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## GOOGLE CENSORSHIP: DON'T DOUBT CLIMATE CHANGE

As we had long forecast, Censorship 2.0 is the way of the world. And now, the tech crackdown has expanded from its latest round of censorship to never being allowed to question their “experts” and what governments believe in the fight to win the COVID War... to what, how and why the climate is changing.

Google announced that it will ban all advertisements on its YouTube platform inside videos that promote claims that the company has determined are false about climate change.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the shift of these platforms taking on a more editorial role. Last week, we published an article, [“YOUTUBE: NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH. BELIEVE WHAT WE TELL YOU!”](#)

The article pointed out that the video-hosting site announced that it will remove channels tied to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Joseph Mercola, an alternative medicine entrepreneur, as part of its sweeping crackdown on videos that claim COVID-19 vaccines approved by health authorities are dangerous and ineffective.

We have reported extensively on the tech crackdown against COVID-19 “misinformation.” (See [“YOUTUBE BANS SEN. RAND PAUL FOR QUESTIONING FAUCI,”](#) [“YOUTUBE BANS THE SCIENCE AGAIN”](#) and [“FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES.”](#))

## **It's The Climate, Stupid**

Axios reported that Google's move to prohibit climate deniers from being able to make money on the site is “one of the most aggressive measures any major tech platform has taken to combat climate change misinformation.”

The website reported that under the new guidelines, creators on YouTube will not be able to promote what it deems “well-established scientific consensus around the existence and causes of climate change.”

“This includes content referring to climate change as a hoax or a scam, claims denying that long term trends showed the global climate is warming, and claims denying that greenhouse gas emissions or human activity contribute to climate change,” the report said.

The company said that it was compelled to make the move due to companies concerned that their products were tied to some of these commentators.

***TREND FORECAST: Give them an inch and they will take a mile.***

*Reports that Google is cracking down on climate-change deniers is no big surprise. About a year ago, the tech titan threatened to ban The Federalist and ZeroHedge from its platform over content violations. Google blamed the sites for publishing racist articles on protests sweeping the country at the time.*

*“We have strict publisher policies that govern the content ads can run on and explicitly prohibit derogatory content that promotes hatred, intolerance, violence or discrimination based on race from monetizing,” a Google spokesperson told*

*NBC. “When a page or site violates our policies, we take action. In this case, we’ve removed both sites’ ability to monetize with Google.”*

*The report into the “racist” posts was conducted by NBC News’ so-called “Verification Unit,” but the report backfired and it actually uncovered legacy media’s deep ties to Big Tech.*

*Ben Domenech and Sean Davis, of The Federalist, wrote in The Wall Street Journal:*

*“NBC News colluded with a foreign left-wing group, the Center for Countering Digital Hate, in an attempt to destroy us because it disagrees with our political commentary and media criticism. The episode illustrates how dangerous the combination of partisan media and monopolistic tech companies is to America. We survived the attack because our organization is well-known.”*

*Google is in a very powerful position because the lifeblood of online news sites is web traffic. How far are we from Google coming out in favor of a domestic policy that it deems good for the country, or international intervention it considers is appropriate? Will it close down all debate from the other side?*

## **SINGLE AND NOT READY TO MINGLE**



The Pew Research Center last Tuesday released a new study that further confirmed the financial benefits of being married and the challenges of being single in the U.S. despite the increase of the single population

over the past 30 years.

The Associated Press, citing the study, reported that about 28 percent of the single population in their prime working years—from 25 to 54—are currently



living with their parents compared to just 2 percent of married couples or those with a partner. These single individuals also tend to have health disadvantages and are “more likely to engage in risky behavior such as binge drinking,” Richard Fry, a senior economist at Pew, said, according to the report.

Fry called single adults an “at-risk population.”

The report said that there has been a 30-year slide in marriages, dropping from two-thirds of the population in 1990 to just over half in 2019. The growth has been attributed to those who never got married, not divorced couples or widows. The increase is most apparent in the male population, which jumped 39 percent, the report said.

*Psychology Today* looked at the issue of being single and how recent news reports on the disadvantages has led to a “torrent of singlism,” which is the stereotyping and stigmatizing of single people.

