

# TRENDSJOURNAL

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## *Silent Night*

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All is NOT calm

All is NOT bright





**14 December 2021**

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## SILENT NIGHT

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#): Silent Night... All's NOT calm, All's NOT bright.

As a subscriber to the [Trends Journal](#), you well know that we had forecast COVID War 2.0 would be a Top Trend for 2022. And as per today's CNBC headline, **"Omicron is spreading faster than any other Covid variant, WHO warns"...** Christmas Cheer has devolved into Christmas Fear.

The socioeconomic, geopolitical and mental implications of the latest round of the COVID War, if not quickly reversed, will be devastating. And as we detail in the [Trends Journal](#), should the new lockdowns, vaccine mandates, travel restrictions and other demands nations, states and cities around the world are now imposing escalate... equity markets and economies will crash.

Indeed Germany, the largest economy in Europe, is already teetering on recession. Its economy is expected to shrink 0.5% in the fourth quarter of this year, and at best stagnate in the first quarter of 2022, according to Ifo Institute for Economic Research.

### Live It Up

What we do suggest, is that We the People do what we can to secure our God given inalienable Rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Live it up, with

family, friends and loved ones during this holiday season... and beyond!

*Pace e Amore,*

*Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team*

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## COMMENTS

### CHICKENHAWKS AT THE FED

Jerome Powell, contrary to his Media created image, is actually an inflation dove, not a "hawk". He may attempt a re-calibration of nominal interest rate increases on 2-year Treasuries or less, but it won't happen fast for obvious reasons.

He will make tiny, incremental rate adjustments and then wait and see what happens to the markets. In addition, the FED will be "jawboning" its future actions, as well. No more oversized moves as occurred in 2018 when the FED made a gross miscalculation and raised rates into a contracting market, only to have to reverse and lower rates to near zero again.

**Craig Bradley**

### STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM A FAIL

Back in the day, in my case the late 1960's and early to mid 1970's, I was able to work my way through undergraduate and law school by working full-time and attending college part-time without going into debt. As I understand it today, this is now virtually impossible unless you have a very well paying job.

Why has tuition risen faster than inflation? Because the Fed government got into the student loan business and the colleges took advantage of it by hiring more administrators and using the excess

tuition to pay for other projects. Just another example of the government mismanaging another program. And the Liberals want more government control? The former Middle-Class is being destroyed right before our eyes.

**Robert Teeter**

### **MERKEL'S GERMANY MAKEOVER**

Last year I thought it might be over in a couple of months. The Jewish people probably thought this 90 years ago as well – up to the point they brought you to Auschwitz. Should I wait until they put me on a train to a quarantine camp? – probably not. The crazy bit is that it is all international now. Only countries which are not that important, with a certain degree of lovely disorganization, might be a place to hide. We had stickers with the Jewish star on demonstrations, which were phrased a bit differently, stating “unvaccinated” which are now forbidden.

Today I called the embassy of Paraguay because of some procedures related to immigration. They told me that there is currently a big run on their services, and it takes up to 6 weeks to get documents such as birth certificates legalized. I am not scared about this virus—I am scared by our politics. How far will they go?

**Zarathustra**

### **GRAVEYARDS IN THE METAVERSE**

Meta = Dead. The zombies are feeding on young minds. Bodies will wither. Mr. Globalist is betting on it. We will only need cubicles to habitat. You truly will own nothing and be META'd.

**LINDASHARP**

### **CHINA'S FENTANYL BUSINESS**

China has been waging chemical warfare on America, sending tons of fentanyl to Mexico, where it is cooked, mixed and shipped over the border. They are deliberately wiping out our young generation to destabilize the economy. Go to Youtube and view the 'kensington avenue' videos to see what is happening to our cities and our young.

**Nick Steed**

### **REEL OPPORTUNITY**

I love going to the movies! In my hometown I'm seeing opportunities created during Covid . A theatre I visit at least once a month has been successful with private screenings. People love renting a private viewing screen where they can invite friends and family to see a movie of their choice. They can bring in food and beverages of their choices (I'm not sure about alcohol). The theatre asks them to buy their popcorn and sodas. No vax required. The theatre on the weekends looks like normal times.

**Jacqueline Shellard**

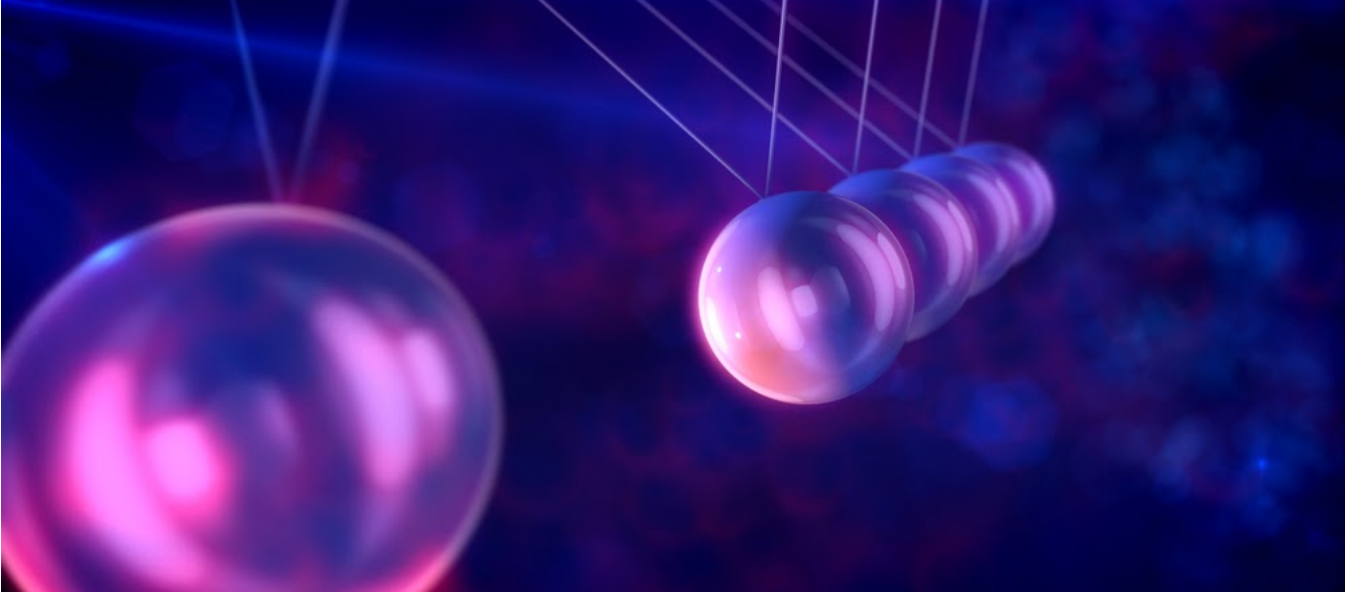
### **INFLATED ON ON FIXED INCOME**

Seniors will get hurt by raising property taxes as towns and cities will be spending more for the same services and the same doesn't buy votes so there will be added pressure to raise taxes forcing seniors into poverty. there should be a program like many yacht clubs or country clubs have. if you have been a member for 20 years you no longer have to pay dues. municipalities need to do something similar for long term seniors.

**Rick Grauer**

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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## MARKET OVERVIEW

### **OBLIVIOUS TO ECONOMY'S WOES, S&P SETS NEW RECORD**

On Friday, 10 December, the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index closed its best week since 5 February, despite inflation running at a 40-year high of 6.8 percent, outpacing wage gains.

Despite the ongoing COVID War that has been raging for nearly two years, and has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions across the planet, the S&P 500 rose 25 percent this year.

Part of the push-up is with all the cheap money flowing, stock buybacks, expected to reach \$236 billion in the fourth quarter, will hit a record level this year. Indeed, with a 5 percent inflation rate in October from a year earlier (according to the Federal Reserve Bank's gauge), real interest rates are not near

zero, they are in negative territory. Thus, with inflation rising, it reduces the value of future repayments of money that was borrowed.

## **Fed Up with Fed Crap?**

The central bank first claimed they underestimated the length and strength of inflation, calling it “temporary,” then “transitory,” then declaring in Congressional testimony in late November that now “is probably a good time to retire” those words, which we noted in [“The Powell Push: For Better or Worse”](#) (7 Dec 2021).

In November, the Fed said it would close its bond-buying program by mid-2022; now it seems ready not only to cut that timeline in half but also to raise interest rates more aggressively than it had indicated previously.

The Street expects two, and perhaps three, quarter-percentage-point rate hikes next year. If so, that will push down equities, the economy and real estate sales.

In 2018, the Fed said it would raise interest rates in 2019, only to scrap that plan when the economy and equity markets weakened and were pressured to lower them by then President Donald Trump.

At the end of 2019, Fed chair Jerome Powell said that rates would remain untouched for the foreseeable future. In a quick about face, to fight the COVID War, the Fed slashed its key interest rate to a record low 0.25 percent.

Since then, the Fed also piled \$4 trillion in bond purchases onto its balance sheet.

As inflation climbed, the Fed said it would wait out inflation, which it called “temporary,” and hold rates firm until the labor market reached full employment, a goal later revised to “maximum” employment as the labor market faltered.

Now, with the job market still in flux (see related stories in this issue), the Fed will shift back to a focus on raising rates to tame inflation.

## The Markets

The S&P added 1 percent Friday and was up 3.8 percent for the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.6 percent over the five-day trading stretch; the NASDAQ rose 0.7 percent.

However, travel and leisure stocks which should be tanking considering the new rounds of travel restrictions, were off slightly. Expedia Group's shares shedding 1.7 percent and Southwest Airlines' giving up 3.89 percent over fears that the Omicron variant might hobble global travel.

Last week, the gambling gang, i.e. "investors," were heartened by indications that the Omicron variant may be less harmful than first feared and shrugged off the possibility that the U.S. Federal Reserve may raise interest rates sooner than next summer as previously expected.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *It's a sick joke. For well over a decade, the Fed's said they had a 2 percent inflation rate window, and that when inflation rose above that, so too would interest rates. Adding more bullshit to their narrative, as we have solidly detailed, the Bankster Bandits kept saying inflation was "temporary," then it became "transitory"... while hitting nearly 40 year highs.*

*Therefore, they either knew inflation was sharply rising and lied about it so they could keep interest rates low and continue to artificially prop up equity markets and the economy... or they were too stupid to face the facts.*

*As we analyze the current events forming future trends, they knew the inflation facts and lied about inflation not being real to keep their Ponzi scheme going.*

*The U.S. Consumer Price Index grew by 6.8 percent last month, year on year, faster than at any time since June 1982. And according to Shadowstats.com the real inflation rate is at 15 percent.*



*In the meantime, even considering the “official” 6.8 percent rate, over the past year, the wages of the U.S. plantation workers of Slavelandia hourly pay increased just 4.8 percent. Today, the U.S. Labor Department reported that wholesale prices rose 9.6 percent in November.*

*And while the supply chain disruptions drove up prices over the past year-and-a-half, we forecast they will decelerate next year and prices will only moderately increase.*

*Today, the Fed began its two-day meeting, and the word on The Street is they will not raise interest rates until mid-2022. We forecast they will increase interest rates at the beginning of next year, and they will quickly ramp down their bond-buying scheme by \$30 billion per month.*

## **Omicron Fear**

As of 11 December, no U.S. deaths have been attributed to the Omicron variant, although Britain recorded its first on 13 December. Yet, the fear of the virus has hit many commodities as more restrictions are being mandated, which in turn will slowdown economic growth.

Crude oil prices have dropped by more than 10 percent, and while natural gas prices have fallen sharply from their October high, they are still up 50 percent year-to-date.

The continent-wide Europe STOXX 600 closed last week down 1.43 percent, Japan’s benchmark Nikkei index slipped 1 percent, and the Hong Kong Hang Seng index gave up 1.07 percent.

China’s Shanghai Index edged down 0.18 percent and the Shenzhen Index fell 0.24 percent.



## This week

With nations, states and cities imposing more COVID War 2.0 mandates, and growing concerns that the Fed will aggressively wind down their bond-buying scheme and raise interest to fight inflation, yesterday, the S&P 500 fell nearly 1 percent, the Dow was down 320 points, and the Nasdaq declined 1.4 percent.

With more COVID worries coming daily, today, following the producer price index for final demand products increasing 9.6 percent over the past 12 months—and growing worries for more aggressive Fed strategies to combat inflation—the S&P 500 fell 0.7 percent, the Nasdaq Composite was down 1.14 percent and The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 106 points.

Overseas, Asian and European markets closed lower as investors worried about the Omicron spreading and central banks raising rates.

**GOLD/SILVER:** Despite U.S. producer prices increasing more than expected in November—which usually pushes up precious metal prices since they are a hedge against inflation—with fears that the Fed will rapidly raise interest rates, Gold fell nearly 1 percent and silver slumped 1.72 percent, closing at \$1,771 per ounce and \$21.95 per ounce respectively.

As interest rates rise and the dollar value appreciates, both precious metal prices will decline. Interest rate hikes push-up government bond yields which raises the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding gold and silver.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we note in this and previous Trends Journals, 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 as investors seek safe haven assets.*

*Also, minus a wild card event, such as the Fed rushing to push interest rates much higher, we forecast that gold will stay above \$1,700 per ounce and silver's bottom will be in the \$18 per ounce range.*

**BITCOIN:** With fears of the OMICRON variant, Bitcoin got hit hard on 4 December, falling to \$42,300. The news on The Street and from the business media is that Bitcoin will continue to decline. However, as we go to press it is still trading in the \$47,000 range which is still very strong. We maintain our forecast that bitcoin is not in a dive position and that when it solidly breaks above the \$55K range per coin, it will hit new highs.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our GSB—Gold, Silver, Bitcoin—forecast that all three will maintain and then pass their current and previous highs when, after the U.S. Fed rate hits 1.5 percent, equity markets sharply fall and the economies sink into Dragflation: Declining Gross Domestic Product and rising inflation.*

*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 will lessen as more banks, businesses and investment funds are going crypto, thus, the upward crypto trends, especially bitcoin, will continue to gain momentum.*

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

**OIL:** Spreading yet more fear, this is CNBC’s headline article today: **Omicron is spreading faster than any other Covid variant, WHO warns.** With international travel tanking as new COVID restrictions are being enforced, office occupancy rate of only 40 percent in the U.S., and many nations imposing restrictive mandates on both the vaxxed—and more so on the un-vaxxed—oil prices are down sharply from their late October highs.

Brent Crude, which hit the \$87 per barrel range back in October, was down 1.45 percent today, closing at \$73.32 per barrel. West Texas Intermediate fell 1.30 percent, closing at \$70.30 per barrel... each down about one dollar from last week.

**TREND FORECAST:** As we have noted, oil production will continue to moderate and while OPEC+ plans to gradually increase supply every month by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) after sharply cutting back output last year, should the COVID War 2.0 continue to ramp-up and economies decline, they will limit output to keep prices in their current range.

## WILL JUNK BONDS TURN TO JUNK?



Investors began dumping high-yield or “junk” bonds in November when inflation continued strong and the U.S. Federal Reserve made clear its plan to raise interest rates next year (see [“Junk Bond Slump.”](#) 7 Dec 2021).

The selloff accelerated when the Omicron virus variant appeared.

During the last two weeks of November, investors took \$6 billion from mutual and exchange-traded funds focused on the junk bond market, according to Refinitiv Lipper data, marking the market’s biggest drain since September 2020.

Prices of the risky bonds stabilized earlier this month, but investors have continued to extract their capital from funds buying the bonds, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

This year’s “everything rally” that drove prices from cryptocurrencies to meme stocks to new highs also vaulted junk bonds, leaving them particularly vulnerable to signals of higher interest rates to come.

A Bloomberg junk-bond index has fallen 2.4 percent since November 9 but the dip preceded the U.S. labor department’s report that inflation struck a three-year high.



Energy companies such as PBF Holding and Transocean Ltd. have been among the hardest hit, with their bond prices falling more than 10 percent, according to MarketAxess.

When the Fed raises rates, junk-bond prices will fall because fewer buyers will want to shoulder their risk. In turn, high-risk bonds' interest rates will rise to attract leery investors.

The recent slide in junk-bond prices could presage a downturn in stock values, analysts told the *WSJ*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Junk bonds were in trouble as soon as the Fed laid out a timetable for ending its bond-buying spree and raising interest rates.*

*Now that the Fed seems ready to end its bond purchases and raise rates even sooner, as we reported in [“The Powell Push: For Better or Worse”](#) (7 Dec 2021), junk bonds' price slide will become steeper through the weeks ahead.*

*In any market correction, junk bond funds will be an early casualty and among the last segments of the market to recover.*

## MARKET BUST COMING? CORPORATE CHIEFS CASHING OUT



Companies' leaders are selling their stock at record rates, some for the first time, ahead of possible hikes in capital gains rates, other changes in tax structures, and the growing likelihood of a stock market correction, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

This year to date, 48 corporate leaders have each raked in at least \$200 million through stock sales, about four times more than the usual yearly number from

2016 through 2020, according to the *WSJ*. The total taken out in November alone was \$15.59 billion.

The list of those who collected include cosmetics heir Ronald Lauder and Meta Platforms' Mark Zuckerberg.

Members of the Walton family collectively cashed in about \$6.5 billion worth of shares this year, after Walmart posted rising sales in each of this year's first three quarters and their company's shares hovered near record prices.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella sold half his company stock last month, collecting \$374 million; Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin each have sold about 600,000 shares this year in parent company Alphabet, each grossing almost \$1.5 billion before taxes.

Michael Dell, founder of Dell Technologies, sold \$254 million in shares, while David Rubenstein, co-chair of the Carlyle Group private equity firm, unloaded 11 million shares of his company in return for \$495 million.

Among S&P 500 companies, company higher-ups have sold a record \$63.5 billion in shares this year, more than a 50-percent increase compared to 2020.

Tech bigwigs led with \$41 billion in cash-outs, followed by corporate leaders in the financial sector.

The mass sale is "unprecedented," accounting professor Daniel Taylor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business told the *WSJ*.

The current rush to the cash window resembles the wave of sales as the dot-com boom busted in the early 2000s, he said.

***TREND FORECAST: That the Bigs on the inside-track are bailing out of their stocks, to us, is a warning signal: Markets Beware. The worst is coming soon.***

**TRENDPOST:** *In 2020, CEOs of the 350 largest U.S. corporations made an average of \$24.2 million, 351 times more in compensation than workers at those same companies who earn an average paycheck, according to the nonprofit Economic Policy Institute.*

*Since 1978, CEOs' compensation has grown by 1,322 percent, while average workers' rewards have grown about 18 percent, the institute says.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *Historically, a growing wealth gap has been a source of social unrest and even revolution. Those signs already are festering in the U.S.*

*The flow of money from the middle to the top of the income scale will become an even greater wedge issue in American politics in the years ahead, energizing a larger number of voters who see their interests reflected in new anti-monopoly political movements.*

## **LOW JOBLESS CLAIMS, LESS WORKERS: THE GREAT RESIGNATION**



In the week ending 4 December, 184,000 new claims for state unemployment benefits were filed, the fewest since 1969, the U.S. labor department reported, well below economists' estimates averaging 220,000 in a Bloomberg survey.

The four-week moving average of new claims fell to 218,750, the lowest since March 2020.

At the same time, hiring was only moderate, with November's job gains notching their fewest this year amid widespread labor and materials shortages, while inflation and a new COVID variant has left employers cautious about adding workers.



For the week ending 27 November, continuing claims for benefits rose by 38,000 to 1.99 million.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The low number of new jobless claims is good news only in part. In addition to more people working, the figure also reveals that a significant number of people are still sitting out the COVID War or have left the job market altogether.*

*The jobs “recovery” still leaves out millions of “used-to-be” workers.*

## **The Great Resignation**

Another 4.2 million people quit their jobs in October, the U.S. labor department said, about 205,000 fewer than in September but still just shy of that month’s record.

“It’s not just quitting for the sake of quitting,” Geoffrey Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, told *The Wall Street Journal*. “It’s quitting to find better employment.”

Meanwhile, open jobs rose by 254,000 to roughly 11 million, with lodging and food services posting most of the openings as those businesses continue to recover from 2020’s shutdown.

However, hiring in the hospitality industry has risen and fallen as the COVID virus has waxed and waned over recent months.

“The pickup [in hiring] seems to be driven by a slowdown in coronavirus cases,” Nick Bunker, Indeed Hiring Lab’s research director, said to the *WSJ*.

“Right now, we’re a labor market that is hot,” he noted, “and bargaining power is more tilted to job seekers than we’ve seen in the recent past.”

In some large urban areas, employers report difficulties hiring workers for less than \$15 an hour, more than twice the federal minimum wage.

The average hourly compensation for nonsupervisory workers edged up 8 cents in November to \$31.03, 4.3 cents higher than a year earlier, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Wages and prices climbing together threaten to ignite a wage-price spiral, with each chasing the other higher.

The U.S. Federal Reserve continues to hold that inflation will sputter as supply-chain kinks are straightened out.

However, in Congressional testimony earlier this month, Fed chair Jerome Powell hinted that the central bank could wind down its monthly bond-buying program sooner than next summer so it could raise interest rates earlier than planned to lasso inflation.

The U.S. economy will average 300,000 to 350,000 new jobs each month in 2022, Oxford Economics' Daco predicted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *To attract workers back into the labor force and keep them there, employers will need to rethink the workplace and pay higher wages.*

*Workers will migrate to jobs with flexible hours and better benefits, profit sharing, career training, even participation in management.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Workers' new power, as with our Unionization trend, (see related story in Trends-Eye view) will begin to force changes in job structures and boundaries as well as in pay and benefits.*

*Although employers may resist such changes at first, those that accede to employees' demands will find turnover fall and productivity increase.*

*As other companies see the benefits of redefining jobs, roles, and benefits, these changes gradually will become the workplace's new normal.*

## UNBALANCED JOB MARKET: GET USED TO IT



American workers continue to quit their jobs in record numbers, one factor in a labor market in which the number of job openings continues to dwarf the number of workers available.

*The Wall Street Journal* reports, on 9 December, that both the U.S. Labor Dept. and the job search site ZipRecruiter put the number of job openings at some 11 million; by contrast, only about 6.9 million people are seeking work.

The rate at which people are quitting their jobs, also known as "The Great Resignation," has slowed only slightly and is certainly still a factor; see ["'STRUCTURAL CHANGES' IN WORKFORCE AS MILLIONS QUIT THEIR JOBS"](#) (19 Oct 2021), ["RETAIL WORKERS QUITTING IN DROVES"](#) (29 Jun 2021) and ["'THE GREAT RESIGNATION': WILL JOBS COME BACK?"](#) (16 Nov 2021).

Some see the quit rate as a sign of an economy healthy enough that workers have confidence in finding better jobs (with higher pay, more flexibility and better benefits), but it also indicates a falling labor participation rate, meaning that workers drop out of the job market altogether.

Since the start of the COVID War, Americans have been quitting their jobs more than 4 million times each month, and it's not expected to change. Low-wage sectors are especially impacted by the imbalance between jobs and workers, making finding workers especially troublesome.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Since the supply vs. demand equation now favors workers, workers in less-desirable jobs have options they haven't enjoyed in the past.*



***TREND FORECAST:*** Entire industries—not just in America—especially those like agriculture that have traditionally depended on low-paid labor with minimal skills, will be shaken up; see ["FOOD INDUSTRIES DESPERATE FOR WORKERS"](#) (14 Sep 2021) and ["ROBOTS TAKE THE \(FARM\) FIELD"](#) (4 May 2021). Also, look for unionization to continue to be a Top Trend; the greater the shortage of workers, the more powerful that trend will be; see ["UNIONIZATION TREND ON TRACK"](#) (7 Dec 2021).

