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VAX WAR



THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD





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VAX WAR

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#): VAX WAR. THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE

WORLD

Yes, the “Shot” is being heard around the world as people take to the streets demanding “Freedom,” Liberté and Justice that has been stolen from them by politicians for refusing to get “Shot” with the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy inoculation.

We had forecast this would happen. And, the worst is yet to come If these draconian lockdowns and forced vax mandates that rob people of their basic human rights continue to escalate in the battle to win the COVID War.

And we detail in this [Trends Journal](#), on the equity market front stocks keep rising as poverty, drug addiction and crime keep spiking higher. It is the New ABnormal. As you know, we are doing all we can to help you accentuate the positive developments and eliminate the negative ones.

Happy Thanksgiving to all North Americans. May we unite under a banner

of Freedom, Peace and Justice to restore the spirit of the Founding Fathers who gave us a Declaration of Independence, The Constitution and Bill of Rights... much of which has been stolen from us by the political crime syndicate.

Pace e Amore,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

COMMENTS

ROBOT LABOR

Rampant shortages also hurt the dining Retired 4 years ago, automation pick and place robotic arms cost around \$40k . One repetitive motion injury costs more . One major problem was trying to retrain an older workforce who didn't really embrace change and employee loyalty changed when Wall Street investors moved in.

Ronnie Gale

DRAGFLATION 2022

Producer Price Index Up 8.6% from Oct. 2020-Oct. 2021. Does anybody think real inflation is less than 9%?? More likely, 12%, making your dollar devalue by 1% each month at current levels. Food and energy just keep going up and up. Medicare Part B premiums are scheduled to rise to \$170/month, up 14.7% !! Essentials will have to be prioritized by consumers with income constraints. (Joe Biden must hate Seniors).

No way wages (or pensions) can go up that fast each year, so consumers will be forced to cut-back on discretionary purchases and put-off purchase of high cost durable goods (autos), as well. To

keep afloat, increasing numbers of consumers are relying on credit card debt to fill the bill. (This ONLY works while interest rates remain at historical lows).

Furthermore, the post Holiday period in January-March each year is normally very slow for retail and restaurants alike. So, it may indeed be a Winter of Discontent in 2022. A number of small business, already weakened by the Covid lock-downs last year, may go under in 2022.

Craig Bradley

VAX MANDATES OR SANITY?

A couple things to consider before predicting more vax mandates and lockdowns will be imposed. First, if you subscribe to David Graeber's analysis (which I do) that 20% of employees do 80% of the productive work. Then employers may have to consider that if they lose 10% of these employees by enforcing mandates, then they could easily reduce their productivity by 40%. Second, a good chunk of Fortune 500 companies' health care is self-insured.

If a few of their employees are hospitalized after being vaxxed and since the cause will officially be labeled as non-vaxxed they will be stuck with the bill, something they might want to consider before taking the dive. However, on the other hand, pushing forward with these mandates and lockdowns will just encourage a whole new level of parallel societies with their own economies. Like Prohibition of the 20's. This will only spur competition which the monopolies cannot tolerate.

C Jones

METAVVERSE MONEY MACHINE

The Power to define & create Reality (Culture), or "virtual reality", will be a for profit GAME!

Sprinkle a little sugar on Bull Shit, and people will chew it all up. Chronic overstimulation of the Human senses, colonizes & numbs the senses. This is why certain people continue to seek stimulation, which ends in addiction. Control your senses or your senses will control you.

Larry Inn

COVID TEST SHAM SCAM

How many lives were disrupted or ruined because of this? How many Mom and Pop stores fell into financial difficulty because of this?

But hey, as long as those big pharma dividend checks keep coming in, who cares?

Eagle11

(UN)WELCOME TO THE HOTEL COVID

I was in Nuremberg, Germany three days ago. I was denied check-in to my hotel despite a confirmed booking. The new 2G rule was introduced as I was flying into the city. Negative test, was no longer accepted. I was left out on the street at 11pm in the rain and 5degC temperature. I am 66 years old.

Eric Shankland

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



MARKETS OVERVIEW

STOCKS FALL AS COVID WAR HEATS UP IN EUROPE

The tech-focused NASDAQ gained 4 percent last week, but the Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.7 percent and the Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 0.1 percent as new COVID-inspired lockdowns in Europe sent investors scurrying to the safety of the dollar and government bonds, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

As we have detailed extensively in this **Trends Journal**, Austria entered a national lockdown on Monday; parts of Germany also are shutting down as well as other nations that are locking down regions and imposing strict mandates... especially on the un-vaxxed.

This isn't rocket science: The more lockdown and restrictive mandates that are imposed, the more lives and livelihoods will be destroyed and the deeper economies will fall.

Despite previous lockdowns failing and, as we have detailed in the **Trends Journal**, despite vast majorities getting vaccinated, there is no herd immunity. (See, [“NO HERD IMMUNITY FOR THE HERD”](#) and [“HERD IMMUNITY HERESY: LIES AND DAMN LIES”](#)) Why are governments locking down again? Is it to fight the COVID War, or as Gregory Mannarino notes, **“MORE LOCKDOWNS...EXACTLY WHAT THE CENTRAL BANKS WANT”**.

The gloomy view also pushed down oil prices for the fourth consecutive week, with benchmark Brent crude ending down 2.9 percent to slip below \$79 a barrel, then edging back up close to \$80 on Monday this week.

Brent crude December futures closed Monday down 0.4 percent at \$76.48.

Prices slipped partly on news that U.S. president Joe Biden will coordinate a release of oil from the strategic petroleum reserves of China, India, Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. (See related story in this issue.)

Last week's close was “a very typical end-of-week selloff as traders decide it's not worth the risk to await more potential demand-side bearish news,” research firm Rystad Energy commented.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index dipped mid-week but rallied to end the five-day trading period essentially flat.

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong edged up on Monday and Tuesday, then slumped Friday to close the week down 407 points at 25,039, reflecting fears about the COVID virus's renewed economic impact.

Prices on Shanghai's SSE Composite Index gained 1.1 percent for the week. The Shenzhen SZSE Composite Index eked out a gain of less than 0.1 percent, closing at 14,751.

TRENDPOST: *Speaking at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference last week, Russian deputy energy minister Pavel Sorokin echoed the forecasts of several analysts in various media by predicting an oil oversupply some time after the first quarter of 2022.*

Oil inventories are no longer drawing down, he said to Oilprice.com, indicating that the market is now balanced.

New COVID-related lockdowns in Europe and elsewhere are slowing demand for oil but OPEC and its allies have not cut production.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, added that global oil inventories could begin rising in December and into next year's first quarter, presaging an oversupply.

TREND FORECAST: *An oil glut appearing next spring or summer will not be sustained. OPEC and other oil-producing nations would dial back production just enough to optimize profits without speeding the world's shift toward renewable power sources, as we have noted in ["OPEC+ Rejects World's Plea for More Oil"](#) (9 Nov 2021).*

This Week

Yesterday, the S&P 500 dipped 0.3 percent, the Nasdaq fell 1.3 Percent and the Dow inched up 0.1 percent after it was announced that the current head of the Bankster Bandits, Jerome Powell would serve a second term.

President Joe Biden cited the need for "stability and independence" in leadership of the U.S. Federal Reserve during times of "enormous potential and enormous uncertainty."

Biden also chose Lael Brainard to succeed Richard Clarida as the Fed's vice-chair, overseeing monetary policy.

Fed officials have said that the bank's \$120-billion monthly bond-buying program will end before rates rise. The program is timed to end next June, according to recent Fed statements.

Powell Play

Essentially it is more of the same with the expectations that interest rates will be raised and tapering will continue in 2022. And as we have forecast, the higher interest rates rise, the deeper equities and the artificially pumped up economies will fall.

Indeed, CNBC reported today that "The Nasdaq Composite fell sharply for the second-straight day on Tuesday as higher interest rates appeared to put pressure on high-flying tech stocks."

"Appeared to put pressure?"

Again, it is a Ponzi scheme. Unprecedented trillions have been injected into economies and equities across much of the globe. As we have forecast for the better part of a year, while the media keeps blaming supply chain disruptions as the cause for spiking inflation, what sparked the inflation boom was the monetary methadone injected into the system by the central banksters to keep the money junkies who play and rig the markets on their "high."

Today, the Nasdaq was down 0.5 percent, the S&P inched up 0.2 percent and the Dow jumped up nearly 200 points.

Over in Europe, with concerns of new lockdowns and COVID War mandates, its pan-European Stoxx 600 provisionally fell 1.1 percent, with tech stocks taking the biggest hit, falling 3.1 percent while most sectors and major bourses slipped into negative territory.

In Asia, MSCI's gauge of Asia Pacific fell 0.49%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell 1.2 percent. With inflation rising, such as the core inflation rate in Singapore rising 1.5 percent in October on a year-on-year basis—its biggest

spike in 3 years—concerns grow that central banks will raise interest rates which will dampen equity and economic growth.

GOLD/SILVER: Last Tuesday gold was at \$1,851 per ounce and silver was selling at \$24.87 per ounce. This week, on news that Jerome Powell will be serving another term as Fed Head, and on growing expectations that the Fed will soon raise interest rates to fight inflation... which was not expected just last week, both precious metals continue their sharp selloff.

Today spot gold dropped nearly 1 percent, closing at 1,788.51 and silver slumped 2.8 percent to close at \$23.49 per ounce.

In anticipation of the rate hikes, the dollar index hit a 16-month high and U.S. Treasury yields firmed with the 10-year U.S. Treasury note yield at 1.653 percent and the yield on the two-year U.S. Treasury Note hitting its March of 2020 0.638 percent level. Bond markets have priced in an interest rate hike for June 2022.

As long noted, gold, as well as many other commodities, are dollar based. When the dollar value rises in comparison to other currencies, it costs more to buy gold, thus demand declines and the price of gold tends to fall in U.S. dollar terms.

Conversely, as the value of the U.S. dollar moves lower, gold tends to appreciate as it becomes cheaper to buy with other currencies. And as the dollar moves up, many currencies, particularly the Turkish lira, are going down.

And since Gold does not yield interest, investors switch to interest-bearing assets, such as treasuries.

TREND FORECAST: *We have long noted that gold prices would decline as U.S. interest rates rise. However, we maintain our forecast for precious metal prices to rise as investors seek safe-haven assets to counter rising inflation.*

Again, we also maintain our forecast that precious metals will decline as interest rates go higher and the dollar gets stronger. However, the economy cannot run

without cheap money. Thus, as a result of the cheap money drying up when interest rates go up, the economy and equity markets will sharply decline... which will in turn strongly drive up precious metals and cryptocurrency prices.

OIL: Despite the White House announcing today that it will release 50 million barrels of crude from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), Brent Crude jumped up 3.60 percent and West Texas Intermediate rose 2.64 percent closing at \$82.57 per barrel and \$78.78 per barrel respectively.

“We think Strategic Petroleum Reserves are not a sustainable source of supply and the effect of such market intervention would only be temporary,” Barclays’s analysts wrote in a note before the release, as reported by Reuters.

While 50 million barrels seems like a lot of oil, the U.S. release amounts to about two and a half days of American petroleum consumption, thus the price spike. Moreover, as we have reported, OPEC+ oil gang will do what it can to make sure supply does not exceed demand, which will in turn keep oil prices from declining.

The Biden Pump

U.S. president Joe Biden has asked China, India, Japan, and South Korea to join the U.S. in releasing oil from their strategic petroleum reserves after OPEC+ has refused requests by world leaders to pump more petroleum so gasoline prices can be reduced.

U.S. gas prices at the pump have risen 60 percent so far this year, with prices in California setting records, Oilprice.com reported.

Biden warned OPEC+ that he would act if the cartel did not.

Biden is considering releasing as much as 35 million barrels of crude from the reserve over time, Bloomberg reported.

The coordinated release could bring down oil prices globally if four of the world's largest oil consumers rely on their reserves instead of buying the same amount of oil day-to-day in world markets.

China drew oil from its reserves in spring and summer, reducing imports by 5.7 percent year over year, Oilprice reported.

India already has been selling small volumes of oil from its national reserve to state-run refineries. About 5.5 million barrels are being released, according to Reuters.

The nation is prepared to draw more from its reserves in concert with other major oil-consuming nations, officials in the government of Narendra Modi told Bloomberg.

Japan is preparing to open its reserves and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is considering coordinating the release with other nations, Japan's TV Asahi said.

Recently, China has indicated that it is preparing further releases, although perhaps reluctantly.

Saudi's rulers fear Biden will revive the nuclear treaty with Iran, enabling that country to export oil once again and force prices lower.

In 2011, the release of 60 million barrels from world oil reserves following supply disruptions during Libya's revolution were coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

A coordinated release also would show OPEC nations that the world is not at its mercy, Biden administration officials said to CNN.

TREND FORECAST: *The bottom line of oil will remain supply and demand. Should nations continue to lock down and impose strict mandates on the un-vaxxed, there will be a considerable economic decline which will in turn drop demand for oil.*

However, as we continue to note, should military hostilities occur in the Middle East, particularly between Israel and Iran, Crude Oil prices will spike well above \$100 per barrel, which will in turn ignite the Greatest Depression.

Will it occur? Read this first paragraph from this Monday's New York Times:

***Israeli Attacks Spur Upgrade Of Iran Sites
Hopes Dim for Revival of '15 Nuclear Deal***

WASHINGTON — Over the past 20 months, Israeli intelligence operatives have assassinated Iran's chief nuclear scientist and triggered major explosions at four Iranian nuclear and missile facilities, hoping to cripple the centrifuges that produce nuclear fuel and delay the day when Tehran's new government might be able to build a bomb.

Imagine if the text read:

*Over the past 20 months, **Iranian** intelligence operatives have assassinated Israel's chief nuclear scientist and triggered major explosions at four **Israeli** nuclear and missile facilities, hoping to cripple the centrifuges that produce nuclear fuel and delay the day when **Jerusalem's** new government might be able to build a bomb.*

We note this not only to illustrate the "allies" hypocrisy of both the media and nations, but of the reality that there may be a military conflict in the Middle East... which beyond the deadly consequences, will spike oil prices.

Indeed, yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennet said, "Israel against Iran is really the whole world's battle against a radical Islamist regime that seeks a Shi'ite hegemony under a nuclear umbrella. We hope the world won't blink, but even if they do, we don't plan to blink."

BITCOIN: While there has been some sharp volatility in Bitcoin, and it is down some \$11,000 from its recent all-time high, it is still trading in the strong \$57K

per coin range. It should also be noted that while safe-haven precious metals such as gold and silver took a sharp dive in recent days, bitcoin and other top cryptocurrencies have moved sharply higher today.

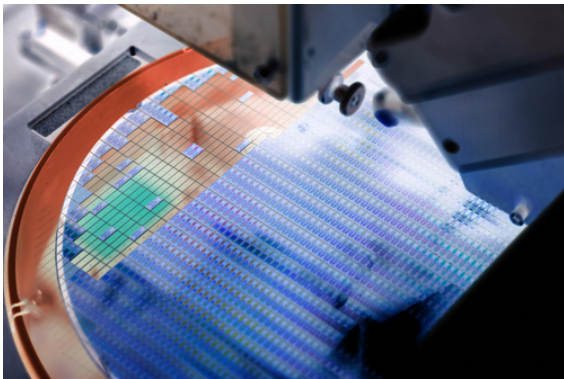
TREND FORECAST: *We also maintain that a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies is dependent upon government regulations. However, that threat in the U.S. and Europe is lessening as more banks, businesses and investment funds are going crypto, thus, the upward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

And now, El Salvador, in a partnership with Blockstream, a digital assets infrastructure company based in Canada, has announced plans to issue \$1 billion in bitcoin backed bonds next year.

Part of the funds will be used to build a “Bitcoin City that will have no income, property or capital gain taxes.”

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

SEMICONDUCTOR STOCKS RIDING HIGH ON CHIP SHORTAGE



Share values of computer chip makers Advanced Micro Devices, Nvidia, and Qualcomm have shot up 34 percent, 48 percent, and 40 percent, respectively, since mid-October as the global chip shortage drives chip prices steadily higher.

Chip makers have been among leaders in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, which has gained 3.9 percent over the period.

Third-quarter figures are likely to show that earnings by chip-related companies listed in the S&P grew 56 percent over the three months, compared to the previous year, better than the 40 percent projected for the index as a whole, the data service FactSet said.

Sales for the firms also probably will exceed the average for the index's member companies, analysts told *The Wall Street Journal*.

The worldwide scarcity of computer chips has persisted for months, curtailing production of everything from cars to toys.

Earnings reports from chip makers indicate that the shortage will endure for some time yet, analysts told the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: *We forecast the shortage will continue for several more months (see related story in this issue), as we reported in [“Global Chip Shortage Slashes Economic Outlook”](#) (2 Nov 2021).*

U.S. JOB GROWTH. BETTER THAN EXPECTED

In June through September, the U.S. labor department under-reported the number of filled jobs in the economy by 626,000, an average of 156,500 per month and the largest under-estimate on record for any four-month stretch.

After July posted 943,000 new jobs, August's report found the economy had created only 235,000, which was seen as a major stumble in the economic recovery.

The revised August number is now 483,000 jobs, more than twice as many as first reported, although still barely half of July's figure.

September's initial estimate of 194,000 new jobs has been revised to 312,000, still modest but better.

Pre-COVID under-estimates tended to be about 30,000 per month, the labor department said.

The department's estimates are based on responses to a monthly survey sent to about 697,000 U.S. businesses.

In this case, businesses dealing with the chaos caused by the COVID War were slow to send back labor department questionnaires about their number of jobs, according to comments from a labor department official quoted by *The Washington Post*.

The department's unemployment estimates are not finalized until they have been revised twice, the *WP* said. The second revision now has included surveys filed late.

One reason for the wrong number: employers who were hiring the most were busy settling their employees into their jobs and getting their businesses back up and running and lacked the time to fill out a government form by a deadline, according to Jane Oates, president of the nonprofit WorkingNation and a labor department official in the Obama administration.

In pre-COVID times, about 60 percent of companies completed and returned the labor department's monthly employment survey, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

By May 2021, that number had fallen to 49 percent.

When such a large number of companies fail to respond, as they did during the COVID War, the bureau's technical models try to fill in the gaps based on past history and trends seen among the surveys that were filed.

The largest misses tend to appear during chaotic economic times, Oates said.

"People think, 'Oh, they got it wrong the first time'," Angie Clinton, the bureau's head of payroll estimates, said to the *WP*.

“But we got it right, based on what the [survey responses] told us.”

Over time, “we receive more [surveys], some corrected records, and recalculate seasonal factors, which together may indicate a different story,” she said.

TREND FORECAST: *The number of workers reabsorbed into the economy will hit a ceiling as skilled and unskilled workers find their places and economic growth begins to decline.*

On a broader consumer note, there were ongoing reports that there would be severe shortages of holiday foods and gifts due to supply chain delays and lack of workers. On the retail end we forecast the shortages are, and will be, minor.

CONSUMERS KEPT ON BUYING IN OCTOBER



Despite rampant inflation, U.S. shoppers spent 1.7 percent more in October than in September, according to the U.S. commerce department.

Spending climbed 4 percent at online retailers, 3.9 percent among gas stations, 2.2 percent at department stores, 1.8 percent for auto dealers, 1.5 percent among book, hobby, music, and sporting goods stores, and 1.1 percent at grocery stores, the department said. Appliances, electronics, and hardware were stellar performers.

Restaurant and bar sales were flat.

Spending is expected to shift from online to brick-and-mortar retailers as the holidays approach and consumers fear not being able to receive goods in time, according to Bloomberg.

Gift cards also are selling well, retailers noted.

The spending figures are not adjusted for inflation, so some of the increase can be attributed to higher prices, not necessarily to consumers buying more items.

On 16 November, Walmart reported strong third-quarter sales even though it raised retail prices as consumers began their holiday shopping. The company said it is building its inventories for “an expected strong holiday season.”

Home Depot’s third-quarter results were better than it had expected, the company said in reporting its numbers last week.

The growth in spending foreshadows a strong holiday shopping season, analysts told Bloomberg.

Partly due to October’s strong number, J.P. Morgan raised its fourth-quarter forecast for U.S. economic growth from 4 percent to 5 percent.

