

# TRENDSJOURNAL

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**DOW PLUMMETS!!**

**WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS  
THEY TAKE YOU TO WAR**





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## WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#): WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, THEY TAKE YOU

### TO WAR

Going on now for several months, America and its NATO allies have been beating the war drums that Russia will invade Ukraine. Today, the White House press secretary said the Russian attack was “imminent.”

In the meantime, equity markets in the U.S. have been on a downward spiral.

Yesterday the Dow was down over 1,000 points before miraculously turning positive in the final hours. Same game today. The 30-stock average was down 818.98 points on the session, then bounced up 226 points, but ended the day down just 66 points.

Did the market riggers—the “plunge protection team”—stop the plunges? Should the Fed rate rise to 1.5 percent this year, which will be needed to stop inflation, equities and the economy will crash.

But don't worry. When all else fails, they take you to war.

From the Great Depression to World War II, the dot-com bust to the War on Terror... and now with the phony inflated market bubble ready to burst, is war on the near horizon?

## Silence

Why aren't the people and politicians taking a stand to stop the war mongering?

Why aren't religious leaders speaking out in the name of God to stop the war talk and bring peace on earth, good will to men?

With our [Occupy Peace](#) and [Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice](#) movements we are putting our money, mind, heart and soul to reverse these murderous war trends, and we are doing our best to help create Heaven on Earth. United we Stand, Divided We Fall. Please consider joining our movements.

Pace e Amore,

*Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team*

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## COMMENTS

### COVID PRICE CONTROLS COMING?

The Fed is an extension of the current administration. Midterm elections are coming up. What is the prime directive of any administration in general and all politicians in particular? Stay in power and protect their phony-baloney jobs. What course of action would most imperil the prime directive? A recession and market crash. Now inflation? “Why that's not our fault. It's the supply chain. It's the greedy meat producers. It's big oil. But don't worry America, we'll save the day with PRICE CONTROLS.”

**Ed Marshall**



## **MARKETS: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**

Hi Greg, can you kindly explain what you mean by “the implosion of the debt market” and “when the debt market implodes”.

I follow your MMRI on a daily basis. What would specifically trigger the “implosion” and what should we be looking out for in that regard. Many thanks in advance for your wisdom. All my best. Keep up the great work. Really appreciate and enjoy it immensely.

**Salvatore**

## **CELENTE AND KIYOSAKI**

Great show on Rich Dad!

One of the best books I read when I was young. It inspired me to read his whole series of books.

We must stop complying with man's little laws and start following God's Natural Law instead if we are ever going to get out of satan's beast slave system. That goes for all you order followers in the police, military, and alphabet soup organizations!!

You don't stand before an asshole in a black dress 3 degrees high on a bench and man's law books when you die. You kneel before Universal Truth and Right Action. It is objective Truth and cares not what gov laws and orders you followed.

We the people stand behind you to find the courage to arrest the shitbags giving you these unlawful orders, not the cowards that hide at home. This ends when we all collectively take Right action and not a moment sooner.

**Bruce Banner**

## **BACK IN THE U.S.A.**

For decades, the JUSTICE DEPARTMENT and FBI has been a criminal enterprise attached to the US Government performing False Flag Activities, Drug running, provocateur action at rallies and protests, RUBY RIDGE murders, WACO, sexual harassment, domestic surveillance, no warrant arrests under the Patriot Act and in general being so corrupt that an average citizen must speak against the Judicial Corruption and Over-reach.

The protesters of January 6 were the US citizens exercising their Constitutional RIGHT to ask the sitting Legislators to respond to the demands of a peaceful free assembly for redress of complaints and unanswered grievances!!! THE FACT IS THAT WE ARE LIVING UNDER A SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST REGIME!!!

**harlow53**

## **WHERE'S THE AMERICAN WOLF?**

Who was the idiot who said we would have nothing and be Happy. I'll bet that person owns 20 times more than my meager amount.

I totally agree, we need a revolution to get back what they've stolen from us with Govt. rules and regulations, which they use to rob us blind. Americans need to shed their wool and let out wolf in them and fight for our Freedom

**ronald howell**

## **BEZOS MADE OUT LIKE A BANDIT**

Amazon opening a brick and mortar clothing store. First he drives many small businesses out, now open his own stores? I sure miss the days of all the mom and pop stores. I buy my clothes from thrift

shops. Clothes are overpriced and cheaply made.

**Joey F.**

### **NORMAL LIFE BY SPRING?**

I'll believe it when I see it. I think our so-called overlords will have other plans. COVID was just phase one. Phase two is supply chain disruptions as well as shortages of raw materials and other goods. Phase three will be war and then mass starvation and death on a global scale...unless majority of global population wakes up and says "No more!" They planned this for a very long time and invested too much to just end it with COVID.

**Peter Piorecki**

### **FULLY VAXXED, FULL OF CRAP**

It takes a lot of courage and determination to stand against the crowd. I have felt so alone sometimes as I know no one that is against the vax and all the insanity going on apart from the people like Gerald and others like Jordan Maxwell and Jeff Fence who say it as it is. My daughter luckily is also aware. If it wasn't for her I don't know if I would be here today.

I just thank God for the people like Gerald and others who I can listen to when everyone is totally mad. I stopped trying to warn people about the kill shot as they just treated me like I was insane. I tell them read **Trends Journal** and you get an idea of what's going on. As it says in the bible, don't throw pearls before swine or something like that.

Now I feel if God wants them to know and they choose to be ignorant that's their choice, problem being if everyone was like them this covid narrative wouldn't end. It

was the people who didn't give away their freedom that made them wind it down.

I am wondering if they will try and bring it back when the vaxxed start to die? Or will it all come out about how many have died and how it was covered up. Hopefully we will see trials where the criminals of the whole covid scam are brought to justice

**Sarah Krupinski**

### **TECHNOLOGY VS PROGRESS**

*"There is no necessary relationship between technological advances and human advancement, as the 20th century showed. At the same time technology was enabling unprecedented potential to improve the human condition, it was used for massive intentional destruction."*

*"It's not an exaggeration to say that the 20th century saw the intentional killing of humans on a greater scale than any previous time in human history."*

These two paragraphs are the most truthful and important statements made this year. Because Of the idea of intentional killing of others. As things stand the only upper hand we have to look forward to is "who is the best at killing?"

WE see this in American movies (and now copied in eastern movies) so much that no wonder why each generation is becoming docile allowing themselves to be used by any Big corporation. They need to make a stand. But I personally think that ordinary people will become so fed up with them they will do away with those Psychopaths trying to think what's best for others.

**ZEBB**

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# TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



## MARKET OVERVIEW

What we have long forecast is now clear reality. Equity markets and economies should have been in crash-mode two years ago when psychopathic, power-hungry politicians across the globe locked down economies to fight the COVID War.

Think about it! When in the history of the world, has this happened? To illustrate the insanity of their actions and the general public's mental state, when the COVID War started people flocked to the stores to make sure they could get enough toilet paper to wipe their ass.

One after another—name the nation—ignorant, arrogant political freaks declared, **without a scintilla of hard data or scientific evidence**, that their draconian measures would “flatten the curve.”

Two years later their moronic mandates have “flattened” the lives and livelihoods of billions... and now the game is over... that is, until they come up with new schemes undreamed of to re-rig the game.

With inflation hitting decade highs across the globe, the countless trillions governments and central banks pumped into the system to artificially inflate economies and equities has ended.

Or has it?

In the U.S., the Fed is expected to raise interest rates four times this year. But go back just six months ago, the word on The Street was that the Fed wouldn't increase interest rates until 2023. That was based on the lie and/or stupidity from the Fed-Head, Jerome Powell, that inflation was only “temporary.”

But now with equities kicking off a not “Happy New Year,” going down for the fourth week in a row, will the central banksters cut back expectations for interest rate hikes this year and let inflation keep rising?

Again, while the banksters and the Presstitutes keep blaming inflation on supply chain disruptions—while that is part of what is driving prices up—the major inflation drivers are governments and central banks' unprecedented money pumping schemes and record-low interest rates.

The facts are there and we reported them extensively: From record-breaking merger and acquisition activity last year that made the Bigs Bigger, to stock buybacks... and record low mortgage rates that juiced the high-flying housing market... it was cheap money that ballooned economies and equities. Indeed, on the housing front, the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index shows that home prices rose 18.8 percent year-over-year in November.

Therefore, when the central banks and government money pumping schemes end—really end, not just slightly “taper”—equities and economies will crash.

## **Slowdown?**

Totally ignoring the fact that rising interest rates and governments cutting back the cheap money flow will slow economic growth, yesterday, the International Monetary Fund blamed supply chain disruptions and rising inflation for cutting back their 2022 global growth forecast.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Ending its two-day meeting tomorrow, the Federal Reserve will issue its policy statement that The Street anticipates will have them raising interest rates to fight inflation.*

*To put this into perspective, remember the decades long bullshit by the U.S. and EU Banksters that when inflation hit above 2 percent, that would signal the need to raise interest rates? With America's consumer price index hitting 7 percent in 2021, the largest 12-month gain since 1982, and the EU Euro area annual inflation up to 5.0 percent... Neither have pushed up rates, yet. And they are not being chastised for their inactions that have, as we have clearly detailed, enriched the rich. These are just a few of our articles that state the facts:*

- ["Plantation Owners of Slavelandia Get Richer, Slaves Get Poorer"](#)
- ["Spotlight: Bigs Keep Growing Bigger"](#)
- ["COVID WAR: Rich Got Richer, Poor Got Poorer"](#)
- ["America Pumps Up the Rich, China Pushing Them Down"](#)
- [Vax Makers: The Billionaire Club Gets Richer](#)
- ["A Modest Tax Proposal for Billionaires"](#)

*So will they raise interest rates dramatically?*

*With equities moving into correction territory and an economic slowdown on the near horizon, their words may not mirror their deeds. Thus, interest rates may not rise as high and fast as expected.*

*This will in turn be bullish of safe haven assets such as gold, silver and bitcoin.*

## **The Market Front**



The three major U.S. stock indexes trampoline Monday, plunging from the opening through the morning, then bouncing back up through the afternoon to end the day with gains.

At around noon ET, the Dow sank 3.25 percent and the Nasdaq slumped nearly 5 percent. But it ended its six day losing streak, with Dow Jones Industrial Average losing up 99 points, or 0.29 percent.

The Standard and Poor's 500 edged up 12 points, growing by 0.28 percent. The forlorn NASDAQ even squeezed out a 0.63-percent gain, adding 86 points.

Was the plunge protection team called in to save the day?

Yes, is our guess. It was one of the sharpest turnabouts in Dow history.

Yet, the line being fed by the business media was that investors (gamblers) saw the plunge as a chance to grab bargains.

Are the equity markets ready to crash? Gregory Mannarino contends that "For the stock market to "crash," we would need to see instability in the debt market—which is just not there right now." See **MARKETS: This IS NOT The Big One** in this issue.

On the technical side, the CBOE Volatility Index, also known as the "fear index," surpassed 38 shortly after 11 a.m. on Monday, its' most extreme signal in more than a year.

The markets' performance was a dramatic reversal from last week's.

In the five trading days ending Friday, 21 January, the Dow, NASDAQ, and S&P all sagged for the third consecutive week this year as anxious investors revised their portfolios ahead of the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes, which will number at least three, possibly four, this year by most estimates.

Keeping the trend going that we have been reporting, market players shied away from smaller tech stocks and so-called “growth” companies not showing a profit, sending the NASDAQ down 11 percent to trigger a correction, defined as a decline of at least 10 percent from a recent high.

A bear market, which we anticipate, will occur when equities fall 20 percent or more.

The NASDAQ has dropped four weeks in a row, with it and the S&P closing their worst week since March 2020 when politicians launched the COVID War; the Dow turned in its weakest week since October 2020.

Last week, the Dow slid 1.3 percent, the NASDAQ plummeted 7.55 percent, and S&P gave up 1.9 percent.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year treasury note dipped to 1.747 on Friday, its biggest single-day slip since 3 December, then recovered to 1.769 on Monday ahead of the U.S. Federal Reserve’s Wednesday meeting, at which officials are expected to decide when to raise interest rates.

Overseas, the Stoxx Europe 600 lost 1.8 percent to end last week; China’s Shanghai Composite Index and Japan’s Nikkei both declined 0.9 percent.

On Monday, ahead of U.S. stocks’ opening plummet, the Stoxx 600 shed 3.81 percent. However, the Nikkei gained 0.24 percent and the Shanghai index added 0.04 percent.

Cryptocurrencies in general went downhill. Ether retreated by 15 percent; Bitcoin ended below \$36,700 at 5 p.m. EST on 21 January, its lowest point since last 25 July (see related story in this issue).

## **Markets Today**

Following yesterday’s wild Wall Street ride, Hong Asia-Pacific stocks tumbled with China’s Shanghai Composite falling 2.58 percent, the Shenzhen

Component was down 2.83 percent, South Korea's Kospi slumped 2.56 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was off 1.67 percent and Japan's NIKKEI fell 1.67 percent.

In Europe, brushing off the fears of Russia invading Ukraine, which was the big news over the weekend, equities recouped some losses from Monday's sharp sell-off, with equities closing moderately up.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Following the European markets close, on the Ukraine front, the White House says a Russian invasion of Ukraine is "imminent." At a news conference today, Joe Biden's press secretary Jen Psaki stated, "When we said it was imminent, it remains imminent"*

*Again, minus a false flag or some dirty behind the scene deal by Ukraine and its "allies" that will provoke a Russian response, we maintain our forecast that there will be no invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces.*

In the U.S., mirroring Monday's down and up reversal, earlier today the Dow was down over 400 points with the tech-heavy Nasdaq falling nearly 3 percent. By 2 PM the Dow was down just 29 points and within an hour it spiked-up nearly 200 points.

At the end of the day, the Dow closed down just 66 points. Well off its low, but still sinking, the S&P 500 closed down 1.2 percent and the Nasdaq continued its losing streak, falling 2.28 percent.

Did these market swings make sense, or did the plunge protection team push equities up from their lows?

**GOLD/SILVER** Beyond the equity markets melting down, inflation rising and fears that central banks raising interest rates will crash economies, gold prices are also rising on the fear that Russia is ready to invade Ukraine.

With Washington stating that an invasion by Russia is “imminent,” gold was up some \$5 per ounce, closing at \$1,847 per ounce while silver slipped down 0.629 cents to close at \$23.89 per ounce.

Again, minus a staged false-flag event, or some dirty behind the scene deal by Ukraine and its “allies” that will provoke a Russian response, we maintain our forecast that there will be no invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that should interest rates radically rise, it will crash the greatly overvalued equity markets which have been artificially propped up with cheap money. And when Wall Street crashes, Main Street will crash with it. Thus, there will be strong demand for safe-haven gold and silver assets.*

*And while we had forecast a sharp rise in interest rates to strongly bring down inflation, the volatile equity markets may slow the speed of interest rate hikes.*

*However, what goes on behind the scenes is not transparent. Therefore, we truly suspect the plunge protection team has pushed equities higher after their recent plummets. If the markets were melting down even before interest rates rose, there would be pressure from The Street to slow down the rate hikes.*

*But now, with markets showing resilience and strength (real or make believe), it will give the Fed clearance to quickly push rates up higher.*

**OIL:** As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, we have been long warning that Middle East military tensions would be a wild card that will drive up oil prices despite diminishing demand and oversupply.

Last week Brent Crude hit a seven year high at \$88.63 per barrel following the Houthi attack on United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi which resulted in three petroleum tanker explosions near state oil firm ADNOC’s storage facilities.



Later, an explosion in Turkey interrupted oil flows from Iraq's Kurdish region and prospects increased that Russia's oil exports could be shut off if the West imposes sanctions should Russia invade Ukraine.

In response to the UAE attack, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said "We condemn the Houthi militia's targeting of civilian areas and facilities on UAE soil today. We reiterate that those responsible for this unlawful targeting of our country will be held accountable."

Keeping his word—as we note in this **Trends Journal**, "SAUDI-LED YEMEN SLAUGHTER ESCALATES"—in response to the Houthi strike, the Saudi team struck back, killing scores and wounding hundreds of Yemenis... which has kept oil prices near their current highs.

And now, also keeping oil prices high is the "Russia to Invade Ukraine" western governments Crusade:

"Oil prices rose over 2% on Tuesday on concerns supplies could become tight due to Ukraine-Russia tensions, threats to infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates and struggles by OPEC+ to hit its targeted monthly output increase."— CNBC

Up about 50 percent last year oil is up another 12 percent so far this month. Still ranging near last week's high, Brent Crude was up 2.18 percent today, closing at \$88.14 per barrel while West Texas Intermediate rose 2.51 percent to close at 85.38 per barrel.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our trend forecast that should military conflict erupt in the Middle East (and now Ukraine), and oil prices spike to above \$100 per barrel, it will dramatically push inflation rates higher and will crash equity markets and the global economy.*

## **Higher Prices Coming**

Oil will reach \$100 a barrel in this year's third quarter, Goldman Sachs has predicted, and will average \$96 this year before edging up to \$105 in 2023.

Energy Aspects sees oil averaging \$86 this year but reaching \$112 next year.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had agreed last July to add 400,000 barrels of daily supply to world inventories, which we noted in our ["U.S. Markets Overview."](#) 20 Jul 2021.

However, only Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and a few other members have contributed their share.

In December, Angola, Malaysia, and Nigeria all failed to produce enough to meet the target, leaving OPEC and Russia upping world supplies by only about 250,000 barrels a day, largely due to technical and operational difficulties, the *Financial Times* noted.

"In reality, OPEC+," which includes Russia, "doesn't have the spare capacity that they claim," Sen said.

Last month's lag means that the cartel is delivering 790,000 barrels a day less than it had agreed, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

OPEC+'s spare capacity may be only about 5 million barrels a day, the IEA estimates, and could shrink to less than 3 million in this year's second half; Goldman sees the margin puckering to 1.2 million daily barrels this summer, a historic low.

The lack of spare capacity is a particular concern, as the U.S., Japan, and countries in Europe drew their reserves to historic low levels as prices shot up in the last half of 2021.

Those reserves are at their lowest since 2000, Goldman Sachs found.

“There could be a [supply] disruption of 1 million barrels a day,” Damien Courvalen, Goldman’s chief energy researcher, told the *FT*.

“That’s at least half your spare capacity,” he added. “Then you really have zero buffer left.”

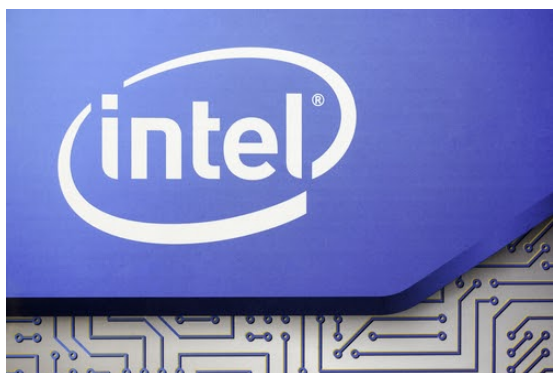
**BITCOIN:** It wasn’t a great week for cryptocurrencies in general last week. Ether retreated by 15 percent; Bitcoin ended below \$36,700 on 21 January, its lowest point since last 25 July (see related story in this issue).

Yesterday Bitcoin regained ground, rising almost to \$37,000. As we go to press it is back to the 21 January level at around \$36,700 per coin.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have been noting for over five years, a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies is dependent upon government regulations.*

*And last week, pushing prices lower, the U.S. Federal Reserve issued its study on the prospect of creating a digital dollar. Other nations also discussed taking measures that would restrict crypto growth. For more crypto trends and forecasts, please see our TRENDS IN CRYPTOS section.)*

## **INTEL FOLLOWS ONE OF OUR TOP 10 TRENDS: SELF SUFFICIENCY**



Semiconductor giant Intel will invest more than \$20 billion to build two new chip-making plants near Columbus, Ohio, the company has announced, with the possible investment growing to \$100 billion and eight plants over the next ten years.

Separately, the company will spend as much as \$100 million with educational institutions in the Columbus area to strengthen research programs and prepare a workforce for the plants.

The investment follows Intel's \$100 billion in investment plans revealed in 2021 and is part of the chip industry's need to radically expand its manufacturing capacity to meet a ravenous global appetite for electronic devices.

We have detailed the worldwide shortage of computer chips and its impact in such stories as [“Global Chip Shortage to Cost Auto Makers \\$210 Billion This Year”](#) (5 Oct 2021), [“Global Chip Shortage Slashes Economic Outlook”](#) (2 Nov 2021) and [“Semiconductor Stocks Riding High on Chip Shortage”](#) (23 Nov 2021).

This century, computer chip manufacturing has migrated to lower-cost countries, leaving developed economies vulnerable to the kinds of supply disruptions the COVID War exposed.

The virus “shined a spotlight on the fragility in the global semiconductor supply chain,” Gelsinger said.

Although the global chip shortage will ease in the next few months, it will persist through this year and perhaps next as well, Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Ohio has granted Intel's project tax breaks tied to job creation and infrastructure spending, including plant construction, lieutenant governor Joh Husted said in comments cited by the *WSJ*.

In return, Intel will add an estimated \$2.8 billion to the state's yearly bottom line, according to state estimates.

To ensure self-sustaining domestic chip-making industries, the U.S. and Europe are putting together subsidy programs.



The U.S. Senate has passed a \$52-billion measure to support chip research and production. The measure has not yet been taken up in the House of Representatives.

President Joe Biden, whose Build Back Better plan allotted \$150 million to the chip industry, praised Intel's Ohio expansion.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Intel's massive Ohio project is a reflection of our [Top 2022 Trend](#) of self-sufficiency in nations, businesses, and households. Automakers are already taking steps to shore up future chip supplies by forming alliances with chip makers, as we showed in ["Will Auto Alliances Protect Chip Supply?"](#) (23 Nov 2021).

*The trend toward self-sufficiency will see companies and countries cultivating not only domestic chip supplies, but also homegrown capabilities across a range of critical industries, such as steel-making and electronics manufacturing.*

*This, in turn, will place an even greater emphasis on automation to cut costs and streamline production, as we explained in ["Virus Speeds Automation: Bye Bye Workers"](#) (21 Sep 2021).*

*As we noted in that article, automation's current acceleration as part of the trend to self-sufficiency bears out our Trend Forecast made 1 December, 2016: Virtually every industry will be significantly impacted or transformed by the expanding capability and affordability of robot and intelligent automation. Innovations will sweep across virtually every sector of commerce, business, jobs, and professions.*

## OFFICE LANDLORDS' FAKE RENT HIKES



Since the COVID War began two years ago, office occupancy rates, as we have continually detailed in the **Trends Journal**, have plummeted across America.

But with occupancy rates still down and remote work a 21<sup>st</sup> century reality, building owners are doing what they can to keep office tenants and find new ones.

In the summer of 2020, Facebook – now Meta Platforms – leased 730,000 square feet of Manhattan office space at \$100 a square foot.

Analysts celebrated the deal as an example of New York rents' ability to remain high during the COVID era and the new normal of remote work.

But landlord Vornado Realty Trust persuaded Facebook to sign the deal by promising to foot the bill for about \$200 a square foot in construction and renovations.

Roku, a maker of digital media players, recently inked a lease for 240,000 square feet in midtown Manhattan after securing the landlord's guarantee to pay up to \$30 million in construction and renovations costs and giving 18 to 24 months of free rent.

From New York to San Francisco, office landlords in major U.S. cities are raising rents, but then lavishing freebies on tenants, such as paying their moving costs or the cost of redecorating space, to entice them to sign or extend leases, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

On paper, rents go up. In reality, landlords' net receipts shrink.

Raising rents to keep up appearances while giving away a large slice of the gains is landlords' latest survival tactic.

In Manhattan, for example, the value of freebies to tenants has more than doubled from \$76 a square foot in 2016 to \$154 last year, a study by real estate services firm CBRE found.