## **WAGES TO RISE IN 2022, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO BEAT INFLATION**



Driven by labor shortages and inflation running at a 30-year high, U.S. wages will rise 3.9 percent in 2022, the biggest one-year jump since 2008's Great Recession, the Conference Board (CB) predicted in its annual Salary Increase Budget Survey.

Last April, the board had forecast a 0.9-percent bump next year.

Already, hourly pay rates have risen 4.8 percent in the 12 months ending October 31, Business Insider noted; in the notoriously low-paid leisure and hospitality industries, wages have shot up 12.3 percent year on year.

The typical business has added 3 percent to its salary budget this year, the CB's report found, compared to 2.6 percent in April.

This year's pay bumps were the largest on record for employees under age 25 and also for job-jumpers; 46 percent of businesses said higher starting pay for new hires had boosted their salary budget projections.

Employers have been forced to offer higher compensation to attract workers during the “Great Resignation,” during which more than 4 percent of the workforce has quit jobs for better ones or to rethink their career paths.

Inflation, now running at a 30-year high, also has been a factor in employers’ need to pay workers more, cited by 39 percent of businesses CB surveyed.

Despite better compensation, labor shortages will continue for months, analysts told BI.

The tight labor market will likely continue through 2022, with wages increasing “well above” 4 percent next year, CB chief economist Gad Levanon said in the report.

“A wage-price spiral—where higher prices and rising wages feed each other, leading to faster increases in both—may already be in the works,” he said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Again, as we have detailed, wages are at least 2 percentage points below inflation, which means it is costing more to live... and the inflation to pay index will not improve next year. And, with wages remaining low, fewer people will be able to afford homes, thus the apartment and home rental market will continue to expand.*

*We have named labor’s comeback as a Top Trend in 2022 ([“Unionization Trend on Track,”](#) 7 Dec 2021).*

*That means that workers not only will use their newfound leverage to extract higher wages from employers, but also to press for better working conditions, from flexible hours and locations to health benefits to child care considerations.*

*“Labor power” will redefine the workplace and the power structure between workers and employers.*

## THE HOTEL HOBBLE



About 74 percent of U.S. hotels are dealing with shortages of key supplies and paying more for those they can find, reducing their margins, according to a report by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

Eighty-six percent of lodging establishments the AHLA surveyed reported supply-line disruptions are posing moderate to significant problems for their operations.

The survey's other findings:

- 85 percent of inns are short of linens and soft goods and 77 percent are paying more for them;
- 76 percent lack enough food and beverage supplies and 77 percent have seen prices for them rise;
- 72 percent are low on cleaning and housekeeping items, with 79 percent reporting higher prices.

The problems have worsened this quarter, according to 52 percent of respondents.

Innkeepers see more of the same next year: 46 percent say the shortages and price increases will continue for six to 12 months, while 36 percent say the troubles will last more than a year.

“Hotels have a complex supply chain that requires regular procurement of a wide range of goods and services each day,” AHLA CEO Chip Rogers said in a statement announcing the survey's results.



“Whether it’s production backups or shipping delays, supply chain disruptions are compounding hotels’ existing problems and increasing operating costs during an already tough time,” he noted.

Rogers again called on Congress to pass the Save Hotel Jobs Act, which would subsidize lodging businesses’ payrolls.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have said before in articles such as [“Hotel Industry Suffering From COVID Wars”](#) (12 Oct 2021), it will be years until the hotel industry ‘recovers’ from the COVID War.

*And, should politicians and Presstitutes continue to ramp up new virus scares—such as the Omicron which followed the Delta which followed Coronavirus—the hospitality business will continue to suffer.*

*Moreover, dozens of large corporations have permanently slashed their travel budgets ([“HSBC Endorses Remote Work Model, Slashes Travel Budget.”](#) 14 Sep 2021), depriving many large urban and metro-area inns of their main source of profits.*

*Leisure travel has begun to return, but with new restrictions, it will slow down and will not bring enough revenue to the hotel industry to sustain its pre-COVID size.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** Unmentioned in mainstream media coverage is the disastrous hit the convention and trade show has taken since the COVID War began. Thus, those hotels depending on that market sector—will either close or never reopen, leaving giant buildings vacant and for sale.

*Tens of thousands of low-skill jobs will disappear with those hotel rooms, leaving a legion of unskilled or low-skill workers to be retrained, reabsorbed elsewhere in the low-wage economy, or on the public dole.*

## EMPTY URBAN STOREFRONTS ARE NEW WAREHOUSES FOR ONLINE SELLERS



Urban storefronts left dark by the COVID-era shutdown are being taken over by online grocery retailers in their quest to deliver customers' orders the same day or, in some cases, within an hour.

Start-ups including Getir, Gopuff, Gorillas, Jokr, and now Doordash, are claiming the empty stores and turning them into mini-warehouses, closed to the public and minimally staffed.

In New York City alone, seven of these companies already have leased dozens of storefronts, with business plans projecting hundreds of such depots by the end of next year, Bloomberg reported.

Jokr, for example, stocks 1,500 products in eight “micro-warehouses” in the Big Apple, in which pickers bundle orders and hand them to delivery people who rush them to customers using electric bikes or scooters.

There are no delivery fees.

“Fifteen-minute delivery changes the way you shop,” a company spokesperson said in comments quoted by Bloomberg.

“Customers first try us out because they forgot an ingredient,” he said, “then they use us the next night for all their dinner ingredients.”

Jokr, valued at \$1.2 billion in recent funding rounds, is delivering in New York City, Boston, and several cities in Mexico and South America.

The company’s website asks landlords, “Do you have property to rent?”

Critics have called for zoning ordinances to preserve a certain percentage of storefronts in neighborhoods for traditional stores, where people meet and interact.

“Traditionally, industrial uses such as logistics have been kept out of sight to support retail—not compete with it,” Bloomberg commented.

Some of the companies have already stirred unrest among their workers.

Gopuff, based in Philadelphia, reportedly cut the pay of some gig workers below minimum wage, after accounting for expenses, after the company received \$1 billion in additional funding this summer.

Several hundred Gopuff drivers staged a one-day strike late last month, demanding \$20 an hour as a minimum wage and a guaranteed number of hours.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The trend to turn empty downtown stores into mini-warehouses is an additional consequence of the loss of urban commercial ecosystems that we predicted in articles such as [“Return to Offices Postponed: Commercial Real Estate Bust?”](#) (14 Sep 2021).*

*The loss of commuters to the new normal of remote work deprives stores in city centers of the once-reliable population of shoppers buying lunches, gifts, business wear, haircuts, and myriad other goods and services.*

*Landlords holding empty properties with little prospect for new tenants are left with no choice but to rent to this new ecosystem of remote shopping and instant delivery.*

*Landlords and city tax collectors will welcome any paying tenants and so will do little to discourage this new industry, even though it draws no street traffic and offers only low-wage jobs.*

*The silver lining: the new industry can help stabilize downtown retail districts, landlords' budgets, and city tax revenues while cities explore new options for downtown revitalization.*

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *Low-wage workers turfed out by hotels and restaurants that have been dispatched by the COVID War may find new work in the growing, low-paid instant-delivery grocery industry.*

## ONE IN SIX AMERICANS HAVE BEEN GIGGED



Roughly 16 percent of Americans—about one in six—have given rides, delivered groceries, walked dogs, or done other gig jobs for money, a new survey of 10,348 adults by the Pew Research Center has found.

The proportion rises for younger, poorer, and non-white adults, the data shows.

Among other findings:

- 30 percent of people ages 18 to 29 have gigged, compared to just 18 percent of people 30 to 49;
- 30 percent of Hispanics, 20 percent of Blacks, 19 percent of Asians, and 12 percent of Whites have done gig work;
- 25 percent of lower-income people have been part of the gig economy, but only 13 percent of middle-class workers and 9 percent of high-income earners.

About six in ten gig workers said they needed the money to pay basic expenses.

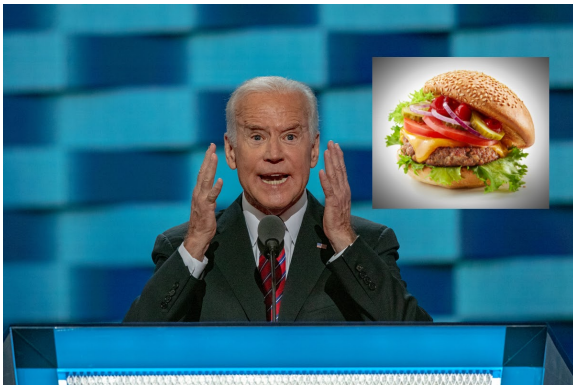


More than half who have done gig work said they wanted to save extra money or cover gaps in their incomes. Roughly six in 10 gig workers said the money they earned has been essential or important for meeting their basic needs.

***PUBLISHER'S NOTE:*** *The gig economy is one place where workers will have a harder time exerting the power that regular employees are now exerting in the workplace.*

*Outsourcing has created a cutthroat labor market in gig work; someone demanding better pay or more reliable work can easily be replaced by someone willing to settle for less.*

## MEAT PRODUCERS' PROFITS. THE MONOPOLY



Four of the biggest U.S. meat processing companies have used their market power to underpay farmers, push up meat prices, and triple their net operating margins during the COVID crisis, White House economic advisors allege.

They claimed that higher labor and transport costs have driven price increases.

However, after analyzing the companies' financial statements, such claims are not valid, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisors in a statement published last week on the White House website.

The companies involved include JBS S.A., the world's largest meat processor, Brazil's Marfrig Global Foods S.A., Seaboard Corporation, and Tyson Foods.

The statements show that, together, the companies' gross profits have jumped 120 percent since March 2020, with net income up 500 percent.

The companies recently have announced \$1 billion in stock buybacks and new dividends to shareholders, adding to more than \$3 billion already paid to shareholders during the COVID crisis.

The soaring profits and lavish dividends do not support claims that prices have risen solely in response to cost pressures, the White House report says.

The White House has “cherry-picked” data to produce its findings, according to the North American Meat Council, the industry’s trade and lobbying group.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Once-upon-a-time, America was cherished as The Land of Opportunity. Now it is the land of “chains” and monopolies. Indeed these four companies control as much as 85 percent of the U.S. market for beef, pork, and poultry.*

*With politicians paid off in the name of “campaign contributions” by private interests, these and other monopolies across the business spectrum—mass media, health care, big-tech, big-pharma, big banks, etc.—political whores destroyed the Robinson-Patman, Clayton, Sherman and Glass-Steagall anti-trust acts that prohibited these monopolies.*

## **TYSON FOODS TO AUTOMATE MEAT PROCESSING LINES**



Arkansas-based Tyson Foods, the second-largest U.S. poultry processor with 122,000 employees, will spend \$1.3 billion through 2024 to automate labor-intensive tasks, including deboning, on its processing lines, *The Wall Street Journal*

said.

The move ultimately will bring the company \$450 million annually in benefits, including reduced labor costs and higher productivity, CEO Donnie King said in an investors call last week.

Tyson has budgeted \$500 million for the change next year, after spending \$70 million in 2021, according to the *WSJ*.

The move is a response to chronic labor shortages in the industry, made worse by the COVID crisis in which viral infections were rampant throughout U.S. meat processing plants.

Up to 20 percent of processing-line workers are absent on any given day, due to child care demands, fear of catching COVID, or other personal issues, King said.

The company's aim "is to take away the more difficult, higher-turnover jobs," King said, adding that displaced workers can be reassigned to other jobs in the company.

"We plan to use automation to reduce the number of hard-to-fill roles," he noted.

Tyson is seeking cost savings as it opens up to 12 new U.S. processing plants by 2024, which will enable it to process an additional 1.3 billion pounds of poultry per year.

Tyson reported \$12.8 billion in revenue in its most recent fiscal quarter, up 12 percent. Earnings rose to \$1.26 billion.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we noted in ["Job Slashing: Going Digital and Going Robotic"](#) (18 May 2021), line jobs in meat processing plants have always been hard to fill: workers stand for hours, making the same motions over and over in plants kept cold to keep meat fresher and where conveyors move at an often uncomfortably brisk pace.

*Meat-cutting jobs, often filled by immigrants, also are among the most dangerous, according to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.*

*With workers gaining power and demanding not only more pay but also better working conditions, automation will become more and more prevalent in industries where working conditions for humans are hardest to improve.*



# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## ECB OFFICIAL: BANK'S BOND-BUYING HAVING NEGATIVE SIDE EFFECTS

The European Central Bank's (ECB) program of buying bonds since 2015 to prop up the Eurozone's economy is beginning to show more negative effects than positive ones, Isabel Schnabel, in charge of ECB's market operations, said last week at the European Systemic Risk Board's annual conference.

Buying bonds has been "an important tool" during periods of economic turmoil, she said, "but [the] cost-benefit ratio deteriorates as the economy gains ground."

Continuing the bank's monthly bond purchases, which have given the bank a current portfolio of €4.6 trillion in government debt, create a "moral hazard" by lulling investors to depend on the bank's largesse and lead to "excessive risk-taking and over-valuations" and creating a shortage of government bonds, as has been the case in Germany.

Schnabel's comments came ahead of this week's meeting of the ECB's governing committee, at which officials could decide to begin tapering the purchase program, as the U.S. Federal Reserve did with its bond purchases last month.

Analysts already expect the central bank to end its €1.85-trillion bond-buying Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP) in March; Schnabel's comments stirred concerns that the bank might shut it down earlier.

Attempting to reassure markets and prevent a sudden selloff in Eurozone government bonds, Schnabel added that "unexpected policy adjustments" could spark "changes in financing conditions that are sharper than intended."

Other ECB officials have said that the PEPP could be revived at any time if needed to calm markets or rescue the economy from new sources of damage.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Despite Schnabel's warning, we forecast the ECB will do all it can to continue to keep interest rates in negative territory and keep its bond buying scheme going when it meets on Thursday this week.*

*Inflation, though at a multi-decade high, is still below the U.S. rate and the Omicron variant is rampant on the continent, already persuading politicians to reimpose lockdowns and consumers to stay home. Thus, with business down, they will do what they wish to artificially boost it back up.*

*In her post-meeting press briefing, ECB president Christine Lagarde will most likely repeat her concerns about inflation but reaffirm the bank's commitment to low interest rates for the indefinite future, even if the bank decides to let some current support programs lapse.*

## JAPAN'S ECONOMY SHRINKS



From 1 July through 30 September, Japan's economy contracted 3.6 percent, the government reported, more than the 3 percent the government had estimated earlier and more sharply than analysts' 3.2-percent forecast.

A rise in COVID cases and subsequent drop in consumer spending caused the pucker, the *Financial Times* reported.

It was during that quarter that Tokyo hosted the summer Olympics without fans, due to concerns about travel and the COVID virus.

Japan's government ordered no lockdowns, but consumers bunkered anyway, a worrying sign for the economy's future if the Omicron variant proves pernicious, analysts told the *FT*.

Japan has registered one of the world's lowest COVID infection rates since this summer, in part because of severe limits on foreign visitors, a rule that dashed the country's tourist economy.

The economy's downturn continued into October, with consumer spending showing a 0.6-percent reduction for the month, year on year.

The slowdown was less than in August or September, buoying hopes that the economy could be turning up.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Japan's latest economic disappointment confirms our earlier forecast made in ["Japan Plans New Stimulus as Other Countries End Economic Supports"](#) (23 Nov 2021): 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'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO IMplode**



Turkey's lira has lost almost half its value against the dollar this year and inflation continues its relentless climb, thanks to the economic policies forced on the nation's central bank by strongman president Recep Erdogan.

High interest rates fuel inflation and low rates reduce it, Erdogan believes, contrary to economic theory and decades of experience.

He has fired a series of central bank officials who have boosted interest rates or otherwise failed to adhere to his policy directives ([“Turkey's Financial Markets Crash After Agbal Firing,”](#) 30 Mar 2021, and [“Turkey: Another Day, Another Central Bankster Fired,”](#) 1 Jun 2021).

The central bank has cut its key rate five times this year, which now rests at 15 percent.

Meanwhile, the official inflation rate reached 21.3 percent in November.

An independent analysis has pegged the rate at about 40 percent, as we reported in [“Turkey: A Crime to Tell the Economic Truth?”](#) (5 Oct 2021). More recently, Turkey's ENAGrup consumer price index pegged the inflation rate at 58.5 percent in November.



When the rate of inflation exceeds benchmark interest rates, investments denominated in the national currency automatically lose value, driving away investors, especially those from other countries.

At the same time, a weakening currency creates an inflationary spiral as goods, especially imports, become more expensive and workers demand higher pay to survive.

Turkey's central bank has almost drained its reserves of foreign currency, selling them to buy lira to soften its decline, leaving the bank with liabilities that exceed its assets.

Partly as a result, Turks are avoiding their own currency.

About 60 percent of bank deposits now are made in foreign currency, Capital Economics' data shows.

A surge in requests to withdraw dollars—an increasing possibility—could force commercial banks to empty their foreign currency reserves or spur the government to impose controls on bank withdrawals.

Making matters worse, Turkey's commercial banks have about \$83 billion in foreign debt that will come due next 1 September, according to central bank data.

In contrast to Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, and several other emerging economies have raised their interest rates to slow inflation and bolster their economies against a strengthening dollar.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Erdogan's popularity continues to slide along with Turkey's economic prospects and the value of its currency.*

*Erdogan has repeatedly and publicly vowed to keep interest rates low. Therefore, as a dictator by instinct, he is unlikely to publicly retract or reverse his position.*

*Because battling external enemies tends to unify a nation and boost an economy through military-related spending, look for Erdogan to seek opportunities for foreign aggression, as he did in Syria.*

*As Gerald Celente often says, when all else fails, they take you to war.*

## INVESTORS FLEE EMERGING MARKETS



Last month, investors began pulling money out of emerging markets' equities and bonds, with more money leaving than entering for the first time since March 2020, according to the Institute for International Finance (IIF).

MSCI's index of emerging nations' stock markets has slipped 3.3 percent this year, compared to an 18-percent gain in markets of fully developed nations.

Similarly, JPMorgan's GBI-EM index tracking emerging markets' debt issued in local currencies has fallen 4.1 percent this year.

Investors fear that developing nations now will be less likely to recover next year from the COVID War because of the Omicron variant, the *Financial Times* reported, and also worry that higher U.S. interest rates could throw financially weak, debt-burdened countries into crisis. (See [“Emerging Markets Pile on Debt, Sparking Future Default Fears.”](#) 2 Feb 2021.)

“We’ve seen investors’ willingness to engage with emerging markets dry up,” IFF chief economist Robin Brooks said to the *FT*.

“This is not only about isolated cases like Turkey,” Brooks said (see related story in this issue). “Turkey is a symptom of something much more broad-based across emerging markets and that is a lack of growth.”

Many emerging nations, particularly large ones of middle income, such as Brazil and India, borrowed heavily to fund their COVID responses.

Now that interest rates are rising around the world, with the U.S. expected to boost its rates within six months, 10 developing nations, including Chile, India, Mexico, and Poland are facing credit downgrades, Luiz Peixoto, emerging markets economist at BNP Paribas, said to the *FT*.

Higher U.S. interest rates are expected to pull investment from riskier assets and draw them to U.S. government bonds and other American assets.

Higher interest rates also should strengthen the U.S. dollar, which could disrupt economies such as Turkey’s, which has borrowed heavily in dollars, as well as countries such as India and South Africa, which have borrowed in their own currencies but depend on inflows of foreign capital.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we said in [“Strong Dollar Threatens Developing Nations”](#) (27 Jul 2021), rising interest rates and a strong dollar will write yet another chapter in developing nations’ chronic debt crisis, consigning millions of people to poverty and spark political turmoil across the southern half of the globe.

*However, in this new chapter, developed nations are struggling to manage their massive new COVID-related debts and will have little to spare to bail out failing nations south of the Equator.*

*The exception is China, which will use the crisis to distribute cash to countries it sees as strategically advantageous to its trade and geopolitical ambitions. As a result, China will capitalize on the crisis to expand its global influence.*

## SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION



### INFLATION RUNS FASTER AGAIN IN NOVEMBER

The U.S. Consumer Price Index grew by 6.8 percent last month, year on year, faster than at any time since June 1982, when prices rose at a 7.2-percent clip, the U.S.

Labor Department reported.

Inflation's rate was just 1.1 percent in November 2020 and had shot to 6.2 percent in October this year.

The index added 0.8 percent from October through November.

Supply-line blocks, relentless consumer demand, and rising energy prices were largely to blame for prices rising, the department said.

Excluding the volatile food and energy sectors, core consumer prices rose 4.9 percent in November, the sharpest spike since 1991.

The price of new vehicles soared 11.1 percent during the 12 months ending 30 November, a record rise. Men's clothing, kitchen, dining room, and living room furniture also notched record price increases.

Gasoline cost 6.1 percent more, year over year, for the second consecutive month.

Fast-food restaurants tacked 7.9 percent onto their menu prices, the fastest climb on record, largely due to wage bumps to attract and keep workers in a notoriously underpaid industry facing the tightest labor market in memory.



This year's rise in restaurant prices indicates that businesses are ready to pass their higher costs through to consumers rather than accept narrower margins, economists told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Sixty percent of small businesses increased prices between 1 September and 30 November, according to a recent *WSJ* poll of 560 business owners.

Eighty percent reported paying workers more; 72 percent said their suppliers had raised prices.

Although U.S. wages have grown 4.8 percent during the 12 months from November 2020, inflation has not only erased those gains, but also reduced earners' actual buying power.

"We find that real earnings growth has been negative for the past eight months, coming in at negative 2.1 percent," in November, year over year, according to a report by the nonprofit Mises Institute, a conservative website devoted to economic education and commentary.

Combining November's inflation and wage-growth number yields a "misery index" of 10.82, the highest since June, the Institute noted.

Misery should ease and inflation's pace slow next year as more workers return to the labor force, consumer spending softens, factory production accelerates, and supply-chain kinks are ironed out, economists told the *WSJ*.

However, other costs such as rents and medical care will continue to rise, keeping inflation alive, analysts believe.

Also, a surge in COVID variants could send the economy back into recession.

The mixed news and views of inflation come as the U.S. Federal Reserve is balancing two risky policy options: raise interest sooner than planned to pull back inflation or leave rates near zero to continue to support an economy still healing from the COVID War.

The larger risk: workers, now experiencing power that today's tight labor market has bestowed on them, will continue to demand higher wages, employers will accommodate them to keep good workers, then raise prices to cover the added payroll expense, leading workers to demand even higher pay because everything is then even more expensive.

The result would be a classic wage-price spiral, which Fed policy would be weak to control.

The Fed has not changed policy so far, in large part because, until recently, it has insisted that inflation was “temporary” or “transitory” and would slow by itself. (See [“Fed Holds Firm on Policy Despite 5-Percent Inflation.”](#) 20 Jul 2021.)

Last month, the Fed announced that it would wind down its \$120-billion bond-buying program by mid-2022, soon followed by hints from chair Jerome Powell that the central bank might well end the program sooner, clearing the way for higher interest rates before summer. (See [“The Powell Push: For Better or Worse.”](#) 7 Dec 2021).