U.S. stocks prices rose after news that consumers keep spending freely boosted hopes for a bountiful holiday retail season.

“Consumers say they’re pessimistic—we have had very high inflation—but the truth is they’re in very good shape right now,” because of about \$2 trillion in COVID-era savings, low interest rates, and a recovering jobs market, Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services, said to Bloomberg.

Strong initial holiday sales might not continue, however; consumers might simply be doing their shopping earlier out of fear of shortages as the holidays approach.

Companies promoting holiday sales and Black Friday deals earlier than usual might have only shifted the holiday sales season forward instead of expanding it, a survey by S&P Global Market Intelligence found.

TRENDPOST: Goldman Sachs and Walmart agree with our previous forecast of strong sales this holiday season.

However, as we noted in [“More Lower-Income Americans Will Skip Holiday Shopping This Year”](#) (26 Oct 2021), supply-line blockages will keep a range of goods off store shelves this year, whether the store is online or at your local mall.

As reported by the Wall Street Journal, “the number of out-of-stock messages online is up 172% compared with January 2020, according to Adobe Inc., which tracks visits to retail websites and product categories. Of the 18 categories tracked by Adobe, apparel currently has the highest stock-out levels, followed by sporting goods, baby products, and electronics.”

Still, there will still be plenty of products to buy.

The dollar volume of sales might increase over last year, but much, and perhaps all, of that increase would be due to inflation, not consumers’ expanded purchases. Thus, with supply low and demand high, retailers will be charging higher prices and offering fewer holiday bargains.

Much of the retail industry depends on strong winter holiday sales to turn a profit. If those profits fail to appear this season, more storefronts will go dark and more retail workers will head for the unemployment line.

For retailers who survive, the current economic crunch will speed their adoption of automation, both at the checkout counter and in the back room.

TREND FORECAST: Minus a wild card event between now and Christmas, we forecast there will be more supply of product than demand in lands that are neither locked down and/or do not have strict COVID mandates. Thus there will be no product shortages. And we also forecast, there will be solid holiday sales growth.

HOME SALES UP AS MONEY GANG GOBBLES UP HOUSES



Sales of previously owned homes edged up 0.8 percent in October to an annual rate of 6.34 million units, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reported, 5.8 percent below October 2020, which was the market's cyclical high point last year.

If full-year sales top six million, it would be the largest number of existing homes sold since 2006, according to the NAR.

Realtors are now predicting full-year sales of over 6 million, which would be the highest number of sales since 2006.

However, fewer of those homes are being bought by individuals or families.

Investors made up 17% of October buyers, compared to 13 percent in September and 14 percent in October 2020, the NAR noted.

All-cash buyers made up 24 percent of October's buyers, a trademark of investors, CNBC noted.

First-time buyers accounted for 29 percent of last month's sales, 3 percentage points fewer than a year earlier.

Prior to the COVID War, 40 percent of buyers were first-timers, NAR said.

On 1 November, there were 1.25 million existing homes for sale, 12 percent fewer than on the same date last year.

The number represents a 2.4-month supply at the current rate of sales. A supply of five to six months is considered a market in which buyers and sellers have equal advantage, NAR said.

The tight market pushed the median price of an existing home to \$353,900, 13.1 percent above October 2020's median.

Sales of homes priced under \$250,000 dropped 24 percent, year over year, while sales of homes valued from \$750,000 and \$1 million climbed 25 percent. Sales of million-dollar-plus homes shot up 31 percent.

Mortgage interest rates rose steadily through August and September in October, with the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage costing 3.22 percent on 29 October, according to Mortgage News Daily.

TRENDPOST: *October's numbers confirm two trends we have highlighted previously.*

First, sales of starter homes priced under \$250,000 plunged, while homes only the upper middle class and richer can afford boomed. For more than a year, first-time buyers and modest-income households have been progressively closed out of the housing market, as we have documented in articles such as [“Median U.S. Home Price Sets Another Record”](#) (29 Jun 2021) and [“Home Prices Up, Incomes Down”](#) (16 Nov 2021).

Second, private equity firms and institutional investors have been grabbing up single-family homes and charging premium rents to families wanting to escape cities but shut out of the housing market by rising prices, cash-rich buyers and tougher standards set by mortgage lenders, a growing trend we flagged in [“Invitation Homes to Buy \\$1 Billion Worth of Houses This Year”](#) (1 Jun 2021) and [“Blackstone Extend Reach Into Housing Market”](#) (29 Jun 2021).

Together, these trends underscore our forecast that steadily fewer potential home buyers will be granted the chance to create wealth in the way that previous generations have relied on—home ownership—as we noted in past articles such as [“Private Equity Partners Target \\$5 Billion in Rental Houses”](#) (27 Jul 2021).

Instead, high rents will deny these would-be buyers the ability to save enough cash to make a down payment on a home, relegating them to a lifetime of renting, living in someone else's house. And, considering that the Bigs keep getting bigger, they will continue to gobble up housing market sectors for many years to come.

TREND FORECAST: *Unlike the Panic of '08 economy that was brought down in part by the artificially propped up subprime mortgage crisis, this time, those who can afford homes have been buying them. Thus, we maintain our trend forecast that the housing market will decline as interest rates go up. However, it will be a correction, and not a crash.*

CONTAINER CLOG EASES AT LONG BEACH, LOS ANGELES PORTS



The number of containers at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles has fallen 25 percent to 71,000 during the first three weeks of this month, as the ports threatened a \$100 daily fine for each container left sitting in storage yards for nine days or

more.

The number of containers eligible for the fines at the Los Angeles port is down 29 percent, port director Gene Seroka said in a 16 November press conference cited by Bloomberg.

The port has delayed imposing the fines but the threat has helped remove a significant number of the 65,000 idle containers that littered the port's docks and lots.

The port also has enlisted eight "sweeper ships" that can store thousands of the empties.

The newly-passed federal infrastructure budget includes \$230 million to upgrade U.S. ports, which have been a focal point of the supply chain disruptions that are fueling inflation. (See [“Backlogged Ships: New Abnormal.”](#) 28 Sep 2021.)

Still, 83 container vessels were moored off Los Angeles’s port last week, waiting for berths, the Marine Exchange of Southern California reported.

Also, president Joe Biden’s call to put the ports to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, has had no substantial effect: of the 125,000 businesses that use the Los Angeles port for shipping, only 21 have volunteered for the new schedule, Bloomberg noted.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



WALL ST. CRIME GANG

Insider trading, even by those who are supposed to be regulating the financial industry, has been the topic of a number of **Trends Journal** articles; see, for example, ["FED TIGHTENS TRADING RULES AFTER SCANDAL FORCES RESIGNATIONS"](#) (26 Oct 2021), ["BANKSTER BANDITS: CRIME SYNDICATE COVER UP"](#) (16 Nov 2021) and ["FED ETHICS? FU!"](#) (21 Sep 2021). Also ["MORE PANDEMIC SHADY TRADES AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE?"](#) (5 Oct 2021); ["BANKSTER BANDITS GET RICHER PLAYING THE INSIDE TRACK"](#) (14 Sep 2021); and ["FED'S KAPLAN SIGNED CONFLICTS IN DISCLOSURE FORM"](#) (21 Sep 2021).

One indication of the extent of unethical activities is the enormous dollar value of fines levied by the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is responsible for 70 percent of such enforcement actions in the industry.

The Wall Street Journal reports, on 20 November, that although the total of SEC fines has dropped, from the \$4.6 billion collected in 2020 to the mere \$3.9 billion in the fiscal year that ended in September, some companies are still shelling out hefty sums for their transgressions. One of those is McKinsey & Co., a consulting firm.

The SEC didn't accuse McKinsey of insider trading; instead, it alleged that the firm had inadequate safeguards in place to prevent insider trading by its partners, who had access to inside information on companies for whom McKinsey was handling bankruptcy proceedings.

In order to settle those allegations, McKinsey agreed to pay \$18 million, and the matter was put to rest without McKinsey having to either admit or deny any wrongdoing. In 2019 McKinsey had paid \$15 million to settle allegations made by the Department of Justice.

TRENDPOST: *Pres. Biden recently heaped praise on Jerome "Jay" Powell as he announced he was re-appointing Powell as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Powell had been at the Fed's helm when two regional presidents had to step down amid a scandal for insider trading was also under scrutiny over insider trading; see ["FEDERAL RESERVE'S CHAIRMAN COMES UNDER SCRUTINY"](#) (26 Oct 2021).*

In some industries, being in charge of an institution whose officers breached the institution's own rules might be seen as poor judgement and a failure of leadership; in the financial industry, it causes nary a ripple.

SIX COUNTRIES AGREE TO COORDINATED RELEASE OF OIL FROM STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES



The U.S. will release 50 million barrels of crude oil from its strategic petroleum reserve as part of a joint six-country agreement to bring more oil to market to reduce prices of gasoline and other petroleum products.

The nations involved are China, India, Japan, South Korea, the UK, and the U.S.

U.S. gas prices at the pump have risen 60 percent so far this year, with prices in California setting records, Oilprice.com reported.

U.S. president Joe Biden and other world leaders had implored OPEC+ to double its 400,000-barrel-a-day production hike, but the cartel refused to deviate from the increase, which had been settled among members during contentious negotiations.

Biden had warned OPEC+ that the U.S. would act if the oil consortium did not.

The White House called the deal's announcement "a message to the Saudis," Bloomberg reported.

The coordinated release could bring down oil prices globally if six of the world's largest oil consumers use some of their reserves instead of buying the same amount of oil day-to-day in world markets.

The U.S. will begin releasing barrels during the second half of December, a Biden administration official told Bloomberg, and continue the distribution over several months.

In the U.S., 18 million of the 50 million barrels are part of a previously planned sale.

The other 32 million are an “exchange,” with oil companies taking delivery of the barrels now and replacing them in the strategic reserve later, when prices have fallen.

Oil futures prices sank early Tuesday morning on the news, but recovered most of the losses as traders priced in the return of the barrels to the reserve at a later date.

The joint release’s consequences may be more political than economic.

OPEC has threatened to pump less oil if the industrialized nations tap their reserves, a move that likely would negate any economic benefit from tapping saved oil.

The group will discuss a response when it meets next week.

The coordinated release also challenges OPEC’s dominance of the world’s oil market.

The collective tactic shows OPEC nations that the world is not at their mercy, a Biden administration official said to CNN.

It also heightens tensions between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, a relationship already icy.

Saudi’s rulers fear Biden will revive the nuclear treaty with Iran, enabling that country to export oil once again and force prices lower.

The release has been in negotiations for months, Bloomberg said.

China finalized its involvement during the 15 November virtual meeting between U.S. president Joe Biden and Chinese president Xi Jinping, Bloomberg said.

China drew oil from its reserves in spring and summer, reducing imports by 5.7 percent year over year, Oilprice reported.

India already has been selling small volumes of oil from its national reserve to state-run refineries. About 5.5 million barrels are being released, according to Reuters.

The nation is prepared to draw more from its reserves in concert with other major oil-consuming nations, officials in the government of Narendra Modi told Bloomberg.

Japan is preparing to open its reserves and prime minister Fumio Kishida is considering coordinating the release with other nations, Japan's TV Asahi said.

Recently, China has indicated that it is preparing further releases, although perhaps reluctantly.

"China is in a tough spot," Bob McNally, president of consulting firm Rapidan Energy told CNN.

"China sees its future as linked to the Persian Gulf," he said. "They want investment. They want ties. They don't want to piss off the authorities there. But they also want to make Biden happy. The real threat to Xi Jinping's hold on power would come from an economic collapse [resulting] from an escalation in tensions with the United States."

The coordinated release would be the first not coordinated by an international agency.

In 2011, the release of 60 million barrels from world oil reserves following supply disruptions during Libya's revolution was coordinated by the International Energy Agency.

TRENDPOST: *The move by the six nations sets up a battle over one of the world's most vital commodities with the group that controls most of it.*

In most OPEC+ member nations, oil production is controlled by the government, which can adjust production by decree.

In contrast, western nations' oil industry is controlled privately and adjusts production according to prices set by market forces.

"If it comes to a test of wills and capabilities between a handful of strategic oil reserve holders led by the U.S. and OPEC+, the market would probably bet on the latter prevailing," Rapidan Energy's Bob McNally told Bloomberg.

So would we.

IN EUROPE, COAL MAKES A COMEBACK



A funny thing is happening in Europe. Coal power, thought to have been rendered moribund by the push for "greener" energy, is enjoying a resurgence, and a most profitable one at that.

All actions have consequences, and Europe's shift from coal to natural gas for power-generating and heating has made it vulnerable to shortfalls in the natural gas supply. And that's what has occurred after German regulators withheld approval of the Nordstream 2 pipeline, completed in September.

Although critics (including the U.S.) worried that the pipeline would make Europe more dependent on Russia for energy, the pipeline would have doubled Russia's natural gas exports to Germany.

And, without it, natural gas prices in Europe, already high because last year's cold winter strained supplies, have gone high enough to warrant firing up dormant coal plants.

As reported by *The Wall Street Journal* on 18 November, while coal pollutes more, it's cheaper, especially lately. Since the price of electric power in Europe is keyed to the price of natural gas, coal plants are getting top dollar—as much as four times more than previously—for energy that's cheaper for them to produce, and the situation is predicted to continue until 2023.

The amount of power produced in Western Europe from coal has risen, in September and October, by 20 percent over the previous year. Coal plants in Spain and the U.K. have fired up again, and even Poland, still dependent on coal for most of its electricity needs, is now exporting electricity to other central and Eastern European countries.

Under environmental policies set at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, the prices paid for emissions have been raised and coal should be more expensive to use, but natural gas prices have gone so high that coal is still a cheaper alternative. This essentially puts Europe in the same boat, energy-wise, as much of the developing world; see ["POOR NATIONS: TOO POOR FOR CLEAN ENERGY"](#) (15 Jun 2021).

TRENDPOST: Trends Journal predicted the rise in natural gas prices, but in terms of oil as its cheaper alternative; see ["BETTING ON OIL"](#) (22 Jun 2021).

As Gerald Celente has said, when the lights go out, environmentalism, no matter how high-minded, takes a back seat to economics. Transitioning to renewable power will remain a slow and bumpy road. The bottom line is money, and if coal is the cheapest way to generate energy, coal is what will be used.

WILL AUTO ALLIANCES PROTECT CHIP SUPPLY?



Ford Motor Co. and General Motors (GM) have formed partnerships with major semiconductor manufacturers to speed the end of the current chip shortage now hobbling vehicle production and ensure supplies during future disruptions.

GM has made deals with Infineon Technologies, NXP Semiconductors, ON Semiconductor Corp., Qualcomm Inc., Renesas Electronics Corp., STMicroelectronics, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., GM president Mark Reuss announced on 18 November at Barclays Auto Conference.

One reason the chip shortage has hit the vehicle industry especially hard is that cars typically use a wide range of specialized chips.

Under the partnerships, GM will reduce the variety of chips its cars use by 95 percent over several years, winnowing its need to just three chip families, Reuss said.

“We see semiconductor requirements more than doubling over the next several years as the vehicles we produce become more of a technology platform,” Reuss said.

GM has pledged to build only electric cars by 2035.

Slashing the variety of specialized chips will help ensure supplies while also boosting margins, he noted.

GM’s third-quarter sales fell one-third below those of a year earlier and profits were almost halved, as the company made fewer cars due to the lack of chips,

an industry-wide crisis we reported in “[Auto Industry Chip Shortage Fallout](#)” (24 Aug 2021) and other articles.

The shortage will continue into the second half of next year, GM CEO Mary Barra predicted last month.

Also on 18 November, Ford and chip maker GlobalFoundries announced a non-binding agreement to produce more chips for Ford and the auto industry more broadly but offered few details about the collaboration.

The partnership could involve devoting a greater share of GlobalFoundries’ production to Ford and conducting joint research and development for chips that will play a larger part in future vehicles, such as for use in battery management circuitry.

"We hope Ford and GlobalFoundries will team up to grow the supply in a more formal way to support our current vehicle lineup and our future needs," Ford vice-president Chuck Gray told Bloomberg.

GlobalFoundries, which is controlled by Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund, will build a second U.S. chip factory in Malta, New York, the company said.

U.S. vehicle production rose 18 percent in October, following two months of falling numbers, according to U.S. Federal Reserve data published last week.

TREND FORECAST: As we said in “[Global Chip Shortage Slashes Economic Outlook](#)” (2 Nov 2021), 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.

China, with its dual circulation policy, is trending in that direction, which we pointed out in the [“Global Economic Trends”](#) section of our 9 September, 2020, issue.

The newfound need to become more self-sufficient has reoriented manufacturers from a “just-in-time” inventory strategy to one of ensuring long-term supplies.

Therefore, more manufacturers will ink long-term, priority sales deals or partnerships with suppliers, including some in which a manufacturer buys a stake in a supplier.

“EXUBERANCE” LEAVES ASSETS VULNERABLE TO RATE HIKES



“Exuberance,” often a polite term for reckless speculation, in cryptocurrency, housing, and junk bonds has left those markets vulnerable to dramatic reversals if interest rates rise sharply, the European Central Bank (ECB) warned in its twice-yearly financial stability report.

The Eurozone’s economy is well along in its recovery, which reduces short-term financial risks, the bank said.

However, current positive conditions “lure investors to make unwise bets on assets that risk losing value if and when interest rates rise against inflation, the ECB added.

“Concerns particularly relate to pockets of exuberance in credit, asset, and housing markets as well as higher debt levels in the corporate and public sectors,” the report said.

Inflation and the ECB's continued negative interest rates have prodded investors to take greater risks in search of higher yields, leaving crypto, debt, and housing markets "increasingly susceptible to corrections," the bank cautioned.

We at the **Trends Journal** have long said that rising interest rates will crash equity, bond, and housing markets, in articles such as ["Forecast: Melt-Up, Crash-Down"](#) (25 Aug 2020), ["Higher Mortgage Rates Hobble Housing Market's Expansion"](#) (2 Mar 2021) and ["Bond Market Tightens, Junk Bonds in Crisis"](#) (24 Mar 2020).

"A correction in markets could be triggered by a weaker-than-expected economic recovery, spillovers from adverse developments in emerging market economies, a re-intensification of stress in the non-financial corporate sector, or abrupt adjustments in market expectations regarding the prospective path of monetary policy normalization," the ECB report added.

Although Europe's inflation rate struck a 10-year high of 4.1 percent in October, the bank has continued to insist that price rises will ease back below the bank's 2-percent target rate over the next few years.

The ECB will not raise interest rates in 2022, bank officials again stated last week, sinking the euro's value against the dollar and pound (see related story in this issue).

However, the report left the bank out for that pledge, citing "a risk that recent strains in global supply chains and the spike in energy prices could have longer-lasting effects on inflation than expected."

The price of homes in the European Union rose 7.3 percent in this year's second quarter, compared to a year earlier, the fastest rise since just before 2008's Great Recession.

The ECB sees “growing signs of over-valuation” that has left housing in many parts of Europe “prone to a correction,” in part because of a “deterioration in lending standards.”

Crypto and other “more exotic market segments also remain subject to speculative bouts of volatility,” while non-bank financial firms continue “to face elevated credit risk” because of heavy investments in junk bonds, according to the bank.

The ECB admitted that its own policies, such as negative interest rates, have contributed to reckless speculation.

However, it insisted that curbing the risks could best be done by regulators and not by the bank “leaning into the wind” by raising interest rates now.

TRENDPOST: *New COVID War mandates and lockdown in many European nations which will drag down economic growth will help persuade the ECB to keep rates low even as inflation continues well above its 2-percent target.*

EURO HITS 16-MONTH LOW AGAINST THE DOLLAR. HOW LOW CAN IT GO?



The euro plunged to a 16-month low against the dollar as traders “priced in” the European Central Bank’s (ECB) pledge to not raise interest rates until at least 2023.

Investors are betting the ECB will boost rates by 0.1 percent in early 2023, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, after bank president Christine Lagarde told the European parliament on Monday that a rate hike now “would do more harm than good.”

In contrast, the U.S. Federal Reserve has all but guaranteed interest rate hikes beginning in the second half of 2022, possibly sooner if inflation's rise continues unabated in the next few months.

