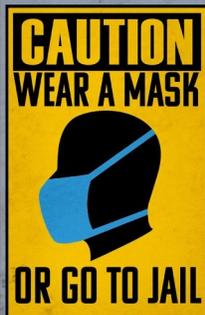


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DO WHAT WE SAY... OR ELSE!!



TRENDS JOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

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WE OWN YOU

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#): WE OWN YOU. DO WHAT WE SAY OR ELSE!!

This is the New World Order. It is not a conspiracy theory. Who would have imagined, when the COVID War began in 2020, that across the globe human beings would be forced by their governments to get an experimental Operation Warp Speed inoculation, and those refusing would be punished?

Now there is growing resistance. Airline flights are being cancelled and across the business spectrum the worker shortage intensifies as more people refuse the COVID Jab. This is the beginning of a new "People's Party Movement." And as you well know, the [Universal Church of Freedom, Peace & Justice](#) is offering its members religious vaccine exemptions.

Soon the U.S. Supreme Court will likely weigh in on the vaccine mandates being imposed by federal and state governments. To learn more about what to expect – along with judicial outcomes of some of Washington's other criminal acts – tune into the [Gerald Celente YouTube](#) tomorrow at 10 AM ET for "Celente and The Judge."

As Judge Napolitano notes: "... without a moral sense of right and wrong, the government will do whatever it can politically get away with. Why does the government we have hired to protect our rights instead assault them? If it can torture and legally get away with it, is there anything it can't do?"

And of course, your [Trends Journal](#) is action-packed with the current events forming future trends... and we continue to give you our very best to help accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative and prepare for the best.

Sincerely,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

COMMENTS

PRINCES AMONG MEN AND MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Greg,

Very grateful to have you and Gerald in my life to help keep me grounded in reality...

So sorry for your pain in dealing with your beautiful dog Prince, he is so lucky to have found you and your family, and he will live in your heart forever...I've been there, and the pain will convert to love and appreciation for your time together...

Prayers and positive vibes to all the freedom fighters!

Let's go Brandon!!!

much love to you and yours!

Gary Maxson

Being a trader for over 40 years and in the financial industry for decades (...in fact, I met Alan Greenspan at Ayn Rand's home in Manhattan at the outset of my career), for the most part, I am of the same view and mindset as you are, regarding your missive above. The Federal Reserve Banking system was established with deception and fraud...and "Fraud Vitiates Everything". The issuance of fiat currency by a private corporation, is unconstitutional money. Ultimately, in the dissolution of the Federal Reserve System, ALL that has been taken through FRAUD by them, must be returned back to the People, as the People restore The Supreme Law of The Land, which is The Constitution. I can go on and on about this, but I really want to address something more important to me right now...

I want to say...my heart goes out to you and your family for your little boy, Prince. I have a little one, too...Ziggy. I love him completely, so I know what you are going through. Ziggy is 15, deaf and has congestive heart failure. My daily goal is to pamper him and to just keep him as happy as can be! And I just stay grateful for each day that we are together! Spend as much time as you can with Prince and saturate yourself in the love, its eternity and its beauty! And know that you have given him the best life he could ever possibly have. He knows how much you love him and he loves you with the wholeness of his wonderful little heart...and he will always live forever in yours!

My prayers are with you. Lot's of love to you and your family!

Sincerely,

jennifer ohman

REFUGE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Florida's wonderful governor, Ron De Santis, is offering a \$5,000 bonus to any police officer(s) that have lost their jobs [due to vaccine mandates].

He is encouraging them to move to Florida, a place where they will be needed and appreciated. Hope many of them will take him up on the offer.

knelson

PATIENT, INFORM THYSELF

A doctor has a right to refuse to see you or treat you. A doctor does not have the right to deny you any therapy that is inexpensive and known to be effective and nontoxic; if there is toxicity involved, the patient can discharge his responsibility for such toxicity with proper informed consent. A doctor does not have the right to deny you consultation with another doctor that may have conflicting medical points of view.

Just as ignorance of the law is no sound defense to legal charges brought against you, ignorance of medical fact is ultimately no sound defense for a doctor withholding valid treatment, especially when that information can be easily accessed. Good Health makes a lot of sense, but it does not make a lot of Dollars. (From the movie FoodMatters)!!!!!!!!!!

Larry Inn

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

U.S. MARKETS KEEP HITTING NEW HIGHS

The “October Surprise” of a stock market meltdown did not happen. Instead, after managing small gains last Friday to close its best month since November 2020, the Dow Jones Industrial Average began the new month with another record close and traded briefly above 36,000.

The NASDAQ added 97 points on Monday, also closing at a record level.

The two markets gained 6.9 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively, in October.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index also added 6.9 percent last month and notched a new record as this week began, closing above 4,613.

Totally ignored are the economic realities of shortage of labor, supply chain disruptions, and the biggest of issues... rising inflation. Instead, investors were cheered by the strong earnings reports and the lack of other investment venues offering U.S. equity markets' combination of safety and returns.

And on the inflation front, once again, Gregory Mannarino spells it out clearly. **“Inflation ‘Contained?’ How About NO.”** And he notes why the stock market continues to set new record highs and what to expect:

“The Federal Reserve IS public enemy number one. More specifically, the Fed is the adversary of the entire middle class. The Fed, by keeping rates suppressed since the onset of quantitative easing in November 2008, has literally robbed the middle class of TRILLIONS of dollars in realized wealth by not allowing people’s interest earning accounts to even remotely keep up with the surging rate of inflation. **This is GRAND THEFT on an epic scale.** This legal theft mechanism has, at the expense of the middle class, re-inflated a massive stock market HYPER-bubble. Moreover, QE now going on for 13 years has created monumental distortions across the entire spectrum of asset classes—AND NONE OF THIS IS BY ACCIDENT...”

TREND FORECAST: *The market rises makes investment sense. As we have noted continually with our “Bigs Getting Bigger” weekly articles, with so few monopolizing business and industry, without competition and fewer alternatives for people to spend their money, profit margins of the major businesses are increasing.*

However, we maintain our forecast, when the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, the higher rates rise, the deeper the equity markets and economy will decline.

Also, the vaccine Green Pass mandates which prohibit a sizable sector of the population from going to restaurants, travel, trade shows, events, etc., will crimp economic growth. Remember, in the last quarter of 2019, before the COVID War

was launched, the U.S. economy grew just 2.1 percent which was the slowest pace in three years amid a continuing drag in business investment.

Thus, to make it clear, even in the free of COVID times with no restrictions, GDP growth was weak. And now with more COVID mandates, economic growth will be tampered down.

Wall Street's Not Main Street

And, to further illustrate that what is going on with Wall Street has no relationship to Main Street, the pure inequity in what "once upon a time" was called "The Land of Opportunity," with so few owning so much, the rest of America's middle class keeps sinking lower.

Today for example, a survey by Medicare.com showed that almost half of Americans age 65 or older fear they wouldn't be able to pay their medical bills and would fall into bankruptcy if a major health situation hit their household.

To illustrate the level of new poverty crushing the country as the billionaires rake in more billions, the survey reveals that nearly 30 percent have less than \$500 saved to cover medical expenses.

The Street Talk

More than four in five S&P 500 companies reporting earnings so far have beaten analysts' predictions, FactSet noted.

October's performance is a sharp turnaround from September's, when markets turned in their worst month of the year, falling 4.8 percent on fears that earnings would be damaged by the array of woes besetting the economy.

Tech stocks rallied in October, with Microsoft up 17 percent and Google parent Alphabet gaining 11 percent.

Tesla's sale of 100,000 cars to Hertz pushed the maverick company's market cap above \$1 trillion for the first time (see related story in this issue).

Rising oil prices and tightening global inventories lifted ExxonMobil's share price 10 percent for the month and Chevron's almost 13 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *As Trends Journal subscribers have known for a long time, the rising stock market is not the result of underlying value but of the decades-long drip of monetary methadone that central banks, i.e., money junkies, sell to addict gamblers on the Street, also known as "investors."*

Equity markets will slide when the U.S. Federal Reserve cuts its bond purchases, raises interest rates, and the government takes out the financial IV line that pumped trillion to inflate economic growth.

As the Fed's withdrawal begins, markets are likely to overcorrect briefly out of panic.

Share prices will continue to edge down until the Fed raises interest rates above 1.5 percent, at which point markets will crash.

Another Day, Another High

Stocks continued their upward march yesterday, with all three averages closing at all-time highs... pushed up by reports that some 82 percent of companies have reported higher earnings which signal increased consumer demand.

Today it was more of the same with the Dow up 138 points, the S&P 500 gaining 0.37 percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite up 0.34 percent.

Yet, in all the business media coverage, not a word about the equities trading at near record level PE ratios, which essentially illustrates that stocks cost more than they are worth.

GOLD/SILVER With Gold closing today at \$1,789 per ounce and silver at \$23.57 per ounce, both precious metals are trapped in their months' long trading range.

Tomorrow it is expected the Federal Reserve will announce the unwinding of its \$120 billion monthly bond buying which they put in place to boost the economy at the start of the COVID War in 2020. Again, as forecast, following their winding down bond buying scheme, the Fed's next step will be pushing interest rates higher to combat rising inflation.

These actions in turn will put negative pressure on the precious metals market. And, we maintain our forecast that gold and silver prices will decline when interest rates rise. However, both precious metals will sharply spike as the world sinks into Dragflation; negative economic growth and spiking inflation, as investors seek safe haven assets.

OIL: After hitting multi-year highs as fears that a global supply shortage would persist and strong demand in the United States would continue, last week Brent Crude was at a three year high, trading at \$86.42 per barrel, West Texas Intermediate at \$84.69 per barrel was nearing a seven year high.

Today, Brent Crude closed at \$84.49 per barrel and WTI finished the day at \$83.50 per barrel. Traders are waiting to hear what decisions will be made following Thursday's OPEC+ meeting. Oil dropped below \$85 a barrel on Tuesday, but remained close to a three-year high in choppy trade ahead of weekly U.S. supply reports expected to show a rise in crude inventories.

BITCOIN: After some ups and downs this past week, the bitcoin/crypto markets remain strong, with bitcoin trading around \$63,000... nearly \$800 higher than last week's close.

We also maintain that a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies is dependent upon government regulations. However, that threat in the U.S. and Europe is lessening as more banks, businesses and investment funds are going crypto, thus, the upward crypto trends, especially bitcoin, will continue to gain momentum.

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

EUROPEAN MARKET OVERVIEW



EUROPE STOCKS UP; NEW BOND SALE MAKES SLOW START

The pan-European Stoxx Europe 600 closed Monday up a fraction of a point after adding 0.1 percent Friday and 4.6 percent in October as the continent’s economic recovery gained momentum and grew faster in the month than either China’s or the U.S.’s (see related story in this issue).

The European Union opened a €9-billion bond offering with a seven-year maturity.

Analysts had expected investors to flock to the sale of the scarce bonds, in part because the European Central Bank is able to buy up to half the offering, guaranteeing investors a financial floor.

However, initial sales were slower than for a similar issue in June.

The bond sale is part of the EU’s plan to raise \$1 trillion over the next five years to fund grants and loans to member states as they repair damage done by the COVID War’s economic shutdown.

EUROPE'S MARKET REGULATORS ISSUE DARK OUTLOOK



In a 110-page report released last week, the European Union's European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) warned of "a prolonged period of risk to institutional and retail investors of further—possibly significant—market corrections and very high risks across" the Eurozone.

The bloated junk-bond market, rising inflation, and the popularity of "meme" or me-too investing, among other anxiety-makers, "raise questions about increased risk-taking behaviour and possible market exuberance", ESMA said.

"Hence, concerns about the sustainability of current market valuations remain, and current trends need to show resilience over an extended period of time for a more positive assessment."

Richard Bernstein, founder Richard Bernstein Advisors with \$14.6 billion under management, agreed with the outlook and called the current equity climate "maybe the biggest bubble of my career" in a *Financial Times* interview.

His portfolio is focused away from trends and on conservative picks in energy, financial firms, industrial companies, and smaller-cap cyclical businesses, he said.

"Momentum strategies focused on the market's bubble [themes] seem very risky to us," he added.

ASIAN MARKET OVERVIEW



SHORTAGES, REAL ESTATE TROUBLES, SINK ASIAN STOCKS

China's Shanghai Composite Index joined the Dow in rising Friday, gaining 0.8 percent on the day but shedding 0.8 percent for the month, beset by ongoing troubles in China's property market and the country's slowing overall economy.

The index continued its slide into November, shedding almost 3 percent on Monday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 3.3 percent in October, reflecting a greater international exposure and less reliance on mainland China's economy, but slipped slightly as the new month began.

South Korea, with its significant reliance on manufacturing, saw its GDP contract 3.2 percent in October as materials shortages, especially of computer chips, and supply-line kinks and shipping port clogs continued without relief.

INVESTORS ENERGIZE JUNK BOND MARKET DESPITE GROWING RISKS



The U.S. high-yield debt market, also known as junk bonds, has grown to a record size, the *Financial Times* reported, as a record 149 companies this year, such as Coinbase and Medline, have locked into rock-bottom interest rates and investors seeking to boost yields tapped cheap money to take a flyer on higher-risk companies.

We alerted readers to this trend early in [“Risky Companies Snapping Up Cheap Loans”](#) (23 Feb 2021) and in other **Trends Journal** articles.

Twenty-six new bond issues washed into the junk bond market in September, tying last April’s record for the most in a single month; another 13 companies issued high-yield bonds from 1 through 25 October, according to the *FT*.

The swelling junk bond market is part of the rapidly growing private credit sector that is attracting fresh attention from pension funds, wealthy individuals, and others hoping to raise their rates of return (see related article in this issue).

Low interest rates are drawing corporations looking to borrow cheaply and drawing investors willing to take on risk if it might bring a higher return.

“A lot of those deals are made possible by the very low cost of capital and, with that, you see more [borrowers] coming into the high-yield bond market,” Chris Blum, BNP Paribas’ chief of leveraged finance, told the *FT*.

The growing level of leveraged corporate debt, driven by investors seeking higher yields, could “exacerbate existing vulnerabilities” in the global financial system, the International Monetary Fund recently warned.

The average credit rating of companies issuing junk bonds has fallen since the COVID War began, Standard & Poor’s reported in September.

However, high-yield bonds are not living up to their name: investors are being paid relatively little for taking a greater risk, the *FT* noted, a trend we first highlighted in [“Junk Bond Yields Fall to Record Lows.”](#) 16 Feb 2021.

The average yield in junk bonds is 4.2 percent, perilously close to the historic 3.78-percent low reached earlier this year, according to Ice Data Services. The yield in Europe is averaging a dismal 2.74 percent, the *FT* reported.

“Growth in [the number of] new issuers at the lowest levels has historically been associated with higher default rates and economic downturns,” the S&P report pointed out.

TRENDPOST: *We warned of the junk-bond market’s dangers in [“Corporate Bond Market Bubble”](#) in our 5 January, 2021 issue.*

As we noted then, the U.S. Federal Reserve’s decision to buy junk bonds to keep risky companies in business helped keep the economy from crashing and courts being swamped by bankruptcy applications.

However, the Fed’s generosity also sparked the greatest corporate borrowing spree on record, which followed years of already-low interest rates that encouraged businesses to borrow their way out of the aftermath of the Great Recession.

The New York Times wrote at the time, “the concern is that [the Fed] has simply left businesses comatose on central-bank life support.”

TREND FORECAST: *When the Fed begins cutting its bond purchases, interest rates on risky loans will rise, jeopardizing overleveraged companies’ ability to keep up repayments.*

We foresee a panic at that point as investors run from junk bonds. As a result, companies that have been kiting loans to stay alive will crash and burn, taking jobs and capital with them and slowing economic growth globally and in the U.S. in particular.

U.S. ECONOMY GREW JUST 2 PERCENT IN THIRD QUARTER



The U.S. GDP expanded by a feeble 2 percent in this year's third quarter, the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis reported on 28 October.

The growth rate was the slowest for any quarter since 2019's final three months, when the economy expanded by only 1.9 percent, a figure indicating the U.S. economy was slumping even before the COVID virus arrived.

The new figure also lagged far below the 2.8 percent to 3.2 percent that had been forecast by economists and was less than a third of the 6.7 percent achieved in the second quarter.

The economy was battered by a confluence of events, including a raging Delta virus, supply chain gridlock, a shortage of materials and workers, and higher prices.

Some workers remained off the job rather than submit to employers' demands to wear masks, show proof of vaccination, or undergo COVID testing, further slowing productivity.

Also, the vaccination rate has lagged, emergency federal support payments have largely ended, and the initial post-2020 surge in pent-up consumer demand has largely been spent.

August's near-record \$73.3-billion trade deficit also hampered growth.

Workers' total compensation was up 1.3 percent, ahead of the 0.9 percent analysts expected and the fastest climb since 2002.

Incomes rose even as government rescue subsidies ended, but higher prices for food, fuel, and other necessities left Americans with 0.7 percent less discretionary income, a reduction of \$29.7 billion.

The core consumer price index, which excludes food and energy, rose 4.1 percent during the period.

The third-quarter personal savings rate slumped to 8.9 percent from the second quarter's 10.5-percent rate.

Consumer spending also slowed, rising just 1.6 percent compared to 12 percent in the second quarter.

Spending on merchandise slid 9.2 percent, led by a 26.2-percent crash in outlays for durable goods (see related story in this issue).

Outlays for vehicles and parts plunged 54 percent in July through September, the U.S. commerce department reported, as chip shortages and transport logjams slowed production and delivery.

In contrast, spending on services jumped 7.9 percent in the period, although still below the second quarter's 11.5-percent boost.

The number of diners seated in restaurants was down 4 percent compared to the same period in 2019, data service OpenTable said.

Federal government spending dropped 4.7 percent as the Paycheck Protection Program and other emergency COVID-era support programs wound down.

Economists widely believe holiday spending will strengthen the economy's fourth quarter, with GDP gradually expanding through the new year, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

Another positive sign: business investment is increasing and employers are hiring and retaining workers, reducing layoffs and unemployment claims, according to the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *Strong holiday spending will give the economy a boost but not as much as in typical years. Indeed, the dollar volume will go up, but the amount of products purchased will go down since the cost of purchasing them will go up. Higher inflation will, and is, robbing people of their purchasing power.*

The economy will continue to grow by fits and starts through the first half of 2022.

While there will be shortages of products for the holiday season, it will not crimp sales. And, many of the supply-line kinks and blocks will be resolved. However, the global economy still will be dealing with shortages and higher costs of materials, which will restrain growth. And as we forecast, when interest rates go up, the economy and equities will go down.

ORDERS FOR DURABLE GOODS SHRANK IN SEPTEMBER



For the first time since spring, orders for durable goods—items that are intended to last more than three years, such as washing machines and lawn mowers—fell in September, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Orders declined 0.4 percent from August, settling to \$261.3 billion, after four months of rising orders beginning last May.

August's estimate of growth in durable-goods orders was revised from 1.8 percent to 1.3 percent.

New orders for nondefense capital goods, which deletes aircraft from the calculation, rose 0.8 percent in September compared to August.

However, chip shortages continued to wreak havoc on industry, with General Motors reporting cutting vehicle shipments by almost half in July through September, compared to the same period in 2020.

GM expects the chip shortage to ease this quarter but continue into next year, in tandem with rising prices and shortages of other materials, CFO Paul Jacobson told the *WSJ*.

TRENDPOST: *So far this year, new orders for durable goods have climbed 23.4 percent year over year, but shipments have upped by only 13.6 percent, reflecting shortages and supply-line clogs that keep orders from being manufactured and delivered.*

PENDING HOME SALES DIPPED IN SEPTEMBER



As mortgage interest rates edged up in September, the number of signed contracts for home purchases unexpectedly dipped 2.3 percent from August, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reported, and fell 8 percent from the number a year earlier.

Mortgage interest rates remained below 3 percent from July through early September, but rose to an average of 3.15 percent at month's end, the NAR said.

Pending sales in the Northeast slipped 3.2 percent in September from August and 18.5 percent year on year. Midwest sales were off 3.5 percent in September and 5.8 percent from a year before.

In the South, September sales were 1.8 percent below August's and 5.8 percent compared to the preceding 12 months, while sales in the West were down 1.4 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively.

TREND FORECAST: *As we noted in [“Demand for Homes Cools Amid Record Prices”](#) (17 Aug 2021), the housing frenzy is slowly losing energy: most of the best properties in the hottest markets have been bought, and more prospective buyers will wait for prices to come down because they cannot afford homes at the current market price.*

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that home prices will moderate somewhat in the short term and the current U.S. housing shortage will remain in place.*

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

We also maintain our forecast that when the U.S. Federal Reserve turns off the cheap money spigot, exits the mortgage bond market, and raises interest rates, the U.S. housing market will decline.

As we predicted in [“Homeowners Trapped in Place by High Prices”](#) (8 Jun 2021), when there is a strong indication the Fed will raise baseline interest rates soon, buyers will storm the market with applications to try to beat the rise. That final surge, when the Fed rate hits 1.5 percent, will signal the end of the housing boom.

AMERICANS SMOKED, DRANK MORE IN 2020



U.S. sales of tobacco products edged up 0.4 percent last year, the first annual increase in two decades, according to a report by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.