“Discussions of the growing numbers of single men living with their parents start from the assumption that the parents are supporting their grown children. And sometimes they are,” Dr. Bella DePaulo, a social psychologist, wrote in the magazine. “It is also true, though, that single people—including single men—are more likely than married people to provide care when their aging parents need it. That’s true of Black sons and daughters as well as White ones.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With the COVID War now heading into its second year, and reports of how singles are struggling to meet and are also afraid of interacting to such a degree that they are being idiotically told when and how to have intimate relationships,(See [“IDIOT’S DELIGHT: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY,”](#) 28 Sep 2021), there will be a continued decline in relationships.*

*On the loss of financial freedom, the **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how the wealthy in the U.S. have gotten richer while the middle class and poor have gotten poorer. (See [“HOW THE MIDDLE CLASS IS SHRINKING.”](#) [“ERADICATION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS.”](#) and [“\\$4 TRILLION FOR BILLIONAIRES AS MIDDLE CLASS SHRINKS.”](#))*



*The [“OFF WITH THEIR HEADS 2.0”](#) trend we had forecast will accelerate as income disparities widen. There will be increased labor strikes, renewal of union membership, socialist movements, and new political parties.*

## **JUNK FOOD JUNKIES: AMERICAN TEENS WILL KEEP BLOATING**



A new generation of Americans will likely be fat, pre-diabetic, and prone to a lifetime of ailments according to a recent survey that showed teens in the country love fast food.

Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, and Chipotle are the favorite spots among teens, according to a recent Piper Sandler survey. McDonald's and Olive Garden are close behind.

Yahoo News reported that Chick-fil-A was the top pick among teenagers polled at 16 percent, which marks the fourth time in a row that the Atlanta, Georgia, chain carried the top spot. The report said Starbucks came in with 10 percent of the vote, followed by McDonald's and Chipotle at 5 percent.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the obesity epidemic in the U.S. fueled by the country's obsession with processed food. (See [“FATTEN UP WITH FAST-FOOD TREND RISING,”](#) [“SNACK FOOD PRESERVATIVE ATTACKS IMMUNE SYSTEM,”](#) [“JUNK FOOD SALES TURN SUNNYSIDE UP.”](#))

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.”

The University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health found that 1 in 5 parents admit that they fed their children fast food more often during the COVID-19 outbreak than before.

"The pandemic disrupted many family routines, including where and what they eat," Dr. Gary L. Freed, the poll's co-head, said in a statement. "We know families' lifestyles can impact children's diets, and we've looked to see how the pandemic may have changed their eating habits."

One in six of the more than 2000 parents surveyed admitted that their children eat at least two fast-food meals per week.

***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."](#))*

*The COVID-19 outbreak showed the country the importance of maintaining a healthy weight, balanced diet, and active lifestyle. Americans who are obese are at a much greater risk of COVID-19 complications than someone in a normal weight bracket.*

## UNIVERSITIES HIDING CCP CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES



Imagine thousands of Patrick Henry Institutes erected on the grounds of universities throughout China.

Imagine these institutes inculcating ideas of American values, emanating from say, the evolution of common law rights, through the

Magna Carta and establishment of advisory parliaments to Kings, and onto the principles of limited government and separation of powers that the America founders conceived.

Imagine programs devoted to the American traditions of religious tolerance.

Or studies devoted to Governor William Bradford. After arriving on the Mayflower in 1620 to escape the persecution of King James I, Bradford served as Governor of the Plymouth Colony.

After witnessing commune style farming methods fail miserably, he bucked the tenets of the agreement in place with the English financiers of the colony. He divided farmland equally among colonists, creating a system of private property.

The incentivised property owners were soon growing enough to feed themselves and pay off the English financiers early. Bradford is credited with tapping the source of innovation and industry that would later be called “free enterprise,” but can just as well be called simply freedom.

Now, suppose that it’s pretty much a given that all these Patrick Henry Institutes throughout China are being funded by the U.S. government.

Do these Institutes really exist throughout China? Of course not.

But Confucius Institutes, which promote values that have a stamp of approval from the CCP, have been spreading for years on university campuses throughout America.

## **Growing Focus, Sleight Of Hand**

China has been installing Confucius Institutes in countries in the U.S. and other western nations [since 2004](#), according to the National Association of Scholars (NAS).

By 2017, there were 103 such Institutes operating at universities around the country. Perhaps even more disturbingly, up to 500 K-12 school systems have partnered with the Hanban, a Chinese government connected group to offer “Confucius Classrooms.” And a handful of K-12 school systems have full-blown Confucius Institute centers.