The inflation rate is “an enormous—a very, very strong—number,” UBS economist and former Fed official Alan Detmeister commented to the *WSJ*.

He believes inflationary pressures will ease on their own, but probably not until next summer, so “it seems pretty clear that [Fed officials] are going to have to speed up” the bond program’s closure.

The higher interest rates that follow would make loans of all kinds more expensive, slow the rise in home prices, and generally slow the economy, which would moderate inflation’s pace.

However, that also likely would shrink the labor market, leaving more than two million workers still jobless after the COVID War with less chance of finding work.

More U.S. politicians from both Republicans and Democrats parties are growing more skeptical of President Joe Biden's plan to invest almost \$2 trillion in infrastructure at a time when inflation is raging, the labor market is tight, and U.S. government debt continues to balloon to near \$30 trillion.

***TRENDPOST:*** *And while it is barely mentioned by the media, the bottom line is, when the Fed raises interest rates, so too with the cost of servicing the debt rise... which in turn will put the nation deeper in debt.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We have long said that when the Fed ends bond purchases and boosts interest rates, the equity and housing markets will fall.*

*News that the Fed will enact those policy changes even sooner than expected brings those market reversals even closer.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *"There is some evidence" that inflation will continue higher after the COVID War ends than it was before the virus arrived, Wall Street Journal analyst Justin Lahart noted in an 11 December essay.*

*Core service prices, which are less affected by the lingering global supply-chain snafu, were up 3.4 percent in November, year on year, their fastest rise since May 2007, Lahart noted.*

*The key to next year's inflation rate will be the rate at which workers' compensation increases and how much of that increase companies will pass to consumers through price increases, he said.*

## COFFEE PRICES HIGHEST IN TEN YEARS



Coffee's price in futures markets has climbed to a 10-year high, with the choice arabica strain fetching above \$2.80 a pound on 13 December, double the price a year ago.

The climbing price has set off a scramble to lock in supplies before prices rise higher, setting the stage for a global coffee shortage next year.

A drought in Brazil, and a second consecutive year of La Niña weather, which leaves South America dryer than usual, have heightened fears of a shortage.

Part of the rush to tie up supplies also is due to the worldwide supply-chain mess.

Traders are struggling to book shipping containers and spots on ships, Brazil's Coffee Exporters Council said, noting that export volumes are down 24 percent from a year previous.

"With more coffee stuck in transit, you need more coffee on hand to meet demand," Rabobank analyst Carlos Mera told the *Financial Times*.

Also, some coffee farmers are hoarding beans to sell at even higher prices later.

"The three largest arabica producers, Brazil, Colombia, and Ethiopia, are experiencing increased rates of default, where farmers fail to deliver coffee at agreed-upon prices so they can attempt to re-sell at current higher prices," the U.S. agriculture department noted last week.

## SPOTLIGHT: CHINA



### CHINA SETS EXPORT, IMPORT RECORDS IN NOVEMBER

China exported nearly \$326 billion worth of goods and services in November, a record, and imported \$254 billion to satisfy its roaring demand for fuel and metals, Bloomberg reported.

Imports shot up 30 percent compared to a year earlier; exports climbed 22 percent in dollar terms, with both expanding more than analysts had expected.

The world continues to show strong demand for Chinese factories' output, a demand that could grow if COVID's Omicron variant leads to renewed shutdowns elsewhere around the globe.

"Exports picked up in line with seasonality in November and suggest still pretty solid momentum in external demand," Michelle Lam, China economist at Societe Generale, told Bloomberg.

"The surprise in import growth was driven by a rebound in commodity volume, probably reflecting improving infrastructure demand as local governments stepped up stimulus toward the turn of the year," she said

China's exports to the U.S. ballooned 28.3 percent in 2021's first 11 months, while imports from the U.S. increased by 36.9 percent during the same period.

In November, the value and volume of coal imports reached a high for the year and natural gas imports were the greatest since January. Crude oil imports notched a three-month peak.



***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have long been reporting, when China was granted permission to enter the World Trade Organization in 2001, European and American manufacturers gave the third-world nation at the time the most advanced industrial production and hi-technology processes, so they could manufacture in China using cheap labor and sell it abroad at marked-up prices to make greater profit margins.

*Now, 20 years later, having been given the keys to the manufacturing and hi-tech vaults, China has what it needs to excel in those areas without foreign nation input.*

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

## **CHINA ACTS TO REIN IN YUAN'S SURGE**



China's yuan has rocketed to multiyear highs against the dollar and other major currencies, driven by demand for China's exports and the country's new openness to foreign investors.

The yuan has gained two percent against the dollar this year and was trading at less than 6.35 to the buck at one point last week, data service Refinitiv reported.

At the same time, the CFETS-RMB index, which measures the yuan against an assortment of major currencies, notched its highest mark since 2015.

The 2020 global economic shutdown sent demand for Chinese goods soaring, while also keeping its tourists at home, resulting in a huge trade surplus.

That imbalance continues: last month, China's exports totaled a record \$325.5 billion, 22 percent more than a year earlier, according to the country's General Administration of Customs.

At the same time, China's cash balance was \$203 billion, government figures show, the greatest since 2015.

Also in November, foreign holdings of China's government bonds reached 239 trillion yuan, equivalent to about \$375 billion, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

Exports have been the main engine of China's economic growth since mid-2020, according to a Nomura research note.

Manufacturing, especially for export, has fueled China's GDP while the country nurtures its still-modest consumer economy and deals with its faltering real estate market, which has accounted for up to 30 percent of GDP recently.

The stronger the yuan, the more those exports cost abroad.

Those higher prices could cut demand for Chinese goods, hampering the country's economic growth and leaving it vulnerable to financial damage from the latest COVID surge and negative undercurrents circulating in the world economy.

China's economy grew by 4.9 percent in this year's third quarter. We maintain our forecast that yearly growth will be near 8 percent.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *China will do what it can to keep the value of the yuan down so its exports will be more affordable. On 9 December, the People's Bank of China raised the proportion of foreign currency reserves that commercial banks are required to hold, from 7 percent to 9 percent.*

*The move takes foreign capital out of circulation and is meant to slow the yuan's rise.*

*The bank last boosted the requirement last May, the first time it had done so in more than a decade.*

## **EVERGRANDE IN DEFAULT, FITCH SAYS**



Evergrande, China's largest property developer, is now in default, Fitch Ratings Service has announced.

On 9 December, Fitch downgraded the troubled real estate giant's credit rating to "restricted default," meaning that the company has failed to meet its financial obligations.

The downgrade came after Evergrande missed payment deadlines earlier in the week on two dollar-denominated bonds. The \$82.5 million in payments were a month late and the grace period ended 6 December with no action by the company.

Evergrande has been struggling with \$300 billion in debts, as we first reported in ["China's Real Estate Market Teeters on Evergrande's Debt"](#) (21 Sep 2021).

In a 10 December regulatory filing, the company warned it might not have enough liquidity to meet its obligations and would "actively engage" with foreign creditors to restructure its debts.

Xu Jiayin, Evergrande's founder and chairman, reportedly has sold \$1.1 billion worth of his personal assets to bail out his company, apparently to no avail.

As one of China's largest developers, Evergrande's troubles threatened to stagger the country's real estate market, which recently has accounted for as

much as 30 percent of China's GDP. (See [“Will Evergrande Dive Crash Chinese Markets?”](#) 5 Oct 2021.)

So far this year, Evergrande's stock has lost 87 percent of its value, including a 20-percent plunge on 6 December alone.

Evergrande's mess will be handled in a market-oriented way, Yi Gang, governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), said in a statement, indicating that neither the bank nor the government is planning to write a check to cover Evergrande's debts and cited the company's "own poor management" and "reckless expansion" for its troubles.

However, in part to contain damage from Evergrande's default, the PBOC is lowering requirements for banks' cash reserves, which has helped to reassure markets, CNBC noted. (See related story in this issue.)

Fitch also downgraded property developer Kaisa Group Holdings Ltd. to restricted default after it failed to repay a \$400-million bond that matured Tuesday.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *While there is concern that the Evergrande crash will crash China's real estate market, we disagree. The government is in full control and will take necessary measures to keep the economy propped up and avert a real estate collapse.*

*Again, while real estate prices will soften, it should be noted that the size and strength of the Chinese real estate boom over the past 30 years is unprecedented in modern history.*

## CHINA INJECTS \$188 BILLION INTO ITS ECONOMY



The People's Bank of China will cut the reserve requirement ratio for most commercial banks by half a percentage point on 15 December, freeing about 1.2 trillion yuan, or \$188 billion for new loans to businesses and households.

The announcement of the second such reduction this year accompanied the government's statement that "ensuring stability" would be a priority in 2022 and regulators would take additional steps to protect the economy.

"In other words, top leaders are deeply concerned about the risk of potential instability," Larry Hu, chief China economist with Macquarie Group, said last week in a research note.

The policy moves were widely seen as responses to the default of Evergrande Group and Kaisa Group, two major Chinese real estate developers that failed last week to make required payments on bonds. (See related story in this issue).

This year also has brought China floods, power shortages, and a global supply chain crunch, all of which have bollixed the economy, disrupted output, and slowed growth.

Regulators' harsh crackdown on tech companies and, to a lesser extent, financial firms also has stirred concerns among global investors.

The new policy of looser cash "suggests[s] that the priority has shifted from regulatory tightening to supporting growth," Hu noted.

China has done little to share up China's booming economy during the COVID crisis, remaining content to let global demand drive domestic growth.



It has not reduced interest rates since early in 2020, has dumped little stimulus money into markets generally, and instead has given support to small businesses hardest hit by the COVID War.

***TRENDPOST:*** *China's decision to make more cash available in its economy, following more than a year of a hands-off policy, indicates that China's leaders recognize their economy is slowing because of new COVID WAR mandates at home and abroad.*

*The cash infusion is aimed, in part, to continue to fertilize the consumer economy under the country's "dual circulation" policy, which we outlined in ["China Announces "Dual Circulation" Economic Policy"](#) (9 Sep 2020), so the nation is less reliant on exports.*

*China's move aligns with our Top Trend 2022 of ["Self-Sufficient Economies"](#) (30 Nov 2021).*

# FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



## IS THE WORLD ADOPTING THE WAYS OF NAZI GERMANY?

by *Michael J Talmo*

*When it comes to resisting any form of tyranny, a common assertion is that if you make any comparisons to Nazi Germany you lose the argument.*

Really? Consider this:

On August 25, 2021 [“We For Humanity.”](#) an international association of doctors, scientists, lawyers, journalists, and other professionals, wrote a [letter](#) to government agencies in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada condemning COVID-19 mass vaccination programs on behalf of Holocaust survivors, their children, and grandchildren.

This is part of what the letter says:

“We, the survivors of the atrocities committed against humanity during the Second World War, feel bound to follow our conscience and write this letter. It is obvious to us that another holocaust of greater magnitude is taking place before our eyes. The majority of the world’s populace do not yet realize what is happening, for the magnitude of an organized crime such as this is beyond their scope of experience. We, however, know. We remember...We call upon you to stop this ungodly medical experiment on humankind immediately.”

The letter goes on to point out that **the vaccines have proven to be “more dangerous” than COVID-19**, denounces them as “a blasphemic encroachment into nature,” denounces “ostracism of the unvaccinated” as the Jews “were demonized as spreaders of infectious diseases” and goes on to say:

“Never before has immunization of the entire planet been accomplished by delivering a synthetic mRNA into the human body. It is a medical experiment to which the Nuremberg Code must be applied ...Allegedly around 52% of the world population has received at least one shot. Honest disclosure of the true number of “vaccine” injured, terminally injured as well as deceased worldwide is long overdue...Provide us with the true numbers of Covid vaccine casualties now.”

The letter concludes:

“How many will be enough to awaken your conscience?”

Apparently, not enough yet. On September 15, 2021 the [EMA](#) (European Medicines Agency) which is part of the [EU](#)(European Union) [replied](#):

“As an introductory remark EMA finds the comparisons you make both inaccurate and inappropriate. Indeed, it might be perceived as demeaning the suffering and dignity of those who experienced the terrible events of the holocaust...For a medicine to be authorized in the EU through EMA, the Agency’s human medicines committee (CHMP), composed of scientific

experts from all EU member states, must conclude that the medicine's quality, safety and efficacy are properly and sufficiently demonstrated."

Can you believe the arrogance and hubris of the EMA? They are actually telling people who lived through the Holocaust that they are demeaning the suffering and dignity of people who were in the Holocaust. Can it get any more ridiculous than that?

**The EMA is also overlooking the fact that governments throughout history have engaged in mass murder.**

In Nazi Germany it was the government and other institutions of official authority who promoted the race theory and authorized the mass murder of people in hospitals and Concentration Camps.

Throughout the Middle Ages and beyond governments and churches were authorized to burn people at the stake for heresy and witchcraft usually after severely torturing them. Naturally, these sadistic idiots thought what they were doing was virtuous and necessary. Just because official government authority and experts authorize something doesn't make it holy, right, or true.

**It can happen here**

On November 21, 1945 the International Military Tribunal in [Nuremberg](#) Germany began. Surviving German leaders and other prominent Nazis including doctors who carried out inhumane experiments on innocent people were put on trial for the Holocaust and other war crimes. U.S. Supreme Court Justice

[Robert H. Jackson](#) (1892-1954), one of the four Chief Prosecutors, made this opening [statement](#):

"The privilege of opening the first trial in history for crimes against the peace of the world imposes a grave responsibility. The wrongs we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so

devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.”

So, Justice Jackson knew that Nazi atrocities could happen again.

Dr. Wilhelm Reich MD (1897-1957) also knew and stated it very clearly in his Book “The Mass Psychology of Fascism.”

Page 320:

“As bitter as it may be, the fact remains: It is the irresponsibility of masses of people that lies at the basis of Fascism of all countries, nations, and races, etc...It is not a character trait that is confined specifically to the Germans or Italians. It is manifest in every single individual of the world.” What Reich and Jackson said doesn’t necessarily mean that some country will adopt the swastika, have their soldiers do the old goose step, and declare Adolph Hitler (1889-1945) their patron saint. It means that the same genocidal and propaganda tactics that the Nazis used can be used again. It doesn’t matter what form this kind of evil takes or how it’s packaged so heed their words because it is happening now. And it is happening all over the world. This is why in 1947 the Nuremberg Code was created.”

In a 1997 [article](#), the New England Journal of Medicine explained that “[The Nuremberg Code](#)” is the most important document in the history of the ethics of medical research.

The article goes on to explain that “Informed consent, the core of the Nuremberg Code, has rightly been viewed as the protection of subjects’ human rights” and that “the subject” has “as much authority as the physician-researcher to end the experiment before its conclusion.”

Unfortunately, the article points out that “The Nuremberg Code has not been officially adopted in its entirety as law by any nation or as ethics by any major medical association” and that attempting to do so will be a “critical challenge.”



But in spite of this, “it’s basic requirement of informed consent, for example, has been universally accepted and is articulated in international law in [Article 7](#)” of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This covenant has been binding on my country, the US, via [ratified treaty](#) since 1992 which under [Article VI](#) of our Constitution makes it, like all ratified treaties, “the supreme Law of the Land.”

The article also makes the following crucial statement:

“...researchers must refuse to conduct experiments on human beings when ordered by the state in order ‘to save lives, because in such cases subjects would not be volunteers...there is no justification in killing five people in order to save the lives of five hundred.”

Principle 1 of the Nuremberg Code states that “The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential...without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion.”

This clearly and emphatically shows that all forms of forced vaccinations over the years, not just for COVID-19, are unethical, immoral, and illegal. It doesn’t matter whether or not they are fully approved because forcing any kind of medication on people—especially if they aren’t even sick is experimenting on them.

The FDA [website](#) declares that “no medical product is 100 percent safe or effective” while the CDC [website](#) says that “Any vaccine can cause side effects” and repeatedly states when clicking on the side effects under Regularly Recommended Vaccines: “As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.”

This CDC web page [lists](#) some of the dangerous side effects that COVID-19 vaccines can cause: [anaphylaxis](#), a severe allergic reaction that can cause shock, and in some cases death; [TTS](#) (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome) which causes blood clots along with serious long-term disability and death;

[Guillain-Barre syndrom](#) causes the body's immune system to attack the nerves and could eventually paralyze the whole body; [myocarditis](#), inflammation of the heart muscle which can lead to heart attack and stroke.

In addition to insisting that adverse vaccine events are very rare, The CDC along with other COVID apologists try to downplay the 19,886 US COVID-19 vaccination deaths and 32,644 permanently disabled [listed](#) on the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) website as of December 3, 2021. This in spite of the fact that a 2007-2010 [study](#) by [Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institue](#) showed that vaccine injuries and deaths are grossly under-reported.

But even if severe vaccine injuries and deaths were rare, which they aren't (see [interview](#) with Physicians Assistant Deborah Conrad), the lets vaccinate everybody fanatics argument that sacrificing a few to save the many is justified is still wrong as stated in the 1997 New England Journal of Medicine article that I quoted previously.

Naturally, governments and other supporters of forced vaccination are denying that they are violating the Nuremberg Code. A common assertion in my country is that once a vaccine is under an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) it's no longer experimental as asserted in an August 2021 USA Today [article](#):

**[The Vaccine Passport: An Instrument of Social Control. The Rise of "Utilitarian Extremism", and How to Recognize It](#)**

"The code does not apply to COVID-19 vaccines because they are not 'experimental.' All COVID-19 vaccines have gone through clinical trials and emergency use authorization process."

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and NIH (National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases) on their own websites clearly show that this is a blatant bold-faced lie.

FDA [website](#): “An investigational drug can also be called an experimental drug and is being studied to see if your disease or medical condition improves while taking it.”

NIH [website](#): “The issuance of an EUA is different than an FDA approval (licensure) of a vaccine. A vaccine available under emergency use authorization is still considered investigational.” (click on Will placebo-controlled trials of other COVID-19 candidates continue once the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines receive EUA? Will new placebo-controlled trials begin?).

So, USA Today indirectly admitted that COVID-19 vaccine mandates are violating the Nuremberg Code because the vaccines are indeed experimental. “Investigational,” as stated on the FDA website, is another word for “experimental.” The FDA [website](#) also states that under an EUA people “have the option to accept or refuse the vaccine.” And under the Nuremberg Code refuse without fear of any kind of punishment or discrimination.

Holocaust survivor and medical patients’ rights activist [Vera Sharav](#) issued this [warning](#):

“As a child survivor of the Nazi reign of terror I learned indelible lessons about the nature of evil...

Academic science, the military, industry, and clinical medicine were tightly interwoven as they are now. The Nazi system destroyed a social conscience in the name of public health...Nazi propaganda used fear of infectious epidemics to demonize Jews as spreaders of disease, as a menace to public health...Medical mandates today are a major step backward toward a fascist dictatorship and genocide... these undermine our dignity as well as our freedom. First it was vaccination mandates for children. Now it’s for adults. The stark lesson of the Holocaust is that whenever doctors join forces with government and deviate from their personal professional clinical commitment to do no harm to the individual, medicine can then be perverted from a healing humanitarian profession to a murderous apparatus...What sets the Holocaust apart from all other

other mass genocides is the pivotal role played by the medical establishment...Medical doctors and prestigious medical societies and institutions lent the veneer of legitimacy to infanticide, mass murder of civilians.”

A 2018 [article](#) in the American Journal of Public Health echoed Vera Sharav’s words:

“Physicians became Nazified more thoroughly and much sooner than any other profession, and as Nazis they did more in service of the nefarious regime than any of their extraprofessional peers.”

### **The I’m Not a Nazi Polka**

Make no mistake. Those who are going along with this horrible COVID-19 agenda get red hot flaming mad when they are compared to Nazis. It sticks in their craw and they will immediately start doing the I’m Not a Nazi Polka, a dance of deceit that attempts to provide all sorts of rationalizations and excuses as to why what’s going on today shouldn’t be compared to what the Nazis did. And they will lash out and attack with a vengeance anyone who dares to make such comparisons as these articles show [here](#) and [here](#). But the truth must be told no matter how unpleasant and no matter how much it hurts.

Please understand, I’m not saying to call every person you encounter who tries to enforce a mask or a vaccine mandate a Nazi. Especially don’t use it to shut down a conversation in the same way someone might try to shut down a conversation by calling you an anti vaxxer or a conspiracy theorist. You want to be able to discuss things with people calmly and rationally.

In some cases a hardline approach is warranted. In some cases it’s appropriate to say to doctors and nurses who are administering COVID vaccines that they are participating in murder. But do it calmly and firmly. Don’t act like a raving lunatic. But how you approach a given person or act will depend on the situation and the decision will be yours. My advice is when in doubt be nice. But never lose sight of the evil you are up against.

What really irks me is that while some Holocaust survivors are trying to warn the world that oppressive COVID-19 policies is Nazi history repeating itself, other Holocaust survivors and Jewish groups are angry and deeply offended by such comparisons as this March 2021 [article](#) in the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle demonstrates:

Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt: “To compare COVID-19 rules to the slaughter of millions in the Holocaust is disgusting, wrong and has no place in our society.”

Last July, ABC News [reported](#) how offended Holocaust survivors and government officials in France were because people in the massive protests against masks, vaccine passports, and other repressive COVID-19 measures that have been taking place there wore yellow stars and made comparisons to Concentration Camps like Auschwitz.

The article quoted the International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism who accused the protesters of “mocking victims of the ‘Holocaust’ and minimizing crimes against humanity committed during World War II.”

The fact that some people can be so blind is truly astounding. But it’s human nature. Some people just can’t see patterns and connections. Or as the old saying goes, they can’t see the forest through the trees. In their minds if tyrants don’t call themselves Nazis and if they denounce Nazis then they can’t be committing atrocities similar to what the Nazis did.

Two quotes from the ABC news article says it all.

Former Nazi hunter **Serge Klarsfeld**:

“...the yellow star was a symbol of death that excluded Jews from society and marked them for extermination, while vaccines, on the other hand, save lives.’ To equate the two, he told The Associated Press, is an ‘odious’ comparison that serves to trivialize the yellow star.”



Klarsfeld went on to demean the protester's demands for "liberty" and their statements that France's health measures were dictatorial asserting that dictatorships act in their own selfish interests while republics act for the good of all. "What freedom is it they seek? The freedom to be contagious?"

In other words, it's okay for governments to rob us of our freedom and oppress us because, after all, we're in a pandemic. Utter that magic word and we're all supposed to go brain-dead stupid. All rational and critical thinking must cease.

What naive people like Klarsfeld fail to realize is that their underlying premises are false. The corruption of governments and medical science by corporate interests and the wealthy has been well documented in the scientific literature for years as shown [here](#) and [here](#) and there is no COVID-19 pandemic. Those are the plain facts.

Consider this:

On average, [56 million](#) people die every year worldwide. The first COVID-19 cases were reported in December 2019. In just under two years out of a global population of over [7.9 billion](#) a little over [5 million](#) people worldwide have died of COVID-19. A nothing amount. Where's the pandemic? And let's not forget, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website (see Comorbidities and other conditions) [reports](#) that less than 6% of all deaths were due to COVID-19 alone. All the others had multiple comorbidities—other diseases that killed them. So that pathetically small five million death number is grossly exaggerated. Again, where I ask is the pandemic?