Americans stuck at home with little to do and few opportunities to travel or socialize smoked more, CEO Billy Gifford of cigarette-maker Altria Group, formerly Philip Morris, said to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Tobacco companies took advantage of the opportunity, upping their investments in marketing from \$7.62 billion in 2019 to \$7.84 billion in 2020.

Alcohol sales also rose last year, especially among costlier brands and varieties, the *WSJ* reported.

TRENDPOST: *While the COVID virus sickened millions, the COVID War took its own toll on people's health.*

Locked in their homes, people craved comfort and relief and indulged in familiar distractions—cigarettes, beer, liquor, television, and junk food.

Pepsi sales shot up during the shutdown and the company couldn't keep up with demand for its "Cheetos Mac and Cheese" food-like product (["PepsiCo is in the Chips."](#) 6 Oct 2020); McDonald's store sales are up more than 13 percent since March 2020 (["McDonald's Sales Going Higher."](#) 4 May 2021).

The longer politicians insist on measures that keep people away from their normal pursuits, the greater the non-COVID toll on public health (["COVID War = Eat More Crap."](#) 25 Feb 2021).

And, as continually report in *The Trends Journal*, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 80 percent of the people that have been hospitalized with COVID-19 are either obese or overweight. Thus, with weights rising and physical conditions declining, there are more health crises on the near horizon.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SALES UP



Investors snapped up commercial properties at a record pace during the third quarter, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, especially apartment buildings, facilities equipped as life-science labs, and warehouses that can or do serve as distribution centers for e-commerce.

Sales totaled a record \$193 billion, 19 percent more than in the same period in 2019, according to Real Capital Analytics (RCA).

The third-quarter performance brought year-to-date sales to \$462.1 billion, 10 percent above the same stretch in 2019.

Foreign investors also are becoming more active in U.S. commercial real estate, with South Korea's Meritz Alternative Investment Management buying 49-percent shares of a Manhattan building and another in Washington, DC.

Sales were strong enough during 2021's first nine months that they offset declining sales of office buildings and shopping malls, RCA noted.

Demand drove prices to never-before-seen highs.

Green Street's index of properties owned by real estate trusts has risen 26 percent from its trough in the summer of 2020 and 8 percent beyond its pre-COVID level, the analysis firm said.

The facets of commercial real estate popular now among investors sagged during the COVID War but did not crater, due largely to the U.S. Federal Reserve slashing interest rates to barely above zero and pouring cheap money into financial markets, giving even troubled property owners access to badly needed cash, the *WSJ* said.

TREND FORECAST: *Today's buyers are taking advantage of cheap money, courtesy of the U.S. Federal Reserve. When interest rates rise next year, the pace of purchases will slow and overleveraged purchases will move to the "troubled" page of banks' ledgers.*

*Two decades ago, Gerald Celente forecast the end of the "mall era" in his best-selling book, *Trends 2000*. He also noted office real estate's bleak future resulting from the COVID War in ["The New Life of Lockdown"](#) (19 May 2020) and other articles.*

While some workers will want to return to centralized offices, more will choose to remain working at home. In an era when talent is hard to find and employers are hard-pressed to hold onto it, remote work has become a new norm that will ripple across urban economies for years to come, resulting in shuttered downtown businesses, reduced municipal revenue, and a lower quality of urban life, as we have described in countless articles such as ["Office Workers' Slow Return Endangers Landlords, City Finances"](#) (9 Mar 2021).

The story is different for apartments.

The market for home buyers will be difficult for years to come: there is less land available to build new homes, prices for new or existing single-family homes are at stratospheric highs, mortgage rates are edging up, and lenders will continue to favor buyers able to make huge cash down payments, as we have detailed in various articles throughout the COVID War.

Those factors have consigned persons to rental housing who could have qualified for mortgages before the virus arrived.

The new, higher demand for apartments has pushed up rental rates. With rent claiming a larger portion of incomes, households will find it harder to save for a down payment to buy a home.

Consequently, as we said in [“Rents Soaring: What’s Next?”](#) (21 Sep 2021) more and more households will remain renters for longer, perhaps for life, and be denied a chance to take part in what has always been the primary way that American families have built wealth—home ownership.

HERTZ GOES ALL IN ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Hertz, the rental car company that emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in June with \$6 billion in capital, has agreed to buy 100,000 Tesla Model 3 all-electric sedans by the end of 2022, paying about \$4.2 billion for the lot.

Hertz will make Teslas available for rent this year in Atlanta, Austin, Nashville, New Orleans, and Tulsa, with other markets added in coming months.

Tesla’s controversial self-driving feature will be enabled in the rental cars.

Hertz’s share price rose 10 percent on its announcement; Tesla’s share price shot up to almost \$1,100, vaulting its market capitalization above \$1 trillion for the first time and cementing Tesla founder Elon Musk’s place as the richest person on Planet Earth.

To capitalize on public curiosity about electric vehicles (EVs), Hertz is launching a marketing campaign that has enlisted football legend Tom Brady to talk up the initiative.

Hertz will offer digital guidance to EV newbies and expedite Tesla bookings through its app. It also has pledged to install “thousands” of charging stations for its Tesla customers.

The bold move is part of Hertz’s plan to reinvent itself as a “mobility company.”

The deal also expands Hertz’s customer base: with public interest in EVs on the rise, the rental car company is counting on not only travelers to rent its Teslas, but also curiosity-seekers who want to find out what driving an EV is like.

“When a lot of consumers think electric vehicle, they think of Tesla, and now if they want to rent one, they’ll think of Hertz,” Morningstar auto analyst David Whiston told Bloomberg.

When Hertz has taken delivery of all 100,000 Teslas, 20 percent of the company’s global rental fleet will be all-electric, while EVs still make up less than 3 percent of all new car sales.

“With a purchase that represents 20 percent of its global fleet and a commitment to install thousands of charging stations, Hertz is giving notice that EVs are mainstream and here to stay,” Duke University environmental policy analyst Jennifer Weiss said in an interview with Grist.

Hertz’s purchase will claim about 10 percent of Tesla’s annual production and raises questions about its ability to deliver 100,000 cars in 14 months amid materials shortages and delivery clogs.

As it announced its Tesla purchase, Hertz also unveiled an agreement with ride-hailing service Uber to let its drivers rent Teslas from Hertz, which the rental car company claims will be cheaper for drivers than buying or leasing a new car for their shifts.

Hertz also has penned a deal with online car sales site Carvana to sell its used fleet vehicles. Carvana will take a commission on sales, which will leave Hertz with more money from each sale than disposing of its old cars itself, the company said.

TRENDPOST: *Yesterday, Elon Musk tweeted that he'd like to "emphasize that no contract has been signed yet."*

Today, Hertz says deliveries of Tesla cars into its rental fleet are already occurring.

Regardless of the confusion, one danger ahead is the supply of materials needed to make batteries.

With supply chains tangled for at least a few more months and copper and other minerals not being mined in adequate amounts fast enough to meet current demand, putting 100,000 battery packs into Teslas in the next 14 months will be a challenge at best.

We detailed some of the problems Tesla faces in ["Commodities Supercycle Underway?"](#) (11 May 2021), where we quoted Bank of America analysts' warning that "the world risks running out of copper." More broadly, Musk may be seeing at least as much value in the headline as in the sale.

Hertz has placed its "seal of approval" on electric vehicles, bringing them another step closer to public acceptance. However, the bottom line is going to be price. The more EVs cost, the lower the demand.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



EUROZONE ECONOMY OUTPACES U.S., CHINA

The European Union's economy grew 9.1 percent in the third quarter as restrictions on movement, gathering, and business eased and vaccination rates accelerated, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

In contrast, the U.S. economy expanded only 2 percent for the quarter and China eked out only 1 percent more activity.

However, unlike China and the U.S., the Eurozone's economy has not yet returned to pre-COVID levels because it plummeted further during 2020's crisis than the other two countries did.

Analysts expect Europe's recovery to slow in the months ahead; the continent's economy depends more on manufacturing, compared to the U.S. GDP, in which services make up about 70 percent of economic activity.

Shortages of materials and parts, especially computer chips, and tangles in supply chains will restrain Europe's economic expansion well into 2022, analysts told the *WSJ*.

Also, some governments have begun to reimpose restrictions, fearing that cold weather will reinvigorate the COVID virus.

TREND FORECAST: *The Eurozone's economy may have restored a portion of its pre-COVID productivity but its future growth will be shackled by COVID Passport restrictions which will hit tourism, restaurant, hospitality, entertainment, business travel, trade shows, conventions etc.*

Indeed, even if 80 percent of the population is injected with the COVID Jab, that leaves a loss of 20 percent market share... which is essential.

Moreover, the cheap money flow of negative interest rate policy and quantitative easing are artificially propping up the economy... as it has since 2014.

*With inflation rising, despite European Central Bank pledges to keep rates down, (See, "WILL ECB HOLD TO NEGATIVE INTEREST RATE?" in this **Trends Journal**, we forecast they will be pressured to raise them.*

WILL ECB HOLD TO NEGATIVE INTEREST RATE?



The European Central Bank (ECB) will not raise interest rates from their current -0.50 percent next year, bank president Christine Lagarde said in 27 October comments quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*.

She acknowledged that Eurozone inflation's pace had sped to an overall 3.4 percent in September and that higher prices would last longer than the bank previously had expected.

However, inflation will fall into the bank's 2-percent target zone in 2023, she predicted, although several economists disagree, the *Financial Times* noted.

Germany's October inflation rate spiked to a 28-year-high 4.6 percent; Spain's notched a 37-year record 5.5 percent.

The zone's inflation rate will edge up to 3.7 percent for October, analysts have forecast, which would be the highest rate since 2008.

However, after "doing a lot of soul-searching" about its view that inflation will ease next year, the bank's policy committee decided to leave policies unchanged.

Lagarde also continued to insist that rising inflation is temporary.

Investors sold Eurozone bonds as Lagarde spoke, indicating a lack of conviction that the bank would be able to hold interest rates that low for that long, the *WSJ* said.

Yields on Italy's 10-year bond rose above 1 percent for the first time since August.

Bond rates rise when bond prices fall, because investors charge a higher return for investing in an asset with a rising risk.

Also, the euro rose 0.5 percent against the dollar.

Markets are pricing in the expectation of rates rising out of negative territory by next September, according to the *FT*.

The ECB's insistence on holding firm to low rates leaves it at odds with other central banks.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has given clear signs that interest rates will rise at least once next year, possibly as many as three times.

On 27 October, Canada's central bank signaled that it could raise rates as soon as April and that inflation is likely to remain above the bank's 2-percent target through 2022.

The Bank of England also could raise rates soon to challenge inflation, governor Andrew Bailey said last month.

TRENDPOST: *Dragflation—speeding inflation and slowing economies— poses a dilemma for central banks.*

The Banksters want to maintain stimulus programs, such as negative interest rates, to artificially inflate the economy and keep equity markets rising. Indeed, they are fully aware that once the cheap money flow dries up, the Greatest Depression will spread across the continent.

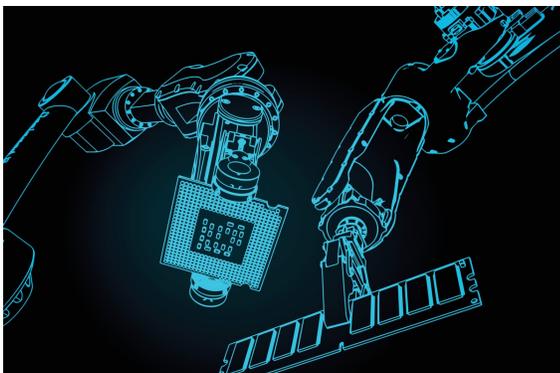
Again, as we have noted, “temporary” inflation became “transitory” inflation; now the bank has to keep rates low to keep markets and economy from tanking despite real inflation really rising.

TREND FORECAST: *Europe's central bank has held its base interest rate below zero for seven years and as we have reported, it's top economy, Germany, was drifting into recession before the COVID War began.*

Now the bank is stuck with the dilemma: continue to hold interest rates low to artificially prop up the economy that still has a long slog ahead, or raise rates to lasso inflation in a move that will spin the continent back into recession by making borrowing too expensive for businesses and households?

We maintain our forecast made in [“ECB: More Monetary Methadone”](#) (27 Apr 2021): while there will be a sharp bounce-back as the COVID War winds down, future European Union growth will trend toward moderate and negative in the coming years and when rates rise to the 1 percent range, the economy and equities will tank.

GLOBAL CHIP SHORTAGE SLASHES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



Samsung Electronics warned it is unable to predict its' 2022 financial performance because of the continuing shortage of computer chips. Maruti Suzuki India, that nation's largest car maker, predicted fewer sales next year.

Fanuc, a major Japanese robotics company, also lowered its financial forecast.

“We are receiving a lot of orders but can't increase production to meet them because we just can't procure the necessary parts,” Fanuc CEO Kenji Yamaguchi said in an investors call quoted by Bloomberg.

General Motors faces the same situation, CEO Mary Barra said in a Bloomberg interview. “We are selling every vehicle we can make,” she said.

The chip shortage will cost the company sales until mid-2022, she predicted.

Ford Motor Co. will produce below capacity through 2022, according to CFO John Lawler, who added that the chip scarcity could last into 2023.

“We didn't expect to lose so much production in the second quarter due to chips or that the commodity prices would shoot up,” Maruti Suzuki Chairman R.C. Bhargava said in a 28 October earnings call quoted by Bloomberg.

“What we had expected in terms of volumes and profitability has changed substantially,” he noted.

Last week, Germany this week slashed its 2021 growth forecast from 3.5 percent to 2.6 percent, largely because the chip shortage has crippled vehicle production.

“The lack of chips has meant that hundreds of thousands of cars cannot be finished and delivered,” economy minister Peter Altmaier said in a news conference last week.

The world’s semiconductor manufacturers have pledged to invest at least \$700 billion through 2030 to expand production capacities.

TSMC, the world’s richest chipmaker, will spend \$100 billion to expand capacity through 2023, but “we expect TSMC’s capacity to remain very tight in 2021 and throughout 2022,” CEO C.C. Wei said to Bloomberg.

Chip pioneer Intel Corp. plans to invest in new manufacturing capacity, as does Samsung, which announced plans to triple its productive capacity by 2026.

“Even though it’s difficult to say definitively, we are carefully hoping that perhaps the situation may start to somewhat ease from the second half of next year,” Jinman Han, Samsung executive vice president, said in an earnings call last month quoted by Bloomberg.

Governments in China, Japan, and South Korea have all called for new investments in their domestic chip-making industries.

President Joe Biden’s original “Build Back Better” plan included \$50 billion to expand U.S. chip-making capacity as a strategic investment in an essential industry.

TREND FORECAST: Biden’s call for an investment in the U.S. semiconductor industry does little to boost production in the short term.

Chips will remain in short supply at least through 2022. Production will increase, but demand will rise by at least as much, leaving the world chronically short of chips until companies can expand existing plants or build and equip new ones, a process requiring years.

As we have noted, the nations that will experience the strongest economic rebound are those that will become the most self-sufficient; producing what they need and cutting their dependence on overseas markets. And [as we noted a year ago](#), China, with its dual circulation policy is trending in that direction.

PRIVATE LENDING MARKET FACES “SYSTEMIC RISKS”



The \$1-trillion industry that makes loans to companies shut out of the corporate bond market faces “systemic risks” due to illiquidity, lax standards, and a lack of transparency, according to a report by Moody’s Analytics.

Investors have channeled a flood of cash into the so-called private lending market during the COVID era, seeking higher returns than tamer investments were able to offer.

In this private market, asset managers such as Apollo Global Management and Ares Management Corp. tailor custom loans with often stiff interest rates to mid-size companies too small to access the corporate bond market.

These mid-size companies often are owned by private equity firms, which have a record of piling debt onto businesses they buy.

“The mounting tide of leverage sweeping into a less-regulated “grey zone” has systemic risks,” Moody’s analysis noted.

“Risks that are rising beyond the spotlight of public investors and regulators may be difficult to quantify, even as they come to have broader economic consequences,” Moody’s warned.

Share values of “business development companies,” a key segment of the private lending market, plunged as much as 55 percent when the COVID War began.

However, the U.S. Federal Reserve’s rock-bottom interest rates and other forms of federal stimulus revived the industry, lofting share prices by as much as 175 percent since March 2020 and enticing investors back into the business, the *Financial Times* said.

Companies owned or controlled by private equity firms fail at twice the rate of other businesses, some critics have claimed.

TREND FORECAST: *When the Fed rates rise to 1.5 percent the economy and equity markets will tank and bring down the weakest most indebted businesses the hardest. And when America sneezes, the rest of the world catches cold. Thus, it will be a crash felt around the world.*

CHINA’S FACTORY PRODUCTION SLOWS, SERVICES CONTINUE STRONG



Shortages of power and high prices for raw materials shrank China’s factory output in October, while the services economy continued to expand, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported.

Factories’ productivity and demand for their products both declined last month, the bureau said.

The manufacturing sector's purchasing managers index slipped from 49.6 in September to 49.2 in October; readings below 50 are signs of contraction.

October's sub-index tracking purchase prices of key raw materials registered 72.1, up 8.6 percentage points from September; the index of prices of goods leaving factories rose 4.7 percentage points to 61.1 from last month.

The sub-index measuring productivity slipped 1.1 percentage points to 48.4; the index of new orders edged down half a percentage point to 48.8.

The figures show that production and market demand in the manufacturing sector both weakened last month, Zhao Qinghe, NBS chief statistician, told the Xinhua news service.

However, high-tech and equipment manufacturing both countered the downward trend in October, posting PMIs of 52 and 51.2, respectively.

Large enterprises showed a collective PMI of 50.3, while the gauge for small and medium manufacturers came in at 47.5 and 48.6, respectively.

The PMI for small factories has signaled contraction for six consecutive months, highlighting the particular difficulties small businesses have in managing shortages and higher costs.

With the slower recovery of major world economies and complicated global economic and trade situation, the imports and exports situation in the manufacturing sector remains uncertain, Zhao said.

October's PMI for China's services businesses clocked in at 52.4 in October, down slightly from 53.2 in September but still positive.

Businesses in travel, leisure, and entertainment all registered PMIs above 55, due to China's week-long National Day holiday in early October.

During the week, holiday-makers tended to stay home or make short trips because of bad weather and fear of the COVID virus, Zhao said, weakening the month's financial performance of airlines and railways.

The service sector's outlook remained sunny, with the sub-index tracking service business expectations rating 58.5, fractionally lower than the 58.9 posted in September.

In October, China's construction industry continued strong with a PMI of 56.9, despite the widely reported troubles of Evergrande, Fantasia, and other large developers ([“Spotlight China. Crash Coming? Recovery Ahead?”](#) 19 Oct 2021).

TREND FORECAST: *Power shortages and high materials costs are aiding China's policy of “dual circulation,” a plan announced last year that includes rebalancing the domestic economy ([“China Announces “Dual Circulation” Economic Policy”](#) 9 Sep 2020).*

As part of the plan, Beijing is working to strengthen consumer spending on domestic products to be in balance with manufacturing to give the economy two equally strong facets. Currently they are relying heavily on factory exports, while importing consumer products.

NATURAL GAS PRICES FALL IN EUROPE



Natural gas prices for November and December delivery in the U.K. and across Europe fell by about 10 percent after Russian president Vladimir Putin ordered state-owned gas company Gazprom to refill the region's storage tanks beginning this month as the continent enters its

winter season.

Germany's largest gas reservoir had fallen below 10 percent of capacity prior to Putin's order, according to the *Financial Times*.

Putin indicated that Germany's and Austria's key gas reserves would be replenished once Russia has topped up its own storage fields, a process that should be completed early this month, the *FT* reported.

Europe's benchmark electricity rate declined to about €80 per megawatt-hour on the news.

However, prices of both gas and electricity remain close to five times higher than a year ago.

Europe has no gas reserves and depends on gas from Russia and North Africa to heat its buildings and generate significant portions of its electricity.

The continent had ended last winter without gas in reserve after late-season cold waves depleted gas supplies more than expected, as we reported in [“Will Surging Gas Prices Sink U.K., E.U. Economies?”](#) (21 Sep 2021).

Russia had delayed approving new gas deliveries to Europe's depots; some observers and politicians believed the delay was Russia's way of demonstrating power over one of Europe's basic needs and showing the continent what could happen if it becomes an obstacle to Russian interests.

TREND FORECAST: *We hold to our forecast made in [“High Natural Gas Prices Slow Europe's Recovery”](#) (14 Sep 2021): high gas prices will reverberate through the continent's economy, pausing growth through the winter, fueling inflation, and retarding any full economic recovery by at least six months.*

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS KEEP GROWING 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 and how the Bigs keep getting bigger and the rich keep getting richer...

FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES RAKED IN RECORD SUBSIDIES IN 2020



In 2020, companies that produce oil, natural gas, and coal collected a record \$5.9 trillion in direct and indirect subsidies from the world’s taxpayers, a record amount, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported.

The figure includes not only direct tax breaks and allowances, but also the costs of tending to respiratory illnesses induced by carbon-based air pollution and environmental damages such as oil slicks on waterways—what economists call “unpaid externalities,” or those costs created by the use of companies’ products but that the companies never pay for directly.

Direct subsidies that cut fuel prices totaled \$1.2 billion and tax breaks added just under \$1 billion, the IMF calculated.