As a result, nominal rents rose 1.6 percent, while landlords pocketed 7.7 percent less.

Why do landlords do it?

High rental rates increase a building's value on paper, luring investors in real estate trusts or bundles of mortgage-backed bonds, according to the *WSJ*.

Still, sophisticated investors are aware of these sweeteners; studies from brokerage houses often report "net effective rent" figures that take the giveaways into account.

"These payouts have long existed to a degree," the *WSJ* noted, "but they have never been so big or so commonplace."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *This tactic may keep up appearances but it does nothing to improve landlords' long-term survival prospects, especially if property tax rates are figured on buildings' apparent value.*

*Landlords are giving away money as a short-term gamble that demand for their space will rise again soon enough to put them back in the black before they run out of liquidity.*

*Some will survive; many are only prolonging their inevitable collapse. We have followed the trials of office landlords throughout the COVID War in ["San Francisco Rents Drop Dramatically"](#) (16 Jun 2020), ["Sliding Value of Office Space Hits Urban Centers"](#) (11 Aug 2020), and ["More Manhattan Office Space Goes Vacant"](#) (8 Jun 2021).*

# TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



## ECONOMIC SHOCK WAVE TO HIT WORLD'S POOR COUNTRIES

Seventy-four low-income nations have \$35 billion in sovereign debt payments coming due this year, an amount 45 percent more than in 2020, according to World Bank figures.

El Salvador, Ghana, and Tunisia are of particular concern; S&P Global has warned that Sri Lanka is facing default, the *Financial Times* reported.

Lenders had suspended debt payments for many such nations during the COVID crisis but that pause is ending.

“Countries are facing a resumption of debt payments at precisely the time when they don’t have the resources to be making them,” World Bank president David Malpass warned in a public statement.



Poor nations were toting a heavy debt load before 2020, then borrowed more to cope with virus-related health care costs and to shepherd their economies through 2020's global economic shutdown, as we reported in [“Emerging Markets Pile On Debt, Sparking Future Default Fears”](#) (2 Feb 2021).

Many of the countries also are now forced to restructure their existing debt as interest rates are rising around the world.

At the same time, those higher interest rates are sucking investment capital out of those countries and into more secure harbors, such as U.S. treasury securities. (See [“Investors Flee Emerging Markets,”](#) 14 Dec 2021).

About 60 percent of poor nations need to restructure their debt or soon will need to, the bank said, raising the likelihood of new debt crises among them.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Default is inevitable for many of these countries, several of which have defaulted in the past. This time, however, since the COVID War began, developed economies which flooded their economies with cheap money to artificially boost them up...are toting enormous debt loads of their own and will not be able to help bail out failing nations.*

*As a result, the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), which draw their rescue funds from the world's richest economies, will be less able to help.*

*The beneficiary: cash-rich China. Instead of donating to the IMF and WB, China will go it alone, making direct donations to, and development deals with, debt-strapped poor countries whose natural resources and other assets can benefit China's industrial economy, enriching the Asian giant even more and helping it lock up future supplies of key minerals.*

## IMF HEAD GLOOMY ON GLOBAL ECONOMY



The world's economy will continue to grow this year but faces an "obstacle course" of "renewal of COVID infections, much more persistent than anticipated inflation, and record high debt levels," Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, told the World

Economic Forum on 21 January.

"The pressure on prices comes from food prices shooting up, caused to a certain degree by the climate [crisis]...and energy prices shooting up and this is complicated...because there is an element of geopolitical tensions," she said.

Georgieva lauded the U.S. Federal Reserve for moving to raise interest rates as "inflation in the U.S. is turning into an economic and social concern."

However, she warned the higher U.S. rates will impact poor countries, especially those with a heavy burden of dollar-denominated debt, "which could throw cold water on what, for some countries, is an already weak recovery," she noted.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *What is absent from all these Bankster reports are the socio economic and geopolitical implications of the COVID War and economic disaster it has created.*

*In these developed nations that are going down hard and fast, there will be ongoing civil unrest, rising crime and violence, more government corruption, regional wars and unprecedented migrant waves as people try to escape to safe-haven nations.*

## LAGARDE DISMISSES CALLS FOR HIGHER INTEREST RATES



Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), once again rejected calls for the bank to raise its base interest rate from its current -0.50 percent, where it has remained since 2014. (See [“ECB: More Monetary Methadone.”](#) 27 Apr 2021 and [“ECB Pledges to Keep Rates](#)

[Lower Longer.”](#) 27 Jul 2021, among other articles.)

Pressure has been growing on the bank to boost rates, with Europe’s inflation running at a multi-decade high of 5 percent and other central banks, such as those in Norway and the U.K., already raising their rates, as we reported in [“Norway Becomes First ‘Group of 10’ Countries to Raise Interest Rates”](#) (28 Sep 2021) and [“European Markets: Higher Rates Impact”](#) (21 Dec 2021).

Critics also have called for the bank to stop stimulating the region’s economy by buying bonds.

However, raising rates too soon would risk “putting the brakes on growth,” Lagarde said in a France Inter radio interview last week, and added that “the cycle of economic recovery in the U.S. is ahead of that in Europe,” so the ECB “has every reason not to act as quickly or as ruthlessly” as the U.S. Federal Reserve, which will end its bond purchases within weeks and could raise interest rates before April.

Instead, she said, the bank’s monetary policy will act as “a shock absorber” against rising prices.

Also, the bank will continue buying bonds through most of this year, Lagarde said last month.

At its December meeting, the ECB's governing committee agreed "substantial monetary support is still needed," but is divided over how fast inflation will ease and when the bank should begin to wind down its bond purchases.

In particular, some disagreed with the decision to boost monthly bond purchases from €20 billion to €40 billion in an existing program to offset effects of the end of the bank's €1.85-trillion bond-purchasing program that ended in December, as we noted in ["Europe's Central Banks Diverge on Stimulus Policy"](#) (21 Dec 2021).

However, despite the bank's continuing stimulus spending, inflation will ease soon across Europe and fall below the bank's 2-percent target rate by the end of this year, Lagarde predicted.

Financial markets lack her optimism and have priced in two 0.1-percent rate hikes by the ECB this year.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Should oil and natural gas prices continue to rise and inflation stay in the 5 percent range, the ECB will raise interest rates. As with the U.S. Fed, they will play the game of not raising rates to keep equities from tanking, and then raise them when inflationary pressures can no longer be denied.*

## CHINA'S CENTRAL BANK CUTS KEY INTEREST RATE



In December, China experienced the slowest year-on-year growth in 18 months, the National Bureau of Statistics reported.

In response, on 19 January, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) cut its one-year prime loan rate from 3.8 percent to 3.7 and trimmed its five-year prime

rate—which is used to price mortgages—from 4.65 percent to 4.6, the rate’s first cut since April 2020.

Last week, the bank cut the rate on its one-year policy loans from 2.95 percent to 2.85, also that rate’s first reduction since April 2020, as we reported in [“China Cuts Key Interest Rate”](#) (18 Jan 2022).

The bank’s policy shift follows a regulatory crackdown that has hobbled key tech companies, the real estate market’s instability brought on by overborrowing, and an overall slowdown forced by China’s zero-tolerance policy for COVID cases, exemplified by a recent incident in which a single case of the virus was diagnosed in an office building and authorities quarantined the building with the workers still inside.

However, “these cuts are too small to have a material impact, as they are unlikely sufficient to clear up the real bottlenecks and because rates on existing mortgage loans will not be reset this year,” Ting Lu, Nomura’s chief China economist, said to the *Financial Times*.

The central bank pared several key rates early in 2020 in response to the country’s COVID-inspired economic shutdown, then last year reduced the amount of cash banks are required to keep on hand to buffer against loan losses.

Last fall, the government tightened lending in the real estate sector when key companies became overleveraged and flirted with insolvency. (See our coverage in [“China’s Real Estate Market Teeters on Evergrande’s Debt,”](#) 21 Sep 2021, and [“China’s Real Estate Crisis Grows,”](#) 9 Nov 2021.)

Last week’s rate cut “was expected and already priced in by the market,” China Renaissance research chief Bruce Pang told the *FT*.

“The PBOC may do more easing, but not in the form of another rate cut in the near term unless there are sustained headwinds for China’s recovery,” he said.



***TREND FORECAST:*** As we noted in last week's article cited above, China's central bank is giving the nation's economy room to grow by lowering interest rates at a time when other central banks are struggling to slow growth by raising interest rates in their battle with inflation.

*Therefore, as many of the world's economies are slowing, China's will continue accelerating even as it loses some of its export market because of declining demand.*

*China will gain long-term economic strength by allowing both businesses and consumers to borrow more for less, cultivating a stronger consumer economy under its dual circulation policy and building a more self-sustaining economy, fulfilling one of our ["Top 2022 Trends."](#)*

## **RUSSIA'S STOCK MARKET, RUBLE FALL ON FEARS OF UKRAINE INVASION**



Russian stocks saw their worst price slide in almost two years, falling 13 percent over the four sessions ending 19 January as fears grew that Russia will invade Ukraine and suffer economic consequences from a united western alliance.

The dollar-denominated RTS index plunged 7.3 percent to its lowest level since late 2020 and shares of state-run Sberbank sank 8.5 percent to a three-month low.

"We are seeing dislocations in the pricing of rock-solid fundamental stocks as certain western investors are exiting Russia at any price," Luis Saenz, in charge of international distributions at Sinara Financial Corp., told the *Financial Times*.

Yields on ruble-denominated 10-year bonds jumped to their highest since 2016 as owners dumped them, causing Russia's central bank to cancel its weekly bond auction.

A Russian dollar-denominated bond maturing in 2047 watched its yield move from 3.6 percent at the end of December to 4.8 percent last week.

If the West imposes financial sanctions, foreign bondholders would be unable to sell in secondary markets.

The ruble followed stock values down, dropping 0.9 percent against the dollar to 76.7, nearing its nine-month low.

Western nations have threatened Russia with being cut out of the international financial system and ending imports of its oil and gas if President Vladimir Putin sends Russia's army into Ukraine... which we have detailed and continue to report in this week's **Trends Journal** (See "BLINKEN MEETS WITH LAVROV: WAR HAWKS SCREAMING" and "POROSHENKO'S RETURN TO UKRAINE: FIRST CLASS FREAK SHOW" in this issue.)

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Petroleum exports account for about half of Russia's annual budget, and Russia currently provides Europe with more than 40 percent of its natural gas supply.*

*Therefore, it is a lose, lose situation for the EU to keep putting sanctions on Russia, which will in turn shut off its gas flow to Europe. And it is a lose, lose situation for Russia to invade Ukraine and lose its biggest gas customers.*

*Therefore we maintain our forecast that absent a wild card or false flag event, there will be no Russian invasion of Ukraine, since they do not want their economy to further crash.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Russian financial markets also are being damaged by the trend among investors to flee weak and emerging economies as interest rates rise in western developed nations.*

## JAPAN RAISES INFLATION FORECAST, YEN'S VALUE FALLS



For Japan's fiscal year starting this April, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) has raised its inflation expectation from 0.9 percent to 1.1 percent.

Also, for the first time since 2014, the bank altered its view of inflationary risk from “skewed to the downside” to “generally balanced.”

Japan's wholesale prices rose at 8 to 9 percent in November and December; companies are beginning to pass those costs through to consumers., the *Financial Times* reported.

Since the bank's previous assessment in October, prices have been pushed higher by rising energy costs and a weaker yen.

However, the BOJ chose to make no changes to its asset purchase plan or to its -0.1-percent short-term interest rate.

Although Japan's inflation rate remains far below that in much of the rest of the world, expectations had grown that the bank would take a more aggressive stance toward price growth.

As a result, the BOJ's announcement sent the yen's value falling below ¥115 to the dollar, at one point nearing a five-year low.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Since the Panic of '08, Japan has edged in and out of recession. Since 2016, its central bank has kept interest rates negative and has artificially propped up equity markets with the massive bond and stock buying schemes.*

*Japan's economy will remain weak as the global economy continues to slow down. Also, Japan's largest source of energy is almost 100 percent imported. Thus, the higher oil and gas prices rise, the higher inflation will rise... and the deeper its economy will sink.*

## INVESTORS IN EUROPE GRAB HOMES, WAREHOUSES



Investors in Europe's real estate poured a record €359 billion into the market in 2021, forsaking office buildings and storefronts for warehouses and homes.

Of those funds, €102.6 billion was sunk into multi-family housing, 42 percent more than in 2020.

Multi-family housing is now close to office property as Europe's biggest real estate asset category.

The continent's investors put €111 billion into office buildings last year, a 20-percent decline from 2019, as money managers ponder the future impact of the remote work revolution.

Warehouses drew €62 billion in new investment last year, a 48-percent jump from 2020, as the COVID era's boon in online shopping endures.

Investment in physical retail space fell 11 percent last year from 2020, settling at €35.2 billion.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Europe's shift in real estate investment strategy mirrors that happening around the world as the post-COVID economy takes shape and long-term investment strategies adjust to new realities.*

*E-commerce has become central to retailing as brick-and-mortar storefronts go dark, a trend we have documented in articles such as [“Brick-and-Mortar Retail on the Ropes”](#) (6 Feb 2020), [“Retail Bankruptcies Hitting Record Highs”](#) (6 Oct 2020), and [“Black Friday Got Darker”](#) (7 Dec 2021).*

*Storefront retailers will be hit even harder as retail chains open up shop in the metaverse (see related story in this issue), which is one of our [“Top 2022 Trends.”](#)*

*As e-commerce grows, warehouses—not storefronts—will be sought-after investments, as is already the case in Europe and even in India, as we documented in [“Blackstone Gobbling Up India’s Storage Space”](#) (27 Apr 2021).*

*The long-term trend in multi-family housing is driven by the soaring price of single-family homes and now the prospect of higher mortgage interest rates. Younger families are unable to scrape together a down payment or afford pricey mortgage and upkeep costs.*

*Their alternative: apartments, demand for which has pushed rents to record highs—which means record profits for landlords, as we noted in [“Apartment Boom Targets Affluent Tenants”](#) (21 Jan 2020) [“Apartment Rents Climbing”](#) (20 Jul 2021), and [“Rents Soar as Investors Buy Properties and Raise Rates”](#) (14 Sep 2021).*

*Asset managers such as Blackrock and Tricon, not individuals or mom-and-pop property companies, are coming to own more and more multifamily housing properties, a trend we detailed in [“The Bigs Keep Gobbling Up”](#) (18 May 2021) and similar stories.*

*This trend will keep rents high, squeezing more money from tenants and leaving many of them unable to afford down payments on even modest single-family houses.*

*The shift in real estate investing strategies is creating an entire generation of renters, denied the satisfaction of owning their own home and the opportunity to build wealth as equity grows in the homes they own.*



## LATIN AMERICA CURRENCY CRASH. WHAT'S NEXT?



Economists have expressed concern over the devaluation of currencies in Latin America during a year where global commodity prices have increased, which could be evidence of deep-seated problems in these countries.

“It’s very bad news,” Ernesto Revilla, chief Latin America economist at Citi, told the *Financial Times*. “This shows the region is coming out of the pandemic with deeper structural damage than we thought.”

(See [“LATIN AMERICA FACES SLOW, PAINFUL ECONOMIC RECOVERY,”](#) and [“U.N. WARNS LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC DISASTER LOOMING.”](#))

The *FT*’s report used the Chilean peso as one of the causes for concerns. Copper prices around the world jumped 25 percent in 2021 while the peso fell nearly 17 percent against the U.S. dollar. The report said the imbalance was not isolated to Santiago. The Colombian peso also dropped 16 percent against the dollar. Many of these countries took on extra debt during the pandemic and their citizens are facing rising inflation and job uncertainty.

Marcos Casarin, the chief Latin America economist at Oxford Economics, told the paper that the currency prices in these countries already have “a lot of bad news” priced into them.

“You only get rewarded with a stronger currency in a commodities boom if the boom serves to make you richer as a nation. The markets are foreseeing that these commodities didn't bring prosperity, so the currencies didn't deserve to go up,” he said.

*The Miami Herald*, citing forecasts, pointed out that economies in sub-Saharan Africa—where there are several armed conflicts—will grow more than Latin America this year. The GDP in Latin America will have to grow by at least 4 percent to provide enough jobs for the youth entering the workforce. The International Monetary Fund expects a 3 percent growth this year.

“It’s going to be a bad year for the region,” Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC’s executive director, told *The Herald* in an interview. “There will be a significant decrease in economic growth.”

Marisol Argueta de Barillas, the head of the Regional Agenda, Latin America, wrote on the World Economic Forum’s website that COVID-19 outbreak hit these countries at a time when many were undergoing structural, social, and economic differences that were not resolved.

“With regard to Latin America, according to the executive opinion survey carried out in 18 countries of the region, the greatest effects of COVID-19 on social matters are seen as unemployment, livelihood crises and an evident erosion of social cohesion,” she wrote.

These dire conditions in Latin America will continue to put a strain on the U.S.’s southern border.

U.S. authorities announced this week that the Trump-era "Stay in Mexico" policy will be expanded, which requires migrants to await their asylum hearings in Mexico, the Department of Homeland Security said Friday.

Over 60 percent of the asylum-seekers enrolled in the program in December were from Nicaragua, 22 percent were from Venezuela and 12 percent were from Cuba, CBS News reported, citing a recent DHS report. The rest were from Colombia and Ecuador.

***TREND FORECAST: As we have long forecast, as a result of the COVID War that has destroyed nations’ economies and ruined the lives and livelihoods of***

*hundreds of millions, if not billions, the refugee crisis will continue to escalate across the globe.*

*And now, with the poorer nations hit the hardest and our forecasts for worsening economic conditions, the refugee crisis will accelerate across much of the globe. In turn, as we have long forecast, there will be new anti-immigration, anti-vax, anti-tax populist movements that will challenge established political parties.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Biden administration was slow to act on the border and allowed the situation to worsen to a point that it is not sustainable.*

*Immigration has always been the political third rail. If President Biden came out too forcefully and told migrants not to come, progressives from his party would criticize him as being a slightly more tolerable Donald Trump. If he opened the border, moderates would abandon him.*

*So he did what any veteran politician would do: put someone else in charge.*

*He tapped Vice President Kamala Harris to lead the administration's effort to regain control of the border. She took part in a few photo-op video conferences with leaders from the Northern Triangle, visited Mexico, and even the border. Nothing was solved. She's running for her own political life and does not want to be tied to its failure.*

*The situation has gotten so untenable that secret flights are entering the U.S. in the dead of night carrying unaccompanied children because there is simply nowhere else to stick them. Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, downplayed the flights seen landing in the wee small hours of the morning as merely flights "earlier than you might like."*

*The border issue is a serious crisis and must be met with a serious response. There is little the U.S. can do to stop corruption in Honduras and Haiti. You can't blame these migrants for fleeing. But the U.S. needs political courage to tackle the problem, which Washington is lacking.*

## ***Solution***

*A key element in Gerald Celente's Occupy Peace movement is to close America's 800 plus military bases in foreign nations and bring home the troops to secure the homeland borders. This is both more effective and less costly than to build a wall.*

## **SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION**



### **INFLATION IN U.K. REACHES 30-YEAR HIGH**

Consumer prices in Britain increased 5.4 percent in December, compared to a year earlier, the fastest annual rise since March 1992, the National Office of Statistics

reported.

November's rate was 5.1 percent.

The latest rise was driven by increases across a range of goods and services.

Analysts expect the kingdom's inflation rate to peak at 6 percent in April as the U.K. continues to emerge from the Omicron onslaught and consumers resume spending amid continued shortages and supply-chain snags, causing prices to rise further.

Also in April, Britain's cap on energy prices is due to be reviewed.

Last month, the Bank of England became the first central bank in a major economy to raise interest rates in response to inflation, which we noted in [“European Markets: Higher Rates Impact”](#) (21 Dec 2021).

**TRENDPOST:** *Inflation's relentless rise is putting the central bank under greater pressure to raise rates again in the very near future. And the higher rates rise, the deeper the U.K.'s economy will fall. Indeed, that is why, as detailed in this **Trends Journal**, the government is ending the COVID War and opening up its economy. (See "UK'S BORIS "BULLSHIT" JOHNSON WINDING DOWN COVID WAR?" )*

## PROCTER & GAMBLE REPORTS HIGHER SALES AS PRICES RISE



Despite, and partly because of, the largest price increases in more than two years, Procter & Gamble's (P&G's) sales of consumer products from diapers and razors to toothpaste and antacids grew 6 percent in 2021's final quarter, year over year, giving

the company revenue of \$21 billion for the period.

About half the increase was due simply to retail price increases, P&G said in a statement announcing the quarter's results. Consumers buying larger volumes of products accounted for the other half.

The U.S. inflation rate ran at a four-decade high late last year, finishing December at 7 percent, its highest since June 1982, as we reported in ["U.S. Inflation Highest in 40 Years"](#) (18 Jan 2022).

P&G's share price gained 3 percent on the news and pushed past \$164 on 21 January, its highest level in more than a year.

P&G will continue to raise prices this year, the company said, and predicted not only that consumers will continue to pay them, but also that the company will see greater profits even amid shortages of workers and materials.



“The consumer is very resilient and very focused on these categories of clean home and health and hygiene,” CFO Andre Shulten said in a statement quoted by *The Wall Street Journal*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Companies will continue to raise prices as high as they can to increase profit margins until they hit the breaking point when consumers slow down purchases because prices are too high.

## **COST OF RECYCLED PLASTIC SOARS**



The cost of recycled PET, the most common form of consumer plastic, has shot up 103 percent to €1,690 a ton, or about \$1,900, since January 2021 as more consumer products companies seek to fulfill sustainability targets they have pledged.

Prices for bales of discarded plastic bottles, the raw material for recycled PET, have risen even more, according to data service ICIS.

Costs for recycled plastic now exceed those for new, according to the *Financial Times*, even as rising prices of petroleum push up the cost of virgin plastic.

The European Union has mandated that drinks makers such as Coca-Cola and Nestlé use at least 25 percent recycled plastic in their bottles by 2025; some manufacturers have set even loftier goals.

However, “projects are on hold and ramping up [of recycled plastics’ use] has really slowed...is what we’re hearing from suppliers,” Helen McGeough, plastics recycling analyst at ICIS, told the *FT*.

“Supply of recycled PET doesn’t anything like match the demand because recycling companies can’t scale fast enough,” sustainability consultant Sue Garrard said to the *FT*.

Three associations of beverage producers have asked the European Union to grant them priority access to recycled plastic ahead of other industries in order to meet the mandated targets.

Germany has begun a return deposit program on plastic bottles; other European countries are considering similar plans. The U.K. holds drinks makers responsible for funding collection programs for their used bottles.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Manufacturers are under growing pressure from consumers to take responsibility for environmental stewardship, an aspect of our [“Top 2022 Trend”](#) toward sustainability and self-sufficiency.*

*As supplies of recycled plastic fall short, drinks companies and other consumer products makers will support bottle deposit programs and similar schemes to collect used plastic because it is no longer trash but instead has now become raw material in the circular economy, a concept we detailed in [“Raise a Glass to the Circular Economy”](#) (9 Mar 2021).*

## INFLATION ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS



Wondering how to cope with inflation? Let yourself be guided by the Argentinians, who live with inflation of 50 percent or more each year.

Here are their tips Bloomberg gathered, adjusted for those in the northern hemisphere learning to live with price hikes of 5 to 7 percent annually.

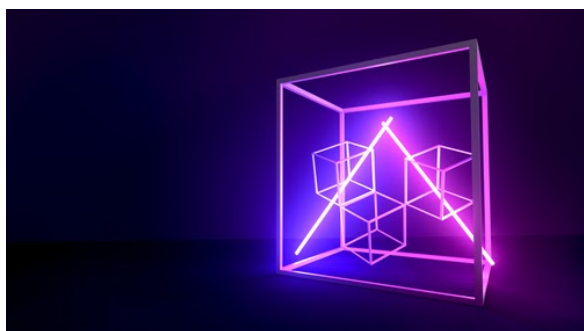
Spend your income right away because your money will be worth less tomorrow. We might not be ready to stock the freezer with six months' worth of chicken thighs, but there's wisdom here: buy big-ticket items now—that new flat-screen TV, the second car, the dining room set—because the price will be higher next month.

