

TRENDSJOURNAL

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TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW



As we report in this and previous issues of the **Trends Journal**, nations, states, and cities are imposing new lockdown rules to fight the COVID War. Yet, despite the hard data of the massive economic destruction these measures have wrought on businesses, lives, and livelihoods, U.S. markets are climbing again following the sharp sell-off last week.

Yesterday, the Dow rose 423 points. Today, Election Day USA, it spiked another 555 points.

Why are the markets going higher? Same story, different day. High expectations of much high doses of monetary methadone pumped into the economy should the poll's favorite, Democrat Joseph Biden, win the race to the White House.

As noted in the article in this issue, "[FED BAILS OUT STOCK MARKET – AND TRUMP, TOO?](#)," again, it illustrates the enormity of the coming money pumping schemes that will keep the markets high as the economy continues to go down.

What to expect next? Gregory Mannarino sums it up in his new article, [“MARKETS: ANTICIPATING A BIG MOVE.”](#)

Gold and Silver: As the dollar weakened, gold prices recovered from last week's selloff, closing today at \$1,907 per ounce, while silver rose 20 cents to close at \$24.23 per ounce.

We maintain our forecast to steadily rising gold and silver prices. Should Biden win the election, we forecast higher gold prices, since he has promoted injecting in higher doses of monetary methadone into the system. Thus, the bigger the stimulus bills, the lower the dollar will sink and the higher precious metal prices will rise.

Also pushing the dollar down will be rising U.S. debt levels plus our forecast for rising inflation. The further the dollar falls, the more it will cost to purchase goods and services, thus increasing inflation will push safe-haven assets higher.

As we have forecast, as the U.S. debt level continues to historically escalate, the value of the dollar will continue to decline, and China's yuan will continue to rise over the decades as China overtakes America as the world's largest economy.

The larger and stronger China grows, it will gain global market share from the dollar and replace it as the world's top currency in the coming decades.

Oil: After tanking last week, oil prices moved higher yesterday and today. Brent Crude, however, is still below \$40 per barrel. Again, this confirms our yearly forecast for oil prices to remain weak and, minus a wild card such as wars expanding in the Middle East and the Caucasus, will trade in the \$40-\$50 per barrel range for the remainder of this year and for the next several months.

With new lockdowns across Europe and America and air travel plummeting to historical lows, demand for petrol will remain weak.

Grim Results, Job Cuts

ExxonMobil reported a third-quarter loss of \$680 million, and its capital and exploration budget for 2020 is down about \$6 billion year on year.

In 2017, ExxonMobil initiated a multi-year plan to sharply increase oil and gas production in hopes of reversing its declining fortunes. The ill-timed spending

boost has left the company's finances "severely stressed," according to the *Wall Street Journal*, as it weathers continuing global economic uncertainty.

From 2009 into 2019, the company spent \$261 billion exploring for oil and gas while its production remained flat, a strategy that brought \$45 billion in new debt. Over that time, Exxon's annual return on capital fell from 16 percent to 4 percent.

Earlier this year, Exxon borrowed several billion dollars to maintain its 37-year record of paying an annual dividend, which usually totals about \$15 billion.

Last week, Exxon also announced 14,000 workers around the world, including 1,900 U.S. employees, will lose their jobs. The U.S. jobs will mainly be lost at its Houston offices and include voluntary departures as well as firings.

Previously, British energy giant BP revealed plans to dump 10,000 workers, or about 14 percent of its employees. Shell said in September it will dispense with as many as 9,000 employees. Chevron earlier announced it will cut more than 6,000 jobs.

BP reported a \$644-million third-quarter loss on 27 October, compared with \$351 million in red ink a year earlier. It was the company's fifth consecutive quarter of losses.

The news dropped the company's stock price to a near 25-year low. BP and Royal Dutch Shell have restructured their operations to emphasis renewable fuels; ExxonMobil has not, betting its future on the oil industry's recovery.

STATES FACE CASH CRUNCH



Across the U.S., states could see a cumulative \$424-billion deficit through 2022, according to Moody's Analytics. The figure assumes there is no federal aid to states, that some degree of economic restrictions remain in force, and Medicaid expenses rise to cover the medical costs of people without jobs.

Connecticut's quick, drastic economic shutdown this spring has left the state with an \$8.4-billion revenue shortfall through 2024, more than twice as much as it has in its rainy-day fund.

It expects revenue collections to shrink by \$5 billion this year, down 13 percent from its pre-COVID projections.

To plug the hole, the state has slashed \$1 billion from its budget, raised taxes on people making \$1 million to \$5 million a year, and plans to borrow up to \$10 billion.

New York State is staring at a \$59-billion budget gap through 2022; the state has responded by cutting its education budget by at least 8 percent.

Missouri has promised cuts to services for the elderly, among other programs.

Crashing oil prices have decimated state revenues in Alaska, Louisiana, and Texas; the disappearance of tourists from Florida, Hawaii, and Nevada has done the same in those states. Shuttered casinos have impoverished Illinois, New York, and Rhode Island.

Illinois, already in a worse financial condition than most states, is sitting on \$8 billion in unpaid bills and faces a \$230-billion unfunded pension liability after years of deferring payments.

From February through September, state government payrolls tossed 5 percent of their workers, leaving a total of about 4.9 million employees, a number smaller than before the Great Recession.

For the three budget years 2020 through 2022, the collective revenue of all 50 states will not reach 2019's total, Moody's said.

"There is no model for a crisis like this," New Jersey state treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio said to the *Wall Street Journal*. "It's going to be tough for the next couple of years."

TREND FORECAST: As we have forecast, with tax revenues continuing to decline, states and cities across the nation will go deeper in debt. The numerous financial schemes undreamed-of to keep them from going bankrupt will prove unsustainable.

And, as we have forecast, to raise more money, politicians will increase taxes. Thus, anti-tax, anti-vax, and anti-establishment will be new platforms for new third-party movements.

It should also be noted that when politicians launched the COVID War, as we had said, just as they start murderous wars that cost trillions and kill millions with no exit strategy, so, too, with the COVID War. Governments have mandated draconian lockdown rules without ever mentioning the economic and psychological toll it would take on humanity.

Long forgotten by the Presstitutes who put out for him and his loyal followers, was New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's 6 June forecast that his lockdowns did not create economic hardship: "You want to talk about a turnaround – this one, my friends, is going to go in the history books."

HOME-BUYING FRENZY EASES



The number of signed contracts to buy existing homes dropped 2 percent in September from August, the National Association of Realtors reported.

It was the first month-on-month decline since May, although the number of signed contracts remained 20.5 percent greater than a year earlier.

Analysts blamed high prices, driven up by the shortage of houses for sale, for the decline.

“The benefits of low interest rates have been completely erased by steep price gains, especially in expensive urban markets,” George Rattiu, economist at realtor.com, said in a *Wall Street Journal* interview. “Wage growth cannot keep pace with rising home prices.”

Sales varied across the country:

In the Northeast, where urban flight from the New York City area drove sales, the number of signed contracts rose 2 percent in September, an annualized rate of 27.7 percent.

In the Midwest, pending sales were off 3.2 percent month on month but still 18.5 percent ahead of the same period in 2019.

In the South, signed contracts decreased in number by 3 percent but were still up 19.6 percent year on year.

Sales in the West slid 2.6 percent on the month but maintained a 19.3-percent gain over the 2019 period.

Many real estate agents see inventories filling back up in spring 2021 on expectations that shutdowns and COVID cases ease.

Sellers who delayed listing their homes this year will enter a less wary market then, joined by 2021’s normal number of sellers, David Fogg, a California realtor, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

TREND FORECAST: *As the housing market slows and the economy drifts deeper into the “Greatest Depression,” we forecast the Federal Reserve will drop interest rates to negative territory to pump it up. The future of housing will depend on how much money is injected into the system by Washington and the Fed. Over the longer term, we forecast falling home prices as economic conditions deteriorate.*

HOUSING BOOM MAY FADE WITH PANDEMIC



Although September housing sales were 20.5 percent more than those a year earlier and U.S. median home prices are at record levels, the housing boom may disappear as COVID cases diminish, the *Wall Street Journal* reported in a 23 October analysis.

The boom is the result of three factors.

First, as we had forecast when the COVID War began in February, people with the means to do so fled crowded cities to escape the virus and fears of rising crime.

Second, hundreds of companies sent their office employees home to work, enabling those workers to seek cheaper, more spacious digs outside of urban jungles.

Third, the U.S. Federal Reserve's near-zero interest rates have made home ownership possible for far more people than otherwise.

As families age and have children, they tend to want to have more space for less money. The Fed's low interest rates have made it possible for many households to make that move now rather than later.

However, the three factors are not creating more demand for outlying homes and those in cities that were in decline before the COVID War was launched. And, with winter setting in and the "Greatest Depression" worsening, fewer people will have the means to secure mortgages.

TRENDPOST: Millennials, who have seen their career prospects and earning potential limited by two catastrophic financial crises in the last 14 years, will not have the means to purchase a home.

Again, the long-term economic damage done by the lockdowns, which have destroyed millions of business and tens of millions of lives and livelihoods, will sharply lower housing demand.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WEAKENS



Is the building boom over?

Building contractors are seeing more projects canceled than new ones started, and industry employment has fallen during the past 12 months, the General Contractors of America trade group reported in a 28 October press announcement.

Three-quarters of contractors have had at least one scheduled project postponed or canceled in October, compared to 60 percent in August and 32 percent in June, according to the association's survey results.

Forty-two percent reported difficulties in finding materials, equipment or parts; 34 percent expect their volume of business will not return to pre-pandemic levels for at least a year.

These factors cut construction jobs from September 2019 through September 2020 in 234 of the 358 metro areas, or 65 percent, covered by the survey.

Employment levels were stagnant in 38 other areas, meaning that only 86 metro areas, or about a quarter of those surveyed, added construction jobs over the 12-month period.

“Without new federal relief measures [the pandemic and economic shutdown], pose a significant threat to current construction employment levels,” the association warned.

TREND FORECAST: Again, as we have forecast, commercial real estate and apartments in major cities will be hard hit by the COVID War. And, it should be noted that inflation is rising as a result of product shortages throughout the industrial supply chain. Thus, the higher inflation rises, so, too, will gold and silver prices.

STOCK MARKET PROFITS SKYROCKET DURING FIRST HALF OF 2020



Pretax profits from New York State’s securities industry totaled \$27.6 billion during the six months of this year, an 82-percent rise above those of the same period in 2019 and the biggest six-month gain since 2009, according to a 22 October report from New York state comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The industry’s profits for all of 2019 were \$28.1 billion.

The soaring profit was due to the U.S. Federal Reserve’s flood of cheap money into markets to stabilize the economy during the economic shutdown, resulting in a bull market, DiNapoli said in a statement accompanying the report.

The sizzling market drove investment houses’ underwriting revenues to \$17.3 billion for the period, DiNapoli’s report said.

The boom is good news for New York City's and the state's governments, which rely on taxes from the industry for 6 and 18 percent of their revenues, respectively.

Through 2021, the state is forecasting a \$30-billion budget hole, and the City expects a \$9-billion shortfall.

"The connection through Wall Street and Main Street is through the [state and city] budget," Maria Doulas, Vice President of the nonpartisan Citizens Budget Commission, told the *WSJ*.

Despite record-level profits, analysts expect Wall Street firms to cut about 7,300 jobs this year or about 45 percent of those gained since 2013. The cuts are driven by the need to cut costs to create efficiencies and the ongoing adoption of technologies, observers report.

Industry employment peaked in 2000, just before the dot-com bubble burst, with about 201,000 workers, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

TRENDPOST: Clearly, as continually noted, there is no relationship between Wall Street and Main Street. We have reported in detail how the very rich keep getting much richer, while the middle class keeps shrinking and the poor get poorer.

This wealth gap will spark "Off With Their Heads 2.0" movements across the globe as the world sinks deeper into the "Greatest Depression."

FED BAILS OUT STOCK MARKET – AND TRUMP, TOO?



Why have equities rebounded from last week's sell off?

As reported by *Wall Street on Parade*, Last Friday, just before 11:00 AM, the Dow Jones Industrial Average sent an ominous signal.

The Dow had been sinking all week under the weight of the spreading virus, renewed shutdowns in Europe and the U.S., the lack of new stimulus spending, and jitters over the election and its aftermath.

After seeing oil prices' steep slide, the Dow already was down more than 500 points on Friday morning when it crossed below its 200-day moving average of 26,200.

The average is a key technical indicator that traders use to gauge the stock market's future direction. A break through that average can trigger programmed sell orders and could send the market into a freefall.

But the U.S. Federal Reserve was ready.

Within minutes of the Dow crossing that threshold, the Fed issued a press release announcing that it was, in effect, expanding its Main Street lending program: the minimum loan size would drop from \$250,000 to \$100,000, allowing far more small businesses to qualify for bailout loans than previously could.

Minutes later, the market turned up and, after another rollercoaster day, ended with a loss of only 157.51 points.

The Fed's custom is to announce market-moving policy changes when markets are closed. (The exception is the Fed's Open Market Committee to issue a statement at 2:00 PM on the second day of its meeting, which takes place every six weeks.)

However, with the market tobogganing downhill at a rising pace after sliding all week, the Fed could easily have been ready with a policy brake to slow the loss when a crucial moment came, as it did.

But the Fed's move raised eyebrows for other reasons, according to *Wall Street on Parade*.

First, President Trump has staked much of his reputation as an economic leader on the stock market's performance. The Fed's dramatic intervention three days before a fiercely contested presidential election seemed to some that the Fed was

trying to boost Trump's lagging re-election bid by keeping the market from crashing.