Health costs related to carbon-related air pollution made up 42 percent of the subsidies, or about \$6.7 billion; the cost of property damage and other costs wrought by impact of heat waves, extreme storms, and other events increasingly attributed to mounting amounts of carbon in the atmosphere added up to \$4.6 billion, the IMF reported.

The report found another \$2.4 billion in miscellaneous costs.

Because of the subsidies, 47 percent of natural gas and 99 percent of coal are priced at less than half of the full costs their use incurs, the IMF said.

Two-thirds of the subsidies are footed by China, India, Japan, Russia, and the U.S.

All of those countries belong to the G20 group of wealthy nations that pledged in 2009 to end “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies “over the medium term,” without defining what the medium term was.

TREND FORECAST: *Although oil producers will see higher profits in the short term, long-term trends still point to their gradually diminishing role in the world’s energy economy: the price of renewable energy continues to fall, electric grids are scaling up their additions of massive battery banks to store renewably generated power, and a growing environmental ethic among the public will turn more users away from fossil fuels over time.*

As we reported in [“Shareholders, Court Darken Oil Industry’s Future”](#) (1 Jun 2021), the global divestment movement has drained about \$14 trillion from the fossil fuels industry since 2013 and will continue. More lawsuits from activist groups, including coalitions of young people seeing a carbon-fogged future for themselves, are lining up against producers.

Pressure on energy companies to curtail fossil-fuel production will continue to grow, especially as vehicle makers pledge to end the production of gas and diesel cars and trucks before 2040.

Trends Journal readers learned as long ago as 2018 that the oil industry was no longer a safe long-term investment but is increasingly a risky speculative play.

AMAZON DISCLOSES 20-PERCENT OWNERSHIP OF RIVIAN



Amazon owns 20 percent of Rivian, a maker of all-electric pickup trucks and SUVs that has announced an \$8.4-billion initial public stock offering this week, which would value the company at about \$60 billion, Bloomberg reported.

Amazon's stake in Rivian is valued at \$3.8 billion, it said, up from \$2.7 billion at the end of last year.

Amazon also has placed an order with Rivian for 100,000 all-electric delivery vans, the company said.

The first 10,000 are to be delivered in 2022, with the balance coming through the rest of this decade.

Rivian began making its truck earlier this year but will prioritize production of Amazon's order to generate income and cash flow.

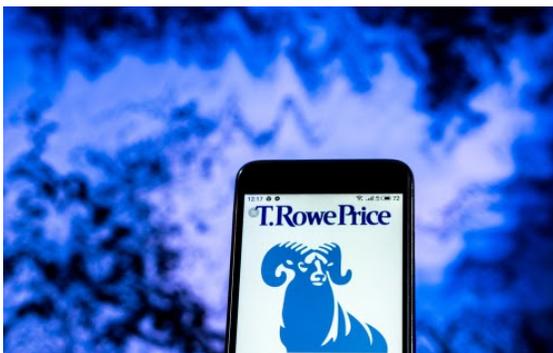
Rivian's assembly plant is in Normal, Illinois, but the company is in discussions to build a \$5-billion facility in Fort Worth, Texas, and is considering another plant in Europe to produce some of Amazon's vans, Bloomberg reported.

Ford Motor Co. has made an \$820-million investment in Rivian.

TRENDPOST: *When Ford unveiled its all-electric F150 pickup truck, it was swamped with 150,000 advance orders and recently announced it would open a second assembly plant and two more battery production facilities to meet the unexpected demand.*

Ford's success has paved the way for Rivian's electric truck. Although Rivian is an unknown brand, the idea of an electric pickup truck is no longer odd.

T. ROWE PRICE BUYS CREDIT COMPANY OAK HILL ADVISORS



Mutual fund company T. Rowe Price will pay up to \$4.2 billion to buy Oak Hill Advisors in Price's largest-ever acquisition.

Oak Hill specializes in private credit (see related story in this issue). The purchase will give Price an entry into this fast-growing, though higher-risk, market that more institutional and wealthy individual investors wish to tap, Price CEO Bill Stromberg told the *Financial Times*.

Price manages \$1.6 trillion in assets and will acquire 100 percent of Oak Hill, which has a portfolio of \$53 billion, mostly in loans but also with some money in other forms of assets.

Price has sought to diversify from being an active asset manager focused on equities, analysts told the *FT*.

Price "needed more diversification" and buying Oak Hill gives the company "immediate access to fast-growing private credit markets, instantly filling a hole in their product line-up to meet client demands," analyst Kyle Sanders at Edward Jones said to the *FT*.

Private credit markets have seen steadily growing interest as investors seek higher yields than bond markets have been able to provide.

CARLYLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IN RAISING \$130 BILLION IN NEW FUNDS



The Carlyle Group, a \$293-billion private equity firm, is ahead of schedule in its plan to raise \$130 billion from investors by 2024, CEO Kewsong Lee said in an interview with the *Financial Times*.

On 28 October, Carlyle reported \$731 million in distributable earnings for the third quarter, a measure of cash flow. That worked out to \$1.41 per share, 385 percent more than for the same period a year earlier.

Distributable earnings now total \$1.3 billion for the year, a jump of 255 percent from the first three quarters of 2020.

Carlyle cashed out of \$14 billion in investments during the quarter and paid \$531 million in profits to its partners and shareholders.

The firm invested \$6.3 billion in new ventures during the quarter, bringing its total this year to \$20 billion, a 109-percent increase over the same period last year.

In the third quarter, Carlyle brought in \$22 billion in new investment capital, boosting this year's total to \$40 billion, 124 percent above the previous year to date and bringing the firm's total assets to \$293 billion, a 19-percent gain since this year began.

Carlyle's share value has gained 120 percent in value this year, still lagging the long-term market performance of competitors Blackstone and KKR.

Still, Lee touted the fund's turnaround since he was named sole CEO in July 2020.

Previously, Carlyle was “an array of fund strategies and a bunch of hedge funds,” he said to the *FT*. “It’s been one heck of a turnaround.”

Former Carlyle co-head Glenn Youngkin is now running for governor in Virginia.

SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION KEEPS GALLOPING



FED’S FAVORITE INFLATION GAUGE REACHES 30-YEAR HIGH

The Core Personal Consumption Expenditures Index (PCE), the U.S. Federal Reserve’s preferred measure of inflation, stayed at 3.6 percent in September from August, maintaining its fastest pace since May 1991, CNBC reported.

The PCE excludes food and energy prices, which tend to be more volatile than other costs.

Energy prices edged up 0.4 percent in September from August, pushing inflation in the overall consumer price index to 4.4 percent.

Over the past 12 months, U.S. energy costs have soared 24.9 percent and food costs have jumped 4.1 percent.

Service prices shot up 6.4 percent over the past 12 months, while goods added 5.9 percent to their costs.

Still, at least some U.S. officials cling to the idea that inflation is a passing phenomenon.

“Year-over-year inflation remains high and will for some time simply because of what’s already happened in the first months of the year,” treasury secretary Janet Yellin said last week in a CNBC interview.

“But monthly rates, I believe, will come down in the second half of the year,” she said. “I think we’ll see a return to levels close to 2 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *Leaders in the logistics industry see supply-chain disruptions continuing to at least the middle of 2022, as we reported in [“World’s Supply Chain Snarled Until Well into Next Year”](#) (14 Sep 2021).*

When the clogs clear, there will still be high demand for goods that were blocked by supply tie-ups, sparking a new round of shortages and higher prices for high-demand items.

From today’s perspective, it remains difficult to see inflation settling at 2 percent until at least early 2023.

U.S. INFLATION BEAT OUT RISING WAGES



In September, U.S. consumer prices rose at their fastest clip in 30 years, while workers saw their total compensation grow more than at any time in the last two decades, according to government data.

The Core Personal Consumption Expenditures Index, the U.S. Federal Reserve’s preferred measure of inflation, stayed at 3.6 percent in September from August, maintaining its fastest pace since May 1991, CNBC reported (see related story in this issue).

Although compensation rose, Americans experienced a 0.7-percent loss of discretionary income as inflation gobbled up pay raises (see related story in this issue).

Also, the U.S. labor department's employment-cost index, combining the cost of wages and benefits, jumped 1.3 percent in this year's third quarter from the second, its fastest gain since at least 2001. And despite the shortage of workers in the U.S., only 62 percent of U.S. adults of working age are either working or actively looking for a job, which is the smallest proportion of the labor force since the 1970s.

Despite higher pay, consumers remain gloomy.

Consumer sentiment registered 71.7 in the University of Michigan's monthly survey, almost a third lower than the 101 that marked February 2020, just before the COVID virus arrived.

Consumers also expect inflation to surge at 4.8 percent over the next 12 months, the survey found.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have been forecasting, there will be more worker strikes and more union growth... globally. As inflation keeps rising workers will want higher pay. And with a low supply in the workforce—and shrinking more since many are refusing the COVID Job—there will be a wage hike spiral as well which will also push inflation higher.*

THE COST OF BREAKFAST SOARED 63 PERCENT IN PAST TWO YEARS



The cost of breakfast has risen 63 percent since 2019, according to the *Financial Times*.

The *FT*'s "breakfast indicator," which tracks commodity prices for wheat, oats, milk, sugar, coffee and orange juice have risen that much over the period and sped up over the summer, shooting up 26 percent since the end of June.

Cost pressures on ingredients, processing, packaging, and transport will continue, analysts told the *FT*, leading food makers such as Nestlé and Procter and Gamble not only to raise their products' retail prices but also warn that more hikes are ahead (["Food Companies Raise Retail Prices."](#) 15 Jun 2021).

"High prices are here for at least another year," Carlos Mera, chief agricultural commodities researcher at Rabobank, told the *FT*.

Good weather and high crop yields held food prices almost level from 2016 into 2020, the *FT* noted.

However, soaring post-COVID demand has collided with droughts and two consecutive years of La Niña weather patterns, sparking more drought in the western hemisphere and rain deluges in Australia.

As a result of these factors, wheat futures have zoomed 20 percent as Argentine, Russian, and U.S. wheat crops withered under droughts, while Europe's growers dealt with heavy rains.

Drought in Brazil has damaged the coffee and sugar crops, pushing their prices up 56 and 26 percent, respectively, this year.

Canada, the world's leading oat producer, saw its crop shrink 44 percent this year with too little rain.

At the same time, rising demand for biofuel has pushed up prices for vegetable oils.

Droughts have left farmers with smaller crops so they are unable to cash in on the commodities' higher prices, which means they have less money to invest in seeds and equipment to produce more next year, the *FT* pointed out.

Also, soaring prices for natural gas have prompted some fertilizer plants to shut down, darkening the outlook for next summer's crop yields. Natural gas is used to produce compounds in chemical fertilizers.

"All agricultural commodities are going to be affected by fertilizer prices not coming [down] in the short term," research chief Kona Haque at ED&F Man said to the *FT*.

"It's going to take more than a year to grow your way out of the tight supply situation we're in now," Will Osnato, analyst at Gro Intelligence, commented to the *FT*.

"This is really when we start feeling the pressure on input cost inflation," he said.

TREND FORECAST: *The proof is in the pudding, literally, that inflation is not temporary or transitory as the Bankster Bandits were selling for nearly a year.*

The rising prices are going to be felt around the world. Thus, there will be artificial increases in consumer spending. Yes, consumer spending numbers will go up, but not because people are buying more products, but rather they will be buying less but it will cost them more.

KRAFT HEINZ JACKS PRICES AS IT SCRAMBLES TO MEET DEMAND



Food giant Kraft Heinz is unable to fill orders for single-serving drinks, meal combos, and other products popular now that children have returned to school, the company said in a 27 October statement.

Unable to source enough materials such as coffee, dairy products, and meat, Kraft Heinz has raised consumer prices on

two-thirds of its products by between 4 and 5 percent, reflecting its rising costs of materials, including packaging, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The company expects inflation to persist through at least the middle of next year and will continue to raise prices as it needs to, it said.

Even with short supplies, the company reported a year-on-year sales increase of 1.3 percent in this year's third quarter.

U.S. food prices overall rose 4.6 percent in September compared to a year earlier, the U.S. labor department reported.

TRENDPOST: Our ["OFF WITH THEIR HEADS 2.0"](#) trend from December 2019, forecasting the global rise in anger directed at the 1 percent, was already spreading globally prior to 2020's COVID War.

As the gap between the rich and poor widens, so, too, will the animosity between the "haves" and "have nots." And as the Bigs keep getting bigger, income inequality will be a key platform in the formation of new political parties across the globe.

Gated communities will increase in popularity, and more private security will be hired by the haves who will be gangland targets.

McDONALD'S BOOSTS MENU PRICES



With U.S. restaurants having collectively raised wages at least 10 percent this year, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, McDonald's expects to raise domestic menu prices about 6 percent in 2021, the company told the *WSJ*.

The burger flipper's company-owned restaurants have raised pay about 15 percent this year, McDonald's said, with pay in franchisee-owned outlets up an average of about 5 percent.

The company also is paying more for everything from potatoes to cleaning supplies, it noted.

Commodity costs rose 2 percent earlier this year but will rise 3.5 to 4 percent overall for this year, McDonald's predicted.

Global third-quarter sales jumped 10.2 percent, compared to 2019's third quarter, with U.S. sales climbing 14.6 percent, McDonald's reported.

Starbucks has announced it will raise the average pay for U.S. hourly workers from \$14 to \$17.

Baristas with at least two years of service will be eligible for raises of up to five percent; those behind the counter for at least five years could see a boost of as much as 10 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *It has not only been pre-existing medical conditions that have made people more susceptible to the COVID virus. The high rates of disease and death in the U.K. and U.S. parallel those countries' addiction to fried and manufactured foods that have much of the nutritional value taken out of them to make room for salt, white sugar, and flavorings.*

As we noted in ["Junk Food Sales Turn Sunnyside Up"](#) (2 Feb 2021), while organic movements have grown substantially over the last two decades, organic foods in 2019 accounted for only 5.8 percent of the food sold in retail channels. Indeed, a walk through any major supermarket chain store shows how small the organic sections are and how limited the scope of products are compared to the low-quality, highly processed, non-organic aisles that dominate.

TREND FORECAST: *McDonald's higher prices will not hurt sales. Adults, teens, and children will keep gobbling junk food for comfort and familiarity in a world that seems increasingly chaotic and uncertain.*

FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



ISRAEL TO ATTACK IRAN? WASHINGTON GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT TO THE ‘MILITARY OPTION’

By Philip Giraldi, PhD, Executive Director of the Council for the National Interest

Some might recall candidate Joe Biden’s pledge to work to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which was a multilateral agreement intended to limit Iran’s ability to develop a nuclear weapon. The JCPOA was signed by President Barack Obama in 2015, when Biden was Vice President, and was considered one of the only foreign policy successes of his eight years in office.

Other signatories to it were Britain, China, Germany, France, and Russia and it was endorsed by the United Nations. The agreement included unannounced

inspections of Iranian nuclear facilities by the IAEA and, by all accounts, it was working and was a non-proliferation success story.

In return for its cooperation Iran was to receive its considerable assets frozen in banks in the United States and was also to be relieved of the sanctions that had been placed on it by Washington and other governments.

The JCPOA crashed and burned in 2018 when President Donald Trump ordered U.S. withdrawal from the agreement, claiming that Iran was cheating and would surely move to develop a nuclear weapon as soon as the first phase of the agreement was completed.

Trump, whose ignorance on Iran and other international issues was profound, had surrounded himself with a totally Zionist foreign policy team, including members of his own family, and had bought fully into the arguments being made by Israel as well as by Israel Lobby predominantly Jewish groups to include the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Trump's time in office was spent pandering to Israel in every conceivable way, to include recognizing Jerusalem as the country's capital, granting Israel the green light for creating and expanding illegal settlements on the West Bank and recognizing the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as part of Israel.

Given Trump's record, most particularly the senseless and against-American-interests abandonment of JCPOA, it almost seemed a breath of fresh air to hear Biden's fractured English as he committed his administration to doing what he could to rejoin the other countries who were still trying to make the agreement work.

After Biden was actually elected, more or less, he and his Secretary of State Tony Blinken clarified what the U.S. would seek to do to "fix" the agreement by making it stronger in some key areas that had not been part of the original document.

Iran for its part insisted that the agreement did not need any additional caveats and should be a return to the status quo ante, particularly when Blinken and his team made clear that they were thinking of a ban on Iranian ballistic missile development as well as negotiations to end Tehran's alleged "interference" in the politics of the region.

The interference presumably referred to Iranian support of the Palestinians as well as its role in Syria and Yemen, all of which had earned the hostility of American "friends" Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Israel inevitably stirred the pot by sending a stream of senior officials, to include Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to discuss "the Iranian threat" with Biden and his top officials. Lapid made clear that Israel "reserves the right to act at any given moment, in any way... We know there are moments when nations must use force to protect the world from evil."

And to be sure, Biden, like Trump, has also made his true sentiments clear by surrounding himself with Zionists. Blinken, Wendy Sherman and Victoria Nuland have filled the three top slots at the State Department, all are Jewish and all strong on Israel. Nuland is a leading neocon. And pending is the [appointment of Barbara Leaf](#), who has been nominated Assistant Secretary to head the State Department's Near East region. She is currently the Ruth and Sid Lapidus Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), which is an AIPAC spin off and a major component in the Israel Lobby.

That means that a member in good standing of the Israel Lobby would serve as the State Department official overseeing American policy in the Middle East.

At the Pentagon one finds a malleable General Mark Milley, always happy to meet his Israeli counterparts, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, an affirmative action promotion who likewise has become adept at parroting the line "Israel has a right to defend itself." And need one mention ardent self-declared Zionists at the top level of the Democratic Party, to include Biden

himself, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and, of course, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer?

So rejoining the JCPOA over Israel objections was a non-starter from the beginning and was probably only mooted to make Trump look bad. Indirect talks including both Iran and the U.S. technically have continued in Vienna, though they have been stalled since the end of June. Trita Parsi [has recently learned](#) that Iran sought to make a breakthrough for an agreement by seeking a White House commitment to stick with the plan as long as Biden remains in office. Biden and Blinken refused and Blinken [has recently confirmed](#) that a new deal is unlikely, saying “time is running out.”

And there have been some other new developments. Israeli officials have been warning for over twenty years that Iran is only one year away from having its own nukes and needs to be stopped, a claim that has begun to sound like a religious mantra repeated over and over, but now they are actually funding the armaments that will be needed to do the job.

Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi has repeatedly [said the IDF is “accelerating” plans to strike Iran](#), and Israeli politicians including former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have regularly been threatening to do whatever must be done to deal with the threat from the Islamic Republic. Israeli media is reporting that \$1.5 billion [has been allocated](#) in the current and upcoming budget to buy the American bunker buster bombs that will be needed to destroy the Iranian reactor at Bushehr and its underground research facilities at Natanz.

In the wake of the news about the war funding, [there have also been reports](#) that the Israeli Air Force is engaging in what is being described as [“intense” drills to simulate attacking Iranian nuclear facilities](#). After Israel obtains the 5000 pound bunker buster bombs, it will also need to procure bombers to drop the ordnance, and one suspects that the U.S. Congress will somehow come up with the necessary “military aid” to make that happen.

Tony Blinken has also made clear that the Administration knows what Israel is planning and approves. He met with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on

October 13th and said if diplomacy with Iran fails, the U.S. will turn to “other options.” And yes, he followed that up [with the venerable line](#) that “Israel has the right to defend itself and we strongly support that proposition.”

[Lapid confirmed](#) that one of Blinken’s “options” was military action. “I would like to start by repeating what the Secretary of State just said. Yes, other options are going to be on the table if diplomacy fails. And by saying other options, I think everybody understands here ... what is it that we mean.”

It must be observed that in their discussion of Iran’s nuclear program, Lapid and Blincken were endorsing an illegal and unprovoked attack to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon that it is apparently not seeking, but which it will surely turn to as a consequence if only to defend itself in the future.

In short, U.S. foreign policy is yet again being held hostage by Israel. The White House position is clearly and absurdly that an Israeli attack on Iran, considered a war crime by most, is an act of self-defense. However it turns out, the U.S. will be seen as endorsing the crime and will inevitably be implicated in it, undoubtedly resulting in yet another foreign policy disaster in the Middle East with nothing but grief for the American people.

The simple truth is that Iran has neither threatened nor attacked Israel. Given that, there is nothing defensive about the actions Israel has already taken in sabotaging Iranian facilities and assassinating scientists, and there would be nothing defensive about direct military attacks either with or without U.S. assistance on Iranian soil.

If Israel chooses to play the fool it is on them and their leaders. The United States does not have a horse in this race and should butt out, but one doubts if a White House and Congress, firmly controlled by Zionist forces, have either the wisdom or the courage to cut the tie that binds with the Jewish state.

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TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



INFLATION “CONTAINED?” HOW ABOUT NO.

By *Gregory Mannarino* TradersChoice.net

Haven’t you heard? The Federal Reserve is changing its “inflation is transitory” narrative to “inflation is contained.”

Contained, really? Where have we heard that before?

Oh yes! “Contained” was the exact same word as the former Fed Chairman, Ben Bernanke, used to describe the subprime collapse which led to a global financial MELTDOWN.

No... Inflation is not “contained,” **nor is it even meant to be contained.**

Today, despite inflation surging higher at its fastest pace on record, the Fed continues to run its “inflation creation” machine—*the Fed is issuing debt through one door, and then buying it back through another.*

I have explained FOR YEARS that this mechanism of the Fed issuing debt, then buying it back is massively inflationary. I have also explained that it was only a matter of time before inflation would surge higher because of it.