The pan-European currency settled at \$1.12 on 22 November, its weakest rate since July 2020, compared to a value of \$1.16 a week earlier.

The ECB also is likely to sit on interest rates to protect its more deeply indebted members such as Italy, portfolio manager Leandro Galli at Amundi told the *WSJ*.

Although the ECB is expected to end its €1.85-trillion bond-buying program next March, investors expect the bank to increase its longer-term supports to ensure Europe's permanent economic recovery, the *WSJ* said.

Strengthening the program would counter any bond-market selloff that could be triggered when the ECB stops buying bonds, according to analysts the *WSJ* cited.

TREND FORECAST: *Against the British pound, the euro notched its lowest value since the COVID virus arrived in February 2020. Putting further downward pressure on the euro, Like the U.S., we forecast Britain's central bank will raise rates in the coming months from 0.1 percent to 0.25... they pledged to not raise rates before Christmas.*

And higher interest rates in the U.S. will pull investors away from the euro and into the dollar and pound. The weaker euro will make the region's exports cheaper, but with the currency losing value, the price of imports will increase.

JAPAN PLANS NEW STIMULUS AS OTHER COUNTRIES END ECONOMIC SUPPORTS



Japan's government will send a check for ¥100,000, about \$872, to every household in the country with children under 18 years of age and give the equivalent of \$22,000 to every small

business that can show it has been adversely affected by the COVID era's economic chaos.

Households without children will receive no payment.

The size of Japan's latest stimulus is almost twice the size that analysts had expected earlier this month and totals about a tenth of the country's GDP, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

The gifts are the government's latest attempt to stir a sluggish economy that has yet to shake off the COVID era's shutdown and that has resisted previous stimulus measures totaling ¥88 trillion, or roughly \$770 billion, about 17 percent of the country's GDP.

Japan's economy contracted 3 percent in this year's third quarter, its second contraction in three of the latest quarters, because of global supply chain chaos, putting the country on track with our prediction of a 3-percent GDP expansion for Japan for 2021 overall

Japan's economy has yet to regain its pre-COVID output levels, while China and the U.S. already have surpassed them.

In May, the government sent a check for ¥100,000 to every citizen. Studies show that 70 percent of the money wound up in savings accounts instead of being spent as it was intended to be.

There are few signs that yet another squirt of stimulus will revive Japan's economy, according to the *Financial Times*, or kindle inflation, which now languishes at less than 1 percent.

“Even if 30 percent of the [money] distributed to households with children is spent this time, it won't do much to boost consumption,” researcher Akihito Morishige at Mitsubishi Research Institute told the *FT*.

Sending money to people and businesses also neglects nagging structural issues endemic in the economy, such as poor productivity, other analysts pointed out to the *FT*.

Also of concern: the debt Japan is already carrying, which totals the equivalent of about \$11 trillion, more than 200 percent of 2019's GDP.

Japanese politicians across the ideological spectrum have dismissed concerns regarding debt, saying that the debt is all in yen, none of it foreign, and inflation and interest rates are both currently close to zero.

The government now pays 0.1 percent on its 10-year bonds.

“This is not the best designed nor best timed package that the Japanese government could be doing,” Adam Posner, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said to the *FT*.

“It is not clear that speeding up the recovery through temporary fiscal stimulus should be a priority,” he added.

Also, the new round of checks is not popular with the public, according to a recent poll, which found that a majority of Japanese fail to see the need for the government to support families with children.

Prime minister Fumio Kishida sought to temper the criticism by excluding the wealthiest households from receiving the payment. However, about 90 percent of families still will get a check.

“Having a child or not is not an effective measure to gauge which households have been hit by the coronavirus,” Morishige said.

TREND FORECAST: As we have continually noted in the ***Trends Journal***, Japan’s decade + long monetary methadone stimulus, as with other nations, has artificially pumped up equity markets and economies.

Therefore, as evidenced with Japan, deep in debt with a 256 percent debt-to-GDP ratio—the new rounds of stimulus will sink the nation deeper in debt. At best, the policy of promoting fiscal stimulus will only temporarily boost the nations’ economic growth and will prove to be a costly failure.

TREND FORECAST: Japan’s export economy is being eclipsed by China’s, Japan’s population is among the world’s oldest, requiring more and more social and medical services, and its debt is approaching the level of the sums owed by developing nations.

Japan’s economic recovery will continue to limp far into next year. As a result, foreign investment will look for more profitable venues, further delaying any improvement.

In the near future, Japan risks a loss of economic productivity and will fall from its #3 ranking among the world’s leading economies.

TURKEY: THE FAMOUS LIRA DIVE



Once again, Turkey’s central bank has cut interest rates, sending its currency to a new low against the dollar and heightening fears that inflation will worsen and crash the country’s economy.

The bank cut its one-week repo rate by 1 percentage point to 15 percent, the third cut since economist Sahap Kavcioglu became the bank's governor in September, when the rate was 19 percent.

On 17 November, the lira's value lost another 2.7 percent against the dollar, its value shrinking for a seventh consecutive day and losing 10 percent over 10 days.

The series of rate cuts has driven the Turkish lira down 30 percent this year, making it the world's worst-performing emerging-market currency in 2021 and teeing it up to lose value for a ninth year in a row.

We have reported on Turkey's steadily deteriorating economy in articles such as [“Turkey's Financial Markets Crash After Agbal Firing”](#) (30 Mar 2021) and [“Turkey: Another Day, Another Central Bankster Fired”](#) (1 Jun 2021).

The lira's tailspin awakens memories of the currency's 2018 crash, when it lost a third of its value amid soaring inflation and an increasing rate of loans defaulting.

The rate cuts will further fan current inflation, already galloping at an official annual rate of 20 percent, but which independent economists claim is likely twice that pace, as we reported in [“Turkey: A Crime to Tell the Economic Truth?”](#) (5 Oct 2021)

Kavcioglu is a political ally of Turkish president Recep Erdogan, who continues to insist that low interest will not only revive the country's failing economy but also will lower the pace of price increases.

However, lower interest rates and a weakened currency worsen inflation by raising the price of imports, causing the vicious cycle Turkey is experiencing.

In contrast, higher interest rates make borrowing more expensive, tamping down spending and demand, which reduces prices.

Higher rates of interest also attract investment capital into an economy.

Erdogan once again vowed to relieve Turkey from the “scourge of high interest rates.

“As long as I’m in office, I will continue our struggle against high interest rates until the very end,” Erdogan said in a 17 November speech, citing a passage in the Koran that, he said, counsels against charging interest.

Erdogan has fired three central bank governors in the past year, as well as various other bank officials ([“Turkey: Lira Down, Interest Rates Crashing. War Next?”](#) 19 Oct 2021).

Erdogan holds to a belief that lower interest rates will not only goose his country’s feeble economy but also will lower inflation, a notion unsupported by economic theory or his own experience. Erdogan called interest rates “the devil.”

Today, the Turkish lira dove to a record low of 13.44 to the dollar, which was much worse than what was deemed the “psychological” barrier of 11 to the dollar which it hit last week.

TREND FORECAST: As we noted in [“Turkey: Lira Down, Interest Rates Crashing. War Next?”](#) (19 Oct 2021), the country’s crashing currency and soaring inflation continue to roil an increasingly chaotic and unstable Turkish socioeconomic and geopolitical environment. Foreign investors are pulling their cash out before Turkey’s economy crumbles completely.

As the global economic recovery decelerates—and as inflation keeps rising across the globe—the lira and Turkey’s economy will continue to decline. Ongoing COVID outbreaks will worsen Turkey’s plight; nearly 13 percent of its GDP rests on travel and tourism.

Erdogan’s domestic popularity recently fell to a two-year low and will continue to sink with citizens’ economic prospects.

For that reason, look for Erdogan to become more belligerent in his comments and actions directed at foreign “enemies.” Remember, as Gerald Celente has noted, “When all else fails, they take you to war.”

TREND FORECAST: As we noted in [“Turkey: No Political Opposition Permitted”](#) (23 Mar 2021), the country’s crashing currency and soaring inflation are adding fuel to an increasingly chaotic and unstable Turkish socioeconomic and geopolitical environment.

As the global economic recovery decelerates—and as inflation keeps rising across the globe—the lira and Turkey’s economy will continue to decline. Ongoing fears of the spreading coronavirus will worsen Turkey’s plight; nearly 13 percent of its GDP rests on travel and tourism.

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GETTING STILL 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...

KKR BID TO BUY TELECOM ITALIA SPARKS BATTLE FOR CONTROL



The board of Telecom Italia (TI), Italy’s largest telecommunications provider, met Sunday to mull a takeover bid from U.S. private equity firm KKR.

KKR already owns 37.5 percent of TI’s “last mile” business that connects individual homes and businesses to the larger network; now KKR wants to pay \$12.2 billion to own the entire company.

If successful, the transaction would be among the largest-ever private equity purchases in Europe, according to Bloomberg.

TI is valued at €7.5 billion, or about \$9 billion, and is carrying €29 billion in debt.

Vivendi, the French media conglomerate that is TI's largest shareholder, will oppose the sale, saying KKR's offer is too little, people familiar with the news told Bloomberg.

KKR's per-share offer is about half of what Vivendi paid for its 24-percent stake in the company, Bloomberg noted.

Also, at a board meeting scheduled for 26 November, Vivendi will move to oust TI CEO Luigi Gubitosi, with whom Vivendi has had a contentious relationship, according to insiders cited by Bloomberg.

TI was Europe's most valuable telecom business in the 1990s but has suffered several crises since then, with share prices crumbling by two-thirds since 2018 and recent profits missing their targets.

Gubitosi brought in KKR last year to strengthen the company's finances, extracting €1.8 billion from KKR for its purchase.

Despite its troubles, TI remains politically important and the government holds the ultimate power to reject any takeover bid it deems not in the national interest.

In a statement, the government of prime minister Mario Draghi called KKR's offer "good news," indicating it is unlikely to oppose the sale.

Private equity firms CVC Partners and Advent International are working with former TI CEO Marco Patuano to study possible involvement in TI but have denied any involvement with KKR's proposal, the *Financial Times* said.

KKR's bid is the latest in a series of similar moves on European telecom companies.

"Funds are looking to break up businesses, separating networks from consumer businesses to realize value or improve the [financial] performance of the companies," the *FT* noted.

KKR is among the most active private equity firms shopping Europe's telecom industry, the *FT* said, and was part of a private equity consortium last year that took Spanish provider MasMovil private in a €5-billion deal.

KKR also bought HyperOptic, a U.K. fiber company, in 2019.

FORTRESS BUYS 170 GOLF COURSES IN JAPAN FOR \$3.5 BILLION



Fortress, the investment fund bankrolled by Japanese holding company Softbank, has agreed to buy Accordia Golf, Japan's largest operator of golf courses, from South Korea's MBK Partners private equity firm for ¥400 billion, or about \$3.5 billion, including ¥232 billion in debt, the *Financial Times* reported.

Other private equity firms recently rejected the deal as too expensive, in part because Japan's golf courses have been declining in popularity for more than a decade.

About 5.2 million people in Japan played golf at least once last year, a decline of 10.3 percent from 2019, a study by the nonprofit Japan Productivity Center found.

Accordia's average customer plays 2.7 times a year, totaling 11 million rounds played on its courses in 2020, the company said.

However, Japan has one of the world's fastest growing populations of well-off older adults, an expanding market that Carlyle thinks might be ready to hit the links.

Accordia also generates a lot of cash as well as profits, which have been growing by 1.5 to 2 percent per year from its dominance of Japan's golf market, the *FT* said.

Softbank already has received inquiries from logistics companies and renewable energy firms about purchasing some of the land in the deal's portfolio, persons familiar said.

Accordia was put together by Goldman Sachs early in this decade and sold in 2016 to MBK.

CARLYLE FINALIZING \$2-BILLION TAKEOVER OF SOFTWARE FIRM



Private equity firm Carlyle Group is in advanced discussions to buy Autoform Engineering, a Swiss maker of industrial software, for €1.75 billion, or about \$2 billion.

Engineers use Autoform's software to design sheet metal parts, determine the best ways to connect parts of a car's frame, and find the most efficient way to make tubular parts, among other uses.

The software stays in the Cloud, allowing companies to pay a fee only when the tool is used instead of subscribing for a fixed period of time.

Auto makers use such tools to improve fuel efficiency, cut exhaust emissions, and minimize materials needed to build a car.

Carlyle is buying Autoform from Astorg, a European buyout company.

Earlier this month, Carlyle took majority ownership of CSS AG, a German firm whose software manages companies' financial and human-resources operations.

Carlyle has done more than 270 deals in the technology sector, worth \$31 billion, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Carlyle has about \$293 billion under management.

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS NEARING TAKEOVER OF ATHENAHEALTH



Athenahealth, which makes cloud-based software for electronic health records and medical communications, is nearing a deal to be bought for \$17 billion by a partnership of private equity firms Bain Capital and Hellman & Friedman, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

IN 2019, private equity partners Veritas Capital and Evergreen Coast Capital bought Athenahealth from Elliott Management Corp, for \$5.5 billion and took their new purchase private.

The two partners then combined Athenahealth with Virence Health Technologies, which had been called GE Healthcare's Value-Based Care Solutions Group until it was bought by Veritas Capital and rebranded as Virence.

The deal is another in a series of pricey corporate combinations in the past 18 months, including Discovery's \$43-billion marriage with AT&T's WarnerMedia

([“Discovery Inc. Expands Media Empire.”](#) 25 May 2021) and drug maker Novartis’s \$21-billion sale of its interest in rival Roche.

With Blackstone Group and Carlyle Group, Hellman & Friedman was part of June’s \$34-billion purchase of medical products giant Medline Industries ([“M&A Deals Top \\$500 Billion in 2021’s First Half.”](#) 13 Jul 2021).

Bain manages about \$150 billion in assets spread across private equity credit, public equity, real estate, and venture capital.

Hellman & Friedman has about \$80 billion under management.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *If you look under the skin of more and more companies, you find private equity firms own a portion or all of them. Private equity firms are buying the American, and global economy, one piece at a time.*

HEINEKEN BUYS TWO ALCOHOL COMPANIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Dutch brewer Heineken, the world’s second largest beer producer, is expanding its presence in southern Africa, an area that *The Wall Street Journal* said is “considered one of the world’s most attractive growth markets for booze” because of its growing population and low per-capita alcohol consumption.

Heineken will pay €2.2 billion for South Africa’s Distell Group Holdings, which makes spirits, wines, and ciders and will give Heineken exposure to alcoholic drinks other than beer.

Heineken also will pay about €400 million to buy the portion it does not already own of Namibia Breweries, that country’s largest beer producer.

The two takeover targets will be bundled into a single new company, Heineken said, which also will distribute Heineken products throughout the region.

Africa shows “the highest long-term potential upside to beer consumption,” Heineken CEO Dolf van den Brink said in a statement announcing the acquisitions, given the region’s “rising incomes and a demographic boom that will increase the drinking-age population by 30 percent in the next decade.”

The company has sought to grow after the COVID crisis cut its sales in several markets, most recently by Vietnam’s restrictions on socializing.

The deals highlight Heineken’s interest in growth, both geographically and in new categories of drinks, since van den Brink took charge of the brewer in 2020, Jeffries analyst Edward Mundy told the *FT*.

CVC PARTNERS BUYS UNILEVER’S TEA BUSINESS



Private equity firm CVC Partners has won a bidding contest to buy the bulk of global food giant Unilever’s tea business, agreeing to pay €4.5 billion for the world’s largest provider of teas, including the Brooke Bond, Lipton, and PG Tips brands.

Private equity firms Advent International and Carlyle Group also were bidders.

The deal is “cash-free and debt-free,” the sale announcement said, implying a stock swap, and is planned to close in the second half of next year.

Unilever will keep its €1-billion tea businesses in India and Indonesia, where consumption is on the rise.

Unilever has spent two years reviewing and now ridding itself of the tea operation, which has been sluggish for the past decade as consumers switched to herbal teas, alternatives such as kombucha, and the growing variety of coffee drinks, the *Financial Times* reported.

The tea business that CVC has bought will be named Ekaterra, the company said.

The new business will own three tea plantations, taking it into an industry noted for low wages and human rights abuses, the *FT* said.

Unilever has a variety of plans to address the plantations' "social problems," it said, but also is automating tea picking at a Kenya plantation, threatening jobs there.

SPANISH LENDER TO BUY BALANCE OF TURKISH BANK



Even as Turkey's economy sinks further, Spanish financial services company BBVA has made a €2.25-billion bid to buy the 50.15 percent of Garanti, Turkey's biggest bank, that it does not already own.

The price offers a 34-percent premium to the six-month average price of Garanti's stock.

BBVA is offering to pay cash, using some of the \$11.6 billion it collected when it sold its U.S. assets to PNC Financial Services earlier this year.

"We are selling at a very attractive price in the U.S. and we are buying at a very attractive price in Turkey," Carlos Torres Vila, BBVA's executive chair, said in a *Financial Times* interview, noting that the U.S. sale was at 20 times earnings and the purchase of Garanti stock is at 3.6 times earnings.

News of the deal came as Turkey's central bank cut interest rates again, further devaluing the lira and weakening the country's economy (see related story in this issue).

The lira has lost about 75 percent of its value against the euro since 2014, the *FT* said, the year when BBVA paid €2 billion for a 14.89-percent stake in Garanti.

Despite Turkey's economic quagmire, Garanti has turned in net profits between €1.5 billion and €2 billion in each of the last five years, Vila pointed out.

“You look at half of that, that is what we are buying,” he said. “We are buying asset flow of €600 million – north of that, I would say.”

As BBVA deepens its commitment to Turkey, Italian lender UniCredit is selling its remaining 20 percent of Yapi Kredi, a private Turkish bank, and leaving the country to concentrate on its core markets, UniCredit said.

In contrast, BBVA sees Turkey as a “strategic market,” Vila said.

TREND FORECAST: *With Turkey's economy in a tailspin and foreign investors fleeing, the prospects for continued long-term bank profits grow dimmer by the day.*

BBVA seems to believe it has bought in at or near the bottom of Turkey's economic pit, but we forecast there will be more pain ahead, and perhaps even a new head of state, before Turkey can begin to repair its tattered economy and BBVA's investment will pay a steady return.

SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION ON THE RISE

As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, when the Banksters and mainstream business media were claiming inflation was “temporary” and then “transitory” we said they were either lying or too stupid to see the facts.

Again, while supply chain disruptions are a cause of prices going higher, the main element driving up inflation is the unprecedented flows of cheap money injected into economies by central banksters and governments to artificially boost equity markets and economies.

And as we have detailed, enriched with cheap money, the rich have gotten richer and the Bigs have gotten bigger as they gamble in equities and buy up businesses across the globe.

We also warned that as a result of the wealth distribution to the top, most of the rest of society would sink lower economically.

Indeed, as Bloomberg reported yesterday, while the economic pain has spread around the world, Latin America has been hit the hardest:

Price surges are busting through policy makers’ targets in all the region’s major economies, with annual inflation prints this month of 6% in Chile, 6.2% in Mexico, 10.7% in Brazil and a whopping 52% in Argentina. Major Wall Street banks are forecasting average cost-of-living increases across Latin America will end the year above 10%, the highest globally, and predict pressure on consumer prices will extend well into 2022.

Now, as the region emerges from its worst economic crisis in two centuries, Latin Americans are staring down the prospects of low growth and fast inflation. The economic catastrophe has already been a setback for efforts to reduce poverty and also could fuel migration and brain drain—workers stung by the loss in purchasing power might be more likely to head to the U.S. for better prospects.”

Yes, “head the U.S. for better prospects.” As we note in this and other **Trends Journals**, the Great Migration trend will continue to escalate well beyond Latin America as economic conditions decline and people escape nations where they lack basic living standards, are deep in poverty, fearful of crime and violence and are ruled by corrupt political gangsters.

Here are a few more inflation facts to add to our long list.

BRITAIN’S INFLATION SPRINTS ITS FASTEST IN 10 YEARS



Inflation in the U.K. edged up to 4.2 percent in October, year over year, accelerating from September’s 3.1-percent pace.