In 2019, Powell celebrated his 66th birthday with Trump and has socialized with Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner.

Second, \$25 million of Powell's personal assets are in the hands of BlackRock, a private equity firm to which the Fed has given three lucrative, no-bid contracts to handle aspects of the bank's economic rescue plan. BlackRock has used some of the Fed's money to buy its own exchange-traded bond funds, buoying their prices.

The U.S. "is simultaneously facing two separate pandemics," wrote Pam Martens and Ross Martens of *Wall Street on Parade* on 2 November – "the threat to our health from the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to our democracy from the pandemic of crony capitalism."

RENTERS FACE WAVE OF EVICTIONS



Thirty to 40 million Americans may face eviction as state and federal eviction bans expire in January or sooner, according to federal government figures.

The bans were imposed as tens of millions of Americans lost their jobs last spring; many bans were temporarily renewed in late summer. Millions of renters, however, are still jobless, have spent their savings, and remain unable to pay their rent.

Landlords, facing overdue property tax bills and lenders' demands for mortgage payments, are becoming more likely to toss out renters unable to pay in hopes of finding new tenants who can.

About 25 percent of U.S. renters owe back rent, according U.S. census bureau figures.

Even some higher-income renters are beginning to fall behind, with tardy rents in more costly apartments increasing 7 percent from April to August this year compared to the same period in 2019, a *Wall Street Journal* analysis showed.

Missed rents could total as much as \$7.2 billion by the end of this year, according to a late October study from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

A forecast from Moody's Analytics is more dire.

Without more government aid to households, unpaid rent could total \$70 billion by 2021, the company said, leaving 12.8 million Americans owing an average of \$5,400 in back rent.

That figure almost quadruples the number of households foreclosed on from 2007 through 2010 during the Great Recession, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

TREND FORECAST: Billions of dollars in unpaid rent, especially coupled to millions of newly homeless people, is clear evidence of the dire economic straits affecting large segments of populations across the globe.

While there is strong support to prohibit evictions by various political groups, virtually unmentioned is the economic pain being inflicted on landlords who must pay taxes and mortgages despite not receiving tenant payments. Thus, many will be hard hit by the revenue loss and will lose their properties in foreclosure.

MALL OWNERS FACING ULTIMATUMS



Lenders have foreclosed on the Saks Fifth Avenue store that anchors Miami's Dadeland Mall after the retailer has left its April and subsequent mortgage bills unpaid.

The \$846-million note is secured not only by the Florida store but also by 24 Lord & Taylor stores around the U.S., meaning the bondholders also could seize those stores as the foreclosure unfolds.

On 1 November, mall owners CBL & Associates and Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT) filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Between them, the two real estate trusts hold about 87 million square feet of real estate across the U.S.

Tennessee-based CBL owns 107 commercial properties in 26 states, including enclosed malls, strip malls, and outlet centers, according to company information.

The bankrupt JC Penney department store chain had been a major tenant.

PREIT owns malls in Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The two trusts own what the industry calls B-class malls, which are located in middle-class areas, often away from metro centers, and generate fewer sales per square foot than more upscale sites.

Other mall owners may soon succumb to the same fate.

As the shutdown began last spring, lenders to mall owners around the country were compassionate, assuming retailers' cash flows would return in the summer and property owners could resume timely mortgage payments.

However, the shutdown persisted, key retailers such as JC Penney and Lord & Taylor went bankrupt and closed stores, and now lenders' patience has run out.

Many lenders are alarmed by the plunge in malls' property values, which has dropped by as much as 75 percent, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on 28 October.

For example, owners of the Park Plaza Mall in Little Rock, AK, walked away from negotiations with mortgage holders last spring. The mall was valued at \$142 million in 2011 but now has a sticker price of \$33 million, according to Trepp, a real estate analysis firm.

Some mall owners hope to save their properties by converting them to warehouses, medical centers, or multi-use structures that combine apartments, stores, clinics, and gyms or yoga studios.

Only 15 percent of such conversions, however, have helped the owner recover cash flow and stave off foreclosure, analysts at Barclays reported in a research note.

TREND FORECAST: Again, we have long forecast the “Pall on the Malls.” Clearly, even when (and if) the COVID War ends and restrictions are lifted, as the “Greatest Depression” worsens and unemployment rises, more malls, large and small, will go bust.

And, as the data shows, plans to reconfigure them for other purposes have, and will be, economically negligible.

NEW YORK CITY GOING DOWN



With more than one million residents jobless and an unemployment rate double the nation's average, New York City faces a longer, harder recovery than most other U.S. cities, analysts say.

Broadway theaters are dark, and cultural events have been canceled or pushed to next year. By most estimates, no more than 15 percent of office workers have returned to downtown, demolishing thousands of small businesses that relied on commuters' trade. Travel bans have kept conventions and tourists away.

As of 1 September, the city was still 600,000 jobs short of its number a year earlier, according to the state's Labor department. During September, about 1.3

million city dwellers were collecting unemployment benefits, a New School study found.

The job losses are concentrated among hotels, restaurants, arts organizations, transportation, and building services, all of which depend on tourists and office workers, New School economist James Parrott told *The New York Times*.

Frozen Arts

The New York City Ballet canceled its winter and spring seasons, and dancers are not expected to be onstage again until Autumn 2021.

It joins Broadway theaters, which will remain dark until at least May, and the Metropolitan Opera, which will not return to Lincoln Center until at least September.

On the museum front, the New York Historical Society has cut workers' pay and postponed or canceled 11 exhibitions so far this year.

On busy days at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, visitors sometimes have to wait in line on the sidewalk to have their temperatures checked before they can enter.

In September, about 91,500 people came to the Met, less than a quarter the number of visitors in September 2019.

The museum, which depends on ticket and gift-shop sales for a third of its revenue, already has let go 20 percent of its staff.

Of the 30,000 people visiting the Whitney Museum of American Art in September, 90 percent were from the New York metro area, compared to 30 percent a year earlier.

The Museum of Modern Art saw only 14 percent of the number of visitors it welcomed in September 2018. (It was closed during September 2019.)

New York City's museums lost \$3.5 million a day in potential revenue in April because of social distancing and other restrictions, according to the Museum Association of New York.

While that figure has improved since, at least 12 of the city's museums are discussing mergers or outright dissolution, Erika Sanger, the association's Executive Director, told *The New York Times*.

TREND FORECAST: *As economic conditions deteriorate, no longer are the Presstitutes promoting Wall Street's forecast for a "V- shaped" economic recovery.*

And as New York City sinks deeper into economic and social despair, long forgotten was Mayor Bill de Blasio's statement that residents of the Big Apple should feel positive now that "Phase 1" of the reopening process has been declared.

On 8 June, as some 400,000 workers were allowed to get back to work, His Honor declared, "This is a triumph for all New Yorkers that we've gotten to this point." (According to the State Comptroller's office, before the pandemic, the city averaged 4.5 million people working each day.)

The exodus from New York City will continue as violent crime, homelessness, and robberies increase.

There will only be a brief respite of dire economic decline when office workers and tourism return.

WHAT TO BUY AHEAD OF THE NEXT SHUTDOWN



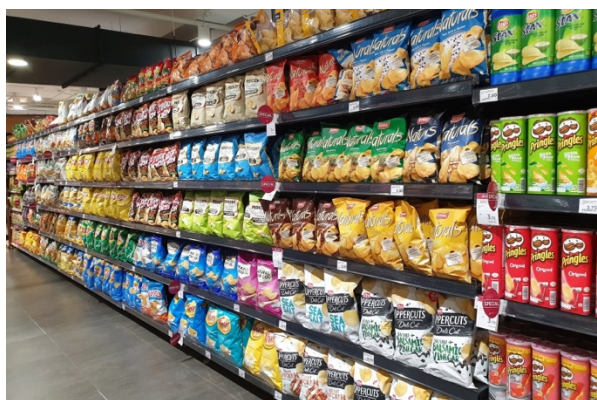
Still traumatized by last spring's toilet paper shortage? Analysts offer hints of what to stock up on before the next shutdown is imposed.

Conagra, which owns Marie Callender, Evol, and Healthy Choice frozen dinner brands, reported strong sales in the third quarter. Procter & Gamble, maker of an array of cleaning products, saw sales rise 9 percent in the third quarter.

PepsiCo's sales bumped up 5.4 percent during the period and Kimberly-Clark's consumer paper products sold 9 percent more in the quarter than the year before.

Forewarned is forearmed.

PROCESSED FOOD LEADERS REPORT STRONG SALES, PROFITS



Kraft Heinz, known for its ketchup and mac and cheese, reported third-quarter sales 6.3 percent higher than a year earlier, while cereal giant Kellogg saw sales climb 4.5 percent for the period.

The two companies have raised their profit outlook for 2020.

The move signals a reversal of fortune for Heinz, which is owned in part by Berkshire Hathaway and 3G Capital, a private equity firm.

The company has taken several write-downs as sales dove for some of its products, such as Oscar Mayer meats.

Kellogg raised its sales forecast for the year to a 6-percent rise from 2020, instead of the 5 percent it previously foresaw, and bumped its expected profit increase to 2 percent on the year instead of 1.

TRENDPOST: *We note this, as we have with other articles, to illustrate the poor diets inflicting the majority of Americans... 70 percent who are overweight and 42 percent of them who are obese.*

As evidenced by the scientific data, among those most vulnerable to the coronavirus are those suffering from Type 2 diabetes, obesity, respiratory ailments, heart disease, etc.

Thus, if COVID doesn't kill them, their diet will.

AMD BUYS XLINX



Chip maker AMD will buy competitor Xilinx for \$35 billion in stock, the companies announced on 27 October.

AMD specializes in graphics and central processing chips, while Xilinx is a leader in field-programmable gate arrays, which can be programmed by users instead of by a manufacturer.

The news follows Nvidia's September \$40-billion purchase of Arm Holdings, a major British maker of smartphone chips. In July, Analog Devices paid \$20 billion to buy Maxim Integrated Products, which makes chips for the automotive, industrial, and consumer markets.

Chip makers are merging for two reasons.

First, their market is fragmenting: instead of general-purpose computer chips, users require increasingly specialized chips designed to handle artificial intelligence, networking, and ever more sophisticated graphics, among other demands.

Second, companies need to address this growing range of demands while maintaining the size and scale needed to compete.

AMD's purchase is seen as an attempt to capitalize on weaknesses at Intel, the leading U.S. chip company. Intel has been struggling with bugs in its manufacturing processes, while AMD rid itself of factories in 2010 and has its chip designs made by others.

Intel generated \$71.9 billion in revenue in 2019, compared to AMD's \$6.7 billion.

AMD reported \$2.8 billion in third-quarter sales, a 56-percent jump from a year earlier, thanks to the high demand for computers and video gaming equipment as people sheltered at home during the economic shutdown.

The figure was better than analysts had expected, as is the \$3 billion in sales that AMD predicts for the current quarter.

Xilinx posted revenues of \$767 million during the third quarter.

TRENDPOST: *We also note this transaction to identify the growing merger and acquisition trend that will accelerate as the "Greatest Depression" worsens and more Bigs go bust. Across the globe, multinationals will grow larger, thus monopolizing market sectors.*

LAYOFFS AT SCHWAB



Brokerage firm Charles Schwab, which owns TD Ameritrade, is laying off 1,000 workers across both companies or about 3 percent of its labor force.

The layoffs are part of the ongoing process of eliminating overlapping roles since Schwab bought TD Ameritrade for \$26 billion late last year, the company said in a statement announcing the layoffs.

Schwab will “continue to hire in strategic areas,” the statement said, and laid-off workers will be given priority in filling any new spots during their 60-day notice period.

TRENDPOST: *Month after month, week after week, we have reported on major employee layoffs at major firms. We illustrate this to note that while the business media focuses on the numbers, lost in their reporting is the devastating affects the firings are having on millions of lives and families.*

Where will the laid-off workers find jobs to replace their previous ones? If they do, considering the economic future, their salaries and benefits will be much lower. Thus, the numerous personal, social, and economic implications will negatively impact the state of the nation.

ETSY’S 3Q RESULTS SHINE AMONG RETAILERS



Online retailer Etsy reported third-quarter sales more than doubled from the same period last year, reaching \$451.5 million and increasing profits five-fold, as shoppers stocked up on masks and treated themselves to new home décor items, the company said in a statement announcing the results.

The number of shoppers on its site shot up 41 percent year on year, including 19 million new or reactivated visitors.

After selling 12 million masks in April alone, the company reported that 110,000 sellers had sold at least one mask on the platform by the end of the second quarter.

Masks accounted for 14 percent of merchandise sold on the site during the third quarter, the company reported.

But Etsy hasn't let shoppers stop with masks.

"Masks might be bringing people to Etsy's door," Rick Patel, an analyst at Needham & Co. said in a *Wall Street Journal* interview, "but it's doing a good job of retaining them to buy other products."

TREND FORECAST: Again, as we have previously noted, rather than questioning the effectiveness of the masks being worn, an obedient public succumbs to the orders of their masters. Not concerned about losing their personal identity, they instead replace it with a fashion statement expressing complete submission, muzzled to speak their minds.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS



AUTOMATION THREATENS JOBS AS NEW SHUTDOWNS TAKE HOLD. With politicians closing – again – sectors of their states' and nations' economies to blunt the latest surge in COVID cases, companies are rushing the adoption of automating technologies that will let them maintain production without human workers, according to a new study by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The pandemic-inspired shutdowns, coupled with more sophisticated robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), is causing a "double disruption" in the world's labor markets, the WEF said in its report.

Currently, about 30 percent of work-related jobs are automated, the WEF said. But about 85 million human jobs worldwide will succumb to automation by 2025, the group estimates, creating a half-and-half split in the labor force between people and machines.