This debt revolving door mechanism is also MASSIVELY stock market positive, henceforth why the stock market continues to set new record highs.

The Federal Reserve IS public enemy number one. More specifically, the Fed is the adversary of the entire middle class. The Fed, by keeping rates suppressed since the onset of quantitative easing in November 2008, has literally robbed the middle class of TRILLIONS of dollars in realized wealth by not allowing people's interest earning accounts to even remotely keep up with the surging rate of inflation.

This is GRAND THEFT on an epic scale.

This legal theft mechanism has, at the expense of the middle class, re-inflated a massive stock market HYPER-bubble. Moreover, QE now going on for 13 years has created monumental distortions across the entire spectrum of asset classes—AND NONE OF THIS IS BY ACCIDENT.

What can we expect moving forward?

The Fed has ZERO intention of stopping its asset purchasing program despite them calling for some kind of “taper” in the not-so-distant future. Moreover, even IF the Fed were to slow the pace of its asset purchasing program, the Fed would still be issuing and then buying historic amounts of assets—this again is massively inflationary and highly stock market positive.

Globally we can expect inflation to continue to surge higher, putting more pressure on the middle class. We can also expect that the savings rate of the middle class will plummet as they take on even more debt. We can expect that the stock market will continue to hit new record highs as the economy continues to free-fall. We can expect that the Fed will not only continue to buy assets, but

they will continue to funnel dollars to other central banks around the world who will in turn also buy more assets— WITH DOLLARS.

We can expect that price action distortions across the entire spectrum of asset classes will get much worse. We can also expect that at one point these deliberately created market distortions will correct to some kind of fair value, *actually an over correction will occur*, and a financial crisis unlike anything which has ever been seen before will change the world—and a new global feudal system will emerge.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



IN THE EVENT OF SOCIAL CHAOS

By *Bradley J. Steiner*, [American Combat](#)

If we are correct then the term for those who are rather constantly concerned about the prospect of society's collapse, and of subsequent urban chaos, is "preppers." Obviously, we believe in being prepared, and so we respect those who occupy themselves with activities that are intended to see to their and to their loved ones' survival and protection.

And while we tend not to feel that everything may be unravelling shortly, and anarchy will be the way of things throughout America, we definitely understand that from time to time neighborhoods and even entire cities can be caught in the throes of rioting and insane violence and looting.

We do not believe that people are overreacting when they acknowledge this, and when as a result they proceed to make preparations for it... just in case.

Here are some tips in no particular order that you might find valuable to help you and yours if, God forbid, some real urban lunacy hits your area. These hardly offer any kind of “complete plan”, but we think that they could provide some good tactical readiness.

Students of our System will recognize that these tactical skills derive from the core instruction that all of our students are given over time; instruction that enable them to not merely defend themselves in typical “self-defense situations”, but that enable them to deal with and have a better-than-excellent fighting chance of surviving whatever may come.

Firearms

An absolute necessity when you are planning for serious disasters of a violent kind, where looters, rioters, and invaders plague a neighborhood or an entire city. Depriving private citizens of their right to keep and bear arms (a right which used to be protected by our Nation’s Constitution, via its second amendment) amounts to nothing less than a tyrannical abuse of power, and a clear violation of the individual’s right to life. (Having the “right to life”, but being deprived of the right to possess and to employ the tools, equipment, weapons, facilities, means, or skills that enable the individual to protect his life, makes a cruel farce of the very concept of “justice”.)

There was a case reported in the news years ago of a gang of martial arts students, led by their rogue “teacher”, who executed a home invasion in almost military style. While one group of bastards knocked on the door and gained forcible entry thereby when the resident opened the door, a second group of rodents burst through the home’s rear door, executing a two-pronged attack on the terrified residents.

Lesson 1: Do not open your door to anyone without identifying who it is and feeling completely safe that you know them and are in no danger from them. We say never open a door to a stranger.

Lesson 2: If or when your area is under threat of people-turned-animals, with rioting and home invasions, etc. taking place, then go to your door and check

who is there with a loaded gun in your hand; perhaps a jacket or a magazine tossed over it to conceal its presence.

AND ALWAYS UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS HAVE ANOTHER PERSON GO TO YOUR HOME'S BACK DOOR—GUN IN HAND—IN CASE THE FRONT DOOR APPROACH IS A DISTRACTION, AND/OR IN CASE THIS IS AN ALL-OUT INVASION ON BOTH FRONTS.

Forcible, violent entry of your home by invaders must be met by opening fire and shooting them. This is no time to play cop and attempt an arrest, or to hope that they will abandon their plans if you tell them to do so in an assertive voice!

Lesson 3: In such a dire situation of literal societal breakdown you will need to have one family member remain awake, and armed, while the other family members sleep. And they must sleep with loaded weapons within reach. And a reminder... do not fire “warning” shots. Ever.

Your Vehicles: It is wisest if they are not parked outside, but instead are parked inside your garage. It is not a bad idea to park them inside the garage by backing them in, so that you can readily depart the garage and be on your way (to a safe area, a medical facility, etc.) if necessary.

Beware Terrorist-Type Traps

If while driving you approach what appears to be an accident victim lying in the road, proceed beyond that point, do not stop. Call for emergency police or ambulance assistance, but during times of chaos never place yourself or loved ones in potentially deadly threat situations by being a “good samaritan” and stopping to help.

If someone comes to your door, baby in hand, crying and asking for help because there has been an accident, do not open the door (you may live just long enough to regret doing so, if a gang of crazies burst in and wipe out your family). Go to your phone and call for assistance, and tell them through the door that you are summoning an ambulance and the police. And for heaven's sake never stop for hitch-hikers!

If You Must Go Outside

If you are forced to remain in a location where social chaos is rampant then try to remain in your home as much as possible. (Sadly, right now, people living in certain neighborhoods in certain of America's major cities already have become acclimated to staying inside unless they must go somewhere. Disgraceful, but true.)

A couple of helpful rules: If you go outside you must then carry a loaded gun. Do not go out alone if at all possible, but go with at least one other person, and that person—or those people—should also be armed. When you go outside look unassuming and shabby (without actually appearing to be a bum). Wear no jewelry and do not make eye contact with anyone. Be supremely alert and give no one the chance to put a hand on you without decking him.

Have Supplies On Hand

Survival foods is a good investment. Having the ability to feed yourself and your family for three to six months without having to go to the store can be a blessing if the you-know-what hits the fan in your city. Storing water can be a problem, but it's not a bad idea to have three or four days supply of drinking water on hand. We'd recommend having water purification tablets so that you will be able to drink the tap water even if its safety becomes questionable.

Depending upon where you live you might want to have a good supply of extra blankets for the winter months, as well as thermal underwear and other warm, protective clothing so that no matter how severe the winter weather gets, you and yours can keep warm if there is no heat.

Fantastic lanterns that provide thousands of hours of light, and that run on batteries can now be purchased from a number of sources. These are more desirable than any candle light or fuel-operated lanterns, because they are far safer. Keep lots of batteries on hand, and have a couple of high quality flashlights in your home, too.

Bugging Out

This option could prove to be more hazardous than remaining ensconced in your home. If you have a safe place to go (and we mean really safe; not some easily overrun cabin a few miles out of the city), and if that place has adequate supplies and living accommodations, and if that place is safe, and if you and your loved ones can escape to it safely and in time, well... then bugging out might make sense.

But don't let the romantic image of "roughing it" and living off the land make a fool out of you. What might be a lot of fun for a weekend when times are normal, can be a terrifying way to commit suicide in times of chaos, when you literally have to live off the land and hope that a roving band of armed crazies do not discover your little hideout! Just some input if there is any "preppy" in you.

Two final cautions:

1. Do not be the kind of pollyannaish horse's ass who snickers at the idea of horrific events transpiring because you personally live peacefully and sanely, and
2. Do not be the kind of fool who believes "it can't happen here" (wherever "here" happens to be).

History has confirmed that it can happen anywhere. Yes, some of those who live in dread of an apocalypse taking modern civilization back to the stone age sometime this year are nutjobs. But no one who wishes to be realistically prepared for the kind of man-made horrors that the brainless of our species bring about from time to time in history is a "crackpot".

Far from it.

In fact, aside from those scummy nutjobs who cause and who participate in the fomenting of violence, disaster, destruction, and chaos, the only nutjobs are those who think that it can't and certainly won't ever happen!

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

FBI: THE POLITICIZED POLICE UNDERMINING AMERICA

Last week Ted Cruz eviscerated Attorney General Merrick Garland over the Justice Department siccing the FBI on parents airing concerns at school board meetings.

Cruz rightly condemned Garland for mobilizing the FBI to act on a vitriolic letter by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) that claimed parents constituted a “domestic terrorism” threat.

Among other things, the letter asserted that "acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials... could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes."

It turns out the letter was part of a premeditated effort by the association, working with the Biden administration, to intimidate anyone parental opposed to their radical “Critical Race Theory” and COVID mandate agendas.

Cruz [succeeded](#) in showing the naked weaponization of government agencies now targeting American citizens for political wrongthink.

Unfortunately, it's likely that nothing will change from rhetorical victories.

Setting Up Political Smears

Since the 1990's, the FBI has operated more and more pervasively as a political police force, engaging in set-ups and subterfuge...

They have targeted enemies to further political agendas, and have actively manipulated events to achieve outcomes that have allowed the pursuit of a more comprehensive police state, where average citizens are less free to exercise Constitutional rights, and government is more empowered to suppress and even criminalize opposition to their dictates.

An excellent recent article at conservativetreehouse.com eviscerated two of the more recent smear missions of the FBI: the kidnapping plot of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and the January 6 Capitol protest.

In both cases, the FBI set out not only to entrap a group of participants into criminal activities. They created and encouraged criminal events in order to use them to smear and suppress political movements.

Gretchen Whitmer stood out in 2020 for enacting some of the most stringent COVID lockdowns measures in the nation. At the same time, she was rightly reviled for hypocritically breaking her own mandates.

As political opposition to the lockdowns escalated, and protesters assembled rallies and a recall effort, a “kidnapping plot” against Whitmer suddenly broke in the news.

Local news outlet [abc12](#) at the time described the events that led to the October arrests of the plotters, as per the FBI:

- “On June 6: court documents say those two people and about 13 others from several different states met in Dublin, Ohio. The FBI says they planned to create a self-sufficient society that followed the U.S. Bill of Rights.
- “Next: they looked to add numbers to their group, connecting with a Michigan militia Facebook group. Several other meetings followed in June, including one at a Second Amendment rally in Lansing.
- “Over the next three months: the group met for tactical training exercises in the Jackson County town of Munith and in the Lake County town of Luther. That’s where they allegedly came up with their plans to attack a Michigan State Police facility and shoot up the Whitmer’s vacation home with the goal of kidnapping her.”

The plot was reported relentlessly in the media, and was used by authorities to cast opposition to the Governor and other COVID policy hardliners as dangerous, radical and violent.

But it turned out the entire kidnapping plot was the brainchild of the FBI. The agency actively sought out a few requisite discontents, and manipulated them all along the way in the progress points of the plot.

As the conservativetreehouse pointed out, 12 of 18 suspects involved were working for the FBI from the outset. In other words, 12 dedicated FBI operatives managed to rope only six others into a grand conspiracy to create a self-sufficient society that followed the U.S. Bill of Rights, and overthrow a hypocritical Governor who is still lying about how many nursing home patients here COVID policies killed.

The January 6 Washington DC protests presented another opportunity for the FBI to undermine legitimate public political and protest rights.

Organized in the aftermath of the November 2020 presidential election, the FBI knew for weeks that the protest was shaping up to be massive.

People across the country were appalled by widespread evidence of voter irregularities and fraud, manipulation of voting processes by mega billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg and George Soros, and systematic suppression of political speech on social media platforms, all designed to benefit Joe Biden.

A trespass into the Capitol building that occurred on January 6 was nothing new in terms of politics. (See the Democrat activist occupations of the Hart Senate Office Building and the Wisconsin State House, as referenced in [“POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.A.”](#) 2 March 2021.)

But the overall scene of thousands at the Capitol was twisted into a narrative of “insurrection.” Over 600 protestors, most of whom did nothing more than trespass, have been held as political prisoners.

Americans have largely been cowed from further protests in the months since, over the election, or unpopular COVID policies and vaccine mandates.

But just like the Whitmer case, evidence is now coming to light that the FBI infiltrated groups involved in the January 6 protest, not just to monitor potential criminal activity, but to actively incite such activity.

Representative Thomas Massie last week questioned Attorney General Merrick Garland about FBI agents planted in the crowd in DC.

Massie specifically brought up Ray Epps, a former leader with the Arizona chapter of Oath Keepers, and showed a video of Epps inciting a crowd to trouble.

Epps can be seen telling protesters at an event in DC the night before the rally: “Tomorrow we need to get into the Capitol! Into the Capitol!”

The FBI has notably not arrested Epps in connection with the Capitol protest, and has actually removed his picture from an FBI “Capitol Violence” website page.

It appears to be shaping up as another case where the FBI was setting up a smear.

The Dangerous Devolution of the FBI

The Whitmer case and the January 6 protest are the latest instances in a line of FBI abuses and derelictions of duty that have piled up over the last 25 years.

The conservativetreehouse article catalogued a tragic trail of incidents that have eroded trust and marked the devolution of the FBI into a dangerous organ of political manipulation.

Among the many lowlights include:

- 1992: Ruby Ridge. In a long sad series of events, the Federal government (via the ATF) set-up Randy Weaver, a former Green Beret. Weaver was induced to sell the informant a purportedly illegally sawed off shotgun. After Weaver failed to show at a court date over the matter, federal agents attempted a raid on Weaver's property. An FBI sniper killed Weaver's unarmed wife. Weaver's 14-year-old son was also killed in the woods near the Weaver home. Weaver and several children subsequently surrendered to authorities. The Weavers later won a combined out-of-court settlement in August 1995 of \$3.1 million. After numerous appeals, Kevin Harris, a friend of the Weaver's involved in the event, was awarded a \$380,000 settlement in September 2000.
- 1993: The Waco Massacre, in which dozens of children were burned to death when federal authorities including the FBI stormed a compound of a religious sect. A siege had lasted from 28 February until April 18, following an initial raid that resulted in the death of six Branch Davidian members and four federal agents. The government move on the compound resulted in the death of 76 people, including 25 children and two pregnant women.
- 1996: the framing of Richard Jewel for the Centennial Olympic Park bombing at the 1996 Summer Olympics, when Jewel was not only innocent, but discovered the pipe bomb and helped evacuate people from an area just before the explosion, likely saving many lives

- 2014: the FBI standoff at the Clive Bundy ranch over long exercised land grazing rights of ranchers
- 2016: the FBI cover-up surrounding the set-up ambush of Bundy supporters, and the killing of LaVoy Finicum, a friend of the Bundy family
- 2015 to 2020: The FBI engaged in one of the most corrosive episodes of subterfuge in the history of the nation. Called “spygate,” it involved the abuse of FISA warrants predicated on false information peddled by Clinton campaign operatives, to initiate spying on the Trump campaign and presidency. Spygate hobbled the entire Trump presidency with smears of Russian collusion, and information is still coming to light about the FBI’s corrupt involvement in undermining democracy

The FBI has also repeatedly failed to act on prior knowledge of specific dangers posed by many individuals who committed crimes. Some of those crimes ended up sparking political objectives with respect to more stringent “anti-terrorism” and gun control laws, etc.

A selection of those incidents and persons include:

- The Boston Marathon bombing committed by the Tsarnaev brothers
- San Bernardino terrorists, who killed 14 people and injured 22; the communications of Tasfeen Malik, who committed the crime along with Syed Farook, was under active FBI surveillance before the attack
- Colorado grocery store shooter Ahmad Alissa
- Pulse Nightclub shooter Omar Mateen; the FBI was tipped off by a local sheriff prior to the attack, yet did nothing to stop it
- Parkland High School shooter Nikolas Cruz; the FBI received at least one specific tip that Cruz was dangerous and about to commit a violent crime, likely at a school. In addition Cruz had a lengthy history of violent incidents and arrests, some involving firearms that was known to local police, school and federal authorities
- Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan
- The FBI knew the shooters of the first ISIS attack on U.S. soil, which occurred in Garland Texas in 2015. But not only that. The FBI transported

Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi, to the venue of the attack, and were standing only a few yards away when the assailants opened fire.

The circumstances and information surrounding 9/11 are a tragic and expansive subject all its own. But to give just a few examples of the dereliction and strange incompetence of the FBI (and other government agencies):

- Hijackers including Mohammad Atta were known to the FBI via a database called “Able Danger”
- Federal authorities were alerted that students in a flight school program were acting suspiciously
- A 2015 Showtime documentary titled “The Spymasters” revealed that the government had much more specific information prior to 9/11 than the 9/11 Commission Report admitted; the **Trends Journal** touched on that subject in [“A STROLL DOWN 21st CENTURY CONSPIRACY LANE.”](#) 29 Jun 2021

There are other events, including the bizarre FBI investigation of a mass shooting in Las Vegas during a country music concert, which resulted in no explanation of the possible motives of the attacker, or much about the event at all, despite the fact that 60 people were killed and 411 others were wounded.

But as Wikipedia noted, the shooting did focus political “attention on firearms laws in the U.S., particularly with regard to bump stocks, which Paddock used to fire shots in rapid succession.”

According to a final report issued on the deadliest mass shooting committed by an individual in the history of the U.S., the experts at the FBI could determine no clear motive for the attacker’s actions.

On August 3, 2018, Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo held a press conference on the release of the report. According to wiki:

“A report published by the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit in January 2019 said that ‘there was no single or clear motivating factor’ for the shooting.”

One group did claim to know the attacker's motive: ISIL. The terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed that Paddock was its "soldier" who had answered Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's call to attack coalition countries' citizens. Yes, the same al-Baghdadi later killed by U.S. forces in a drone strike.

But the FBI has maintained that despite ISIL's claim, the Las Vegas shooter had no known ties to the group.

More on the warping of the FBI into a corrupt and politicized tool of subterfuge can be read in the excellent conservativetreehouse article [here](#).

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



INNOVEGA OFFERS A LOOKING GLASS INTO THE METAVERSE. This past week Facebook made it official, changing its corporate name to “Meta”, signaling a focus to be a master corporation of a mixed-reality world.

Given Mark Zuckerberg's penchants, the worlds Meta creates are likely to be more immersive versions of the manipulated and censored social media gulag that Facebook has come to represent.

If so, the rebranded old-guard tech company may find much innovative and stiff competition from cryptosphere projects predicated on very different visions of what the future should be, and who should own and control it.

Beyond the paradigm battles shaping up, there's an overall sense that technologies of augmented and mixed realities are quickly developing and evolving.

One company that may soon be bringing the metaverse to more faces, is Innovega.

They've managed to develop a contact lens and normal looking eyewear combo that integrates the kind of data and 3d imaging into real world vision that looks pretty much like something Tony Stark might like to access in Marvel's *Ironman* and *Avengers* movies.

As the company notes, wearing Innovega's contact lenses and spectacles together gives the impression of conventional prescription eyeglasses rather than a large, intrusive headset.

Some of the system's significant features include:

“Integrated optical paths [that] bring the actual world and the AR/VR digital material shown in the eMacula glasses into focus at the same time. The eMacula system was designed to give users with a broad field of view, high resolution, and rich 3D media experience, while the multi-patented iOptik smart contact lenses are daily disposable lenses that use the wearer's visual prescription to provide a tailored viewing experience. The iOptik lenses are meant to reduce eye strain and discomfort by keeping the display information in focus no matter where the user is looking in the real world.”

Innovega holds more than 40 patents related to their technology, and it promises a lot of objectively useful benefits, for the visually impaired, for example, and to aid collaboration in learning and research.

But like any technology, there are foreseeable dangers as well.

From Mandated Masks to Mandated Metaverse Eyewear?

Like almost everything in the tech “quickenings” that defines the current epoch, before it was science, it was sci-fi. Perhaps one of the most dystopian envisionings of a metaverse was present in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

The novel continues to be highly relevant for its prediction that much of truth and reality must be verboten to any totalitarian regime, and the best way to purge it is to manipulate a populace into willing and fervently do it themselves.

But beyond the book burnings that gave the work its title (“Fahrenheit 451” refers to the temperature at which books burn), Bradbury offered a compelling glimpse into how easily reality would be willingly forfeited by people, if they could be seduced into enticing worlds of unreality.

Bradbury imagined a metaverse which would operate by enveloping people into a 3d world of interaction with their favorite television programs, via living room walls that projected the requisite environments, and allowed viewers to interact with the fictional characters.

The metaverse envisioned by mega-billionaire tech overlords like Mark Zuckerberg will go far beyond Bradbury’s worst fears.

Meta wants to design 24/7 mixed realities where virtual objects can be seen, tactically felt and manipulated just like real world objects.

People will join together who aren’t physically together. But it will get to the point where they will not be able to distinguish that fact.

Importantly, what Meta creates and gives, it can take away. Censorship on Facebook? Users of the company’s created worlds likely will have their experiences mediated and manipulated on a scale that’s hard to currently even imagine.

One thing *Fahrenheit 451* didn’t contemplate was that a significant portion of the population might resist the illusions of the immersive home telescreens that kept people anesthetized from seeking real experiences, and important truths.

At the time he wrote it, the technology of television was so popular it may have seemed impossible that anyone would want to be without it.