The rate at which October’s prices rose was the fastest since December 2011 and more than double the Bank of England’s

2-percent target rate.

The U.K.’s core inflation rate, which screens out food and energy costs, climbed to 3.4 percent last month, passing the 2.9-percent pace in September.

Higher fuel and energy prices were inflation’s primary drivers, although it was increasingly clear that price pressures brought on by supply-chain clogs were being passed to consumers across a range of categories, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The speed with which prices are rising could prompt the U.K.’s central bank to raise interest rates as soon as next month, economists told *The Wall Street Journal*, which would make it the first central bank in a G7 country to boost rates since the global economic recovery began.

Investors in Britain's interest-rate futures markets are pricing in a strong probability that rates will increase in December, the *WSJ* said.

However, the bank has vowed not to raise rates before Christmas.

Although the European Central Bank has pledged not to raise interest rates until at least 2023, several countries already have, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Norway, and Russia.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has backed away from previous comments calling rising inflation "temporary" or "transitory" and will begin withdrawing supports from the U.S. bond market next month as a prelude to rate increases next year.

Bank of England officials also have said that pressures pushing up prices will fade but also have said they expect inflation to reach 5 percent within a few months before it begins to ease.

The British bank's governing body does not expect inflation to fall to the bank's 2-percent target rate unless interest rates rise, according to the *WSJ*.

SHIPPING COSTS WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH INFLATION, UN WARNS



statement last week.

Elevated shipping costs sparked by the global supply-line turmoil will drive up prices worldwide by 1.5 percent if freight rates remain at current levels through 2022, and poorer nations will pay the greatest price, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a

The post-COVID economic surge has led to clogged ports and shortages of shipping containers, dock space, and truck drivers, sending freight costs soaring to five times their average over the last decade, UNCTAD noted.

However, the world's 46 least-developed nations that depend on imports for staples will see prices rise not by 1.5 percent but rather by 2.2 percent over the period, while isolated island nations such as Fiji and Mauritius could see consumer prices skyrocket as much as 7.5 percent, according to UNCTAD.

U.S. inflation reached 6.2 percent in October, its fastest pace since 1990. Britain's prices rose at 4.2 percent for the month, almost a 10-year record, and inflation in the Eurozone climbed to 4.1 percent, the most in 13 years.

TREND FORECAST: *The speed at which prices are rising is prompting central banks to raise, or prepare to raise, interest rates.*

Dozens of less-developed nations already are burdened under huge debts, many of them denominated in dollars.

Although many of these countries will benefit from higher prices for the commodities they export, higher interest rates will combine with higher prices on imports to throw these nations into a new debt crisis at a time when developed nations will be struggling to pay down the debts they piled up during the COVID War.

As a result, millions of persons will tumble back into poverty, sparking protests and political unrest in these already vulnerable countries.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



MORE LOCKDOWNS... EXACTLY WHAT CENTRAL BANKS WANT.

By *Gregory Mannarino* TradersChoice.net

Today the world exists under the authoritarian rulership of central banks who have now become the collective one world government of the world.

Since the inception of central banking, these private institutions have had only one goal—to one day become the lender and buyer of last resort, to own it all.

Central banks control the financial system by issuing greater and greater amounts of their single product—DEBT.

Understanding that the collective goal of central banks is to issue more of their product upon the peoples of the world, it should be simple to understand why more Covid restrictions/economic lockdowns will occur.

I explained many months ago to the people who follow my YouTube blog that more lockdowns would likely occur in the future, BY DESIGN.

And they are happening now.

More economic lockdowns would solidify and expand the already enormous power of the central banking system.

The central banking system is a collective and collaborative effort by these institutions to bring about a slave system on a global scale.

Today the people of the world have no representation, and the entire system is corrupt. This rapidly expanding slave system will exert more control by utilizing the oldest trick in the book—the propagation of FEAR.

Weaponizing fear has throughout history proven to be a very effective tool in furthering the agenda of those seeking to centralize power. The propagation of fear will also cause throngs of people to willingly surrender their freedoms and liberties—and once freedoms and liberties are gone, without war and revolution, they never come back.

For very many years I have explained to those who follow my work that the goal of central banks was to continue to inflate, and then inflate some more. To say the least, central banks have done just that, but we have not seen anything yet.

For central banks to fulfill their final solution, which involves the elimination of the entire middle class globally, they need to create an entirely new demographic—EXTREME HAVE'S AND EXTREME HAVE NOTS.

A new feudal system.

EXPECT ANOTHER WAVE OF LOCKDOWNS TO OCCUR WHICH WILL ALLOW CENTRAL BANKS TO FINISH THEIR END GAME—TO OWN THE WORLD.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



HUMANE SELF-DEFENSE

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

SPARRING: IS IT AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF CLOSE COMBAT/DEFENSE TRAINING?

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

You hear it all the time: “Without freestyle sparring in whatever you are doing, there is no preparation for self-defense. You must spar.” With all due respect to those who honestly believe that (and with utter contempt for those who know better, but foster the lie because it serves their commercial interests) we must insist that sparring is not necessary in order to learn how to defend yourself or dispatch an enemy in military hand-to-hand combat.

Please note, before jumping to the conclusion that we could not possibly be correct, because “everyone knows” that you have to spar in order to duplicate

what really happens in a violent encounter, that we are not suggesting you do not have to drill and practice realistically.

But if you really do want to practice realistically (meaning, as close as possible to the “real thing”) then you must avoid sparring and instead work with simulated combat drills—for offense and defense—that omit nothing that must be used in real combat.

The roughest “sparring” that exists is probably that which we observe today in MMA and the UFC. No doubt about the fact that the young fellows who train hard and fight hard in these events can almost certainly handle a real assailant in the street. But so can hard training boxers, wrestlers, judoka, karate and kickboxing competitors. And MMA and the UFC have a plethora of rules, restrictions, and regulations, just like every other combat sport.

The fact is, of course, that all of that which is banned in fighting sports is exactly what you need, want, and should be working incessantly to polish and perfect for self-defense.

MORE: Unlike any combat sport, you should be training hard in offensive, preemptive techniques. You should be mastering strategies and tactics that are not permitted (and should not be permitted) in any “sport”.

Deceit and deception, attacking an assailant who is convinced of your helplessness at the very moment when you perceive his greatest vulnerability, and willfully, deliberately, with every ounce of your strength, speed, concentration, determination, and yes, hatred, going for his body’s most vulnerable targets. Eyes, throat, testicles, knees, sternum, solar plexus, and so on right away, and following up relentlessly and ruthlessly with no mercy, forbearance, restraint, compassion, or hesitation.

Biting into your opponent’s face, neck, or other exposed body part. Ramming a finger up into his nostril, or tearing apart his mouth with your thumbs. These are combat skills. These are techniques and actions that have no place in any context, save that of unavoidable self-defense or defense of a loved one.

No correlation exists between such mayhem and a combat sport. One popular figure in the MMA, while essentially laughing at the advocacy of serious combat skills, and saying, in effect, “Well we (i.e. the MMA guys) can use those techniques, too!” His suggestion implied that the MMA was far superior to “mere” self-defense/combat training because in addition to the skill of MMA fighting, the practitioner could always resort to what the trained combatives user will use.

The truth is, of course, that this expert was actually conceding that in a desperate emergency it would indeed be the skills of serious hand-to-hand combat, and not the sporting skills employed to win a match, that the MMA fighter would rely upon. But his intention was to show that MMA was necessary because it bolstered and added to what true combatives offer. WRONG!

Training incessantly in MMA or any other fighting sport will instill in the motor memory the use of and the immediate resorting to competition-winning techniques. Now it is certainly true that a young, physically powerful, tough, in-hard-training MMA fighter who retains the hand-to-hand stuff in the back of his mind would most likely be able to defend himself... either with no recourse to maiming or killing actions, or by “recalling” them during the engagement.

All well and good for the active, young, in-training and competition MMA guy, but how many people who want and or need real world training in practical self-defense and close combat have the interest, energy, desire, time, or incentive to even dabble in MMA, let alone reach a level of serious ability in it, so that they can adopt it to combat?

Anyone, by the way, could do the same with any fighting sport you can name and, keeping a few “dirty tricks” on a mental shelf just in case, acquit himself marvelously in most any self-defense predicament. Good judo men and boxers can generally make mincemeat of a street punk (and their training does not damage their bodies and produce the injuries that MMA is known for!)

The student of self-defense (if he is really being taught real, reliable self-defense) does not commit sporting moves to motor memory. Instead he learns to “go for the throat” instantly and with no warning, and with every ounce of concentration and force he can muster. True, he doesn’t “fight” with an attacker, per se. He attacks him.

And if the attacker succeeds in taking him off guard, he learns to counterattack and become the offensive party in the engagement, taking the war to the enemy’s camp, in a manner of speaking. To develop combat ability (i.e. the readiness and willingness to knockout, maim, or kill when a life threatening situation confronts him) the student trains IN THAT, AND IN THAT, EXCLUSIVELY.

For him combat is not a sport. It is a weapon. Like a handgun. Or a fighting knife. It is brought into play only when absolutely necessary and when violence simply cannot be avoided. No sparring. No fighting.

The self defender goes to war when avoidance is impossible. The competitor fights all the time... according to rules, against another competitor, on a mat or other safe surface, at an appointed time, with regulations, a referee, and a moral obligation to fight fair. Sparring instills the sportsman’s philosophy and methodology.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

WHY SCIENCE IS THE WORST CULT OF ALL

“This attack on me, which clearly has political overtones to a nonpolitical scientist, I feel, is dangerous to the entire field of science and [shows] how people try to intimidate scientists.”

—Dr. Anthony Fauci

The quote above came this week, as the head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NAID) defended criticisms over COVID policies and more.

It’s not the first time the powerful wielding official has equated himself with “the entire field of science.”

Among other things, Fauci was attempting to defend himself regarding anger over his agency funding cruel experiments on dogs.

Typical of the way government agencies have changed documents, studies and definitions to protect narratives, the researchers behind the dog experiments now say NIAID was incorrectly listed as a funder of their study.

But the group that brought the study and its apparent funding to light, the White Coat Waste Project, said they don't believe the revision absolving Fauci.

Spokesman Justin Goodman called the sudden correction, after the story blew up, "too convenient."

Doubling down on the controversy, NIH Director Francis Collins defended his colleague with a threat, demanding that those responsible for criticizing Fauci should be identified and "brought to justice."

"Conspiracies are winning here. Truth is losing. That's a really serious indictment of the way in which our society seems to be traveling," Collins told *The Washington Post*.

Technocrats like Fauci and Collins are wielding dangerous influence and power unconnected with legitimate authority.

They have been allowed to corrupt their role, and have done thereby more than any critics to undermine their own legitimacy.

Science vs. Science Bureaucrats

It must never be forgotten that Science is a method, not an outcome, and certainly not a particular scientist, however influential.

As a method, science limits itself to trying to accurately determine causes and effects, according to observation.

Science is always provisional. It is always subject to revision, based on new advances and discoveries, or rigors of scrutiny.

When scientists advocate, instead of limiting themselves, to rigorously and impartially analysing, they are stepping beyond science.

It's one thing for public officials or activists to promote policies based on scientific findings.

But when scientists become invested in causes like "Climate Change" or "world-saving" medical interventions, the objectivity necessary for them to carry out their core purpose, is corrupted.

People can root and hope and fight for what they want and believe, based on what they view as faith or fact. But science can't have a dog in any fight, and retain its method, too.

Technocracy as a Cult of Science

The view that technocrats deserve to set policies, and direct the course of human development, ignores the corruption that inevitably results when fact-finders become decision-makers.

Scientists are no more immune to the seductions of power than anyone else.

Increasingly, as scientists have been incentivised to advocate, they have strayed from the limits of their method, to grandiose visions of what can and should be pursued, in the way of the course of human development.

In doing so, science at the present moment has assumed attributes commonly associated with cults.

Try perusing the following list describing typical aspects of cults, while contemplating how the COVID War, climate change policy and "The Great Reset" are currently playing out:

- Cultic organizations, programs, and relationships are built on concerted attempts to persuade and dominate.
- The organization shows an extremely ardent and unquestioning devotion to its leader, and sees his belief system, philosophy, and practices as the Truth, as law (whether he is alive or dead).
- Doubt, disagreement, and questioning are discouraged or even penalized.
- The leadership prescribes how members should think, behave, and feel, often in considerable detail (for example, members must get permission to date, change jobs, or marry—or leaders specify what to dress, where to live, whether to have children, how to discipline children, and so on).
- The group is elitist, claiming unique, exalted status for itself, its leader(s), and its members (e.g., the leader is a special being, an avatar—or the organization and/or the leader are on a specific mission to rescue mankind).
- The group has a divided, us-versus-them mindset, which might lead to social strife.
- There are no authorities to whom the leader is accountable (unlike, for example, teachers, military commanders, or ministers, priests, monks, and rabbis of mainstream religious denominations).
- The organization teaches or suggests that its ostensibly lofty goals justify whatever tactics are required to achieve them. Members may engage in actions or activities that they would have regarded repugnant or unethical prior to joining the organization (e.g., lying to family or friends, or collecting money for bogus charities).
- In order to influence and manage members, the leadership creates sentiments of shame and/or guilt. Peer pressure and subtle types of persuasion are often used to accomplish this.
- Subservience to the leader or organization necessitates individuals severing links with family and friends, as well as drastically altering their own objectives and activities prior to joining.
- The organization is focused on recruiting new members.
- The members of the cult are often consumed with accruing money.

(from: Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships, by Janja Lalich and Michael D. Langone)

Science Can't Afford to Pick and Choose Facts

For nearly two years now, the **Trends Journal** has been among a small band of voices and publications leading the way in pointing out inconvenient studies, events and facts in the face of a monolithic COVID “scientism.”

That scientism has had little to do with the scientific method, which is all that can ever constitute actual science.

In the first wave of the purported pandemic, scientists sought to immediately discount inconvenient notions about the origin of the virus.

They dismissed reports by front-line doctors about protocols showing efficacy in treating COVID infections.

They proposed mask wearing and lockdown measures that were uncontroversially debunked by previous peer-reviewed studies.

They pretended to have answers where no research had been conducted, repeatedly presented policies that had no rigorous grounding in science, as being scientific.

When policies like “15 Days to Slow the Spread,” “social distancing” and staying indoors failed miserably, they merely moved on to other even more draconian measures and dictates.

They flouted their own proscriptions. They profited obscenely by their power grabs.

Currently, they are pushing for compulsory injections of drugs that violate human rights and Constitutionally protected freedoms. The drugs don't work as advertised, aren't needed by the vast majority of people, and present dangers, especially to children who are almost immune from serious COVID effects.

“Science-based” COVID policies have led to increases in suicide, poverty, hunger and political instability that shows no sign of abating any time soon.

Practically every day for the last two years, some new strange affront to credulity is presented by authorities. One the latest this past week was a formal request by the FDA that the courts give them until 2076 to review and fully release the documents concerning the approval of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

In an age where science wields more say over policies than ever, it’s crucial that scientists who abuse their trust be held to account.

Specifically, Dr. Anthony Fauci, like his friend Bill Gates, has made himself a leader of a cult of science.

He has warped, discounted and tried to hide information and facts, and told admitted lies to promote supposedly nobly intended objectives.

When confronted on plain lies, he has resorted to demagoguery to avoid accountability.

If the good doctor is science, then science has thoroughly wrecked its own credibility, morphing into the worst cult of all.

For more on issues discussed here, see **Trends Journal** articles including:

- [“‘YOU CAN NEVER BE WOKE ENOUGH’: HOW ELITES ARE CREATING A DISSOCIATIVE POPULACE”](#) (22 Jun 2021)
- [“HOW THE CCP WENT VIRAL ON THE WINGS OF COVID”](#) (5 Oct 2021)
- [“BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI”](#) (18 May 2021)

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



YOUR CARBON CREDIT CARD HAS BEEN DECLINED. Get ready for a whole different kind of credit score.

This one has nothing to do with financial risk, and everything to do with control in the guise of combating “climate change.”

A Swedish fintech company Doconomy is applying the “credit limit” model to calculations about pollution. It’s issuing a new credit card called DO Black, which includes a feature to cut users off when their purchase amounts go over set CO2 emission calculations for a given period.

“It’s radical,” Mathias Wikström, cofounder of Doconomy, commented to Fast Company, “but then again reducing CO2 emissions [by] 50% by 2030 is quite radical, too.”

The Agenda 2030 climate goal stems from a 2018 UN report which sounded fresh alarms about impending climate doom.

Various academic periodicals have published articles stressing the necessity for a “Personal Carbon Allowance,” or PCA. Some claim that PCAs are the most effective way to combat climate change.

How might a PCA be used to combat climate change? Technocrats and politicians, who often use orders of magnitude more carbon than the average human being, are busy calculating limits based on “science.”

Under their power grabbing schemes, mechanisms like limits on purchases, and how far that new Electric Vehicle (or even gas-powered) vehicle might be able to travel, would be implemented.

The Internet of Things (IoT), or networked computer control built into more and more everyday items, is a system that can be hijacked by authorities to meter and cut off usage of just about anything.

As an example, suppose you are allowed 10 Personal Carbon Allowance every day as an American (countries like China will no doubt be allotted more generous limits, but it is their century, after all).

If you've met your limit, forget about visiting an elderly relative that day, or ticking up the heat if it's a chilly evening.

With things like the DO Black credit card, the move is on to assign carbon costs to every human activity, and every commodity.

Sad to say, but blockchain and related Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) are shaping up to be the perfect way to comprehensively track and apply the automatic cut-offs.

Every action and every object can be tokenized, authorized and de-authorized using such technologies.

In a world where people have largely rolled over and accepted lockdowns, vaccine mandates and vaccine passes for travel and entry to events and businesses, it's clear that elitists have no intention of observing any limits to their own desire to control and winnow away the bulk of humanity.

To them, your labor isn't needed. You're a useless eater, and unnecessary carbon emitter. And they are hell bent on doing something about the problem.

(for more on this topic, visit organicprepper.com)

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



A CORNUCOPIA OF ALTCOINS?

Plenty of crypto analysts have been predicting an “altcoin season” that may roughly coincide with the 2021 holidays.

Some of the factors are technical. Those who track such things have reported that some large bitcoin addresses sold to help spur the recent 10-plus percent dip in bitcoin.

Those whales may well be buying back the dip. That, along with more attractive prices to newer investors, will likely create new upward momentum for the “king crypto.”

Many altcoins went lower with bitcoin, and bargains might exist there as well.

Institutional investors have some current favorites in their portfolios, according to Mesari Research.

Other than Bitcoin and Ethereum, Solana, with a market valuation of \$68.21 billion, was the victor among the top crypto assets, in institutional portfolios.

Polkadot (DOT), Avalanche (AVAX), and Terra (LUNA), with market capitalizations of \$40.91 billion, \$21.06 billion, and \$19.15 billion, respectively, followed.

Paypal also recently may have tipped its hand regarding specific crypto interest.

Senior VP Jose Fernandez da Ponte recently commented that the company is tracking cryptos including Ethereum, Solana, Polkadot and Algorand.

But besides technical analysis and hard info about investor trends and sentiments, there's another reason why the crypto sector may be in for an "altcoin season" boost.

Simply put, people are tired of COVID, and crypto is likely to be a hot topic around family dinner tables this Thanksgiving. It may work hand-in-hand with the price of turkey and fixin's, and gas and heat, and housing and cars and everything else.

Inflation is the very unwelcome guest at dinner in America in 2021. And with President Biden's "Build Back Better" showing that government can't or won't stop the stimulus gravy train, the lure of staying ahead of the inflation monster with cryptos will be too good to pass up in conversation.

And like a tantalizing pie, Americans may be passing around advice, telling each other about their favorite exchanges, crypto projects, and DeFi lending protocols.

CRYPTO FIRMS BUYING NAMING RIGHTS TO SPORTS PALACES

The Los Angeles Staples Center sports arena is being rechristened the Crypto.com Center on Christmas Day, after the Singapore crypto brokerage of

the same name agreed to pay \$700 million over 20 years for the privilege, people familiar told the *Wall Street Journal*.

“This is certainly one of the largest deals I’ve ever heard of,” sports lawyer Irwin Kishner said to the *WSJ*.