However, the new technologies will create about 97 million new jobs, it said, more than enough to absorb the displaced workers.

The caveat: bringing those surplus workers into the automated future will require companies to make major investments in “upskilling and reskilling” their workers, something few have shown an ability to do on the scale the future will demand.

“More than 120 million workers globally will need retraining in the next three years due to artificial intelligence’s impact on jobs,” noted a recent IBM survey, including 50 million Chinese workers and 11.5 Americans, according to a 27 October article in *Forbes*.

It is believed that over 50 million Chinese workers may require retraining, as a result of AI-related deployment, according to a 27 October article in *Forbes*, and the U.S. will be required to retool 11.5 million people with skills needed to survive in the workforce. Millions of workers in Brazil, Japan, and Germany will need assistance with the changes wrought by AI, robotics and related technology.

“While some new jobs would be created as in the past, the concern is there may not be enough of these to go round, particularly as the cost of smart machines falls over time and their capabilities increase,” the WEF report warned.

“AI, robotics and other forms of smart automation have the potential to [contribute] up to \$15 trillion to global GDP by 2030,” PriceWaterhouseCoopers noted in a separate report. “This extra wealth will also generate the demand for many jobs, but there are also concerns that it could displace many existing jobs.”

The loss of work has sparked discussions of how governments would replace lost income tax revenue. The looming disappearance of jobs also has led more people to ponder a guaranteed basic income that could be funded by a tax on robots, Bill Gates said in a recent interview with Quartz.

“Right now, the human worker who does \$50,000 worth of work in a factory, that income is taxed and you get income tax, Social Security tax, all those things,” he noted. “If a robot comes in to do the same thing, you’d think that we’d tax the robot at a similar level.”

TREND FORECAST: Just Silicon Valley destroyed the ability of musicians to make a living by digitizing music, so, too, will robotics eliminate hundreds of millions of manual labor force jobs. Indeed, this is merely the second phase of the Industrial Revolution, which replaced hand-crafted with assembly-line produced.

When the Industrial Revolution began, there were about a billion people on the planet. Today, there are 7.8 billion. Thus, the loss of jobs to robotics and other high-tech advancement, such as self-driving vehicles, will negatively affect billions within the labor force.

The implications will be more migration from poorer nations, increasing violence, crime, rebellions, riots, and demonstrations leading to civil and regional wars.

As Gerald Celente has noted, “When people lose everything, and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” And lose it they will as billions sink into deep poverty.

HALF THE WORLD’S WORKERS FEAR LOSING THEIR JOBS. Fifty-four percent of the 12,430 employees in 27 countries surveyed in October by the World Economic Forum are either “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about losing their jobs in the next 12 months.

Russians were the most anxious, with 75 percent fearful of imminent unemployment; Germans were the most easygoing, with only 26 percent worried.

The survey also asked if workers could learn new skills for future jobs from their current employers. In Spain, 86 percent said they could; fewer than 50 percent of Japanese, Russians, and Swedes thought they would be able to learn new skills on the job.

The survey was taken between 25 September and 9 October, just as the current wave of the pandemic was beginning.

A THIRD OF CANADIANS WON’T RECOVER FROM LOCKDOWN. A third of Canadians believe they will never recover financially from the economic shutdown, according to an October survey by FP Canada, a trade group for financial planners.

Most of those reporting permanent damage are in their 40s and 50s, closer to the end of their working lives than the beginning, with less time to make up their losses.

Also, 41 percent of respondents said they are in a worse financial situation than before the shutdown, and 42 percent said they are too financially weak to endure a second shutdown.

TRENDPOST: *While the mainstream media continually focuses on rising COVID cases, they barely report the socioeconomic and personal devastation inflicted on*

literally billions of people across the globe as a result of overt draconian government measures that have destroyed the global economy, while doing virtually nothing to win the COVID War.

As we have noted, but again, barely mentioned, nations such as Sweden and Belarus have not locked down at all and their virus death rates are much lower than most of the European nations that had and continue to lock down their economies.

CANADA'S CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR SEES "LONG SLOG." The Bank of Canada will hold its benchmark interest rate at the current 0.25 percent through 2023, according to a statement by the bank.

It will take that long for the country's economy to recover from the shutdown, Tim Macklem, the bank's governor, said in a press conference, noting that "we're going to get through this but it's going to be a long slog."

The rate is the lowest the bank can hold without damaging the country's financial system, the bank said.

The bank also pledged to continue buying government bonds to keep borrowing costs low until the recovery is "well underway" and will maintain current stimulus levels.

However, it will reduce its weekly bond purchases from \$5 billion to \$4 billion and buy more longer-term securities, which tend to do a better job of stimulating the economy, the bank's policy statement said.

Canada's Gross Domestic Product will return to its pre-pandemic level some time in 2022, the bank has predicted.

By 2023, the country's economy should have "absorbed slack" caused by the shutdown and be maintaining inflation at a sustainable 2-percent rate, the bank said separately in its quarterly forecast.

After the statement was released, Canada's dollar lost 1 percent against the U.S. greenback.

Aggressive fiscal policy is also essential, especially because the bank has little room left to cut interest rates further, said Chrystia Freeland, Canada's finance minister, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Canada has the capacity to take on more debt, she said, and spending should not be restrained before the recovery is well under way.

TREND FORECAST: *We forecast the Bank of Canada will lower rates into negative territory next year as the Greatest Depression worsens.*

CANADA FORGING “GLOBALLY COORDINATED” DIGITAL CURRENCY. The Bank of Canada is consulting with other G7 nations as it plans a digital currency to be called the “loonie,” Canadian slang for the country’s one-dollar coin.

A “globally coordinated” approach will minimize the risks of unexpected glitches and help thwart criminals, Tim Macklem, the bank’s governor, told *Reuters*.

The bank is moving from research and development to planning the loonie’s release, although there is no immediate need to do so, Macklem said.

“If another country has [a digital currency] and we don’t, that could certainly create some problems,” so countries need to share information on their designs and timelines for issuing digital money, he added.

“Currencies move across borders, and so we certainly wouldn’t want to be surprised by some other country,” he added. “It will be important for us to share information on what each of us is doing, is planning on, and on the timeline that we might do it on.”

China’s successful \$1.5-million October test of its digital renminbi and Facebook’s plan to issue its Libra stablecoin are prodding nations to speed their own work to create electronic money.

TREND FORECAST: *We have written extensively over the past three years that the world will go digital. As noted, it will allow governments to how every penny, lira, yuan, euro, etc., was spent, who spent it, on what, when and where. This will allow them to collect more taxes and for Big Brother to monitor every step and movement that the Plantation Workers of Slavelandia make.*

Here is a link to one of our articles on the changeover to digital currency: [***FROM DIRTY CASH TO DIGITAL TRASH.***](#)

CHINESE LAW LEGALIZES DIGITAL CURRENCY, BANS COMPETITORS. A draft law in China lays the legal groundwork for the country’s digital currency, known as Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP), by updating the definition

of the renminbi and bans all other entities from issuing digital yuan-backed electronic money.

The law would allow the DCEP to circulate and be convertible interchangeably with physical coins and banknotes.

The DCEP “would be good to fight against cryptocurrencies and global stablecoins and prevent their erosion of currency-issuance rights,” Mu Changchun, Director of the People’s Bank of China’s Digital Currency Research Institute, said at last week’s Bund Summit in Shanghai, the *Financial Times* reported.

The dangers of bogus e-wallets and the difficulty underprivileged groups might have in accessing the DCEP emphasize the need for the central bank’s control, Mu said, adding that the central bank will “coordinate the construction of digital currency application scenarios for the purpose of identification.”

China has long been clear that the DCEP is intended to eventually replace physical money as well as give the government tighter control over its currency.

China has run four successful tests of its DCEP in four major cities and is planning to have it in general circulation in time for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, placing at the forefront of nations, including the U.S., that are planning to issue digital currencies of their own.

EUROPE’S GDP REBOUNDS IN THIRD QUARTER, BUT... The collective GDP of the 19 countries using the euro as currency grew 12.7 percent in 2020’s third quarter compared to the second.

However, the output remained 4.3 percent lower than a year previous, marking the depth of the current recession.

The countries fear a slide back toward economic contraction as Britain, France, and Germany have imposed new shutdowns amid the COVID virus.

The shutdowns raise the risk of another round of mass bankruptcies, particularly among small businesses that depend on tourism and face-to-face interaction with customers.

EUROPE’S CENTRAL BANK HINTS AT MORE STIMULUS. With economic risks “clearly tilted toward the downside” now that Eurozone countries are imposing

new shutdowns against a resurgent COVID virus, the European Central Bank (ECB) promised “a thorough reassessment of the economic outlook and the balance of risks” so it can decide whether to “recalibrate its instruments, as appropriate, to respond to the unfolding situation.”

The bank made the comments on 29 October as part of its latest policy statement, which included decisions to hold its benchmark interest rate at negative 0.5 percent and maintain its bond-buying program at €1.35 trillion, of which it has spent about half.

It is “necessary to take action,” Christine Lagarde, ECB bank President, told reporters after the announcement. The bank is working to adjust “all our instruments,” she added, hinting that the bank is already deciding on a series of steps, the *Financial Times* reported.

Those steps are likely to include adding €500 billion to its bond-buying initiative and extending its end date from next June to the end of 2021, analysts say, although they do not believe interest rates will change.

In the ECB’s most recent quarterly survey, commercial banks have widely reported plans to reduce lending to businesses and households.

That has led some analysts to believe the ECB will continue to lend to the banks at special rates as low as negative 1.0 percent or even cut the benchmark rate further.

Lagarde promised the bank would continue to do all it could to maintain a stable economy.

“We have done it for the first wave [of the pandemic and shutdown] and we will do it for the second,” she said in her comments to press, which were reported in the *Financial Times*.

TREND FORECAST: *The ECB will continue to pump cheap money into the economy and equity markets as Europe sinks deeper into the “Greatest Depression.” The more money they inject into the system, the lower the euro will fall.*

As we have forecast, the U.S. dollar remains strong, not because of economic fundamentals, but because other nations currencies are declining as they keep flooding the system with more cheap money.

Overall, central bank measures are positive for rising gold and silver prices since the more money they print, the lower the value of their currency and the greater the desire for investments in safe-haven assets.

TURKEY'S LIRA CONTINUES TO LOSE VALUE. Turkey's currency fell to a record-low eight to the dollar on 27 October.

That followed a 2.1-percent drop against the buck on 23 October, to a then-record 7.9792 after the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey startled investors and analysts by leaving its benchmark repo rate at 10.25 percent.

Observers had been expecting the bank to raise the rate in an attempt to slow the country's 11.25-percent inflation rate.

With the interest rate lower than that of inflation, investments in lira-denominated stocks and bonds effectively lose money.

Economists have long urged the bank to boost interest rates to salvage investments and keep the lira from depreciating further.

Instead, the bank has held rates steady and made it easier for businesses and households to borrow, which increased imports while the economic shutdown crippled Turkey's export industries.

However, the bank did tighten a loophole that gives the bank an option to raise its average interest rate without formally increasing the benchmark rate.

The measure does little to rescue the bank from its larger difficulties.

To stabilize the lira, this year the central bank has sold foreign currencies, including dollars it borrowed from the country's domestic banks, and bought lira. The currency has failed to recover and the central bank now owes more money than it has on hand.

The lira also has suffered from geopolitical tensions that worsened over 24 and 25 October after Turkish president Recep Erdoğan questioned French president François Macron's mental health following Macron's controversial comments about Islam. France then recalled its ambassador to Turkey.

Other Turkish officials launched verbal attacks on Europe's treatment of Muslims, comparing it to the continent's treatment of Jews in the 1930s.

Erdoğan also has dared the U.S. to impose the sanctions he claimed were threatened after Turkey sided with a warring faction in the disputed Caucasus territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The lira has lost about 25 percent of its value this year.

About \$7.6 billion in foreign money has fled Turkey's bond market this year and \$5.7 has been pulled out of the country's stock market, analysts report.

HERMÈS REPORTS SALES OF LUXURY ITEMS CLIMBING. Hermès, the French purveyor of luxury clothing and accessories, reported third-quarter sales 7 percent above last year's, measured in constant currencies.

It was the first high-fashion house to report a return to global growth since the pandemic and shutdown hobbled sales last spring.

Although Chinese shoppers are driving much of the rise, European and U.S. consumers also boosted sales in their regions, according to quarterly reports from Hermès and high-fashion competitor LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

While the pandemic and shutdowns have prevented well-to-do consumers from traveling, they may be making up for it by pampering themselves at home, analysts speculate.

Hermès' share price is up as much as 23 percent this year; LVMH's has gained about 4 percent.

Hermès' good quarterly numbers bode well for the luxury goods market; analysts are watching Burberry and Cle. Financiere Richemont, owner of Cartier and other high-end brands, to see if their share prices buck up as well.

The laggard is Gucci, whose sales slid 12 percent in the quarter.

The company's business model depends on well-heeled shoppers, particularly Chinese, going on buying sprees in Europe's fashion capitals and airports' duty-free stores. With the pandemic and shutdown keeping travelers at home, Gucci lost its customer base.

The company's sales were down 47 percent in Europe for the quarter but rose 44 percent in the U.S., due to a roaring stock market and wealthy travelers stranded at home, the company said.

TREND FORECAST: Yes, sales were down in Europe and up in the U.S because of roaring stock market. Again, as the facts and data prove, the rich are getting richer and the rest of society is sinking into deep depression... physically, financially, spiritually, and morally.

While there was an uptick in sales in the U.S. as winter sets in and economic conditions deteriorate, from high end to low end, so, too, will retail sales.

GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



BOEING WILL CUT THOUSANDS MORE JOBS. As the economic shutdown took its toll on the airline industry, the company earlier announced cutting 10 percent of its 160,000-strong labor force.

Now Boeing says it plans to end 2021 with a staff of 130,000, which means letting go of another 14,000 workers.

About 19,000 workers already have left the company, but Boeing has added jobs in its national defense-related businesses.

Boeing announced the new round of cuts after reporting a third-quarter loss of \$466 million, compared to a profit of \$1.2 billion a year previous. The company posted revenues of \$14.1 billion, 29 percent less than a year earlier but better than analysts' forecast of \$13.9 billion.

Boeing has lost a net 381 orders for new planes this year through September, according to company information, and Boeing said in a 6 October statement that the pandemic and global economic shutdown could dampen airlines' demand for new planes until 2030.

AIRLINES CRASHING. Facing new government shutdowns in several countries and travelers' continued reluctance to board planes while the COVID virus hangs over Europe, the continent's major airlines cut their fourth-quarter schedules. Air France is cutting its flights from the previously announced 50 percent of 2019 levels to 35 percent.

KLM has reduced its November schedule from the planned 45 percent to 35 percent.

British Airways and Aer Lingus will cut its schedule from 40 percent to 30 percent.

Lufthansa said it will chop its schedule in half to 25 percent, down from the 50-percent capacity it had planned by year's end, and will ground another 125 jetliners.

Air France – KLM Group posted a €1.67-billion loss in the third quarter and warned even worse results are due in the fourth.

International Airlines Group, which owns British Airways and Aer Lingus, reported losing €1.76 billion during the period, compared to a €1-billion profit a year before.

Although the company has cut costs by 54 percent, it still is burning €205 million a week.

Lufthansa reported cutting its cash burn in half, from €1 million every hour to €1 million every two hours.

The figures were included in companies' quarterly reports.

EUROPEAN MALLS, MALLED. Because of renewed business closures, shoppers' migration online, and people's recurring reluctance to visit public places, Europe's mall owners face a grim future, Moody's Investors Service said in a late October report.

"We expect a significant deterioration in retail landlords' rental income for at least the next 18 months as the coronavirus pandemic makes the operating environment even harder," the report said.

Mall owners already face shrinking demand for retail space, rising vacancy rates, and unpaid rents.

By the end of 2021, retail properties across Europe will shrink in value by 15 to 20 percent against a June 2020 baseline, with U.K. property values declining 30 percent, Moody's predicted.

Malls make up a greater share of Britain's retail real estate than elsewhere in Europe, according to the *Financial Times*.

Europe's online retail sales spiked 32 percent in the second quarter year on year, according to Haver Analytics, and Moody's expects them to increase by 50 percent in the near future to 15 percent of the continent's retail revenue.

Major mall owners Hammerson and Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield have issued new stock to shore up their finances.

RAYTHEON ANNOUNCES MORE LAYOFFS. The largest U.S. supplier of airplane parts and systems will lay off 5,000 workers in addition to the 15,000 it announced previously.

The company will cut 20 percent of workers in its commercial division and will reduce office and factory space by as much as 25 percent, Raytheon said in a statement.

The company also has terminated 1,000 office workers and cut its number of contractors in half to 4,000.

Raytheon's sales to Boeing will be about 40 percent less this year than last, CEO Greg Hayes said in a phone call last week with investors. Raytheon's third-quarter profits were down 77 percent, he noted. The company's share price fell 7 percent on 27 October.

Hayes was upbeat about Raytheon's defense business but recently other defense contractors have reported slower Pentagon spending as the federal deficit and debt have ballooned under the government's \$4-trillion economic rescue plan.

AMC BOND VALUES CRASH. The price of \$500 million worth of bonds issued by AMC Holdings, the world's largest movie theater chain, plunged below 10 cents on the dollar during the week of 19 October, MarketAxess reported.

The bonds come due in April 2025.

The price was 91 cents on the dollar as recently as September.

In contrast, the company's stock price rose 16 percent on 19 October when AMC announced it would reopen 12 New York City theaters, although at only 25-percent capacity. A day later, AMC announced it would issue \$50 million worth of new stock to shore up its finances.

The stock's price rose 4 percent to \$3.12 on 22 October.

However, the company is burning \$100 million a month, analysts say, and movie studios have put off until next spring the release of new blockbuster movies that could draw virus-fearing audiences back to theaters.

Last month, Cineworld's Regal Entertainment Group canceled a planned August reopening of its more than 600 theaters and suspended operations indefinitely.

GAP INC. TO CLOSE MOST MALL STORES. The 350 closures of Gap and Banana Republic stores will take place through 2023 and make up about 30 percent of the company's sites, Gap said in a statement announcing the closures. After the stores are shut down, 80 percent of the two brands' shops will be outside of malls.

The decision reflects a major retailer's dark view of the shopping enclaves' future.

Gap also plans to open 100 Athleta stores by 2023, according to *Forbes*, which reported that the company told investors that 70 percent of its revenue by 2023 will come from its Athleta and Old Navy brands.

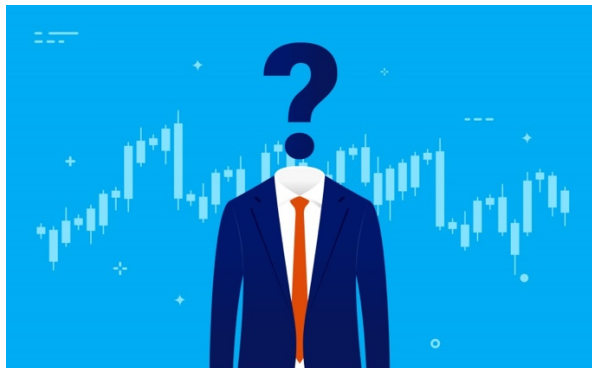
FRIENDLY'S RESTAURANTS MAKE FRIENDS WITH BANKRUPTCY COURT. The 130-store restaurant chain known in the Northeast for its "Fribble" milkshakes filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on 1 November, reporting liabilities of \$50 million to \$100 million and assets of no more than \$10 million.

The company had been struggling before the pandemic arrived. It had closed unprofitable stores, changed its menu, and revamped its marketing.

The company will be sold to Amici Partners Group for just under \$2 million, a price that will allow most locations to remain open and many of the company's 1,700 workers to keep their jobs.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS *by Gregory Mannarino*

MARKETS: ANTICIPATING A *BIG* MOVE



I am writing this article today on Halloween, 10/31/20, which, ironically, may be just fitting looking ahead into next week.

I believe the week beginning this Monday, 2 November, is going to be quite scary for the equity market!

This coming Tuesday is the MUCH-anticipated Presidential election. Depending on how that plays out, the stock market is going to move in a big way. The real question is, *Will this market make a big move higher or a big move lower?*

Over the last two weeks, volatility in the stock market has been exceedingly high, with wild gyrations and stocks falling under pressure. Underlying these wild swings, we have seen the U.S. dollar gain strength, which is a sign of FEAR in the market, and, more importantly, we have seen a large amount of capital exit the debt market causing a spike in the 10-year yield.

The spike in the 10-year yield is an indication cash is leaving the debt market and, as such, *in a falling stock market environment*, is seeking “safety” in cash. Henceforth, why we have seen the recent dollar strength.

The downward pressure on the market is in large part a reflection of the new economic restrictions and shutdowns occurring in Europe. The U.S. market is fearful the shutdowns in Europe may bleed off to United States.

The arch-enemy of the stock market is **uncertainty**, and the current environment undoubtedly has no shortage of that. When the market becomes “uncertain,” you

will witness the kind of volatility the market has experienced in the last two weeks... especially in the last week.

The Election

The market wants to know who the next President will be, and, to a large extent, the market doesn't care who wins – it is just seeking that elusive “certainty.” Once the market knows for certain who the next president will be, I expect to see a relief rally in the stock market to occur, meaning stocks will go higher.

If we end up with delays, and perhaps even a contested election, the stock market will react in an EXTREMELY negative way.

Scenario #1: It is a clean election with no delays and a clear winner. Stocks will make a big move higher.

Scenario #2: On Election Day, there is no clear winner. Stocks will react to that “uncertainty.”

Scenario #3: The election is contested. Stocks will nosedive.

As I covered earlier, uncertainty and FEAR in the market has caused the usual “knee jerk” reaction into the perceived safety of cash, and the U.S. dollar has seen significant strength as of late.

We have also seen cash exit the debt market, which is simply looking for a place to go. If we have a clean election, it is my firm belief we will see the cash that has exited the debt market make its way into the stock market and, subsequently, equities will rally.

If we end up in any other situation, *the worst of which would be a contested election*, the stock market will take a hit and it could be substantial.

We will just have to wait and see.

by Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM *by Bradley J. Steiner*

THE STANCE THAT SAVES YOU



The most critical points students must acquire and maintain as habit, as far as physical self-defense is concerned, are simple. Whenever combat skills, tools, tactics, and attitude are under consideration, you can rest assured that which is the most effective, reliable, and versatile, is that which is *simplest*. Acrobatics, exotic and dazzling displays of agility, and complicated movements are for the motion pictures and TV. They might also have a place in demonstrations... but, when demonstrations of fancy ways to defend oneself per se are presented, those demonstrations are misleading.

In this article, I want to impress upon you a most essential – yet simple – tactical imperative we teach our [American Combato](#) students in Lesson #1. It is called the “Relaxed-Ready Stance.”

The physical positioning for the stance can be learned within four or five minutes. But it is critical to appreciate how powerfully this easy-to-learn stance will contribute to your preparedness and also to your ability to avoid trouble.

The **Relaxed-Ready Stance** consists of:

- Off-angling yourself so you face anyone whom you do not know personally in a near half-turned (not fully side facing) position,
- Bringing your relaxed and open hands up to sternum level, keeping them close to your body, as you interface with any stranger,

- Keeping your eyes on the face of the person with whom you are interacting (taking all of him in with your peripheral vision),
- Maintaining a distance that keeps you outside of arms reach of the individual (also facilitating total observation of the person),
- Never allowing your mental state of readiness to drop below what we call “Condition Yellow” (i.e., alert, relaxed, cautious, paying attention, never dropping to a state of “Condition White,” which leaves you totally vulnerable if attacked, even if you are a tough, hard-training expert). Always going to “Condition Orange” (i.e., ready to preemptively attack, anticipating the probability of trouble, ready-to-go!) if you feel any threat or suspiciousness in the stranger’s demeanor.
- If you must step forward, do so with your forward foot, letting your rear foot follow. To step back, move your rear foot back first, allowing your lead foot to follow.

If you step to either side, lead with the foot congruent to that side (i.e., step first with your left foot, letting the right foot follow; step right with the right foot first, letting the left foot follow. This applies regardless of which foot is leading).

To pivot, always pivot off the lead foot. You will pivot when and if the individual whom you are facing moves around you. Pivot only enough to maintain that off-angled, half-turned position facing him. The idea here is to always remain in front of the stranger, and never allow him to move in front of you.

- Whenever possible, assume this stance as detailed above with your rear-most foot to the front of your rear shoulder – feet always approximately shoulder width apart. No fancy stances. No wide and deep positions. No exotic “one-legged” poses! Do not ever cross your feet or willingly face an unknown person head-on.

The above description may at first seem a bit complicated, but the actual stance is not, I assure you. Get into it once, and, even if you’re a slow learner, you’ll never forget it. The description explains why and how assuming this simple position takes care of so much. All of the components of the stance are innocent and nonsuspicious. You never use “fighting stances” per se.

In the **Relaxed-Ready Stance**, your vital target areas are denied to the person you are facing. You are solidly balanced and stable. You are ready in a split second to attack and neutralize any aggressive action taken by your assailant, should the person facing you prove to be an assailant. The stranger cannot step innocently closer to you in order to launch a sudden attack because if he does, you will READJUST and step back, reestablishing outside-arms-length distance. (If he moves to attack, of course, you will preempt him. Then his forward movement will result in increased impact with your attack, making your preemptive move even more effective).

You get aggressive only if he does. If he turns to leave, you take a quick step back, and, for a few seconds, make sure it is not his intention to spin around suddenly and come at you. Then you leave.

One of the most important things about this method of facing an unknown person (or possibly someone you know is a troublemaker) is that your DISTANCE forces him to show his hand if and when he attacks. Or, if he simply tries to step in closer or move around you, etc., IN ORDER TO ATTACK, you readjust your position naturally and easily, and he remains at a distance where he must telegraph any overt aggressive action.

Distance saves you.

Learn this stance, and make going into it a never-to-be broken habit whenever you are approached by someone you do not know.

Counterattacks become necessary only when you are caught off-guard and must evade, shield against, break holds, release grips or grabs, etc., of an attack that has caught you by surprise.

My admonition is NEVER ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE. (Admittedly, an ideal to strive for, not something to expect to be a realistic goal at all times.)

Supreme alertness – situational awareness – when made habitual will bring you close to being almost impossible to catch “off guard.” At least it will in time.

Question #1: *“Suppose I’m in an elevator, hallway, or other space where maintaining that all-important distance just isn’t possible, and the stranger proceeds to crowd me but doesn’t yet attack. What should I do?”*

Answer: Keep your hands open and innocently-poised while letting your glance drop to the person's upper torso/shoulder area. This will enable you to see any attacking movement as it begins and react immediately to it.

Question 2: *"Wouldn't it seem less suspicious if I kept my hands down rather than holding them at sternum level?"*

Answer: No! It only feels to you to be "suspicious" to hold your hands easily and relaxed at sternum level – at first. Once you get in the habit, it feels as natural as can be, and it looks natural to whomever you may be facing.