The NAS called attention to the CCP ties and pro-CCP propaganda of the organizations in a study titled [“Outsourced to China: Confucius Institutes and Soft Power in American Higher Education.”](#)

Since then, there has been some significant pushback. A number of universities stopped accepting the largesse that came with acceding to allowing the Confucius Institutes on campus.

Tufts University, Cleveland State, Emory University, and Michigan State are among those that have either closed down or are set to close CIs.

But though the official number appears to be on the wane, counter efforts have sought to diffuse examination by various means. Some universities, for example, have not closed their Confucius Institutes, but have merely expunged website pages and sites advertising them.

And, according to a recent article by NTD.com, China has responded to criticism, including a French military study that exposed how tightly the CIs have been tied to the Chinese government, by a new propaganda effort.

They are now attempting to rebrand the Confucius Institutes, and to create an appearance that the funding and governing of the organizations, while still emanating from the mainland, have been decoupled from the government.

China had been establishing and controlling CIs through an organization called Hanban, but in 2020 this was renamed the “Center for Language Education and Cooperation” (CLEC).

The CCP also spun-off a supposedly non-governmental organization called the “Chinese International Education Foundation” to control local CIs.

According to NTD:

“State-run media outlet *Global Times* said at the time that the move was to “disperse the Western misinterpretation that the organization served as China’s ideological marketing machine.” CLEC is a government agency under the Chinese Ministry of Education, which is overseen by the Central Propaganda Department of the CCP.”

Some universities have claimed to shut down the controversial CIs, while allowing them to continue to exist in a re-branded form.

For example, San Diego State said it shuttered a Confucius Institute on its campus in 2019. But later that same year, it announced a new “Chinese Culture Center,” in the same building that had housed the CI. It was even led by the former director of the CI, and retained teaching materials donated by Hanban.

Rachelle Peterson, a researcher with the NAS, told Fox News earlier this year that many changes at universities have been cosmetic, and meant to disguise the infiltration, as opposed to truly rooting it out and ending it.

According to Peterson, some colleges have just been “replacing them with other organizations that retain a lot of Confucius Institutes’ programs.”

The **Trends Journal** has focused on the ways in which America's relatively open system has been exploited by China to further propaganda, business espionage and much more in many recent articles, including:

- ["AMERICA DRIFTS TOWARD CHINA'S 'TECHNO-AUTOCRACY'"](#) (9 Feb 2021)
- ["CHINA WANTS A BULLET TRAIN INTO THE U.S."](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- ["CHINA BUSINESS ESPIONAGE NETS \\$500 BILLION A YEAR"](#) (29 Jun 2021)
- ["HOW THE CCP WENT VIRAL ON THE WINGS OF COVID"](#) (5 Oct 2021)

The NTD story about the attempted rebranding being undertaken by the CCP can be read [here](#).

## THE PRICE OF UREA IN CHINA



Add potash and urea to the list of things America might want to start producing again.

Both are much used by farmers in fertilizing soil. And China, where most potash and urea is currently sourced from, has banned their export through 2022, according to *The Wisconsin State Farmer*.

The move is likely to increase food prices, at a time when inflation is already running rampant at levels not seen in 30 years.

"Growers are going to feel it," noted John Ezinga, vice president of agronomy at Michigan Agricultural Commodities Inc. "Look at your ratios on corn: N, P, K. It's way out of whack right now."



Prices of urea, DAP, MAP, and potash, ingredients commonly used to enrich soils, are all up 59% or more from 2020.

Some reports say that China is restricting fertilizer exports to protect domestic supplies and take advantage of higher raw material prices.

But Enzinger said there's another factor involved.

“We're in a trade war. You've got a supply-restricted market today. Ten to 12 years ago, you had a demand-led market with some supply constraints. Logistics is a mess, but I feel pretty comfortable that we're going to have the supply in the U.S. It's just—at what price?”

### **Potash and the First U.S. Patent, Issued in 1790**

Here's a fun fact: Samuel Hopkins received the first numbered US Patent in 1790, for his innovative technique of producing potash by re-burning ashes in a furnace.

The patent was signed by George Washington.

Potash is a good source of soluble potassium, one of the three main plant macronutrients along with nitrogen and phosphorus.

In modern times, most potash is obtained via mining and industrial refining and production. Sources of potash can be found the world over. But China is one of its leading makers and exporters.