“It’s absolutely a ground-shaking, major transaction,” he said.

The 20,000-seat center is home to the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers basketball teams and the National Hockey League’s Los Angeles Kings.

“If you want to reach billions of people, sports is the way to go,” Crypto.com founder and CEO Kris Marszalek said in a *WSJ* interview.

“Our objective is to be, in the next three to five years, one of the top 20 consumer brands alongside Nike or Apple,” he said.

Founded in 2016, Crypto.com allows account holders to borrow up to 10 times their capital to make trades in cryptocurrencies. It also offers crypto-based credit cards and non-fungible tokens, or NFTs ([NFTs Could Be “Bigger Than Crypto,” Coinbase CEO Says](#), 16 November, 2021).

Attaching crypto’s name to iconic institutions in major cities is another indicator that digital currencies and tokens have entered the mainstream.

Institutional investors hold crypto, major banks are enabling clients to buy and sell cryptocurrencies, and last month U.S. regulators approved the first exchange-traded fund dealing in Bitcoin futures.

Last March, the U.S. affiliate of the Bahamas-based FTX crypto exchange paid \$135 million for the right to rename Miami’s American Airlines Arena, where the Miami Heat basketball team plays, as the FTX Arena.

FTX also has funded a \$20-million advertising campaign to tout crypto, featuring Tampa Bay Buccaneers football hero Tom Brady and his wife, model and businesswoman Gisele Bündchen (“Tom is In – You In?”).

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: In [Crypto Sanity](#) (16 February, 2021) and other articles, we correctly predicted that crypto would quickly become mainstream when private and central banks acknowledged it as an legitimate investment vehicle and when government regulators permitted legal trading, a breakthrough last month when the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission permitted Proshares' Bitcoin ETF ([Market Overview](#), 19 October, 2021).

TREND FORECAST: Public acceptance and investment in crypto will continue to gain momentum, dragging regulators and central banks along with them.

Public pressure, as well as competition from private digital currencies and governments developing their own stablecoins ([SEC Chief Sets Regulatory Sights on Cryptocurrencies](#), 10 August, 2021) will speed the release of government-backed digital money and quickly embed it in common use with almost the same speed at which debit cards took hold.

HILLARY CLINTON COMES OUT AGAINST CRYPTOS

Cryptocurrencies, artificial intelligence, and the disinformation industry are among the “asymmetric power centers” that could destabilize governments, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum on 19 November.

“The rise of cryptocurrency...has the potential to undermine currencies, undermine the dollar as the [world's] reserve currency, for destabilizing nations, starting with small ones but going much larger,” she said.

Alex McShane, a commentator with Bitcoin magazine, criticized Clinton's views, writing that “when Clinton casually throws crypto in with her laundry list of threats...she is categorically wrong,” he said.

McShane separates Bitcoin from other cryptos, saying that “the other thousands of cryptocurrencies are centralized and largely unregulated assets whose

protocol can be changed at any time; thus, in crypto, the threat of property confiscation persists.”

“Cryptocurrencies cannot undermine fiat currencies or nation states outright because what they offer is fundamentally the same as fiat, which is an asset that can [be] and is debased by governance,” he said.

“Bitcoin assures anyone with Internet access a decentralized, permissionless right to property that cannot be confiscated or censored by any government,” McShane noted.

“No one on the Bitcoin network is forced to choose between updating their software or risk losing their wealth.

“Bitcoin is a geographically agnostic personal sovereign wealth fund.”

TREND FORECAST: While Hillary Clinton's power and presence is of a time gone by, we note this article to again illustrate how creatures of the entrenched establishment will do what they can to denounce, devalue and do away with crypto currencies.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



CAN CRYPTO TURN AROUND TURKEY'S CURRENCY IMPLOSION?

Turkey's economy has been rocked by a currency crisis. After the central bank lowered borrowing charges for the third month in a row, the Turkish Lira reached a

new low versus the US Dollar. The bank lowered a "key rate by one percentage point," according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

This sparked a flurry of price stability speculations. The Lira plunged as much as 6% to 11.3118 versus the dollar, the greatest drop in eight months.

Could Bitcoin alleviate some of Turkey's woes? Some analysts think so, and point to El Salvador's embrace of bitcoin as a stabilizing and positive development there.

Bitcoin is being considered by an increasing number of institutional and ordinary investors throughout the world as a hedge against rising costs. The same is true for nations in the midst of a monetary crisis. On 19 November, Michael Saylor, CEO of MicroStrategy's, tweeted a suggestion to Turkish authorities:

#Bitcoin is hope for #Turkey. The currency has lost a third of its value since March and declined for nine consecutive years. Conversion from TRY to USD will merely slow the collapse, while adoption of BTC will reverse the damage & revitalize the economy.

Saylor, a noted bitcoin investor and advocate, has previously advocated for the crypto's potential to help nations in the midst of a currency crisis, like Turkey. Obtaining BTC, he believes, would assist those "living in crisis regions" in bettering their conditions.

Countries such as Argentina, Costa Rica, and other Latin American countries are reportedly exploring following El Salvador's lead regarding accepting Bitcoin as legal tender.

Many real estate firms in those regions accept payments for house purchases or rentals, according to Rodrigo Sánchez-Ros, president of La Haus, a prop-tech firm.

Turkey has not been as receptive to cryptocurrencies.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has tried to dictate measures to battle the precipitous devaluation of the Lira. He recently required banks to enact a 100 basis point reduction in policy rates, to 15 percent.

Turkey is currently experiencing a 20 percent annual inflation rate. Erdogan has promised to fight interest rates "to the end."

Hopefully, it won't come to that.

EXCUSES FOR BIDENFLATION, AND EFFECTS ON CRYPTOS. As a politically correct Shakespeare might have penned, "Our faults lie not in our dear President and Congress, but in Our Selfish Consuming."

In the wake of near double-digit inflation that shows no signs of letting up, plenty of academics have been quick to make excuses and blame the masses rather than pols for the problems.

Nevermind that many of those same politicians have advocated for strangling energy production, and enforcing interminable, economically disastrous COVID restrictions.

Mauro Guillén, dean at the University of Cambridge's Judge Business School, recently told Cointelegraph.com:

"Yes, it [inflation] is potentially a problem. [But] the fact that U.S. consumers are postponing buying big-ticket items due to inflation suggests that they believe inflation will come down. I am guardedly optimistic that this is temporary."

According to Guillén, much of the threat of inflation is linked to consumer expectations for the future, not on horrendous government policies. His view is that if consumers feel that increasing costs would be an ongoing reality, they will buy products sooner rather than later, expecting greater prices.

And that's what would fuel inflation. So breathe easy about Biden laying down a vaccination ultimatum that as many as one-third of Americans may quit their jobs over. That would have no appreciable economic impacts.

Others, of course, aren't as glibly optimistic as Guillén.

"It is clear now that inflation is less transitory than was initially hoped," Itay Goldstein told Cointelegraph.

Itay is a professor of finance at the Wharton School.

He acknowledged that the world is reeling from supply-demand imbalances that have very much to do with COVID related monetary and fiscal stimulus, and other policies.

As global inflation worsens, Leonard Kostovetsky, assistant professor at Boston College's Carroll School of Management said cryptos could well see more demand. But he also said he believes policy makers would act before that happens:

"I would expect [crypto] adoption by both buyers and sellers to really explode. I don't see this happening any time in the foreseeable future. My guess is that inflation will get under control fairly soon—next four years, perhaps—as pressure grows on policymakers to rein it in."

Guillén also expressed confidence that officials who've been engaging in corrosive monetary policies for decades are bound to see the light:

"The price of Bitcoin is driven by demand. If people believe that it's a good store of value, then they will purchase BTC—which seems to be the case now. But, I wonder what will happen when interest rates go up and people realize that a Treasury bill will pay a nice interest, and it is so safe."

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



SANTA BRINGS "A MONUMENTAL CHRISTMAS GIFT" OF JAB

The Biden administration gleefully announced that its agenda to vaccinate children between 5 and 11 yrs. old, approved and undertaken just weeks ago, is so far so successful that as many as 3 million such children could be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Christmas Eve.

Yahoo News reports, on 17 November, that a White House official declared that the program's progress "is helping parents and families across the country breathe giant sighs of relief."

Yahoo News adds that this "could be a monumental gift for holiday family gatherings in late December, though too late to make for an entirely worry-free Thanksgiving," and goes on to point out that the vaccination effort is important because "the desire to keep schools open is running high," and "simply getting more people vaccinated -- regardless of age -- gives the coronavirus less ability to spread. Vaccinated people are much less likely to become infected with or transmit COVID-19 than unvaccinated people."

TRENDPOST: *Yahoo Presstitutes, media whores who get paid to put out by their corporate pimps and Washington Whore Masters, continue to ignore who is dying from the virus and why. Here are a few of the **Trends Journal** articles that the propagandists at the White House and Yahoo News who are selling the COVID Jab for children have apparently never read (or choose to ignore):*

- ["KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID"](#) (17 Nov 2021)
- ["DATA CONFIRMS SCHOOLS AREN'T SUPER-SPREADERS"](#) (17 Nov 2021)
- ["VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- ["DRUG DEALERS: GET KIDS VACCINATED"](#) (23 Mar 2021)
- ["JAB KIDS WHO WON'T DIE OF THE VIRUS: THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE VAX BUSINESS"](#) (9 Nov 2021)

The Yahoo News article does conclude, however, by saying that the childhood vaccination numbers are "a bright spot for a White House that has seen 60 million eligible adults and adolescents decline to get immunized, despite having been eligible for weeks or months."

WHILE U.S. RAMPS UP KID JABS, OTHER COUNTRIES IN NO RUSH TO VAX CHILDREN



The United States, having recently approved COVID-19 vaccinations for those 5 to 11 years of age, seems eager to include even such young children in its vaccination program; the world's other nations, not so much.

As reported by *The Wall Street Journal* on 15 November, countries like China, Argentina and Colombia are following or even expanding on the U.S.A.'s policy and vaccinating kids as young as 3 yrs. old, whereas in Mexico and parts of

Africa there are no such plans, and across Europe only children with special risk factors get vaxxed if under 12 yrs. Australia and New Zealand, Japan and Israel are cited as countries that may decide to vaccinate children under 12, but thus far have not.

The *WSJ* article acknowledges that the risk of severe illness posed to children by COVID-19 is very small, but contends that vaccinating kids benefits people with whom they come in contact and the general population.

TRENDPOST: *The WSJ is half right. That the risk to children is minuscule has been established, but so has the lack of risk to those around them; see ["MORE EVIDENCE KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID TO ADULTS"](#) (17 Nov 2020) and ["CNN REPORTS ON 'FURTHER DEBUNKING OF A MYTH.' AS IT IGNORES COVID FACTS"](#) (17 Aug 2021).*

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa have not vaccinated children, largely because rollouts of vaccinations in general are so slow; only 6.3 percent of Africans have thus far been fully vaccinated.

Mexico "Gets It"

Mexico, on the other hand, is deliberately resisting vaxxing anyone under 18, aside from those with pre-existing conditions like asthma or diabetes. Mexico's president not only believes that minors don't get seriously ill from COVID-19 and therefore don't need protection, he has stated that his country is "not going to be hostage" to pharmaceutical companies that want to "scare countries into buying more vaccines."

TRENDPOST: *Perhaps Mexico's president subscribes to **Trends Journal**, and has read articles like ["DRUG DEALERS: GET KIDS VACCINATED"](#) (23 Mar 2021), ["JAB KIDS WHO WON'T DIE OF THE VIRUS: THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE VAX BUSINESS"](#) (9 Nov 2021), or ["DRUG COMPANIES CASHING IN ON COVID"](#) (11 May 2021).*

NOT “RIGHT WING,” NOT “CONSPIRACY THEORISTS.” ONE THIRD OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS WON’T GET VAXXED



Why are so many healthcare workers refusing to get the COVID Jab which allegedly will keep healthcare workers healthy?

U.S. healthcare workers, theoretically the group for whom COVID-19 vaccination status should be most critical (based on their occupation's intrinsic higher risk of infection and of transmission) are still lagging in getting fully vaccinated, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on 18 November by Forbes.

As of 15 September, only 70 percent of some 3 million workers studied, in 2000 hospitals nationwide, were fully vaccinated, despite the looming federal vaccine mandate which, although currently contested, will require more than 17 million workers at facilities participating in Medicare and Medicaid to be fully vaccinated by 4 January.

Officials and facility operators are concerned that, under the mandate, unvaxxed workers must be terminated, and severe staffing shortages will result.

Doctors tend to be the most compliant group, with the American Medical Association reporting that 96 percent of its practicing physicians are fully vaccinated. Among workers at long-term facilities, 73 percent are fully vaxxed.

Healthcare staff compliance varies from metropolitan to rural counties, with 71 percent and 65 percent, respectively, fully vaccinated. The lowest rate, 64 percent, is in critical access hospitals.

TRENDPOST: Trends Journal has addressed "vaccine hesitancy," even among those who face termination for non-compliance; see

- ["HEALTHCARE WORKERS SAY 'TAKE THIS JOB - AND JAB - AND SHOVE IT'" \(2 Nov 2021\)](#)
- ["MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?" \(14 Sep 2021\)](#)
- ["NURSING HOME EMPLOYEES STILL JAB-WARY" \(26 Oct 2021\)](#)
- ["WHY VAX RATES LAG AMONG NURSING HOME AIDES" \(21 Sep 2021\)](#)

Those last two articles posit one plausible explanation for why some healthcare workers still harbor such hesitancy about personally submitting to the COVID jabs: They are likely to have witnessed firsthand patients suffering from side effects of the vaccines, and not only have they seen it, they deal with it constantly.

SADLY, AS FORECAST: FIGHTING THE COVID WAR = RECORD-BREAKING OPIOID DEATHS



As we had forecast, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, annual U.S. deaths from drug overdoses are on track to eclipse 2020's numbers, which had exceeded previous records.

The number has already topped 100,000 for the 12 month period ending 30 April, and that is an increase of 29 percent over the same period a year earlier.

About 75 percent of the fatal overdoses during that period are opioid-related. The drug fentanyl (a synthetic opioid that can be 50 times more powerful than heroin or morphine) has been driving up the numbers since about 2014, but the current surge is laid at the feet of COVID-19, via the isolation, anxiety and depression imposed by lockdowns and their impact on lives and livelihoods.

TREND FORECAST: Lockdowns also prevented people from accessing treatment for drug use or addiction; see ["COVID LOCKDOWNS INCREASE DRUG ABUSE"](#) (15 Sep 2020).

Adding to that is the proliferation of illicit fentanyl (often produced, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, by Mexican cartels using ingredients from China) added to other drugs (whether illicit heroin or bootleg replicas of prescription drugs), often unbeknownst to the consumer; see ["FENTANYL: A KILLER OPIOID"](#) (20 Apr 2021) and ["COVID WAR = FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES"](#) (20 Jul 2021).

TRENDPOST: As we noted in ["THE OPIOID WARS"](#) (22 Oct 2019), it all started when OxyContin (a timed-release version of the opioid analgesic oxycodone) was approved by the FDA under Bill Clinton in 1996, and within two years prescriptions increased by 11 million.

A little history: Purdue Pharma promoted and marketed OxyContin via a sophisticated program that included all-expenses-paid conferences in California, Arizona and Florida for some 5000 doctors, nurses and pharmacists, as well as profiling to identify the most frequent (and sometimes least discriminate) prescribers of opioids; it also paid out \$40 million in bonuses for increasing OxyContin sales. And it produced a promotional video in which a doctor claimed the drug "had no serious medical side effects."

The result was widespread dependency, far beyond medical necessity, among Americans who would otherwise not be using illicit drugs, and who, when access to prescription opioids was tightened by the government, found themselves turning to heroin and bootleg opioids.

CDC data shows overdose deaths up in 46 states plus Washington D.C., with Vermont—which has the highest COVID vaccination rate in the country—showing the greatest increase: 70 percent over the same period one year prior.

One proposal to alleviate the problem is the creation of legalized sites where illegal drugs could be consumed with supervision, so that overdoses can be dealt with by trained personnel with access to overdose-reversal drugs. But as *The Wall Street Journal* noted, such a concept "has proven difficult to launch," and at least one such site has been "blocked by a federal legal challenge launched during the Trump administration."

TREND FORECAST: Such schemes are couched in terms of promoting "harm reduction." Look for similar proposals employing that term; President Biden has even said that promoting harm reduction is part of his administration's approach to combating the crisis.

TRENDPOST EXTRA: The mental damage of the COVID War keeps spreading. On 17 November, an Oregon middle school which, having resumed in-person classes after a year of at-home learning because of COVID-19, is now closing down again because student behavior is out of control.

A year of closures, quarantines and isolation has so suppressed students' socialization skills that brawls and other "disruptive behaviors" are running rampant, and the school cannot provide "the necessary social-emotional supports" and "safety protocols" for education to resume.

What's this have to do with people turning to opioids and overdosing? Some people turn to drugs, others "act out." Both are examples of the devastating toll taken by the COVID War, from all the stresses whose collective negative impact far outweighs the damage done by the virus itself.

Both prove two maxims: one, that the cure is often worse than the disease, and the other, as Gerald Celente has often said, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it."

DETROIT SCHOOLS: MAJORITY OF KIDS ABSENT. CLASSES GOING ONLINE



As we had forecast when draconian mandates were imposed on the masses, “When people lose everything, they lose it.” And for young children, who have been locked down, social distanced and masked up, many are choosing to lose everything rather than live under the dictates of the

New ABnormal.

Currently some 57 percent of Detroit public school students are considered chronically absent, i.e., they dropped out of school this year. Before the COVID War began in 2019, 45 percent were classroom no shows.

On 17 November, Detroit.Chalkbeat.org reported that the Detroit school district, with some 49,000 students, has designated three Fridays in December as remote instruction days. The decision was informed, we are told, by concerns of teachers, staff, students and families over "the need for mental health relief, rising COVID cases, and time to more thoroughly clean schools." The Detroit Federation of Teachers negotiated with the school district on the new schedule.

The plan will depend on a 75 percent online attendance rate; school districts lose a portion of their state aid if they fall short of 75 percent attendance.

At least one high school has suspended in-person learning entirely, citing multiple COVID outbreaks. In the week of 5 November, the district had 367 student and staff COVID cases, with 857 students in quarantine. One teacher expressed her concerns thusly: "I think the way we are informed about cases, and track quarantined students, needs to be improved. Right now it's too much to keep up with and I'm becoming drained and it's becoming dangerous."

Also of concern is underreporting of COVID cases. One school had reported six new cases as of 17 November, and students and staff staged a walkout over COVID protocols. The district invites anonymous reporting, via e-mail, of any violation of COVID safety protocols.

Those protocols include school cleaning; the district is adhering to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines that call for cleaning and disinfecting any spaces occupied within the last 24 hours by any person who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19. The district uses federally-approved disinfectants rather than household products, and federal COVID funds provide overtime pay for custodial staff.

TRENDPOST: *The reporting fails to make clear whether the students and staff who walked out felt the COVID protocols were too stringent or too lax. And while the number of "cases" seems of great concern, there's no mention of whether the cases are symptomatic or not, nor any mention of hospitalizations or deaths.*

The school district's longer-term plans include a vaccine mandate for employees and students, on the grounds that it will help keep students safe in schools.

TREND FORECAST: *One of the few good things about the COVID War is that it may help to finally usher in the age of online learning, which has been in the offing for many years (it was predicted and advocated by Gerald Celente some 20 years ago) but, despite holding such great promise (and being more cost-effective and flexible), has, up until now, not managed to replace in-person learning; see ["DIGITAL LEARNING'S GOLDEN ERA"](#) (14 May 2014) and ["MEGA-TREND OF THE FUTURE: RICE UNIVERSITY TURNS TO ONLINE LEARNING"](#) (24 Aug 2021).*

TRENDPOST: *Last week, **Trends Journal** reported that many U.S. schools, which had welcomed the resumption of classes and return to normalcy after being shut down for so long because of COVID-19, were shutting down again, implementing four-day weeks, extending holiday breaks and returning to remote learning.*

Such changes were mostly in reaction to teachers who were so stressed and put-upon that they were taking extra days off, with many actually leaving the profession or contemplating doing so. Complicating the situation was the shortage of school bus drivers, cafeteria workers and substitute teachers; see ["PITY THE COVID-WEARY TEACHERS"](#) (16 Nov 2021).