Here is why you must learn to do this: It brings your forearms into position where they stand a good chance of reflexively deflecting a sudden knife thrust or punch directed at your mid-section *and* it draws both your hands 50 percent closer to the other person's face, neck, throat, and eyes than they would be if not so positioned.

Also, if necessary in an emergency, your hands can, in a pleading/begging action, move closer to the aggressor's facial/neck area, thus making a sudden, powerful attack by you to a vital target a virtually guaranteed hit.

Remember, when you assume this very relaxed but ready stance (which is nothing like any "fighting stance"), you are as ready to attack as you would be in the most sophisticated karate, kung fu, or other "martial arts stance." Thus, if, when you are so positioned, the other guy starts to get into a fighting stance, all you need do is attack him as he moves. You are already ready!

In the **Relaxed-Ready Stance**, you provoke, encourage, and agree to nothing combative whatsoever, so you are NOT agreeing to fight (which is illegal and warns the opposition).

Give some serious thought to this.

by Bradley J. Steiner

2020 COVID-19 TREND REPORT

FACING THE TRUTH, PART I: THE GREAT MASK-QUERADE



Over the past months, the **Trends Journal** has been presenting hard scientific data proving the mandatory wearing of masks is ineffective. In fact, just read the small print on the box of the blue masks commonly worn:

Jointown Face Mask: “These masks help protect against certain particulate contaminants but do not eliminate exposure to the risk of any disease or infection.”



There it is in black and white: the masks do zero to “eliminate exposure to the risk of any disease or infection.”

Yet, political dictators have declared that We the Little People of Slavelandia must wear these life-draining, personality-depleting muzzles despite their proven ineffectiveness to stop catching or spreading COVID... and the vast majority follow.

As Gerald Celente has noted, and as the cover of our 15 September **Trends Journal** illustrates:



“These are the same class of imbecilic sociopaths and psychopaths who forced children to hide under their desks in air raid drills to protect them if an atom bomb was dropped... as if that would do anything.”

And now this same class of arrogant morons are making up the social distancing, mask wearing, capacity limitation, bubble rules, etc., to fight their COVID War.

As for masks, aside from not stopping the virus, mask wearing can be hazardous to your health.

The following are hard facts and scientific data, new and previously reported in the **Trends Journal**, that detail the ineffectiveness and dangers of mask wearing.

We present this overview as nations and states are ramping up new rounds of lockdowns, restrictions, and rules, including mandatory mask wearing.

In the U.S., for example, presidential candidate Joe Biden clearly has stated he favors a national mandate to force American citizens to wear masks. “Biden’s Call for ‘National Mask Mandate’ Gains Traction in Public Health Circles,” was the headline story in the 29 October *New York Times*.

The Times wrote that Mr. Biden “is already using his bully pulpit to promote and reinforce a culture of mask wearing,” and “he would mandate masks on all federal property, an executive order that could have wide reach.”

The article said Biden, “could use his authority under federal transit law to require masks on public transportation. He could also prod governors who are resisting mask mandates to at least require masks in public buildings in their states.” The following detail the facts and science of mask wearing.

FACING THE TRUTH, PART II: MORE EVIDENCE MASKS ARE INEFFECTIVE



This past 21 May, before they became “wear your mask” advocates, the *New England Journal of Medicine* published this on their site:

“We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.”

The article, whose leading authors are medical doctors at Harvard Medical School, also states,

“What is clear, however, is that universal masking alone is not a panacea. A mask will not protect providers caring for a patient with active Covid-19 if it’s not accompanied by meticulous hand hygiene, eye protection, gloves, and a gown. A mask alone will not prevent health care workers with early Covid-19 from contaminating their hands and spreading the virus to patients and colleagues. Focusing on universal masking alone may, paradoxically, lead to more transmission of Covid-19 if it diverts attention from implementing more fundamental infection-control measures.”

On 26 September, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons published the article “Mask Facts” on its website. The introduction notes:

“COVID-19 is as politically-charged as it is infectious. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO, the CDC and NIH’s Dr. Anthony Fauci discouraged wearing masks as not useful for non-health care workers. Now they recommend wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are hard to do (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). The recommendation was published without a single scientific paper or other information provided to support that cloth masks actually provide any respiratory protection.”

After reviewing dozens of peer-reviewed studies, the article concludes:

“Wearing masks (other than N95) will not be effective at preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission, whether worn as source control or as PPE.

- N95s protect health care workers, but are not recommended for source control transmission.
- Surgical masks are better than cloth but not very efficient at preventing emissions from infected patients. Cloth masks must be three layers, plus adding static electricity by rubbing with rubber glove.
- The cloth that serves as the filtration for the mask is meant to trap particles being breathed in and out. But it also serves as a barrier to air movement because it forces the air to take the path of least resistance, resulting in the aerosols going in and out at the sides of the mask.”

Cloth Mask Problems Known for Years

On 22 April 2015, the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* published an article titled, “A cluster randomized trial of cloth masks compared with medical masks in healthcare workers.” The study, done by the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Vietnam, showed conclusive evidence that cloth masks used by health care workers did not protect them from the existing influenza virus:

“The rates of all infection outcomes were highest in the cloth mask arm, with the rate of ILI (influenza-like illness) statistically significantly higher in the cloth mask arm... Penetration of cloth masks by particles was almost 97% and medical masks 44%.”

After presenting hard data, the authors concluded:

“This study is the first RCT (Randomized Control Trial) of cloth masks, and the results caution against the use of cloth masks. This is an important finding to inform occupational health and safety. Moisture retention, reuse of cloth masks and poor filtration may result in increased risk of infection... as a precautionary measure, cloth masks should not be recommended for HCWs (health care workers).”

Ninety-seven percent of the virus penetrated the cloth masks used by health workers in 2015. So, has the quality and effectiveness of cloth masks improved since then?

FACING THE TRUTH, PART III: MASKS CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS



One of the main arguments used by advocates of mandatory mask-wearing is even if the masks only give “some” protection, it’s worth controlling the spread of the virus as much as possible. What the argument leaves out is that a number of physicians and scientific researchers have pointed to serious health problems caused by the prolonged wearing of masks.

We have reported on the health problems experienced by mask-wearers numerous times in the **Trends Journal**.

In our 4 August issue:

On 29 July, a CBS affiliate in McKinney, TX, reported that a number of employees required to wear face masks during their entire work shift were suffering from headaches, shortness of breath, and increased anxiety.

Forty-three complaints ran the gamut from nagging discomfort due to tight elastic to difficulty breathing. Courtney Warnell, a worker quoted in the story, said, “When I have long days, it’s a 12-hour day, I’m sick when I get home. Sick to my stomach. As soon as I get in the car, I’m pulling it off and I don’t want to do anything else. I just want to go home and be mask-free.”

No Child Left Behind?

In our 22 September issue:

Kang Lee, Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of Toronto, told *The New York Times* last week there are three issues regarding mask-wearing that could become an issue for students under the age of 12. The three issues include: the student could have a difficult time recognizing people, he/she may miss social cues from those they’re interacting with, and the child may develop issues with speech recognition. “Masks are not a great thing for communication in young kids,” Dr. David Lewkowicz, a senior scientist at the Haskins Laboratories and the Yale Child Study Center, told *The Times*.

These children reportedly have mentioned an increase in anxiety, sleeping issues, and “germaphobia,” where they have a fear of germs and a compulsion to keep washing their hands.

In our 6 October issue:

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health report last June stated, “The undesirable effects of facemasks include the risks of incorrect use, a false sense of security (leading to relaxation of other interventions), and contamination of masks. In addition, some people experience problems breathing, discomfort, and problems with communication.” The Norwegian Institute report concluded, “There is no reliable evidence of the effectiveness of non-medical facemasks in community settings.”

An eye-opening study out of Singapore concluded that out of 714 participants, only 90 wore their masks properly (about 12 percent). Some do not want to wear a mask because of the additional health problems associated with prolonged mask usage. Many masks wearers report suffering an increased frequency of headaches, while others reported a new affliction known as “face-mask-associated-headaches.”

Note: The mask/headache correlation was noted in a Scandinavian study in 2005 as well as a 2009 study from Japan. It is believed headaches could result from the mask's elastic straps or from the decrease in oxygen intake one suffers when wearing a mask. Another aversion to prolonged mask wearing is the new phenomenon known as "mouth mask." Wearing a mask decreases saliva production. Saliva fights bacteria, and without saliva, teeth will decay, gum lines will recede, and sour breath can occur.

In our 20 October issue:

Recently, a group of Tulsa, Oklahoma businessman and two of the area's physicians sued both Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Tulsa Health Department Executive Director Bruce Dart over the mandatory mask edict. The businessmen joining the lawsuit against mandatory mask-wearing claim the mayor's edict puts the onus on business owners to force their employees to wear them for prolonged periods of time, which makes some people sick. Dr. James Meehan, one of the doctors leading the lawsuit, is a preventive medicine specialist who has peer-reviewed thousands of medical studies.

Dr. Meehan said, "I'm seeing patients that have facial rashes, fungal infections, bacterial infections. Reports coming from my colleagues, all over the world, are suggesting that the bacterial pneumonias are on the rise." Dr. Meehan cited the reason for the health problems is because "untrained members of the public are wearing medical masks, repeatedly... in a non-sterile fashion. They're becoming contaminated. They're pulling them off of their car seat, off the rearview mirror, out of their pocket, from their countertop, and they're reapplying a mask that should be worn fresh and sterile every single time."

He also noted he has been reviewing medical studies for over 30 years regarding the effectiveness of wearing masks to stop viral infections, with the result of his studies being that masks provide "very marginal, at best, efficacy, and those studies are in health care workers and hospital settings in which we have an optimal environment, nothing like our community is encountering."

FACING THE TRUTH, PART IV: TREND TRACKING LESSONS



Over the past few months, the **Trends Journal** has shown the importance of closely reading mainstream media articles advocating for the imposition of mandatory mask-wearing. This reveals that while the conclusions drawn are mask-wearing is effective at slowing the spread of the coronavirus, in fact, the language used shows anything but conclusive proof, which science and medicine ought to be based on.

Note the following key examples.

In our 23 June issue:

Health advocate Peggy Hall analyzed the language in the seven research articles posted on the CDC website, which it claims supports wearing face masks. Ms. Hall first points out there are no links to the studies provided by the CDC.

This raised her suspicion about the strength of the articles. When she found them online, not one clearly confirmed that wearing masks slows the spread, but, instead, they used language such as “more research is needed,” “requires further study,” “results are unclear” and “presymptomatic” or asymptomatic transmission modes have not been definitely documented for COVID-19.” Looking carefully at the data provided by the CDC as to why they reversed their decision on mask wearing, their basic position is that while unproven, mask wearing by the public should be mandated based on the premise, “better safe than sorry.”

In our 18 August issue:

Joe Biden said last week, “Every single American should be wearing a mask when they’re outside for the next three months, at a minimum... Every governor should mandate mandatory mask-wearing... The estimates are we will save over 40,000 lives in the next three months if that is done.”

TRENDPOST: *We researched the article Biden referred to above claiming 40,000 lives would be saved if people wore masks in public. What we found was this disclaimer at the top of it: “This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed. It reports new medical research that has yet to be evaluated and so should not be used to guide clinical practice.”*

The brief disclaimer linked to a more detailed one that explains:

“Typically, a journal will only publish an article once the editors are satisfied that the authors have addressed referees’ concerns and that the data presented support the conclusions drawn in the paper.

Readers should therefore be aware that articles have not been finalized by authors, might contain errors, and report information that has not yet been accepted or endorsed in any way by the scientific or medical community.

We also urge journalists and other individuals who report on medical research to the general public to consider this when discussing work that appears on medRxiv preprints and emphasize it has yet to be evaluated by the medical community and the information presented may be erroneous.”

Mask Confusion

In the 20 October **Trends Journal**, we wrote:

On 18 June, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statewide order that “Californians are now required to wear face coverings in public spaces.” The “order,” according to the governor’s office, was following up on guidance from the California Department of Public Health.

When examining the webpage of the state’s Department of Public Health, the evidence for mandatory mask-wearing is inconclusive. The agency’s official website on 1 April stated the following:

“How well do cloth face coverings work to prevent spread of COVID-19? There is limited evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission.”

Yet, on 18 June, after Governor Newsom issued the mask-wearing order, the statement, “There is limited evidence...” was removed from the Dept. of Public Health’s website and replaced with: “There is scientific evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission.”

The statement left in to make the case for the governor’s order are inconclusive: “Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, washing hands, and staying home when ill, but they may be helpful when combined with these primary interventions.”

Note the phrase “may be helpful.” No scientific evidence is given or linked to.

Another key example of media manipulation of data is the recent article published in *Nature* on 6 October, titled, “Face masks: What the data say.” The subtitle reads, “The science supports that face coverings are saving lives during the coronavirus pandemic, and yet the debate trundles on. How much evidence is enough?”

That sounds definitive and implies there is conclusive evidence. Yet, read the following key paragraph, which claims to provide “enough evidence” by offering a study involving a total of two people:

“Confidence in masks grew in June with news about two hair stylists in Missouri who tested positive for COVID-19. Both wore a double-layered cotton face covering or surgical mask while working.

And although they passed on the infection to members of their households, their clients seem to have been spared (more than half reportedly declined free tests). Other hints of effectiveness emerged from mass gatherings.

At Black Lives Matter protests in US cities, most attendees wore masks. The events did not seem to trigger spikes in infections, yet the virus ran rampant in late June at a Georgia summer camp, where children who attended were not required to wear face coverings.