Borrow now to buy expensive items. To buy those big-ticket items, borrow now and buy them at today's price, which will be lower than tomorrow's; then repay the loan with tomorrow's dollars, which will be worth less than today's. You score a win-win.

Negotiate pay raises that keep pace with inflation. In an inflation economy, the old 2-percent pay bump loses you money before it shows up in your next paycheck. This is an employees' market. Dicker for pay hikes that are tied to inflation. The downside: tying wages to inflation fuels a wage-price spiral, in which the two chase each other higher in a cycle that becomes hard to rein in.

Buy investments linked to inflation. In the U.S., yields on Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities rise with prices; typically, so does the value of precious metals, commodities, and some collectibles. Real estate also has remained a reliable stash of value over the long term.

## **SPOTLIGHT: THE METAVERSE**



### **MAJOR RETAILERS GETTING READY TO SET UP SHOP IN THE METAVERSE**

Abercrombie & Fitch, Nike, Ralph Lauren, Urban Outfitters, and Walmart are among the retailers who have filed trademark applications in recent weeks that detail their plans to set up shop in the

metaverse, the virtual world where people's digital identities can work, attend concerts and other events, and, most importantly, shop.

Walmart has indicated plans to issue its own cryptocurrency and NFT collectibles.

In the metaverse, it also plans to sell virtual merchandise including electronics, home décor, athletic equipment, toys, and personal care products, according to the company's seven trademark applications filed 30 December.

"They're super intense," trademark attorney Josh Gerben said to CNBC.

"There's a lot of language in these which shows that there's a lot of planning going on behind the scenes about how they're going to address cryptocurrency, how they're going to address the metaverse," he added.

Nike's trademark applications show a plan to sell virtual sport shoes and clothing. It also has partnered with metaverse platform Roblox to create a virtual realm called Nikeland.

Last month, Nike bought the virtual sneaker company RTFKT. The price was not disclosed.

Gap has begun selling digital replicas of its logo sweatshirts for as much as \$415. Bonus: the purchase includes a real hoodie.

Already, Adidas and Under Armour have sold out their initial slate of NFTs, which now fetch jaw-dropping prices on the trading platform OpenSea.

"All of a sudden, everyone is like, 'This is becoming super real and we need to make sure our IP is protected in the space,'" said Gerben.

Many retailers came late to e-commerce and now fear missing opportunities in the metaverse, director Frank Chaparro at crypto data service The Block, said to CNBC.

“It’s a win-win for any company in retail,” Chaparro said, “and even if it just turns out to be a fad, there’s not a lot of reputation damage in trying something weird.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The metaverse is the ultimate video game and, like Minecraft or Grand Theft Auto, will lure a massive number of people to spend hundreds or thousands of hours, and real money, inhabiting a make-believe world, ignoring their real-life relationships and opportunities for a fantasy that disappears the moment they turn away from the screen.*

*As we have noted, the metaverse and many of the old dot-com ventures have something in common: each is, or was, driven by speculative fever. The dot-com bubble eventually turned into the dot-com bust.*

*There are dangers of a similar boom and bust for metaverse ventures. There's hype. But there has also been real disruption happening, with products and ecosystems exploding in 2021. The gaming sector has been especially affected.*

*Axie Infinity and other games have demonstrated a different profit model, which rewards players, and allows for decentralized profit sharing for investors as well. The whole industry has taken note (see [“METAVERSE GAMING HITS BILLION DOLLAR PAYDIRT WITH AXIE INFINITY,”](#) 5 Oct 2021).*

*The Metaverse industry had a market cap of \$48 billion in 2020. Some, like Emergen Research, predict that it will grow to close to a trillion by the end of the decade.*

*Grayscale, as reported by Yahoo News, was even more bullish in a recent report, predicting that economic opportunities present in the metaverse could top \$1trillion within the next few years.*

*The report, titled ‘The Metaverse, Web 3.0 Virtual Cloud Economies’, said metaverse platforms that have integrated crypto tokens, NFTs, decentralized finance and more have “created a new online experience”.*



*Eventually, the metaverse will evolve into a stable, complex, alternative reality that will be harder to disrupt. There will be winners and losers. For now, it remains to be seen which worlds survive and the metaverse remains a frontier with no guarantees.*

## **META READYING NFT COLLECTIBLES MARKET**



Meta, the company formerly known as Facebook, is taking three steps deeper into the metaverse.

It's tweaking its software to enable Facebook users to display their NFT collectible tokens, such as CryptoPunks and Bored Ape Yacht Club, on their Facebook pages.

In addition, the company is developing a service that will help users create their own collectible tokens, several people familiar told the *Financial Times*.

Also, Meta is preparing to create a market site where people can buy and sell their collectible pixels, two insiders disclosed to the *FT*.

Meta subsidiary Instagram is testing a feature allowing users to display NFTs, according to unnamed sources cited by the *FT*.

Crypto exchange Coinbase is opening an NFT trading post, Twitter is readying its pages to display NFTs, and Reddit has unveiled its own line of NFT avatars.

Meta is late to enter the surging market for digital objets d'art, which has swelled to \$40 billion, the *FT* reported.

OpenSea, the chief trading platform for NFTs, raised \$300 million earlier this month to reach a valuation of \$13 billion; six months ago, it raised \$100 million and was valued at \$1.5 billion.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *This is the New ABnormal. Just as the Industrial Revolution sapped the creative uniqueness of individuals with mass production, the metaverse world will further sap the human spirit from the already hi-tech addicted global population.*

*Upcoming generations will get degrees, honors and salutations along the way, and become motivated to become more “Meta” and less human.*

# FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS



## 5G's CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

By *Richard Gale* and *Gary Null PhD*, [Progressive Radio Network](#)

The roll out of the new C-Band 5G service by AT&T and Verizon scheduled for January 19, has raised alarms for major airline executives who have warned that it will create “catastrophic” interference with flight navigation systems and pilot safety during take off and landing.

The risks will be greater during bad weather.

Among the warnings are major disruptions in commerce and supply chain, the overriding of aircrafts’ electronic safety systems and radio altimeters, and the grounding of flights that will leave “tens of thousands of Americans grounded.” According to CNN, the airlines estimate that upwards to 1,000 flights will be disrupted daily.

The 5G threat is particularly heightened in low-visibility conditions.

Chief executives from American Airlines, United, Delta, Southwest and JetBlue have demanded that 5G be blocked within a two-mile radius of major US airports. FedEx and UPS have also joined the airlines' complaints.

Foreign airlines such as Dubai's Emirates, Air India, Japan Air, Lufthansa and British Airways have already changed or canceled flights to the US. Two of the world's largest plane manufacturers, Airbus and Boeing, have also issued warnings.

This has become an ongoing battle between the Federal Aviation Administration and the private telecom industry and its Washington lobbyists. The FAA has been warning about 5G interruption of planes' navigation systems for quite some time.

The telecom industry's unwillingness to budge is most disturbing because the Biden administration has already permitted 90 percent of wireless tower deployment to roll out as scheduled.

It is only in the vicinity of major airports where the FAA and airlines demand restrictions due to safety concerns. However, as we have reported for the past several years, the telecomm giants, notably AT&T and Verizon, and its leading media spokespersons at CNN and the New York Times, have undermined and denied 5G's risks, especially to human health and the environment, ever since wireless technologies were first commercialized.

5G is destined to be a permanent fixture across the nation. There is barely a chance to prevent it. The thousands of medical and environmental studies confirming high EMF's dangers and the petitions signed by thousands of international scientists to halt its deployment are unequivocally ignored or worse ostracized and canceled.

It is estimated that there are over 10,000 peer-reviewed clinical studies mentioning serious molecular biological injury and defects to organs, neurons,

cells and cellular function, and DNA damage to plants, animals and humans alike.

Between August 2016 and September 2018 alone, over 400 new studies on electromagnetic radiation risks were compiled by public health Professor Joel Moskowitz at the University of California at Berkeley.

Despite the pandemic, lockdowns and social distancing have not hindered 5G's progress to connect every American into its spider's web. In December 2019, T-Mobile reached its goal of nationwide 5G coverage of over 1.3 million square miles (34 percent of the US) and AT&T reached its milestone to reach 179 million people.

The 5G roll out is also crucial for international globalists to usher in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The World Economic Forum's presentation, "Why is 5G Important for the Fourth Industrial Revolution," outlines the multi-trillion dollar impact advanced connectivity will have on manufacturing, wholesale and resale, smart cities and homes, public services, transportation, real time banking, finance and insurance, agriculture and forestry, microchip surveillance, real estate, education, mining, health and medicine.

We must not hold any false hopes that the Biden administration will ultimately side with the airlines' safety concerns. During the 2020 election, the Biden campaign received \$97 million from the Communications/Tech sector versus Trump's \$18 million. Alphabet (Google), Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, AT&T and Comcast overwhelmingly contributed to Biden's war chest.

The American public is being bamboozled with blatant falsehoods to embrace 5G as a necessary and innovative technology that will benefit and improve our lives. But the real truth is the exact opposite.

The following information has been abbreviated from scientific literature that is fully validated and has been stated by international experts such as Drs. Devra

Davis and Martin Pall about EMF's adverse effects to government leaders and national legislators repeatedly.

This outline was presented by Dr. Martin Pall, a Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Medical Sciences at Washington State University to the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Pall is recognized worldwide as an expert in EMF and 5G's detrimental effects on biological systems and the diseases associated with wireless technologies.

- Lower Fertility: Alters the structure of the testes and ovaries, lowers sperm count and the number of egg follicles, increases spontaneous abortion and lowers the levels of three sex hormones.
- Neurological and Neuropsychiatric Effects: There has been a dramatic increase in the following conditions since the advent of mobile phones, the internet, and wireless technologies: insomnia, fatigue, depression, headaches and cognitive dysfunction, anxiety, and loss of memory. Animal studies have shown that EMFs produce major changes in brain structure, which is likely happening to everyone who has extensive daily exposure to EMFs.
- Cellular DNA Damage: There are three types of DNA damage observed in EMF exposure: single and double DNA breaks and oxidized DNA bases. These can cause cancer and mutations in the sexual germ lines.
- Apoptosis: EMFs contribute to programmed cell death that in turn leads to reproductive and neurodegenerative disorders.
- Oxidative Stress: Free radical damage that has been associated with numerous health conditions including cancer, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, myocardial infarction, stroke, chronic inflammation, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, cellular death and aging.
- Endocrine Effects: According Dr. Pall, every hormonal system in the body is adversely affected by EMF exposure.



- Excessive Intracellular Calcium:  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  is critical for cellular activity.
- Cancer: There are 35 separate scientific reviews of the body of peer-reviewed literature providing evidence that EMFs increase carcinogenesis, promote and progress tumor development and contribute to metastasis.

There are also other medical conditions that have been shown to be associated likely with EMF exposure:

- Cardiac Effects. EMFs interfere with the electrical control of the heart that can produce tachycardia, bradycardia, arrhythmia and abnormal heart palpitations.
- Early Onset of Alzheimer's and Dementia: In recent years and in parallel with increased EMF exposure, signs of symptoms associated with Alzheimer's are being observed in people aged 30 and younger. Dr. Pall has called this "digital dementias."
- ADHD and Autism: The epidemic in ADHD and autism witnessed in each younger generation may be caused by late prenatal and early post-natal EMF exposure. Each of these neurological conditions is associated with the increase of calcium over-penetrating cell linings due to EMF pulsations and disrupting synapse formations.

Everyone will be affected by 5G's radiation. But it will not require three decades to observe its injurious effects.

Unlike cigarettes, nobody has a choice whether you wish to be exposed to 5G or not. 5G's EMF radiation is all-pervasive.

The mainstream media, in particular the *New York Times*, which has a collaborative agreement with the leading 5G provider Verizon, have no intention to warn the public about any of the scientific findings mentioned above.

There is a growing consensus in the scientific and medical community that 5G will usher an epidemic of disease never before witnessed in human history. It is too difficult to make forecasts.

Nevertheless, if the past and current research on EMF's adverse effects on health and the environment during the past 50 years are any indication, we are entering a new epoch of disease and neurological disorders that humanity is completely unprepared to handle.

This is a consequence of what happens when an entire nation is trapped into carelessly trusting elected presidents and legislators whose campaigns are bankrolled by the Telecomm giants and Silicon Valley, and a media empire ruled by serial liars and masters of disinformation campaigns for private corporate interests.

This is vulture capitalism at its worst.

## THE RISE OF CRYPTO BANKS



The cryptocurrency market has been going through significant changes in the last few years. Bitcoin, Ethereum, and other digital currencies are getting more public attention and the process of their adoption is intensifying. After going through a period of

initial coin offerings (ICOs) in 2017, cryptocurrencies are now helping build decentralized finance or DeFi. We are also finally witnessing the rise of crypto banks.

### The Crypto Market Today

Before exploring what crypto banking has to offer, it's important to realize how much the cryptocurrency market has grown. At the time of writing this article, the market started another bull run, with BTC reaching another all-time high of more than \$66,880 and a market cap of \$1.19 trillion. The second-most-valued cryptocurrency project is Ethereum, and the price of ETH stands at around \$4,140, with a total market cap of over \$489 billion.

The total market cap of all cryptocurrencies is now over \$2.6 trillion, making Bitcoin and Ether the most commonly used cryptocurrencies, besides a few other established coins at crypto-friendly banks.

In 2021, 13% of Americans bought or traded crypto in the past 12 months. In comparison, 24% of Americans invested in stocks over the same period.

### Why the Traditional Banking System Is Flawed

Many people still remember and feel the financial consequences of the 2008 economic crisis. It was central authorities and, by extension, taxpayers who had to step in and bail out large banks after their careless and even malicious actions backfired.

Countries all over the world are known to mismanage their national currencies and economy, which often results in hyperinflation and the total collapse of a given currency's value. Venezuela and Zimbabwe are just some of the most extreme examples, but developed countries are no strangers either to implementing policies that significantly impact their currencies.

Just a few short years separate the global economic crisis brought on by banks from crypto emerging as a potential solution to a broken system and getting recognition from both retail and institutional investors.

In 2008, Satoshi Nakamoto, the mysterious figure behind Bitcoin, published a whitepaper explaining how a decentralized peer-to-peer digital money would work. The idea didn't gain recognition instantly, but nowadays, there are more than 10,000 other cryptocurrency projects. While their usefulness and importance vary significantly, these figures show that the interest in blockchain technology and the idea behind cryptos is growing.

For example, in 2021, Visa launched an Ethereum-network-powered program that allows for financial transactions to be completed with cryptocurrencies on Visa's network—a powerful indicator that crypto banking is here to stay.

## **The Need for Crypto Banks and Their Benefits**

According to a Cornerstone Advisors 2020 survey, the majority of the US residents who already own cryptocurrencies would like their current bank to provide them with the opportunity to invest in crypto directly.

Furthermore, having Bitcoin-based credit and debit card rewards is something that a large portion of the crypto community would be interested in.

What exactly does crypto banking need to offer its customers? Essential services such as those provided for fiat currencies—holding a balance, earning interest, and making payments—are must-haves. But cryptos also offer some unique possibilities fiat currencies can't compete with. With blockchain

technology and decentralized apps (dApps), the rise of crypto banks run by smart contracts is to be expected.

The technology allows users to borrow fiat money without having to go through a background check. Crypto serves as collateral, and to get it back, users have to pay back the amount with interest.

Borrowing and lending is just one fragment of the possibilities that banks supporting crypto and decentralized online platforms can provide; savings accounts and seamless payments with debit and credit cards are also some of the options.

**Established Banks Incorporating Custodial Services For Cryptocurrencies**  
Banks with custody of crypto assets currently don't offer their services to retail investors. However, to cater to interest from institutional investors, U.S. Bank has implemented custodial service for Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, and Litecoin. The bank plans to add support for Ethereum and other similar cryptocurrencies in the future.

U.S. Bank is not alone in announcing such service, as Bank of New York Mellon, Northern Trust, and State Street have also announced they would offer custody over crypto assets.

## **Cryptocurrency Exchanges**

It stands to reason that cryptocurrency exchanges are best positioned to extend their services and contribute to the rise of crypto banks as they already have a large number of users on their platforms. There are more than 147 million active addresses on exchanges that hold BTC—that's without counting thousands of other cryptocurrencies. The aforementioned U.S. Bank is the fifth-largest bank in the US and has 18.7 million customers. In comparison, Coinbase has more than 56 million verified users.

Obviously, large and well-known cryptocurrency exchanges have the significant advantage of being firmly established presences in the crypto market. Also, most of them have already built up high reserves of cash.

For banks to accept crypto, it'll take time and legislative support. In the meantime, cryptocurrency exchanges are implementing user-friendly payment solutions. For example, Binance has recently implemented the Binance Card, a Visa debit card that allows you to make payments with crypto, with zero fees and cashback options.

## **Closing Thoughts**

While we're still far away from traditional banks operating with crypto in the same manner as with fiat currencies, there's been significant headway in moving the financial industry in that direction. Allowing banks regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to custody virtual assets in 2020 was an important first step for the market. This could open the door for more crypto-friendly banks in the USA.

As the financial and cryptocurrency sectors continue to evolve and develop, we're confident we'll witness significant changes within a decade. After all, Bitcoin going online in 2009 wasn't so long ago, and nowadays, we have an emerging industry, financial system, payment solutions, and thousands of projects powered by blockchain technology.

Courtesy of <https://cryptoblokes.com/blog/rise-of-crypto-banks/>



# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



## MARKETS: THIS IS NOT THE BIG ONE

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

Markets rise and markets fall—understanding what is normal, and what isn't.

Markets in aggregate derive their value off of action in the debt market, and despite the recent NORMAL volatility which we have seen in the equity markets as of late—**the debt market remains stable.**

For the stock market to “crash,” we would need to see instability in the debt market—which is just not there right now.

I believe that the issue today is people are just not used to seeing normal market pullbacks and corrections, which do occur from time to time.

Therefore, when people experience normal price fluctuations, they get fearful.

However, this coming week can be thought of in some ways as a MAKE-OR-BREAK moment for the market as the Fed is expected to raise rates. In my opinion a Fed rate hike will prove to be bullish for stocks. For weeks now the market has been pricing in a Fed rate hike, and that has caused increased volatility. Generally, when the market “prices in” an event like a rate hike and then gets one, stocks respond in a positive way.

## **RUSSIA-UKRIANE.**

What appears as rising tension between Russia and Ukraine is another uncertainty for the market, and the market HATES uncertainty. If in fact an invasion scenario by Russia into Ukraine does occur, I would expect that global stock markets will fall however, energy and crude oil prices will skyrocket.

## **THE BIG ONE.**

If we realize that the big market event/stock market collapse everyone is anticipating will be the result of a debt market implosion, *meaning a situation where debt sells off and things like the US 10-year yield spikes in an uncontrolled fashion*, then by just following say the US 10-year yield, will give us a BIG heads up on whether THE BIG ONE is happening or not at any given time.

## **DO NOT GET RATTLED!**

THE key to being a steady/long term stock market investor/trader is to not get rattled, and you do this by simply understanding market dynamics—and the key to that, is by realizing that the stock market IS A DERIVATIVE of action in the debt market. Other keys to how stocks will perform is the relative strength of the dollar, or by following the DXY/dollar index. Also, by following crude oil- which is the lifeblood of the market.

# TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



## HOW PERISHABLE ARE MARTIAL ARTS SKILLS?

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

Once you learn something and acquire the ability to do it well you normally will never lose your ability entirely. Learn a foreign language and discontinue practicing it for a couple of years and you're sure to be less able to communicate effectively than you were. However, you will be able to communicate somewhat, albeit at reduced efficiency.

But . . . if you brush up for a month or two, practicing every day, your full capability will return. In general, this applies to the techniques of the combat arts in a similar way.

If you were a hard-drilling classicist and attended practice workouts four or five times a week, but have been out of training for a few months, you'll muddle through a few classes when you return, and after four to six months you'll either be back to your old level of ability or beyond it.

If you were active in a competitive fighting sport, you will not have lost all of your ability to compete after a year's hiatus, but you'll need some hard months of regular training to regain your "fighting edge" and be ready to compete again.

About the only real negative attached to temporary discontinuances of classical or competitive training is that it's going to be a while, when you return, before you're back to where you were—and nobody enjoys feeling at less than full capacity after enjoying a high level of proficiency.

But what about combat and defense training? What's the story here? Well, it's pretty much the same, except that losing your edge here could prove a bit more costly.

Good techniques of combat are readily retainable.

In fact, retainability is one of the requirements for techniques that are intended for actual defense and close combat purposes. However . . . discontinuing training for months or years will definitely result in a bit of rust gathering on your ability to use the techniques.

And the potential drawback here is nothing to take lightly. Yes, you'll retain a good deal of what you acquired, if you trained suitably; but there is always the chance—in real combat—that "a good deal" of your former level of ability will not be enough.

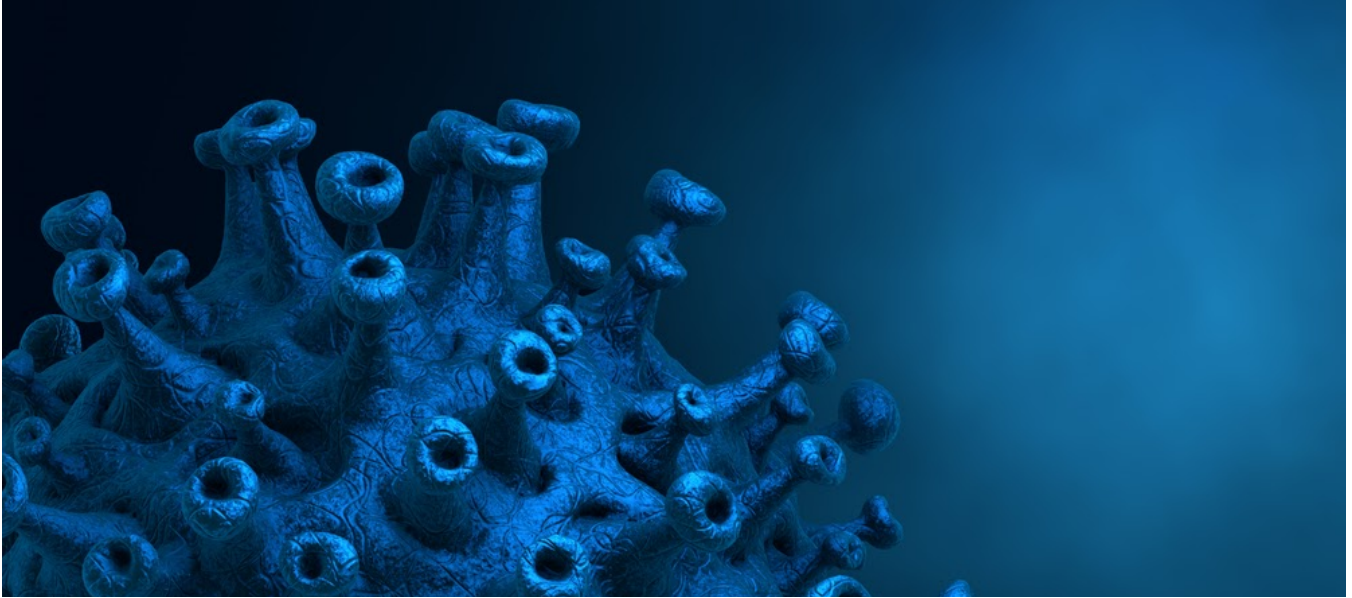
As far as combative capability is concerned you do not want to let the blade dull, so to speak!