VAX EFFECTIVENESS WANES EQUALLY FOR OLD AND YOUNG: 4TH JAB COMING



Trends Journal readers know that Israel was the first country to vaccinate the majority of its population against COVID-19, and that Israel's experience informed our understanding of breakthrough infections, the waning effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines,

and the need for booster shots (and how even the effectiveness of booster shots wanes over time); see:

- ["ISRAEL": #1 IN VACCINATIONS. #1 IN PROBLEMS?"](#) (26 Jan 2021)
- ["THE DARK SIDES OF VAX"](#) (24 Aug 2021)
- ["ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE'VE BEEN SOLD"](#) (27 Jul 2021)
- ["ISRAEL: BOOSTS COVID SHOTS FROM 2 TO 3"](#) (14 Sep 2021)

Contrary to the policies of many other countries and the recommendation of the World Health Organization to give a third shot only to those with the highest risk, Israel chose to administer a third shot to everyone over 12. Over 4 million Israelis got the booster, and the infection rate was markedly reduced.

Naturally, it was hoped that the booster would provide longer lasting protection than the two prior shots, protection levels from which had already been shown to diminish significantly over time.

Now, according to the *Jerusalem Post* on 16 November, preliminary findings from an Israeli study based on 1.3 million records appear to confirm not only an overall decline in protection after four to six months, but a similar decline for boosters as well; it also appears to show that such declines are unrelated to the age of the vaccinated person.

The article notes that the study was conducted while the Delta variant was "burning across the country," and while many believed Delta was responsible for increased infections in Israel, the study indicates the variant may have been less a factor than thought.

4th Jab

This past Saturday, the Israel's Ynetnews.com reported that a fourth COVID Jab would be coming soon and Israeli Health Ministry Professor Ash speculates beyond a fourth shot, Israelis may have to take additional booster shots from time to time as vaccine protection wanes: "It's probably a matter of time, and the question is how long," said Ash. "If [vaccine protection] lasts for a year, we'd be delighted... In any case, it probably will not last many years, even the booster shot, and we will have to keep getting vaccinated from time to time. I hope it will be a year or more."

There you got it... a jab for life.

TRENDPOST: As we reported back on 21 September 2021, there were grave concerns about the efficacy of booster shots... and they were not "conspiracy theories. In the **Trends Journal** article, ["NEW LANCET ARTICLE DOUBTS CASE FOR BOOSTER SHOTS."](#) we quote an international paper published on 13 September 2021 in *The Lancet* medical journal:

Careful and public scrutiny of the evolving data will be needed to assure that decisions about boosting are informed by reliable science more than by politics. Even if boosting were eventually shown to decrease the medium-term risk of serious disease, current vaccine supplies could save

more lives if used in previously unvaccinated populations than if used as boosters in vaccinated populations.”

We noted that the authors also cautioned against possible side effects from boosters, including heart inflammation, which has been particularly prevalent in young males compared to other groups. The possibility of boosters triggering elevated incidence of Guillain-Barre syndrome and other maladies was also mentioned.

As the news broke from the major peer-reviewed medical journal, even MSM news outlets were compelled to cover the story. A CNBC headline, for example, admitted “Data shows Covid booster shots are ‘not appropriate’ at this time, U.S. and international scientists conclude.”

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

TREND FORECAST: *While findings like these make some people question the whole vaccination narrative, those who have a vested interest in promoting and perpetuating that narrative will no doubt cite these findings as evidence that more boosters will be needed, with no end in sight; see [“DRUG LORD: COVID IS ‘FOREVER’”](#) (19 Jan 2021).*

TRENDPOST: *Totally absent from the “reporting” by Presstitutes are the facts that, as we have noted, a year ago the Drug Lords and governments were selling the line that the COVID Jab was over 90 percent effective and two jabs would do the job.*

Pfizer drug lord Albert Bourla, squawking on CNBC Squawk Box, bragged that the “Pfizer and BioNTech coronavirus vaccine was more than 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 among those without evidence of prior infection, hailing the

development as “a great day for science and humanity ... I think we can see light at the end of the tunnel. I believe this is likely the most significant medical advance in the last 100 years.”

Indeed, as we have detailed, the Pfizer vaccine, according to the Israeli Health Ministry, has only a 39 percent efficacy rate. And while Bourla spread “misinformation” about the efficacy rate of the Pfizer COVID Jab a year ago, last Tuesday he claimed that anyone spreading misinformation” about his company’s vaccine, “Those people are criminals.”

VAX WAR: THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD



Over the weekend, hundreds of thousands of citizens took to the streets in protest of being forced to get the COVID Jab or lose their jobs and freedom.

Governments are reinstating lockdown orders while applying new pressure on the unvaccinated to get vaccinated.

TREND FORECAST: *These massive demonstrations that are barely reported by the mainstream media, are just the beginning of a major march to Freedom... a shot that will be heard around the world. And, as we had forecast, new anti-vax, anti-establishment movements are now rapidly accelerating.*

These are some of the demonstrations that took place this weekend in protest of COVID19 restrictions being imposed upon those who refuse to get the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy inoculation:

CZECHIA: Thousands of protesters took to the street in Prague on Thursday to voice outrage over new COVID-19 guidelines that bar the unvaccinated from society.

“Not even communists dared to do what is happening here today,” Marketa Irankova, a protester, told Euronews. “I really don't have any freedom anymore. Restricted traveling from one region to the other last year, prohibiting children to do sports and visiting schools-- this is not freedom. A totalitarian system starts here again.”

Andrej Babiš, Prague's outgoing prime minister, said citizens who refuse the vaccination are selfish and these new restrictions were required because the ones in place did not go far enough to stop infection. Starting yesterday, the unvaccinated will not be allowed at sporting events, stay in hotels, cannot visit restaurants, bars, movie theaters, museums, hairdressers, etc.

“These people who don't get vaccinated and end up in hospitals are endangering health care for other citizens,” Babiš said.

Adam Vojtech, the country's health minister, said there is a risk that the hospitals in the country will be overwhelmed. He urged companies to cancel holiday parties and allow employees to work from home.

Czechia is home to about 11 million people and the country's rate of infection jumped to 813 new cases per 100,000 residents in a seven-day span last week. The rate was 558 the previous week, The Associated Press reported. The wire service said 57.9 percent of the country is vaccinated, which is lagging behind other European countries.

Euronews reported that protesters in Prague did not wear facemasks or follow social-distancing guidelines. The news outlet pointed out that the protest was on the same day that the country marked the anniversary of the anti-Communist Velvet Revolution in 1989.

On Monday, they were out in the streets again, thousands marched through Prague, condemning the draconian government mandates.

Carrying posters with pictures of politicians and health bureaucrats, calling them traitors for imposing their dictates, the crowd shouted what has become the global chant of the COVID War protesters: “Freedom!”

NETHERLANDS: Police in Rotterdam on Saturday opened fire during an anti-lockdown protest and three people were rushed to nearby hospitals.

Reuters reported that a group of several hundred rioters lit fireworks and set cars on fire. Some protesters threw rocks at police officers during the protest the prior night.

“Three rioters were wounded when they were hit by bullets,” Dutch police told Reuters. “They remain in hospital.” The report said 51 people were arrested and five police officers were injured.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, the **Trends Journal** has been tracking anti-lockdown protests in European cities. Saturday’s protests in major European cities were among the largest. The mainstream media has written off many of these protests as nothing more than rallies for right-wing parties. Many of the protesters say governments are taking a chainsaw to an issue that should be handled with a scalpel.

Ahmed Aboutaleb, Rotterdam’s mayor, said police were forced to open fire because they had to defend themselves from the mob. Riots also broke out in Urk. This is not the first time that Dutch police responded with violence during these protests. (See our 16 March 2021 report, titled, [“DUTCH COVID COPS BEAT LOCKDOWN PROTESTERS.”](#))

The government imposed the first partial lockdown among western European nations since the summer. The latest lockdown will last for three weeks and will include curfews on bars, restaurants, and essential shops. The report said that social gatherings at homes will also be limited to four.

On Sunday the police estimated another 35,000 people took to the streets in central Brussels chanting “Freedom, freedom, freedom!” and singing the fight for liberty anti-fascist song [Bella Ciao](#).

GERMANY: Germany, which has a higher vaccination rate than the U.S., is dealing with a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Olaf Scholz, the chancellor-in-waiting, and his center-left Social Democrats, are attempting to form a three-way coalition with the Greens and Free Democrats. Leaders from the parties have agreed to put new restrictions in place targeting unvaccinated individuals, which includes “mandating that they obtain a negative coronavirus test before traveling on buses or trains, as infection rates reach new highs.”

Angela Merkel, the outgoing chancellor, said it was a “dramatic” situation in her country and the fourth wave was hitting the country “with full force.”

The report said that many of the restrictions for the unvaccinated will occur in states where there are more than three individuals hospitalized per 100,000. Those unvaccinated at these states will not be able to enter restaurants, cultural, or sporting venues, the report said.

In response to expectations that there will be no freedom for the unvaxxed, on Sunday, in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, two COVID test centers were set ablaze.

New COVID mandates imposed in Bavaria will force clubs and bars to close down, restaurants will have to shut by 10 p.m. and shops will have to reduce capacity Saxony has also closed clubs and bars, among other lockdown measures.

TREND FORECAST: *These re-imposed COVID War measures will further drag down economic growth while escalating populist anti-vax, anti-establishment movements. Ignoring the facts of broad based citizen outrage against draconian measures being imposed upon them by politicians and bureaucrats, the media*

will continue to moronically label those fighting for freedom as right wing conspiracy theorists.

ITALY: Despite a vaccination rate of over 80 percent of its population and among the strictest Green Pass restrictions in the world, COVID-19 cases continue to surge in parts of the country.

About 6.7 million Italians over 12 are unvaccinated in a country of over 60 million, *The New York Times* reported. Italy has been leading the way in Europe when it comes to COVID-19 restrictions, including the introduction and enforcement of the Green Pass in order to go into restaurants, cinemas, theaters, sports venues and gyms, long-distance train, bus or ferry travel.... or to go to work.

Several thousand mask-less protesters marched into Rome's Circo Massimo to voice their condemnation of the Green Pass.

AUSTRIA: With 66 percent of its population of 8.9 million people virus jabbed, and registering one of the lowest vaccination rates in western Europe, there is strong resistance among Austrian citizens to fight lockdown rules and new mandates that force them to get the jab... or lose their "freedom."

Demonstrators took to the streets of Vienna on Saturday to voice outrage over the government's draconian restrictions. Holding up banners that read, "Freedom," and shouting "Resistance!"... some 35,000 people gathered in front of Vienna's Heroes' Square to protest that vaccines will become mandatory next year.

Herbert Kickl, the leader of the far-right Freedom party (FPÖ), the country's third-largest political group, said, "As of today, Austria is a dictatorship." (SEE: ["ANTI-LOCKDOWN FIGHTERS GRAB SEATS IN AUSTRIA'S REGIONAL PARLIAMENT, AS PREDICTED BY TRENDS JOURNAL."](#) ["AUSTRIA: "NO VAX, NO FREEDOM."](#) and ["MORE LOCKDOWNS, MORE PROTESTS."](#))

He called the measures “totalitarian” and said the government “believes it should think and decide for us.”

On Friday, Alexander Schallenberg, the chancellor, announced that the country would be locked down and enforce a vaccine mandate for its citizens. The country is the first to take such drastic measures.

“Increasing the vaccination rate—and I think we’re all in agreement on this—is our only way to break out of this vicious cycle of viral waves and lockdown discussions for good,” he said, according to The Associated Press. “We don’t want a fifth wave, we don’t want a sixth and seventh wave.”

The Austrian lockdown that began Monday will stretch for 10 days until it is reevaluated. The AP reported that hospitals in the country are not “under the same pressure they were earlier in the pandemic.”

TRENDPOST: *As we have been noting, anyone disagreeing with the wide range of draconian lockdown rules that are destroying tens of millions of businesses and the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions are labeled by politicians and the media as radicals or “right wing.”*

Thus, such propaganda further divides the population between the good who obey and the bad who disagree with what they are being ordered to do. Never in their reporting are the reasons and factual science-based data that draws the divide.

DENMARK: Chanting “Freedom for Denmark,” several thousand people demonstrated outside the Danish parliament in Copenhagen to protest the government’s plans for the reintroduction of the national health pass.

SWITZERLAND: Continuing their weekly protests, on Saturday, tens of thousands of people took part in rallies across the country in protest of government COVID mandates. As we have reported, in the nation of Direct Democracy, on November 28, there will be a nationwide vote on whether to continue or end the COVID Law mandates.

NORTHERN IRELAND: In protest of the government's no-vax, no admission to nightclubs, bars and restaurants starting 13 December, a few thousand people opposed to the mandates protested outside Belfast's city hall on Saturday.

CROATIA: Reuters reported that on Saturday, thousands gathered in the capital Zagreb, carrying Croatian flags, nationalist and religious symbols, along with banners against vaccination and what they describe as restrictions of people's freedoms.

NORTH MACEDONIA: In protests of mandatory vaccination requirements, thousands took the streets in Skopje on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA: "FREEDOM!" That was the demand chanted by tens of thousands of people who have marched in rallies in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide, in protest of the government's COVID War lockdown/must get vaccinated mandates and pending pandemic legislation that will rob them of more of their Constitutional Rights.

GUADELOUPE: In response to massive protests and a week of unrest against restrictive vaccine mandates, France deployed security forces to its occupied Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

NOVA SCOTIA'S CHIEF DOCTOR "STRANGE" DECLARES WHAT FREEDOM IS



Dr. Robert "Strange" Strang, the chief medical bureaucrat of health in Nova Scotia, who said Wednesday he is frustrated with those who refuse to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Your personal freedom has well-established ethical and legal boundaries when it creates significant risks to others in a pandemic,” he said, according to *The Halifax City News*. “In a pandemic, we all must do what we can to protect ourselves and one another from this virus, and those responsibilities include getting vaccinated and following public health measures.”

He said the average rate of new cases in Canada among those who have not taken the shot is seven times higher than those who are vaccinated. He said the risk of hospitalization in Canada if you are unvaccinated is 23 times higher than if you are fully inoculated.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the COVID-19 outbreak and the emergence of the Delta variant. (SEE: [“VARIANTS FORCE NEW RESTRICTIONS IN ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA,”](#) [“DELTA VIRUS HAMPERING GLOBAL RECOVERY, OECD SAYS,”](#) [“DELTA VARIANT= GLOBAL HYSTERIA.”](#))

On 2 November, we published an article titled, [“GET VACCINATED, SPREAD DELTA VARIANT AT HOME, STUDY SAYS,”](#) that pointed to a recent study that 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.

TREND FORECAST: *For a bureaucrat to determine the boundaries of “freedom” illustrates the severity of how Constitutional Rights are being blatantly abrogated in nation’s that are called “democracies.” For a clown of a jerk to declare “Your personal freedom” is relative to getting vaccinated and that those who are not risk the lives of others in what he calls a “pandemic” is moronic.*

Totally absent in the media reporting of Strang's outrage is that over a period of almost two years, the grand total of 105 people out of a population of nearly a million people have died of the virus in Nova Scotia... which accounts for just 0.011 percent of the population. And over the course of 22 months that is the grand total of 0.00047727 percent per month.

Yet, despite these facts, those speaking out for freedom of choice and presenting facts and data to dispute government mandates are censored. However, we are now entering a breaking point among those admonished, fined, and fired for refusing to get the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy inoculation. The fight for freedom will persist and escalate over the coming months, particularly as the economic conditions decline.

TRENDPOST: *Trends Journal* has been reporting on the fallacy of 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 to win the COVID War. Indeed, building up one's immune system and natural healing are verboten in the New ABnormal. See our December 2020 article, ["COVID VACCINE: SCIENTISTS WARN 'CAUTION'."](#) or our 19 January 2021 article, ["COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS."](#)

TSA SCREENERS: "DON'T VAX ME"



To the various occupational groups—truck drivers, police and firefighters, airline pilots, healthcare workers—of which significant numbers of workers are choosing to remain unvaccinated against COVID-19, Transportation Security Administration employees can now be

added.

As reported on 17 November by Bloomberg News, as many as 40 percent of U.S. airport security screeners were still unvaccinated, and it was unlikely that would change by the deadline for compliance, 22 November; see ["MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?"](#) (14 Sep 2021).

Neither the agency nor the union representing the workers is reported as being concerned about travel disruptions over Thanksgiving caused by staffing shortages.

That might imply that the agency will not be taking "a hard line," and will not be summarily dismissing non-vaccine-compliant workers. Were the agency to dismiss that many workers, that could play havoc with Christmas travel as well. But, under the federal vaccine mandate, agencies are instructed to provide "education and counseling" before termination, so workers who miss the deadline (and don't obtain medical or religious exemptions) are unlikely to be fired immediately.

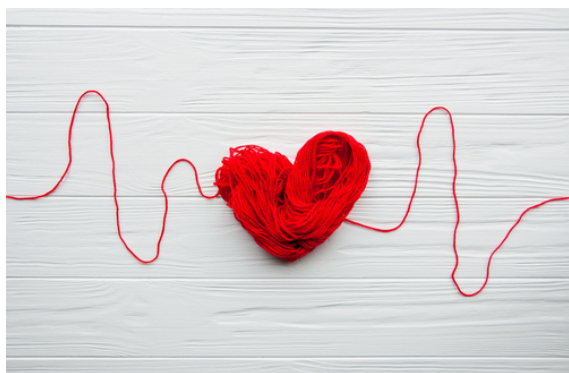
The TSA is reported to have just completed a hiring surge, and that may help account for the agency's belief that it will be fully staffed for holiday travel. In addition, forecasts of numbers of people traveling show more than last year but are still well below pre-COVID figures.

In addition to concerns over staffing and travel disruptions are concerns about unvaxxed TSA workers transmitting COVID-19 to travelers, since screening, by its nature, involves close contact. The agency reports that more than 11,000 of its employees have been infected since COVID-19 first appeared, with 32 deaths; there are currently 271 active cases.

A TSA spokesperson is quoted as saying that the deadline is "not so much a cliff, but a step to further counsel any unvaccinated employees," adding that "We've lost too many TSA employees...and the vaccines are the best way to protect our workforce and our communities."

TREND FORECAST: We note this article to illustrate the fact that despite the media and politicians selling the lines that only right wing conspiracy theorists are opposed to getting the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy inoculation, the dissent to get the jab is not politically oriented. Moreover, it further illustrates the depth and scope of those unwilling to get the jab and how it will prove to be a strong foundation for a new anti-establishment “Freedom” movement.

ANOTHER STUDY SHOWS COVID VACCINES CAUSE HEART PROBLEMS



Controversial gene level medicines being pushed by government mandates as COVID “vaccines” have again been strongly associated with serious heart related side effects.

“mRNA vaccines dramatically increase inflammation on the endothelium and T cell infiltration of cardiac muscle and may account for the observations of increased thrombosis, cardiomyopathy, and other vascular events following vaccination.”

That’s the assessment of a new study published in the medical journal Circulation.

The study was overseen by Steven R. Gundry of the International Heart and Lung Institute, Palm Springs, CA.

The abstract of the study noted that with the advent of the mRNA COVID 19 vaccines (vac) by Moderna and Pfizer, dramatic changes in the PULS score became apparent in most patients.

This report summarized those results. It said:

“A total of 566 pts, aged 28 to 97, M:F ratio 1:1 seen in a preventive cardiology practice had a new PULS test drawn from 2 to 10 weeks following the 2nd COVID shot and was compared to the previous PULS score drawn 3 to 5 months previously pre- shot.

“Baseline IL-16 increased from 35 \pm 20 above the norm to 82 \pm 75 above the norm post-vac; sFas increased from 22 \pm 15 above the norm to 46 \pm 24 above the norm post-vac; HGF increased from 42 \pm 12 above the norm to 86 \pm 31 above the norm post-vac.