Caveats abound: the protests were outdoors, which poses a lower risk of COVID-19 spread, whereas the campers shared cabins at night, for example... Nevertheless, the anecdotal evidence ‘builds up the picture,’ says Theo Vos, a health-policy researcher at the University of Washington in Seattle.”

Does this convince you? Claiming strong evidence from two hairstylists and a bunch of kids at summer camp, the article ignores what the **Trends Journal** reported about the controversial motorcycle rally which took place during 8-16 August in South Dakota.

The mainstream media went ballistic over the failure to cancel the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota and then went into hyper-fear mode when 365,979 people showed up, and, over the ten days of the event, weren’t wearing masks and weren’t practicing social distancing. Predictions of mass infections and the spreading of death were predicted.

On 24 August, a CBS affiliate in Minnesota blared this headline: “Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Attendees Spreading COVID-19 Infections Fast, Far.”

The data it provided? “Health departments in four states, including South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming, have reported a total of 76 cases among people who attended the rally.”

Seventy-six cases out of 365,979 were reported. Note: these were not deaths or hospitalizations.

Since then, according to a *USA Today* article on 17 September, the number of confirmed infections increased, but so did the estimate of the number attending: “At least 290 people in 12 states testing positive after attending the rally. About 460,000 people attended the rally. The infection rate based on the above numbers is 0.09%.”

More importantly, after all of the hyped-up criticism of allowing the rally to occur, and after all of the screaming about lack of masks and social distancing, how many of the 460,000 people attending the motorcycle rally died from COVID-19? Answer: one.

The one person who died, as reported by *USA Today*, was a “man in his 60s with underlying health conditions.”

CDC: TWO LAYERS... NOT THREE



On 10 October, the CDC published a study titled, “Effectiveness of Cloth Masks for Protection Against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2.”

The study concludes, “All masks tested showed some ability to block the microbial aerosol challenges although less than that of medical masks.” Another study found that homemade cloth masks may also reduce aerosol exposure although less so than medical masks and respirators. Masks made of cotton and towel provide better protection than masks made of gauze.

“Although cloth masks are often not designed to fit around the face, some materials may fit snugly against the face. One study found that the use of nylon stockings around the mask improved filtration.”

Contrary to the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons who say, “Cloth masks must be 3 layers, plus adding static electricity by rubbing with rubber glove,” on the CDC website, they say, “Masks with at least 2 layers of fabric are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

TRENDPOST: While the above update by the CDC might sound like an endorsement of cloth masks, a closer reading shows otherwise. Note the phrases “some ability” and “may also reduce aerosol exposure.”

The words “some” and “may” are clearly not conclusive.

Nowhere in the study do the authors provide any data to counteract the conclusion from the 2015 Vietnam study, which showed that 97 percent of the influenza virus present at that time penetrated cloth masks. Furthermore, the CDC study ends with this “faint praise”: “The general public should be educated about mask use

because cloth masks may give users a false sense of protection because of their limited protection against acquiring infection.”

MASK MADNESS



While this information was making the alternative news rounds in late spring, it is now long forgotten.

In our 23 June issue:

“Board-certified neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock, in reviewing 17 scientific studies, found evidence that wearing a face mask for an extended period of time has shown to cause serious health problems, including:

- A drop in oxygen levels (hypoxia)
- A serious health issue called hypercapnia, the result of elevated carbon dioxide toxicity
- Re-breathing germs and viruses already in the body, raising the concentration in lungs and nasal passages
- Headaches, vertigo, double vision, inability to concentrate, tinnitus (a ringing or buzzing in the ears), seizures, or suffocation due to displacement of air.”

In our 21 July issue:

“The Association of American Physicians & Surgeons (AAPS) published substantial research on 1 June showing the ineffectiveness of masks to

meaningfully slow down the spread of COVID-19. Some of the facts presented include:

- While cloth masks might capture 10-30 percent of some virus droplets in the air, all of the cloth masks and materials had near zero efficiency at 0.3 μm (micron micrometer), a particle size that easily penetrates into the lungs.
- N95 masks protect health care workers, but are not recommended for source control transmission.
- Surgical masks are better than cloth but not very efficient at preventing emissions from infected patients.
- Cloth masks will be ineffective at preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission, whether worn as source control or as personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Masks may confuse that message and give people a false sense of security. If masks had been the solution in Asia, shouldn't they have stopped the pandemic before it spread elsewhere?"

In our 18 August issue:

As reported in Infection Control Today (ICD), Lisa Brosseau, a nationally recognized expert on infectious diseases who taught for many years at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said, "What we're seeing is a lot of magical thinking. A lot of wishful thinking. Cloth masks are wishful thinking. First of all, for healthcare and community, but also do they work as source control? Or do they work as personal protective equipment? Or both? And at the end of the day, cloth masks in my opinion don't work in any form."

In our 22 September issue:

The *Brussels Times* reported that 70 doctors signed the letter to Ben Weyts, the country's Education Minister, claiming that mask-wearing as a defense against contracting the coronavirus could be more harmful than good.

"Mandatory face masks in schools are a major threat to their development," the letter read. "It ignores the essential needs of the growing child. The well-

being of children and young people is highly dependent on emotional attachment to others.”

Kang Lee, Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of Toronto, told *The New York Times* last week there are three issues regarding mask-wearing that could become an issue for students under the age of 12.

The three issues include: The student could have a difficult time recognizing people, he/she may miss social cues from those they’re interacting with, and the child may develop issues with speech recognition. “Masks are not a great thing for communication in young kids,” Dr. David Lewkowicz, a senior scientist at the Haskins Laboratories and the Yale Child Study Center, told *The Times*.

The *Brussels Times* article reported doctors have seen an uptick in children “with complaints due to the rules of conduct that have been imposed on them.”

These children reportedly have mentioned an increase in anxiety, sleeping issues, and “germaphobia,” where they have a fear of germs and a compulsion to keep washing their hands.

The doctors who signed the letter went further than just pointing out the development issues for children. They also questioned the wisdom of wearing masks in the first place. “There is no large-scale evidence that wearing face masks in a non-professional environment has any positive effect on the spread of viruses, let alone general health,” the letter read, according to the report.

In our 6 October issue:

On 23 July, Tom Jefferson, honorary research fellow, and Carl Heneghan, Director of the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) at the University of Oxford, published an article in which they wrote, “The increasing polarized and politicized views on whether to wear masks in public during the current COVID-19 crisis hides a bitter truth on the state of contemporary research and the value we pose on clinical evidence to guide our decisions.”

Published on the CEBM website, the authors note that after reviewing 12 studies on the effectiveness of wearing masks, only one of them included

the inexpensive cloth masks most people are wearing. That study, done in Vietnam, “found ILI (influenza) rates 13 times higher in Vietnamese hospital workers allocated to cloth masks compared to medical/surgical masks.”

The authors cite a June report by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health that states, “Health authorities have given conflicting recommendations regarding the use of facemasks by asymptomatic individuals in the community to reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

The Institute adds, “The undesirable effects of facemasks include the risks of incorrect use, a false sense of security (leading to relaxation of other interventions), and contamination of masks. In addition, some people experience problems breathing, discomfort, and problems with communication.” The Norwegian Institute report concludes, “There is no reliable evidence of the effectiveness of non-medical facemasks in community settings.”

In our 20 October issue:

Tammy Clark, who has worked with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for over 20 years, said, “We’re starting to see some very serious adverse health effects caused by the wearing of masks, and that’s where I’m really speaking up about this because I’m the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) expert and this is what I do... the average public are not hearing this.

We’re starting to see some very serious adverse health effects caused by the wearing of masks, and that’s where I’m really speaking up about this... You don’t just put people in face masks, cover their mouths and noses, and expect people to breathe normally and safely like that. When we started hearing about masks for everybody, especially with children, that really concerned me.

What we’re doing is we’re putting children that now need fresh oxygen and probably oxygen therapy more than anybody, at risk and they’re running their immune system down when these are the very people that need their immune system functioning at a very high level, lots of fresh air lots of fresh oxygen sunshine. I’m not hearing anybody talk about immunity boost... our bodies can handle viruses if our immune systems are functioning as they should.”

TRENDPOST: Regarding the ineffectiveness of masks to slow the spread of the coronavirus and the freedom-robbing mask mandates imposed by power-hungry politicians, in the 19 May issue of the **Trends Journal**, we quoted Dr. Ron Paul, physician, former congressman, and Founder of the Institute for Peace and Prosperity:

“American should pause and reflect on the lies they are being sold. Masks are just a form of psychological manipulation. Many reputable physicians and scientists have said they are worthless and potentially harmful. Lockdowns are meant to condition people to obey without question. A nation of people who just do what they are told by the ‘experts’ without question is a nation ripe for descent into total tyranny. This is no empty 72 warning – it’s backed up by history. Time to stand up to all the petty tyrants from our hometowns to Washington, D.C. It a time to reclaim freedom.”

HOSPITALS REPORTING DECREASE IN SERIOUS ILLNESS



Here are three representative headlines from mainstream media last Friday:

“U.S. reports nearly 100,000 new cases in one day as infections surge in battleground states” – *Washington Post*

“Even as US coronavirus surge past 9 million, officials in many hard-hit states resist taking stronger action.” – *Chicago Tribune*

“The U.S. Hits the 9-Million Mark as Infections Keep Surging” – *The New York Times*

While New York City was the epicenter of COVID in the U.S. this past spring and part of the summer, on Friday, the same day *The New York Times* headlined the

“Surging” “Infections,” the paper also had an article titled, “Virus Hospitalizations Are Up in N.Y.C. But This Time, It’s Different.”

The Times reported, “Patients with serious cases are spending less time in the hospital on average and are less likely to be put on ventilators. Fewer are dying.”

Dr. David Reich, President of Mount Sinai Hospital, stated that despite the rise in infections now as compared to August, “There is a much lower mortality rate.”

One of the key reasons for shorter hospital stays is the experience that doctors, nurses, and medical staff now have in getting a faster and more accurate diagnoses and far fewer of those admitted are seriously ill enough to require being hooked up to ventilators.

Second Wave... or Second Ripple?

On 6 September, *CBS* featured a story titled, “2nd wave of coronavirus could be weeks away, experts warn.”

On 26 September, *NBC News* posted this headline on its website: “Second COVID-19 wave could turn cracks in the hospital system into ‘earthquakes.’”

Dr. Mitchell Katz, Executive Director of NYC Health & Hospitals, the largest municipal health system in the country, compared the high rates of COVID hospitalizations last spring, which saw over 900 patients requiring ventilators in a day, to most recently when there were nine. He commented to *The New York Times*, “How can I call that a second wave?”

The Times noted, “A NYU/Langone Health study of more than 4,500 patients treated at its hospitals for Covid-19 from March to June found that outcomes began improving over time, even in the early months of the pandemic.”

Major Trend: Lower Death Rates Across the U.S. & England

Texas, which also was one of the hardest hit COVID areas in the country, has seen a similar significant drop in deaths and serious health issues from the virus. And not just recently.

On 13 August, a study was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, titled, “Characteristics and Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients During Initial Peak and Resurgence in the Houston Metropolitan Area.” The study

concluded that “a smaller proportion of surge 2 patients were admitted to the ICU (almost a 50 percent drop).” In addition, “Length of hospital stay was less (by over 2 ½ days).”

At the time of the study last summer, while the death rates in the greater Houston area had not dropped significantly, today is a different story. Dr. Robert A. Phillips, Chief Physician Executive at the Houston Methodist Hospital and the lead author of the *JAMA* study, confirmed, “The mortality rates are way lower now.”

Bio Space, which since 1985 has been providing news and information to the Life Science industry, reported on 27 October:

“The number of excess deaths in the United States is trending downward despite autumn upticks in COVID-19 incidents. For the first time since the COVID-19 epidemic began in the U.S., deaths have dropped below usual levels from prior years, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The most recent data (from the week ending October 10) showed excess deaths only 0 and 2.9 percent higher than historic data. These figures are based on death certificates and analyzed by the National Center for Health Statistics within the CDC.”

On 26 October, *NPR* reported, “Studies Point to Big Drop In COVID-19 Death Rates.” The article noted:

“Doctors around the country say that they’re doing a lot of things differently in the fight against COVID-19 and that treatment is improving. In March and April, you got put on a breathing machine, and we asked your family if they wanted to enroll you into some different trials we were participating in, and we hoped for the best,” says Khalilah Gates, a critical care pulmonologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. “Six plus months into this, we kind of have a rhythm, and so it has become an everyday standard patient for us at this point in time.”

Global Trend

In England, the trend toward lower death rates from COVID-19 has also been documented. Dr. John Dennis, Research Fellow in Medical Statistics at the University of Exeter Medical School, was lead author of a 3 August study that concluded:

“There has been a substantial mortality improvement in people admitted to critical care with COVID-19 in England, with markedly lower mortality in people admitted in mid-April and May compared to earlier in the pandemic... Possible causes include the introduction of effective treatments as part of clinical trials and a falling critical care burden.”

The New York Times reported, “By mid-June, clinical trials in England had proven that treatment with a cheap steroid drug, dexamethasone, reduced deaths of patients on ventilators by one-third and death in patients getting supplemental oxygen by one-fifth.”

The article continued, “Doctors also weren’t aware at first that the Covid-19 illness caused by the new virus caused life-threatening blood clots. Now patients are put on blood thinners early on in treatment when necessary.”

Bio Space, in the report cited above about declining death rates in the U.S., stated, “Globally, India and Brazil report steep, steady decreases in reported incidents, while cases in the U.K., France, Spain, Russia – all among the most affected countries – are increasing. Yet, despite the increases, mortality rates appear to be falling there, too.”