Urea, another crucial fertilizing agent that adds nitrogen to soils, has a place in the annals of history, as well. It was the first organic compound ever to be artificially synthesized through chemical processes, with the help of inorganic compounds.

There is no reason why common fertilizing agents can't be produced stateside. The fact that U.S. farmers currently rely so heavily on importing the crucial agricultural agents from China is obviously proving to be a serious problem.

But it may also be an entrepreneurial opportunity for domestic companies.

"Fertilizer prices have increased dramatically in recent years, and the news coming from China will more than likely help this trend continue," said Theresa Sisung, field crops specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau. "Farmers should talk to their retailers sooner rather than later to discuss their options for purchasing fertilizer for their 2022 crop needs."

## **NON-CITIZEN VOTING COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU**



Florida, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Missouri and Texas have recently announced plans to allow non-citizens to vote in state elections.

Okay, that's an attempt at humor. The just-mentioned states are planning no such thing.

Now the sobering news: California, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, Vermont and the District of Columbia really are gearing up to push through legislation that would give non-citizens voting rights.

According to a recent article in Human Events, all of those states either already allow non-citizens to vote in at least some local jurisdictions, or are pursuing changes in law that would dilute citizen voting rights by allowing non-citizens to vote in local and even state-wide elections.

In California, for example, non-citizens already have the right to vote in school board elections in San Francisco, and Los Angeles is studying a proposal to follow suit.

In Maryland, non-citizens are currently allowed to vote in local elections in nine local jurisdictions, including Barnesville, Chevy Chase, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, Martin's Additions, Somerset and Takoma Park, which kicked off the practice back in 1991.

Illinois has been a "trailblazer" in providing voting rights and taxpayer money to non-citizens. It was the first state to give Medicaid to income eligible residents regardless of immigration status. Chicago has long allowed non-citizen voting, and the state senate is considering allowing non-citizens to vote in local school board elections statewide.

Several cities in Vermont let non-citizens vote in mayoral, city council and school board elections.

And in New York City, the governing council is currently considering a proposal to give voting rights to non-citizens. It could end up adding an estimated 600,000 non-citizens to the city's voter rolls.

That's probably even more than the city's deceased voters.

There was plenty of controversy in the election of 2020, at least some of which involved allegations that illegal immigrants and legal non-citizen residents were being encouraged and courted to cast ballots. Such voting in Federal elections is illegal.

Or perhaps, to be politically correct, should the term be "undocumented voting."

Despite the Federal prohibition, it's a fact that voting fraud involving non-citizen voting exists, and in numbers that are enough to sway elections.

To give just one example, the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* [reported](#) in 2019 that some 56 thousand non-citizens voted illegally in one or more elections over a period of time spanning about 20 years.

According to the *Star*, Texas Secretary of State David Whitley said a year-long evaluation found about 95,000 people described as “non-U.S. citizens” were registered to vote in Texas.

# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## COMPUTERS THAT THINK LIKE WE DO

Conventional computers, even those running artificial intelligence programs, plod through calculations by sending ones and zeros along electronic pathways, one after the other.

In contrast, the brains of mammals think and remember by activating networks of neurons, or brain cells, which then activate and communicate with similar networks across the brain.

That's what neuromorphic computers do as well, and Intel has just made one that does it even better than its predecessors.

Intel's new "Loihi" chip holds a million artificial neurons, six times more than the company's previous most densely populated version, on a silicon wafer the size of a small fingernail.

Those million digital neurons are linked to each other through 120 million connections.

That leap in capacity is crucial in developing the electronic brains that eventually will enable robots to see and navigate autonomously through their surroundings, touch, and even smell.

For example, Intel's engineers trained a first-generation Loihi chip to detect the odors of 10 hazardous chemicals, such as acetone and ammonia, in a stew of compounds.

The chip was able to correctly identify each scent after only one exposure; conventional machine learning would have required a computer to be shown 3,000 samples before gaining a perfect score, the research team calculated.

At Los Alamos National Laboratory, scientists tested Loihi's ability to learn from its mistakes as it figured out how to identify a set of handwritten numerals. The chip accomplished the task as quickly as an artificial intelligence program but used only one-hundredth of the AI's needed power to do so.