From our experience, in the case of our personal training and the teaching of countless others over the decades, quality combat skills are only minimally "perishable," and with just a small amount of discipline, and the commitment of a few hours a week, it is easy to retain at the very least 80% of your own previous best. Closer to 95%—if not a clear 100%—is more likely with just a little effort.

Practical, real world combat skills are the least perishable of all because they are the simplest of all martial arts skills.

However, if you are wise you will do what is needed not to allow your combatives skills to diminish to any appreciable degree. Keep in regular training if at all possible. When and where breaks in your routine of practice and drill occur, keep them as brief as possible, and at least mentally review your skills, and practice something for a few minutes each day.

# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

## MY COVID EXPERIENCE

Like many millions of others, it came my time to get COVID.

It happened to me before Christmas. It was less than a week after a great night dining out with Gerald Celente in Kingston. I thank God I wasn't feeling or showing any signs of sickness at that point.

But who knows? Gerald is one tough dude. He may well have already gotten COVID and shook it off with a sneeze or two. He's an amazing guy.

Anyway. My son, home from college, was a bit stuffed up one morning. Then we learned his girlfriend, a very sweet girl, who was vaccinated, had tested positive for COVID.

No one in our family, including my significant other Amy, nor our two children, had received any COVID vaccine.



My own reasons were based on what I knew, and much that I had written surrounding COVID.

Primarily, I judged that there was no way I would be taking an experimental gene-level “cure” from the same scientists that had literally funded and created the virus.

I never believed the bat soup story. Not for one second. The day I learned COVID occurred within spitting distance of a level IV virology lab in Wuhan, that’s all I needed to know about the man-made origins of the virus.

As far as whether COVID was real or something made up, that was a bit more complicated. I believed it was real, and news of elderly people here in NY dying in droves in nursing homes, confirmed for me that COVID was at least something akin to a very bad flu.

I had personal experience in 2021 with several friends and family members diagnosed with COVID who experienced some of the odd symptoms, including complete loss of smell, chronic headaches, etc.

### **An Incident With My Brother**

And then one night this past summer my sister-in-law called me. She said my brother George had gotten COVID. Close to 60, and 2 days less than a year older than me (yes, my Irish twin!) my stoic brother hadn’t revealed to anyone what he was battling.

He had apparently gotten over the worst phase, during which he dropped a good thirty pounds. George is a big boned man, and had been overweight during latter years, but he had lost a significant amount of weight a few years before this. So he was not anything like morbidly obese.

But according to my sister-in-law, George was now suffering mental effects from COVID that were making him paranoid. I frankly didn’t believe it, and thought the two must have just been arguing about something.

I asked to speak to my brother.

“They’re all COVID crazy,” George said to me when he got on the phone. “They want to put me in the hospital. They all got the vax! I told them, I’m fine, I’m not going to the hospital.”

“Okay buddy, do you need to maybe just get away, and spend a night or two at my place?”

“Yeah,” he replied. “That sounds good.”

George and his wife live about 45 minutes away from me. We decided to meet in Poughkeepsie. George’s wife drove him, and she called me as I was on the road.

“Joe, he just tried to grab the steering wheel. He thinks I’m driving too fast. I’m driving literally 20 miles an hour, but he won’t let me drive.”

I asked her to put my brother on the phone.

“George, what’s up?”

“She’s driving dangerous. She’s trying to get us killed. Honey, slow down,” I could hear him warn my sister-in-law.

It happened to be raining pretty hard. But still, I knew my sister-in-law was a very responsible person who would not be barreling along, especially given my brother’s apparent nervousness.

George actually made her pull over. I talked to him, and convinced him to let her get back on the road. I told him I’d stay on the phone with him.

I tried to engage him in a little small talk about baseball, knowing he’s always been a big Mets fan.

“Honey, slow down. Just keep your eyes on the road. Slow.”

“George, I’m driving fifteen miles an hour.”

“Just slow down. You’re going to get in an accident.”

It was very weird. It was like my brother couldn’t break away from obsessing about getting in an accident, and going too fast, though it was obvious to me at this point that his wife was literally crawling along Route 9W.

They eventually got to the meet-up spot in Poughkeepsie where I was waiting, which happened to be just across the way from Saint Francis Hospital.

“George, I gotta tell you. You don’t sound quite yourself,” I told him, as we stood in the parking lot in the rain.

“Don’t tell me my own brother is COVID crazy too,” he shook his head, and I felt horrible. But I also knew the man wasn’t behaving rationally. He said some other odd things, including getting names of places wrong. It just wasn’t like him.

Overall, he was markedly more talkative than usual, defensive and strangely derogatory toward everyone, suspicious, but also acidly quick-witted in a manner that was very unlike him.

“Buddy, I wouldn’t say this if I didn’t love you and want the best for you, but you don’t seem quite yourself. Do you think it might be a good idea to maybe go to Saint Francis and have them check you out?”

George ended up letting us take him to the emergency room at Saint Francis. He was admitted, and doctors ended up determining he was experiencing COVID related brain inflammation. He was given medication for it, and after a few days he was back home and doing better.

Talking to him, I could tell immediately this was the “old George,” affable, not paranoid, nor exhibiting the strange talk that he had that night.

I told Gerald at the time about what I observed with my brother.

“COVID is definitely some strange malady,” I remarked. “This whole thing is crazy, because the world is between a rock and a hard place. This virus is real. But this gene-level shit they’re trying to get everyone to take is bad news.”

## **Armed With Info Gathered From Reporting**

Writing for the **Trends Journal**, I had a very good pulse on the virus, the vaccines, what front-line physicians like Doctor Zelenko over in Orange County, not far from where I lived, were recommending, etc.

When I first bought some boxes of “Horse Ivermectin” from Amazon, they were five dollars each. They went up to 25. Then 80 dollars for two boxes. By November, the U.S. Postal service was working with authorities to intercept packages and stop people from getting any.

I had already seen NAC (N-Acetyl-Cysteine), a supplement I used pretty routinely to reduce phlegm, which I’m prone to, banned from sale at places like Amazon.

Apparently, people had learned that NAC helps with congestion brought on by COVID.

I quickly sourced NAC elsewhere, and bought a supply. Again, what had been a six dollar supplement was now selling for over 20 dollars a bottle.

Between hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, NAC and even aspirin, the discounting of vitamins C and D, and the insistence by many medical professionals that antibiotics should not be used in the treatment of COVID, it was clear to me there was something truly evil going on with the medical establishment in concert with governmental authorities.

Even if Ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine were not believed to have any special benefit in treating COVID, during all of 2020 and a good portion of early 2021, there were no vaccines even available to people.

Why were these drugs being suppressed and lied about?

They had been used routinely by millions of people for maladies like malaria, lupus, and getting rid of parasites, and were completely uncontroversial and proven safe. “Right to Try,” for patients, and the right of doctors to prescribe “off-label” uses of such drugs, should have prevailed.

Instead, there were vicious propaganda wars being waged against the drugs, and any doctors advocating their use.

The antibiotics angle regarding COVID was just as bizarre. In February 2021 I wrote the **Trends Journal** story [“BACTERIAL PNEUMONIA & COVID: WHAT THE CDC SAYS.”](#)

The facts were straightforward. Whenever viral pneumonia is present, there’s a good statistical chance it can turn into bacterial pneumonia. And treatment with antibiotics is standard treatment for bacterial pneumonia.

In other words, utilizing antibiotics for COVID treatment, as Doctor Zelenko and others were advocating, made complete sense.

Why were doctors waiting until people were congested and dying, and then putting them on ventilators? Why weren’t people being treated in a timely way with antibiotics for pneumonia?

I myself have always been prone to lung related ailments, including bronchitis and walking pneumonia, which I had both as a child and an adult (once in the middle of summer, which was particularly miserable).

I vowed that if I did contract COVID, I would make sure I was prescribed Augmentin, an antibiotic I knew worked for me in combating past bouts with lung infections.

## **COVID On Christmas**

So, it was getting close to Christmas. I had just finished putting together a holiday-themed cartoon project called [\*The Fiddle Faddles Christmas Special\*](#). I'd created it as a sort of retro-style feel good story, about an elderly couple who find out their kids won't be home for the holidays.

I was especially delighted that Gerald took a cameo role in the video.

A few days after showing the final video to some friends and voice actors who had contributed to the project, my son was sniffing. He's of notably good constitution, and it takes a lot to set him down.

Whatever he had was just a minor inconvenience to him. But then we learned the news about his girlfriend receiving a positive COVID test. And sure enough, within a few days, I was feeling fatigued, and so was Amy, my significant other.

At first, symptoms seemed manageable enough. I even laughed when I discovered that yep, my sense of smell (and taste) were going rapidly. One morning, I could barely smell the scent of cinnamon, which I liked to put in my cereal. The next day, I couldn't smell any scent from the cinnamon bottle, or anything else at all.

The next two weeks were progressively worse on every physical front. If this was the mild Omicron, I could only thank God that He had kept me from contracting Delta.

I was feverish, with temperature spikes to 103. Doses of ibuprofen barely kept it under control. I of course pulled out a box of that Ivermectin I'd purchased before the suppressions and bans.



Nothing I say here constitutes medical advice, of course. I'm simply conveying what I chose to do for myself.

After 10 days, I was definitely not doing better. Neither was Amy. We made a call to urgent care.

Assuming the call was basically like a tele-visit with a doctor, I related my basic situation and symptoms, as well as my history of susceptibility to lung ailments.

"I think I just need some Augmentin, which works well for me when I have pneumonia, which I know I have," I told the doctor.

"Well, I'm not prescribing Augmentin for you," he replied. There was a smugness in the way he said it that ticked me off.

"Why not?" I questioned.

"Because that's not a treatment for COVID," he answered.

"So what am I supposed to do? Wait until I'm ready to be put on a ventilator?" I felt my blood boiling.

"You have a nice night," by God as my witness the man seemed to be making a special effort to convey: *well you opted not to get vaccinated, it serves you right.*

"Fuck off," I said to him, before he hung up.

Amy let me know I'd probably not done myself any good with that one.

The next morning, she decided to go to Urgent Care in person. I told her I would see what they did in her case, before I went.

She returned more than six hours after having left. She had to literally stand out in the rain for forty minutes in a line along with other sick people, in temps just above freezing, just to get on a list to be seen.

Why the hell couldn't these people have been allowed to wait in a hallway of the place?

After getting placed on the list, she was sent back to her car to wait hours in the parking lot, before being called in.

Thankfully, after a positive COVID test and an X-ray of her lungs, she was prescribed two antibiotics. Including Augmentin.

The next morning, it was my turn to go in person to Urgent Care. I was on line at around 8 in the morning. Barely able to stand, congested and short of breath, I leaned against a cold wall.

There was nothing to do except stand there for thirty minutes, before being queried by a nurse and put on the day's list, and sent to go wait in my car.

When I was examined for a scant two hours later, the presiding doctor told me my lungs sounded clear.

"I'd like an x-ray," I answered. "My partner has pneumonia, and I'm sure something's going on with me."

After the x-ray, the doctor returned. "The x-ray does show pneumonia developing."

From there, it was thankfully no issue getting Augmentin and a second antibiotic, as well as a steroid to treat inflammation. I also tested positive for COVID, and negative for the flu.

## **Slow Road Toward Recovery**

Christmas was gone, and New Year's was too. I was six or seven days into treatment, and still utterly fatigued, aching, experiencing fevers and chills, waking up soaked with night sweats, and so on.

Unlike my son, my constitution has never been what anyone would call super robust. From a young age, I've always tried to compensate by eating healthy, and trying my best to stay in shape.

Amy, who my son takes after as far as general constitution, seemed a little further along, but she was by no means out of the woods either.

Odd symptoms were manifesting for both of us. In my case, my eyes were not focusing normally, and were very sensitive to light. I was also experiencing headaches virtually every morning by 4 am, and I've never been prone to headaches.

The hiatus from contributing to the **Trends Journal** was almost over, since the magazine was scheduled to go out again after the holiday break.

Gerald, as he always is, was incredibly solicitous the whole way, offering help in any manner he could. He let us know that if we weren't up to trying to get the magazine out, it would just have to wait.

We told him we thought we could get through a gameday, and thankfully we did.

At this point, as I sit here writing this (overlong!) missive on 20 January, I'm finally feeling close to okay. I'm extremely deconditioned. But my lungs are clear. The headaches have abated. Smell and taste have returned. Eyes are still sensitive.

Along the way, there was another course of "horse" Ivermectin, which I believe greatly helped and felt the effects of, after only a day or two. There was also plenty of garlic, vitamins C and D, Quercetin with Zinc supplements, Oil of Oregano, raw onion sandwiches, and anything else I could think of to throw at this thing.

Amy, who has a much harder time remaining idle than I do (I can lay on a couch and watch favorite Rifftrax or MST3K episodes ad nauseum), has actually been

battling through some relapse fatigue. Leg aches, heaviness in her chest, and other persisting symptoms haven't been pleasant. But she too seems to be over the worst hump of COVID.

To anyone who believes COVID is made up, has never been uniquely sequenced, etc., all I can say is that from experience with others, and via my own experience, I know that this ailment includes symptoms that are unlike anything I've previously heard of, or ever had with any flu or bout of bronchitis or pneumonia.

To me, it just confirmed that COVID is unfortunately a very real phenomenon, and can hit people who are of a certain age or certain constitution very hard.

The good news is that pretty standard treatments and supplements can make a difference, as front-line doctors of integrity know and continue to proclaim.

The fact that getting some of those treatments has been so difficult and complicated by frankly evil agendas of batshit crazy technocratic elites (see my touchstone article from May 2021 [“BATSH\\*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI”](#)), unbound genetic experimenters, and pandemic profiteers, represents a low point in the annals of human history. And that's saying something.

As far as the experimental vaccines? The huge numbers of serious adverse effects have been noted consistently in the **Trends Journal**. Even on Twitter, many thousands of people are expressing regrets about taking the vaccines, as [reported](#) recently by dailyveracity.com.

## **Thanks To A Man Made For These Times**

Also heartening is the fact that many people around the world have woken up thanks to the COVID saga. They are marching in the streets in nation after nation. From Europe to Australia to Canada, and even in far too lazy America, millions have stood against vaccine mandates and lockdown orders.

And battles are being won. Britain just dropped their mandate regime. The U.S. Supreme Court at least partially struck down Joe Biden's unprecedented and unconstitutional vax mandate.

Authoritarians and those bent on playing God deciding the medical and even genetic fate of humans, are being called out, and examined more closely as a result of the big lie that is failing more badly with each passing day.

No one believes Fauci any more about his bat tales and gain-of-function funding denials. God willing, he will be brought to justice for crimes against humanity.

And hopefully so will many others, for the tragic nursing home deaths of the elderly, for the devastation of a young generation who will never completely escape the scars of what they have been put through, for the economic catastrophe causing want and starvation, for the destruction of small businesses and average livelihoods, and for the obscene self-enrichment of already scofflaw elites.

At the end of the day, I'm proud to have made some small contributions to Gerald Celente's monumental and historically important work and voice at the **Trends Journal**.

I'm also proud of every reader who supports what is being done here, and I hope you all continue to spread the word, to keep fighting for what's right, and to use the information you find here to equip yourself to deal with whatever the future brings.

My grandmother Connie Traina used to say to me when I was young, "if you have your health, you have everything."

Gerald Celente is a man who not only exudes the good health that my Sicilian grandmother did for all of her 91 years on earth. He is dedicated to informing as many people as possible about how to live, as Tom Wolfe might've put it, a "life in full."

The efforts of men like him continue to throw a huge gut punch into even the best laid plans and machinations of powerful, supercilious, craven and just plain evil actors on the world stage.

God bless him, the COVID War could not have found a better Man of Peace to wage the good fight.

## THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



### **CHINA HAS HOOKS IN POLS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE.**

A new book by author Peter Schweizer detailing the ways China has infiltrated and co-opted American elites, adds to a growing tide of evidence of a huge “collaborationist” problem that is undermining the nation.

*Red-Handed: How American Elites Get Rich Helping China Win* is already trending number one on Amazon in the book category “United States National Government,” and it isn’t even being released until today (25 Jan 2022).

Though Schweizer’s book covers a number of different incidents and players, a weekend interview with Mark Levin focused on especially troubling money connections between the Biden family and Chinese government security figures.

Following is an excerpt of the conversation between Schweizer and Levin on the matter:

**Mark Levin:** *did the Communist Chinese regime make it part of their mission to invest in the Biden family knowing full well that Joe Biden was a longtime career politician with lots of influence?*



**Peter Schweizer:** *I think there's no question Mark. And look, we spent more than a year investigating red-handed and one of the most startling things we uncovered is the simple fact that the Biden family while he was vice president of the United States and continuing when he became president received some 31 million dollars from Chinese individuals who are linked to the highest levels of Chinese intelligence.*

**Mark Levin:** *31 million-dollars. Woah.*

**Peter Schweizer:** *Yeah. Yeah, 31million dollars. And these deals which we lay out in the book were carried out by a couple of individuals. One is a guy named Chay Fang. Hunter Biden in the Hunter Biden emails refers to him as the "super chairman." That's kind of his nickname for him. And he says in one email, "I don't believe in the lottery anymore, but I believe in the super chairman." Now, who is Chay Faing? He's kind of this sketchy Chinese businessman. His business partner at the time that he was striking deals with Hunter Biden, his business partner was the vice minister at the ministry for State security.*

*He was in charge of among other things recruiting foreign Nationals to spy for China. He was the head of something called the "Number Eight Bureau." It doesn't get any higher than that. These are the sorts of individuals that were striking deals with Hunter Biden. In this particular case Chay Fang happened to help a 20 million dollar deal be secured. Another individual that helped arrange that deal is a guy named "Mr. Zhao." Mr. Zhao helped with that 20 million dollar deal. He also sent five million dollars to Hunter Biden, and he sent that money from a very interesting business called Harvest Global. So you have Mr. Zhao sending. Five million dollars. Who's his business partner, Mark? His business partner is the daughter of the former head of the [Chinese] Ministry of State Security. This is the guy who runs the entire spy apparatus for China. Again it does not get any higher than that.*

*So what this means, Mark, is that in total, the Biden family got 31 million dollars. They performed no discernible legitimate business activities as I*

*can find for that 31 million dollars. And it all, every single deal, came from individuals tied at the highest levels to the Chinese intelligence apparatus. So there's no question in my mind that [the Bidens] were targeted by the Chinese, and for the life of me, Mark, this is unprecedented. I don't know of a time in American history where the American first family has had this kind of a financial bond with a foreign intelligence service, particularly a foreign intelligence service that wants to defeat the United States in global competition.\**

*[\*transcript of audio interview; some name spellings phonetic; since book is not yet released]*

Surprise, surprise, a Breitbart News piece featuring a book extract from Schweizer's new book was banned on Monday by Microsoft-owned LinkedIn.

## **Bi-Partisan Collaboration With Communist Chinese**

Republicans at the highest level of government, including Mitch McConnell, have their own troubling China influence connections.

Though not nearly as serious as the allegations in Schweizer's new book about the Bidens, *Newsweek* in 2021 detailed China-related issues involving McConnell and his wife, Elaine Chao.

Chao, a former Transportation Secretary, happens to be the daughter of a Chinese born shipping magnate. She was accused by a government watchdog of abusing her influence while in office, in a series of incidents connected with her family's China business dealings.

In a 44-page report, the Transportation Department's inspector general stated his conclusions. According to the study, Chao exploited her office's workers for personal activities and work connected to promoting the Foremost Group, a shipping company controlled by her father and sister, which is located in New York.

The company conducts significant business in China.

The charges constituted an apparent violation of federal ethics standards.

According to *Newsweek*, despite allegations of Chao's alleged violations reaching the Justice Department's U.S. attorney's office and Public Integrity Section, the Justice Department under then President Donald Trump refused to investigate, claiming no proof of criminal activity.

According to the inspector general's report, Chao asked her staff to include her father, sister, and brother-in-law in official events and high-level meetings arranged for a departmental trip to China. The trip was planned for November of 2017.

The itinerary allegedly included trips to sites funded by her family's company, as well as a meeting with senior Chinese leaders attended only by her father and sister, with no other departmental officials present.

The trip was canceled. But emails show details of what was planned.

Chao responded at the time to the report at the time of the controversy, saying that it exonerated her on any serious charges.

But the Transportation Department's deputy inspector general Mitch Behm disagreed, telling House lawmakers "a formal investigation into potential misuses of position was warranted," and alleging Chao had used the "public office for private gain."

The *Newsweek* story is available [here](#).

Peter Schweizer's book ["Red-Handed: How American Elites Get Rich Helping China Win."](#) is available for order on Amazon and [Barnes & Noble](#).

The **Trends Journal** has previously detailed China's success in corrupting and profiting off American institutions and business in articles including:

- [“INSURRECTIONISTS FAKE, COLLABORATIONISTS REAL”](#) (11 Jan 2022)
- [“AMAZON HELPED XI SOLIDIFY GRIP ON CHINA”](#) (21 Dec 2021)
- [“UNIVERSITIES HIDING CCP CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES”](#) (12 Oct 2021)
- [“AMERICA DRIFTS TOWARD CHINA’S ‘TECHNO-AUTOCRACY’”](#) (9 Feb 2021)
- [“CHINA BUSINESS ESPIONAGE NETS \\$500 BILLION A YEAR”](#) (29 Jun 2021)
- [“HOW THE CCP WENT VIRAL ON THE WINGS OF COVID”](#) (5 Oct 2021)
- [“U.S. MEDIA PUSHED NARRATIVE OF CHINA LOCKDOWN “SUCCESS” IN EARLY 2020”](#) (27 Jul 2021)
- [“APPLE BETRAYS CHINESE USERS FOR PROFIT”](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- [“AMERICA DRIFTS TOWARD CHINA’S ‘TECHNO-AUTOCRACY’”](#) (9 Feb 2021)
- [“CHINA ‘TALENT PROGRAM’ GIFTED AT STEALING AMERICAN IP”](#) (26 Oct 2021)
- [“1984 TO 2021: HOW APPLE LEARNED TO LOVE BIG BROTHER”](#) (17 Aug 2021)

# TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



## DIGGING INTO THE FED'S LONG AWAITED REPORT ON A U.S. CBDC

This past Thursday, the U.S. government finally released its report evaluating the prospects of creating a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)—or what it termed a “digital dollar.”

At a time when the country is experiencing inflation of prices of goods and services unseen in 40 years, Fed mismanagement of the money supply is finally becoming a topic for average Americans.

The report makes clear that the rise of cryptocurrencies has pushed governments and the international central banking system to consider CBDCs:

“Recent technological advances have ushered in a wave of new private-sector financial products and services, including digital wallets, mobile payment apps, and new digital assets such as cryptocurrencies and stablecoins. These technological advances have also led central banks around the globe to explore the potential benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC.”

Notably, the report neither recommended nor rejected the possibility of a CBDC. Instead it called for officials and the public to provide input and opinion on the issues involved as outlined in the paper.

Despite the lack of any clear signal of where the U.S. might be going regarding creating and issuing a “digital dollar,” the report did outline several objectives and facets that a CBDC would have, if created:

“Any U.S. CBDC should, among other things[:]

- provide benefits to households, businesses, and the overall economy that exceed any costs and risks;
- yield such benefits more effectively than alternative methods;
- complement, rather than replace, current forms of money and methods for providing financial services;
- protect consumer privacy;
- protect against criminal activity; and
- have broad support from key stakeholders”

Several of those bullet points sound nice for Americans concerned about CBDCs. For example, the report assures that paper money wouldn’t be phased out with the introduction of a digital dollar.

But whether that promise would be kept is another matter.

And as the COVID War has shown, privacy protections Americans thought they had for their medical records and decisions have been completely obliterated by unlawful dictates of politicians and bureaucrats.

Is there any doubt that the ability to comprehensively track and trace digital dollars through chains of holders would be built into CBDCs?