Oh, I forgot. The WHO (World Health Organization) changed the definition of pandemic back in 2009. Originally, a pandemic was [defined](#) as "...several simultaneous epidemics worldwide with enormous numbers of deaths and illness." But the deaths and illness parts are no longer there and since 2010 the WHO website [declares](#) that "A pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease."

A May 2009 CNN [article](#) summed it up quite nicely:

“The word pandemic refers to how widely dispersed a disease is, not to how severe the disease is...you can have a pandemic without a large number of deaths.”

Simple common sense folks, what’s the point in declaring a pandemic without enormous numbers of illness and death? It’s like diving into a pool without any water in it and claim that you went swimming.

COVID-19 isn’t a disease or a pandemic. It is a mass delusion, a sick twisted insanity that has gripped the whole planet. Even [Noam Chomsky](#), great intellectual that he is, has gone COVID goofy. He recently called for [segregation](#) of the unvaccinated, saying they should have “the decency to remove themselves from the community” and how they will manage to get food is “their problem.”

This is the kind of hatred and bigotry that Nazi Germany ginned up against the Jewish people. This is why the Nazi comparison is the argument that must be made. It must be the Mark of Cain upon the forehead of any government official, medical professional, or business owner who supports medical genocide.

### **Your papers please**

[Naomi Wolf](#), author, tech company CEO, and former political consultant to the election campaigns of Bill Clinton and Al Gore has been speaking out against COVID-19 policies.

In a recent Fox News [interview](#) she explained how dangerous vaccine passports are:

“I cannot say this forcefully enough: this is literally the end of human liberty in the West...’Vaccine passport’ sounds like a fine thing if you don’t understand what these platforms can do...It is not about the vaccine or the virus, it is about your data...any other functionality can be loaded onto

that platform...it geolocates you wherever you go. All of your medical history can be included—this has already happened in Israel. And six months later, we're hearing from activists that it is a two-tiered society and basically activists are ostracized and surveilled continually. It is the end of civil society and they are trying to roll it out around the world. It is absolutely so much more than a vaccine pass...it has the power to turn off your life, or to turn on your life, to let you engage in society or be marginalized."

In another [video](#) Naomi Wolf further explained:

"The vaccine passport platform is the same platform as a social credit system like in China...it means that when you act like a good citizen you get a boost and when you act like a bad citizen opportunities get closed to you. Maybe your child doesn't get into college or get into prep school. Maybe you don't get that job, you don't get that promotion. The vaccine passport that is being proposed in the rest of the West is the same platform...There's no coming back from this...There won't be capitalism, there won't be free assembly, there won't be privacy, there won't be choice in anything you want to do in your life, and there will be no escape." Business Insider ran a May 2021 [article](#) describing the nightmarish social credit system in China: "Like private credit scores, a person's social score can move up or down depending on their behavior" resulting in punishments like "travel bans, slow internet, and being banned from higher education."

Missing out on good jobs, not only for the offender, but for their children as well even if they did nothing wrong, not being able to obtain credit cards or stay in the best hotels, and public shaming are among some of the other punishments. Good behavior, on the other hand, is rewarded with discounts on energy bills, better interest rates at banks, profile boosts on dating sites, and overall better service.

Behavior that can lower your social credit score is a laundry list of petty nonsense that includes frivolous purchases, buying too many video games,

spending too long playing video games, posting fake news online, posting on social media, loitering, not paying bills on time just to name some.

Even dog owners can get their pets taken away from them for not having them on a leash or if they cause too much of a public disturbance. To get them back they “had to take a test on regulations required for pet ownership.”

And even though Human Rights Watch called the Chinese social credit system “chilling,” Sadly, not to mention stupidly, a percentage of the population has no problem with this fascist baloney—asserting that “it’s making them better people already,” and that “people’s behavior has gotten better and better” and that at first they were worried about “losing points, but now we got used to it.”

Is this the kind of world you want to live in folks? I sure don’t.

## **What we’re up against**

There are [195 countries](#) in the world today. 193 of those countries are [member states](#) of the United Nations and 194 are [members](#) of the WHO (World Health Organization). None of these countries could ever agree on anything. Yet all of them marched in lockstep to the COVID-19 fear narrative. This means that there are two possibilities: either COVID-19 is a real and deadly pandemic or they are under the control of some outside force and COVID-19 is a gigantic colossal lie. The only way to know for sure is to look at the science—the actual research, the hard evidence, not what people in white lab coats, government officials, and talking heads on TV are saying, and see if there is any truth to the claims being made.

After spending a couple of thousand hours looking at the actual science as well as the massive corruption, I have come to the inescapable conclusion that we are being lied to. A global coup has taken place by a small cabal of billionaires and corporations. I don’t know exactly what it is and who or what runs it—maybe no one does. But one thing is certain: it’s real, it’s ugly, it’s evil, and it is hell-bent on destroying and enslaving all of us.

A major player in this global shadow government appears to be The WEF (World Economic Forum) also referred to as [Davos](#). In reality, Davos is the Alpine resort town in Switzerland where the WEF holds its annual meetings. World leaders, billionaires, and other elites flock there to make speeches, hobnob, and who knows what else.

WEF was founded in 1971 by [Klaus Schwab](#). Ironically, Schwab was born in Nazi Germany in 1938. Obviously: not a crime, place of birth isn't his fault. But it is nonetheless ironic because he appears to be, in my opinion, among those very responsible for the COVID mess we are in today.

And as this [video](#) shows, they are determined to make sure that this nightmare will never end. In no uncertain terms the WEF and the WHO are telling us that there will be no return to normal.

The WEF's COVID-19 [agenda](#) is stated on their website:

“The spread of COVID-19 demands global cooperation among governments, international organizations and the business community. This multi stakeholder cooperation is at the centre of the World Economic Forum's mission as the International Organization for Public-Private cooperation.”

No matter how much they try to sugarcoat it, What they are advocating in my opinion is [fascism](#) as defined by Italian philosopher and politician [Giovanni Gentile](#) (1875-1944) and incorrectly attributed to Dictator [Benito Mussolini](#) (1883-1945):

“Fascism should more appropriately be called corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power.”

Two [subgroups](#) of the WEF is Global Leaders for Tomorrow created in 1993 and a [group](#) called The Forum of Young Global Leaders established in 2004. Their members include politicians, corporate CEOs, university professors, journalists, actors, etc.



Among the Young Global Leaders [members](#) are: Rajiv Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, Emmanuel Macron, President of France, [Angela Merkel](#), Chancellor of Germany, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Founders of Google, Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, [Gavin Newsom](#), Governor of California, Leana Wen, Sanjay Gupta, [Pete Buttigieg](#), and [Anderson Cooper](#).

The Young Global Leaders [website](#) describes its members as “a dynamic community of exceptional people with the vision, courage, and influence to drive positive change in the world...we seek to drive public-private cooperation in the global public interest.”

If “positive change in the world” means supporting lockdowns, wearing masks, and forced vaccinations then there is nothing positive about the Forum of Young Global Leaders. In reality, they are like Arnold Schwarzenegger’s character The Terminator. In the original 1984 film, Reese, played by Michael Biehn, explained that the Terminator is an “infiltration unit” (a robot that looks like a human being) and it’s sole purpose is to kill. In the same way, these characters infiltrate governments and other positions of power and work to terminate freedom and democracy. In other words, they are [Manchurian candidates](#) and the way I see it, “the global public interest” doesn’t mean we the public, but wealthy globalists.

What Globalists like the WEF appear to have created is a world empire that on the surface looks like the old Soviet Union, but is fascist rather than communist/socialist in nature. Like the old USSR, individual nations remain, but their governments are puppets who’s strings are pulled by a billionaire class of corporate elites rather than by an imperial government. What they are trying to take us back to is a medieval feudal system where we will own nothing and they will own everything.

And that’s not all. This will be a high-tech feudal system which has been called “The Great Reset” and “The Fourth Industrial Revolution.” I prefer to call it The Fourth Reich because Nazi Germany was called the Third Reich. Under this system, Schwab [declared](#) that it “will lead to a fusion of our physical, our digital, and our biological identities.” In another 2016 [interview](#) Schwab explained that in

about 10 years chips will eventually be implanted in our brains or in our skin enabling direct communication between our brain and the digital world.

In other words, anything can be downloaded directly into your brain: feelings, thoughts, even false memories. Hackers could also potentially do this. You will be in a computer-generated dream world from which you will never wake up. This cannot, this must not be allowed to happen. The people behind this vile agenda and the people who are supporting them are traitors and mass murders who must be brought to justice. These white collar terrorists must pay for the death and economic upheaval they are causing.

Honestly folks, do you really want to be on the side of history that did nothing? How can you live with yourselves? How can you look your children in the eye if you allow this to happen? Find the courage to stand up and resist if not for yourselves then for your families and for future generations.

The medical police state is here. And every police state gets progressively worse until the people have had enough. Have you had enough? Or are you willing to let them do whatever they like with your body? Will you just keep lining up like cattle for the next vaccine they roll out, and the next, and the next? Just remember that if you act like cattle then you will be treated like cattle. And do you know what eventually happens to cattle? They get slaughtered and eaten.

**Michael J Talmo** has been a professional writer for over 40 years and is strongly committed to the protection of civil liberties. He also did three music videos on COVID-19. [The Masker Mash.](#) [COVID Vaccine Man.](#) and [The Corona Globalists.](#) He can be reached at [michaeltalmo@aol.com](mailto:michaeltalmo@aol.com)

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ASSAILANT...OR YOURSELF!

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

Students of self-defense tend in their early months of training to make one of two potentially serious mistakes.

They become so enthusiastic about their new found skills and confidence in their ability to defend themselves, that they tend to underestimate their would-be attackers; i.e. the scum and filth in the street or elsewhere who live with violence, and who might attack them.

Or, failing to appreciate how terribly violent and destructively effective they themselves can be (i.e. not really believing it, and not yet “feeling it in their gut”, so to speak) with the techniques of combative that they are learning, they tend to underestimate themselves.

Either mistake is serious, and must be corrected as soon as possible. From the scummy little bastard in elementary school who bullies other second and third

graders to the professionally trained international terrorist—every single individual who initiates violence for any reason other than self-defense is potentially dangerous (even lethal) and must be respected.

“Respected” certainly does not mean that such living garbage must be respected as a human being. It means that any and every unjustifiably violent person must be respected for the capacity for potential injury and harm that he may inflict upon an innocent person.

If you are smart you respect a hornets’ nest, a rattlesnake, a black widow spider, and a mako shark. In that sense you respect a violent individual. (And lest some fool out there objects to our inclusion of children who bully and attack other children in our cautions, we point out that the victims of these little school age bastards are often injured severely, and on occasion even fatally.)

Violent types are often very formidable. True enough it is rare for a serious violent felon to also possess skills in combat methods per se; but they have in many instances grown up with violence, possibly in the form of physical abuse at home; often with extensive experience in street fighting and brawling.

Their actions when they prey upon the innocent are certainly cowardly in the extreme; but these scum are not necessarily cowards. Some of them literally thrive on violence. Many are mentally disturbed, psychopathic, brain damaged (through the use of drugs, liquor, or both) and/or plainly malcontented, hateful monsters.

They do not care in the least about how badly they injure their victims; in fact they couldn't care less if they kill them. In such instances their only concern is to avoid punishment for their crime. We insist that to attribute humanity to violent offenders and fail to condemn them as wild animals who deserve destruction, is to make a terribly serious mistake.

The admonition of that great warrior-sage Sun Tzu, “Know your enemy and know yourself . . .” bears mentioning here.

Do not deceive yourself or allow the soft-hearted (and soft-headed) to deceive you about the core and nature of the violent offender no matter who the hell he (or she) is. For the potential harm that they may bring you, for the threat that they pose, for the despicable attitude of malice and irresponsibility for their actions that they live by, for intruding upon the innocent to indulge some of the basest drives of the human species, serious respect for the violent offender is due.

And the student of self-defense—no less than the expert!—who remembers this, will be better prepared to handle any situation in which dealing with a violent offender becomes necessary.

While fully acknowledging that a violent type must be respected and never underestimated for his/her potential for inflicting injury, it must be pointed out with equal emphasis, that students of self-defense must never underestimate themselves! They possess physical strength and the capacity to do harm, also!

And as they acquire quality skills in close combat, they possess a growing advantage over the scum, if with their skill comes proper mental conditioning and tactical orientation in which their willingness and readiness to brutalize and savage their attacker equals (or, preferably, exceeds) that of the violent types!

Students of self-defense must appreciate that the techniques of combat work only when they are applied with spirit, vigor, and relentless aggression. Doubting himself—i.e. underestimating himself—will only hamstring and block off the otherwise perfectly capable student from hammering his tormentor into the pavement.

The student can do it. HE REALLY CAN. But he must never underestimate himself when confronting scum, and as a result “shut down” his capacity to utilize what he has acquired through his training.

Even when facing attack by a larger and stronger foe, the advantage of possessing war-proven combat skills, a vicious attack-minded attitude, and the utter indifference to brutalizing and destroying the enemy right now and without mercy gives the defender/student a huge advantage. But he must realize that he

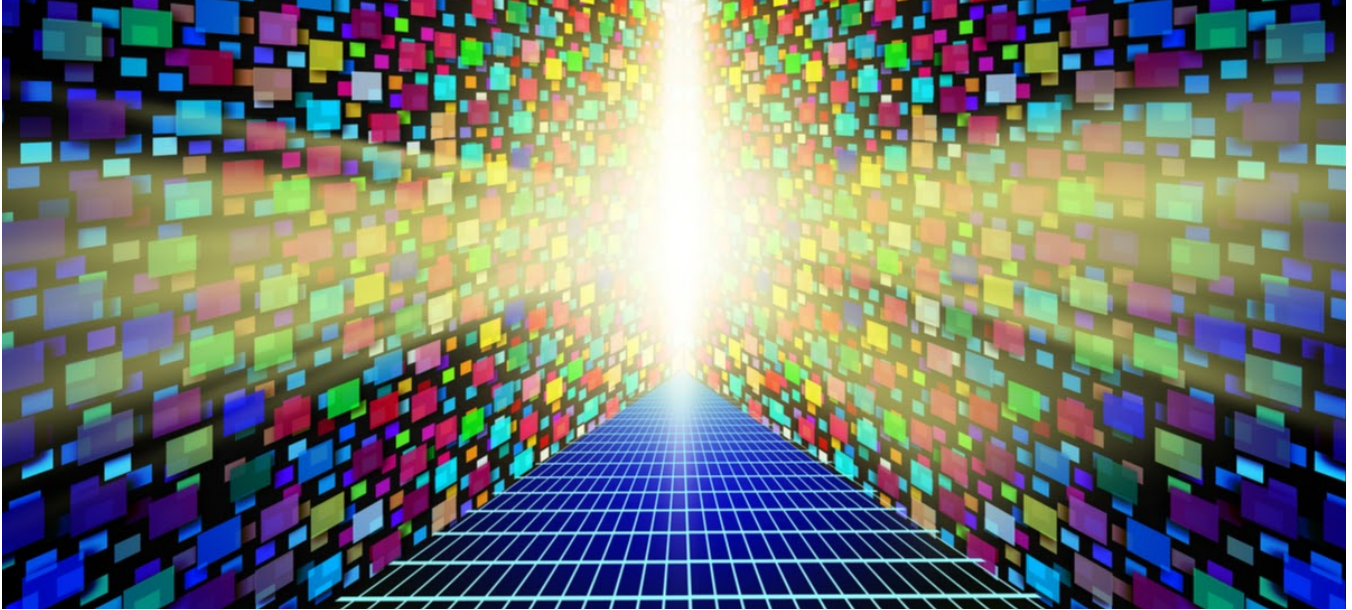
has this advantage, and he must never doubt that he is 100% capable of fully exploiting it when and if he ever must do so.

Please absorb the message here.

In a sense it can make a dangerous tiger out of a startled pussycat. Once you know your enemy and yourself, as Sun Tzu said, “Know your enemy and know yourself; and in a thousand battles you will not be defeated.”



# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## METaverse: THE NEW COLLECTIVE

*“You may be a business man or some high degree thief  
They may call you Doctor or they may call you Chief*

*“But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed  
You're gonna have to serve somebody  
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
But you're gonna have to serve somebody”*

—Bob Dylan, from the song “You Gotta Serve Somebody”

Elon Musk, the world’s richest man, drew the ire of wokeism again this week, when he opined that the biggest threat to humanity is the declining birthrate, warning that civilization will “crumble” if people don’t start having more kids.

In remarks to an annual Wall Street Journal CEO Council meetup, Musk said:

“I think one of the biggest risks to civilization is the low birthrate and the rapidly declining birthrate. And yet, so many people, including smart people, think that there are too many people in the world and think that the population is growing out of control.

“It’s completely the opposite. Please look at the numbers—if people don’t have more children, civilization is going to crumble, mark my words.”

These days, many elites tag “climate change” as a reason why human activity and procreation must be more and more tightly controlled.

But the idea is hardly new. In the 18th century, even as the industrial revolution was creating unprecedented new efficiencies, Thomas Malthus predicted that the boon of industrial revolution would lead to an untenable population explosion.

And in the 20th century, Eugenicists like Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger were consumed with the idea that overbreeding of “inferior” peoples would dilute and potentially destroy human advancement.

A *NY Post* article on Musk’s comments noted that in July, Morgan Stanley analysts attributed the declining birthrate in the U.S. to concerns related to climate change:

“Movement to not have children owing to fears over climate change is growing and impacting fertility rates quicker than any preceding trend in the field of fertility decline,” Morgan Stanley analysts said in a July report.

“Having a child is 7-times worse for the climate in CO2 emissions annually than the next 10 most discussed mitigants that individuals can do,” analysts said, noting that many would-be parents are forgoing family in an effort to reduce their carbon footprint.

What do climate change and population control have to do with the latest moves of elite players to create and direct a “mixed reality” of the real and virtual worlds, dubbed the Metaverse?

The answer may go deeper than many suppose.

## **A Self-Aware Metaverse**

The excitement surrounding the Metaverse goes far beyond novelties like NFT collectibles, immersive virtual meetings and new gaming ecosystems.

What is it that elites see in the fast emerging technology?

The metaverse represents an opportunity to more comprehensively track, control and suppress human activity.

But the Metaverse may represent something even more ominous than a new hybrid virtual and real-world control system.

Along with, and perhaps in conjunction with things like Artificial General Intelligence and Synthetic Biology, the Metaverse might encompass a path to “evolve” beyond the human.

Imagine a universe of objects and experiences networked together, where everything everywhere is known and available to a “meta” intelligence. In a sense, the world itself might take on the attributes of a sentient super being.

Why would anyone want to usher in such a phenomenon?

Because those who believe that most humans are unworthy and unnecessary, are out to create something better that they envision merging with, and/or evolving to, in one way or another.

## Humans Outmoded

In an age of fast evolving Artificial General Intelligence and Synthetic Biology, it's easier than ever for technocrats to disdain humanity.

Already given to collectivist ideologies, many elites see natural humans as not only increasingly useless, but hopelessly individually concerned and selfish.

The Internet of Things (IoT), on the other hand, represents an unparalleled manifestation of collectivism. Networking is inherent. All objects, devices, artifacts, code, and sentient intelligences can be part of one “meta” phenomenon.

The metaverse outstrips any collectivist ideology or party membership, and promises a level of granular control unimaginable even in a time of sophisticated “social credit score” surveillance systems.

In their estimation, the Metaverse may be an ideal successor to hopelessly atomized and outmoded natural human species.

The networking of natural humans relies on speech, visual cues, and conduits like smartphones, computers and other devices to communicate. Human beings may be social creatures, but their brains and bodies are separate and autonomous from each other.

At best, humans can only be “upgraded.” To be sure, new technologies will devise tighter and tighter integrations into the metaverse, or so hope the new radical prosetalysts with a certain vision for the technology.

But ultimately, many technocrats involved in the cutting edges of technology aren't toiling to create something that serves humankind, Humans might be integrated, or tolerated.

In the Metaverse, transhumanists may have found a collectivist master they are only too happy to serve, while leaving the bulk of natural humanity behind.

Elon Musk rightly pointed out the wrongheaded anti-humanism behind the climate change agenda. He probably sincerely believes his “teslabots” can free humanity from unnecessary menial labor.

But many of his elite brethren, and soon a Meta intelligence, may have other ideas about what advanced robotics and other percolating innovations spell for natural humankind.

For related articles, see:

- [“THE ‘PROGRESS’ OF LEAVING HUMANS BEHIND”](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- [“SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE”](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- [“‘BIO-PHARMA’ PROFITING OFF A TRANSHUMAN FUTURE”](#) (27 Jul 2021)
- [RESET, REMAKE AND BUILD BACK BETTER: SCIENTIFIC MARXISM](#) (7 Dec 2021)

## THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



### NOT SO SECRET: FORMER NASA ENGINEER BRINGS HYPERSONIC MISSILE TO CHINA

That Chinese hypersonic missile test that made news recently? Thank NASA, and a U.S. government which has shown very little will in countering massive Chinese espionage.

The Chinese military is developing a 6,000-mph hypersonic nuclear missile engine based on an abandoned NASA design, *The Washington Examiner* and other news outlets reported this past week.

According to a source, a prototype of the engine was created and tested using a "radical" American concept initially presented more than 20 years ago as the nation seeks to surpass the West in a modern weapons competition.

Ming Han Tang, a Chinese born immigrant with American citizenship, a former head engineer of NASA's hypersonic program, presented the concept to the People's Republic.

How is it legal for a high-placed engineer with an American government aeronautics program to shop advanced military tech to the nation's most dangerous potential adversary?

Good question.

Then again, this latest incident of spectacular Chinese IP theft hardly stands alone.

The Chinese have been allowed to engage in massive IP theft of both military and business technology over the last quarter century.

The fact that the Communist country steals upwards of \$500 billion in IP value annually from the U.S., manages to fly under the radar of the mainstream media, and many in government.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the subject in stories including ["CHINA BUSINESS ESPIONAGE NETS \\$500 BILLION A YEAR"](#) (29 Jun 2021), ["CHINA 'TALENT PROGRAM' GIFTED AT STEALING AMERICAN IP"](#) (26 Oct 2021), ["CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE"](#) (13 Jul 2021).

Tang's Two-Stage Vehicle X-plane is powered by two engines and has a maximum speed of five times the speed of sound.

It was supposed to be tested in the early 2000s by the U.S., but the initiative was scrapped because it was judged "too expensive."



According to reports, the Chinese military considers money to be "no issue," and collaborated with Tan Huijun, a professor at Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, to create a prototype based on Tang's designs.

In August, a Chinese rocket carrying a hypersonic glide was launched discreetly, shocking American intelligence and military experts. And In October, the Chinese military demonstrated its acquired power by launching a hypersonic missile capable of carrying a nuclear payload.

In addition to IP theft and espionage, the **Trends Journal** has pointed to the extent of more general Chinese influence over American media, businesses, educational institutions and government officials, in stories including:

- ["APPLE BETRAYS CHINESE USERS FOR PROFIT"](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- ["UNIVERSITIES HIDING CCP CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES"](#) (12 Oct 2021)
- ["THE BUSHIES SPEAK: WHO CARES WHERE COVID CAME FROM?"](#) (2 Nov 2021)
- ["CHINA LINKED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE PUSH IN U.S. SCHOOLS"](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- ["HOW THE CCP WENT VIRAL ON THE WINGS OF COVID"](#) (5 Oct 2021)
- ["AMERICA DRIFTS TOWARD CHINA'S 'TECHNO-AUTOCRACY'"](#) (9 Feb 2021)

# TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



**IMF CALLS FOR “GLOBAL” CRYPTO REGULATION.** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) used a recent blog post to call for a "global policy stance on cryptocurrencies that is comprehensive, coherent, and coordinated."