So what if a considerable number of people reject wearing unobtrusive eyewear and becoming a two-way information node in the metaverse?

Will it be mandated to perform a certain activity, say driving a vehicle, or attending a college or concert? Will businesses mandate metaverse participation for employment?

The answers are beginning to come into distinctly sharper focus.

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



CRYPTO OPENING WEALTH TO YOUNGER GENERATION

Younger generations who are more crypto savvy are currently seeing the lion's share of benefits in the crypto revolution.

As older investors scoff at and wonder about the value of bitcoin and other projects, cryptos have been a bright spot in what is in many ways, an overall bleak economic climate for young people.

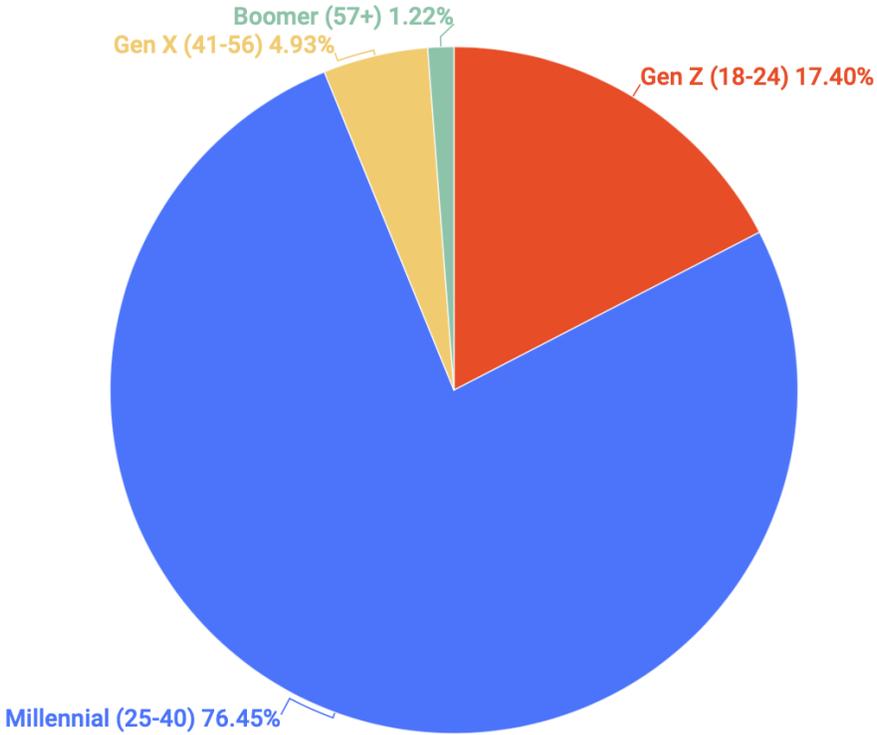
This is an age when a college degree can often mean years or even a lifetime of debt, as opposed to a relatively sure path to a secure and lucrative career.

And buying a home to build up equity? With 400 thousand dollars as a median price, an all-time high, buying an average home is quickly receding out of reach for many, let alone younger buyers who may already be carrying extensive college debt.

Yes, the stock market continues to climb for the time being, and young traders using Robinhood and other “free” trading apps are taking advantage, sometimes in ways that are maddening to seasoned investors.

They have driven up “meme stocks” looking to pump and capitalize, but also to go against the grain of what they see as entrenched interests acting as “masters of Wall Street.”

But the crypto space has offered the most aggressive speculative opportunities for a younger generation looking to ride a small stake “to the moon” off some altcoin project that might pump from a fraction of a penny to 10 cents, or a dollar, or a hundred dollars, over a year, or a few cases, practically overnight.



Source: [Stilt](#)

If there’s one thing the above pie chart shows, it’s that unlike the traditional investment space, or real estate, or practically any other sphere of wealth, cryptos are one area where younger generations actually hold the lionshare of valuation.

Greedy, lazy and insane?

The motivations of those in the crypto space are commonly derided by traditional investors.

Even now, the 2.5 trillion dollar crypto sector is viewed by many as little more than a huge speculative fiat-pumped bubble, fated to pop like the dot.com bust of the late 90's.

So are young crypto users and investors greedy, lazy and imprudent? Perhaps a bit of all three. But they've also been handed a sorry-ass world, where little functions as it should.

In the U.S. government is broken, along with elections. Laws are arbitrarily enforced, and lawmakers and judges are hopelessly conflicted and corrupt.

Corporations have amassed vast powers to control and profit off people, scraping them of data every moment, to analyse and capitalize.

To add insult to injury, in 2021, large corporations and the government, more than even [five years ago](#), are the likeliest options for employment. Corporations account for over 80 percent of private payrolls.

Young workers have less attachment or allegiance to the entities they work for than ever.

According to a 2021 Gallup "State of the Global Workplace" survey, 85 percent of employees say they are not engaged in their workplace.

Gallup noted about the findings:

“This means that the majority of workforce around the world are either viewing their workplace negatively or only doing the bare minimum to make it through the day, with little to no emotional attachment.”

Then there's the endless COVID War, which has sapped productivity, optimism and joy from every aspect of life. The fears of the old and neurotic are producing a scarred, lost generation.

There's no question that cryptos, Robinhood and Reddit app traders, and the entire crypto phenomenon might be viewed as a financial "psychotic break" born out of the abuses of a rigged system that have been playing out since at least 2008, when Bitcoin was born—and actually well before.

Desperate Games and New Realities

So are cryptos just a vast game of speculative pumps and dumps of altcoin projects which have little other rhyme or reason for their existence?

Is Bitcoin a digital illusion of value, signifying nothing?

People of a certain age obviously think so. Then again, they have that luxury. They've made theirs (or not) via traditional means in a time when things still more or less worked.

It's a different world.

But dismissing cryptos as being digital voids of zero real value is wrong for other reasons.

Because beyond the aggressive speculation and the meme coins, there most certainly is a there there. The cypher punks playing at their computers, wiling away their early years being babysat by the digital games of money-sucking corporations, figured something out.

For one thing, they figured out how to make software and networks that provided a tokenized reward to those who participated in a highly dispersed way.

They corporatized the space and cut out the intermediary corporations and financial markets.

That's what cryptos are. Software.

Few today would argue that software is valueless because it's digital. IBM famously took that basic position c. 1978, when a young geek funded by dad managed to persuade the computer giant to spin off its personal computer operating system.

The real money was in hardware.

Do all crypto software projects have value? No more or less so than the thousands of software applications and companies that have come and gone over the past 40 years.

But make no mistake. Among those thousands of cryptos that will fail or achieve only modest remunerative value over the course of their existence, are also the next phenomenons on the scale of Google, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft.

There will be huge projects with vast real world use cases, transforming the ways in which humans transact and interact in every conceivable way, and in ways not yet conceived.

In 2021, the world of traditional finance has definitely taken notice, and so have legacy tech corporations. A recent article on ambcrypto.com asserted Crypto projects are fueling a technological transformation on a scale that is being compared to other great eras of tech innovation, including the advent of the pc and the internet age.

Eric Peters, Founder, CEO, and CIO of One River Digital Asset Management, which oversees over \$2 billion in institutional assets, recently observed: "I think it is a transformation and definitely is the most interesting macro opportunity and macro investment thesis I've seen in my career."

Peters said it was inevitable that traditional finance would have to evolve and adapt to the crypto reality.

“The connection to legacy financial systems—let’s call it Wall Street with new technologies—is going to first happen in the pools of capital directed by a limited number of people as opposed to some big investment committee.

“The power of these [crypto] technologies hold the potential to lead to dystopia or renaissance. The path toward renaissance is consistent with the development of Bitcoin.”

But the adapting will extend far beyond financials. Gaming, intellectual property, information and web services, supply chain tracking and much more are being affected by crypto innovations.

There are obvious opportunities for those willing to see with just a bit of a view toward the long term, researching and investing in projects that are more than just speculative shots to the moon.

Bitcoin, Ethereum, Solana, Hedera, Constellation, Quant, Ripple, Stellar and dozens of others are forming the backbone right now of a crypto “Age of Utility.”

A new generation created this. And they will live it.

For more **Trends Journal** articles covering some of the topics addressed here, check out:

- [“THE CRYPTO ‘AGE OF UTILITY’ HAS JUST BEGUN”](#) (12 Oct 2021)
- [“ONLY CRYPTOPLORABLES HAVE USE FOR BITCOIN, SAYS NATIONAL REVIEW”](#) (19 Oct 2021)
- [“HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS ‘BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION’”](#) (29 Jun 2021)
- [“WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CRYPTOS AND BLOCKCHAINS?”](#) (15 Jun 2021)

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



NYDIG ACQUIRES BOTTLEPAY TO EXPAND CRYPTO FOCUS. Every day there are fresh signs that traditional finance is working overtime to catch up and move with haste into the cryptosphere.

Case in point: the New York based NYDIG crypto investing firm just bought British payments startup Bottlepay for an estimated 300 million dollars.

NYDIG was created with heavyweight financial backing, to focus on providing crypto custody and trading capabilities to institutions. Morgan Stanley, New York Life, and Soros Fund Management were among the startup's funders.

Those firms, as well as Chase and Wells Fargo have all joined with NYDIG to provide their own bitcoin investment products to customers.

According to outlet theblockcrypto.com, their deal for Bottlepay was completed last week.

Bottlepay, founded in 2019, allows users to make rapid payments in a variety of currencies, including bitcoin. The Lightning Network is used to facilitate bitcoin payments on the site.

NYDIG has made other moves earlier this year. It bought Arctos Capital, a commercial lender that offers financial solutions to bitcoin owners, investors, and miners, in April. And before that, it acquired Digital Assets Data, an analytics startup.

Bottlepay's major stakeholder is British millionaire Alan Howard. In February 2021, he spearheaded a £11 million investment in Bottlepay with NYDIG and

FinTech Collective, a venture capital organization. The firm was valued at £51 million in that round.

According to theblockcrypto.com, Howard has been putting a lot of money into crypto infrastructure businesses. Copper and Komainu, two crypto custodians; CoinShares, an asset management; and Ledn, a crypto lender, are among his holdings.

ARWEAVE OFFERS “FOREVER” WEB STORAGE. Blockchain databases don't typically hold much actual storage data, including image and video files, NFT graphic objects, etc.

Instead the blocks written to the chain contain pointers to urls where data is found.

Arweave is a token-powered peer-to-peer network of distributed storage that promises to offer “forever storage” for a one-time fee. The fee is currently 34 dollars per gigabyte.

The project allows users to accrue tokens in a wallet, and pay for storage that can be accessed via an “ArDrive”, sort of like a cloud google drive or dropbox.

But the storage purchased for an ArDrive is permanently owned, without further fees.

According to Motley Fool, which recently reviewed the service for potential investors, miners on the [Arweave](#) network are rewarded for continually replicating the stored material by a single charge paid in AR up front. Network fees are more akin to endowments than fees. Because the cost of data storage is decreasing as technology progresses, the interest gained on the original payment is more than enough to cover the Arweave ecosystem's running expenses.

Users can opt to earn tokens by running a node, and sharing excess storage space.

ArDrive is actually only one of over 300 dApps (decentralized apps) running on the Arweave blockchain. Some other dApps include ArGo, a website archiving app, and an app called Pianity, for musicians to create NFTs to sell on an associated marketplace.

The Motley Fool noted that by 2025, the worldwide data storage sector would have grown by 22.3 percent per year to \$137.3 billion. Its exposure to NFTs is also a major development driver. Arweave, which does more than just represent a storage currency like Filecoin, has seen major gains over the past 12 months, from trading around two dollars in November 2020 to about 55 dollars currently.

METaverse AND NFTS ONLY GETTING HOTTER. Facebook's "Meta" morph to a new name and focus, no matter how much the company is reviled by many, does signal that the sector is only beginning a growth phase.

At this point, gaming companies are selling \$175 billion of virtual products per year, and NFT creators have sold \$10.7 billion worth of tokens over the past few months.

Traditional gaming companies are paying full attention, as **Trends Journal** noted in ["METaverse GAMING HITS BILLION DOLLAR PAYDIRT WITH AXIE INFINITY"](#) (5 Oct 2021) and ["ONE OF A KIND: THE WORLD OF NFTs"](#) (10 Aug 2021).

As big as it already is, it's the ground floor, and everything from gaming universes to mixed reality, to e-learning and remote business collaboration, and on to everyday existence, will likely be affected by metaverse and mixed reality apps and products.

Zuckerberg's announcement sent NFT gaming and metaverse related tokens like \$MANA, \$SAND and \$AXS upward.

Among blockchain gamers, other projects like The Sandbox and Sorare are getting a lot of buzz.

Sorare is an Ethereum blockchain-based NFT football game. More than 180 football teams are currently licensed on the gaming network, with new clubs joining every week.

The Sandbox, which also runs on the Ethereum blockchain, is a virtual environment where users can create, control, and monetise their game experiences.

The gaming model challenges traditional games like Minecraft and Roblox by giving participants actual property in the form of non-consumable tokens (NFTs) and paying them for their contributions to the ecosystem.

Many users have compared The Sandbox favorably to Decentraland.

Of course, Ethereum is hardly the only blockchain in town for the exploding metaverse. Solana, Algorand, Hedera and other networks all have significant projects and initiatives.

Polkadot has skyrocketed with parachain features and an ecosystem that has a lot of tokenized projects—with attendendance high risk and high reward potentials—being developed.

Efinity and their Enjin platform is also being touted as a prime blockchain that may benefit from the coming growth of NFTs that will span gaming and many other uses, including funding and owning real world assets like real estate, intellectual property like music and movies, and much more.

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



JUDGE PROTECTS SEEKERS OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO VAX MANDATE

The Epoch Times reports, on 29 October, that civilians and military personnel who have filed suit for religious exemptions from Pres. Biden's vaccine mandates are now protected by a restraining order and temporary injunction issued on 28 October by federal District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, a Bill Clinton appointee.

The judge's ruling prevents those plaintiffs from being fired or subject to discipline while their cases are pending or under appeal. The defendants, including all executive branch secretaries, have been ordered by the judge to issue memos indicating compliance with the ruling.

President Biden issued his executive order mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for all federal employees and contractors on 9 September. Twenty plaintiffs filed suit on behalf of themselves and the "hundreds of thousands of other federal employees and active-duty service members" who face termination, discharge or separation on or before 22 November if they remain unvaccinated.

TRENDPOST: In March, **Trends Journal** quoted a CNN report on vaccine resistance among military personnel: "Despite a massive effort by the Pentagon to promote the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, the US military's opt-out rate for vaccinations may be far higher than the 33 percent figure defense officials have used publicly...Conversations with military medical officials and service members, as well as data from several bases and units around the country, suggest the current rejection rate may be closer to 50%"; see ["JAB UPDATE: BLOOD CLOTS & U.S. MILITARY RESISTANCE"](#) (23 Mar 2021).

"Cavalier Attitude Toward the Rule of Law"

The plaintiffs' attorney, Michael Yoder, speaking after the judge's ruling, declared that "the Biden administration has shown an unprecedented, cavalier attitude toward the rule of law and an utter ineptitude at basic constitutional contours." He further called the mandate "dangerous to American liberty," citing the Constitution's protection against religious persecution and coercion.

Yoder further praised the judge's ruling, declaring that "we are one step closer to putting the Biden administration back in its place by limiting government to its enumerated powers. It's time citizens and courts said No to tyranny. The Constitution does not need to be re-written, it needs to be re-read."

Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that his state has filed a similar lawsuit against the same vaccine mandate. And the Biden administration has been warned by trade groups representing truckers and cargo carriers that the mandates would cause nationwide chaos by creating bottlenecks in the supply chain.

TREND FORECAST: Resistance to vax mandates will grow, in the form of legal challenges, strikes and demonstrations. The vax pushers will counter with more unconstitutional edicts and a ramped-up propaganda offensive.

TRENDPOST: As we have alerted **Trends Journal** subscribers, this year we formed *The Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice*

www.FreedomPeaceJustice.com) and we are now offering a Religious Vaccination Exemption for all those who join the Church ([click here](#)).

"NUREMBERG 2.0" BRINGS LEGAL CHALLENGE TO VAX NARRATIVE



The Nuremberg trials, conducted in 1945 and 1946 by the first international war crimes tribunal in world history, held prominent Nazis accountable for the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity, including medical experimentation conducted on human

beings against their will.

The need to establish rules governing such experimentation gave rise to the Nuremberg Code, which sets out ten such rules. It is a landmark in medical ethics.

Such medical ethics regarding experimentation are also addressed under articles of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

As reported on 21 October by, among others, World Newsdesk, legal proceedings are being brought, by a team of more than 1,000 lawyers and 10,000 medical personnel, against the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and the Davos Group, claiming those entities have committed crimes against humanity.

The team is led by Dr. Reiner Fuellmich. The lawsuit charges numerous violations of the Nuremberg Code and the Geneva Convention with regard to the development and administration of the COVID-19 vaccines.

World Newsdesk catalogs most of the many violations alleged. Some of the highlights include the following:

- Fuellmich's team alleges that the PCR test used to detect COVID-19 infections is known to be flawed and inaccurate, and therefore its use constitutes fraud. See ["COVID GOLD TEST PROVES TO BE 'WORTHLESS'"](#) (29 Sep 2020) and ["PCR TESTS ACCURATE? THINK FOR YOURSELF"](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- The lawsuit further alleges that citing the flawed test to attribute to COVID-19 deaths actually resulting from co-morbidities is similarly fraudulent.
- By virtue of a vaccine being "experimental," its use violates not only Articles 32 and 147 of the 1949 Geneva Convention but all 10 points of the Nuremberg Code. For example, claims that a vaccine provides immunity are untrue, because fully vaccinated persons can still be infected; see ["'BREAKTHROUGH': NEW TERM FOR VACCINE FAILURE"](#) (13 Apr 2021).
- Vaccine mandates, because they use blockades, coercion and threats, including, among other things, loss of livelihood or banning from participation in society to force compliance—see, for example, ["NO JAB, NO JOB. VACCINE MANDATES 'WORKING'"](#) (5 Oct 2021)—are in clear violation of the Nuremberg Code's rule number 1, that no person should be forced to take part in a medical experiment without informed consent; see ["COVID-19 VACCINES ARE A GLOBAL SCIENCE EXPERIMENT"](#) (25 May 2021).

TRENDPOST: *The very premise of bringing such a lawsuit has been characterized, by both promoters and critics, as "Nuremberg 2.0." Pushback against it has been extensive, and generally falls into the following categories:*

- *Simplistically and derogatorily, the mainstream characterizes the lawsuit as a "far-right conspiracy theory." Critics point out that the notion of putting global elites on trial in a "second Nuremberg" was already a hot topic among "far-right extremists" (many of whom believe that*

COVID-19 was planned and deliberately foisted upon the world, and that it and the vaccines constitute a cynical and deadly form of population control) long before this lawsuit.

- *Painting Fuellmich as a charismatic figure and his supporters, many of whom see him as a hero and savior, as cult-like; his support group of 1,700 was removed from Facebook for violating FB policies regarding COVID-19 and vaccination "misinformation."*

Fuellmich was previously known for his involvement in corporate fraud cases against Volkswagen ("Dieselgate") and Deutsche Bank. But he's since become known as a leader in the global anti-lockdown movement (also characterized as populated by "conspiracy theorists"); among other class-action lawsuits he's attempting is one against Christian Drosten, the virologist and so-called "Corona explainer-in-chief" who is Germany's version of Dr. Anthony Fauci.

- *Labeling the claims made by Fuellmich's group, such as the challenges to the legitimacy of the PCR tests, as "viral misinformation" often based on "myths." Even the notion that the Nuremberg Code can be applied to COVID-19 has been called "fundamentally flawed."*
- *Claiming that Fuellmich is in it for the money, or to further his political ambitions (he is a "fringe" candidate for chancellor of Germany).*

TREND FORECAST: *Mere discussion of this lawsuit serves to illustrate that challenges to the official COVID narrative (and especially the "Vaccines for everybody, forever" model) are gaining traction and momentum worldwide.*

Trends Journal *maintains its forecast for the rise of anti-establishment, anti-vax political movements, and repeats and continues its forecast that the more and the stricter COVID rules are imposed, the more they will be challenged, and the more aggressive the confrontations will become.*

COVID BOOSTERS: BIDEN, DRUG LORDS "GOT WHAT THEY WANTED"



The very notion of whether COVID-19 booster shots are actually called for is now rife with conflicting messages from the Biden administration and from medical experts advising the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The New York Times reports, on 28 October, that scientists on the two committees advising those agencies were recently interviewed on their votes which ultimately approved the booster shots.

The Way the Question is Asked Influences the Answer

Many panelists' comments were damning of the process, taking issue, for example, with the nature of the questions, which required Yes or No answers without any provision for nuance. Some said they felt compelled to vote for approval of the shots because of the way the agencies had framed the questions.

"They Got What They Wanted"

One member of the FDA's advisory committee commented that "...In our hearts, I think people don't quite agree with this notion of a booster dose," but that the drug companies "got what they wanted" and "the administration got what they wanted."

Low Quality Data

Other experts remarked that their votes had been informed by limited data on the safety and efficacy of the booster shots; the data in favor of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson shots were characterized as "of very low quality." But

some voted to approve those boosters out of a sense of "fairness," because they had already voted to approve the shots from Pfizer.