Bitcoin, the first and still leading cryptocurrency, has “pseudo-anonymity.” That means that while user identities like names are not stored in Bitcoin’s ledger,



bitcoin addresses which send and receive tokens, and certain other potentially trackable info, including IP addresses, are stored in those “blockchain” data blocks that get written to the ledger.

China’s CBDC, the digital Yuan, is a surveillance coin that not only affords authorities comprehensive spying abilities into transactions, but is reported to provide the ability to literally shut down and control tokens on a granular level.

In other words, if the government decrees an individual should no longer be allowed to spend a digital Yuan on a certain item or service, because they’ve transgressed their “social credit” obligations, the functioning of the person’s digital money can be selectively or completely disabled.

The **Trends Journal** has covered concerns about government CBDCs in many articles, including:

- [“A PERVERSION OF CRYPTOCURRENCY”](#) (12 Oct 2021)
- [“EDWARD SNOWDEN REFLECTED WITH THE EFF ON PRIVACY PROGRESS”](#) (15 Jun 2021)
- [“CHINA GOES FULL DIGITAL YUAN IN BEIJING”](#) (29 Jun 2021)
- [“U.S. CBDC TAKING ITS TIME RISING WITH PROJECT NEW DAWN?”](#) (21 Sep 2021)
- [“IT’S OFFICIAL: DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH”](#) (28 Jul 2020)
- [“DIGITAL DYSTOPIA: THE DASH FROM CASH BEGINS”](#) (14 Apr 2020)

Notably, Edward Snowden, who as a U.S. intelligence agency contractor in 2013 blew open the doors on a shocking and illegal domestic spying system, has been a leading voice sounding the dangers that CBDCs represent.

## **Bye Bye Interest On Savings?**

One facet that a CBDC could introduce relates to interest Americans currently can earn by saving money with banks.

Though such interest rates have dropped to paltry levels that don't come close to keeping up with inflation, the interest on savings still represented a riskless hedge with at least some amelioration against inflation.

According to the report, CBDCs would not offer interest to holders via the Fed system.

As CNBC noted, while existing digital money (the ledgers that currently record virtually 97 percent of payments and transactions via credit cards, electronic employer payments, ACH transactions, etc.) is a commercial bank liability, the CBDC would be a Federal Reserve liability.

That would entail, among other things, that the Fed would not pay interest on money held in its vaults, though some depositors may opt to do so, since it is risk-free.

The report summarized some of the potential benefits and dangers of a CBDC system:

“A CBDC could potentially offer a range of benefits. For example, it could provide households and businesses a convenient, electronic form of central bank money, with the safety and liquidity that would entail; give entrepreneurs a platform on which to create new financial products and services; support faster and cheaper payments (including cross-border payments); and expand consumer access to the financial system.

“A CBDC could also pose certain risks and would raise a variety of important policy questions, including how it might affect financial-sector market structure, the cost and availability of credit, the safety and stability of the financial system, and the efficacy of monetary policy.”

In highlighting potential benefits of a CBDC, the paper argued that it would expand access to digital banking and payment services to “unbanked”

Americans, and would especially improve the speed and cost of cross-border payments.

Anyone sending money to relatives in another country, or even transferring money between bank accounts, knows that the cost and time of such transactions is a problem.

## **Cryptos Already There**

Of course, cryptocurrencies, especially Ripple and Stellar, have been on the forefront of giving people and banking systems the ability to handle such payments much more efficiently.

Other cryptos like Bitcoin and Monero were created to literally end the possibility that money could be inflated—ie., endlessly created so that a government could pay its debts and obligations, effectively devaluing the holdings of everyone else.

And at this point, cryptos are quickly evolving to tokenize assets, automatically reward and distribute payments on the productiveness of those assets, allow users to lend and borrow their crypto via permissionless DeFi apps, and much more.

Overall, the report is surprisingly measured, and does not proselytize or suggest the necessity of a CBDC is a given.

Indeed, at this juncture, it may be far more important for the U.S. dollar to reflect and encompass actual value and productive output and demand, and recover some of its former status as a stable representation of value and means of exchange.

The current system is perfectly capable of digitally issuing dollars to back stablecoins, for example.

Crypto stablecoins like Tether (USDT), USD Coin (USDC) and Terra are in fact already facing regulation which obligates them to hold dollars as collateral.

Whether the dollar might be reformed to act as a fiat “gold standard,” via sound money supply issuance and safeguards, or whether the government will take the plunge and try to displace the quickly evolving and innovating world of cryptos, is the major question that the report leaves unanswered.

It’s an important question, indeed.

The full report can be read [here](#).

## **FED RELEASES DIGITAL DOLLAR REPORT: GOING CRYPTO?**



*[Note: this article presents more coverage on the new CBDC Report]*

On 20 January, the U.S. Federal Reserve issued its long-awaited study on the prospect of creating a digital dollar.

The 40-page report took no position on creating a dollar stablecoin but called its report “the first step in a public discussion between the Federal Reserve and stakeholders about central bank digital currencies.”

The paper noted a digital dollar’s benefits, including speeding payments and drawing more unbanked people into the mainstream financial system.

It also highlighted risks, including dangers to personal privacy and financial stability as well as the possibilities for fraud and other criminal uses.

Regardless, the digital buck “could fundamentally change the structure of the U.S. financial system, altering the roles and responsibilities of the private sector and the central bank,” the report notes.

The Fed’s “initial analysis suggests that a potential [digital dollar], if one were created, would best serve the needs of the United States by being privacy-protected, intermediated, widely transferable, and identity-verified,” the report concluded.

Fed chair Jerome Powell has taken no public position on a digital dollar. Its most prominent proponent has been Fed governor Lael Brainard, whom President Joe Biden has nominated to be the central bank’s vice-chair in charge of policy.

Other Fed officials have remained skeptical, saying the digital dollar’s benefits are not clear.

However, advocates point to other nation’s progress in creating their own digital currencies, most notably China, which already has begun widespread distribution of its digital yuan.

Some fear that China’s leadership in creating a digital currency ultimately could threaten the dollar’s position as the world’s reserve currency, as we reported in [“China’s Digital Yuan Could Challenge Dollar’s Leadership”](#) (27 Jul 2021).

When the public comment period begins, people will have 120 days to voice their views on 22 issues on which the Fed seeks input.

The Fed will not create a digital currency unless Congress passes a law authorizing it to do so, bank officials have said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Go back to the 23 June 2020 ***Trends Journal*** when bitcoin was trading under \$10,000 per coin. We had forecast the price would spike much higher “when it solidly breaks above the 10,000 mark.”

*It did, and we have been bullish on it. However, the **Trends Journal** has continually warned that crypto coins were due for a major tumble when central banks and governments took action to rein them in.*

*And, with more central banks planning to go digital in the coming years, they would not tolerate competition. (See our 24 March 2020 article, ["FROM DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH."](#))*

*Those warnings have become reality. However, it will be years before they are fully implemented by governments and there will still be cryptocurrencies that will attract "out of the government box" investors.*

## **EU REGULATOR CALLS FOR BAN ON MAIN CRYPTO MINING METHOD**



Cryptocurrency mining is taking such a large amount of renewable energy that it threatens to keep the European Union (EU) from meeting its Paris climate goals, Erik Thedeen, vice-chair of the European Securities and Markets Authority, said in a 20 January *Financial Times* interview.

The EU should ban the most common form of mining, Thedeen said, noting that the energy-intensive practice is already a “national issue” for his native Sweden “because of the amount of renewable energy devoted to mining.”

The EU should ban the so-called “proof of work” mining method and push crypto miners toward the alternative “proof of stake” model, he said.

In “proof of work,” miners compete to earn digital coins by solving complex mathematical problems, which requires intensive computer use and, therefore, a lot of electricity.

The alternative “proof of stake” allows miners to put up a stake of digital coins to claim the right to acquire more. The method requires less energy.

“We need to have a discussion about shifting the industry to a more efficient technology,” Thedeem said. “Proof of stake has a significantly lower energy profile.”

Bitcoin and Ethereum, the two most popular digital currencies, use proof of work.

Proof of work consumes 0.6 percent of the world’s energy and uses more electricity than the entire nation of Norway, according to the Cambridge Bitcoin Electricity Consumption Index.

Mining a single Bitcoin burns as much energy as driving a medium-size, gas-powered passenger car 1.8 km, or about a mile, a Cambridge University study calculated.

China outlawed proof of work in May, when the country was the global center of crypto mining. The ban dispersed the practice around the world.

The amount of computer power, and electricity, devoted to crypto mining is at record levels, according to trading platform Blockchain.com.

Last November, Sweden’s regulators posed the idea of banning proof of work, noting the increasing amount of green energy the industry is absorbing while pointing out that “the social benefit of crypto assets is questionable.”

“The financial industry and a lot of large institutions are active in cryptocurrency markets and they have responsibilities” related to sustainable environmental, social, and governance practices, Thedeem pointed out.

In November, Thedeem called on the EU “to consider an EU-level ban on the energy-intensive mining method proof of work.”



He was not suggesting an outright ban on crypto mining or cryptocurrencies, he emphasized.

Ethereum has announced it will migrate to the proof of stake mining model in June, the *FT* said.

## CRYPTOS ERASE \$1 TRILLION IN VALUE IN THREE MONTHS



After peaking just below \$67,600 on 8 November, Bitcoin has lost more than half its value and dipping below \$33,570 on 24 January, wiping out more than \$600 billion in value, according to *Bloomberg*. In the past three months crypto's erased more than \$1 trillion in digital wealth.

The reason being sold on The Street is the U.S. Federal Reserve's guarantee of higher interest rates soon. As rates lift off the rock bottom where the Fed has left them for almost two years, putting money into riskier assets, including, for example, tech "growth" stocks and SPACS, is too risky as cash becomes more expensive.

Crypto's value has coupled with those chancy stocks, such as blue-sky tech companies, on its way down.

"Crypto is reacting to the same kind of dynamics that are weighing on risk assets globally," Stephane Ouellette, CEO of FRNT Financial, a crypto platform, confirmed to *Bloomberg*.

Crypto-related stocks also have followed the coins' descent, with Coinbase Global losing nearly 16 percent of its value recently and fell to its lowest point since going public in spring 2021, *Bloomberg* noted.

There has been a 60-percent correlation to date between Bitcoin's price moves and that of the ARK Innovation ETF, a basket of highly speculative stocks. In contrast, Bitcoin and gold have moved in tandem only 14 percent of the time, *Bloomberg* found.

The plunge is "reminding us to categorize Bitcoin and altcoins as risk assets rather than safe havens," Katie Stockton, founder of research firm Fairlead Strategies, told *Bloomberg*.

"Bitcoin is being battered by a wave of risk-off sentiment," Antoni Trenchev, co-founder of the Nexo crypto platform, said to *Bloomberg*.

"For further cues, keep an eye on traditional markets," he added. "Fear and unease among investors is palpable."

In the wake of cryptos' bruising losses, the Biden administration is crafting a federal strategy toward digital assets that could be unveiled as soon as next month and will assign federal agencies to weigh the assets' opportunities and risks, *Bloomberg* reported.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *While crypto's are down we maintain our forecast they are not down and out.*

*On the downside, should bitcoin fall below \$25,500 per coin, it could well tank below \$10,000 per coin. On the upside, should bitcoin hit and maintain the \$50,000-\$55,000 per coin range, we forecast it will hit new highs.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As the U.S. Federal Reserve closes its bond-buying program and raises interest rates, as we note, money will tend to flow more closely to value investments rather than growth stocks and speculative investments.*

*And, we maintain our forecast that what will stall the crypto market is government intervention. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission already has begun taking steps to regulate the crypto market.*

*As we noted in [“Bitcoin ETFs in Prep as SEC Highlights Path to Approval”](#) (24 Aug 2021), Regulating Bitcoin ETFs is the step that legitimizes oversight and regulation of other cryptocurrencies. Those that are regulated will become new vehicles for serious investors but will surrender some ability to innovate; those that remain outside regulation will test new technologies and approaches but remain the province of speculators.*

*There is room for both.*

## U.K. REGULATORS TO TIGHTEN RULES ON CRYPTO



Soon to have the authority to oversee cryptocurrency advertising and promotion, the U.K.'s Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) plans to tighten rules on how crypto exchanges and promoters can present their products and services to the public, the *Financial Times* reported.

The country's treasury department will add the authority to the FCA's portfolio, the department said on 18 January.

Among the proposed new rules:

- promoters will no longer be able to give cash bonuses to customers who register or refer friends;
- tougher standards for approval of messages before they can be published;
- under certain conditions, a possible 24-hour cool-down period before consumers can act on high-pressure ads or short-term specials;
- more stringent warnings of risk. One example the FCA has proposed: "Don't invest unless you're prepared to lose all your money invested."

“Too many people are being led to invest in products they don’t understand and are too risky for them,” Sarah Pritchard, the FCA’s director of markets, told the *FT*.

The FCA will accept public comments and publish a draft of its final rules this spring, which then will need to be authorized by the parliament.

Italy, Singapore, and Spain already have instituted similar consumer protections.

## **BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES**



**JOE BIDEN TO HANDLE U.S. CRYPTO DECISIONS.** Who knew old Joe was knowledgeable enough about the world of cryptocurrencies to grab the reins of U.S. crypto policy?

The White House is apparently preparing an executive order that would be a play at assuming control of a national crypto policy.

It used to be that Presidents would propose a legislative agenda for Congress to consider, or weigh in, way or the other on bills proposed by legislators and working their way through the body.

The Constitution is pretty clear about which branch of government is tasked with debating and passing laws.

But the Biden administration move on cryptos would certainly be in line with the trend of modern presidents to use Executive Orders.

According to anonymous sources within the administration, the crypto legislation would put the White House in charge of monitoring attempts to develop regulations and govern digital assets, Bloomberg reported on Friday.

Senior Biden Administration officials have met many times to discuss the order, according to the Bloomberg report, and it will be submitted to the president in the coming weeks.

For years, federal authorities at the Treasury Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have been researching and issuing regulatory recommendations on the digital asset industry.

More recently, Congress proved its own dysfunctionality yet again, sticking crypto provisions into a sprawling 1 trillion plus infrastructure bill.

If the past few months are an indication, the actions and inactions of the government haven't exactly spurred enthusiasm for investment in the innovative crypto space.

It's doubtful politicians, even Biden, can completely crash and end the technological innovations that cryptos are introducing.

But for a Presidency struggling and failing domestically and abroad so badly, the idea of an attempted crypto policy takeover has little chance of inspiring confidence at this point.

The **Trends Journal** has been extensively alerting readers concerning issues of cryptos and government regulation. Some recent articles include:

- ["SEC PUSH TO REGULATE CRYPTO"](#) (7 Dec 2021)
- ["WILL BIDEN'S INFRASTRUCTURE BILL DRIVE CRYPTO ACTION OUT OF U.S.?"](#) (9 Nov 2021)
- ["WILL A CRYPTO TAX HELP PAY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE?"](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- ["THE GEOPOLITICS OF BITCOIN"](#) (27 Jul 2021)
- ["CRYPTOS VS. GOVERNMENT EDGING TO HOT CONFLICT"](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- ["BIDEN'S \\$6 TRILLION BUDGET INCLUDES CRYPTO CRACKDOWN PROVISOS"](#) (1 Jun 2021)

**NFTs WILL HELP COMPANIES SELL AND MARKET IN NEW WAYS.** NFTs may soon allow companies new abilities to reward customers who buy a wide spectrum of products and services from them.

A recent Cointelegraph article noted that consumers may soon be able to establish crypto wallets that can sync with grocery store and pharmacy cards, and even websites like Amazon and Walmart.

Cross-brand proof-of-purchases could be tracked and verified. Companies could reward customers who buy their lines of products, in various ways.

They might airdrop NFT collectibles, metaverse experiences, or crypto token rewards, and even cash, using transaction data and a bigger consumer profile. Even stores and websites might participate in crypto driven loyalty programs.

Some scenarios for how tokenized objects might change the entire economic landscape are wild, indeed.

Imagine a second self-driving car in the driveway, in the not-too-distant future, renting itself out in an autonomous “Uber” like service. As a tokenized asset, all transactions and usage info can be tracked and handled automatically via the blockchain.

Digital objects like song recordings of major artists are already being tokenized, with royalties sold in fractional amounts to various holders who receive their NFT into their crypto wallet, and automatically reap royalty tokens that trickle in as the song is played on music services like Spotify and Apple.

A musical artist can fund the production of an entire album, or costs associated with an upcoming tour, etc., all with efficient mechanisms made possible via blockchain, smart contract and NFT technology.

Overall, it's clear that the world of NFTs and tokenization in general will go much further than simply providing proof of original digital works of art, or acting as a system where metaverse objects can be tracked and rented out for earnings etc.

The **Trends Journal** has previously outlined some of the ways NFTs will change the way real world and digital assets are owned and leveraged to maximize their profitable use in articles including:

- ["ONE OF A KIND: THE WORLD OF NFTs"](#) (10 Aug 2021)
- ["THE CRYPTO "AGE OF UTILITY" HAS JUST BEGUN"](#) (12 Oct 2021)
- ["NFTs COULD BE "BIGGER THAN CRYPTO," COINBASE CEO SAYS"](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- ["A MOVIE STUDIO ON THE BLOCKCHAIN"](#) (7 Dec 2021)

Various crypto networks are vying to lead the way in asset tokenization, smart contract and NFT innovation. Binance Smartchain, Solana, Algorand, Cardano, Fantom, Hedera and of course Ethereum all are building out solutions and partnerships.

They're hardly the only players, but they do represent "top 30" market cap crypto projects.



# TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



## COVID WAR KILLING BUSINESS. POLITICIANS LIFTING RESTRICTIONS

Go back two years ago when the COVID War was launched on Chinese Lunar New Year, The Year of the Rat.

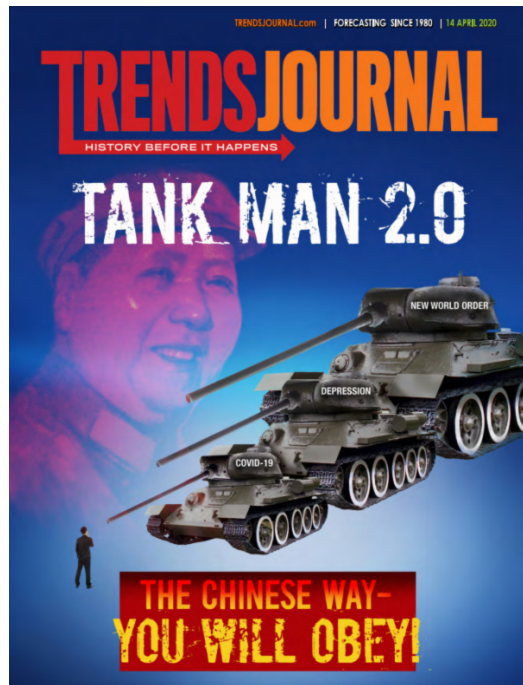
First the Chinese locked down the city of Wuhan. Imagine, locking down a city of 11 million people! What would the news have been if New York City, with a population of some 3 million less than Wuhan was locked down to fight a virus?

The initial reaction from the West was that only in communist China would such dictatorial power over the people be imposed and enforced.

In lockstep, Italy followed the Chinese way, and the rest is history.

History long forgotten.

[“THE CHINESE WAY, YOU WILL OBEY”](#) became the way of the world.



Constitutional Rights in nations that front as democracies were shredded by political boys and girls that took complete control of their nations, states and cities... imposing draconian COVID War mandates, lacking a scintilla of science, to kill the coronavirus.

Rather than killing the virus, after destroying the lives and livelihoods of billions for two years (as we had forecast they would), the same sociopaths, psychopaths and pathological liars that started the COVID War, are, (as we had also forecast) beginning to wind it down.

## **Bring Back Business**

Some countries are abandoning hopes of their Zero-COVID policies and—in some cases—easing restrictions for the vaccinated after lockdowns have caused significant social and economic harm, and after months of protests.

Those who are unvaccinated will still face challenges to return to normal life, but major countries like England and France have announced an easing of their COVID-19 restrictions.

Jean Castex, France's prime minister, announced Thursday that many of the restrictions will be lifted for the vaccinated, including an end of capacity limit at concert halls, sporting events, and other indoor activities beginning 2 February, France 24 reported. Castex said the decision came after lower rates of infections began to emerge and the introduction of the new COVID-19 vaccination pass.

## **No Vax, No Freedom**

The unvaccinated will not be able to enjoy these new freedoms. It was French President Emmanuel Macron who said that he wanted to make life as miserable as legally possible for the unvaccinated as a form of punishment. (See [“LITTLE TYRANT MACRON: THE PISS OFF BOY”](#) and [“PROTESTS ERUPT IN FRANCE OVER NEW, TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS FOR VACCINE PASS.”](#))

We reported last week that the French government will now require a third booster for an individual to be able to obtain a health pass. This is a marked departure from its older guidelines that allowed French citizens with a negative COVID test to enter these establishments.

France 24 reported that Castex also said these health passes could be suspended if the rate of transmission comes down significantly in the country. The country has had an average of 320,000 COVID-19 cases over a seven-day period over the past week, with about 93 percent of French adults who have received at least one jab.

Castex pointed out that since the announcement of the new health pass, 1,000,000 French people have gotten vaccinated. He said, “That’s good, but not good enough.”

“We are a bit more confident in saying we can relax some of these constraints and let people return to life as normal as possible,” Olivier Véran, the health minister, said.

About 38,000 people took to the streets across France on Saturday to fight against the vaccination health pass. They said the new vaccination mandate is an infringement on their freedoms and a form of social “apartheid.” Many of the 5,200 protesters in Paris were supporters of Florian Philippot, the presidential candidate. There was also a protest in Bordeaux.

“People who have been vaccinated get sick, so what's the point?” Anaëlle, a nurse in Bordeaux, said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Gerald Celente said that the COVID war will end in late March to mid-April because the global economy cannot bear its weight anymore. The financial burden on the middle class and poor has become too extreme while the super-rich saw their wealth exceed their wildest dreams. (See [“COVID WAR: RICH GOT RICHER, POOR GOT POORER,”](#) [“SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GET BIGGER, RICH GET RICHER”](#) and [“AMERICANS PUMPS UP THE RICH, CHINA PUSHING THEM DOWN.”](#))*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In the U.S., nearly 90 percent of restaurants saw indoor dining demand fall as fear of the Omicron variant spread according to the National Restaurant Association survey.*

*Over 75 percent of those surveyed said business conditions are worse now than three months ago, while over 50 percent said that their business is less profitable now than it was before the COVID War was launched two years ago.*

*“Alarming, the industry still hasn’t recreated the more than 650,000 jobs lost early in the pandemic, a loss 45% more than the next closest industry,” Sean Kennedy, the trade group’s lobbyist wrote in a letter to Congress.*

*Minus a major equity market meltdown, which is a reality, the restaurant business will bounce back strongly following the winding down of the COVID War.*

## MASSIVE ANTI-VACCINE MANDATE PROTEST HITS LONDON



Health care workers joined anti-vaxx protesters in London on Saturday to voice their opposition to mandatory vaccination rules requiring them to take a jab in order to keep their jobs.

*The Daily Mail* reported that the protests were chaotic and dozens of health workers were seen throwing their scrubs at police officers who were stationed outside Downing Street. More than 80,000 NHS staff remain unvaccinated, contributing to the more than four million in the U.K. who have not taken their first jab.

The Royal College of GPs said last week that the country should delay the mandate in order to prevent a worker shortage. Sky News reported that the government wants frontline employees to be fully vaccinated by 1 April, which would mean they roll up their sleeves for their first shot by 3 February.

One demonstrator was photographed holding up her blue scrubs with black writing, "There's no price for freedom. We will not negotiate and we will not comply. That does not make us anti-vaxx or anti-COVID war...There must be a choice."

Conservative MPs have called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to consider new plans when it comes to making vaccines mandatory for these workers.