“These changes resulted in an increase of the PULS score from 11% 5 yr ACS risk to 25% 5 yr ACS risk. At the time of this report, these changes persist for at least 2.5 months post second dose of vac.”

Our group has been using the PLUS Cardiac Test (GD Biosciences, Inc, Irvine, CA) a clinically validated measurement of multiple protein biomarkers which generates a score predicting the 5 yr risk (percentage chance) of a new Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS). The score is based on changes from the norm of multiple protein biomarkers including IL-16, a proinflammatory cytokine, soluble Fas, an inducer of apoptosis, and Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) which serves as a marker for chemotaxis of T-cells into epithelium and cardiac tissue, among other markers. Elevation above the norm increases the PULS score, while decreases below the norm lowers the PULS score. The score has been measured every 3-6 months in our patient population for 8 years.

The study can be read [here](#).

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



MODI LOSES, FARMERS WIN. A MEGA-TREND BEYOND INDIA

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that his government will repeal the farm laws that resulted in deadly year-long protests by farmers who claimed the legislation would crush their livelihood.

"Today, I beg the forgiveness of my countrymen and say with a pure heart and honest mind that perhaps there were some shortcomings," he told the country of 1.4 billion, where half the population works in agriculture.

The **Trends Journal** reported on the destabilizing protests that broke out in the country when they first began. (See ["INDIA'S FARMERS KEEP FIGHTING,"](#) ["INDIAN FARMERS BLAST COURT: NOT BACKING DOWN"](#) and ["PROTESTERS KILLED IN INDIA: FARMERS FIGHT TO THE FINISH."](#))

India's farmers took to the streets in protest of Modi's three new farm laws that they said stripped them of earning potential and allowed major conglomerates to crush their businesses. New Delhi has strict laws based on the sale of produce, and farmers also receive subsidies from the government.

The Modi administration disagreed with the protesters and their demands, insisting the new laws are urgent and allow farmers to increase earning potential.

The protests were tense. Modi's governing Bharatiya Janata Party cut off electricity and water near some of the camps, blocked internet access in some parts of the country, and erected barbed wire and planting spikes in the streets to keep the tractors from coming into New Delhi.

Thousands of farmers have blocked major highways and held a massive truck rally that turned violent when some farmers drove their tractors to confront police. Dozens of farmers who camped out during these protests have died from exposure.

Agriculture makes up 15 percent of the country's \$2.9-trillion economy. Modi told the protesting farmers to "return home to their families, and let's start afresh."

The last time that Modi retreated on a major proposal was in 2015 when his government attempted to overhaul agricultural land sales.

There are upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, which have a large farmer base, and some experts told the BBC that Modi may have been influenced by the polls. Modi did not concede that the plans were ill-advised. He said his government failed at explaining the benefits to the public.

TREND-TRACKING LESSON: *Gerald Celente has long noted that one of the most important elements for protests to be successful is that they must continue unabated. For example, the Berlin Wall came tumbling down when people came to the wall and did not leave. And each day, more people came and did not leave until they greatly outnumbered the military.*

And as with India's farmers, day after day, night after night, week after week, month after month, they took to the streets and did not leave until they got what they wanted.

Unlike India's farmers, who work with their hands and are strong and hearty, today's demonstrators in the Western world take to the streets one day, make a big deal about it, and they go home. For success to be achieved, the resolve to protest must continue until demands are satisfactorily met.

Need More Proof?

Immediately following one of the biggest anti-nuclear protests in American history, back in 1982, when nearly a million protesters gathered in New York City's Central Park, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said how useless and ineffective the event was in changing Washington's policy.

"The fact that a very large number of people turn out for a particular event is certainly something that people notice. But I don't think that anybody rushes back and says, 'We have to change our policy' . . . or something because there's been a rally."

RUSSIA'S PUTIN WON'T BEND TO U.S. TENSIONS. WHAT'S NEXT?



Over the past few weeks, U.S. and western governments and their media have been hyping up the fear that the “Russians are Coming, The Russian Are Coming”... to invade Ukraine.

There have been numerous reports that Russia is building up its troops at the Ukraine border. In response, the U.S. sent warships in the Black Sea to perform military maneuvers off Russia's coast. And on Friday, the Russian military intercepted U.S. warplanes they said were just 12.5 miles from their border.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Moscow's recent warnings to western countries about provocative exercises near Ukraine have been noticed and "are having an effect."

"There's a certain tension there," he said, according to the *Financial Times*. "We need that condition to remain for as long as possible, so they don't get in their head to start some kind of a conflict. We don't need it on our western border."

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the tensions between Ukraine and Russia for years. (See ["WASHINGTON IS DRIVING THE WORLD TO THE FINAL WAR"](#) (Apr 2014), ["UKRAINE NEWS FROM AN AMERICAN EXPATRIATE"](#) (Jul 2014).

Few are aware of the history.

Viktor Fedorovych Yanukovych, the fourth president of the country who served from 2010 to 2014, was the democratically elected president who turned his back on the European Union in favor of closer ties with bordering Russia.

We reported that the western, Europe-leaning portions of the country, long struggling with a depressed economy, exploded—quite literally—with anger after Yanukovych chose Russia over the EU as the remedy for a bankrupt economy.

The protestors, with behind-the-scenes manipulation by Washington and the EU (as we detailed in **Trends Journals**), were victorious in forcing Yanukovych from power.

Following the overthrow, the people of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea declared their independence from Ukraine after holding a referendum in which there was a 97 percent vote for integration of the region into the Russian Federation.

Within a matter of weeks, the growing strife in the region became viewed as an ethnic conflict pitting Western Ukrainians, known for their pro-European aspirations, against Russian-speaking and Russian-rooted Eastern Ukrainians, who supported the annexation.

Fast Forward

Last week, Putin told foreign policy officials in Russia that the Kremlin would react appropriately to “provocative” moves by the west in the region, the *FT* reported. He pointed to the west’s decision to provide Ukrainian forces with weapons and military drills in the Black Sea. Putin warned the west against dismissing its “red lines.”

Outside “experts” told *The Washington Post* that some of the U.S. military missions have “become too provocative and should be reevaluated.” One of those instances was NATO’s move to fly strategic bombers 12 miles off the coast of Russia. The bombers could carry nuclear warheads.

The White House reportedly asked the Pentagon to provide data on military exercises that the U.S. conducted with NATO near Ukraine. (See [“BLINKEN BELLOWS: U.S. COMMITTED TO UKRAINE’S SOVEREIGNTY IS ‘IRONCLAD.’”](#))

“Asking the question about the purpose of all this activity is totally legitimate and important, because if we are just doing stuff for the sake of doing stuff, which tends to be the default mode, then that can lead to problematic situations where we are having dangerous interactions with Russia for reasons unclear,” said Samuel Charap, a senior political scientist and Russia expert at the Rand Corp., told *The Post*.

TREND FORECAST: *The U.S. will not go to war with Russia over Ukraine. The military in Ukraine is no match against the Russians, and its only hope for security in the future is to become a member of NATO, which Blinken did not indicate is any closer today than it was before Russians amassed at the border.*

As Gerald Celente has noted, “When all else fails, they take you to war.” Making the case to redirect the people’s mind, as Ron Paul’s Liberty report states regarding the U.S. building up tension in the area, “Biden may be calculating that he needs a nice little war to boost back his numbers and rally Americans to his support. Like most everything else in this first year of the Biden Administration, it would be a terrible mistake.

MYANMAR GOVERNMENT ACCUSES DEPOSED LEADER OF ELECTION FRAUD



After nearly a year since the military coup in Myanmar deposed civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the country's electoral commission announced Tuesday that she—along with 15 other top civilian leaders—has been charged with election fraud.

UPI, citing reports out of the country, said the 76-year-old has been charged with falsely adding names to voter lists among other charges. The Associated Press pointed out that independent observers found no evidence to support the claim of fraud.

The New York Times reported that there is a morale crisis in Myanmar's military after being forced to fight the civilian uprising. At least 3,000 soldiers and police officers out of the country's estimated 350,000 have defected.

“Never have we seen defections at this level,” Moe Thuzar, the co-coordinator of the Myanmar Studies Program at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, told the paper. “What we’re seeing since February is this steady trickle of people leaving, and also publicly stating their support for the C.D.M. [Civil Disobedience Movement] That’s unprecedented.”

The **Trends Journal** reported extensively on the military coup in February and the subsequent deadly protests that have broken out across the country. (See [“MYANMAR: ANOTHER DAY, MORE BLOODSHED.”](#) [“RUSSIA BACKING MYANMAR JUNTA AFTER COUP.”](#) and [“UN TAKES ACTION AGAINST MYANMAR RULERS.”](#))

Since the protests began, at least 1,260 people have been killed and more than 7,200 detained on vague charges, the *Times* reported, citing rights groups. Suu

Kyi was arrested on the morning of the coup months after winning in a landslide election last November.

The protesters—many of them young people—have faced an emboldened police force backed by the military. These officers seem to have a willingness to use live rounds on protesters who have gathered by the thousands in main cities.

Western sanctions have proven to be ineffective, and protesters know they are no match against heavily-armed and military-backed security forces. Thus, an underground movement emerged that is intent on destroying the country's economy from the inside out.

The Associated Press reported that the coup set the country's economy back for years, and the country was not thriving before the military takeover. The economy is expected to shrink by 18.4 percent this year, the report said.

“Imported foods and medicines cost double what they used to... so people buy only what they need to buy,” Ma San San, a trader in Mawlamyine township, told the AP. “And when traders sell an item for 1,000 kyats one day and 1,200 the next, it means that the seller is losing while selling.”

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that military rule will continue in Myanmar, and threats by the UN, the United States, and other nations will achieve nothing in terms of bringing so-called “Democracy” to the country.*

Furthermore, the stronger outside countries pressure the Myanmar government—be they in sanctions or supporting rebel movements—the greater the ruling government will strengthen its ties with its Chinese neighbor.

On Thursday, China called on the Southeast Asian nations—a 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations—to allow Myanmar's military envoy to attend the summit planned for this week, according to Reuters. ASEAN leaders wanted to exclude the military leaders.

On 10 August, China announced the transfer of \$6 million to Myanmar's government to fund 21 projects, Reuters reported. The report said that China has remained relatively quiet after the coup. But as we had noted, Beijing would not support a citizens uprising against the military.

CHINA MOCKS AMERICA: ELITES IN CHARGE, IT'S NOT A DEMOCRACY



Jiang Jinqun, the head of the Policy Research Office of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, gave a five-minute speech on Friday where he criticized the U.S. for trying to export its kind of flawed democratic system.

“Democracy is not an exclusive patent of Western countries and even less should it be defined or dictated by Western countries. The electoral democracy of Western countries is actually democracy ruled by the capital, and they are a game of the rich, not real democracy,” he said.

CNBC cited a Pew Research study that was released earlier this month that suggests Jiang may be on to something. The survey found that 72 percent of Americans say the U.S. model was—at one time—a good model for government, but no longer.

Scott Kennedy, a senior adviser and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the network that it is not uncommon for Beijing to use an official to badmouth a Western democracy as corrupt and controlled by the elites.

“The irony is that Americans are free to criticize their government,” he said. “In China, expressing such an opinion could make you a dissident and get you locked up.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the rise of China and the competition playing out between Washington and Beijing. (See [“TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA.”](#) [“CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE”](#) and [“HOW THE CCP WENT VIRAL ON THE WINGS OF COVID-19.”](#))

We even [reported on](#) the surge in nationalism in China that has also caught the attention of U.S. officials.

Andrew Sullivan, journalist, told *60 Minutes* recently that the U.S. is at risk because too many Americans can't separate their politics from their lives.

"The American Constitution was set up for people who can reason and argue and aren't afraid of it, and then reach compromises, the whole thing is designed that way," Sullivan says. "If you're in a tribe, and all that matters is the victory of your tribe...You can't make it work."

TREND FORECAST: Gerald Celente has long noted, *“The 20th century was the American century, the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business, the business of America is war.”*

Celente has noted 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.

And, as we have been reporting, while America and Europe have outsourced their manufacturing to China and developing nations to increase profit margins, China’s dual circulation/self-sustaining economic model is directed toward keeping jobs and trade and profits within the nation, thus relying less on global trade.

COMMISSION WARNS WHITE HOUSE OF COMMERCIAL TIES WITH BEIJING



The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission on Wednesday published its annual report that warned the White House about the expanding commercial ties between U.S. businesses and China and the risks those relationships bring.

“The U.S. businesses and investors must recognize that their participation in the Chinese economy is conditioned by the CCP’s policy priorities and subject to its control,” the commission, which was made up of security and economic experts, said, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the Chinese effort to surpass the U.S. in every economic sector. (See [“CHINA: HOLLYWOOD IS DEADWOOD.”](#) [“CHINA IS CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE”](#) and [“BLACKROCK LAUNCHES WEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICE IN CHINA.”](#))

The commission said that the trade imbalance between Washington and Beijing is widening again as well as investments from private U.S. businesses. In September a survey found that nearly 60 percent of U.S. companies operating in China increased their investments in the country, according to NPR.

“The tenor is optimism,” Jefferey Lehman, the chair of the board of governors of the American Chamber in Shanghai, said at the time. “People are hopeful that things will get better, but they are waiting to see.”

President Biden has vowed that Beijing will not overtake the U.S. in power during his presidency. (See [“BIDEN RAMPS UP PRESSURE ON CHINA”](#) and [“U.S. LAUNCHES COLD WAR 2.0: CHINA LAMBASTS “COLD-WAR MENTALITY.”](#))

The *Journal* ran a recent editorial about some of the pitfalls that companies may have while doing business with China, and pointed to a Marriott hotel in Prague that refused to host a conference on China's treatment of the Uighur minority.

The international hotel chain apologized to the group and corporate said the decision to prevent the conference was inconsistent with its values that "welcome people from all around the world and from all walks of life."

"Companies have to make their own decisions about doing business in China. But as they do they are learning that when they run afoul of Beijing, China demands abject surrender. Companies risk damage to their business in China if they don't comply, but they also risk global damage to their brand and reputation if they do," the paper said.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that the 21st century will be China's and America will not be able to defeat the communist nation militarily or economically. And, as we have noted, the bottom line of Big Business is the bottom line and they will do all they can to reap financial rewards with China building regardless of its domestic or foreign policy issues.*

As we have detailed for decades, before U.S. and European nations moved their manufacturing to China to use cheap labor so they could mark up their prices when they sold their goods back home and around the world, China was a struggling nation.

*Again, the business of China is business. The business of America is war. Indeed, we reported in this **Trends Journal** the record breaking U.S. military budget. (See ["WAR MACHINE GETS RICHER AS AMERICANS GET POORER: HOUSE EASILY PASSES \\$768 BILLION DEFENSE BILL"](#))*

Thus, while America builds its war machine, China builds its infrastructure and national economy.

AUSTRALIA LOOKS TO QUANTUM SCIENCE TO COUNTER CHINA



Australia has announced new investments in quantum technology and will design a hub to enable allied countries to interact—all while keeping its eye on countering China’s growing reach in the Pacific.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Canberra will invest about \$81 million in the technology. The country will also focus on its development of 6G communications, the report said.

The **Trends Journal** published an article in the 21 September issue, titled, [“U.S. LAUNCHES COLD WAR 2.0: CHINA LAMBASTS “COLD-WAR MENTALITY.”](#)

The report pointed out that the U.S., Australia, and the U.K. (AUKUS) announced an arms deal that will allow Canberra to acquire a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

Zhao Lijian, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, said the deal may damage “regional peace” and intensify an arms race. He said Australia and the U.S. will hurt their interests.

Besides quantum technology, Australia said it will spend billions to modernize its economy “and cut dependence on China by spurring manufacturing in industries such as resources and critical minerals as well as backing low-emission technology,” Reuters reported. The country reportedly identified 63 areas that it sees as essential to control.

“This investment will help secure economic opportunities for Australian businesses, create local jobs, and importantly, it will help keep Australians safe,” Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, according to Reuters.

TREND FORECAST: We note this article to illustrate that it is more talk than action and is being promoted at a time when tensions between the AUKUS partners and China are rising. Indeed, Australia investing \$81 million is chump change, and its Hi-Tech program will be no challenge to China.

POLS SHOOT WATER CANNONS TO REPEL ADVANCING MIGRANTS



Polish guards in position near its border with Belarus used water cannons on advancing migrants amid freezing temperatures, while the crisis shows no signs of improvement.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the border issue. (See [“BELARUS VS. EU: AND THE WINNER IS?”](#) [“POLAND’S LINK WITH EU WORSENS. POLEXIT NEXT?”](#) and [“REFUGEE CRISIS WORSENING: POLAND TO DEPLOY ADDITIONAL 10,000 TROOPS AT BORDER.”](#))

We have pointed out that Warsaw has initially been accused by the EU of taking a heavy-handed approach to the crisis that mainly involves migrants from the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Africa.

Alexander Lukashenko, the leader in Minsk, has been accused by Brussels of sending these migrants to the border in retaliation to new sanctions by the EU in what has been called a hybrid attack.

“Four rounds of sanctions against the regime of president Alexander Lukashenko haven't really changed anything, but we know now that this is a situation that is getting ever more difficult, as we've seen with this with this violence on the border,” Niccolò Figà-Talamanca, the secretary-general of No Peace Without Justice, a non-profit, said, according to Euronews.

The Polish forces said some of the migrants were armed with gas grenades that were supplied by Minsk. There were also some who threw rocks at guards, they said.

Mariusz Blaszczak, Poland's defense minister, said Minsk has also changed its tactics along the border in recent days. Instead of forming a large mass of migrants at certain locations, smaller groups of migrants are attempting to gain entry at more remote locations.

"We have to prepare for the fact that this problem will continue for months," he said, according to *The Guardian*. "I have no doubt that that will be the case."

He also said there is "no question that these attacks are being directed by Belarusian services."

Poland has clashed with Brussels on how to best deal with the crisis. When Warsaw asked the EU to help fund the fence construction—since the migration surge impacts the entire continent—Ursula von der Leyen, the EU chief, denied the request and said there "will be no funding of barbed wire and walls."

As the refugee crisis continued to escalate from Africa, Middle-East and war-torn nations into Europe, the EU position has rapidly changed.

Charles Michel, the president of the European Council, was in Warsaw earlier this month to meet with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki to discuss the issue and "offer solidarity," *The New York Times* reported.

"Poland, which is facing a serious crisis, should enjoy the solidarity and unity of the whole European Union. It is a hybrid attack, a brutal attack, a violent attack, and a shameful attack. In the wake of such measures, the only response is to act in a decisive manner, with unity, in line with our core values," Michel said, according to the paper.

TRENDPOST: We note this article to also illustrate political and media hypocrisy. Imagine if the United States used water cannons to repel migrants pouring into

its Southern border? There would be global outrage. But when it is done by a U.S. ally and against migrants from a Russian backed nation, there is no water cannon soaking refugees in freezing weather condemnation.

It should also be noted that Lukashenko admitted to the BBC that it is “absolutely possible” that government forces helped migrants cross into Poland, but he insisted that his country never invited them.

“I told them [the EU] I’m not going to detain migrants on the border, hold them at the border, and if they keep coming from now on I still won’t stop them, because they’re not coming to my county, they’re going to yours. But I didn’t invite them here. And to be honest, I don’t want them to go through Belarus.”

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



WILL COVID KILL YOU? ROUNDUP HERBICIDE SAGA CONTINUES

It's no secret that our world is fraught with peril. But with the COVID War now going into its second year, the only killer lurking out there that can cause us great harm or even death is the coronavirus... according to Presstitutes and politicians.

FU, GMO

Beyond COVID, among the great people killers are chemicals and foreign substances, many of them in the form of impurities that pollute our air and water; see ["AIR POLLUTION KILLING 3.5 TIMES MORE THAN COVID"](#) (23 Feb 2021), ["YOU THINK COVID WILL KILL YOU? HAVE A DRINK OF WATER!"](#) (15 Jun 2021) and ["MOST DRINKING WATER CONTAINS PLASTIC BITS"](#) (4 Oct 2017).

Sometimes though, the toxic chemicals are integral ingredients in substances that are sold by their creators to be beneficial. One case in point is glyphosate, the world's most commonly-used herbicide and a primary component of

Roundup, the leading brand of weed-killer in the U.S., developed in the '70s by Monsanto.