"Lip Service to Science and the Evidence"

Some panelists remarked that the die had been cast when Pres. Biden promised (in August) booster shots for all adults, putting advisers in "a very difficult situation to do much of anything other than what everybody has already announced that we've done" and making approval "inevitable." One remarked that some administration officials pay mere "lip service to science and the evidence."

Despite having approved the administration's booster shot program, several advisers believe that data shows that most Americans (excepting those over age 65) are protected against severe illness and have no need of booster shots. Approval of booster shots for those aged 18 to 49 with other risk factors only "squeaked by," and there was no approval for those facing occupational risks, although that category was included only because CDC director Rochelle Walensky overrode her advisers; see ["SELLING BOOSTER SHOTS, CDC'S WALENSKY SAYS 'FU' TO AGENCY ADVISERS"](#) (28 Sep 2021).

Dr. Celine Gounder, an infectious disease specialist and a former advisor to the Biden administration, noted that this is "a confusing mess" which is "going to create more problems." But she also remarked that "the perception is that the horse is out of the barn, and there's not really much you can do at this point." Dr. Gounder was previously quoted in **Trends Journal** as saying, "Feeling sick like a dog and laid up in bed, but not in the hospital, is not a good enough reason" for a booster shot; see ["CDC'S 3 NEW VAX EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES = BIG LIE"](#) (24 Aug 2021).

TREND FORECAST: As ***Trends Journal*** has noted before, there will continue to be solid scientific grounds for questioning whether the profit motive—along with whatever political agendas are also driving the push for "Vaccines for All, Forever!"—outweighs genuine concern for the public's well-being; see ["COVID BOOSTERS ARE THE FUTURE?"](#) (10 Aug 2021).

Furthermore, the Times article clearly exemplifies how, regardless of facts, those in control are in complete control and those who refuse to follow orders or do what they are told are dismissed, ignored or beaten down... it has been, and continues to be, "the way of the world."

VAX MANDATES: IOWA PUSHES BACK



The Wall Street Journal reported this weekend that the Iowa legislature passed a bill, which Governor Kim Reynolds signed into law and which becomes effective immediately, guaranteeing that any Iowans

who lose their jobs for refusing a COVID-19 vaccine will remain eligible for unemployment benefits.

In addition, it allows Iowans to seek medical and religious exemptions from COVID-19 vax mandates.

Gov. Reynolds said "No Iowan should be forced to lose their job or livelihood over the COVID-19 vaccine."

The *WSJ* article states that Iowa's governor "has opposed government requirements for masks and vaccines, even though COVID-19 has killed nearly 7,000 in Iowa and medical science has shown both tools to be effective in reducing the spread of the coronavirus."

TRENDPOST: *Gov. Reynolds has, indeed, "opposed government requirements" before; see ["POLITICIANS CLASH ON ENDING MASK MANDATES"](#) (23 Feb 2021).*

Furthermore, [Iowa's own COVID-19 figures](#) show that, of the total (as of 26 October) of 6,965 residents whose deaths were listed as COVID-19 related,

6,441 had pre-existing conditions, including the 3,354 who were over 80 yrs. old. The state has a population of about 3.21 million.

As to the WSJ's remarks about "medical science" showing the effectiveness of masks and vaccines, see ["MASK MADNESS CONTINUES"](#) (18 Aug 2020), ["MASKS ARE A POLITICAL AGENDA"](#) (20 Oct 2020), and ["CDC'S 3 NEW VAX EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES = BIG LIE"](#) (24 Aug 2021).

CITIGROUP ON BOARD WITH "NO JAB, NO JOB"



As reported in **Trends Journal**, on 9 September President Biden, directing his remarks to those yet COVID-19 unvaccinated said, "We've been patient. But our patience is wearing thin, and your refusal has cost all of us," adding that the unvaccinated "can cause a lot of damage, and they are."

He then decreed by Executive Order that private sector companies with 100 or more employees must require those employees to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing, and that vaccination would be required of executive branch employees and federal contractors—anyone who does business with the federal government—with no testing option; see ["MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?"](#) (14 Sep 2021).

On 29 October *The New York Times* reported that Citigroup will be the first major bank to hop on board with Biden's order, making vaccination a condition of employment for its U.S. workers.

TRENDPOST: *Citigroup is one of the Big Four banks (the others are JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo). Citigroup has over 200,000 employees, down from the 357,000 it had before the banking crisis of 2007-2008*

(when it was the recipient of a federal bailout); see ["BINGE BORROWING AND CHEAP MONEY TO FIGHT COVID WAR: DANGER AHEAD"](#) (19 Oct 2021).

The *NYT* article cites the company's head of human resources, Sara Wechter, explaining that her bank has an obligation to comply because it does business with the federal government.

Ms. Wechter also said that such a policy will enable the bank to "ensure the health and safety of our colleagues as we return to the office," that requests for medical and religious exemptions will be considered, and that the bank will do "all we can to help our colleagues comply with this new requirement."

TREND FORECAST: *Ms. Wechter (who must also be a futuristic medical expert) also said, "It has become crystal clear that COVID-19 will not be going away any time soon."*

In saying that, she echoed not only Pres. Biden—who, in announcing his rule affecting some 100 million Americans, said, "We are in the tough stretch, and it could last a while"—but also Albert Bourla, the CEO of Pfizer, who is on record declaring that his company sees providing COVID-19 vaccines as a "durable revenue stream" and who plans to contract with "basically all governments of the world" to supply booster shots through 2024; see ["DRUG COMPANIES CASHING IN ON COVID"](#) (11 May 2021) and ["COVID JABS: STRIKE THREE"](#) (13 Jul 2021).

The worker shortage will continue to escalate as more people resist the COVID Jabs. Therefore, we forecast there will be an easing of corporate job mandates and the offering of religious vaccine exemptions in the coming months and years.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS SAY "TAKE THIS JOB—AND JAB—AND SHOVE IT!"



An article appearing on 23 October in *The Wall Street Journal* deals with a topic repeatedly addressed in **Trends Journal**: that healthcare workers will choose not to be vaccinated against COVID-19, often at the cost of their jobs; see, for example, ["MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?"](#) (14 Sep 2021).

The *WSJ* article cites the example of the Valley Health System, of Virginia and W. Virginia; when its 6,200 employees were ordered to take the jab, some 300 asked for and received exemptions on religious and medical grounds, but more than 200 workers resigned or were fired rather than comply.

Those workers cite reasons including suspicion of the vaccines as unproven, rushed into distribution and carrying the risks of side effects, some known and some yet unknown and possibly long-term, and that such risks are underreported. Some believe that pharmaceutical companies (i.e. drug lords) exert undue influence on vaccine policies.

The firings and resignations caused the company to have to temporarily close two of its facilities. The company's CEO condemned those workers for feeling that "their individual rights trump a global pandemic that's killed so many Americans." A public health official commented that "Just because you're in healthcare doesn't mean that science drives your core values."

TRENDPOST: *Translation: If you work in healthcare and refuse the jab, you're selfish and either stupid, a "science-denier," "misinformed and have no right to think for yourself."*

The article posits that vaccine resisters will eventually contract COVID-19, and will thus gain some degree of immunity, but that in the meantime they pose a threat to others, including children presently deemed too young to be vaccinated. This perceived risk to children is at odds with what **Trends Journal** has had to say on that topic; see ["VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"](#) (13 Jul 2021).

Such resisters are said to be standing in the way of society reaching its current goal of 85 percent vaccinated. Whether at that point "herd immunity" will be achieved is uncertain and in fact if herd immunity is science fiction and not what is being sold as "science."; see ["JOIN THE VAXXED HERD? MANY AMERICANS SAY 'NO'"](#) (11 May 2021) and ["HERD IMMUNITY HERESY: LIES AND DAMN LIES"](#) (12 Oct 2021).

TREND FORECAST: *Those with a vested interest (and implicit faith) in universal vaccination will continue to be confounded by healthcare workers who refuse to board the vax train; it seems a contradiction that workers who have seen firsthand the ravages of COVID-19 would not avail themselves of a readily available remedy. Trends Journal will continue to believe that healthcare workers' vaccine resistance is precisely because they have also seen, firsthand, the ravages of the vaccines; see ["NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES STILL JAB-WARY"](#) (26 Oct 2021).*

YET ANOTHER “NON-CONSPIRACY” REPORT SHOWS VACCINES ARE A CRAPSHOOT



Reports of serious side effects from the various COVID-19 vaccines, while treated dismissively (or simply ignored) by the Presstitutes, Drug Lords, and governments promoting "Vaccines for All, Forever!", are hardly new. **Trends Journal** coverage includes, for example:

- ["COVID VACCINE: 'SIGNIFICANT SAFETY CONCERNS'"](#) (15 Dec 2020)
- ["ASTRAZENECA VACCINE TIED TO HIGHER RISK OF BLEEDING PROBLEMS"](#) (15 Jun 2021)
- ["STATS, SIDE EFFECTS & DEATHS"](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- ["YET ANOTHER REASON FOR VACCINE HESITANCY"](#) (29 Jun 2021)

Now, as reported on 26 October by the *Financial Times*, an English study said to be the most comprehensive review yet of side effects of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines ties those shots to increased occurrence of seven different neurological complications, among them hemorrhagic stroke, encephalitis and meningitis (inflammations of, respectively, the brain and the membranes surrounding it) and myelitis (spinal cord inflammation); all can occur concurrently.

TRENDPOST: *These complications were rare; only 60 more people out of 10 million presented with hemorrhagic stroke than would have absent the vaccine (although the risk was greater for females); nevertheless, that's small comfort to those 60 people, who were no doubt assured the vaccines were "safe and effective" and any side effects would be minor and statistically insignificant.*

Another serious neurological complication was an increased occurrence of Guillain-Barré Syndrome, in which the body's immune system attacks the nervous system. The study found that an extra 38 persons out of 10 million presented with GBS after receiving the AstraZeneca shot.

TRENDPOST: *Guillain-Barré [pronounced ghee-YON bah-RAY] Syndrome is described in the FT article as "causing pain and weakness in the limbs and is usually temporary." That's not quite so. It can cause degrees of paralysis, up to and including inability to breathe; it's fatal in about 1 percent of cases.*

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced an update to the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine label regarding an observed increased risk of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination.

Furthermore, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Slovenia and other nations have either banned and/or restricted the use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine because the risk of unusual blood clots outweighs the benefits of the inoculation.

It often takes a year for patients to recover, sometimes with lingering effects. It is no laughing matter; in fact, the late Joseph Heller (known for writing "Catch-22") had GBS and, with his friend "Speed" Vogel, wrote a book about it; that book is titled "No Laughing Matter." Recovery does not confer immunity; while recurrences are extremely rare, GBS survivors are routinely advised to avoid vaccines. See ["TV STATION SOLICITS UN-VAXXED HORROR STORIES. GETS DELUGE OF VAXXED HORROR STORIES INSTEAD: MEDIA IGNORES THE FINDINGS"](#) (21 Sep 2021).

In fairness, it should be noted that infection with the COVID-19 virus carries increased risk of these same conditions, often at statistically greater risk than from the vaccines. That would seem to argue for being vaxxed, even for persons terrified of such conditions—except that all the "breakthrough" infections that have occurred prove that the vaccines cannot be counted on to prevent infection; see ["BREAKTHROUGHS BEGET RISK REASSESSMENT"](#) (24 Aug 2021).

TREND FORECAST: Those who view these statistics as perfectly good reasons to decline being vaxxed will continue to be vilified as "selfish" and will continue to be urged, coerced and threatened to take the shots, "if not for yourself, then for the safety and protection of those around you (ignoring the drug dealers claim that 96 percent of those who are vaxxed were sold as being safe).

However, as we have detailed, there will be strong anti-vax, anti-establishment movements sweeping the globe. There will be a push to relax the "No Jab, No Freedom" government imposed mandates as businesses seek to fill worker shortages and they continue to lose money because a sizable percentage of the population lack vax passports.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: VAX SUPERSEDES HUMAN RIGHTS



Trends Journal reported earlier this year on British Columbia's massive drive to vaccinate the Canadian province's entire population; see "[BRITISH COLUMBIA ROLLING OUT VAX FOR 'EVERY CITIZEN'](#)" (26 Jan 2021). That article told of a **Trends Journal** reader and

"concerned citizen" of B.C. who foresaw that a vaccine card or "passport" would be required, "stripping people who decline the vax of basic human rights."

The extent to which that has come to pass is evident in an update, issued on 14 October by British Columbia's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, of the province's policy regarding proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Among the premises of the policy are that COVID-19 vaccines approved by Health Canada have "proven highly effective" at protecting against infection and serious illness. Another is the importance of policies regarding vaccination maintaining consistency with B.C.'s Human Rights Code, which prohibits discrimination based on place of origin, religion, physical or mental disability, family status or other factors.

But the BCOHRC acknowledges that "vaccination status policies," which include requiring proof of vaccination (the BC Vaccine Card) do indeed "treat people differently based on whether they have been vaccinated," such as restricting unvaccinated individuals from accessing certain facilities, events, businesses and services.

However, the BCOHRC has found a way to interpret its own human rights and discrimination rules in such a way that the government's view of the health and safety needs of the public at large take precedence over individual rights to privacy and to making one's own decisions based on highly personal factors.

"No one's safety should be put at risk because of others' personal choices not to receive a vaccine," is one of the ways that B.C.'s alleged guardians of human rights manage to frame a proof-of-vaccination requirement as being "justified from a human rights perspective."

The policy statement further declares that "a person who chooses not to get vaccinated as a matter of personal preference—especially where that choice is based on misinformation or misunderstandings of scientific information—does not have grounds for a human rights complaint" against the implementation of a vaccination status policy.

TRENDPOST: *Are you getting this? If you choose to not be vaccinated, it's most likely because you are stupid and you've fallen victim to "misinformation," or to your failure to "follow the science."*

But not to worry: the policy takes pains to consider that "some vaccinated individuals may still face barriers accessing proof of their vaccination status," such as "two-spirit, trans, and non-binary people whose government ID and legal documents may contain incorrect names and inaccurate gender markers," and to caution that "compassion and flexibility" must be employed when dealing with "marginalized groups."

TREND FORECAST: *If your government wants to vaccinate you, they'll vaccinate you, even if they have to find (or create) loopholes in their own "anti-discrimination" and "human rights" laws to do so. And again, totally ignored is the bullshit that has been sold to the public by politicians and Prostitutes that once a person is vaxxed, their odds are 96 percent that they won't get the coronavirus. Therefore, if those who are vaxxed are safe, why force those who have not gotten the shot to be vaccinated? What happened to "My Body, My Choice?"*

And to further illustrate the nonsense that those who are unvaxxed are spreading danger, on Sunday it was reported that Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary tested positive for the coronavirus despite being fully vaccinated.

Indeed, Ms. Psaki is a member of the most vaccinated segment of America, and yet she still contracted the virus.

Indeed, as we have reported on 3 August, the vaccinated are COVID spreaders. We wrote that the CDC released internal documents that revealed fully vaccinated people who come down with the virus can spread the infection to others at the same rate as those who are unvaccinated. See [“CDC VAX FACTS: IS THE TRUTH BEING TOLD?”](#)

GET VACCINATED, SPREAD DELTA VARIANT AT HOME, STUDY SAYS



A study published Friday showed that individuals vaccinated for COVID-19 can spread the virus inside households just as easily as unvaccinated individuals.

“Although vaccines remain highly effective at preventing severe disease and deaths from COVID-19, our findings suggest that vaccination is not sufficient to prevent transmission of the Delta variant in household settings with prolonged exposures,” according to the study, published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal. The study included 621 symptomatic participants in the U.K., *The Hill* reported.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention admits on its website: If you are fully vaccinated and become infected with the Delta variant, you can spread the virus to others.

"We found that susceptibility to infection increased already within a few months after the second vaccine dose—so those eligible for booster shots should get them promptly," Prof Ajit Lalvani, of Imperial College London, U.K., who co-led the study, said. (See [“MOVE COVID JABS. MORE BIG BUCKS FOR DRUG LORDS.”](#))

Governments have been trying to get their citizens to roll up their sleeves, stressing that taking the jab not only protects the recipient but anyone with whom they come into contact.

TRENDPOST: *Trends Journal* has been reporting on vaccine "caution flags" ever since the various COVID vaccines, which were approved for use faster than any other vaccines in history, were declared the primary weapon in the COVID War, such 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."](#)

COVID WAR WOUNDS SOUTH KOREA ECONOMY



Last week, the Bank of Korea announced that the country's economy grew by a measly 0.3 percent from July to September, which was lower than expected with most of the blame being assigned to low domestic consumption due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Economists polled by *The Wall Street Journal* predicted that Seoul's economy would grow by 0.6 percent during the period. Those economists did not take into account that there would be a 0.3 percent contraction in private consumption in the country.

The economy grew 0.8 percent in the previous three months.

"The toughened social distancing measures and impacts from the heat wave and rising raw material prices that continued over the third quarter seem to have limited the recovery in domestic demand ... but exports were seen propping up the economy," Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki said.

South Korea was the first Asian economy to tighten monetary policy after the COVID-19 outbreak after announcing a 25-basis point hike to 1 percent in August.

The country is still hopeful that it will see a 4 percent annual growth after contracting 0.9 percent in 2020. The report pointed out that Seoul plans to start living with the pandemic rather than eliminate the disease. The country is expected to do away with many curbs by early 2022 and will begin easing restrictions in November, the report said.

Under the new guidelines, cafés and restaurants can stay open past 10 p.m. and protests and weddings can occur as long as there's fewer than 500 vaccinated participants, NPR reported. The report said vaccine passports will be required at many venues.

About 70 percent of the country has been vaccinated. NPR reported that the infection rate is no longer “the primary deciding factor” to implement these restrictions and is expecting more cases as these guidelines loosen. The country is going to learn to live with the virus instead of trying to defeat it.

"Beginning November 1, our community will take the first step of resuming our normal life," Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum said last week, according to Reuters. "However, we must be aware that this doesn't mean the fight against coronavirus is over, but a new beginning."

TRENDPOST: *The Trends Journal has been reporting for months on the pain that COVID-19 lockdowns have inflicted on the global economy, and that the measures taken by nations to fight the COVID War lack practical science and factual data (SEE: [“COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: COMPLETE POLICY FAILURES.”](#) [“W.H.O. NOW SAYS 'WE DON'T ADVOCATE LOCKDOWNS.’](#) and [“THE TROUBLE WITH LOCKDOWNS.”](#))*

THE BUSHIES SPEAK: WHO CARES WHERE COVID CAME FROM?



So what if scientists may have unleashed a man-made virus that paralysed the world, ruined economies, locked down millions, spawned a forced gene therapy regime on humankind, and irretrievably darkened the future for a new generation?

“Whether it originated in a lab or from a bat or from the United States or from

wherever—who cares?”

So says Neil Bush, brother of George W. and Jeb, son of George H. and Barbara.

Nevermind that even *The Washington Post* is calling for more answers about the web of virus experiments and funding between U.S. researchers, the CDC and a biolab in Wuhan, China.

The globalists have settled on a fallback position of “what difference does it make?”

Bush sounded the uniparty view at a fitting venue, an online forum co-hosted by the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), and the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations.

The forum was entitled “50 Years of U.S.-China Exchange in Retrospect: The Bush Legacy and Beyond.”

The U.S. government has described the CCG as a foreign influence operation “to co-opt and neutralize sources of potential opposition to the policies and authority of its ruling Chinese Communist Party” and influence Westerners to “take actions or adopt positions supportive of Beijing’s preferred policies.”

The assessment hardly deterred Neil Bush, who has spent a career simultaneously failing in business, and profiting off shady schemes the world over that would make Hunter Biden blush.

Many of his greasy dealings have been focused in Asia, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and the mainland. They were pretty well summarized in a 2018 Counterpunch [essay](#), “Fortunate Son.”

Speaking during the forum, Bush did his best to lay out a party line that absolved both Chinese and state-side collaborators of any accountability for the COVID disaster:

“Throw away the crazy conspiracy theories and just assume there was an origin of some kind. It doesn’t matter where it originated...”

“I reject the idea that there was some malicious effort to release a virus that causes a pandemic. I think that’s a crazy notion that there was some intent from one side or the other to do this on purpose.”

TRENDPOST: *Some might be tempted to construe Bush’s remarks as the surest confirmation yet that not only was COVID-19 likely man-made, but that it was purposely introduced into the wild to catalyze a depraved agenda.*

But assuming that COVID was at worst an accident of science does nothing to lessen the rights of people everywhere, devastated by the events of the past two years, to have a full accounting of what took place.

And it does nothing to remove criminal liability from all those involved in the dangerous pursuits.

Gain-of-function and other experimentation was conducted secretly and in contravention of laws and ethics, by a cabal of self-appointed “deciders,” to use a hubristic and dunce-worthy term of the Bushies.

The world catastrophe that has resulted not just from the virus, but from the policies and forced gene therapy regime spawned in its wake, deserves an inquiry and accounting on the level of the Nuremberg trials that followed WWII.

CHOMSKY COOL WITH STARVING OUT THE UNVAXXED



Self-described anarcho-syndicalist liberatarian socialist Noam Chomsky has called for isolating unvaccinated peoples from society and leaving them to go hungry.