Johnson, who has been bruised by scandals of boozy parties during lockdowns, said these workers have a "professional responsibility" to take the vaccine. (See ["EMBATTLED BORIS JOHNSON AIMS TO LIFT U.K.'S SELF-ISOLATING LAW," "COVID WAR CRACKDOWNS AND PROTESTS"](#) and ["U.K., FU: COVID RULES FOR THEE, BUT NOT FOR ME."](#))



Protesters also gathered outside the BBC Broadcasting House. One demonstrator wore a "Squid Game" mask and biohazard suit, The *Daily Mail*'s report said.

Other protests broke out in Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, and Birmingham. These workers remembered a time they were praised for their heroism in the face of a deadly, mysterious illness, but now feel they are being abandoned by the government.

Some of the signs read: "No vaccine mandate," and "heroes to zeros." Some of the frontline workers said the vaccines are experimental drugs.

"People were once clapping for us but there's no appreciation anymore," Christabelle Gregory, 32, an ambulance worker who was protesting in London, told the paper. "I'm young and I've got antibodies from working on the frontline, so I don't want the vaccine."

A 36-year-old emergency care assistant had similar concerns expressed by Gregory. She said that she is about to lose her job that she loves because she doesn't want to take the jab.

"It's too new and we don't know enough about it," she said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As the global economy continues to decline, desperate to boost economies and bring in more tax revenue, many nations will lift tax mandates. And as for the protests, we continue to note, unless they are constant and peacefully disruptive, they will do nothing to reverse government mandates, laws and actions.*

## UK'S BORIS "BULLSHIT" JOHNSON WINDING DOWN COVID WAR



Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he will end all measures to try and prevent the spread of the Omicron variant in England—which means no more vaccine passports or compulsory masks indoors and at schools, which drew cheers from conservatives in parliament.

“From tomorrow we will no longer require face masks in classrooms and the Department for Education will shortly remove national guidance on their use in communal areas,” he told the Commons.

Johnson said his government will continue to urge face coverings in “enclosed or crowded spaces” but “we will trust the judgment of the British people and no longer criminalize anyone who chooses not to wear one.”

### Freak Show Boris

Johnson has faced recent criticism in the country over scandals of his throwing parties at 10 Downing while he ordered England to lockdown. Some NHS staff called Johnson’s move “reckless” and see it as an effort for the embattled prime minister to get the public’s attention off him.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Boris Johnson is the epitome of the “Do as I say, not as I do” ruling class of Liars, Cowards, Freaks and Fools running a nation, state, city near you.

*Despite his being caught lying numerous times of having parties while locking down the nation, stealing public money to renovate his flat, etc., the clown of a man—with a body, face and actions that a cartoonist could not envision—is running a major nation of the world.*



*We note these “features” to illustrate Boris Johnson’s personification of the image, ways and means of the leaders of the world. Therefore, to divert attention from the economic destruction that will devastate what was once the middle class, these psychopathic, pathological political liars will lead their nations to war.*

## **THOUSANDS TAKE TO THE STREETS IN STOCKHOLM: “NO TO VACCINE PASSES, YES TO FREEDOM”**



The Swedish Security Services, or Sapo, said about 9,000 demonstrators held rallies in Stockholm against vaccine passes.

These protesters chanted, “No to vaccine passes, yes to freedom.”

Julia Johansson, 30, told the Agence France-Presse (AFP) that these vaccine passes are discriminatory and “we have to be able to decide ourselves what we want to do with our own bodies.”

Sweden has seen a record number of cases in recent days, including 39,928 cases on Thursday alone—despite 83 percent of the population over the age of 12 being fully vaccinated.

The country of 10.35 million recorded 15,639 deaths. The AFP reported that the country introduced the vaccine passes on 1 December and they became mandatory on 12 January. These passes are needed to enter indoor events where there are more than 50 people.

There was another protest in Gothenburg, the country’s second-largest city with about 1,500 demonstrators.

**TREND FORECAST:** *As we have forecast, the “Freedom” chants are key elements of new anti-vax, anti-establishment, anti-immigration socio/political movements that will sweep across much of the world.*

*And, the faster economies decline the faster these movements will rise.*

*What will reverse this trend is when nations ratchet up war talk to divert the unconscious masses away from the COVID War—and their loss of freedom and livelihoods—to a military war with “terrorists” and “enemies” that the “herd” will eagerly support with blood and money.*

*As Gerald Celente continues to note—and as Anthony Freda illustrates on the cover of this week’s **Trends Journal**—“When all else fails, they take you to war.”*

*And the war drums are beating louder. Beyond Ukraine and China that are in the headlines, we are very much focused on the current events forming future trends in the Middle East, which to us is a greater and more deadly hotspot.*

## THOUSANDS MARCH IN D.C. IN OPPOSITION TO VACCINE MANDATES



Thousands of protesters gathered in Washington, D.C. on Sunday to voice their opposition to COVID-19 mandates, in what Jeff Bezos’ *Washington Post* called a “jarring spectacle,” given that there have been so many new cases in the U.S.

The organizers of the protests made it clear that they were demonstrating against vaccine mandates and not the vaccine option.

“Since the vaccines do not stop people from getting sick, why should we impose them as a requirement to keep one’s job or to enjoy the freedoms that we have always enjoyed such as eating at a restaurant, going to a concert, or

attending school or the university?” said Louisa Clary, an organizer, in an email obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The protesters marched from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial. One protester held a sign that read, “I Am Not a Lab Rat.”

*The Post* described the crowd:

*“Some were white-haired; others were being pushed in strollers. Most were White and many wore gear with slogans supporting former president Donald Trump. A group of men in front of a cart with a Don’t Tread on Me flag started chants of “Let’s go Brandon” and “F--- Joe Biden” to cheers.”*

***TREND FORECAST:*** Compared to the anti-vax, pro-freedom protests taking place in Europe, in which nations such as France, with a population of 67 million, had 100,000 taking to the streets, in America, of a nation of 330,000,000 only 20,000 showed up in Washington on Sunday. Thus, it symbolizes the sagging American spirit.

*As we have forecast before the march took place, it would prove nothing and do nothing: Politicians continue to do what they want, and it barely made news since the protest was basically an isolated event that received very little news coverage.*

*We continue to note that for protests to be successful, they must be ongoing and disruptive in a peaceful manner. Without a new anti-establishment populist movement, the current political parties will continue to control the masses and impose dictates and mandates as they wish.*

***TREND FORECAST.*** Rather than slow down the COVID War and its draconian mandates, the Washington protests sped it up in some states.

*Indeed, a day after the D.C. anti-vax movement, two state Senators in California introduced bills that require all K to 12 students to be fully jabbed or they cannot*

*attend school, and those over 12 years of age do not need their parent's consent to get the COVID Jab or any other vaccinations the schools are peddling.*

*Ignoring the facts and boosting his arrogance, Sen. Richard Pan, who introduced the “must-get-vaxxed-or-no-school bill”, said “We have an opportunity here to keep kids safe. As a pediatrician, parent and legislator, I am committed to giving the public confidence and certainty that we are working to prevent or slow down the next coronavirus surge.”*

*On the arrogance side, why vax children since they are not dying from the coronavirus or its variants?*

*Pan ignores the facts that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, less than 0.2 percent of Covid-19 deaths in the United States have been among children.*

*Since the COVID War broke out in January 2020 to 6 January 2022, the CDC reports the grand total of 694 children aged 17 or younger that died of COVID... out of a population of some 74 million. And 61 percent of those hospitalized were obese.*

*Absent from pediatrician Pan's head is that there are 14.4 million obese children in the U.S., according to CDC estimates. Pan also ignores the facts that these strict mandates and rules are being imposed on school children who are not part of the small demographic dying from the virus.*

*Confirming what we have been reporting for nearly two years, the people that should be taken care of the most are the elderly and those suffering from pre-existing comorbidities.*

*Over 75 percent of COVID deaths have been among seniors, and over 25 percent, some 200,000, of those COVID deaths were people aged 85 and older. Yet there is never a mention, nor are there mandates being imposed, to address and assist those most vulnerable to COVID 19 and the variants.*

*Also totally absent in Pan's dictate are the calls for natural healing...for people to build their immune systems to help fight off disease, infections, viruses, etc.*

*On the trend line, these COVID War mandates will in turn increase the amount of home-schooled children and accelerate the online learning trend, since there will be a significant number of parents who will not want their children jabbed with the Operation Warp Speed gene therapy jab.*

## **AUSTRIA: IT'S THE LAW. NO JAB, NO FREEDOM**



Austria's parliament on Thursday voted overwhelmingly in favor of the country's controversial vaccine mandate for all adults, which will be the first of its kind in Europe and will likely pave the way for other countries in the European Union to follow.

"This is how we can manage to escape the cycle of opening and closing, of lockdowns," Wolfgang Mueckstein, the country's health minister, told parliament prior to the vote. He said the vaccinations will help combat the spread of Omicron and will also give the population a level of protection for new variants that are bound to emerge. "That is why this law is so urgently needed right now."

About 72 percent of Austria's population has been fully vaccinated. The new law will include fines up to €3,600 for adults who are not vaccinated. There will be some exceptions to the rule, including women who are pregnant. Parliament's vote is the first step in the process for full approval.

The bill will now head to the body's upper house and eventually President Alexander Van der Bellen's desk for his signature. The bill is expected to pass easily.

Karl Nehammer, the chancellor, said the mandatory vaccination is an “opportunity for our society to achieve lasting and continuous freedom, because the virus cannot restrict us any further.”

Austrians will be receiving letters in the mail about the new policy in March and police will then randomly check people on the street. Those who cannot produce a proof of vaccination will receive a written invitation to take a jab and get fined if they do not.

Vienna will then decide if it will reach out again to an individual who paid the fine to urge them to get vaccinated. At which point, they would face another fine. The vaccine mandate is expected to stay in place until January 2024.

The bill has been contentious and sparked large protests in major cities. Herbert Kickl, the leader of the “far-right” Freedom Party, said the mandate “paves the way to totalitarianism in Austria.” He promised to continue refusing the jab even after the law takes effect, the BBC reported.

The report also pointed out that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced that he will introduce a vaccination bill in March. Italy has also made the vaccine mandatory for citizens older than 60.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that the stricter the COVID War mandates that are imposed, the stronger and faster the formation of anti-vax, anti-establishment, anti-tax political movements. And when equity markets crash and the world sinks into deep economic decline, these movements will gain formidable strength.*

*But again, as socioeconomic conditions deteriorate and civil unrest and government protests escalate, as Gerald Celente notes, and as the cover of this week’s **Trends Journal** illustrates: “When all else fails, they take you to war.”*

*And war is on the near horizon. While the global media and political focus is now on Russia and Ukraine, our sites are more closely aimed at the Middle East with*



Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen, United Arab Emirates targeted as flashpoint nations.

**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 pre-existing comorbidities and/or the elderly, who are suffering from illnesses.

**TRENDPOST:** Governments and its paid bureaucrat health official flunkies have faced the daunting task of trying to get people to sign up for the unproven gene therapy inoculation—the first ever injected in the human body—that does not prevent infection or the transmission of the disease from a vaccinated individual.

Countries don’t even mind that vaccines have little efficacy against the dominant Omicron variant. (See [“PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN VIENNA OVER VACCINE MANDATE.”](#) [“NO VAX, NO FREEDOM”](#) and [“SOUTH AMERICA: JAB OR NATURAL IMMUNITY SLOWING THE COVID SURGE.”](#))

A recent study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that natural immunity was far more efficient in protecting against the spread of the earlier Delta variant.

The study, which was published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, found that those who were unvaccinated and recovered from the virus were better protected against the Delta variant than those who were considered fully vaccinated.



## FIERCE ANTI-VAX PROTEST BREAKS OUT IN BRUSSELS



A massive protest occurred Saturday in Brussels over the government's vaccination campaign and COVID-19 restrictions that resulted in at least 70 arrests after violent clashes with police.

The Associated Press reported that police in white helmets used water cannons to disperse the crowd. Many were defiant. A person on a loudspeaker told the crowd, "Come on people! Don't let them take away your rights."

Videos that emerged on social media showed protesters attempting to break windows and chase police officers into a subway station. Protesters lashed out at Prime Minister Alexander De Croo's decision to require a so-called Safe Pass for entry at indoor venues in the country.

The crowd included protesters from several European countries, including Poland, the Netherlands, France, and Romania, France 24 reported.

"What has been happening since 2020 has allowed people to wake up to corruption." Francesca Fanara, who traveled from northern France, told the outlet. Another protester said, "It warms the heart to see these people here."

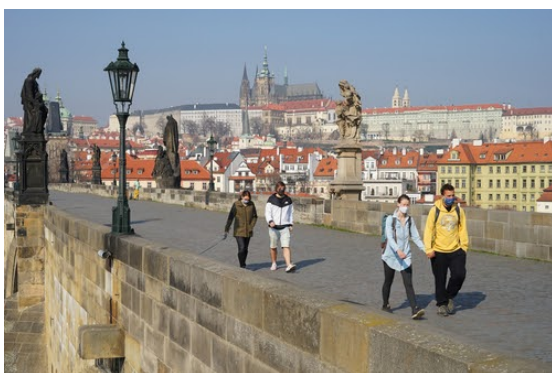
***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we had forecast, the more stringent the government mandates, the stronger anti-vax, anti-establishment and anti-tax movements will grow (See ["SPOTLIGHT: COVID VAX WARS. NO VAX NO FREEDOM."](#) ["BELGIAN JUDGE TELLS GOVERNMENT: END LOCKDOWN"](#) and ["LOCKDOWN PROTESTS RAGING. NEW LOCKDOWN ORDERS."](#))*

*And, we maintain our trend forecast that there will be a continuing winding down of the COVID-War by late March mid-April as politicians give in to business demands and civilian protests*

**TRENDPOST:** *While the media keeps selling cases, Belgium, as with the rest of the world, has seen record numbers of COVID-19 infections but hospitalizations are far from the height of the outbreak.*

*Some 77 percent of the country's population has been fully vaccinated, and 53 percent took a booster jab. Thus, considering the intensity of the protests we do not anticipate a much higher vax rate in Belgium.*

## **CZECH REPUBLIC: NEW CASES RISING, COVID RESTRICTIONS LESSENING**



We had forecast this would happen in nations across Europe and it is. Bowing to public pressure, last Wednesday the Czech Republic's government declared it will end orders to make COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for large segments of the population because it did not want to further deepen social strife.

“This does not change our stance on vaccination,” Petr Fiala, the prime minister, said. “It is still undoubtedly the best way to fight COVID-19, however, we do not want to deepen fissures in our society.” (See [“GREECE, CZECHIA, THE U.S.: LOCKDOWN UPDATES”](#) and [“EUROPEAN COURT: FORCED JABS LEGAL.”](#))

Fiala's decision came after a December order from the previous government to demand hospital workers in the country and those over 60 to roll up their sleeves and take the jab. The move at the time came after Austria announced that it would force citizens to take the jab.

Prague said at the time that Vienna started a trend “that will prevail across Europe.” Under the old guidelines, those who refused the jab would be barred from working, Reuters reported. The decision sparked protests in the country claiming that forced vaccinations stripped their freedoms.

Again, despite record numbers of cases in the country of 10.7 million, hospitalizations dropped to about 1,635 on Tuesday, which is far from the country's peak in early December when more than 7,000 required medical care.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Once again, our forecast that the COVID War would wind-down in late March/mid-April is reality. Business is the bottom line: “It’s the economy, stupid,” and politicians are being pressured to restore the socioeconomic climate that was devastated by the COVID War.

***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.*

## **NEW ZEALAND: PRIME MINISTER’S PRIMETIME COVID FREAK SHOW**



Maybe she just has cold feet?

Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, who imposed some of the strictest COVID War mandates in the world, said she will cancel her wedding to prove that she is “no different” than others in the country who are facing new COVID-19 restrictions.

“I am no different to, dare I say it, thousands of other New Zealanders who have had much more devastating impacts felt by the pandemic, the most gutting of

which is the inability to be with a loved one sometimes when they are gravely ill. That will far, far outstrip any sadness I experience,” she said, according to the BBC.

The report said her office announced the new restrictions—which go into effect midnight on Sunday—after a cluster of nine Omicron cases were confirmed.

Under the new guidelines, hospitality venues will have capacity capped at 100 vaccinated people or 25 if vaccine passes are not required, the BBC said.

Arden has been responding to the virus as though it is endemic and has stopped trying for a COVID-free strategy. (See [“NEW ZEALAND: ‘FREAK-OUT’ TIME”](#) and [“NEW ZEALAND GOES NUTZ.”](#))

***TRENDPOST:*** *The 41-year-old prime minister, who plans on marrying TV Presstitute Clarke Gayford, put the country of 5 million under the “red setting,” which essentially limits the size of gatherings.*

*The country’s borders have been largely closed to foreigners since March 2020. Having been forced into numerous lockdowns and ongoing mandates imposed upon the citizens by the Prime Minister since the COVID War began two years ago, the grand total of 52 people in New Zealand died of the virus.*

*To put this into perspective, which none of the Presstitutes do, 52 people out of 5 million dying from the virus equals 0.00104 percent of the country’s population. And over the course of two years, the grand total of 0.000043 percent of the country’s population died per month from COVID.*

*And did they die from COVID, or did they have COVID and die from something else such as old age, preexisting comorbidities, car accident, etc.?*

*According to the New Zealand Ministry of Health those listed as dying from COVID, “Includes all cases that died who were classified as an active case of COVID-19 at the time of death. In some of these cases, the underlying cause of death may have been unrelated to COVID-19.”*

*As for the Anthony Fauci bullshit about herd immunity at 70 percent, See [“NO HERD IMMUNITY FOR THE HERD”](#) (17 Aug 2021), forget about it!*

*More than 90 percent of the country is fully vaccinated and more than 50 percent of the population is boosted. And those who are not COVID Jabbed will not have access to most of the country’s services.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Keeping the borders closed to tourism until possibly late February, citizens from Australia and the Cook Islands are among those only permitted to enter the country, by air or sea.*

*We forecast that when the COVID War begins to wind-down late March, mid-April, there will be a sharp boost in global tourism.*

*However, there are still significant percentages of un-vaxxed.*

*Thus, after the big spike, there will be a downward drift of lost business of potential customers who are not permitted to travel since they lack the COVID Jab pass.*

## **IRELAND ENDS MOST COVID-19 RULES. NEEDS BUSINESS**



Micheál Martin, the Irish prime minister, announced Saturday that the country would ease nearly all of the COVID-19 restrictions that have been in place since the start of the outbreak—saying the Republic of Ireland “weathered the Omicron storm.”



“When your government asked extraordinary things of you, introduced previously unimagined restrictions on your lives, you responded. You did what you were asked to do,” he said, according to the BBC.

Pubs and restaurants in the country no longer have to ask patrons for their digital COVID passes and the requirements for social distancing will also be dropped, the report said. The country will still require face masks until the end of February and international travelers to the country will also have to prove they’re fully vaccinated.

*The New York Times* reported that Ireland’s daily COVID cases have been falling after hitting a peak on 26,122 on 8 January. The country—where about 78 percent of the population is fully vaccinated—recorded 5,523 new cases on Thursday.

“Spring is coming, and I don’t know if I have ever looked forward to one as much as this one,” Martin said, according to the paper. “Humans are social beings, and we Irish are more social than most. As we look forward to this spring, we need to see each other again; we need to see each other smile; we need to sing again.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *For Ireland, the COVID War is over. And we had forecast three weeks ago before any of these developments ... it will end by late March, mid-April for much of the world.*

*With the COVID War ending governments and Presstitutes will ratchet-up military war propaganda such as that which is being spread regarding Russia, Ukraine, China and Taiwan.*

*On the longer haul, replacing the COVID War in the mainstream media will be “Climate Change.”*

## STARBUCKS BACKS DOWN ON VAX MANATE



With a shortage of workers in the hospitality sector and employees unionizing putting pressure on Starbucks, the coffee giant announced last week it backtracked on its requirement to force its employees to be vaccinated.

This came after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the Biden administration's attempt to enforce its mandate for employers with over 100 employees, or some 80 million workers in the country, to be vaccinated or submit to testing every week.

John Culver, the company's chief operating officer, cited the court's ruling in a letter to employees but said leadership still encourages workers to take the shot.

"We continue to believe strongly in the spirit and intent of the mandate," Culver said, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The report said U.S. companies seem to be split on how to handle the Supreme Court defeat. Citigroup will continue to have the mandate in place for returning workers but General Electric announced that it suspended its vaccine requirements.

Starbucks has faced some dissatisfaction from store-level employees about their overall treatment and career advancements inside the company. (See ["STARBUCKS STORE TO UNIONIZE, A TOP TREND FOR 2022?"](#) ["STARBUCKS GETS BIGGER MARKET AS SMALLS GO BUST"](#) and ["SPOTLIGHT: WORKERS ON DEMAND."](#))

The *Journal* obtained an internal memo from Starbucks and the company informed workers that the Omicron variant has been challenging and both employees who are unvaccinated and vaccinated are getting infected.



“It is important that we take some urgent steps to ensure these partners are staying home,” the memo read. The coffee chain, which is based out of Seattle, employs some 228,000 workers in 8,000 stores in the U.S.

The company told The Associated Press that the “vast majority” of its workers are fully vaccinated, but declined to give a specific number.

***TREND FORECAST:*** The ***Trends Journal*** has reported extensively on President Biden's continuing gambit to get Americans to take the vaccine, its implications and its eminent failure. Indeed, in the [Celente and The Judge](#) podcast a week before the Supreme Court’s decision, Judge Andrew Napolitano accurately had forecast that the Supreme Court would reject the Biden mandate.

Also see [“SUPREME COURT PARTIALLY BLOCKS BIDEN VAX MANDATE.”](#)  
[“MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WOULD RATHER QUIT THEIR JOBS THAN TAKE THE JAB. WILL THEY BACK DOWN?”](#) and [“BIDEN HOSPITAL VAX MANDATE LOSING SUPPORT.”](#)

*As the COVID War winds-down there will be less vaccine mandates, but they will not disappear and new ones will be enforced in later years to fight new “strains” and “variants.” Again, it’s the bottom line and the drug dealers, i.e. Big Pharma, will be pushing more new vaxxes to boost their bottom line.*

## U.S. FINALLY ADMITS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ‘PRIMARY’ AND ‘INCIDENTAL’ COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS



As we have reported since the COVID War broke out, if someone died from falling off a ladder and breaking their neck, if they tested COVID positive, they would be classified as having died from the virus.

We reported in our 14 April 2020 issue, in an article titled [“THE NUMBERS DON’T ADD UP.”](#) that some doctors and physician assistants in the U.S. claimed that they were under pressure to categorize COVID-19 as the cause of death, even when it was likely not to be the case.

Now, hospitals across the U.S. are beginning to make a distinction between COVID-19 patients who are hospitalized because of the virus and those who were diagnosed after their admission for some other ailment.

## **Facts vs. Fantasy**

The U.S. has seen an explosion of COVID-19 cases in hospitals that are largely blamed on what health officials say is a highly transmissible Omicron variant. However, the percentage of hospitalized patients in need of I.C.U. care is significantly lower than during previous waves.

Overall, hospitalizations are decreasing in states where Omicron first emerged. The U.S. had a seven-day rolling average of 155,677 patients with the virus, which was higher than the previous peak of 139,279 in January 2021. (See [“PLAY SCRAMBLE: DOES OMICRON= MORONIC?,”](#) [“VAXXED OR NOT, OMICRON’S GONNA GET YA!”](#) and [“DIRE \(AND PUZZLING\) PREDICTIONS FROM BIDEN AND FAUCI.”](#))

Health officials are only now discovering that many patients who are tallied as COVID-19 cases are not hospitalized with the virus as their primary concern.

The *Financial Times* reported that since COVID infections are so widespread—and since the Omicron variant seems to be a less-severe strain—many Americans have no idea that they even have the disease.