IMF officials Tobias Adrian, Dong He, and Aditya Narain cited the fast rise of the digital asset market, in arguing for global regulations. The three argue that rising hazards need a comparable governmental response in the face of such expansion.

"The IMF's mandate is to safeguard the stability of the international monetary and financial system, and crypto assets are changing the system profoundly," the IMF said in a Friday blog post.

The IMF is closely tied to and allied with central banks around the world. That system has overseen the wholesale theft of the accrued savings of millions of average working people, via systematic money inflation that has allowed governments to engage in obscene levels of spending.

The U.S. is currently among those paying a heavy price in the form of general inflation, which is at its worst level in 40 years.

Many have pointed out that IMF guided policies including the infamous bank bailouts during the financial crisis of 2007-2008 was one of the motivations for the creation of Bitcoin, the first cryptocurrency.

More recently, the IMF was among entities pushing for inflationary stimulus spending during the COVID War, which devastated small and medium sized businesses and average workers while driving even more wealth into the hands of a relatively few global elites.

The **Trends Journal** covered that story in articles including [“TECHNOCRATS WIDEN WEALTH GAP THANKS TO PANDEMIC”](#) (13 Apr 2020), [“EUROZONE NEEDS MORE STIMULUS SPENDING, IMF SAYS”](#) (20 Apr 2021) and [“BILLIONAIRES REAP PANDEMIC PROFITS”](#) (9 Jun 2021).

The failures of the fiat system of which the IMF is an integral part, hasn't stopped the entity from proclaiming the dangers of cryptos.

"Such risks underscore why we now need comprehensive international standards that more fully address risks to the financial system from crypto assets, their associated ecosystem, and their related transactions, while allowing for an enabling environment for useful crypto asset products and applications," IMF officials wrote in their post.

They characterized global regulation as an urgent need, discounting the benefits that would come from different localities adopting strategies and competing to see which kinds of regulation could help the innovative technology succeed best and grow and preserve wealth for average people hammered by fiat money controllers.

Their post argued:

"There is an urgent need for cross-border collaboration and cooperation to address the technological, legal, regulatory, and supervisory challenges. Setting up a comprehensive, consistent, and coordinated regulatory approach to crypto is a daunting task. But if we start now, we can achieve the policy goal of maintaining financial stability while benefiting from the benefits that the underlying technological innovations bring."

The IMF has previously railed against bitcoin, and in July tried to scare El Salvador away from adopting the crypto as legal tender. As the **Trends Journal** reported, the intimidation didn't work.

International law allows countries to decide what they accept as legal tender.

The IMF has come out with arguments against bitcoin which are frankly laughable, considering that currencies including the dollar are currently undergoing devaluations that have left average people in shock at the erosion of how to store the value of their labor without having it siphoned away by inflation.

The IMF argued over the summer about bitcoin:

"If goods and services were priced in both a real currency and a crypto asset, households and businesses would spend significant time and resources choosing which money to hold as opposed to engaging in productive activities. Government revenues would be exposed to exchange rate risk if taxes were quoted in advance in a crypto asset while expenditures remained mostly in the local currency, or vice versa."

Many analysts argue that nations already have regulations which can deal with crypto scams while not impeding a sector that is showing signs of generating tremendous innovations that can revitalize tired western economies.

"Regulators need to figure out what their stance is going to be—and hopefully it's going to be a more reasonable and accommodative one," Ashley Ebersole, a former SEC enforcement lawyer, said about the matter in an August 2021 interview.

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



### **MYANMAR GOVERNMENT IN EXILE OPTS FOR USDT.**

Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG), currently out of power as a result of a military coup, has announced it is advocating to use a crypto stablecoin to replace the country's official Kyat currency.

An official statement by the exiled leadership read:

“To improve and accelerate the current trading and financial services, the following digital currency, a stablecoin, now has been officially recognized for usage within the nation – Tether (USDT)...

“Thus, declaring the order note (September 2020) released by the Central Bank of Myanmar as invalid. The military regime controls the central bank.”

The reasons for the move to USDT could be tied to the efforts of the NUG to remain funded in the face of tight monetary and banking controls being exerted by the military Junta currently in control in the country.

Myanmar has been roiled in a crisis over a 2020 election which split the nation over claims of fraud and subterfuge.

Massive protests against an ensuing military coup have been met with harsh measures.

The European Union has legally recognized the NUG as the country's only legitimate representation.

The **Trends Journal** has extensively covered the Myanmar crisis. Some touchstone stories include:

- [“YOUTH REVOLUTION 2021: MYANMAR MILITARY VS. THE PEOPLE”](#) (23 Feb 2021)
- [“MYANMAR: OPPOSITION FORMS NEW GOVERNMENT”](#) (20 Apr 2021)

The **Trends Journal** noted cryptos would allow political dissident movements greater power in resisting authoritarian crackdowns, in articles such as [“HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS “BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION”](#) (29 Jun 2021).

### **WISDOMTREE WILL TRY AGAIN WITH “UPGRADED” BITCOIN ETF.**

WisdomTree, a New York-based asset management firm, isn't taking rejection lightly.

It has reapplied with the Securities and Exchange Commission petition for a Bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF). This time they've listed the U.S. National Bank Association as a custodian for shares of its proposed Bitcoin Trust.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) denied a proposal from the Cboe BZX Exchange to list and trade shares in WisdomTree's Bitcoin Trust on Dec. 2.

The SEC is still reviewing a different ETF application for WisdomTree's Ethereum Trust, which was filed in May.

WisdomTree manages over \$76 billion in assets, and is noted for its crypto ventures. It has so far established four cryptocurrency indexes in the United States and Europe to give investors with a portfolio exposure to the sector.

The firm also offers an exchange-traded product with exposure to a basket of cryptocurrencies on the Euronext markets in Paris and Amsterdam.



So far the SEC has rejected all attempts by financial firms to list so-called spot ETFs. In October it did approve several investment products tied to cryptocurrency futures.

Many analysts say the U.S. is falling behind as a result of the SEC's rejections, as well a high profile legal battle with XRP over whether that crypto will be classified as a security, a commodity, or something else.

At a Congressional hearing this past week, Brian Brooks, Bitfury CEO and former Acting Comptroller of the Currency, told lawmakers:

“There are some products that are legal in other countries and are just not legal here. One of the things that makes crypto risky is that consumers may not understand the difference between one token and another token, so they may want to diversify [...] we don't allow that in the United States—we do allow it in Canada, we allow it in Germany, Singapore, Portugal and a number of other places.”

Brooks made the comments at a hearing on Digital Assets and the Future of Finance with the House Committee on Financial Services.

According to Cointelegraph.com, Brooks went on to say that “If you're a developer of [exchange-traded funds], there's no fuzzy line, it's super clear: You cannot do that here, so you have to go abroad.”

# TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



## NY'S UNELECTED NEW GOV. DICTATES MASK MANDATE

New York's governor, Kathy Hochul (who served as Lt. Governor under Andrew Cuomo, and succeeded him when he was forced to resign over sexual harassment allegations), has imposed a new, statewide mask mandate.

Despite no one dying of the new Omicron variant in New York State—or the world, according to the World Health Organization—Hochul declared that businesses are responsible for checking the vaccine status for every individual... which Rep. Elise Stefanik (R, NY), said is “an untenable and outrageous request of our business community.”

According to *The New York Times*, Stefanik is among the outspoken critics of the new mandate and has called it "authoritarian" and "crushing" for small businesses.

The mandate, in effect as of Monday, 13 December and set to run until at least 15 January, decrees that masks be worn in all indoor public spaces that do not require proof of COVID-19 vaccination for entry. Local health departments are

responsible for enforcement, and civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance include fines of up to \$1000 per violation.

Under the new rule, businesses will not be permitted to let masked but unvaccinated patrons mix with those who are vaccinated but unmasked; a business will have to impose a policy of admitting only those with proof of vaccination, or one requiring all to be masked regardless of vax status.

The governor has established this new mandate in anticipation of a surge in COVID cases this winter, with special concern over the new Omicron variant. She calls it a "wake-up call" for the rest of the state, because some areas have lagged in vaccination rates and imposing mask rules. It's not expected to force many changes in New York City, where proof-of-vaccination is already required in many venues.

There was an immediate backlash against the mandate from Republican officials, and the board of supervisors of Madison County, near Syracuse, vowed to not enforce it, calling it the latest "disconnect that exists between Albany [the state capital] and our upstate counties." There is also resistance in some New York City suburbs.

New York joins Washington, Oregon, Illinois, New Mexico, Nevada and Hawaii as states that have reimposed similar indoor mask mandates. California is also set to join that list as of tomorrow, 15 December.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have long forecast, the type of masks that the vast majority of the public wear do not stop the virus. And, as was recommended by "health experts" when the virus first broke out, only those who are sick and most susceptible should be wearing masks that work... and not the healthy, since long periods of mask wearing have proven to be a health hazard. (See ["DOCTORS: WEAR MASKS, GET SICK"](#) (20 Oct 2020), ["STUDY: MASKS HARMING CHILDREN"](#) (12 Jan 2021), ["WEAR MASKS, BREATHE TOXIC PARTICLES"](#) (13 Apr 2020) and ["WEAR MASKS, GET SICK"](#) (23 Jun 2020).*

Also, as of this writing, we're still waiting for any reports of deaths attributed to the Omicron variant; see ["WHAT'S UP WITH OMICRON?"](#) (7 Dec 2021).

## FATTEN UP, GET SICK, GET COVID



When the **Trends Journal** reports the facts that proves 78 percent of those hospitalized with coronavirus are either overweight or [obese](#), it is ignored by the media, health “officials” and politicians that demand “No Vax, No Freedom.”

But now, considering that *The New York Times*, that arrogantly tells the world that they, and they alone determine “All the News That’s Fit to Print,” printed last week that getting fat is COVID deadly. On 9 December the *Times* detailed a study posted online in October and which sheds some new light on how the COVID virus works and what makes certain people more susceptible.

The key may be in how the virus affects fat cells. While the body's fat tissue was once thought to be inert and merely provide storage for fat, fat cells are now known to be biologically active, producing hormones and immune responses. Inflammation is the body's response to microbial invasion, and sometimes that invasion triggers a state of low-grade inflammation which can be more damaging than whatever microbe caused it.

And this might explain why persons who are overweight or obese are especially at risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. Despite other conditions—such as Type 2 diabetics—increasing risk, body fat may be the determining factor.

**TRENDPOST:** *Trends Journal* has noticed this phenomenon; see ["COVID-19 AND OBESITY: THE MORE YOU WEIGH, THE WORSE OFF YOU ARE"](#) (9 Mar 2021) and ["COVID-19 AND OBESITY: THE ELEPHANT IS STILL IN THE ROOM"](#)

(4 May 2021).

The COVID virus may target the body's fat cells, infecting them and immune cells within body fat and provoking a damaging defensive response.

"Whatever happens in fat doesn't stay in fat," said a scientist quoted by the *NYT* although not involved in the study. "It affects the neighboring tissues as well."

The capacity of body fat to welcome and harbor pathogens is not unknown; influenza and H.I.V. are among those to which body fat has been shown to be especially vulnerable.

Statistically, the *NYT* notes, Americans of Black, Hispanic, Native American and Alaskan Native ethnicity are more obese than adult white or Asian American persons, and have COVID death rates roughly twice those of white Americans.

***TRENDPOST:*** As we have noted when the COVID War began in 2020, 42 percent of America's population is obese (one of the highest rates worldwide), and 70 percent are overweight.

*Thus, while once-upon-a-time America was the envy of the world for high-class elements and style, now, the nation is most frequently stereotyped and made fun of for being fat. In fact, of the global population of nearly 8 billion people, in the obese land of America which accounts for 4.16 percent of the world's population, 15.36 percent of the COVID deaths are from the U.S.A.*

## U.K., FU: COVID RULES FOR THEE, BUT NOT FOR ME



Over in the U.K., Boris Johnson's government is dealing with a scandal. But it's not a huge, headline-grabbing sex-and-spy scandal, like the Profumo affair back in the swinging '60s that roiled (and

eventually helped bring down) the government of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

No, this is a scandal of the COVID War... an uproar over a Christmas party that lying Johnson said didn't happen because of strict lockdown mandates he imposed on the nation... but it did.

The *Financial Times* reports, on 9 December, that Johnson had addressed the House of Commons the previous day and had promised a full investigation of allegations that, on 18 December 2020, a Christmas party had been held at Number 10 Downing Street, which is the headquarters of the British government and also the Prime Minister's residence.

The alleged party was allegedly attended by government and office staff, some of whom were also seen in a later video allegedly joking about the party. But the party was alleged to have taken place while London was under strict COVID-19 lockdown, and while such gatherings were forbidden to be held.

Johnson has apologized "unreservedly" for how "infuriating" it must be for the country to have the "impression" that "the people who have been setting the rules have not been following them," and said he himself had been told that no such party had occurred and that no COVID rules had been broken.

***TRENDPOST: Is anyone else reminded of the old joke in which a man accused of rape declares "That wasn't me, I wasn't there, and anyway, that's not even the woman I raped!"?***

In the video, Johnson's staffers are allegedly mocking accusations of having attended a Christmas party by suggesting that, "It wasn't a party. It was cheese and wine."

Johnson was accused by Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, of "taking the public for fools." "They knew there was a party," he said, "they knew it was against the rules, they knew they couldn't admit it, and they thought it was funny."



Johnson's press secretary, who had appeared in the video, has since resigned, saying it had not been her intention to "appear to make light of the rules," and adding, "I will regret those remarks for the rest of my days."

Johnson's former education secretary was also alleged to have held a Christmas party during last year's lockdown, and a spokesperson confirmed that "a gathering" had occurred, and apologized.

The concern is that such allegations of officials breaking their own rules will undermine the new, more stringent requirements for mask-wearing and vax passports that have just been announced to deal with the new, more contagious Omicron variant.

***TRENDPOST:*** *It is a sick joke that the cast of clowns across the political stage and top of the business spectrum "apologize" for their lies and deceit. These pathological sociopaths and psychopaths only apologize for getting caught and not for the moral crimes they have committed.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *As **Trends Journal** has noted in the past, politicians around the world love to make up rules and force ordinary people to obey them—see ["COVID RULES & REGULATIONS: POLITICIANS MAKING THEM UP AS THEY GO"](#) (26 May 2020)—while frequently exempting themselves from compliance; see ["FACE MASKS: ENOUGH ALREADY"](#) (12 Oct 2021) and scroll down to "Hypocrites and liars all."*

*Gerald Celente adds: "Like wars—they start them, but never fight them."*

*Furthermore, "The morons that invented the long list of COVID regulations to abide by are of the same imbecilic bureaucratic class that forced us to hide under our school desks in air-raid drills during the Cold War. The vast majority obeyed, never questioning the stupidity that if an atom bomb were dropped, how would being under a desk save lives?"*

## PLAY SCRAMBLE: DOES OMICRON = MORONIC?



It was 18 days ago when the Omicron fear and hysteria hit the globe. On the news that one case (yes one case, no death) was identified in California, the Dow tanked 900 points.

Since that time, as we have detailed in the **Trends Journal**, travel and other draconian COVID War mandates have been imposed across the globe.

And as of yesterday, according to the World Health Organization, of the nearly 8 billion people on the planet, zero have died from the Omicron variant.

But that suddenly changed, and it is headline news!

Now, according to U.K. Prime Minister Boris, “The Liar” Johnson—who, as we report in this **Trends Journal** (See “U.K., FU: COVID RULES FOR THEE, BUT NOT FOR ME” in this issue), began imposing more COVID mandates after being caught lying about the Christmas bash he held while he locked down the entire nation—announced yesterday that there was one suspected Omicron virus death.

This was yesterday’s Drudge Report top headline:

### **WORLD'S FIRST OMICRON DEATH IN UK**

As a result of the one death—yes, just one death in the nation of 67 million people since the first omicron was detected in the U.K. 17 days ago—the British health authority announced yesterday that fully vaxxed now means two shots and a booster.

What the U.K. health shill did not report to the House of Commons when he made the three shot announcement was that—according to what was reported

in Yahoo News yesterday—the fact that the two shots which were sold to the public in 2000 and most of 2021 had up to a 96 percent efficacy rate, was pure bullshit:

“A [study](#) published in the journal *Science* this month found that Pfizer's vaccine efficacy at preventing infection in immunized individuals, declined from 86% to 43% from February to October. Moderna's vaccine dropped from 89% to 58%, and J&J's vaccine fell from 86% to 13%.”

## **Sell Fear, Forget Facts**

As reported 8 December in *The New York Times*, a study conducted in South Africa, where the Omicron variant of COVID-19 was first identified and is said to be spreading rapidly, reveals that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may be less effective against Omicron than against earlier variants.

Vaccinated people appear to be vulnerable to breakthrough infections of Omicron, although both boosters and prior COVID-19 infections seem to increase the level of protection.

The findings may explain incidents of fairly widespread Omicron infections, such as an office party in Norway in which half of the 120 vaccinated attendees tested positive.

A report on the same South African study, in the 8 December edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, says that the Omicron variant may be able to partially sidestep the protection otherwise afforded by vaccines like the one from Pfizer-BioNTech. As in the *NYT* story, the *WSJ* noted that booster shots and recovery from other COVID-19 variants seemed to provide greater protection, although scientists worry that the variant may prove able to sidestep those immunities as well.

Also noted are the border closings and other restrictions being imposed in response to the new variant, which appears able to be transmitted twice as rapidly as previous strains.

And as we reported in the 20 November 2021 **Trends Journal**, according to Dr. Angelique Coetzee, the chairwoman of the South African Medical Association, who first sounded the variant alarm, said those who got it had “unusual but mild symptoms.”

**TRENDPOST:** *Up until today’s “One Dead in the U.K.” announcement, the Trends Journal has noted there were no mentions of deaths or serious hospitalizations attributed to the Omicron variant. But all the “experts,” including the esteemed Dr. Anthony Fauci (who never lies and is always right), seem reluctant to posit that Omicron is simply a more transmissible but far milder variant of the original virus, even though that would fit the epidemiological model of how viruses generally mutate and evolve.*

*Perhaps acknowledging Omicron's lack of capacity for causing serious symptoms would risk slowing down the “more vaccinations (and boosters) for more people, forever” agenda and derail the Drug Lords’ “durable revenue stream”; see [“MORE COVID JABS. MORE BIG BUCKS FOR DRUG LORDS”](#) (28 Sep 2021).*

## AMERICANS POLL ROUGHLY 50-50 ON VAX MANDATES



*The Wall Street Journal* reports on 8 December, on a survey taken after Pres. Biden's COVID-19 vaccination mandate (scheduled to go into effect on 4 January and ordering private employers of 100 or more to require their employees to get vaxxed or submit to weekly testing) was

temporarily blocked by legal challenges; see [“BIDEN VAX MANDATE CONTESTED”](#) (9 Nov 2021). The survey results showed Americans almost evenly split on their support of that mandate, with 50 percent in favor and 47 percent opposed.

Biden's vaccine mandate for health care workers, also blocked by courts, had slightly more support, as did state and local vaccine mandates for police, firefighters and other public service workers, favored by 55 percent and opposed by 44 percent.

Vax mandates for children 12 and older had 51 percent support and 45 percent opposition, while vaccine mandates for children 5 to 11 yrs. old were split down the middle, 48 percent approving and 48 percent opposed.

It all goes to show the divisiveness that the COVID War has wrought, even now that some 68.3 percent of the eligible population has been fully vaccinated; see ["VAX WARS"](#) (30 Nov 2021).

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The United States (and much of the world) will continue to devolve into Vaxxed vs. Unvaxxed, and respecters of individual freedoms vs. those only too eager to support and accept government control of every aspect of their lives.*

*This division will continue to help fuel the worker shortage, especially in key fields like healthcare where workers decline the job despite job loss; see ["MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?"](#) (14 Sep 2021).*

*And, considering the split among the population, we maintain our forecast for growing anti-vax, anti-tax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment movements that will challenge the two-party crime syndicate controlling Washington.*

*Meanwhile, governments and their media lackeys will continue to vilify those who dare to question, challenge or resist the official COVID narratives; see ["VAX WAR: THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD"](#) (23 Nov 2021). This will beget further resistance, which in turn may drive governments toward more desperate measures, including deliberately fanning international tensions; as Gerald Celente has repeatedly warned, "When all else fails, they take you to war."*



## PFIZER'S COVID JAB: JOKESTER'S WILD



None of this comes as a “shock” or surprise to **Trends Journal** subscribers. Last week it was announced that Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine’s effectiveness has declined from 86 percent to 43 percent because the neutralizing ability of the jab was up to four times less effective against the Omicron variant.

Researchers at Israel’s Sheba Medical Center conducted a study focused on individuals who have had two jabs and those who received a third shot.

The study found that those with two jabs had no neutralizing ability against the new variant. (See [“BIDEN’S BOOSTER PLAN: VAX YOU!”](#), [“SELLING BOOSTER SHOTS, CDC’S WALENSKY SAYS ‘FU’ TO AGENCY ADVISERS,”](#) [“THE VAX/BOOSTER MARKET: DRUG DEALER ON PARADE”](#) and [“GOVERNMENTS HAWKING COVID BOOSTER SHOT.”](#))

Indeed, go back to **Trends Journal** articles about how the power of the COVID-19 vaccines to protect against the virus fades over time; see, for example, [“ISRAEL: COVID DRUG MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN WHAT WE’VE BEEN SOLD”](#) (27 Jul 2021).

And the news gets worse and worse.

Even the Cartoon News Network, CNN, reported on 6 October, that two studies—one from Israel, one from Qatar—published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, indicate that the protection from two doses of Pfizer's vaccine diminishes significantly after a mere two months.

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



The Qatar study showed that the Pfizer vaccine's protection peaks a month after the second dose, and wanes gradually until, after about 4 months, when it fades more rapidly, to about a low of about 20 percent.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Pfizer hasn't disputed that its vaccine's protection wanes; rather, the company has used that to promote the need for booster shots 6 months or so after the second COVID shot.*

*The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises those at high risk of infection (like health care workers) as well as those vulnerable to serious illness if infected, to get boosters. In ["DRUG LORDS' VAX BOOM BOOMING"](#) (8 Jun 2021) we reported that booster shots have been a big part of Pfizer's plans to keep supplying the world with a steady stream of COVID vaccines through at least 2023.*

*The entire notion of vaccine-induced immunity was predicated on the claim that the vaccines were long-lasting and conferred 96 percent protection. Now, the CDC tells us, the rate of people getting booster shots exceeds the rate of those being vaccinated for the first time.*

## **Fast Forward**

Last week, Dr. Gili Regev-Yochay, the director of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit at Sheba, said it was “worrisome” that those who have two jabs—once the gold standard—had no neutralization ability, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. These declines in effectiveness seem to be consistent. A study in South Africa showed the vaccine could be up to 40 times less effective against the variant.