In comments during an interview on the YouTube “Primo Radical” channel, Chomsky invoked a Communist-style starvation tactic to deal with vax resisters:

"Such people have to be-- they should have the decency to remove themselves from the community, if they refuse to do that, then measures have to be taken to safeguard the community from them. Then comes the practical question that you asked: How can we get food to them? Well, that's actually their problem."

Chomsky, soon to be 94, was around when Josef Stalin used food as a weapon to obliterate millions opposed to his collectivist police state.

Russian human rights icon Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who was imprisoned in Stalin’s gulags, and historian Robert Conquest have chronicled what has been called the “Holdomor,” a horrific starvation carried out in the 1930’s, largely against Ukranians.

Robert Conquest testified about Soviet atrocities in a Congressional hearing in 1986, pointing out that the death [numbers](#) overshadowed the whole of World War I:

“...Famine deaths seem to have been about 7 million - 5 million in Ukraine, 1 million in the Kuban region and North Caucasus, 1 million in the Don and lower Volga. Three million had already died during dekulakization, and about 1 million (out of some 4 million) Kazakhs had perished as a result of the banning of their nomad life and resettlement on desert ‘farms.’ To this 11 million, we must add some 3 million peasants in labor camps for a reasonable estimate of approximately 14 million victims of the entire anti-peasant and anti-Ukraine campaign. The total dead in all countries during World War I was under 9 million.”

The Soviets weren't the only ones who isolated and purged huge populations within their own borders.

[Death By Government](#), a definitive chronicle of 20th Century democides (a term that refers to wars of governments on their own internal populations), noted that Mao Tse Tung used starvation and other tactics and deprivations to intentionally kill 60 million Chinese from the 1940's through the 1960's.

It's little wonder that Chomsky, known for offering throaty defenses of dictators like Hugo Chavez and Daniel Ortega, and pretending the failure of horrific socialist regimes was that they never faithfully followed poor old Marx (aka [Soviet Union](#)), is spending his last days invoking authoritarian atrocities as an acceptable blueprint for coercing acceptance of government mandates, or purging opposition.

At one point in the interview, he did offer that vaccine dissidents should be afforded the same rights as jailed criminals:

"Of course, if they really become destitute then yes you have to move in with some measure to secure their survival, just as you do with people in jail."

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



U.S. INTELLIGENCE? AN OXYMORON! NO “INTELLIGENCE” IN AFGHAN FORECAST

No top U.S. intelligence agency predicted that the Taliban would take over Kabul with such ease and before troops were withdrawn from the country in August, according to a report.

The Wall Street Journal, which obtained a review of the classified assessments, reported that there was a general consensus that the Taliban were on the offensive and could take over the country by the end of the year.

William Burns, the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, appeared for a discussion at Stanford University and said the intelligence at the time showed some "very troubling trend lines," according to the *WSJ*.

“So does that mean we, with mathematical precision, can say that, you know, former President [Ashraf] Ghani in Afghanistan is going to flee his office and not tell his senior-most aides on the 15th of August? No.”

Trends Journal has reported extensively on the U.S.'s misadventure in the country. Gerald Celente, the publisher, had forecast when the Afghan War began that America would lose: "If Alexander 'The Great' couldn't pull it off, if the British couldn't beat them and neither could the Russians, there is no way America will win." (See ["AS CELENTE FORECAST: U.S. WOULD LOSE AFGHAN WAR LAUNCHED BY BUSH. THE WORST IS YET TO COME."](#))

Celente also noted that the U.S. had not won a war since World War II. As a result of his forecast, Celente, once a popular guest on mainstream media who has appeared twice on Oprah, was blackballed from the press and TV and accused of being anti-American. (See the movie, ["ZIZI and HONEYBOY,"](#) starring Doris Roberts.)

The *Journal* said it was these "shortfalls" that "underpinned some of the policy failures that resulted in chaotic mass-civilian evacuations in the deadly final weeks" of the U.S.'s involvement in the war.

What the withdrawal means for U.S. security remains to be seen.

Colin Kahl, the Pentagon's undersecretary of defense for policy, told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday that ISIS in Afghanistan could attack the U.S. within six months.

"It's precisely that threat that we need to remain vigilant and disrupt," he said. "We actually are fairly certain they have the intention to do so."

Kahl also told the committee that Washington is in talks with Islamabad to continue its agreement to use Pakistani airspace to attack terrorist threats in Afghanistan, according to *USA Today*.

It has become evident what the withdrawal meant for the average Afghan.

The conditions in the country are dire, with billions in international funds frozen. The best Kabul can pull in is \$500 million to \$700 million in revenue, which is not

enough to pay public salaries or provide basic services, the Associated Press reported.

There is an ongoing drought in the country and the United Nations predicts that 95 percent of the population “will go hungry and as much as 97 percent of the country risks sinking below the poverty line.” Of the country’s 38 million, 19 million cannot access sufficient food each day.

“Every Afghan man, woman, and child knows there is a really deep crisis unfolding,” Dick Trenchard, Afghanistan country director for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, said, according to the *Financial Times*. “We haven’t seen the worst of it yet.”

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long noted, the business of America has been war, and the business of China is business. The 20th century was the American century, and as we have forecast the 21st century will be China’s... and one of our 10 Top Trends for 2021, is “China 2021.”*

Moreover, the United States and Europe will lose in the economic challenge against China. While President Biden stated that Beijing would not surpass Washington in power during his term in the White House, that has zero to do with U.S. policy or the Biden administration.

Indeed, we published an article titled, [“WILL TALIBAN CASH IN ON \\$1 TRILLION WORTH OF AFGHAN MINERAL WEALTH?”](#), in our 24 August issue, the country—although poor—is sitting on iron, gold, copper and lithium, which has attracted China’s attention.

We forecast that the hard facts and analyses project China to surpass the U.S. as the world’s largest economy within a decade, and the U.S.—incapable of winning a war since WWII—would be defeated by China in a military confrontation.

POLAND'S LINK WITH EU WORSENS. POLEXIT NEXT?



It was to be the court ruling heard across Europe.

Warsaw's Constitutional Tribunal earlier this month ruled that a portion of the EU treaty law—which is the law of the land in Europe—is “incompatible with the Polish constitution” and the country's constitution should take precedence. (SEE: [“POLEXIT PROTESTS IN POLAND: ‘EXIT THE EU’ TREND GROWING”](#) Oct 2021.)

The relationship between Warsaw and Brussels since the ruling has reached a low point—despite Warsaw insisting that it has no intention of doing its best Boris Johnson imitation. (SEE: [“BRITAIN NO LONGER 'EUROPE'S WALL ST.' AFTER BREXIT.”](#))

Mateusz Morawieki, the Polish prime minister, accused the EU of making demands with a “gun to our head” after the country was hit with a record fine for failing to dissolve the disciplinary tribunal at the heart of the controversy. The tribunal was put in place in 2018 and is intended to keep an eye on judges appointed before President Andrzej Duda took office. The tribunal—which is said to have the ability to discipline judges—is seen by the EU as a threat to judicial independence in the country.

The EU said it will impose a \$1.6 million fine each day the tribunal stays in place. In the meantime, the EU is withholding billions in recovery funds from the country over the stalemate.

Morawiecki vowed to dismantle the tribunal, but said Brussel's decision to withhold the cash could start the “third world war.” He vowed to defend the country's “rights with any weapons which are at our disposal.”

“We will get this money sooner or later,” he said, referring to the €36bn in COVID aid. “The later we get it, the stronger the proof that there is this discrimination treatment and diktat type of approach from the European Commission.”

The clash has some concerned that Poland could begin looking for a way out of the EU. The BBC reported that an opinion poll showed that 40.8 percent of Poles believe Warsaw “should concede defeat” and move on; about 32.5 percent called for compromise.

TREND FORECAST: *As the European economy dives into recession and depression, and as the immigration problems persist, there will be growing populist, “EXIT-EU” movements throughout the Eurozone.*

Trends Journal reported in November 2020 on the massive protests that broke out in the country, (See [“POLAND SET FOR MORE PROTESTS OVER ABORTION RIGHTS.”](#)) that include protesters claiming a court’s decision and COVID-19 lockdown mandates are two examples of Warsaw skipping the democratic process and using its favorable courts to approve the measures. This in turn will also create new anti-establishment political parties.

REFUGEE CRISIS WORSENING: POLAND TO DEPLOY ADDITIONAL 10,000 TROOPS AT BORDER



Another strain in the relationship between Poland and the EU has been Warsaw's approach to handling the migrant crisis along its eastern border with Belarus.

Poland has been accused of taking a "heavy-handed" approach to the crisis, by erecting a barbed wire fence and has been accused by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of forcing migrants back into Belarus instead of offering them asylum, Reuters reported.

Franek Sterczewski, a Polish parliamentary deputy with leading opposition group Civic Coalition, told the news agency that many of the migrants have been "wandering the forest for weeks" where the temperature at night is "around zero degrees."

"It's raining and it's very cold," he said. "Pushing them back will put their health and life at risk."

Poland has been dealing with a surge in illegal migration from neighboring Belarus and has already announced plans to construct a border wall and earmarked \$404 million for a construction that will span 60 miles.

Warsaw also announced last Monday that it would increase the number of troops by 10,000 to meet the demand.

The running theory is that Alexander Lukashenko, the Russia-backed leader in Minsk, is purposely sending these migrants—who are mainly from the Middle East and Africa—to destabilize the country, the *Financial Times* reported. Lukashenko has accused the EU of supporting the opposition in his country and has lashed out at sanctions.

Ursula von der Leyen, the EU chief, refused a request from Warsaw for Brussels to pick up the tab for the border wall. She said "there will be no funding of barbed wire and walls."

Mariusz Blaszczak, Poland's defense minister, said the troops will be sent from the 12th, 16th, and 18th divisions to guard the country's eastern flank.

Many of these migrants hope to end up in Germany, which apparently has led to some German civilians patrolling its own border with Poland to keep the migrants out. The *FT* reported that about 50 "far-right German vigilantes" had been disarmed at the border.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, as a result of the military conflicts, civil unrest and devastation caused by the COVID War that has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions, there will be a flood of refugees seeking safe-haven nations.*

Hundreds of millions of people across the globe –Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, Africa, South America, hard-hit Asian nations will do all they can to escape poverty, violence, crime, and government corruption. In turn, there will be strong anti-immigration/anti-establishment populist movements among the countries they are trying to escape into.

TOP U.S. OFFICIAL ‘ROCK SOLID’ BS: PROMISES TO DEFEND TAIWAN



Sandra Oudkirk, the de facto head of the U.S. embassy in Taipei, continued to stress Washington’s commitment to defending Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion and said the relationship is “rock solid.”

Oudkirk, the head of the American Institute in Taiwan, issued the phrase that has been uttered by many officials in President Biden’s administration, which seems to be intentionally vague. Does this commitment mean providing arms, or a military commitment?

Biden slipped up twice during his presidency by saying that the U.S. military would actively help Taipei repeal an invasion from Beijing. Each time, the White House has made clear that the U.S. policy toward the island has not changed.

The **Trends Journal** sees this policy position as all bark and no bite. The U.S. knows that China’s military has made massive gains over the past years while America focused on propping up the government in Kabul only to see it evaporate like a spilled drink in the sun.

We ran an article in the 12 October 2021 issue titled, [“U.S. ‘ALREADY LOST’ AI WAR WITH CHINA,’ PENTAGON’S FORMER SOFTWARE CHIEF SAYS.”](#) and pointed out that 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.

AntiWar.com reported that Taiwan, for the first time, confirmed that U.S. troops are on the island, and its president, Tsai Ing-wen, said it is her belief that the U.S. would fight for her country.

“I do have faith given the long-term relationship that we have with the U.S. and also the support of the people of the U.S. as well as the Congress,” she said in an interview. “The administration has been very helpful.”

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.

TREND FORECAST: *The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on Taiwan and the possibility of a military confrontation with China. See [“TAIWAN MILITARY RAMP-UP WILL NOT STOP CHINA.”](#) (27 Apr 2021) [“CHINA FLEXES MUSCLE ON TAIWAN. WHO WILL STOP THEM?”](#) (5 Oct 2021) [“U.S. GENERAL DECLARES U.S. “READY” TO DEFEND TAIWAN IF CHINA INVADES”](#) (10 Aug 2021) and [“CHINA TO TAKE TAIWAN: A MATTER OF TIME.”](#) (30 Mar 2021).*

As we have also noted, the United States has not won a war since World War II, and they were greatly assisted by their Russian allies at the time... which is both denied and forgotten some 76 years later. Also, as we have noted, 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 21st century People’s Liberation Army. **Trends Journal’s** 19 October 2021 TRENDPOST: While the U.S. is busy antagonizing China by sailing ships off Taiwan, Beijing is making strategic moves in the region and developing weapons systems that embarrass the U.S. (See [“TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA.”](#))*

DUH! PENTAGON SURPRISED BY CHINA'S TEST OF HYPERSONIC MISSILE



Yes, America's Pentagon. The "brilliant" leaders of America's Military Industrial Complex who, as we keep reporting, have an unblemished post World War II track record of costly, deadly military failures were blindsided by China's military advancements we have long been

forecasting.

Last week, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley said that China's successful test of a hypersonic missile came close to being a "Sputnik moment" — referring to Russia's launch of the first artificial satellite that surprised the world over 60 years ago.

China tested at least two hypersonic missiles during the summer months, including one that was considered a success, landing within two dozen miles of its target, which we had long forecast would happen. The *Financial Times*, which was first to report on the tests said they took the "U.S. intelligence by surprise."

Milley, who has recently faced Republican critics over his contact with the Chinese during the Trump presidency, was a guest on billionaire David Rubenstein's show on Bloomberg. The Pentagon has been cagey on information about the tests, but Milley seemed to be more forthcoming.

"I don't know if it's quite a Sputnik moment, but I think it's very close to that," he said. He called the tests a "very significant technological event" and said the test "has all our attention."

He said Beijing's military capabilities "are much greater than that" single test and pointed out that the military is "expanding rapidly in space, in cyber and then in the traditional domains of land, sea, and air."

The tests come at a time when tensions in the Sea of China seem to be increasing by the day.

Trends Journal has reported extensively on Taiwan and the possibility of a military confrontation with China. (See [“TAIWAN MILITARY RAMP-UP WILL NOT STOP CHINA.”](#) [“CHINA FLEXES MUSCLE ON TAIWAN. WHO WILL STOP THEM?”](#) [“U.S. GENERAL DECLARES U.S. “READY” TO DEFEND TAIWAN IF CHINA INVADES.”](#) and [“CHINA TO TAKE TAIWAN: A MATTER OF TIME”](#).)

The news of the hypersonic missile launches dropped shortly after the Pentagon's former software chief told the *FT* that Beijing 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,” Nicholas Chaillan told the paper. “Right now, it's already a done deal; it's already over in my opinion. Whether it takes war or not is kind of anecdotal.”

The New York Times reported that American officials identified two key moments from the successful test: the fact that the missile completed a partial orbit of the earth and the fact that it “could plow a suddenly shifting path, maneuvering in ways that would render all current U.S. missile defenses obsolete.”

These defenses are positioned across the U.S. facing west and north. The new technology could allow China to launch from any direction. The paper said these defenses “might fail to defeat an attack from the south.”

The *Times* said the launch could introduce a new arms race between the two countries, but it seems China has a significant head start.

China has denied the two launches. *The Economist* reported that both China and Russia are building these weapons to penetrate any “current or future American defenses.”

Tong Zhao, a senior fellow in Carnegie’s Nuclear Policy Program based at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, told the magazine that Beijing has been focused on its nuclear development because it forces Washington to “accept peaceful co-existence.”

TREND FORECAST: *As the saying goes, “Generals are always fighting the last war.” And America’s post WWII war track record is an unblemished failure. From their weaponry to tactics, the U.S. military have exemplified a common misconception and/or misunderstanding of technology and development in warfare... regardless of who they are fighting.*

And the U.S. \$778 billion 2022 military budget of more tanks, planes, ships and antiquated artillery for the 21st century further exemplifies their backwardness.

In addition, as we have forecast, war with China will be the War that ends all wars.

And if America stays on the trend lines drawn since the War on Terror launched by US President George W. Bush following 9/11, it will be the last world war. As we have quoted Albert Einstein, “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”

Track Record of Failure

What had begun with Bush’s war against Afghanistan in 2001 to “find those evildoers... to smoke them out” was followed by his Iraq War in 2003 to overthrow Saddam Hussein for possessing weapons of mass destruction he did not possess, and ties to Al Qaeda that he did not have.

In 2011, under the guise of a humanitarian mission, US President Barack Obama and his allies launched a war that overthrew Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi,

leaving what was once the most prosperous nation in Africa in ruin, chaos, despair... a breeding ground for terrorists.

Following Libya, Obama and his coalition launched another “humanitarian” mission to overthrow Bashar al-Assad, the president of Syria. Although Assad remains in office, Syria has been destroyed by “moderate rebels” armed and funded by the US and its allies. Over 350,000 Syrians have been killed, half of Syria’s population displaced and some 5.6 million refugees have fled the bloodshed.

TRENDPOST: *The Pentagon on Friday announced the U.S. military successfully tested a hypersonic booster rocket motor just a week after one failed after a launch from Kodiak, Alaska, Reuters reported. The U.S. says it will conduct a test—with a weapon—sometime before autumn 2022. The report pointed out that “defense contractors hope to capitalize as they make the weapons and develop new detection and defeat mechanisms.”*

While much of the world’s population suffers from the destruction of the COVID-19, which has destroyed lives and livelihoods of billions, politicians continue to steal more of We the People’s money to enrich the military-industrial complex. (See [“MILITARY SPENDING INCREASES AS ECONOMIES DECLINE.”](#))

The Reuters report pointed out that top arms makers like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman all used their hypersonic weapons programs to lead off their quarterly earnings calls last week.

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.*

Both China’s manufacturing abilities and tech innovation were at third world levels before Bill Clinton and George W. Bush brought 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. (Read [“SLAVELANDIA: RICH GET RICHER, POOR GET POORER.”](#) 13 Oct 2020)

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.

ETHIOPIA WAR DISASTER WORSENS



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took to Facebook on Sunday to appeal to his countrymen to take up arms to thwart the military offensive by Tigrayan forces in the northern region of the country.

Abiy, the former Nobel Peace Prize winner who went to war with Tigray after a local election during the COVID-19 outbreak, once vowed that the conflict would be resolved within weeks.

That has not happened. The war resulted in a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and an untold number of war crimes that includes allegations of rape and ethnic killings.

The war has gone back and forth, with federal forces, with the aid of Eritrean forces, at one point appearing to be in the driver's seat. But that all changed when the Tigray People's Liberation Front dealt Addis Ababa a stunning defeat in June after retaking the region's capital Mekelle after federal forces fled the city.

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the civil war when it began on 3 November 2020 and the deadly implications (See [“ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN: TENSIONS RISING.”](#) and [“ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA.”](#))

The humanitarian crisis in the country is considered the worst in the world. These are just a few of the many articles and trend forecasts we have made since then:

- [“ETHIOPIA'S TIGRAY WAR HORRORS”](#) (15 Dec 2020)
- [“ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN: TENSIONS RISING”](#) (26 Jan 2021)
- [“ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA”](#) (4 May 2021)
- [“ETHIOPIAN MILITARY CRISIS CONTINUES TO WORSEN”](#) (29 Jun 2021)

Getachew K. Reda, a spokesman for the TPLF, took to Twitter to announce that Tigran forces “will continue to take all appropriate measures to break the siege on the ppl of Tigray.” The forces are believed to have taken the town of Kombolcha and Kemise, which is 200 miles from the capital.

DW.com reported that Addis Ababa has not confirmed these reports, but the advances have caught the attention of Abiy, who called on Ethiopians to use “any types of weapons...to block the destructive TPLF, to overturn and bury it.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the continued fighting in the country will only continue to worsen the crisis in the country. The TPLF fighters have

been accused of killing 100 youths in Kombolcha, according to CNN. The TPLF denied the allegation.

“All parties must stop military operations and begin ceasefire negotiations without preconditions,” he said, according to the website.

TREND FORECAST: *This Ethiopian civil war will continue to rage. The longer it lasts, more people will be escaping in efforts to find safe-haven nations. As economic conditions deteriorate across the continent, there will be strong anti-immigration populist movements in Europe to stop the flow of African nationals who will risk their lives to leave nations wracked by civil unrest, poverty, crime, government corruption and violence.*

ISRAEL KEEPS STRIKING SYRIA WITH MISSILES



An Israeli missile strike on Saturday reportedly killed five in a Hezbollah and Iranian convoy.

Antiwar.com reported that the strike hit a Damascus suburb and the artillery used was believed to be surface-to-air missiles. Tel Aviv did not comment on reports of the strike.

SANA, Syria’s state news agency, reported that the Syrian air defenses shot down several missiles that were fired from northern Israel, and two soldiers were killed in the rocket attack. The Associated Press reported that the attack occurred at around noon, which was a departure from Israel’s routine nighttime raids. The AP said Israel has launched “hundreds of strikes” against military targets in Syria over the past year.

There were conflicting reports on the fatalities in the strikes. The Britain-based Syrian Observation for Human Rights identified the dead as Iran-allied militiamen, but it was not clear if those killed were Syrians.