On 28 September, *Reuters* reported,

“Researchers in France estimate that country’s case fatality rate fell by 46% by the end of July compared with the end of May, driven by an increase in testing, improved medical care and a greater proportion of infections occurring in younger people, who are less likely to experience severe disease.”

On 16 September, *AP* reported,

“About 12 million people in South Africa have probably been infected with the coronavirus, but that startlingly high number has not caused a similarly high death rate.” According to South Africa’s health minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize, at that time last September “South Africa is also seeing declines in hospital admissions, people in intensive care units, and deaths attributed to COVID-19.”

As for the rest of the African continent, the *BBC* reported last week, “New deaths have been on a decline on the continent for two weeks now after being on an

upward trend. The Africa CDC says there was a 15% decrease in news deaths the past week compared to the previous week.”

TRENDPOST: As noted frequently in the ***Trends Journal***, Sweden did not lock down and its death rate from the virus is much lower than Spain, Italy, France, Spain, the U.K., etc. Yet, the Swedish coronavirus success story has been continually ignored by the mainstream media as their headlines blare “European Cases on the Rise.”

And, when they do report on Sweden, they do so in a derogatory manner, highlighting the negatives while eliminating the positive outcomes.

CRUCIAL COVID DATA IGNORED BY PRESSTITUTES



Last Wednesday, the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity, along with a number of other websites, published the following “Nine COVID Facts: A Pandemic of Fearmongering and Ignorance.”

Of the nine items listed below, previously, the **Trends Journal** has reported on seven of them on several occasions. The two additional facts are in regard to CDC data showing 85 percent of people testing positive were wearing masks and detailed information on COVID-19 remedies provided by Dr. Harvey Risch.

1. The PCR Test is Practically Useless

According to a 29 August article in *The New York Times*, testing for the COVID-19 virus using the popular PCR method results in up to 90 percent of those tested showing positive results that are grossly misleading.

Officials in Massachusetts, New York, and Nevada compiled testing data that revealed the PCR test is unable to determine the amount of virus in a sample (viral load). The amount of virus in up to 90 percent of positive results turned out to be so minuscule, the patient was asymptomatic and posed no threat to others. Thus, the “positive” COVID-19 tests are virtually meaningless.

2. A Positive Test is NOT a “Case”

Every positive COVID-19 test is immediately designated a CASE. As we saw in #1 above, up to 90 percent of positive tests result in minuscule amounts of virus that do not sicken the subject. Historically, only patients who demonstrated actual symptoms of an illness were considered a case. Publishing positive test results as “Cases” is grossly misleading and needlessly alarming.

3. The CDC Dramatically Lowered the COVID-19 Death Count

On 30 August, the CDC released new data showing only 6 percent of the deaths previously attributed to COVID-19 were due exclusively to the virus. The vast majority of those who died – 94 percent – may have had exposure to COVID-19 but also had preexisting illnesses such as heart disease, obesity, hypertension, cancer, and various respiratory illnesses. While they died with COVID-19, *they did not die exclusively from COVID-19.*

4. The CDC Reports COVID-19 Survival Rate Over 99 Percent

On 10 September, the CDC updated their “Current Best Estimate” for COVID-19 survival showing over 99 percent of people exposed to the virus survived. Another way to say this is less than 1 percent of the exposures are potentially life-threatening. According to the CDC, the vast majority of deaths attributed to COVID-19 were concentrated in the population over age 70, close to normal life expectancy.

5. CDC Reveals 85 Percent of Positive COVID-19 Cases Wore Face Masks Always or Often

In September 2020, the CDC released the results of a study conducted in July where they discovered that 85 percent of positive COVID-19 test subjects reported wearing a cloth face mask always or often for two weeks prior to testing positive. The majority of the test subjects, 71 percent, reported always wearing a cloth face mask, and 14 percent reported often wearing a cloth face mask. The

only rational conclusion from this study is that cloth face masks offer little if any protection from COVID infection.

6. There are Inexpensive, Proven Therapies for COVID-19 Treatment

Harvey Risch, MD, PhD, heads the Yale University School of Epidemiology. He authored the article, “The Key to Defeating Covid-19 Already Exists. We Need to Start Using It,” published in *Newsweek* on 23 July. Dr. Risch documents the proven effectiveness of treating patients diagnosed with COVID using a combination of hydroxychloroquine, an antibiotic such as azithromycin, and the nutritional supplement zinc. Medical doctors across the globe have reported very positive results using this protocol, particularly for early stage COVID patients.

7. The U.S. Death Rate is NOT “Spiking”

If COVID-19 were in fact the lethal killer it’s made out to be, one would expect to see a significant spike this year in the number of overall deaths reported compared to years prior to the pandemic. But that hasn’t happened. According to the CDC, as of early May, the total number of deaths in the U.S. was 944,251 from 1 January to 30 April. This is actually slightly lower than the number of deaths during the same period in 2017 when 946,067 total deaths were reported.

8. Most Covid-19 Deaths Occur at the End of a Normal Lifespan

According to the CDC, as of 2017, U.S. males can expect a normal lifespan of 76.1 years and females 81.1 years. A little over 80 percent of suspected COVID-19 deaths have occurred in people over age 65. According to a 28 June *New York Post* article, almost half of all COVID-suspected deaths have occurred in nursing/elder care homes that predominately house people with preexisting health conditions and who are close to or past their normal life expectancy. Had these patients instead caught the seasonal flu, similar results would have been expected.

9. CDC Data Shows Minimal COVID Risk to Children & Young Adults

In the CDC’s 10 September update, they reported the estimated Infection Mortality Rate (IFR) for children aged 0-19 to be 99.97 percent of those infected who survive. For those aged 20-49, the survival rate was almost 99.98 percent. Even those aged 70 years and older had a survival rate of 94.6 percent. To put this in perspective, the CDC data suggest that a child or young adult up to age 19

has a greater chance of death from some type of accident than they do from catching COVID.

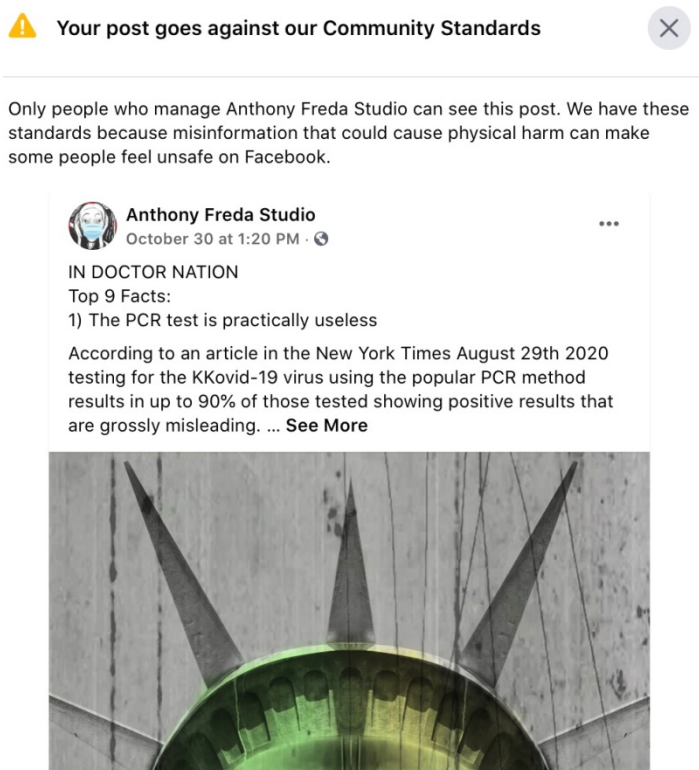
Ron Paul concludes:

“Slowly the people are recognizing the great fraud perpetrated on them by bureaucrats and elected officials who have sworn to uphold rights and freedoms as spelled out in the US Constitution. The time has come to hold these criminals accountable by utilizing the legal system to bring them to justice.

Either we act now to preserve freedom and liberty for our children and future generations yet unborn, or we meekly submit to tyrants who crave more power and control. I will not comply!”

TRENDPOST: *Not only is this information, much of which we have reported previously in the **Trends Journal**, being ignored by the media, those that report it are being censored.*

*Anthony Freda, the artist who creates many of our **Trend Journal** covers, was censored by Facebook for posting this data:*



U.S: NEW STATE RESTRICTIONS PROMPT PROTESTS



Governors across the U.S. used the latest jump in new COVID cases to justify reintroducing strict limits to prevent their health care systems from being overrun.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy told *Yahoo Finance*, “We can’t wait any longer. We’re doing it now, frankly, because the federal government should be doing it, and they haven’t done it.”

New Jersey has had 238,000 COVID cases and 16,339 deaths since the beginning of the outbreak. The state announced on Saturday it recorded 2,000 new cases of the virus earlier in the week, which was the first time since May, NJ.com reported. The state also reported 12 new deaths, prompting Murphy to announce a “second wave” has hit the state.

The new guidelines go into effect on 5 November and require employers to check temperatures and provide breaks throughout the day for workers to wash their hands.

The report said the governor refused to rule out additional lockdowns. He said, “All options are on the table... if we have to shut the whole place down, we will.”

Jordan Schachtel, a journalist, took to Twitter to post, “Lockdown round two is coming to blue states.” In another of Schachtel’s tweets, he said, “No doubt about it. States like NY, NJ, etc will double down on lockdown and hit the self destruct button again. Politicians and bureaucrats convinced citizens that this is the only correct course. They are doomed. Get out while you can.”

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has implemented new statewide orders that focus on rigorous testing for those visiting from outside states. LoHud.com reported that visitors from “non-contagious” states must prove they tested

negative over the past 24 hours. All visitors must quarantine for three days, regardless if they tested negative. The report said that after the three days, they will be tested again and then be released.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio warned residents about a recent uptick in cases. On Friday, the New York City Sheriff's Office shut down a reported illegal party inside a warehouse in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. *ABC 7 NY* reported that 387 people were at the party. Nine organizers were charged with multiple misdemeanors.

The lockdown threat is not isolated to blue states. An increase in COVID cases in El Paso County, Texas, prompted a judge to order a two-week shutdown of all nonessential businesses. *USA Today* reported the order was met with resistance, and several restaurant owners have sued to block it.

KVIA.com reported that Ken Paxton, the state attorney general, joined the lawsuit that was brought by ten El Paso restaurants.

"El Paso County Judge [Ricardo] Samaniego has no authority to shut down businesses in El Paso County. This is a direct violation of Governor Greg Abbott's executive order," Paxton said in a statement. "Recommendations must not be confused with requirements, especially those that unlawfully burden private citizens and businesses."

Paxton said he was "exploring all legal actions" to prevent the judge's order.

TREND FORECAST: *The continuing lockdowns and restrictions will drive the debt of already deep-in-debt states much higher. More businesses, especially small ones, will go out of business, while unemployment, homelessness, crime, suicides, and depression will continue to increase.*

*Once again, and as we note in this and other issues of the **Trends Journal**, rising cases do no equal rising death rates. Again, cases are rising because more people are getting tested. The virus recovery rate for those aged 1-50 is 99.8 percent... a fact ignored by the mainstream media, which, instead, focus on the continued selling of fear and hysteria.*

DE BLASIO TO NY'ERS: DON'T TRAVEL FOR THE HOLIDAYS



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said last Tuesday that residents should avoid traveling this holiday season, and the city would strictly enforce a two-week quarantine for those visiting from other states which have seen an increase in cases.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that due to the virus outbreak, de Blasio said, "This year we have to do things differently."

De Blasio has insisted NYC must remain diligent and cannot afford to give up ground on battling the virus, as New York State reported 20,000 COVID deaths in the spring.

The New York Times, however, reported that NYC hospitals are not seeing the increase in cases they absorbed in the early months. The report also said there are fewer people are dying. The paper said that, in the spring, the City had over 800 confirmed and probable deaths from the virus. The City reported 139 deaths in the past four weeks as of last Saturday, *The Times* said.

"There is a much lower recent mortality rate," Dr. David Reich, President of Mount Sinai Hospital, told the paper.

De Blasio called on the federal government to mandate that all passengers should be required to prove they have not tested positive in the past 72 hours before their flight. The report said the State University of New York will require its 140,000 students to take a COVID test and will be required to have a negative result before heading home for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Cuomo said the testing does not apply to residents from Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

“Four days plus three days is seven days, and that’s basically, by all probability, the incubation period,” Governor Cuomo said. He continued, “There will be no metrics. There will be one rule that applies across the country.”

TREND FORECAST: Tourism, which is already dead in New York, will continue to worsen as more restrictions are placed on incoming travelers. Moreover, with winter setting in and with strict capacity limits in restaurants, museums, and numerous venues, already dire business conditions will worsen considerably.

TRENDPOST: Yesterday, Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker declared a new set of COVID War rules, including curfews and new limits on social gatherings, which will go into effect on Friday. Part of the new mandate includes mandatory mask-wearing in public regardless of how close you are to others.

Further destroying already sinking businesses, the governor said there will be a 9:30 PM curfew for all restaurants and liquor stores and no indoor gatherings over ten people.

The Boston Herald reported that critics blasted Baker’s new orders and called them “nanny state” measures. Indeed, as we have noted, according to scientific data and hard facts, the masks being worn by the vast majority do not stop the spread of the virus, nor do they protect someone from getting it.

Furthermore, Baker's demand that people wear masks regardless if no one is near them further illustrates the flagrant violation of not only scientific fact to mandate such an order, but continuing examples of how the rights of individuals are being stripped away.

WALMART BACKTRACKS ON PLAN TO PULL GUNS FROM STORE SHELVES



Retail giant Walmart said last week it would reverse its decision to pull all guns and ammunition from shelves due to the threat of social unrest.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported the store's corporate office sent a letter to staff telling employees to pull the guns due to "the current unrest in isolated areas of the country and out of an abundance of caution."