Sharon Alroy-Preis, the head of public health services at the Israeli Health Ministry, said in a recent interview that the studies prove that getting the third shot could save lives, and her department is considering asking individuals to take their third dose as soon as three months after they received their second.

The variant, although considered more contagious than previous strains, seems to pack less of a punch than its older siblings. As noted, the United Kingdom on Monday recorded its first death of a patient with the variant.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is doing what he can to cover-up his lies for holding a Christmas party in 2020 when he locked down the nation and forbade such gatherings (See article “U.K., FU: COVID RULES FOR THEE, BUT NOT FOR ME” in this **Trends Journal**) has put the nation on fear alert.

Despite the hard facts of the Omicron being less severe than the original coronavirus or the Delta strain, Johnson said, “I think the idea that this is somehow a milder version of the virus, that’s something we need to set on one side and just recognize the sheer pace at which it accelerates through the population.”

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla remarked on 9 November he believes the protection afforded by the booster shots will “last for a year,” after which annual booster shots will be likely.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We'll be seeing more and more rationales presented for the Drug Dealers' "Vaccines for Everyone, in Perpetuity" agenda. The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children 5 to 11 yrs. old, despite their risks being statistically minuscule; see ["DRUG DEALERS: GET KIDS VACCINATED"](#) (23 Mar 2021) and ["JAB KIDS WHO WON'T DIE OF THE VIRUS: THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE VAX BUSINESS"](#) (9 Nov 2021).*

*The Omicron variant is a reminder that governments want to jab first—and then ask questions later.*

*Pfizer's CEO divulged the long-term plan when he said that his company considered COVID-19 a "durable revenue stream"; see ["NO LETUP IN SURGE OF VAX BIZ REVENUES"](#) (3 Aug 2021).*

## VAX DRUG GANG ON PARADE: FOLLOW THE MONEY



Many a puzzlement, the kind of mystery that would baffle sleuths like Sherlock Holmes, Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, The Hardy Boys or even Theo Kojak, yields its secrets when the investigator decides to

simply "follow the money."

And "following the money" could even explain why so many of our elected leaders, political parasites, are so eager to climb aboard the COVID-19 vaccine bandwagon and be cheerleaders for ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages to line up and present their arms for the jab, or two jabs, or however many jabs are deemed the current magic number to kill COVID.

Totally out of the news, as we had reported. The guy playing President of the United States, Joe Biden, who has been a get vaxxed or no job champion, got \$1,000,000 from the Pfizer drug dealers to celebrate his inauguration...

### Way out West

Take, for example, the governor of Montana, Greg Gianforte. As reported by the *Montana Daily Gazette* on 6 December and *Natural News* on 7 December, the governor, a Republican, toured his state this summer advocating that Montanans, especially veterans, avail themselves of the Pfizer vaccine, describing it on many occasions as "safe and effective."

***TRENDPOST:*** *Is the Pfizer vax, or any other COVID vax, truly "safe and effective"? See ["COVID VACCINE: 'SIGNIFICANT SAFETY CONCERNS'"](#) (15 Dec 2020), ["VAX DEATHS FROM CDC'S VAERS DOWNPLAYED"](#) (16 Feb 2021) and ["CDC: NEARLY 11,000 DEATHS FROM COVID JAB"](#) (20 Jul 2021).*

*Natural News* does note that "to his credit, Gianforte has not tried to implement a vaccine or mask mandate in his state." But that hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for the Pfizer jab.

And why should it? Gianforte, it turns out, is heavily invested in the vaccine's maker. "Heavily invested" alludes to the nearly \$798,000 that he had invested in Pfizer as of 2018 (when he was a Montana Congressman), the last year that such figures are listed by the site Open Secrets, whose motto is "Following the Money in Politics."

That site lists more than 20 other members of Congress who had more than \$15,000 invested in Pfizer in 2018, not to mention the 15 or so whose investments were in the under-\$15,000 range. A mere handful (including only one Democrat) had investments of \$100,000 or more, and Gianforte was second on the list, below only Jim Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin (now retired), whose investments in Pfizer were between \$1 million and \$5 million.

## **Washington Crime Syndicate**

But never mind the investments (and whatever ethical questions they should but apparently have so far failed to raise). Pfizer's political action committee contributed to the campaign funds of 228 lawmakers. And Pfizer is hardly alone; overall, the pharmaceutical industry donated at least \$14 million to the campaigns of lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Yesterday, Business Insider reported that there were "Nearly 75 federal lawmakers who held stocks in COVID-19 vaccine makers Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, or Pfizer in 2020, with many of them buying or selling these stocks in the early weeks of the pandemic."

***TRENDPOST:*** *And what do the Drug Lords get in return for their munificence toward those who have so humbly dedicated their lives to public service? Let's just say that the pharmaceutical business, always lucrative, has been especially so in the Age of COVID; so much so that \$14 million in campaign contributions is*

*mere petty cash; see ["VAX MINTS NEW BILLIONAIRES"](#) (25 May 2021) and ["VAX MAKERS: THE BILLIONAIRES CLUB GETS BIGGER"](#) (19 Oct 2021).*

## **FDA: FU! WON'T RELEASE 400,000 PAGES OF COVID VAX DATA**



A group of scientists and doctors sued the Food and Drug Administration under a Freedom of Information Act that urges the agency to release 400,000 pages of information pertaining to the approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

Aaron Siri of Siri & Glimstad represents the plaintiffs in the case. He has used his Substack platform to inform followers about the FDA's apparent attempt to withhold data. He posted that the agency asked a federal judge to "make the public wait until the year 2076 to disclose all the data and information it relied upon" to license the vaccine.

"The federal government mandating that millions of people be injected with a liability-free vaccine requires complete government transparency – not the government's suppression of information," read a brief from the plaintiffs, Public Health and Medical Professionals for Transparency. The brief continued, "The FDA wants to wait until most of those scientists are long since dead to fully release the data. News outlets, politicians, and scientists have called the FDA's position 'outrageous.' They are correct."

The plaintiffs want all the relevant data in 108 days—the same amount of time they say it took the FDA to approve the vaccine, Reuters reported. (See: ["FDA & BIG PHARMA, ONE BIG CLUB,"](#) ["NEW FDA HEAD STUCK IN REVOLVING DOOR,"](#) and ["AMERICANS GETTING SCREWED: FDA IN BED WITH PIG PHARMA."](#))

Suzann Burk, who heads the FDA's Division of Disclosure and Oversight Management, in a declaration filed with the court said the agency is required to review "all responsive records before producing them in response to a FOIA request." She said it will take about eight minutes per page to appropriately review.

Siri called the FDA's position "dystopian" since the government gave Pfizer billions, "mandate Americans to take its product, prohibit Americans from suing for harms, but yet refuse to let Americans see the data underlying its licensure," Reuters reported.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As the late-great comedian George Carlin noted, "It's one big club and you ain't in it."*

*The FDA claims collaboration with the drug industry is necessary and helpful. But the critics believe that such closeness constitutes a breach of an ethical barrier between the regulators and those they are supposed to regulate.*

### ***Need proof?***

*As we had noted, the former FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb is now on the board of directors of Pfizer, the Big Pharma drug dealer. According to reliefweb.int, Peoples Vaccine Alliance reports that Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna make \$1,000 vax profit every second.*

*The Alliance's review of the drug dealer's financial statements, estimates that between the three companies, they will make pre-tax profits of \$34 billion this year. They also note that five drug lords of these companies became new billionaires since the COVID War began, with a combined net wealth of \$35.1 billion.*



## BRITISH PRESSTITUTES DELETE ANTI-VAX MANDATE POLL



“Good Morning Britain,” the popular ITV show, faced backlash earlier this month after its social media team removed a poll that showed nearly 90 percent of respondents opposed to any vaccine mandates.

The poll mentioned the Omicron variant—the latest strain of the coronavirus—and asked followers if it was time to make vaccines mandatory. A screengrab showed 44,713 votes with 89 percent opposed and 11 percent in favor. RT.com reported that the network did not immediately clarify why the post was removed.

“Why did you delete this poll, is it because you were asked?” one commenter posted, according to RT. “Or because it shows the people don’t support this s\*\*t, this tyrannical future your colleagues seem to want. We see you.”

Another commenter pointed out the vast majority of people are not at risk for serious infection, and vaccines are less effective against the Omicron variant.

“So many have already had cov1d [sp] now too,” another commenter posted. “Time to stop the propaganda, you’re helping destroy Britain.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the rush to bring the coronavirus vaccines to the market under an emergency order, and how governments across the globe have slowly moved to force vaccination. (SEE: [“HAVE THE ARCHITECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LOST TOUCH WITH REALITY?”](#), [“COVID-19 VACCINES: TRACKING ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS,”](#) and [“AUSTRIA: ‘NO VAX, NO FREEDOM.’”](#))

Austria became one of the first countries to make vaccinations compulsory, and the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to block New York's vaccine mandate, which was challenged by health care workers in the state.

**TRENDPOST:** *There are a number of reasons why so many are hesitant to get the COVID Jab. One is that they were rushed along under a project called "Operation Warp Speed." Another is the fact that the disease is entirely survivable by most of the people it infects, and those who die from it are suffering from 2.6 pre-existing comorbidities, being obese, Type 2 diabetics, respiratory ailments and/or the elderly, who are suffering from illnesses.*

*In the United States, 75 percent of Americans that died of COVID were 65 years of age or older, yet there is a massive push to get 5-11 year olds injected with the Operation Warp Speed jab.*

*And in Spain, Italy and Germany, for example, over 60 percent of the COVID deaths were people over 80 years of age, yet there are strict mandates in these and other European nations to deprive the young and the healthy of their freedom if they are not COVID vaxxed.*

**TRENDPOST:** *The "responsible ones" are embraced. The line being sold is those who cared about grandma since the beginning of the virus outbreak wore masks and then got vaccinated because. Why? We have been told (lied to?) that's the best way to protect others and yourself. (See ["ANTHONY FAUCI'S UNSCIENTIFIC MANIFESTO"](#) and ["THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN A TIME OF MORAL AND SPIRITUAL BLACKOUT."](#))*

## COVID WAR = MAJOR U.S. CITIES WAR ZONES



With three weeks remaining in the year, 12 major U.S. cities have seen a record number of homicides in 2021, continuing the upward trend from a year earlier.

The **Trends Journal** said in March that when politicians lock down economies to fight the COVID WAR, an increase in crime is nearly certain. (SEE: [“CRIME ON THE RISE DURING THE GREAT LOCKDOWN.”](#))

ABC News reported that Philadelphia and Chicago have both seen jumps in homicides. Philadelphia, a city of 1.5 million, saw 521 homicides as of 6 December, which is higher than the country’s most populous cities, New York and Los Angeles.

Chicago, which always has a high homicide rate, saw a three percent increase from 2020. The city had 739 homicides.

“Much of what we believe contributed to the spike in homicides and shootings in 2020 has continued into 2021,” Roseanna Ander, the executive director of the UChicago Crime Lab told Axios. “The population most at risk for gun violence involvement continues to live through an economic crisis and mental health crisis exacerbated by the pandemic.”

Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; St Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon; Tucson, Arizona; Toledo, Ohio; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Austin, Texas; Rochester, New York and Albuquerque, New Mexico also had their deadliest years on record, ABC News reported.

The report pointed out that five of the cities mentioned topped benchmarks set in 2020 and that Milwaukee and Minneapolis are both approaching a historic number of killings.

Frank Umbrino, a police captain in Rochester, New York, said the community has to get “fed up” with the number.

“We’re extremely frustrated,” he said, according to ABC. “It has to stop. I mean, it’s worse than a war zone around here lately.”

Robert Boyce, a retired chief of detectives for the New York Police Department, said one of the reasons for the jump in killings is likely the fact that nobody is getting arrested and jailed for lesser crimes.

“People are getting picked up for gun possession and they’re just let out over and over again,” he told the network. The report said police departments are finding it challenging to fill open positions due the COVID-19 outbreak.

The FBI’s annual Uniform Crime Report identified a 30 percent increase in homicides in 2020, which represented the biggest single-year jump in six decades.

Thomas Abt, a senior fellow at the Council on Criminal Justice, told CNN that the “pandemic, like community gun violence, concentrates among the poorest and most disenfranchised people.”

“So those communities are doubly impacted, not only by COVID-19, but by gun violence,” he said.

Abt also said the fallout from George Floyd’s killing while in police custody has led to a level of mistrust between the public and police.

"We're seeing police pulling back in some cities from some of their discretionary law enforcement activities and we're also seeing communities pulling back from their ongoing collaboration and cooperation with police," he said. "When you have that divide between cops and communities, violence tends to go up."

***TREND FORECAST:*** As Gerald Celente has long noted, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”

*Again, we had forecast when the COVID War began in 2020 that the worst is not only yet to come, it will become a way of life. Gangs will grow in power as well. Expect thefts, robberies, and violent crimes all to increase now and when the shut-ins end.*

## **COVID WAVE OF ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT CONTINUES**



American retailers continue to be plagued by the relatively new phenomenon of brazen, organized retail thefts, often characterized as "smash and grabs" and carried out by "flash mobs."

This crime wave has already caused the Walgreens drug chain to close down a number of its stores in San Francisco—see ["COVID CRIME WAVE SPIKES, DRUG STORES CLOSE"](#) (19 Oct 2021)—and caused Macy's and Disney, among others, to abandon their flagship stores on Chicago's now severely tarnished Miracle Mile; see ["CHICAGO'S COVID CRIME WAVE FOLLOWS SAN FRAN'S MODEL"](#) (26 Oct 2021).

An article in *The Wall Street Journal*, on 4 December, gives more details of the extent of this crime wave and tells of the actions retailers, law enforcement and some prosecutors are taking in response.

Some stores have seen dozens of people drive up at the same time and carry out organized thefts. Such incidents seemed especially numerous over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The *WSJ* reports that the National Retail Federation draws a distinction between such organized thefts and shoplifting, and that such thefts cost retailers some

\$700,000 per \$1 billion in sales. In 2011 10 percent of retailers surveyed by the NRF reported flash mob attacks; in 2020, 69 percent of retailers surveyed reported an increase in organized thefts.

One chain particularly hard hit is Home Depot, presumably because power tools are often on the thieves' shopping lists and—like medicine and high-priced fashion items from other stores—are easily re-sold online (despite Facebook and Amazon claiming that they don't allow stolen goods to be listed for sale).

Home Depot reports theft apprehensions have increased by 10 percent this year, and various measures are being taken, including adding more security personnel, changing store layouts and even employing technology that renders products inoperable until paid for.

Other chains are employing similar preventative measures, often under advice from local police departments. And the California Highway Patrol has announced increased coverage of freeway corridors near major shopping centers.

A group of Northern California district attorneys announced that their offices would each detail special prosecutors to deal with such "clearly carefully orchestrated crimes," and Florida's attorney general has created a task force to address the issue.

***TRENDPOST:*** *While some prosecutors are taking action to fight this crime wave, the case can be made for other prosecutors to be blamed for it.*

*As **Trends Journal** has noted, a cadre of "rogue prosecutors" around the country—notably Chesa Boudin of San Francisco (the son of two convicted radical domestic terrorists!), Kim Foxx of Chicago, Marilyn Mosby of Baltimore and George Gascon of Los Angeles—bears responsibility for removing deterrents to crime and other antisocial behaviors by instituting low-bail or no-bail policies and often simply refusing to prosecute; see (again) ["CHICAGO'S COVID CRIME WAVE FOLLOWS SAN FRAN'S MODEL"](#) (26 Oct 2021), and ["OLD FASHIONED CRIME ON THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO"](#) (20 Jul 2021).*



***TREND FORECAST:*** *Despite measures to fight this trend, such thievery is bound to increase over the holiday season.*

*And we see no reason not to reprise the forecast we made in October: As inflation and the various stresses brought on by the COVID War continue (and increase), so, too, will crime (and drug use, and mental illness, homelessness, and public nuisance behaviors). As Gerald Celente says, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it," and especially in areas where prosecutors encourage the problem by being deliberately soft on crime.*

## **MAKE ROOM IN THE RE-EDUCATION CAMPS: 870,000 DARE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES**



Some fourteen months ago, **Trends Journal** told readers about The Great Barrington Declaration, penned by three highly-respected epidemiologists and professors of medicine from Stanford, Oxford and Harvard Universities; see ["THE GREAT BARRINGTON DECLARATION: NO](#)

[COVID FEAR"](#) (13 Oct 2020).

The declaration's premise was that, regarding COVID-19, the cure would prove far worse than the disease; that the lockdowns, and all the consequences thereof, would prove to have caused more suffering and even death than the virus ever would; see ["LOCKDOWN MADNESS: CURE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE"](#) (10 Nov 2020).

Among those consequences are widespread poverty and hunger; ruined lives and livelihoods; suicides, drug use and other mental health issues; and excess deaths from undiagnosed or untreated cancers, or resulting from other medical treatments and procedures postponed, canceled or otherwise re-prioritized.

The declaration advocated that, while those clearly at risk from COVID-19—chiefly the elderly —should be afforded every means of protection available, those not at risk—essentially the young and healthy—should be afforded the opportunity to live normal lives and develop herd immunity. The declaration called this Focused Protection, and was largely informed by the Swedish model; see ["CORONAVIRUS: THE SWEDEN SUCCESS STORY CONTINUES"](#) (5 May 2020).

By the time **Trends Journal** reported on it, the declaration, issued on 4 October 2020, had been signed by over 6,000 doctors and scientists from around the world.

But now comes word, as reported by *Technocracy News & Trends* on 6 December, that The Great Barrington Declaration, far from being discredited, repudiated, fading into obscurity or forced to recant, has now accrued 870,000 signatures, some 60,000 of which are from medical scientists and practitioners!

***TRENDPOST:*** *Keep those figures in mind when you're told that anyone who dares to oppose the official narrative about COVID-19 and the official edicts for lockdowns, mandates and other draconian restrictions is an outlier, a rube, a "science denier" or even a wild-eyed, tinfoil-hat-wearing conspiracy theorist; see ["MEDICS: DON'T JAB ME!"](#) (12 Jan 2021), ["MIT STUDY: THOSE REFUSING THE COVID JAB ARE NOT RIGHTWING CONSPIRACY THEORY IGNORANT MORONS"](#) (28 Sep 2021), and ["THE HILL: PROPAGANDA SUPREME. EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF ANTI-VAXXERS"](#) (20 July 2021).*

*If you're skeptical about the way COVID-19 has been dealt with, don't feel like The Lone Ranger; there are at least 869,000 others like you.*

## NO GOOD REASON FOR VAXXING KIDS



An article published on 8 December by the Brownstone Institute ([brownstone.org](http://brownstone.org)) dares to question the so-called wisdom of vaccinating children against COVID-19, saying the COVID virus presents less danger to children than does influenza.

It looks at vaccinating children in terms of risk management and concludes that, on that basis, vaccinating kids is ill-advised.

Even when infected (and children do not readily become infected with this pathogen), children neither get severely ill nor die from it. Neither do they readily spread it to other children, adults, or even their teachers or family members; see ["VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"](#) (13 Jul 2021) and ["KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID"](#) (17 Nov 2020).

The article cites statistics from studies in Sweden and Germany as prime examples of this premise. In both countries, the incidence of children (in Sweden, 1 to 16 yrs. old, and in Germany 5 to 18 yrs. old) dying from COVID-19 during the study period, and absent any co-morbidities, was zero.

The risk to children from the vaccines, on the other hand, is far from negligible. Besides the known and documented risks associated with the vaccines—see ["COVID VACCINE: 'SIGNIFICANT SAFETY CONCERNS'"](#) (15 Dec 2020)—there are risks as yet unknown, given that the vaccines are, strictly speaking, still experimental.

Furthermore, the article points out that not only is the so-called immunity provided by the vaccines inferior to the natural immunity that humans, and children in particular, possess via their innate antibodies, but the vaccines may actually undermine the function of those innate antibodies and reduce natural immunity.

The article concludes as follows:

"This is a very important ethical matter. The death rate in children (e.g. under 12) is as close to zero as we can get. None of the lockdown and school closure policies worked and all have failed with crushing harms on populations.

"We have masked our children, closed schools, locked them down, driven surges in suicides in adults as well as our children due to these policies, and now we seek to vaccinate children with a vaccine for which we have no data on the long-term harms. Is there any wonder why there is a loss of trust and why parents might be reluctant to comply with every edict being issued by governments concerning health?"

***TRENDPOST:*** *This article and its conclusions hearken back to the remarks we quoted from Ukrainian-American physician Dr. Vladimir Zelenko (whose team successfully treated some 6,000 patients for COVID-19, including Pres. Trump, Rudy Giuliani and Pres. Bolsonaro of Brazil).*

*On the matter of vaccinating children, Dr. Zelenko said, "If you have a demographic that has no risk of dying, why would you inject them with a poison death shot?"; see ["DOCTOR CLAIMS COVID VAX IS A 'POISON DEATH SHOT'"](#) (24 Aug 2021).*

## COVID DRIVING KIDS CRAZY



Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, the U.S. surgeon general, issued a 53-page report on Tuesday that said the COVID-19 outbreak has contributed to the stresses young people

face, which has led to a "mental health crisis."

The **Trends Journal** has long warned that the tendency for “public health officials” has been to try and scare the public into submission when it comes to coronavirus lockdowns and vaccine mandates. (See: “[MENTALLY ILL POLITICIANS CREATING MENTAL ILLNESS](#),” “[LOCKDOWN LUNACY CREATING ‘MENTAL HEALTH PANDEMIC](#),’” and “[COVID LOCKDOWN: MENTAL ILLNESS BLUES](#).”)

Murthy’s public advisory sought to identify a “youth mental health crisis” after the national average of weekly ER visits by teens who tried to kill themselves increased 40 percent in February and March 2021, compared to 2019. *The Tampa Bay Times* reported that the epidemic’s death toll, concerns about money, and isolation have all contributed to the stress of today's life. The study said the outbreak exacerbated a trend that was already gaining steam before 2020. (See: “[AMERICA IS HAVING A MENTAL BREAKDOWN](#).”)

We reported in 2019 that the latest research from the National Institute of Mental Health showed that over 46 million American adults are suffering some form of anxiety disorder. Research from the American Psychological Association concluded that two main causes of increased levels of mental distress among younger people are time spent on digital media and lack of sleep.

Some experts say young people in the country are also exposed to social media, which could also play a role in the general feeling of hopelessness.

“Young people are bombarded with messages through the media and popular culture that erode their sense of self-worth—telling them they are not good looking enough, popular enough, smart enough, or rich enough,” Murthy wrote, according to *The New York Times*. “That comes as progress on legitimate, and distressing, issues like climate change, income inequality, racial injustice, the opioid epidemic and gun violence feels too slow.”

Bonnie Nagel, a pediatric neuropsychologist from Oregon University, told the paper that many adolescents have the misguided assumption that they will



satisfy their need for a connection by turning to social media, only to realize that they are not satisfied.

“I don’t think it is a genuine human connection when talking to somebody with a fake façade online,” she told the paper.

In early 2021, emergency department visits in the U.S. for suspected suicide attempts saw a 51 percent jump for adolescent girls, while their male peers saw a four percent increase, according to the report.