Neuromorphic chips from BrainChip, Intel, Synsense, and others also might help scientists gain insight into the workings of the brain; unlike artificial intelligence, neuromorphic chips make visible their electronic patterns of thought and perception, enabling scientists to record the flow and pattern of signals.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Neuromorphic computing progress is gaining speed. In a new paper, Samsung engineers, working with researchers at Harvard University, have suggested a way to record electronic patterns in human brains and “paste” them directly into neuromorphic chips.*

*While the chips would not become self-aware, they could faithfully mimic human brain patterns, such as the ways in which sight or sound is processed.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Clusters of neuromorphic chips will make up the brains of new generations of autonomous robots, allowing them to see, hear, smell, touch,*



*and process at speeds approaching that of the human brain, making those robots seem more like living beings instead of machines.*

## **AIRBUS ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE: IS A HYDROGEN-POWERED AIRLINER POSSIBLE?**



Airbus, Europe's largest aircraft builder, announced plans to begin building an all-hydrogen-powered passenger jetliner this decade and have it in service by 2035.

The plan is part of the company's commitment to converting to airplanes by 2050 that don't give off carbon dioxide or other harmful emissions.

Now Airbus has to face the hard realities of its commitment.

Hydrogen stores as much as four times the energy of oil-based jet fuel in the same volume.

However, using the gas as jet fuel requires keeping the hydrogen in liquid form, which means cooling it to  $-253^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-423^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

To do that, Airbus will need to design an entire cooling infrastructure and then figure out how to supply it with a considerable amount of energy just to maintain the necessary temperature.

Also, the double-walled tanks needed to store the liquefied gas would be almost four times the size of today's fuel tanks and would need to be incorporated into the body of the plane without compromising passenger or cargo space unduly—and without making the plane too big to fit into existing airports.

Those are some of the challenges in making a hydrogen-powered plane; airports would have to make major changes as well, such as building tanks and the other infrastructure needed to fuel hydrogen-driven jetliners.

The U.K.'s Climate Change Committee estimates that hydrogen fuel would boost the cost of a round trip between New York and London by £80, or between \$105 and \$110 at today's exchange rates.

Airbus has said it will test early versions of hydrogen planes in short-hop and regional jets before scaling up to full-size passenger planes.

***TRENDPOST:*** *In 2019, the aviation industry contributed as much as 24 percent of humanity's carbon emissions and now has committed to be virtually carbon-free by 2050.*

*That goal may be earnest, but it's unlikely to be achieved. If Airbus and Boeing, which is also working on hydrogen-fueled jets, bring their creations to market as soon as 2030, it still will take decades to build out airport fueling infrastructure and for airlines to replace their fleets of petro-planes.*

*Aircraft companies also are working on electric planes, but the weight of today's battery packs needed to cross an ocean or a continent is prohibitive.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Hydrogen-powered jetliners won't be practical without a breakthrough in hydrogen storage.*

## CHARGER DELIVERS 60 MILES OF EV RANGE IN 3 MINUTES



A new electric vehicle charging station from global technology company ABB promises to solve two of drivers' biggest EV concerns at once: fear of running out of juice between charging stations and having to wait half an

hour or more while a booster charge trickles into the vehicle's battery pack.

ABB's Terra 360 charger can recharge a car from zero to full in 15 minutes and can provide about 62 miles of travel with just a three-minute hookup, the company says.

To charge at that speed, the device puts out 360kW of power, a jolt of electricity that not every EV can handle.

However, the charger's power output can be dialed up or down to meet the needs of any vehicle—but lower power levels mean a longer charge.

The station resembles a conventional gas pump and has four 16-foot cables to power up four vehicles at once, although charging speeds decline as more vehicles draw from the same station.

Video screens on the pump show the progress of the charge and give drivers other readings of their cars' power systems.

The pump has been designed explicitly for installation at convenience stores, fast-food restaurants, and other spots where drivers might be out of a vehicle for a few minutes to tend to an errand or make a quick purchase.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The risks of running out of electricity in an EV are remote: the typical EV can travel far beyond 200 miles on a charge and studies by AAA and others find that the typical car is driven no more than 30 miles a day, on average.*

*However, the fear of batteries depleting mid-commute is the greatest barrier to drivers accepting EVs, studies have shown. Another is the length of time drivers would be idled while their vehicles charge at a public stop.*

*By designing a charging station meant for convenience stops and even conventional gas stations, ABB's Terra 360 effectively addresses both concerns and moves EVs a large step closer to winning approval from a majority of drivers.*