“We are seeing a lot of people coming to the hospital for other reasons who just happened to find they have COVID,” Jennifer Caputo-Seidler, a doctor at Tampa General Hospital in Florida, told the *FT*. “They may have a broken leg but are still testing positive.” These cases are considered to be “incidental.”

Hospitals in Massachusetts on Thursday, for the first time, distinguished patients who were “incidental” COVID-19 cases and those who were considered “primary” COVID patients.

There were 3,187 patients hospitalized in the state with the virus and 49 percent were incidental cases. The distinction was made by counting how many patients were given the steroid dexamethasone.

The *FT* reported that 42 percent of COVID-19 cases were incidental in New York and about two-thirds in Los Angeles.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, there has been speculation about just how many people who were dying from the virus compared to those who died with the virus.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we reported in the 14 April, 2020 **Trends Journal**, Dr. Scott Jenson, a Minnesota state senator who is also a medical doctor, accused the CDC of directing doctors to list COVID-19 as a cause of death even for someone who was never tested for it, which he said is “ridiculous” and misleading.*

*“I know that I've talked with nursing staff... and was led to believe that there may have been a COVID-19 diagnosis included on the death certificate document without having had a COVID-19 confirmed laboratory test,” said Dr. Jenson.*

*(Also see: [“IRISH CORONER: COVID DEATH COUNTS ARE FAKE”](#) and [“CRUCIAL COVID DATA IGNORED BY PRESSTITUTES.”](#))*

## WHO CONFIRMS TRENDS JOURNAL FORECAST: ECONOMY-KILLING TRAVEL BANS INEFFECTIVE



The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday said in a statement that international travel bans have not been effective in stopping the spread of the coronavirus and, in fact, “contribute to the economic and social stress” of the countries that are implementing them.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on measures that countries have taken to try and limit the chance of a new outbreak started by international travel.

It has been clear for some time that there is no wall or moat big enough to keep the highly contagious virus out of a country. (See [“GLOBAL TRAVEL INDUSTRY REELING,”](#) [“COVID SCARE: U.S. EXTENDS BAN ON TRAVEL ALONG BORDERS,”](#) [“EUROPE’S BANKS PERMANENTLY SLASH BUSINESS TRAVEL”](#) and [“TOP U.S. HOTELS ARE IN DEPRESSION OR RECESSION.”](#))

The statement from the WHO recommended that countries lift or ease their travel orders due to the level of stress they could put on society. The report from the health body also recommended that countries need to base their mandates on risk factors when it comes to mask requirements and isolation/quarantine.

The agency, no doubt, considered the treatment that South Africa faced when it alerted the global community that it discovered the Omicron variant circulating in its population.

Governments like the U.S. and U.K. were quick to ban travel to the country and its neighbors, which was for naught. The variant spread, and Johannesburg was punished for its transparency. (Those travel bans have since ended. See [“COVID WAR 2.0: MASS DESTRUCTION.”](#))

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced last week that it updated its travel advisory lists for 40 countries and territories due to a rising number of COVID-19 cases, according to TravelPulse.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Two years into the outbreak, most “world leaders” i.e., psychopath, sociopath, pathological lying politicians refuse to admit or learn from previous mistakes. They still insist the fastest way to move past the virus is to inoculate the world and to enforce mask mandates. Yet, despite the widespread availability of vaccines, millions taking the jab and draconian lockdown measures, there were more COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. in 2021 than in 2020.*

*And again, the politicians and Presstitutes ignore these facts of who is dying of the virus as why:*

*As we have long been reporting but they are now finally admitting, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that less than 0.2 percent of Covid-19 deaths in the United States have been among children.*

*Since the COVID War broke out in January 2020 to 6 January 2022, the CDC reports the grand total of 694 children aged 17 or younger that died of COVID... out of a population of some 74 million. And, 61 percent of those hospitalized were obese. There are 14.4 million obese children in the U.S., according to CDC estimates.*

*Again, confirming what we have been reporting for nearly two years, the people that should be taken care of the most are the elderly and those suffering from pre-existing comorbidities. Over 75 percent of COVID deaths have been among seniors, and over 25 percent, some 200,000, of those COVID deaths were people aged 85 and older.*

*Despite the fact that the virus is killing mostly those suffering from pre-existing comorbidities, there is not a word from “health experts” about*

*people getting in better health and building up their immune systems to fight the virus. Instead, all they do is sell the COVID Jab. Natural healing is considered a conspiracy theory in the drug lord world.*



# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## BLINKEN MEETS WITH LAVROV: WAR HAWKS SCREAMING

Over the past several months, the United States and the mainstream media have been reporting that Russia has some 100,000 troops on its border with Ukraine and is planning an invasion. And now, that “invasion” narrative has become the daily news.

However, not a peep from the Presstitutes about the Kremlin’s claim that tension in the Ukraine has been increasing because Kyiv deployed some 125,000 troops and heavy artillery in the war-torn-disputed Donbass region.

## NATO Next Door

Moscow has been complaining of the expansion of NATO into its backyard as a major threat to its security, while the European alliance says it will not let Moscow dictate who becomes a member or where it expands.

Russia says its demands are concrete.



Let the talks begin.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday met with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Geneva to discuss Ukraine and NATO and both men admitted that there were no diplomatic breakthroughs on either topic.

Blinken agreed to provide the Kremlin with written answers to its security demands after first bristling at the request. Lavrov said Russia was waiting for “concrete answers” about concerns it has with the expansion of NATO countries. Moscow wants NATO to return to its membership levels from the 1990s, and promise not to take on new members—including Ukraine, Finland, and Sweden.

***TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal [pointed out](#) in 2016 that "forward positions in Ukraine, Georgia and the Baltic States are hundreds of miles further east than the Oder-Neisse border between Germany and Poland, where US President George Herbert Walker Bush solemnly promised Soviet and Russian leaders Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin that NATO would halt its expansion more than a quarter-century ago. The trend, clearly, is pushing toward mounting Russia/NATO tensions."***

Russia also wants NATO to agree to remove all its forces that are located in Romania and Bulgaria. (See [“WASHINGTON GIVES COLD SHOULDER TO RUSSIA’S SECURITY CONCERNS.”](#) [“BIDEN HITS RUSSIA WITH SANCTIONS.”](#) [“NATO: WE ARE THE WORLD”](#) and [“KREMLIN BLAMES UKRAINE FOR STOKING TENSIONS AT BORDER.”](#))

Russia has insisted that it has no intention of invading Ukraine, despite amassing over 100,000 troops at the country’s eastern border. President Joe Biden seems unconvinced, and for good reason.

Russian troops, missile systems, and fighter jets are being shipped into Belarus, which becomes a new threat for Kyiv. Biden told reporters at a press conference Wednesday that he believes Putin is intent on testing the West.

“Yes, I think he will (invade Ukraine),” Biden said. “But I think he will pay a serious and dear price for it that he doesn't think now will cost him what it's going to cost him. And I think he will regret having done it.”

Biden said it would make sense for Putin to move his forces in after amassing so many at the border. “He has to do something. I suspect it matters which side of the bed he gets up on in the morning as to exactly what he's going to do,” the President commented in an apparent attempt to diminish Putin’s strategy and thoughtfulness.

*The New York Times* reported that Biden’s comments were a departure from “current intelligence assessments” that indicated that Putin is undecided on an invasion. (See [“RUSSIA’S PUTIN WON’T BEND TO U.S. TENSIONS. WHAT’S NEXT?”](#))

Last month, Russian President Putin raised concerns about weapons systems being placed near Russia's borders and called the move “red lines.”

Putin sees the possibility of Ukraine becoming a member of NATO as a security threat for Russia. NATO says it will not let Moscow dictate who gets to join and who does not.

“The threat on our western border is, indeed, rising, as we have said multiple times. In our dialogue with the United States and its allies, we will insist on developing concrete agreements prohibiting any further eastward expansion of NATO and the placement of weapons systems in the immediate vicinity of Russian territory,” Putin said.

The U.S. expressed agitation over Moscow’s overtures to Minsk and joint military exercises planned between Russian and Belarusian forces.

Reuters, citing the Interfax news agency, reported that Russia sent two battalions to Belarus accompanied by S-400 surface-to-air missile systems. Russia also plans on deploying 12 Sukhoi Su-35 fighters to the country for the drills.

*The Guardian* reported that some military analysts say Russia could be sending some forces to Belarus to conduct a broader invasion of Ukraine “effectively stretching out Ukraine’s defenses by taking advantage of the two countries’ nearly 700-mile border.”

Brett Bruen, the former director of global engagement in the Obama White House, said Putin won a major victory this past week without having to move a single soldier or weapon. He said President Joe Biden made “several considerable concessions” during his speech at the White House last week.

“The president recklessly remarked that the price for Russia invading Ukraine ‘depends on what it does. It’s one thing if it’s a minor incursion and then we end up having a fight about what to do and not to do,’” Bruen wrote on NBCNews.com.

Bruen called Biden’s language a cringe-worthy attempt to try and distinguish between minor and major invasions. He said Russia is winning the chess match by using Ukraine to distract Washington from its emerging relationships with Kazakhstan, Venezuela, and Belarus.

Europe relies on the U.S. as its security guarantor and—in the event of an invasion—the U.S. would likely have to move forces into the Baltic “in order to deter further Russian expansionism,” CNN reported.

The report pointed out that the U.S. getting tangled with Russia in a conflict could make Washington lose sight of its top challenger: China. (See [“CHINA WON’T STOP AT TAIWAN, SO WHERE SHOULD AMERICA DRAW THE LINE?”](#) [“TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA”](#) and [“CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE.”](#)) The CNN report pointed out that China and Taiwan would, no doubt, be watching how the U.S. response to a Russian invasion.

Putin is planning to attend the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Beijing and has a meeting scheduled with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping,

where the two are expected to discuss high-profile political and economic deals, according to Nikkei Asia.

One of the agenda items is a final contract for the Power of Siberia-2 natural gas pipeline. Voice of America News reported that Moscow hopes to build a new pipeline to China, which “could give Russia the power to sell gas to the highest bidder, pitting Chinese and European consumers against one another.”

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that the more the U.S. and NATO increase tensions with Russia, which could bring new sanctions against Moscow, the greater Kremlin's bond with Beijing will tighten.*

*And, with the United States and its allies incapable of defeating third world nations such as Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq etc., they are no match to defeat Russia and China...individually or if they teamed up.*

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

*Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's secretary-general, has been vague on what kind of response the alliance would have in the event of a Russian invasion and has on one occasion clarified that Ukraine is a NATO partner and not a member, which translates to mean: Kyiv's on its own.*

*Even Germany has been vague on what kind of response it would take if Russia invades. The White house—embarrassingly—had to deny several reports that said Olaf Scholz, the new chancellor, turned down a last-minute meeting with Biden next month.*

*“This report is false,” Adrienne Watson, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council, said in a statement obtained by Politico.*

*We couldn't blame him for not wanting to meet with the president. He would face immense pressure to stop the flow of gas in the recently completed Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which has been a source of contention between the U.S., Kyiv, and Berlin.*

*“Germany is between a rock and a hard place,” Marcel Dirsus, a non-resident fellow at the institute for security policy at Germany’s Kiel University, told Reuters. “The Scholz government wants to keep the Americans happy because they are Germany's most important allies outside of Europe. But they don't want to annoy the Russians either. That’s tough to do.”*

***TREND FORECAST:*** Gerald Celente, the publisher, has noted, “When all else fails, they take you to war.”

*Making the case to redirect the people’s mind, as Ron Paul’s Liberty Report states regarding the U.S. building up tension in the area, “Biden may be calculating that he needs a nice little war to boost back his numbers and rally Americans to his support.*

*Like most everything else in this first year of the Biden Administration, it would be a terrible mistake.*

## **POROSHENKO’S RETURN TO UKRAINE: FIRST CLASS FREAK SHOW**



The former president of Ukraine returned to the country last week while under investigation for treason that his supporters say is unfounded and politically motivated by President Volodymyr Zelensky's administration—his chief rival.

The reappearance of Petro Poroshenko, who is the country's leading opposition figure, threatened to further complicate the domestic turmoil in the country while Russian forces took positions along the country's eastern border.

Poroshenko has been away from Kyiv for about a month, and when he arrived on a flight from Warsaw, he was greeted by thousands of supporters, some holding signs saying, "Keep calm, I'll be back," *The Washington Post* reported.

A Ukrainian judge on Wednesday turned back a request by prosecutors to detain the former president on the treason charge. He insists that he is innocent and the charges are simply a political ploy.

Thousands cheered outside the courtroom when bail was set at \$35 million—a pittance for the former leader worth \$1.6 billion.

After the hearing, Poroshenko said the court's decision is "not yet a victory" but the "first step in the right direction." Zelensky has insisted that his office did not interfere with the proceedings.

Poroshenko is still a very popular figure and Zelensky's top challenger in the 2024 presidential elections. There are concerns that his arrival in the country threatens to destabilize Kyiv while Russia seems to be gearing up for war.

"We will show that they are committing treason against the state, at the moment when Ukraine needs unity to strongly resist the actions of [Russian President Vladimir] Putin," Poroshenko said, according to the *Post*.

## **Presidential Reality Show**

Zelensky, a former comedian (and still one) who played Ukraine's president in a popular TV show, won the actual Ukrainian presidential race trouncing the sitting president Poroshenko with 73 percent of the vote in the 2019 elections.

Selling more fear and hysteria, the word from the West is that Russian President Putin would welcome a fight between the two Ukrainian presidential challengers.

Without providing a shred of evidence, the United Kingdom's Foreign Office on Saturday alleged that Putin is aiming to install a pro-Kremlin figure to take over in Kyiv, according to the BBC.

The U.K. identified the person as Ukrainian MP Yevhen Murayev... who has about a 7 percent popularity rating and denied he was a candidate. The U.K. intel whore did not specify how it believes Putin will implement the strategy.

"The information being released today shines a light on the extent of Russian activity designed to subvert Ukraine, and is an insight into Kremlin thinking, Liz Truss, the U.K.'s foreign secretary, said, according to the BBC. "Russia must de-escalate, end its campaigns of aggression and disinformation, and pursue a path of diplomacy."

Murayev laughed off the suggestion and said that it seems the British Foreign Office is "confused."

"It isn't very logical. I'm banned from Russia. Not only that but money from my father's firm there has been confiscated," he said.

Vasyl Filipchuck, a former spokesman for Ukraine's foreign ministry, told *The Guardian* that a pro-Kremlin candidate would not win the presidency and the only way said candidate would be put in office is the result of a bloody and long war.

"This scenario would only work with a fully-fledged invasion taking over Kyiv," he said. "The city would be decimated, its land burned and a million people would flee. We have 100,000 people in the capital with arms, who will fight...There may be a plan, but it's bullshit."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *To further escalate tensions, yesterday, NATO said it would send more fighter jets and ships to Eastern Europe bordering Russia, despite a warning by Russian President Vladimir Putin that an increased military build-up in the region by the military alliance would cross a "red line."*



*Now, with Denmark sending a frigate to the Baltic Sea and four F-16 fighter jets to Lithuania, Spain sending ships to join NATO naval forces, and France deploying troops to Romania... that “red line” has been crossed.*

**PUBLISHERS’ NOTE:** *If China or Russia sent military forces, ships and planes to neighboring European or United States countries, there would be “national” outrage. But with the U.S. deploying troops in some 70 nations with over 800 bases surrounding those of Russia and China, and NATO expanding across Eastern Europe, that is ideologically permissible.*

## SAUDI-LED YEMEN SLAUGHTER ESCALATES



As we have been forecasting, while much of the media is focused on the U.S./NATO/UKRAINE/RUSSIA conflict, we are most concerned with a potential Middle East war of mass destruction.

Among the flashpoints of concern is Yemen. Antonio Guterres, the United Nations secretary-general, condemned the Saudi-led coalition airstrike on Friday that killed and wounded scores of Yemenis in the city of Sa’ada.

Doctors Without Borders said at least 70 were killed and 138 wounded in the strike, but some of the hospitals could not take any more patients, so the actual death toll could be much higher.

“It seems to have been a horrific act of violence,” Ahmed Mahat, the head of Doctors Without Borders in Yemen, said. There was a report of a separate attack in the port town of Hodeida that killed three children who committed the sin of playing soccer.

***TRENDPOST:*** The ***Trends Journal*** has reported on the U.S. backed Saudi War on Yemen and the subsequent humanitarian crisis that is one of the worst in the world. About half of the country's nearly 30 million people are unable to access food for survival. (See ["MURDEROUS YEMEN WAR: MILLIONS IN PERIL. WHO CARES?"](#) ["YEMEN CRISIS WORSENS. IT'S NO NEWS"](#) and ["PROTESTS IN YEMEN AGAINST U.S., SAUDI-LED COALITION."](#))

## **Biden Bandit**

President Biden, who served as vice president under Barack Obama, has strongly supported the Saudi-led war that is now in its seventh year. (See ["BIDEN PRESIDENCY= OBAMA 2021."](#))

The president has recently insisted that it is his hope that the war winds down but he was criticized for appearing to flip flop during a nearly two-hour-long press conference last week.

Despite Biden vowing in February to end arms sales to the Saudis, he did a \$650 million arms deal with the Saudi's last November.

"The Biden administration has condemned the Iran-backed Houthi actions roughly 13 times since taking office. Not one condemnation of Saudi bombings of Yemen though. Will it also not condemn this attack?" Trita Parsi, the executive vice president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, said in a tweet.

As we have reported, the United Arab Emirates is a part of the Saudi coalition in fighting the Yemen War and the latest strike that targeted civilians was in retaliation of the Houthis strike that killed three people in Abu Dhabi and hit three petroleum tanker explosions near state oil firm ADNOC's storage facilities.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we reported, that Houthi strike sharply pushed up oil prices last week, with Brent Crude hitting a seven year high. Should oil prices spike to \$100 per barrel it will sharply escalate inflation pressures and potentially be a key element in crashing equity markets.

## Winners and Losers

The *Financial Times* reported that the Houthis have been on a roll and have reclaimed land lost in earlier conflicts. Those gains are seen to dissuade the Houthis from having an interest in negotiating.

Yemen's civil war started in 2014, when the Houthis, who were ruling large sections of Yemen for over 1,000 years, overthrew the unelected president put in control by the Saudi's, took control of Sana'a, and then seized the presidential palace.

The Saudi-backed coalition is concerned that Houthi rule in Yemen would mean rival Iran would gain a foothold at the border with Saudi Arabia.

The strikes in Yemen on Friday also knocked out a telecommunications building that resulted in a nearly nationwide internet blackout, which will impact the distribution of essential aid in the country.

The Houthi leadership promised to respond to Friday's attack.

"We advise the foreign companies in that Emirates to leave because they invest in an unsafe country, and the rulers of this country continue in their aggression against Yemen," Yahya Sare'e, the spokesman, said.

***TREND FORECAST: The Trends Journal has reported extensively on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen that is playing out due to Saudi Arabia's attack on the nation.***

*Thus, we maintain our forecast that the Saudi/U.S. alliance will not defeat the Houthis, and the war will rage on, killing tens of thousands of innocent people while inflicting devastating and deadly hardship across the nation.*

*The war will continue to be ignored by the mainstream media and the vast majority of the world will be ignorant to the human suffering the United States and Saudi Arabia have inflicted upon the nation.*

*So what is the U.S. going to do now that the Houthis seem to be gaining ground in the conflict? Put them back on the terror list.*

*The AP pointed out that giving the group a terror designation would make life even harder for average Yemenis.*

*Biden said putting the group back on the list is under consideration.*

## **FRANCE CONDEMNS CHINA'S 'GENOCIDE' AGAINST UYGHURS WHILE FORGETTING THEIR MASS MURDERS**



French parliament issued a resolution last Thursday denouncing the Chinese “genocide” against its Uyghur population, calling Beijing’s actions “crimes against humanity.”

The move comes before the Beijing Olympics, which many see as a platform for the Chinese government to gloss over allegations of widespread human rights abuses. Olivier Faure, the head of France’s Socialist party, called China a great power and expressed his love for “the Chinese people.”

“But we refuse to submit to propaganda from a regime that is banking on our cowardice and our avarice to perpetrate a genocide in plain sight,” he said.

### **Double Speak**

Ignoring France’s long colonial murderous recent history, on 12 November 2019, we published a story titled, [“MALI: FRANCE WANTS ITS COLONY BACK.”](#) that accuses Paris of continuing its colonial strategy by forcibly stealing uranium from Mali and Niger.

These two countries have one of the world's largest sources of uranium and oil underneath the deserts near their borders. They've muscled their way into these countries under the guise of anti-terror operations. (See: ["CHAD: MORE AFRICAN WAR DRUMS BEATING."](#) ["LIBYA: NATO POWERS GET OUT THEIR CARVING KNIVES."](#) and ["FRANCE EARMARKS BILLIONS FOR NUCLEAR AND 'GREEN' ENERGY; INVESTORS BULLISH ON URANIUM."](#))

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is expected to release new information about the situation in the Xinjiang region in China, the Associated Press reported. The body said it did not have full access to the region, but "identified patterns of arbitrary detention, coercive labor practices and an erosion of social and cultural rights."

The scars of French colonization run deep in Africa. Last October, French President Emmanuel Macron drew criticism in an interview when he argued that Algeria was a French creation and a "phenomenon worth watching."

"Was there an Algerian nation before French colonization? That is the question," he told *Le Monde*. The comment sparked fury in Algeria and President Abdelmadjid Tebboune withdrew his Algerian envoy to France, who returned on 6 January.

Mdou Moctar, a songwriter from Niger, penned a recent op-ed in *The New York Times* where he argued that France may no longer control the country, but its presence is obvious.

"In Niger, we speak French, spend French money, work for French companies and toil in the mines, supplying our nation's precious materials to France. In some ways, we are a country in name only," he wrote.

Ramtane Lamamra, Algeria's foreign minister, said France has to begin to acknowledge its past and "decolonize their own history."

"They need to free themselves of certain attitudes, certain behaviors, certain visions which are intrinsically linked to the incoherent logic driven by the west's claimed mission to bring civilization," he said, according to RFI.



# TRENDS-EYE VIEW



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTERS WIN SERBIA: TREND TRACKING LESSON

Serbia's government announced Thursday that the controversial Rio Tinto lithium mine that planned for the western part of the country is dead after weeks of massive protests claiming that the mine would lead to environmental ruin for neighboring towns.

As we have been reporting, week after week, month after month thousands of demonstrators took to the streets blocking main roads and bridges used to access the mine site near Loznica. These protesters also faced an intimidation campaign by authorities and police brutality.

“We are not afraid of Rio Tinto,” Ana Brnabić, the Serbian prime minister, said, according to the report. “We are here for our people and our country. They can do whatever they think they should do. This is the final decision of the government of the Republic of Serbia.”

The decision came weeks before the country's general election in April. DW.com reported that the Serbian Progressive Party, the party in power,



had initially supported the development of mines in Serbia, but the party has seen its support decline.

The **Trends Journal** reported on how the global shift to “green energy” could impact the environment through mining. (See [“CHINA EYEING AFGHANISTAN’S TRILLIONS IN RARE EARTH MINERAL WEALTH.”](#) [“HERE’S WHERE ALL THAT EXTRA LITHIUM WILL COME FROM.”](#) [“INVESTORS BET ON AN ENERGIZED LITHIUM MARKET”](#) and [“BOLIVIA: LOOTING THE LITHIUM.”](#))

Lithium is a rare, metallic element and an important component for computers, smartphones, and TV screens. Lithium is the metal of choice for batteries because it can store more electric charge in the same space than any other metal.

Belgrade revoked all licenses tied to the lithium exploration at the mine. Reuters reported that the Anglo-Australian, \$2.4 billion project would have made Rio a top 10 producer in the world.

Reports pointed out that the decision is likely to further divide Belgrade and Canberra after tennis star Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the country for not being vaccinated.