“It would be a tragedy if we beat back one public health crisis only to allow another to grow in its place,” Murthy wrote. “Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real, and they are widespread. But most importantly, they are treatable, and often preventable.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We forecast the true mental toll on young people, who are filled with energy and a lust for life and are being forced to live locked-down lives, will have long-lasting negative implications.*

*While much of their lives are going down, this demographic hungers for new messages, sounds, styles, and products to lift their spirits and motivate positive ambitions and desires. Thus, there are very positive OnTrendpreneur® opportunities to fill this gigantic market void.*

## **SCHOOLS: THE NEW “ABnormal”**



The return to in-person learning, after the COVID War-related closures and other interruptions that began in the 2019-20 school year, has been marked, in many American schools, by behavioral issues, even in those schools thought least-likely to experience such problems.



An article in *The Wall Street Journal* on 10 December begins by describing one in a series of recent brawls in a Shreveport, LA high school with an enrollment of some 1,600 students; unusual, uncharacteristic behavior in a school regarded as "academically strong," and with a 99 percent graduation rate.

Around the nation, other schools are experiencing increases in unruly behaviors such as talking in class, treating adults and one another disrespectfully and strewing trash about, to more serious issues. In Dallas, disruptive classroom incidents have tripled compared to pre-COVID levels; in Albuquerque parents were advised about a "a rise in violence and unacceptable behaviors," and the National Association of School Resource Officers reports an increase in gun-related incidents.

Peter Faustino, on the board of the National Association of School Psychologists, says that a normal full academic year's worth of mental health and behavioral incidents have occurred in just the first three months of the current school year; "I think the pandemic was like an earthquake and I think we are seeing that tidal wave hit shore," he said.

Some schools are attempting to address the problem with more staffers patrolling the halls, or more counselors. Dallas has eliminated student suspensions, replacing them with counseling. Some school districts have implemented extended holiday closures called "mental health days."

All that time away from school has stunted many students' emotional and social maturity and discipline; some have yet to experience a "normal" year of high school. Dallas has instituted a 45-minute social-emotional learning session each morning for elementary school students.

That school in Shreveport is where "Dads on Duty" was formed; fathers of students volunteered and organized to patrol the school and its grounds, to provide discipline and role modeling.

**TRENDPOST:** *The mental health of students, teachers and school staff has been one of the unintended casualties of the COVID War that we had long forecast... proving once again that the cure can be worse than the disease; see:*

- ["SCHOOL LOCKDOWNS KILLING STUDENTS"](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- ["SCHOOL SHUTDOWNS = CHILDREN SUFFERING"](#) (17 Nov 2020)
- ["LOCK KIDS DOWN, SCREW THEM UP: SHOOTINGS SHUT DOWN 20 MICHIGAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS"](#) (7 Dec 2021)
- ["PITY THE COVID-WEARY TEACHERS"](#) (16 Nov 2021)

*And all these stresses have been imposed on the segments of society at the very least risk from COVID-19; see ["VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"](#) (13 Jul 2021) and ["MORE EVIDENCE KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID TO ADULTS"](#) (17 Nov 2020).*

**TREND FORECAST:** *Not just in America but around the world (with certain notable exceptions, like Sweden, which didn't lock down schools, didn't require masks, and recorded no COVID child deaths), we may be seeing the first signs of a new "lost generation": young people whose emotional growth, social skills and self-control have been permanently stunted.*

*It's a condition not easily remedied, and one from which some—and society at large—may never fully recover (because these damaged children will pass their emotional shortcomings to their own children).*

*Again, as we note in this and other **Trends Journals**, there are prolific OnTrendpreneur® strategic opportunities to create new sounds, styles, products and services to lift their spirits.*

## COVID WAR CRACKDOWNS AND PROTESTS



Each week we have been reporting the new draconian mandates and lockdowns politicians are imposing to fight COVID War 2.0, and the protests from citizens who, because they refuse the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy inoculation, are being denied their freedom.

### UNITED KINGDOM:

Despite the fact that as of early December, nobody who was diagnosed with the COVID-19 Omicron variant has died—and the strain is believed to be much milder than Delta—that did not stop British Prime Minister Boris Johnson from imposing his so-called ‘Plan B’ to stop the spread.

Johnson, who has been under fire over a leaked video that showed aides last year mocking the previous mandates, said people should resume working from home, wear masks in public, and show their vaccine passports at various events. Reuters reported that Johnson’s decision was described as a “hammer blow” for city restaurants and other shops that depend on holiday traffic.

“The renewed ‘work from home’ order during the most important trading period of the year is a hammer blow for our retail and leisure tenants,” Jace Tyrrell, the head of New West End Company. Johnson has faced blowback from within his own party, who called vaccine mandates “discriminatory.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the devastating impact that lockdowns have had on businesses globally. (See [“EUROPE: MORE LOCKDOWNS, PROTESTS, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.”](#) [“COVID-19: THE VIRUS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPRESSION”](#) and [“VAX WAR: THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD.”](#))

“We are seeing growth in cases here in the U.K. that now mirrors the rapid increases previously seen in South Africa,” Johnson said, according to *The New York Times*. “And South Africa has also seen hospitalizations double in a week.”

The paper pointed out that 80 percent of the population in England has received both jabs.

The Omicron variant—which became the media’s variant du jour on Thanksgiving weekend—has raised concerns from world leaders that worry about its ability to spread. (See [“OMICRON: WE DON’T KNOW IF VACCINES ARE EFFECTIVE, BUT YOU MUST TAKE THE JAB.”](#))

We pointed out last week that bankers from JPMorgan hope that the Omicron variant marks the beginning of the end for the virus, based on the hope that if more people get infected by a milder virus, the disease will eventually burn itself out and become something akin to the flu.

One of the unfortunate things to emerge during the COVID-19 outbreak, is the sense of entitlement elected officials have over the serfs they reign over. (See [“ONTARIO FINANCE MINISTER: ANOTHER POLITICAL JOKER.”](#))

Video emerged that showed Allegra Stratton, the top aide for Johnson, holding a mock-press conference appearing to joke about a Christmas party held at Downing Street last year when the government ordered people to stay home and not socialize.

Stratton resigned and said she would regret the comments for the rest of her life. Johnson insisted that he knew nothing about the party or the video. He vowed an investigation. Johnson’s move to require a vaccine passport to enter public events has been mocked since his own staffers made light of earlier restrictions.

Six months ago, Johnson celebrated “Freedom Day,” which was supposed to represent the U.K.’s emergence from COVID-19 restrictions. The plans were to remove curbs that put limitations on restaurant and club capacities. The thought

was that vaccines would be able to counter the virus and stop transmission. That did not pan out.

Governments like Britain, Germany, and Austria have singled out the unvaccinated in many of the new restrictions, which has sparked violent protests and raised the question of just how far governments can reach under the auspices of protecting the public.

Johnson has been forced to clarify earlier comments that there needs to be a “national conversation” about mandatory COVID-19 vaccines. (See [“THE CHINESE WAY: MANDATORY VAXXING.”](#)) Sajid Javid, his health secretary, told Sky News that he has “no interest in mandatory vaccination apart from high-risk settings in the NHS [National Health Service] and social care, which we have already set out we will legislate for. Other than that, if you’re talking about universal mandatory vaccination, I think ethically it is wrong.”

***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.*

**GERMANY:** Olaf Scholz, the establishment politician who became Germany’s ninth post-WWII chancellor last week, fits the breed of another arrogant pathological liar who lied his way into office. As a candidate, he said he would not impose mandatory vaccinations, but now he is in favor of the move.

Scholz said that he would ask parliament to take up a vote on a bill that would make COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory. DW.com reported that forcing individuals to take the jab polls well in the country. The World Health Organization has said mandatory vaccinations should be a move of “last resort.”

“I myself will vote for compulsory vaccination because it is legally permissible and morally right,” he said.

There was recently a torch-lit protest outside the home of Petra Köpping, the health minister of the German state of Saxony, that was reportedly organized by the Free Saxons, that the media, their opponents, label “right-wing extremists.” They were out there on Friday to lash out against mandatory vaccinations and new COVID-19 mandates.

“I am convinced that the vast majority of unvaccinated people find these torch-lit rallies as repugnant as I do,” Scholz said, according to the paper.

Over a dozen police officers were injured during a demonstration against new restrictions in Greiz, a town in central Germany, on Saturday. DW.com reported that about 1,000 “formed a procession on a bridge” and some tried to break through police lines. Police fired tear gas.

Ulrich Weigeldt, the head of Germany’s general practitioners’ association, told *Bild* that a fourth booster will likely be needed for later this year to keep the population safe from new variants. (See [“SELLING BOOSTER SHOTS, CDC’S WALENSKY SAYS ‘FU’ TO AGENCY ADVISERS.”](#) [“THE VAX/BOOSTER MARKET: DRUG DEALER ON PARADE”](#) and [“COVID BOOSTERS ARE THE FUTURE?”](#))

“We expect that by summer, or fall at the latest, a fourth vaccination will be necessary,” he said, according to DW.com. The report said about 1.1 million Germans have taken their third jab.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The anti-vax, anti-establishment, anti-immigration movements will continue to build in many Western nations. Indeed, the stricter the mandates the deeper economies will decline and the greater the levels of social unrest will rise.*

**AUSTRIA:** Some 45,000 Austrians staged a rally on Saturday in Vienna to express contempt over forced vaccinations and stay-at-home orders for those who have refused to take the jab.



The country, which is the first in the European Union to mandate vaccination, has caused an uproar.

“No to vaccine fascism,” one sign read, according to Al Jazeera. “I’m not a neo-Nazi or a hooligan. I’m fighting for freedom and against the vaccine,” another sign read, according to the report.

The report said that vaccinations will be mandatory starting in February for all citizens over 14. The **Trends Journal** reported on the unprecedented move in the 16 November issues, in an article titled, [“AUSTRALIA: NO VAX, NO FREEDOM.”](#)

Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg said at the time that the country did not take the step “lightly,” but insisted that it was needed.

Vienna announced entry bans for the unvaccinated, “effectively barring them from public life, including at bars, restaurants, cafes, theaters, hotels and—significantly in the Alpine nation—ski lodges.”

Vienna has said it will not physically force anyone to take the shot, but the unvaccinated will have to pay a \$670 fine, which could increase to \$4,000.

Many of the protesters would not give their full names in interviews with news outlets, because they know that their reputations would be destroyed. A 44-year-old violin teacher told the outlet, “We can have different opinions and values, but still live together freely.”

The weekend marked the fourth consecutive in which protesters lashed out against government mandates in the city. Johns Hopkins University counted 1.2 million cases in the country of 8.9 million and 13,000 deaths. About 68 percent of the country is vaccinated, which the BBC pointed out is among the lowest in Western Europe.

Police announced that three people were arrested in Heldenplatz square on offenses that included launching fireworks at officers and disregarding the mask mandate.

***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.*

**SPAIN:** For the second week in a row, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Barcelona against the latest round of virus restrictions for the unvaxxed.

**LUXEMBOURG:** A few thousand people protested against the latest round of covid mandates that are imposed upon the un-vaxxed. The police fired water cannons at demonstrators who broke out of the security zone imposed by the police and arrested a few dozen.

**CZECHIA:** Tens of thousands marched through Prague on Sunday, protesting the latest round of COVID-19 vaccination mandates. As with all the anti-COVID War demonstrations erupting across much of the globe, the Prague protesters were chanting “Freedom!”... demanding that their constitutional rights could not be stolen from them by politicians in power.

**GREECE:** As they have for several weeks, the anti-COVID War protests again erupted in Athens, with police confronting demonstrators. The unvaccinated are being punished in other ways.

The un-vaxxed are banned from eating inside restaurants, bars, theatres and gyms. To enter banks, government buildings and non-essential shops, they must present a 48-hour rapid Covid test.

**UKRAINE:** While the U.S. and European media continually promotes that Russian troops are at the Ukraine border, hardly a peep about the tens of thousands who took to the streets this weekend in Kyiv. As with most of the other protests, the demonstrators are not anti-vax, but rather pro choice, in that those who wish to get the shot should do as they please, and those who do not want the Operation Warp speed inoculation should not be forced to get the jab.

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## WAR CRIME GANG GETS RICHER

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a military spending bill worth \$778 billion, which represents the largest amount since WWII and \$24 billion more than President Biden requested.

The bill, which focuses on the challenges that Russia and China pose, now heads to the Senate, where it is expected to pass with ease.

*The New York Times* reported that representatives “rejected” Biden’s request to “keep military spending essentially flat, and instead overwhelmingly called for increasing it substantially.”

“One of the major challenges our military faces right now is dealing with the rapid pace of technology, is getting the Pentagon to better and more quickly adopt the innovative technologies that we need to meet our national security threats,” Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., told the paper. “Those threats are very real.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the U.S.'s absurd investment into its military, with nothing to show for it other than spending trillions to kill millions and make the military industrial and intelligence business gangs richer. Gerald Celente, the publisher, has pointed out that the American military has not won a war since WWII and has been stacking up defeats, including the recent retreat from Afghanistan. (See ["DUH! PENTAGON SURPRISED BY CHINA'S TEST OF HYPERSONIC MISSILE," "PENTAGON: TARGET CHINA" and "U.S. 'ALREADY LOST' AI WAR WITH CHINA, PENTAGON'S FORMER SOFTWARE CHIEF SAYS."](#))

Commondreams.org reported that the increase in spending is almost laughable because the U.S. does not face a threat of invasion. We are not Poland, with a migrant invasion on our eastern border, or Ukraine, with Russian troops massing on our right flank. We are surrounded by allies to the north and south and abutted by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

The website reported that "maintaining a war machine that outspends the next 12 or 13 next largest militaries in the world combined" actually makes the country less safe because it continues to feed the "past misapplications of U.S. military power."

One needs to look no further than the disaster in Afghanistan. (See ["BIDEN ON AFGHANISTAN: 'FUCK THAT'" and "WILL TALIBAN CASH IN ON \\$1 TRILLION WORTH OF AFGHAN MINERAL WEALTH?"](#)) Biden famously told the world that "America is back" after his election, but his abrupt withdrawal from Afghanistan not only took Kabul's military by surprise but allies who have been fighting alongside the U.S. in the country. The disaster has led to several news reports that Biden's National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan's job could have been on the line.

The \$24 billion added on is the result of "a rising anxiety on both sides of the aisle in Congress that America is losing its military advantage, particularly on the high seas," *The Economist* wrote.

The House voted 363-70 in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Not only is the bill more than what Biden requested, it is also more than what was passed while Donald Trump was in the White House and Republicans controlled the House.

Lilly Dragnev, from Peace Action, told *The Nation* that the bill is “worse than we expected—and that’s saying a lot.”

“Why is the Pentagon budget going up after we bring troops home from Afghanistan?” she asked. She also criticized the bill—as it stands—for taking out provisions to restrict support for Saudi-led forces against Yemen, which is “causing a humanitarian crisis and human-made famine.” (See [“MURDEROUS YEMEN WAR: MILLIONS IN PERIL. WHO CARES?”](#))

She also criticized the bill’s effort to increase tension between the U.S. and China.

“With this bill the U.S. stumbles further into a Cold War with China. Congress added \$7 billion to ‘beef up posture’ in the Pacific in ways likely to fuel a cycle of military escalation,” she said.

The Pentagon will purchase 17 F-15EX fighters and 12 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets from airplane manufacturer Boeing. The Defense Department requested 12 F-15s in May and no F/A-18E/F Super Hornets. Reuters reported that the bill will fund 13 battle force ships, including two Virginia-class submarines made by Huntington Ingalls and General Dynamics. The bill also calls for an annual pay increase for service members.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi praised the bill and said it will fortify “our military’s technology advantage” and allow the U.S. to continue support for our “partners,” including Ukraine. (See [“PELOSI’S PROFIT FROM PENTAGON SWITCH TO AMAZON.”](#))

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As the saying goes, “Generals are always fighting the last war.” And America’s post WWII war track record is an unblemished failure. From*



*their weaponry to tactics, the U.S. military have exemplified a common misconception and/or misunderstanding of technology and development in warfare... regardless of who they are fighting.*

*And the U.S. \$778 billion 2022 military budget of more tanks, planes, ships and antiquated artillery for the 21st century further exemplifies their backwardness. We are planning to fight an enemy that does not exist.*

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

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

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The United States will not enter into a one-on-one military conflict with Russia or China. Indeed, they could not even beat the Taliban or win the “Mission Accomplished” Iraq war.*

*Yet, as they have since the end of World War II, Washington and their Prostitutes will continue their fear and hysteria Cold War rhetoric to frighten its masses while enriching the military manufacturing mob.*

*Gerald Celente’s forecast that America would lose the war when President George W. Bush launched it in October 2001—with 88 percent of Americans’ support—was prescient. The vast majority of the nation believed Bush’s bullshit at the time and admonished Celente for his forecast.*

*Indeed, as noted in the movie [What Zizi Gave Honeyboy](#), after being a major media favorite, Celente was banned from the airwaves for telling the media America would lose the Afghan War.*

## ETHIOPIA: FULL BLOWN CIVIL WAR?



Ethiopian citizens concerned about advancing Tigrayan fighters have left their jobs in order to join federal forces in an effort to prevent Addis Ababa from falling to the advancing fighters.

The precise number of how many citizens from Africa's second-most populous country who have joined with the federal forces is hard to quantify. One mayor told *The Wall Street Journal* that 200,000 youths have formed groups to defend the capital, raising the possibility of a civil war.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's decision to send troops into Tigray over the region's move to hold elections in November 2020, at the height of the pandemic. (See [“ETHIOPIA: A WAR OF DISASTER,”](#) [“ETHIOPIA'S WAR: TIGRAYAN FIGHTERS OPEN NEW FRONT,”](#) and [“ANOTHER ETHNIC MASSACRE IN ETHIOPIA.”](#))

Abiy, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, promised a swift defeat of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) but the conflict has lasted over a year and has created a humanitarian crisis.

Millions of people have been displaced from their homes in the country and there are 400,000 living in famine-like conditions, the *Journal* reported. (See TOP TREND 2022: [“MASSIVE MIGRANT CRISIS.”](#))

Abiy has called on citizens in the country to take up arms to fight the advancing Tigrayans after he underestimated TPLF's ability to fight and organize against federal troops backed by military from Eritrea. The TPLF was once on the ropes against Abiy's forces, but in June, won back the region's capital Mekelle, which turned the tide in the war. The TPLF has been advancing ever since.

Ethiopians have been leaving their jobs in order to enlist in the armed forces, in a similar fashion that the Tigrayans did earlier in the conflict. Tigrayans have faced war crimes during the conflict and have been accused of barbarity during their own offensive.

These fighters have been accused of carrying out dozens of executions after taking control of towns, according to Human Rights Watch. *The New York Times* reported that 26 people were killed in the town of Chenna—mainly farmers and grandparents and residents—because they refused to slaughter livestock for the TPLF fighters.

“The blurring of lines between combatant and civilian increases the risk of human rights abuses and the difficulty in holding perpetrators to account,” Edward Hobe-Hamsher, Africa analyst at risk consulting firm Verisk Maplecroft, told the paper. “That this is happening in a country with deep ethnic cleavages is particularly ominous.”

The U.S. announced that a special envoy will visit the region to try and get both sides to end hostilities.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The U.S.'s decision to send Jeffery Feltman, the special envoy for the Horn of Africa, to the region to get both sides to lay down their arms is further proof that there is not enough interest in Ethiopia to inspire a true intervention. The U.S. is bogged down by several crises from Ukraine, Taiwan, and the Middle East and lacks the political will to get involved in another conflict that has roots in tribal and ethnic prejudice.*

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

## INDIAN FARMERS WIN: A PROTEST LESSON TO BE LEARNED



Leaders of the farmers' protest in India that broke out more than a year ago said these demonstrations will end after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called off the controversial laws that farmers said would end their ability to make a living.

Modi assured the farmers that it was never his intention to hurt them.

"Our government is committed to farmers' welfare, especially small farmers. We are committed to serve them fully. We brought in farm laws with good intentions," Modi said last month.

Modi announced that New Delhi would repeal three laws that sparked deadly protests throughout the country.

"It's a complete victory," Ramandeep Singh Mann, an engineer-turned farmers' rights activist, told *The New York Times*.

The protests were a drag on the country. Protesters blocked main roads, Modi's governing Bharatiya Janata Party cut off electricity and water near some of the camps, and government troops erected barbed wire and planted spikes in the streets to keep tractors from rolling into New Delhi.

With more than half of India's 1.4 billion people employed in agriculture, accounting for 15 percent of the country's \$2.9-trillion economy, the farmers did not back down.

Modi's initial move to back the laws was seen by supporters as a way to modernize the country's agriculture and position New Delhi to be in a better position to compete with Beijing. Farmers, in turn, blocked major roads and

burned their crops, contending that deregulation will lead to small farms becoming insolvent and eventually taken over by larger rivals.

The laws that were passed in September 2020 essentially deregulated farms from state control and opened the door to new, outside competition.

“They never expected farmers to come out in such large numbers to protest,” Vikram Singh, the joint secretary of the All India Agricultural Workers Union, told *The Wall Street Journal* in December 2020.

Modi’s decision to repeal the bills was unexpected and farmers are now using the momentum to push for other concessions, like further assurances from New Delhi to back off legal action against protesters and “consider establishing minimum support prices for all produce, not just rice and wheat.”

The government also announced that it will pay compensation to the families of the more than 700 farmers who died during the demonstrations.

Farmers danced in the streets when news broke that the laws were bounced, and removed roadblocks and makeshift homes on major highways.

“Farmers have saved democracy,” said Nagendra Singh, a farmer. “It was a fight for justice.”

***TREND-TRACKING LESSON:*** *The Trends Journal has reported extensively on the protests in the country. (See [“MODI VS. INDIA’S FARMERS: LOST FREEDOMS FEARED.”](#) [“PROTESTERS KILLED IN INDIA: FARMERS FIGHT TO THE FINISH”](#) and [“INDIA’S FARMERS KEEP FIGHTING.”](#))*

*The success of the farmers’ protests is evidenced in their resolve to peacefully fight for their rights without backing down. As Gerald Celente continues to note, one of the most important elements of protests is to continue with them day after day, night after night, week after week, month after month... however long it takes to win the battle.*

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

***TREND-TRACKING LESSON:*** *Indeed, as with the Indian farmer demonstrations, the Berlin Wall began to fall in 1989 when protests sprang up across eastern Europe opposing Soviet Union control. Then, a month after protests began in East Germany, around half a million people gathered in Alexanderplatz in the heart of East Berlin, refusing to leave until the wall came tumbling down.*

## **IRAQ: MORE "MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED"**



On 10 December, the Associated Press published a report that the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, formed to seek out and destroy Islamic State fighters, had formally shifted its mission from combat to one of providing training, assistance and advice to Iraqi forces.

The report notes that the Biden administration had declared in July that the U.S. combat mission in Iraq would be ended by 31 December, and this announcement makes good on that promise. It also notes that some 2,500 U.S. troops remain in Iraq.