Trends Journal has reported on military action taken by Israel that often does not get covered by the mainstream media. (See [“ISRAEL CONDUCTS SERIES OF DEADLY AIRSTRIKES IN SYRIA.”](#) [“U.S. POLL: NO BOMB AID FOR ISRAEL.”](#) and [“ISRAEL’S NEW GOVERNMENT: BOMBS VS. BALLOONS.”](#))

Reports said that Israel has targeted these convoys because these weapon shipments are bound for Hezbollah. *The Times of Israel* said the strike near Damascus occurred one week after Israel said it got a green light from Russian President Vladimir Putin to “keep up its airstrikes in Syria.”

TREND FORECAST: *With Prime Minister Naftali Bennett taking over from former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, considering who he is and what he stands for, we forecast it will be more of the same.*

For example, Bennett served in an elite unit of the Israel Defense Forces and in 2013 he became the leader of the pro-settler party Jewish Home that opposed the formation of a Palestinian state. He rebranded the Jewish Home to "Yamina" in 2019.

In 2018, The Times of Israel reported Bennett said that if he were defense minister, he would enact a "shoot to kill" policy with Gaza for those breaching the barrier wall. When asked if he would also “shoot to kill” children breaching the barrier, Bennett said "They are not children—they are terrorists.”

ISRAEL’S NEW “SETTLEMENT” PLAN CONDEMNED BY U.S., EUROPE



Israel faced harsh criticism from the U.S. and Europe after announcing plans to allow thousands of new settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The decision was seen as an unnecessary provocation just months after the Israeli clash with Palestine. (See [“SPECIAL REPORT: THE GAZA WAR.”](#))

Ned Price, the spokesman for the State Department, called the plans “completely inconsistent with efforts to lower tensions and ensure calm,” CNN reported. He said the administration strongly opposes the expansion of settlements.

The report also pointed to James Cleverly, the U.K.’s minister for the Middle East and North Africa, who called these new settlements “illegal under international law and present an obstacle to peace and stability.”

An Israeli defense ministry planning committee approved 3,000 new settlement homes, which is the first such move under Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, according to the Associated Press. Bennett took over the role from Benjamin Netanyahu in June after forming a coalition government. These homes will be “deep inside the West Bank,” *The New York Times* reported. There has been some infighting in the coalition government—which includes a Palestinian-Israeli member—about the plans.

Morton A. Klein, the president of the Zionist Organization of America, wrote a column in *The Jerusalem Post* calling the Biden administration’s attacks “discriminatory and antisemitic.” He accused the EU and Washington of not uttering a sound over the “60,000 illegal Palestinian-Arab buildings erected with EU funding in the areas of Judea/Samaria under Israeli jurisdiction.”

The *Times*’ report pointed out that Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the Arab-Israeli war in 1967. Critics of Israel accuse Tel Aviv of essentially stealing the land from the Palestinians “whose families had long held it but could not prove ownership to Israel’s satisfaction.”

France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, and Sweden issued a joint statement that Israel should cancel its decision to build in the settlements, *The Times of Israel* reported.

“We urge the Government of Israel to reverse its decision to advance plans for the construction of around 3,000 settlement units in the West Bank,” the foreign ministries of the 12 said.

TRENDPOST: *While Israel calls them “settlements,” they are illegal land grabs under international law. They violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that states, “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.”*

The UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Court of Justice, and the High Contracting Parties to the Convention have all affirmed the Fourth Geneva Convention applies, that this is occupied territory, and Israeli settlements there are illegal.

Trends Journal has reported on the settlements in the tense region. (See [“ISRAEL TO BUILD MORE ‘SETTLEMENTS.’”](#) and [“ISRAEL ACCUSED OF APARTHEID BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.”](#))

TREND FORECAST: *Since Neftali Bennett was named prime minister, the Trends Journal predicted that he would bring “more of the same” to the region. (See [“ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT: BOMBS VS. BALLOONS.”](#))*

We reported that Bennett, who will only serve two years as prime minister under the coalition's arrangement, has indicated that he will take a bellicose approach to Gaza. He said in an alleged interview back in 2018 that if he were the county's defense minister, he would enact a “shoot-to-kill” policy with Gaza for those who breach the barrier wall.

He was asked what he would do if those breaching the wall were children and he responded that he would kill them, too. “They are not children—they are terrorists,” he said.

The Biden administration has taken a tougher approach toward Israel and the settlements than the Trump administration. The president has been under

increased pressure by the progressive wing of his own party about the U.S.'s relationship with Tel Aviv, which they say comes at the expense of Palestine.

But even with the Biden administration, it seems like more of the same.

A source close to Bennett told The Times of Israel that the Biden administration doesn't care about the new building expansion, and will not prevent future similar moves.

“Contrary to the impression they’re trying to make, the Americans don’t care that much about the Ministry of Construction and Housing’s decision, and they have no problem tolerating it,” the source said, the paper reported.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



LIKE JUNK FOOD? SWALLOW THOSE FAST-FOOD "PLASTICIZERS"

Everywhere you look, from sea to plastic sea, the world's gone plastic.

Earlier this month, **Trends Journal** wrote about the problem of microplastic particles, which are found almost everywhere and often contain chemicals called phthalates, which are linked to a variety of health problems; see ["THINK COVID WILL KILL YOU? HOW ABOUT THIS?"](#) (5 Oct 2021).

Now comes word, as reported on 27 October by *The Washington Post*, that phthalates have been found in the majority of 64 samples collected from national fast-food outlets in the San Antonio area, including McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, Domino's and Chipotle.

TRENDPOST: *The Chipotle chain (whose mission statement promised "Food with Integrity") was once the darling of "foodies" seeking "ethical" fast-food; see ["HEALTHY FAST FOOD BRINGS FAT PROFITS"](#) (30 Apr 2014).*

While phthalates (which are called "plasticizers" and are used to make plastics pliable) have been banned from many products, they are still found in many items associated with food production, such as industrial tubing, conveyor belts and food-handlers' gloves, and are thought to enter food via microplastic particles shed by such items.

While the Food and Drug Administration has no current standards for acceptable levels of such chemicals in food, the Environmental Protection Agency does, and the chemicals found did not exceed EPA thresholds. An FDA spokesperson said that the agency would "re-evaluate" its safety assessments "as new scientific information becomes available."

86 percent of the fast-food samples were also found to contain DEHT, a non-phthalate plasticizer developed as an alternative to phthalates. The health effects of such chemicals have not yet been fully studied, but the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has recommended that federal agencies conduct such studies.

TREND FORECAST: *Federal regulatory agencies, revolving door fronts controlled and pressured by industry lobbyists, will pretend to conduct the needed studies that will set limits on the levels of these chemicals permitted in food.*

Their motivation in doing so will be the observation in The Washington Post's article that "Disadvantaged neighborhoods often have plenty of fast-food outlets but limited access to healthier foods," and that "people of color and low-income Americans may be disproportionately affected by these chemicals."

This is only partially true and mostly media bullshit according to MVOrganizing. They report that in general, a meal costs \$5 to \$7 at a fast food restaurant, but the cost of cooking at home averages out to \$1.50 to \$3 per person. In America, some 42 million people each get \$157 per month, which gives them more than enough to eat healthy each day.

Meanwhile, as **Trends Journal** has forecast, see "[JUNK FAST FOOD IS STILL KING](#)" (20 Apr 2015)—chains offering truly healthy, clean food will continue to enjoy a share of the market, but that share "will be dwarfed by the traditional junk-food chains, who are best positioned to serve cheaper food for large portions of the population still suffering from low wages and no upward mobility."

POLITICO JOURNALISTS FORM UNION. A TREND OF THE TIMES



Reporters at Politico announced that they have submitted a letter with signatures to the National Labor Relations Board in an effort to form a union.

Matthew Kaminski, the editor of the political magazine, told staffers that management from Axel Springer, the German publisher that recently purchased the company, has been in touch with the NewsGuild to “discuss an agreement to voluntarily recognize the union,” according to *The New York Times*. (See [“POLITICO’S NOT JOURNALISM, IT’S A PRESSTITUTE PUBLICATION.”](#))

The new unit will be called the PEN Guild and will represent the more than 250 reporters at the news outlet, plus an environmental publication that was purchased by Politico in 2020, the *Times* reported.

“The PEN Guild seeks equitable pay, a diverse and inclusive workplace and job protections for everyone—which we believe will make the newsrooms of Politico and E&E places where we are able to do our best work possible,” the letter to the National Labor Relations Board, read, according to the paper. Employee leaders say about 80 percent of the workers have signed on.

Trends Journal has been reporting on the post-COVID shift in the country where workers in various industries are beginning to feel emboldened and

demanding better pay and quality of life. (See [“SPOTLIGHT: WORKERS ON DEMAND.”](#))

We’ve also pointed out that one of the results of the outbreak was that the rich got richer and the poor got poorer; 37.2 million Americans are living in poverty in the U.S., which marks a 3.3 million jump since 2019. The report pointed out that married families had the lowest level of poverty at 4.7 percent.

Most Americans are stuck in their menial jobs making minimum wage with no career advancement. (See [“DOLLAR GENERAL EMPLOYEES: PLANTATION WORKERS OF SLAVELANDIA.”](#))

TRENDPOST: *When the government pays people as much to stay home as they would actually make working, why should anyone be surprised that so many decide work is just "not working for them"? And for many, that attitude persists even when the benefits stop; see [“END OF FEDERAL JOBLESS BENEFIT WON'T BRING MANY BACK TO WORK”](#) (28 Sep 2021).*

TREND FORECAST: *It is a clear supply and demand issue: The higher demand, the lower the supply... the higher the price paid for the commodity, be it a product or service. With a severe worker shortage and high demand for skilled labor, unions, which have been in long decline in the United States, will be gaining strength. Thus, the stronger the unions grow, the greater their demands will rise... and so too will labor strikes.*

FACEBOOK WORLD 2021: AN ARTIFICIAL REALITY THAT WILL DESTROY THE HUMAN SPIRIT AND COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE



Commercial landlords didn’t have to go too far for a scare for Halloween last weekend.

They just had to listen to an earnings call last week for Facebook that was attended

by Mark Zuckerberg, its billionaire founder. He announced that the company was ready to invest tens of billions to bring a virtual world to users in a way that has never been achieved.

“Over the next decade, these new platforms are going to start to unlock the kinds of experiences that I’ve wanted to build since before I even started Facebook,” Zuckerberg said during an earnings call last week, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

He intends to spend about \$10 billion this year on Facebook Reality Labs and sees that number increasing over the next several years.

Zuckerberg has been one of the most outspoken proponents of executing many of life’s tasks—especially work—in a virtual environment.

He even announced Facebook will change its name to Meta, a play on the so-called “metaverse,” which the paper said “represents a digital reality where people playing through avatars” could perform a wide range of activities inside a virtual realm.

“The metaverse is the next frontier,” Zuckerberg. “From now on, we’re going to be metaverse-first, not Facebook-first.”

Some analysts—who expressed optimism about the push—said this new reality could be 10 years away. Zuckerberg is also not alone in the pursuit. Video game makers are also trying to be the first to plant their flag on that moon.

Trends Journal has been reporting on how the COVID-19 outbreak has upended the commercial real estate industry. The shift to Zoom meetings and the ease of working from home has forced companies to reconsider the traditional punch-in, punch-out workday. (See [“COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE: BOOM OR BUST?”](#) [“AS FORECAST: NYC COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CRISIS WORSENS.”](#) and [“MAJOR COMPANIES STORING CASH IN REAL ESTATE: WIN OR LOSE?”](#))

On the other hand, Gerald Celente, the publisher of this magazine, has highlighted the shift to virtual learning to make up for last year’s suspended in-person lessons. (See [“INDIA’S ONLINE-LEARNING AN INVESTMENT WINDFALL, SOLIDIFYING ‘INTERACTIVE U’ FORECAST IN TRENDS JOURNAL.”](#))

He called that the old-school, brick-and-mortar education system that got its footing in Prussia after the Napoleonic Wars—has come to the end of its useful life cycle. The coronavirus outbreak has shown that in-person learning can be replaced, which will only further accelerate the move to all-interactive learning.

For Facebook, Zuckerberg said the eventual payoff could result by inventing this realm and—wait for it—selling products.

“If you’re in the metaverse every day, then you’ll need digital clothes and digital tools and different experiences,” he said. “Our goal is to help the members reach a billion people and hundreds of billions of dollars of digital commerce.”

TREND FORECAST: *This is the New ABnormal. Just as the Industrial Revolution sapped the creative uniqueness of individuals with mass production, the metaverse world will further sap the human spirit from the already hi-tech addicted global population.*

RACISM “A UNIQUELY WHITE TRAIT” SAYS AT&T FORCED EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAM



AT&T is forcing employees to undergo race “sensitivity” training that claims that racism is a uniquely white trait.

The bizarre racist diatribes in the training materials were brought to light in a recent *City Journal* exposé.

Among the pearls of wisdom being pushed on employees:

- “White America, if you want to know who’s responsible for racism, look in the mirror.”
- “White people, you are the problem. Regardless of how much you say you detest racism, you are the sole reason it has flourished for centuries.”
- “American racism is a uniquely white trait”
- “Black people cannot be racist.”
- “[White Women] have been telling lies on black men since they were first brought to America in chains,” and, along with their white male counterparts, “enjoy the opportunities and privileges that white supremacy affords [them].”

The training, with segments credited to Dahleen Glanton, Andrés Tapia and other authors, is riddled with crudely racist assertions. But excerpts stand out almost as much for a laughably juvenile tone and lack of anything approaching objective or rigorous research.

Unfortunately, the way AT&T and other “woke” corporations are forcing re-education invectives on their workforces is no laughing matter.

Managers at AT&T are now required to participate in programs such as discussion groups, reading clubs, mentoring programs, and racial reeducation exercises, according to a senior employee who agreed to talk on the condition of anonymity. White workers are implicitly expected to own their role in “white privilege” and “institutional racism,” according to the source, or they will be punished in their performance reports.

Not content to propagandize on the issue of racism, the training also manages to proselytize for transgenderism and other

A “21-Day Racial Equity Habit Challenge” instructs employees to take daily actions to “further [their] understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity.”

The actions, conveyed through videos and other materials, promote woke causes including “reparations,” “defund police,” and “trans activism.”

Employees are encouraged to follow and retweet organizations like the Transgender Training Institute and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

A Rancid Polemic Authorized by an Incompetent CEO

If AT&T employees, stockholders or product or service users bristle at the divisive and corrosive falsehoods and distortions of their compulsory race training, they can thank CEO John Stankey.

In an introductory letter to the course, Stankey reveals a deep partisanship that constitutes a dangerous violation of the political freedoms of people who happen to be employed by the company.

For example, Stankey brought up the 2020 election and touted the company’s defunding of Congressional Republicans standing against widespread election fraud and manipulation:

“After the Capitol riot, our employee political action committee (PAC) suspended contributions to the 147 members of Congress who voted not to certify the Electoral College votes of Arizona or Georgia. We had publicly urged against such a vote before Congress met because the rule of law and consistency in the transfer of governmental power is not only foundational to our country but is the key to a stable, well functioning society, our economy and the business interests of AT&T and all of us who work here.”

While characterizing the January 6 protest as a “riot” to be condemned, Stankey’s letter praised and backed the far more destructive and murderous protests that followed the death of George Floyd.

While the caucasian CEO gave generous lip service to his own noble stand in implementing the race training, his actions didn't extend to relinquishing his own position of ultimate privilege to a non-conforming transgender minority.

AT&T stockholders would probably welcome almost any change at the helm, even Stankey showing up in a skirt borrowed from America's "first female" (biologically male) four-star officer, Dr. Rachel Levine.

As the *NY Post* pointed out in a May 2021 [article](#), Stankey has presided over a series of disastrous decisions that has seen the company bleed value and lose market share to T-Mobile, Netflix and other rivals.

As Christopher F. Rufo, author of the *CJ* article points out, "AT&T is another Fortune 100 company that has succumbed to the latest fad: corporate 'diversity and inclusion' programming that traffics in the ugly concepts of race essentialism and collective guilt."

The *CJ* article can be read [here](#).

FOREIGN MONEY FOR BALLET INITIATIVES NO PROBLEM, FEC RULES



Foreign money pouring into Congressional redistricting battles?

Not a problem.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) has determined that foreign contributors may fund any referendum campaigns in the U.S., opening the door (further) to foreign expenditure on high-profile policy matters.

News outlet [Axios](#) reported the story first on Tuesday.

Foreign nationals are still barred from giving to political campaigns or groups in the United States.

Among the alarm bells set off by the ruling is that foreigners will now be able to shift the needle on redistricting, which is frequently contentious and consequential.

Although the FEC's decision didn't explicitly address that issue, it appeared to open the door to it, and the matter will almost certainly be fought in future disputes before the commission.

"Are we, as U.S. citizens, really OK with letting foreign money go directly to state lawmaking via citizen initiative campaigns?" said David Brooks of Montana Trout Unlimited, one of the complainants in the case that led to the FEC ruling.

According to Axios, the ruling only applies to federal law.

Currently, seven states expressly prohibit financial influence of the kind that the FEC ruling now allows on a federal level.

Maine Democrat Governor Janet Mills, recently rejected legislation banning foreign ballot measure funding in Maine, which was proposed to prevent a Canadian-owned power firm from financially influencing a ballot initiative regarding additional energy transmission lines.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

SPACE FOR RENT

Billionaires may be commercializing space by renting out their rockets to NASA to send payloads aloft or by tossing up wealthy thrill-seekers for joyrides in zero gravity, but Orbital Reef has taken the idea to a different scale.

It's creating a space station in low Earth orbit for rent or lease to research scientists, product developers, filmmakers, even people who might want to operate a space hotel.

For its customers, Orbital Reef will provide “end-to-end” services, including planning and any needed training; an on-board crew of humans and robots to keep the station running smoothly; medical attendants; a state-of-the-art lab; high-bandwidth telecommunications; and cybersecurity.

Then there are the amenities, including oversize hatches to make it easy to get in and out, large windows looking out onto Earth's middle latitudes, comfortable living quarters, and even recreational facilities.

“Experience the thrill of weightlessness in complete comfort,” the company urges; “see sixteen vibrant sunrises and sunsets a day while flying over all of humanity.”

The venture is a partnership between two space-oriented businesses.

Sierra Space, a division of Sierra Nevada Corp., is the developer of the Dream Chaser spaceplane, resembling NASA’s old space shuttles and capable of making round trips to deliver crew and cargo to space stations in low Earth orbit.

NASA has contracted it to make six trips to the International Space Station.

Sierra also makes what it calls a Large Integrated Flexible Environment module, a pod for living and working in outer space.

Its partner is Blue Origins, Jeff Bezos’s company created to commercialize space travel.

Orbital Reef says its all-purpose space hangout will be in place by 2030.

Lest anyone think this is another of Jeff Bezos’s personal indulgences, Orbital Reef counts 14 universities, led by Arizona State University, among the members of its advisory council.

TRENDPOST: *Orbital Reef’s notion of “space for rent” challenges our impression of outer space as a distant and dangerous place where people endure extreme conditions to do advanced science.*

It replaces that conceptual frame with one that sees space simply as another patch of commercial real estate that creates opportunities for new kinds of commerce as well as opening new career paths and new areas of technological focus.



Artist's conception of the Orbital Reef.

Photo credit: Orbital Reef

TAP WATER SHIELDS AGAINST MICROPLASTICS



The typical person in North America ingests about 100,000 granules of microplastic every year, much of it leaching from the plastic bottles we chug our sodas, water, and energy drinks from, a study by biologists in British Columbia found ([“Drinking the Bottle Along With the Water.”](#)

10 Jul 2019).

Those bits lodge in the body and science has yet to determine what effects they have. Regardless, we're probably better off without them: microplastics contain a range of industrial chemicals, some of which are known to be harmful.

Now scientists at Trinity College Dublin have found a fix: tap water.

According to their research, ordinary tap water contains a variety of minerals and trace elements that coat the insides of plastic vessels such bottles and kettles, laying a protective seal that, over time, builds up to keep plastic from degrading into the beverage.

Past investigations missed the mitigating effects of tap water because they used only purified water, which lacks the array of minerals that tap water contains, the Dublin team said.

TRENDPOST: *Now that scientists have identified the composition of the protective coating, it can be manufactured and added to plastic bottles and food storage containers to keep microplastics out of the things we ingest.*

WOODEN BATTERIES



Battery chemistry, considered settled science for most of a century, has got new energy in recent years, now that everything from pocket flashlights to electric vehicles is demanding cheap, lightweight, long-lasting portable power.

However, our battery-powered world is confronting an undeniable problem: spent batteries contain a liquid or paste-like electrolyte composed of sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, and other damaging chemicals—and next to nothing is being done to pull those batteries out of the waste stream and keep those chemicals from leaching into soils and water supplies.

As a result, solid electrolytes are all the rage in battery research. Ceramic electrolytes have shown particular promise but they're brittle and tend to break under the stress of charging and discharging.

Now, researchers at Brown University and the University of Maryland have devised a solid electrolyte made from wood.

Specifically, the group took nanoscale fibers from wood and blended them with copper.

The new material was as much as 100 times better at conducting electricity than other solid electrolytes, in part because the copper atoms separate the fibers to create spaces that the developers call "ion superhighways" for the electrons in a current to travel freely and quickly from cathode to anode.

Because the fibers flex, they're less likely to break than ceramic or metal solid electrolytes, could last longer, and be easier on the environment.

The wood electrolyte possibly could be made from wood waste.

TRENDPOST: The battery industry is undergoing a revolution that will bring safer, longer-lasting, environmentally less damaging power cells to market before this decade is over.