The BBC reported that Djokovic has spoken out in support of the protesters. He mentioned that clean air and water is key to good health. There is concern that the mine would contaminate water supplies.

“All decisions (linked to the lithium project) and all licenses have been annulled. As far as project Jadar is concerned, this is an end,” the prime minister said. Rio Tinto said it was reviewing the legal basis of Belgrade’s decision.

***TREND-TRACKING LESSON: Gerald Celente has long noted that one of the most important elements for protests to be successful is that they must continue unabated.***

*For example, the Berlin Wall came tumbling down when people came to the wall and did not leave. And each day, more people came and did not leave until they greatly outnumbered the military.*

*On 23 November 2021, the **Trends Journal** published an article, ["MODI LOSES. FARMERS WIN. A MEGA-TREND BEYOND INDIA."](#) and pointed out that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi finally gave in to protesters—after a year—and repealed contentious farm laws that farmers said would kill their chances at making a living.*

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

*These protesters in Serbia had the same determination.*

### ***Need More Proof?***

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

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

## AFRAID OF COVID? WE WARNED YOU: ‘SILENT PANDEMIC’ KILLS 1.2M EVERY YEAR



Antimicrobial resistance bacteria—or superbugs—kill about a million people a year and are considered to be one of the greatest risks to public health in the 21st century.

And the COVID-19 outbreak—with the widespread use of ineffective antibiotics—will only worsen the problem, according to a report.

The *Financial Times* reported that these microbes are resistant to antibiotics, in part due to the overuse of these drugs. These bacteria are now blamed for more deaths each year than either HIV/AIDS or malaria.

The number of people who die from these drug-resistant bacterial infections is debated, but there is a consensus that the number is at least a million.

The *Lancet* medical journal published an analysis that said 1.27 million people died from these infections in 2019 and 4.95 million deaths were tied to these ailments.

“I still think it is an underestimate of the reality,” Hanan Balkhy, the assistant director at the World Health Organization, said, according to the paper. “AMR it's truly an existential threat to modern medicine in high, mid, and low-income countries.”

To put the number of deaths into perspective, COVID-19 has been blamed for 5.5 million deaths across the globe since the start of the outbreak over two years ago.

And that figure does not take into account the number of individuals who were “incidental” deaths. For example, those who had late-stage heart disease and came down with the virus.

NPR reported that the scientists studying the issue found that “bacteria are mutating to evade antibiotics at a pace far faster than many researchers had previously forecast.”

The report said these bacteria cause blood infections and terminal cases of sepsis. The report pointed out that the old school of thought was that the failure of antibiotics used to be considered only a first-world problem but the research shows that the issue is impacting all countries.

“In the past, we all thought that you had to be rich enough to use a lot of antibiotics inappropriately to have this problem,” Dr. Chris Murray, the director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, said, according to NPR. “But that’s not the case.”

Researchers are studying why these bacteria have become so deadly and blame—in part—the wide use of antibiotics that leads to misuse, which can fuel mutations.

Fiorella Krapp Lopez, an infectious disease physician in Lima, Peru, told NPR that the COVID-19 outbreak likely worsened the issue in her country.

“First, there was a lot of antibiotic use during the pandemic,” she said, noting that many people did not want to go to the hospital early on in the outbreak and medicated at home. “It is still very easy to get antibiotics in a local pharmacy without a prescription. Unfortunately, more than 70, 80 percent of [COVID-19] patients that arrived at the hospital were already using antibiotics at home.”

Peru has had one of the highest per capita death rates from COVID-19. Krapp Lopez said she believes some of those deaths were due to secondary infections that were picked up at overcrowded hospitals.

“During the pandemic, the hospitals were overloaded,” she said, according to NPR. “A lot of patients went into ICUs that were understaffed. That was just the perfect storm to have a very high transmission of these [drug-resistant] pathogens,” she said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have been continually reporting, the drug lords are destroying humanity. The **Trends Journal** has reported on germs and society’s impossible effort to live in a 100 percent sterile environment.*

*There are hand soaps at every store counter placed in front of a cashier wearing an N-95 mask behind a plexiglass shield. (See [“ANTIBIOTICS IN BABIES CAUSING MAJOR HEALTH CONCERNS”](#) and [“AS FORECAST: ANTIBIOTICS RESISTANCE A CRISIS.”](#))*

*We pointed out in our 9 March 2017 issue—long before anti-social distancing was a household term—that the more prescription drugs are consumed the less effective they become.*

*But, of course, the major drug dealers of the world—the giant pharmaceutical companies—would not be in existence if it was not for the public buying their product. The revenue they make goes right back into research and development so you can become dependent on a whole new product, and the cycle continues.*

*Gerald Celente, wrote in 2000: “...worldwide misuse of antibiotics was in the process of destroying their effectiveness on a massive scale. Medical authorities around the world were acknowledging a frightening scenario: The wonder bugs were winning the battle with wonder drugs.”*

*He continued, “With tens of millions of lives at risk from common infections that are resistant to antibiotics and can evolve into more serious medical conditions, these leading edge companies that create drugs to combat the superbug epidemic are positioned for enormous profit potential.”*

## CHINA HONORS PLEDGE (TO THEMSELVES) TO TAKE OVER AMERICAN AGRICULTURE



Remember that Trump deal with the communist Chinese, where lovable pooh bear Xi Jinping agreed to buy up all that American agriculture?

Well, despite recent news that under Joe Biden, China is reneging on those Trump era agreements, rest assured. China is buying plenty.

But here's the catch: they're not simply buying tons of wheat and soybeans and corn and beef from farmers across the fertile plains of the U.S.

No, they're continuing to buy up U.S. farmland for Chinese companies to extract America's wealth much more efficiently.

The **Trends Journal** previously alerted readers to China's agricultural land grab in ["CHINA SWALLOWING UP U.S. FARMLAND"](#) (20 Jul 2021).

Now an expose from The National Pulse details how the Chinese strategy is only expanding.

Figures show that CCP backed Chinese investors acquired upwards of 192,000 acres of American agricultural property by the start of 2020. The land is worth around \$1.9 billion, and constitutes an exponential growth in ownership over the last 10 years.

Because the USDA's statistics on agricultural ownership is several years out of date, making exact current figures on property held by China and Chinese firms is hard to confirm.

But word from farmers and real estate sources make it clear that China has been very active in 2021.

For example, a Chinese billionaire called Sun Guangxin and his business, GH America Energy LLC, a subsidiary of China's Guanghui Energy Company, made one significant purchase that was traced. Sun purchased 140,000 acres in a Texas county near the Mexican border and Laughlin Air Force Base for \$110 million.

Not only is the land useful in terms of agriculture. Military sources have warned that if the project goes through, the Air Force base's power supply might be jeopardized.

The capture of American land by Chinese people and corporations is not limited to Sun. Syngenta was purchased by ChemChina, a Chinese state-owned company, for \$43 billion in 2017, according to The Pulse.

While the mainstream media has characterized the acquisition as a poor bargain for China, it provides the country with enormous long-term control over global and local food supply.

The CCP's food security strategy includes the acquisition of U.S. property, presenting a huge danger to the American public's food and national security.

As the earlier **Trends Journal** story reported, Republicans this past summer introduced legislation to restrict land ownership and tax incentives for foreign investors.

The Biden Administration clearly sees things differently.

After rumors appeared that China's property acquisitions posed a substantial danger to American national security, Biden's Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack stepped forward to back China.



Late last week, Vilsack did sound a stronger tone in talking about China's reneging on their pledge to buy American agricultural goods.

According to agri-pulse.com, he assured lawmakers the Biden administration is pressuring on China to fulfill "phase one" trade commitments.

"There are a wide variety of ways we can respond to China ... and no doubt we will," Vilsack told Rep. Tracey Mann, R-Kan.

He failed, however, to lay out any specifics of what the administration is doing to get China to abide by their agreements, but he stopped short of saying what steps the administration was prepared to take.

In July, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Washington) warned that "the present trajectory in the United States is leading us toward the development of a Chinese-owned agricultural land monopoly."

The recent National Pulse story can be read [here](#).

## **U.S. POLS RESPOND TO CHINA TRADE LIES WITH VALENTINE TARIFF LIFT**



Well, it's one way to handle being lied to and cheated.

In the wake of China breaking its Trump era promises to buy more American agricultural products, the House of Representatives is urging President Joe Biden to lower tariffs on billions of dollars in Chinese imports.

That's right, lower tariffs, not raise or even keep them at current levels.

So far, 140 Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives have signed onto a letter advocating the changes, according to Breitbart.

A bi-partisan group of reps including Jackie Walorski (R-IN), and Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Ron Kind (D-WI) and Darin LaHood (R-IL), persuaded colleagues to sign a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative for more "made in China" goods to escape tariffs.

## China Has Never Lived Up To WTO Promises

A decades-long free trade agreement in Washington, D.C., pushed during the Bill Clinton presidency, and signed during the early days of George Bush, which allowed China into the World Trade Organization (WTO), has been disastrous for America.

And part of the reason is that China has consistently failed to meet its promises under the agreement, including things like its communist government providing anti-competitive supports to industries, and China opening its markets to inbound goods and services.

China can tightly surveil and control what their citizens purchase, and punish them via their "social credit system." So they can technically keep laws off the books, while making sure their own populace favors buying Chinese made products.

Overall, the WTO fiasco resulted in the loss of 3.7 million American jobs between 2001 and 2018.

The **Trends Journal** has detailed much of the effects of China's entry into the WTO in stories including:

- ["CHINA CHALLENGING U.S. HI-TECH DOMINANCE"](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- ["CHINA PUTS CHINA FIRST"](#) (28 Sep 2021)
- ["BY LAND AND BY SEA: RE-THINKING OCEANIA"](#) (28 Sep 2021)

- [“CHINA WON’T STOP AT TAIWAN, SO WHERE SHOULD AMERICA DRAW THE LINE?”](#) (26 Oct 2021)
- [“Celente on China’s rise, America’s decline”](#) (29 Nov 2017)

Former President Trump placed Section 301 tariffs on billions of dollars in Chinese goods in an effort to force China to abide by its agreements. And China eventually responded with pledges to buy very significant amounts of American products, including agricultural goods.

### **Will Biden Take House Advice?**

The Biden administration has said previously that it intends to keep most of Trump’s China tariffs in place. But U.S. Trade Rep Katherine Tai is currently assessing over 500 Chinese-made items that might be exempted from the levies.

Among other House Republicans that have signed onto the letter, are Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Ken Buck (R-CO), Burgess Owens (R-UT) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH).

The letter tried to frame the reduction of tariffs as something that would help American businesses:

“Sadly, the Section 301 tariffs have broadly impacted U.S. businesses in the manufacturing, agriculture, fishing, retail, energy, technology, and services industries. These impacts have been strongest for small-and medium-sized enterprises that are less able to absorb the increased cost of tariffs. Section 301 tariffs have also harmed American families and consumers by raising prices on a wide range of consumer products.

“Given this, we strongly urge the USTR to expand its exclusion process as quickly as possible to give American workers, businesses, and families badly needed economic relief.”

One of the major rationales of Trump era economic policy was to try to bring more production of goods and services back to American shores.

As the letter shows, politicians tied to a relative handful of mega tech companies, sports franchises and the entertainment world that really are the major beneficiaries of lax China trade policies, have clearly abandoned the idea of re-shoring industries in America.

## **ACTIVISION STUDIO GROUP WILL FORM A UNION, SOLIDIFYING TRENDS JOURNAL FORECAST**



Workers at a Wisconsin studio owned by Activision Blizzard, the California company that has just been purchased by Microsoft, announced they intend to form a union at the location, a report said.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the move to unionization for many workers across the U.S. (See [“POLITICO JOURNALISTS FORM UNION. A TREND OF THE TIMES.”](#) [“LABOR UNION COMEBACK”](#) and [“STARBUCKS STORE TO UNIONIZE, A TOP TREND FOR 2022?”](#))

Most Americans are stuck in their menial jobs making minimum wage with no career advancement. (See [“DOLLAR GENERAL EMPLOYEES: PLANTATION WORKERS OF SLAVELANDIA.”](#))

The employees at Raven Software say they hope that Activision voluntarily recognizes the formation without a legal fight. *The New York Times* said about 80 percent of the 34 employees there have signed on.

“This is just the best thing for us and our company going forward, for us to have a voice,” Erin Hall, a Raven quality assurance worker, told the paper.

The union that would represent the employees is Game Workers Alliance. Hall told the paper that unionization in the gaming industry has yet to take off, and she hopes that the trend continues.

The company said in a statement to the paper that it has increased pay and other benefits for workers and "deeply respects the rights of all employees under the law to make their own decisions about whether or not to join a union."

The *Times* report pointed out several reasons why the employees have pushed to unionize. There were recently allegations of sexual harassment at the company and game workers are known to work long hours, and sometimes on the weekend when a deadline approaches for a new game.

The paper reported that there has been a shift in the industry on a whole for better representation for workers.

***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.*

## **TOP 10 BILLIONAIRES IN U.S. WEALTH GREW \$1 BILLION A DAY DURING COVID WAR**



The top 10 richest Americans have added about \$1 billion to their combined fortune a day during the COVID-19 war while many in the country face soaring inflation and job insecurity.

Children’s Health Defense, citing Americans for Tax Fairness, reported that the combined net worth for these billionaires has doubled since the start of the outbreak, and hit \$1.35 trillion last week.

Frank Clemente, the director of ATF, said the pandemic has “been very good to American billionaires, especially the top 10.”

The **Trends Journal** has been reporting on the massive gains that the richest have benefited from during the outbreak. (See [“AMERICA’S RICHEST 400 FAMILIES PAY A TINY PERCENT OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX COMPARED TO THE WORKING CLASS.”](#) [“RICHEST AMERICANS BEAT THE TAXMAN.”](#))



[“SOCIALISM FOR RICHEST, CAPITALISM FOR WORKING CLASS”](#) and [“BILLIONAIRE TAX SCOFFLAWS PLOW SAVINGS INTO WEBS OF CONTROL.”](#))

The Children’s Health Defense report noted that Senator Ron Wyden’s effort tax capital gains of the country’s richest.

“Their obscene rise in wealth—all of it potentially untaxed—stands in stark contrast to a lot of America’s working families, who've struggled through almost two years of a health crisis and economic uncertainty including, most recently, rising prices,” Clemente said.

He said Wyden’s billionaire tax better aligns the fortunes of America’s “richest of the rich with the needs of average Americans.”

Last October, 89 million Americans lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic and the net worth of billionaires increased by an average of 70 percent, Interesting Engineering reported. The report pointed out that the richest tech tycoons saw their net worth fall by \$85 billion in the past week after the stock selloff.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have long been reporting, the rich are getting richer and the “Bigs” keep getting bigger. Indeed, each week, we report instances where the money junky hedge funds, private equity groups and the already big company swallows another piece of the global economy.*

*Last year, companies, private equity firms, and special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) announced mergers and purchases worth more than \$3.6 trillion worldwide, with about half—more than \$1.8 trillion—in the U.S., data firm Dealogic reported.*

*With the desecration of the Robinson-Patman Act, Sherman Antitrust Act, Clayton Antitrust Act and Glass-Steagall Act by American politicians who get paid off with “campaign contributions,” aka bribes and payoffs... the small business, mom and pops, local banks, etc have been replaced by the few who own the most. Thus, the rich keep getting richer. (See [“A MODEST TAX](#)*



*PROPOSAL FOR BILLIONAIRES.” and “BILLIONAIRES BEAT TAXES: LITTLE PEOPLE PAY.”)*

*However, as the Bigs grow bigger without limits, there is little need for advancement and innovation since there is no competition in the fight for market share. Overall, with a few selling the most, there are fewer consumer choices for a wide variety of products and services that would be available if there were more businesses in the sectors.*

*Therefore, from sounds and style, to health and wellbeing, from hi-tech to heavy industry... across the spectrum there will be OnTrendpreneur® opportunities to fill market gaps in virtually every business sector of society that the “Bigs” won’t see, or will be too small for them to invest in.*

# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

## AIRLINES SHOOT DOWN 5G NEAR AIRPORTS

Echoing the **Trends Journal's** long-standing warnings about 5G cellular radiation, several international airlines canceled or altered flight plans or swapped aircraft on certain flights last week as Verizon and AT&T were ready to turn on 5G transmitters near major airports.

5G radio waves occupy a portion of the radio spectrum that abuts the portion used by airlines' altimeters, which tell pilots how far they are above the ground—critical data when flying or landing in fog or other low-visibility conditions.

Altimeters on certain models of Boeing 777 jetliners could be confused by the waves, Boeing said.

Air India said it would cancel flights to Chicago, Newark, New York, and San Francisco. The Dubai-based Emirates line scrapped flights to Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Miami, Newark, Orlando, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Lufthansa scratched a flight from Frankfurt to Miami.

All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines said they would not fly Boeing 777s to or from affected airports; Cathay Pacific, Korean Air, and Lufthansa all said they would be forced to use different planes than planned for various routes.

AT&T and Verizon said that there was enough “space” between the two areas of the spectrum that 5G waves would not leak into altimeters’ data streams.

However, the telecoms companies volunteered—for now—to not turn on 5G broadband within two miles of runways.

The Biden administration is attempting to negotiate a solution.

***TRENDPOST:*** *We have been sounding the alarm on 5G for three years, since our 13 March, 2019, article [“The Government, 5G/Wireless Industry Perpetrate Scientific Fraud.”](#) in which we cited numerous studies indicating that certain frequencies of radiation can cause various kinds of damage to living things, including people.*

*In [“The 5G Gamble”](#) (21 Nov 2018), we reported that in 2006, a letter from public health researchers Gerd Oberfeld and Orjan Hallberg to the journal *Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine* first warned that an increasing number of people claim illnesses rooted in sensitivity to EMFs. The researchers forecast that half the population of developed countries could see their health impacted by the waves.*

*In 2014, Dominique Belpomme, a clinical oncologist at Paris Descartes University, found data proving that sensitivity to electromagnetic frequencies (EMFs), of which 5G is one “...can be objectively characterized and routinely diagnosed by commercially available simple tests,” and that EMFs cause*

*inflammation, oxidative stress, autoimmune conditions, and poor sleep, conditions that afflict an increasing number of us.*

*Magda Havas, a biologist at Ontario's Trent University, estimates that 3 percent of the population has severe reactions to EMFs and another 35 percent are compromised by them: sleeping poorly, feeling depressed, unable to concentrate, and being anxious. More extreme symptoms can include heart trouble, dizziness, nausea, and difficulties with movement.*

*As of last week, more than 300,000 people, including tens of thousands of physicians, physicists, medical researchers, and public health officials, as well as officials of several thousand scientific and health-related organizations—have signed an international appeal titled “Stop 5G on Earth and in Space.”*

*The appeal “urgently call[s] for a halt to the deployment of the 5G wireless network, including 5G from space satellites. 5G will massively increase exposure to radio frequency (RF) radiation [which] has been proven harmful for humans and the environment. The deployment of 5G constitutes an experiment on humanity and the environment that is defined as a crime under international law.”*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The telecom industry has already built a global constituency for 5G and invested too much in the technology to abandon it. The industry also has too much political clout for politicians to defy it.*

*If the past is a guide, 5G will spread nationwide, strange and unexplained health problems will ensue across the population, including wildlife, independent studies will be done pointing to 5G, the industry will counter with its own rigged studies, and, ultimately, it will be left to individuals to decide whether, and how, to protect themselves from this generation of wave technology.*

*An industry will blossom around ways to shield people, homes, and other buildings from 5G radiation.*

## TUNING UP THE BRAIN WITH LIGHT



A new study is adding evidence to the idea that beaming infrared light into the brain can perk up brain function and perhaps even ease symptoms of dementia.

At the U.K.'s Durham University, 14 volunteers ages 45 and older were treated to the beams. Over four weeks, they donned headgear resembling a bicycle helmet studded out with 14 fan-cooled infrared LED lights.

The lights beamed infrared light at a frequency of 1,068 nanometers deep into the volunteers' brains for six minutes twice a day.

A control group of 13 people put on the same kind of helmet for the same periods but the helmet wasn't activated.

Compared to their performance before the study, those who received the treatment "significantly" improved their performance in motor function, memory, mathematical processing, and brain processing speed compared to those who wore the dummy helmets.

No adverse side effects were reported by either group.

Previous studies at the university found that light treatments improved memory and dissolved amyloid brain plaques in Alzheimer's patients.

The beams stimulate mitochondria, the cells that produce ATP, which the body uses as fuel, the researchers theorize; cells then use the spurt of extra fuel to work better and faster.

The light treatments also boost levels of nitric oxide in the brain, increasing blood flow.



Their treatment might also benefit persons struggling with traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's Disease, or other brain-related disorders, the scientists said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Durham's research further underscores the groundshift in medicine away from treating conditions with synthetic drugs and other treatments that can be as bad as the illness, and toward using benign therapies, including the body's own biochemicals, to combat disease.*



Durham University's helmet that beams infrared lights into the brain.

Credit: Durham University

## HOT TIMES FOR HOT FUSION



The dream of harvesting usable energy from nuclear fusion lives on.

For decades, scientists have labored to create chambers in which heat hotter than the Sun's surface, and crushing pressures,

would melt hydrogen atoms together, releasing vast quantities of clean energy that could be captured and harnessed to power the world.

The test chambers, usually called tokamaks, are lined with tungsten, carbon, and other heat-resistant materials, while almost unimaginably powerful magnetic fields crush together atoms in the center of the chambers, far enough from the walls that the massive heat unleashed by the reactions dissipates before it can melt any equipment.

So far, “success” has been defined by creating the target temperatures and pressures and maintaining them for a few minutes. Sometimes a fusion reaction occurs.

That’s been enough to encourage fusion’s faithful to labor onward.

Early this month, China’s Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak fusion reactor reportedly created a plasma that maintained a temperature of 70 million degrees°C, about 126 million°F, for 1,056 seconds, or more than 17 minutes—the first time a fusion reactor has kept up its heat for more than 1,000 seconds.

The Sun’s temperatures are estimated to be 27 million°F at the core and about 10 million at the surface.

However, China’s reactor didn’t create an actual fusion reaction. It only demonstrated its ability to not melt or vaporize itself over that period.

In Everett, Wash., the U.S. startup Helion has raised billions so far by promising to demonstrate a workable fusion technology within two years.

Helion has built a reactor that has completed more than 10,000 tests, most lasting less than a millisecond, and, earlier this year, created an internal temperature above 100 million°F, considered the threshold heat level for sparking a self-sustaining, commercial fusion reaction in a chamber.



Helion's drawn attention because of its downstream concept: instead of using fusion's heat to make steam and drive turbines, Helion's design uses it to alter the reactor's internal magnetic field, creating electromagnetic energy that directly sustains an electric current.

The technology operates at 95 percent efficiency, Helion says.

That sunny picture recently pulled in another \$500 million in backing from investment heavyweights including Sam Altman, CEO of Open AI and now Helion's executive chairman; PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel; Jeff Skoll, former eBay president; and Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz.

Last July, Helion broke ground for an expanded test facility.

***TRENDPOST:*** As we noted in [“Hot Fusion Creeps Closer to Viability”](#) (24 Aug 2021), hot fusion is a hothouse of scientific and engineering creativity that, so far, has shown no ability to deliver the technology needed to make a commercially viable power plant that can continuously and indefinitely contain temperatures of millions of degrees without degrading.

Still, various “breakthroughs” continue to draw money from governments, private companies, and financial adventurers including Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates, as we reported in [“New Fusion Energy Method Revives Advocates’ Hopes”](#) (2 Mar 2021).

A commercial hot fusion plant may be practical—someday. For now, claims of breakthroughs can't be judged credible until they're scaled and tested in the real world.

By that measure, hot fusion is unlikely to be ready to contribute meaningfully to the world's energy mix before 2040, given not only the needed technological and engineering breakthroughs, but also the regulatory and financing hurdles fusioners will have to work their way through.