***TRENDPOST:*** *So, apparently the troops will stay, but they'll now be in an advisory role rather than a combat role. The number of U.S. troops in Iraq was reduced to around 2,500 in 2020; see ["U.S. REDUCING TROOPS IN IRAQ"](#) (9 Sep 2020).*



*While the official description of the U.S. role in Iraq has changed from "combat" to "advisory," other words describing U.S. involvement there remain unchanged; those would be words like "murky," "ill-advised" or "futile."*

*For more (and rather extensive) reading on the subject, and to see how **Trends Journal**'s Gerald Celente correctly assessed and foresaw where U.S. involvement in Iraq was headed, see:*

- ["EMPIRE AMERICA IS FADING FAST"](#) (6 Dec 2013)
- ["TRENDS FORECASTER LOOKS BACK ON IRAQ PREDICTIONS: FEARS HISTORY IS REPEATING"](#) (21 Oct 2014)
- ["BOMBS AWAY: BIDEN RAMPS UP WAR"](#) (29 Jun 2021)

*Also see Philip Giraldi's essay for **Trends Journal**, ["THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM"](#) (24 Aug 2021).*

**TRENDPOST:** *What is totally absent in the mainstream media coverage of the Iraq War is the trillions spent to wage it, the millions of Iraqi's that were slaughtered, their country bombed to destruction, the U.S. troops that were killed, wounded... and how many committing suicide from a war based on the lie that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass-destruction.*

*And instead of charging George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and others for war crimes—for lying the nation into war—instead they are celebrated and elevated by the Presstitutes and the Washington crime syndicate. Indeed, they promote Bush's childish art work and Cheney's daughter is a Washington and mainstream media celebrity.*

## IRAN NUKE DEAL: U.S. VS. ISRAEL



The Biden administration and Tel Aviv have clashed in recent weeks over the White House's effort to resume nuclear talks with Tehran in hopes of reviving the 2015 nuclear deal that was destroyed by President Donald Trump in 2018.

President Biden's team has publicly expressed frustration with Israel, ranging from new settlements to Israel's decision to sabotage an Iranian facility in Karaj last June. The Associated Press pointed out that the strike occurred days after Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner, won the election.

The U.S. and Iran have been carrying out talks in Vienna through diplomats from other countries. Reuters, citing a European source, reported that the Iranians agreed on Friday to resume talks that were suspended in June. Iran denied the claim.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the shadow war being played out between Israel and Iran. Israel sees the possibility of Iran returning to the agreement an existential threat. (See ["IRAN BLAMES ISRAEL FOR NUCLEAR FACILITY EXPLOSION," "ISRAEL BLAMES ROCKET ATTACK ON HEZBOLLAH, RESPONDS"](#) and ["ISRAEL TO ATTACK IRAN? WASHINGTON GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT TO THE MILITARY OPTION."](#))

Iran has bristled at the sanctions that have been imposed by European countries and said there have been no breakthroughs.

"European parties fail to come up with any initiatives to resolve differences over the removal of sanctions (on Iran)," Ali Baheri, Tehran's top nuclear negotiator told Press TV on Sunday, according to Reuters.

Tehran has been accused by the U.S. of not taking the nuclear discussions seriously.

*The New York Times* reported that officials close to Biden let it be known that the president tasked Jake Sullivan, his national security adviser, with looking over military action plans in the event the U.S. was forced to act on Iran.

The paper said the move apparently hoped to serve two purposes: It showed Iran that Washington's patience is not perpetual, and signaled to Israel that although the White House wants Tehran to sign back up for the deal, the U.S. is not naive.

The report said Prime Minister Naftali Bennett held a tense call with Secretary of State Antony Blinken last week as it appeared more certain that the U.S.'s diplomatic effort with Tehran will continue.

## **Bombs Away!**

About 58 percent of Jewish Israelis say that they would be in favor of a military strike on one of Iran's nuclear facilities without the approval of the White House, *The Jerusalem Post* reported, citing the Israel Democracy Institute.

Tehran currently has the ability to enrich small amounts of uranium up to 60 percent purity, the AP report said. The report pointed out that 90 percent is considered a weapons-grade level.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We have reported Prime Minister Nafatli Bennett is simply a new face on Netanyahu's foreign policies. (See ["ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT: BOMBS VS. BALLOONS."](#))*

*He said in an alleged interview back in 2018 that if he were the county's defense minister, he would enact a "shoot-to-kill" policy with Gaza for those who breach the barrier wall. He was asked what he would do if those breaching the wall were children and he responded that he would kill them, too.*

*“They are not children—they are terrorists,” he said.*

*We wonder the response that France, Germany, and the U.S. would have if an outside country told it to shut down nuclear power plants due to the threat they could be used for sinister purposes.*

*The U.S. thinks it could spend its way out of poor diplomacy by spending hundreds of billions on its military complex. Russia and China have both accused the U.S. of being unwilling to negotiate on key issues and—because of silly, decades-long policy—needs to talk indirectly with Tehran.*

*Netanyahu, in his final speech in front of the Knesset that was supposed to last 15 minutes but went on for over a half-hour, said Iran celebrated his loss because they “understand that starting today there will be a weak and unstable government that will align with the dictates of the international community.”*

*Bennett, who sees weakness as a political vulnerability, will continue the push to take more Palestinian land to build settlements and will need to continue tough rhetoric when it comes to Iran.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Should military tensions between Israel and Iran escalate and war breaks out between the two nations, oil prices will spike to well over \$100 a barrel, which will, in turn, spike inflation rates and trigger a global equity market crash. It will also mark the beginning of World War III.*

# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## MARRIAGES IN CHINA PLUMMET: A BIG DEAL?

The number of new marriage licenses in China has hit a 13-year low so far in 2021, so the country announced an effort to lower the price tag of tying the knot.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) said it will make marriage more affordable in 29 cities across the country after reports indicated that the average costs tied to weddings have jumped between 50 and 100 percent, the *Financial Times* reported. The paper pointed out that the figure is more than six times the annual household income.

Yang Zongtao, a senior official at the MCA, said the drop in marriages will impact birth rates and “in return economic and social development,” according to the paper.

“We are hoping to...actively create favorable conditions for more people of suitable ages to walk into marriage,” he said.

China is known for imposing strict limits on the number of offspring couples can produce and announced last summer that it would ease those rules to deal with a demographic imbalance. A once-in-a-decade census that was published in May revealed that Beijing is facing a shrinkage in its working-age population along with an increase in older residents. (See [“CHINA: BIRTH LIMITS OUT. EDUCATION LIMITS IN.”](#))

President Xi Jinping said in May, during a meeting of the Communist Party's Politburo, that China's falling birthrate was a potential threat to the country's national security. The government later announced that married couples would now be permitted to have up to three children, although doing away with birth limits altogether is under consideration.

There is also a gender imbalance in the country, the *FT* reported. There are currently 2.2 million single men from 25-34 and 1.2 million single women.

The paper said women appear less interested than their male counterparts to take the plunge, with 60 percent calling marriage necessary, compared to 82 percent of men polled. Some women have even taken to social media to call wives “married donkeys,” for conforming to a patriarchal society.

An official from Ningling, which is one of the locations considered an “experimental zone” for the MCA, told the paper that the city keeps reminding women and “their parents that happiness has nothing to do with how many engagement gifts they receive.”

ThinkChina.sg reported that the practice of a groom's family paying a “bride price” has “grown to incredible proportions” in recent years, especially in the rural regions on the country.

The report pointed to the 44th chapter of the Book of Rites in the Han Dynasty that says a groom's family should “offer betrothal gifts (bride price) to the bride's family, including money, jewelry, antiques, clothes, furniture, food, animals, etc.”



***TREND FORECAST:*** While the world media keeps moaning about a population drop, never mentioned is the pace of speed of how the world population has exploded over the past 120 years... and the socioeconomic, geopolitical and environmental implications.

*Worried about a drop off in population? In 1900, China had about 400,000 people. Since then it has added one billion.*

*And back then, the U.S. had 76 million people, today, 333 million.*

*As for the global population, there were less than 2 billion people in 1900. Today there are nearly 8 billion people on the planet.*

*Therefore, as for the media hype about depopulation and how it will hit China hard in the future, we do not agree with that forecast. If China has a few hundred million less people it will not negatively affect its economy, in fact, the more is not the merrier when cities are congested, traffic is jammed, pollution increases and resources diminish as populations expand.*

## **"MARRIED WITH CHILDREN" HOUSEHOLDS FALL TO RECORD LOW**



Bloomberg News reports, on 3 December, that the number of U.S. households with nuclear families—married couples with children under 18—has fallen to 23.1 million, the lowest number since 1959, and 40 percent lower than the number in 1970.

By contrast, the total number of U.S. households—presumably not necessarily headed by couples, married or not, and not necessarily including children, is around 130 million.

U.S. birthrates have also been declining, in conjunction with a trend toward people marrying later in life; in the '50s and '60s, the typical age for women to marry was 20.4 years, and for men it was 22.8 years. Nowadays women tend to marry at 28, and COVID-19 is blamed for delaying marriages over the past two years and raising the typical age for women to marry to 28.6 years.

**TRENDPOST:** *Trends Journal* noted the role of COVID-19 in the falling marriage rate, and its implications; see ["LOVE & MARRIAGE PLUNGE"](#) (5 May 2020) and ["GOING DOWN AND OUT"](#) (28 Jul 2020). And there's another factor that may be behind the declining birth rates; see ["SPERM DOWN FOR THE COUNT, PENISES FALLING SHORT"](#) (30 Mar 2021).

**TREND FORECAST:** *Marriage rates and birthrates will continue to fall as economic conditions continue to decline, the middle class shrinks and it becomes less affordable to live considering the lack of middle class job opportunities.*

## CITIZENSHIP: WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR? (ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!)



*The Wall Street Journal* reports, on 10 December, that the City Council of New York City has approved, by a vote of 33 to 14, a bill that would permit more than 800,000 non-citizens to vote in municipal elections.

The new voters would be those who have lived within NYC's five boroughs for at least 30 days, and meet certain other requirements. They must be either lawful permanent residents or be authorized to work in the U.S.

The *WSJ* notes that NYC is not the first U.S. city to permit non-citizens to vote in its elections, but it is the largest.

The article seems to imply that the bill was introduced by Ydanis Rodriguez, a Democrat city councilman who emigrated from the Dominican Republic (and who is now, presumably, a citizen). He's quoted as wondering why, "as a teacher working with a Green Card," he had to pay taxes but had no say in municipal elections.

NYC's Mayor Bill de Blasio [who changed his name, for purposes of political opportunism, from Warren Wilhelm!] hasn't committed to signing the bill into law before he leaves office at the end of December, but he doesn't have to; it will become law if he neither signs nor vetoes it within 30 days of being passed by the City Council. Perhaps surprisingly, de Blasio has stated his opposition to non-citizen voting, whereas his successor, Mayor-elect Eric Adams, favors it; see ["NON-CITIZEN VOTING COMING TO NYC"](#) (23 Nov 2021).

***TRENDPOST:*** *It's still against federal law for non-citizens to vote in federal elections, but there have nevertheless been many allegations of them having done so. And permitting non-citizens to vote in local elections is a growing trend; see ["NON-CITIZEN VOTING COMING TO A STATE NEAR YOU"](#) (12 Oct 2021).*

***Trends Journal*** *thinks it's fair to surmise that those who favor and promote voting by non-citizens lack both understanding of and respect for the very concept of "citizenship."*

## STARBUCKS STORE TO UNIONIZE, A TOP TREND FOR 2022?



A Starbucks store in Buffalo, N.Y., became the first to get union representation after a 19-8 vote by employees on Thursday, further cementing one of our Top Trends for 2022 forecast that Unionization is on the rise after major companies see massive profits during the COVID-19

outbreak.

The **Trends Journal** has also pointed out that another result of the outbreak was that the rich got richer and the poor got poorer; 37.2 million Americans are living in poverty in the U.S., which marks a 3.3 million jump since 2019. (See [“\\$4 TRILLION FOR BILLIONAIRES AS MIDDLE-CLASS SHRINKS”](#) and [“COVID WAR: RICH GOT RICHER, POOR GOT POORER.”](#))

Most Americans are stuck in their menial jobs making minimum wage with no career advancement. (See [“DOLLAR GENERAL EMPLOYEES: PLANTATION WORKERS OF SLAVELANDIA.”](#))

Starbucks’ position has been consistent. The company believes that these workers have no reason to unionize due to "our pro-partner environment."

Starbucks offers health care coverage for part-time workers and reimbursement for college tuition. The CNN report also pointed out that the company boasted that it pays employees more than \$12 an hour and more than half its employees pull in over \$15 an hour. The company said it has the best retention rate in the industry, which may raise more concerns about the industry.

The ubiquitous coffee chain has 235,000 employees and 9,000 locations spread out across the country. CNN reported that the union is set to be named Starbucks Workers United, an independent affiliate of the Service Employees International Union. (See [“SPOTLIGHT: “WORKERS ON DEMAND,” “POLITICO JOURNALISTS FORM UNION. A TREND OF THE TIMES”](#) and [“LABOR UNION COMEBACK.”](#))

The report said employees at the location want to influence how stores are operated and also demand better wages for longtime employees who often make the same salary as new colleagues.

Reggie Borges, a Starbucks spokesman, told The Associated Press that the company will determine its next steps.

“Every partner matters. It’s how we built the company and how we will continue to run the company,” Borges said. “We will continue to focus on the best Starbucks experience we can deliver for every partner and our customers.”

Sen. Bernie Sanders held a virtual town hall with the Buffalo Starbucks workers last week and called out the \$15 million pay that the company's CEO Kevin Johnson took home.

“If Starbucks can find the money to pay their CEO nearly \$15 million in compensation, I think maybe they can afford to pay their workers a decent wage with decent benefits,” he said.

***TRENDPOST:*** “*Baristas?*” *Back in the day when someone worked at a soda fountain they were called “Soda Jerks?”*

*Baristas is a bullshit name given to “Coffee Jerks” by the BIGs so they make the plantation workers of Slavelandia feel as though they have a special talent and an important job. According to ZipRecruiter; “As of Oct 18, 2021, the average hourly pay for a Starbucks “Barista” in the United States is \$11.64 an hour.”*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *When the COVID War began in 2020, there was never an expectation of the combination of an employee shortage, spiking inflation and worker strikes.*

*Indeed, just the opposite was expected. After being cooped up, locked down, and out of work, when there was a ceasefire in the COVID War, the workers were expected to rush back to their jobs. As we have detailed, there are several reasons for the falloff: from “No Jab, No Job” employer mandates, not wanting to work at jobs that are unfulfilling and refusing to go to work for a company that pays non-living wages.*

*The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the country’s shift toward so-called gig economies and cheap labor.*

See:

- [“SLAVELANDIA: RICH GET RICHER, POOR GET POORER.”](#)
- [“AMERICA: TAX/AUDIT ‘WE THE PEOPLE,’ NOT BILLIONAIRES.”](#)
- [“BILLIONAIRES BEAT TAXES: LITTLE PEOPLE PAY”](#)
- [“AMERICA’S RICHEST 400 FAMILIES PAY A TINY PERCENT OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX COMPARED TO THE WORKING CLASS.”](#)

*And now, with the Bigs in control in virtually every business sector, and no room to move up the corporate or small business ladder, many would rather not work at all than work at a job that pays \$15 an hour or less, that will take them nowhere.*

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

## **DOES TESLA MAKE DRIVING SAFER?**



Back in the dim ages, before almost all automobiles were equipped with radios, the idea of a radio in a car raised concerns that drivers would be distracted. Nowadays, distracted driving is a serious issue, but not because of car radios.

The U.S. National Safety Council reports that over 40,000 deaths and 276,000 injuries each year are related to distracted driving, and the trend shows no sign of slackening. And analysts believe that those numbers are seriously under-estimated.

The biggest culprits have been cell phones and navigation devices, and hands-free devices are only marginally safer. All such interactive devices are visually, manually and cognitively distracting to drivers.



But, just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, comes an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, on 9 December, that the automaker Tesla has, by means of a software update sent over-the-air to most of its vehicles, enabled occupants (including the driver) to play video games on the large touchscreen in front of the dashboard while the car is in motion.

Formerly, Tesla drivers and passengers could play video games only when the car was in "Park," but the new update changed that. The *WSJ* reports that the new games are Solitaire, "Sky Force Reloaded" (a jet fighter game) and "The Battle of Polytopia: Moonrise" (described as "a conquest strategy game").

This adds to issues Tesla faces regarding its Autopilot system, which has been a factor in twelve traffic deaths since 2016. Other automakers have similar hands-free driving systems that incorporate safeguards, such as infrared monitoring of drivers' eye movements; the National Transportation Safety Board recommended, four years ago, that Tesla upgrade its driver monitoring system, but thus far Tesla has not done so.

Other automakers also have built-in limits on screen use while cars are in motion, but Tesla has only a warning that the games are intended for passengers; a driver can push a button to "confirm" that he or she is a passenger and then play while driving.

***TRENDPOST:*** *All of this reinforces points made in a recent **Trends Journal** article, "[LOW-TECH SIMPLICITY](#)" (30 Nov 2021), which posited that all the high-tech systems incorporated in modern machinery, and especially in automobiles, are not necessarily a blessing.*

*Besides exponentially driving up the cost of automobiles, such systems make cars more vulnerable to a myriad of electronic and computer-based issues, and make the industry vulnerable to problems like the shortage of semiconductor chips resulting from the ongoing snarl in the global supply chain; see "[AUTO INDUSTRY CHIP SHORTAGE FALLOUT](#)" (24 Aug 2021).*

*And, as this story about Tesla shows, all that automotive high-tech—even seemingly benign safety features like blind-spot monitors and lane-departure warnings—wind up enabling people to make stupid decisions (like choosing to text or play video games while driving) that put themselves and others at unnecessary risk.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *A return to simpler, low-tech systems would not only present profitable opportunities for OnTrendpreneurs®, it would make cars more affordable, easier to repair and longer-lasting; see ["HI-TECH AUTO EXCESS"](#) (30 Nov 2021).*

*It would also help discourage people from being inattentive, and foster a greater sense of alertness and situational awareness, which, whether driving or just walking down the street, is never a bad thing; see ["KNOW YOUR ENEMY"](#) (30 Mar 2021).*

# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## STAINLESS STEEL ALLOY NEUTRALIZES COVID, OTHER PATHOGENS

Materials engineers at the University of Hong Kong have developed a stainless steel alloy that permanently deactivated 99.75 percent of COVID virus on its surface within three hours and 99.99 percent within six hours, according to a study the group published in *Chemical Engineering Journal*.

The alloy is 80 percent stainless steel and 20 percent copper by weight.

The metal also kills the H1N1 flu virus, which sparked a global pandemic in 2009, and E. coli bacteria, a common bug responsible for a range of ailments. Tests against other pathogens are underway.

The alloy's antiviral properties don't disappear over time, the developers say.

The material can be produced using existing "powder metallurgy" technology, so no new processes or equipment need to be created to make it and fabrication should easily scale to commercialization.

The engineers are in contact with manufacturers who could test the material in door knobs and handles, handrails, elevator buttons, and other surfaces large numbers of people touch daily.

***TRENDPOST:*** *If the lab's results are borne out in commercial tests, the alloy will become a common material in surfaces that see a lot of hand contact in public places.*

## 5G SIGNALS COULD DISRUPT AIRLINE NAVIGATION, FAA SAYS



Signals from dense 5G networks, the newest update of wireless communications technology, could scramble airplanes' navigation equipment, especially altimeters, which tell pilots how far above the ground a plane is when pilots are unable to see the ground themselves due

to clouds, fog, or other obstructions.

The warning was issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

As a result, planes and helicopters likely would be unable to rely on automated guidance systems for landings at airports where 5G signal interference is strong, such as in or close to large metro areas, the FAA said in a separate statement.

5G signals likely would overwhelm the signals from many of those systems, making them useless.

AT&T and Verizon Communications had delayed commercial activation of their 5G wireless services until 5 January while the FAA evaluated 5G's potential hazards.

On 7 December, the FAA issued a rule banning pilots from using automated landing systems on their aircraft, which depend on altimeters, in areas where 5G signals could interfere.

“These limitations could prevent dispatch of flights to certain locations with low visibility, and could also result” in flights being diverted to land at alternative airports, the FAA said.

The rule affects more than 6,800 U.S. aircraft and all airplane manufacturers.

The FAA said the need for the rule was “urgent,” meaning the agency could enact the rule at once without waiting for public comment.

The FAA is in discussions with the Federal Communications Commission and aircraft industry representatives to negotiate details of the new rules.

There is “no evidence” of 5G radio waves posing risks to aircraft and “dozens of countries” already use the technology safely, Verizon Communications, a major purveyor of 5G technology, said in a 7 December response.

Verizon’s 5G networks will “reach 100 million Americans with this network in the first quarter of 2022,” the company said.

5G, or Fifth Generation, wireless technology uses a different frequency of radio waves than earlier versions. Waves in this range of the per unit of time—are essential not only for streaming movies, but also to manage communication among the billions of devices expected to join the Internet of Things in coming years.

5G’s signals also don’t travel as far as those of previous wireless technologies, meaning that 5G antennas will need to be mounted almost everywhere in every direction to ensure complete coverage.

**TRENDPOST:** We have reported on 5G's potential dangers to human and animal health in articles such as [“The 5G Gamble”](#) (21 Nov 2018) and [“FCC: 5G No Problem?”](#) (11 Dec 2019).

*Despite a growing number of peer-reviewed studies and warnings from scientists and science organizations that 5G poses serious health risks to humans and wildlife, government regulators have largely turned a blind eye to calls for caution and for delaying 5G's commercial rollout.*

**TREND FORECAST:** The profit priorities of business, and pressure on regulatory agencies from Big Tech's rented politicians, will ensure that 5G spreads worldwide with minimal delay or restriction.

*That will render all of us subjects in a giant experiment in public health.*

*As concerns mount over resulting health damage to humans, pets, and wildlife, the telecom industry will deny 5G's responsibility while privately scrambling to redesign high-speed wireless systems to remove the dangers.*

## PLANTS GO ELECTRONIC



There may be a shortage of electronic components but there's never a shortage of houseplants. For certain tasks, plants could take components' place.

At Sweden's Linköping University, researchers turned bean plants into electrical circuits by watering them with a solution containing a polymer called poly polystyrene sulfonate, which conducts electricity.

Coated by the polymer, the bean plants' roots became electrically conductive, creating the possibility that plants could become supercapacitors—electronic



components that gather electrical charges quickly and disperse them in a burst—with the roots acting as electrodes.

Previously, the scientists had dosed roses with a solution including a conductive polymer known as PEDOT, turning the roses into transistors. When they substituted a compound called ETE-S, polymers formed in the roses' tissues that could not only conduct electricity, but also store an electric charge.

The plants themselves seem unaffected, other than growing more complex root networks. The roses still flower; bean plants still produce edible beans.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has funded research to genetically modify plants to turn them into living sensors that could signal the presence of electromagnetic signals as well as biological, chemical, or radiological dangers.

The plants would emit bioelectrical alarms that could be detected remotely by existing equipment.

It's not an issue of national security, but bioscientists at MIT have potted plants in little wheeled carts, then watched the plants drive the cart toward light or away from hot surfaces.

Plants already lean toward light, veer away from too much heat, and create electrical signals when they sense these and other environmental changes nearby.

MIT researchers inserted sensors into plants' tissues to capture those signals. They then ran the faint pulses through an amplifier and routed them to a robot in a plant's wheeled pot sitting between two lamps, one on and one off. The robot responded to the plants' "desire" and rolled the cart toward the light source.

***TRENDPOST: The integration of living things and electronic devices will move from the lab to the marketplace, with "electronic plants" finding commercial applications within 10 years.***



A plant instructs a robotic cart to drive it toward the light.

Photo Credit: Harpreet Sareen, Assistant Professor, Interaction and Media Design, Parsons School of Design