In 2015 an agency of the World Health Organization listed glyphosate as a likely carcinogen, most frequently associated with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which causes white blood cells called lymphocytes to form tumors. As of 2019, over 42,000 persons were involved in lawsuits against the makers of Roundup.

The latest development in this ongoing saga was reported on 19 November in *The Epoch Times* and elsewhere. A Livermore, California couple, Alva and Alberta Pilliod, both diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, sued Monsanto in 2017, claiming Roundup's makers had failed to adequately warn users of the risks. They were awarded \$86.2 million in damages.

Monsanto appealed, but on 17 November California's Supreme Court upheld previous appeals favoring the plaintiffs, letting the award stand.

Bayer, the German pharmaceutical firm that acquired Monsanto in 2018, disagreed with the high court's decision. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and European regulators have found "no significant cancer risks to the general public" from glyphosate, "including residues in drinking water and beverages." Nevertheless, Bayer announced that, starting in 2023, it would change its glyphosate-based residential lawn and garden products to non-glyphosate formulations.

The company has agreed to pay \$10 billion to settle thousands of lawsuits, and has tried, so far unsuccessfully, to resolve future cases using a fund of up to \$2 billion; see ["BAYER BEARS THE BRUNT"](#) (12 Nov 2019), ["BAYER TO PAY \\$9.6 BILLION TO SETTLE U.S. ROUNDUP SUITS"](#) (20 Jun 2020) and ["COVID BAD, ROUNDUP WEED KILLER GOOD"](#) (1 Jun 2021).

TRENDPOST: *This is another example of society's misplaced focus and skewed priorities. Gerald Celente has pointed out how the alleged threat of "climate change" pales beside the trillions of tons of poisons, chemicals and pesticides being injected into our earth, air, water and food: "Forget about it. We'll be dead*

before the climate changes." Similarly, COVID-19 "doesn't win, place or show" beside the other viruses, flus and diseases that have killed countless millions.

NEW FDA HEAD STUCK IN REVOLVING DOOR



President Joe Biden's nominee to head the Food and Drug Administration definitely brings experience and credentials to the post, although some might say he also brings baggage.

As reported by *The New York Times* on 12 November, if approved it wouldn't be the first time that Dr. Robert M. Califf served as commissioner of the agency that regulates all food, medical products and tobacco, the agency at the forefront of the COVID War, and one that is itself no stranger to controversy.

Dr. Califf was one of seven different FDA commissioners since 2015. Dr. Califf succeeded fellow Obama appointee Margaret Hamburg and headed the agency for 11 months, in the last year of the Obama administration.

Dr. Califf is not President Biden's first nominee for the post; previous nominees were dropped in response to complaints of them being too close to the pharmaceutical industry. But Dr. Califf is hardly different in that regard; his biography from Duke University (where he ran a research center funded by the drug industry) indicates he is a member of the drug lord mobs while acting as a consultant to Merck, Amgen, Biogen, Genentech, Eli Lilly and Boehringer Ingelheim.

In addition, he's on the corporate board of the biopharmaceutical company Cytokinetics, and has been a senior advisor to Verily Life Sciences and its sister company Google Health.

The *NYT* explains his nomination by noting that "In the end, White House officials might have concluded that they could not find a suitable candidate with no industry ties." See ["AMERICANS GETTING SCREWED: FDA IN BED WITH BIG PHARMA"](#) (28 Sep 2021).

The *NYT* also notes that, when Dr. Califf ran the FDA, he proposed permitting drug companies to advertise off-label uses of agency-approved products, contrary to existing rules for drug advertising. His idea was considered dangerous and was blocked by other Obama administration officials.

TRENDPOST: *Current examples of "off-label" use would be the use of ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine as therapeutics against COVID-19. Apparently off-label use can be good or bad, depending on the politics of those recommending it. The NYT article about Dr. Califf notes that the FDA has been "widely criticized" for "not standing up to Mr. Biden's predecessor," who "promoted unsafe and unproven treatments."*

One of the FDA's "controversies" involved Biogen, one of the companies for whom Dr. Califf consulted, and its Alzheimer's drug Aduhelm, which the agency approved despite objections from its own independent advisers, and which costs users \$56,000 per year; see ["ALZHEIMER'S DRUG? FORGET ABOUT IT"](#) (15 Jun 2021) and ["FDA APPROVES NON-EVIDENCE BASED DRUG"](#) (29 Jun 2021).

That episode may account for why the agency's acting commissioner, Dr. Janet Woodcock, is considered out of the running; she acknowledged that her agency's interactions with Biogen "may have occurred outside of the formal correspondence process."

Three members of a select FDA advisory committee resigned in protest over the agency's approval of Biogen's Alzheimer's drug; one of them, Dr. Aaron S. Kesselheim, said it was "probably the worst drug approval decision in recent U.S. history."

But the *NYT* quotes the same Dr. Kesselheim as believing that Dr. Califf's background is not "necessarily disqualifying," and would make Dr. Califf an asset to the agency. But Dr. Kesselheim still views Dr. Califf's drug advertising rule changes as "a red flag" and "a terrible idea" that he hopes Dr. Califf has now "moved past."

TREND FORECAST: *The relationship between the FDA and the industry it's charged with regulating is hard to describe without using the term "incestuous"; for example, another former FDA commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, who served from 2017 to 2019, now serves on Pfizer's board of directors; see ["FDA & BIG PHARMA: ONE BIG CLUB"](#) (29 Jun 2021).*

*The prospects for any meaningful change look bleak. The situation is hardly different from what **Trends Journal** has drawn attention to many times regarding the financial industry and its supposed regulators: see ["BANKSTER BANDITS: CRIME SYNDICATE COVER UP"](#) (16 Nov 2021).*

PORTUGAL BANS BOSSES FROM CALLING WORKERS DURING OFF-HOURS. WHAT'S NEXT?



Portugal's Socialist government announced a new series of laws it says will help remote workers adapt to the new work-from-home environment, including a rule that bars bosses from contacting employees during off-hours.

Ana Mendes Godinho, Lisbon's labor minister, announced the new law. She said the COVID-19 outbreak has introduced widespread remote working and "accelerated the need to regulate what already needed to be regulated."

The Financial Times reported that employers who fail to abide by the new rule will be in "serious breach of labor law" and could face fines and sanctions.

Ana Catarina Mendes, the parliamentary leader of the Portuguese Socialist party, wrote in *The Guardian* that employers are not allowed to “text message, phone, or email their workers when they are off the clock.”

“There should be a boundary between the time when an employer’s authority prevails, and the time when the worker’s autonomy should prevail,” she wrote in the paper. “There should be a boundary between the time in which a worker is a resource in the service of the person paying their salary, and the time in which they should be the owner of a life that is not about work.”

The new law is part of a series of labor laws recently passed in Lisbon. The law was first proposed in October and said workers should have at least 11 consecutive hours of “night rest,” where they are not disturbed.

CNBC reported that another part of the legislation calls on these employers to pay some of their workers’ bills while they work from home.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how the COVID-19 outbreak has changed the face of doing business. (See [“FACEBOOK: EMPLOYEES CAN WORK FROM HOME FULL-TIME”](#) and [“WORK FROM HOME=CITY REAL ESTATE DOWN.” “REMOTE WORK=COMMERCIAL BUST.”](#))

The shift to at-home working has also accelerated new industries. (See [“META MAY OPEN BRICK-AND-MORTAR STORES.”](#) and [“FACEBOOK WORLD 2021: AN ARTIFICIAL REALITY THAT WILL DESTROY THE HUMAN SPIRIT AND COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE.”](#))

The new mandate does not apply to companies with fewer than 10 employees. The CNBC report pointed out that not all of the proposals were passed by parliament. The report said one of the proposals that died on the floor was the “right to disconnect,” which would have given employees the right to switch off their work devices at the end of the day.

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

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

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

Godinho, Portugal's labor minister, attended a Web Summit in Lisbon and said the COVID-19 outbreak had shown telecommuting was a "game-changer, giving workers the power to decide where and from who they want to work from," CNBC reported.

Other countries will follow Portugal's lead on the issue as work-from-home becomes part of normal daily life. One needs to look at the lockdowns just ordered throughout Europe to contain the spread of COVID-19 to see that we are nowhere near a "return to normal."

FBI: HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?



Earlier this month, a **Trends Journal** article noted how U.S. Attorney Merrick Garland was taken to task by Sen. Ted Cruz for directing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to use its National Security

powers against parents who dared to question or challenge their local school boards, essentially branding such parents as "domestic terrorists"; see ["FBI: THE POLITICIZED POLICE UNDERMINING AMERICA"](#) (2 Nov 2021).

Now an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, on 17 November, furnishes some details of the internal communications involved. AG Garland issued a memo to the FBI on 4 October, ordering the bureau to use its resources to assist in tracking and assessing threats against school board members and teachers.

Responding to AG Garland's memo, the heads of the FBI's criminal and counterterrorism divisions issued an internal memo on 20 October, instructing agents to flag all reports of threats, harassment and intimidation of educators with the designation "EDUOFFICIALS." Such a "threat tag" enables the FBI to assess whether such actions violated federal law and to better engage with and assist local law enforcement.

The internal memo was provided ("leaked"?) by an FBI agent to several Republican lawmakers, out of concern that the FBI would be investigating parents who voiced opposition to school board policies.

Although not named in the *WSJ* article, one might surmise that Sen. Cruz was among those Republican lawmakers.

The FBI issued a statement on 16 November, calling that concern unfounded: "The FBI has never been in the business of investigating parents who speak out or policing speech at school board meetings, and we are not going to start now," adding that the bureau is "fully committed to preserving and protecting First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech."

That is, however, precisely what the Republican lawmakers believe the FBI has been instructed by Mr. Garland to do. They are concerned about the FBI being ordered by the Justice Department to involve itself in what should be local matters, and to employ tactics calculated to silence and intimidate parents.

TRENDPOST: *This is hardly the first instance of the FBI invoking the threat of "domestic terrorism" to target American citizens based on their politics; see ["FBI USES 'DOMESTIC TERRORISM' LABEL TO TARGET POLITICAL DISSENT"](#) (4 May 2021), ["THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE"](#) (9 Mar 2021), and ["FBI ENCOURAGES SNITCHING ON 'EXTREMIST' FAMILY MEMBERS"](#) (13 Jul 2021). And those are only recent examples; the patently unconstitutional weaponization of the FBI against American citizens has been going on for quite some time. But any reports of the FBI contemplating changing its name to "Stasi" are, so far, unfounded.*

[There's an old joke from the Soviet Union in which an old man is awakened in the dead of night by an insistent pounding on his door. With great trepidation he calls out, "Who is it?" A voice from the other side of the door replies, "It's Death!" "Oh, thank God!" says the old man, greatly relieved, as he unlocks the door. "I was afraid it was the Secret Police!"]

NON-CITIZEN VOTING COMING TO NYC



Hundreds of thousands of noncitizens may soon be able to vote in municipal elections in New York City, though Mayor Bill de Blasio and his successor, Eric Adams, contend they have opposing views.

The bill would add a new chapter to the city charter that would enable green card holders and those with work permission to register to vote and participate in citywide elections by creating a separate municipal voter registration system. When Adams ran for mayor earlier this year, he was a supporter of the idea.

According to the Daily News, Adams said in February:

"We cannot be a beacon to the world and continue to attract the global talent, energy and entrepreneurship that has allowed our city to thrive for

centuries if we do not give immigrants a vote in how this city is run and what our priorities are for the future.”

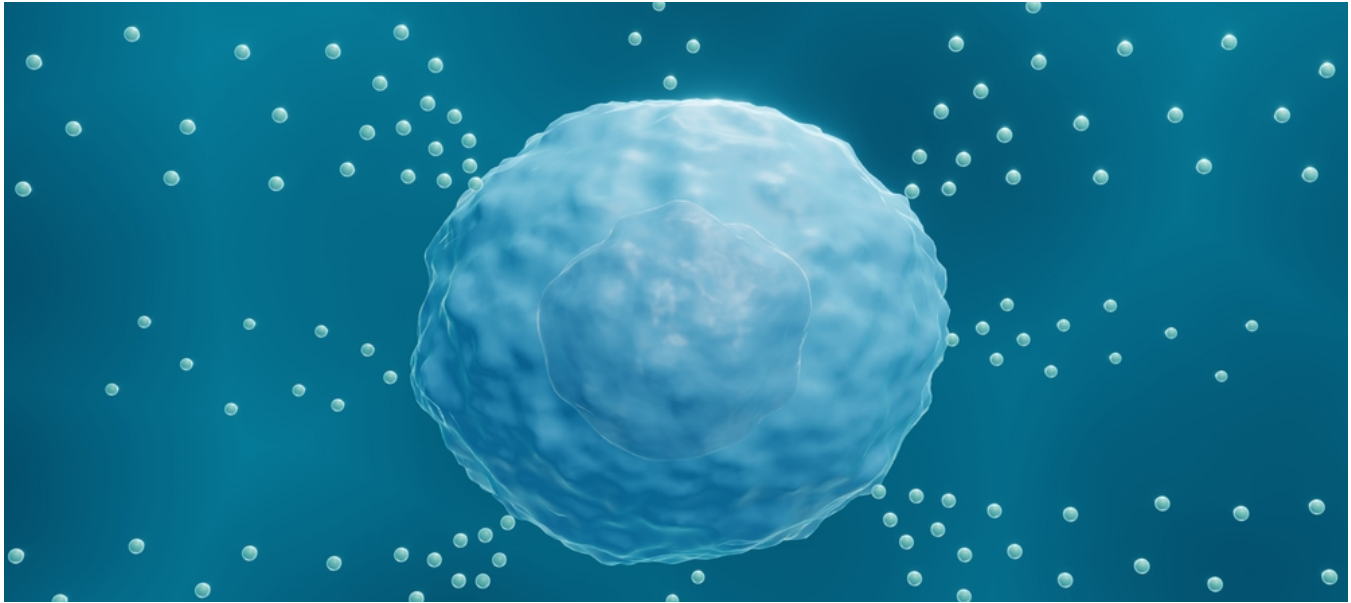
DeBlasio, meanwhile, has said he doesn’t support the idea. On a radio show in September, he said "One, I don't believe it is legal. Our law department is very clear on this. I really believe this has to be decided at the state level, according to state law."

DeBlasio also pointed out that non-citizen voting would undermine efforts to get people to become citizens.

Neither politician addressed the fact that one of the primary privileges of citizenship, the right to vote, would be hurt by allowing citizen votes to be diluted with the votes of non-citizens.

The **Trends Journal** reported previously on non-citizen voting movements around the country in [“NON-CITIZEN VOTING COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU”](#) (12 Oct 2021).

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

IMPLANTED CELLS RELEASE ARTHRITIS DRUG

Physicians treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic condition caused by inflammation, by injecting patients with drugs that can, over time, cause side effects from severe infections to liver damage to increased risk of some cancers.

At Washington University's medical school, scientists took a new tack. They used Nobel-winning CRISPR technology ([“New CRISPR Gene Editor Edits More Better.”](#) 28 Sep 2021) to reprogram genes in mouse stem cells to make cartilage with a kicker: the cells also were programmed to make a biological compound that reduces inflammation and also to release the drug when the cells detected chemical signatures of inflammation happening nearby.

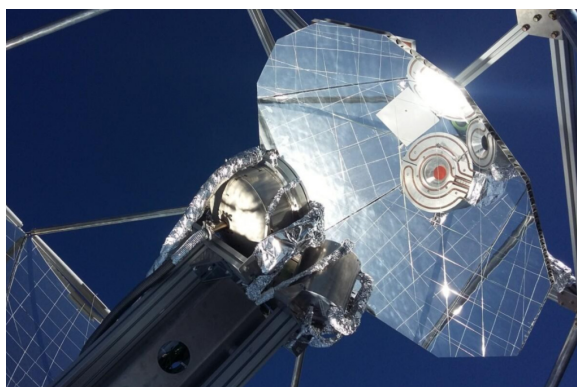
The engineered cells were coated onto a woven scaffold and embedded in the joints of mice that had been genetically programmed to develop RA. The cells remained in place for months, releasing the anti-inflammatory compound only when signs of RA flared. On scans, the treatment showed that the technique prevented bone erosion, a signature damage caused by RA.

In contrast, conventional drugs typically are injected according to a schedule, bathing affected areas in chemicals that often are too strong for the need of the moment or too constant, causing nasty side effects.

The new technique also will allow researchers to program cells to produce other substances mimicking biological compounds. That would allow customized treatments, with cells implanted to produce specific compounds to which an individual patient's body responds best.

TRENDPOST: CRISPR technology, stem cell engineering, and organic implants are combining to create a new way to treat chronic conditions and eventually will vastly reduce, and perhaps eliminate, medicine's synthetic drug dependency, shotgun-style drug therapies, and the damaging side effects they often create.

ROOFTOP REACTOR MAKES KEROSENE FROM CO₂, WATER, AND SUNSHINE



Engineers at ETH Zurich, the Swiss research university, have made a rooftop reactor that draws carbon dioxide and water vapor from air, then uses solar energy to turn the ingredients into hydrocarbon fuel.

The system is made up of three sections.

The first section sucks in air, extracts water and carbon dioxide from it, then sends those to the second chamber.

The second chamber is on the business end of a solar concentrator, which gathers, focuses, and intensifies sunlight 3,000-fold to heat the second chamber's interior to about 1,500°C, or more than 2,700°F.

Inside the hot reactor, a cerium oxide structure absorbs oxygen from the carbon dioxide and water, producing hydrogen and carbon monoxide, which combine to create synthesis gas, a sort of all-purpose combustible vapor that can be used to make a variety of volatile products.

At that point, the synthesis gas can be siphoned off and used as fuel or the gas can be directed into a third part of the reactor, which condenses the gas into liquid kerosene or methanol.

The system is carbon neutral: although it produces hydrocarbon fuel, the fuel itself is made from carbon already in the air. When the fuel is burned, it doesn't add new greenhouse gas to the atmosphere.

TRENDPOST: *The reactor could be crucial in poor countries where kerosene is a common fuel for cooking, heating, and lighting.*

Without kerosene, many rural areas in emerging nations burn wood, deforesting their locales, which can lead to erosion, desertification, and other environmental damage.

Installing the systems could be done following the model of the Solar Electric Light Fund, which establishes revolving loan funds in low-income countries to buy solar power systems, then trains local residents to install and maintain them.

Photo Credit: ETH Zurich's rooftop kerosene refinery; ETH Zurich.

NEW CABLE COULD SLASH EV CHARGE TIMES



One barrier to drivers' acceptance of electric vehicles (EVs) is the unwillingness to stand around for 20 minutes while the car charges at a public station.

Most EVs can run for at least two days on a typical overnight charge at home, but the fear of being stuck at a charger in a random parking lot keeps many from committing to the idea of owning an EV.

Purdue University engineers may have just erased that fear.

One reason that it can take a while to charge an EV is that the cable from the charger to the car can handle only so much electricity at a time without melting. If cables could handle more heat, they could transmit more power faster and battery packs could “fill up” quicker.

The Purdue group has encircled the conduit holding the electric charging wires with a layer of fluid that draws off heat and circulates it back to the charger, where a heat exchanger dissipates it into the air, then sends the cooled fluid back through the cable.

In lab tests using commercial EV charging cables and equipment, the new design was able to handle a current of more than 2,400 amperes—a measure of the amount of electricity per unit of time—compared to the 1,400 amps that today's best commercial chargers can offer.

The new cable delivered current 4.6 times faster than today's fastest installed EV chargers, the developers calculated.

As a result, the new cable design could charge a large EV's battery pack from empty to full in no more than five minutes, about as long as it takes to fill a pickup truck's gas tank from bone dry to topped up.

Purdue's project was funded through a partnership with Ford Motor Co.

TRENDPOST: *New battery designs and charging technologies will all but eliminate “range anxiety” and concerns about long wait times at public EV charging stations by the end of this decade.*

Each incremental improvement in these technologies, combined with falling EV sticker prices, will convince more people to buy an EV, enabling technological advances and market growth to keep pace with each other.