The report said the chain sells guns in about half of its 4,700 locations throughout the U.S. The guns were supposed to be moved to a secure room in the back area of the locations.

Major cities in the U.S. have experienced social unrest due to allegations of police brutality. Most recently, stores in Philadelphia were ransacked after a black man armed with a knife was fatally shot by police. The man's family said he had a mental health issue and was not a threat to officers. Police said they are investigating and claim the man was charging at the officers at the time he was shot.

Stores across the U.S. are preparing for unrest after the 2020 presidential election.

Kory Lundberg, a spokesman for the store, told *CNBC* in a statement last Friday that "as current incidents have remained geographically isolated, we have made the decision to begin returning these products to the sales floor today."

TREND FORECAST: *For the first time in modern history, across America, businesses are boarding up their storefronts in anticipation of post-election riots. According to a Yahoo News/YouGov poll, 77 percent of American voters worry that following the presidential election, violence will break out in the coming days.*

It should be noted that for the past three decades, gun control had been a major political issue. Not this year.

With economic conditions deteriorating and homicides and violent crime on the rise, self-protection will continue to be a major trend for many years to come.

As Gerald Celente has said, "When people lose everything and they have nothing left to lose, they lose it." The general population knows it and feels it.

Thus "Self-protection" will present Ontrendpreneur® opportunities in the United States and around the world. There is a significant portion of the population who

understands they, and only they, can protect themselves when suddenly confronted by violence.

COVID COLLEGE CRUNCH



In February, when schools across America began to close down, we warned of a college crash. Not only did we forecast that once-prosperous college towns would become the “Rust Belt 2.0’s,” we noted many colleges would go broke and close down.

Now, colleges across the U.S. are taking drastic measures to survive the economic hit from lockdowns and strict rules for students and faculty to obey by pausing admissions, implementing hiring freezes, and laying off employees.

“We haven’t seen a budget crisis like this in a generation,” Robert Kelchen, a Seton Hall University Associate Professor of Higher Education told *The New York Times*. The paper reported even the country’s richest universities are feeling the pinch. It pointed to Harvard, which has a \$41.9 billion endowment, recording a \$10 million deficit. Across the nation, some 300,000 college-related jobs have been eliminated.

The *NYT* reported that freshman enrollment is down 16 percent compared to last year, and overall undergraduate enrollment is down 4 percent... and a nearly 8 percent decrease in poorer students on Pell Grants.

Schools are turning to virtual classes, which has not been universally embraced by students. Costs relating to the virus have surged, with schools being forced to purchase COVID-19 tests and tracing tools.

Suzanne Ortega, President of the Council of Graduate Schools, told the paper that a few years off from taking classes is “not necessarily the end of the world,” but she said universities should continue to encourage these students to consider grad school or “we could have our own loss generation of students who get busy with other things and then don’t fulfill their dreams.”

TREND FORECAST: As Gerald Celente forecast in his bestselling book, *Trends 2000*, “Interactive U” would be the 21st century education model to replace the one created by the Prussians during the Industrial Age.

As a result of the fear and hysteria spread by the COVID War, this trend will rapidly accelerate, providing OnTrendpreneurs® with a vast array of opportunities.

Trends are born, they grow, mature, reach old age, and die. The current online learning systems are rudimentary; they have just been born. Indeed, from kindergarten to Graduate school, school administrators are virtually making up “virtual” education as they keep students out of classrooms.

TRENDPOST: Totally ignored by the Presstitute media are the hard facts that for people aged 1 to 20, according to the CDC, the recovery rate of COVID is 99.997 percent. Yet, they imposed draconian rules and regulations on students, faculty, and staff. Among them, if they do allow students on campus, they must be flu vaccine injected.

TREND FORECAST: The lifestyle of young people, whose spirit to let loose, play, and party, has been severely damaged by the lockdown rules being imposed on them by older generations. That spirit will become ancient memory.

It is also severely damaging young people with athletic skills, whether in college or not, that are prohibited from playing contact sports.

We forecast Generation Z (appropriately a generation “Zero” who are restricted of their natural human rights and emotions) will be a major demographic in forming anti-establishment political parties throughout the world.

EUROPE: MORE LOCKDOWNS, PROTESTS, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP



As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, over the last several weeks, with virus cases rising, governments across Europe have imposed new rounds of draconian lockdown rules in their fight to win the next round of the COVID War.

While there were sporadic protests in Germany, Ireland, France, Spain, and the U.K. over the past few months, with more citizens losing everything and having nothing left to lose, they are losing it... taking to the streets and refusing to follow the new mandates.

Here's a picture of what's going on throughout Europe.

GERMANY. “The government wasted the summer and didn’t prepare for the second wave which everyone knew was coming, and now they are using the same lockdown as before,” Antonio Bragato, the owner of the Il Calice restaurant in Berlin, told the *Wall Street Journal* last week.

Bragato told the paper he secured a loan for \$292,000 while the German city was under its first lockdown and invested in equipment for outdoor dining with hopes the country would bounce back after it. Now, unfortunately, that decision might just add to his financial hardship.

Angela Merkel, the country’s chancellor, defended her decision on Thursday to reinstate the national lockdown, the same day the country announced 16,774 new cases and 89 deaths.

She criticized those in the country who question the virus’s health risk and said, “Lies and disinformation, conspiracy theories and hatred damage not only the democratic debate but also the fight against the virus,” according to *Reuters*.

The new lockdowns will last a month and include restaurants, gyms, and movie theaters. The *WSJ* reported that 50 percent agree with the measures, while about a third found them excessive.

About 2,000 protesters took to the streets at Berlin's Alexanderplatz on Sunday to voice their consternation over Merkel's new orders, DW.com reported.

"We are here and we are loud because we are being robbed of our freedom," some in the crowd chanted. The report said elderly residents and children also took part in the protest.

Christian Lindner, the leader of the opposition Free Democrats, reportedly told parliament on Thursday that he hopes the measures will stop the wave but questioned how many more lockdowns could be coming in the future.

"Will there be another lockdown in January?" he asked. "No one is speaking about that."

FRANCE. After saying COVID's second wave in France will "probably be harder and more murderous than the first," French President Emmanuel Macron announced last Wednesday the country would begin a lockdown that lasts until, at the minimum, 1 December.

Residents in the country are urged to stay home as much as possible, but schools will remain open, according to *France 24*. The report said the French government determined that the spring lockdown was detrimental to students, and many fell behind during virtual classes. Masks will be required in all public spaces, and museums, concert halls, and gyms will be shuttered.

As they did during the first lockdown in March, people will need permission certificates to go to school, work, or to shop.

Restaurants, which are considered non-essential, will be able to remain open but only for takeout. Videos emerged of traffic jams out of Paris shortly after Macron's announcement. Estimates said the traffic jam stretched over 400 miles. The *Daily Mail* reported many wanted to avoid the city's 9:00 PM curfew before the lockdown's midnight start. The report said many were leaving the city to get to their second homes.

Some demonstrators in Paris chanted, "Liberté," and some broke store windows.

“We are all in the same position: overrun by a second wave which we know will be harder, more deadly than the first,” Macron said. “I have decided that we need to return to the lockdown which stopped the virus.”

The state-run *Anadolu Agency* posted photos of the aftermath of the protests showing demonstrators lighting fireworks and flares and toppling garbage bins.

“We were already sinking and now we will definitely sink,” Eric Hassan, the owner of an antique shop in Paris, told the *Wall Street Journal*. “What we have been building our entire life is disappearing, the economy is collapsing – but those politicians and senators, they will still have their salaries and their pensions.”

The paper spoke with another restaurant worker, who said, “If the government now tries to prevent people from seeing each other and their families on Christmas, there will be a revolution in this country.”

BELGIUM. Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo announced new lockdown measures across the country last Friday that limit the number of people who can visit homes and how many people are allowed to venture outside in groups.

“We are going towards of being forced confinement with only one goal: avoiding that healthcare services collapse,” he said, according to the *Financial Times*. “It is now in our hands, it is in your hands. These really are the last-chance measures and it’s up to all of us to make sure that these measures produce a result.”

EuroNews reported that De Croo defended his measures by saying the country is in a health emergency and “the pressure on the hospitals is immense and the healthcare personnel are making superhuman efforts to save lives every day.”

The report said Belgium has 11.5 million people and, as of last Friday, there were 6,187 people hospitalized and 1,057 in intensive care with the virus. There were 100,000 new cases last week, the report said. Frank Vandenbroucke, the country’s health minister, said Belgium is facing a “tsunami” of cases, the *Financial Times* reported.

There have been protests in Brussels over the new restrictions, and 71 people were arrested in the city last Sunday. The *Brussels Times* reported one demonstrator blasted the “COVID-19 dictatorship.”

EuroNews reported that De Croo said the new measures will last for “at least a month and a half.”

GREECE. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced last Saturday the closure of non-essential businesses like bars, cafes, and restaurants in parts of the country that have seen a dramatic increase in virus cases, the *Associated Press* reported.

“We must act now, before intensive care units buckle under the strain of lives in danger,” he said, according to the *AP*. “The virus is attacking in waves, and we need to quickly adapt.”

The country of 10.72 million saw 2,056 new cases last Friday and six deaths resulting from infections, the report said. The country has had 39,251 total cases and 626 deaths, the *AP* reported.

Nikos Hardalias, Civil Protection Minister, said the average age of new infections “suggests there is a big correlation with gatherings for entertainment, sport and other activities,” which suggests those becoming infected are young Greeks.

It has been widely documented, however, that the virus is far less deadly among the young. New York said 48.7 percent of its COVID deaths occurred in those 75 years old or older.

ITALY. Italians lashed out at their government’s latest lockdown measures, which include bars and restaurants being forced to close at 6:00 PM for a month, and they blame Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte for overlooking the economic hardships these measures inflict.

Matteo Salvini, head of the anti-immigration League party and critic of coronavirus lockdowns, told the *Financial Times* on Friday that government officials fail to recognize these same restaurants and bars that are being forced to close have worked hard and spent money to comply with strict re-opening guidelines.

“Why take it out on them?” he asked, according to the paper.

Jason Horowitz, a *New York Times* reporter in Rome, wrote an article appearing in Sunday’s paper titled, “In Italy, Like Everywhere the Virus Goes, It’s the Discontent That’s Contagious.” Horowitz wrote that, in Italy, “if people are not sick with the virus, they are sick of it. In Italy, the discontent is exploding.”

Emanuele Tudini, a bar owner in central Rome, told Horowitz that in the beginning of the outbreak, his wife would cheer doctors and first responders from their

apartment window. There were scenes where Italians played music and sang from their balconies in Milan. But Tudini told the paper that sentiment has changed.

“We’ve reached the end of our rope,” he said. “There’s a ton of rage and suffering.”

Italy has seen protests break out across the country, and police officers have used tear gas on demonstrators in Milan and Naples. One protest last week led to 28 arrests. The *BBC* reported taxi drivers congregated in Turin, and restaurant workers banged pots to express their frustrations. Violent protests broke out, and stores such as Gucci and other luxury boutiques were ransacked.

The report pointed out the country’s economy is expected to shrink by 10 percent this year. The country of 60.36 million has had 679,000 cases and 38,618 deaths. Last Friday, the country had 297 new cases.

Video emerged on TikTok showing riot police in Turin removing their helmets in a show of solidarity with protesters. Those in the crowd were seen cheering when the officers made the gesture.

Conte suffered some backlash after he told his country the lockdowns might give them a chance to have a “serene” Christmas. The *FT* reported that a right-wing journalist in the country hit back on the comment and wrote Conte was threatening them with “coal on Christmas” and had “transformed citizens into children.”

SPAIN. Violent protests broke out last Friday in Barcelona over the government’s latest COVID restrictions in place to combat the country’s second wave of infections.

“This is theft! This is a scam!” the protesters shouted, according to the paper.

Videos emerged online that showed protesters hurling rocks at police vehicles, and riots broke out at some locations, according to the *Washington Post*. The latest restrictions include limits on social gatherings and curfews and are expected to last until next May.

“After all we’ve had to endure over the past months this is the final slaughter,” David Polo, a protester who owns a restaurant, told *Reuters*.

Like other countries, restrictions and lockdown mandates vary by the number of new infections. The country of nearly 47 million had 1.2 million infections and 35,878 deaths. On 30 October, there were 25,000 new cases.

The Post reported that country officials have closed the hospitality industry and barred any travel during the weekend not considered “essential.”

ENGLAND. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced last Saturday a second national lockdown and warned Christmas may be “very different” due to the virus outbreak.

Johnson apologized to business owners and said he understands the new orders put a new strain on businesses still trying to recover from the previous restrictions. Johnson said “no responsible prime minister” could turn his back to the mortality rate in the country, which he said has been worse than in April.

The New York Times reported last Friday there have been 1,489 patients hospitalized in Britain with COVID symptoms, and 274 have died. The paper’s database indicated that Britain has had over one million cases, and the death toll is 58,925. *CNN* reported the Office for National Statistics estimates 1 in 100 people in England have COVID-19.

CNN reported the new guidelines order the lockdown of pubs, restaurants, and other businesses deemed non-essential. The report said that people can leave their homes only for work, their education, or other specific reasons, such as shopping for food.

“Christmas is going to be different this year, perhaps very different, but it’s my sincere hope and belief that by taking tough action now we can allow families across the country to be together,” Johnson said.

SLOVAKIA. Slovakia’s Prime Minister Igor Matovic said Monday about 3.6 million residents in the country were given the COVID antigen test to determine the number of those affected with the virus.

Euronews reported that the testing campaign is voluntary, and the country hopes to test all 5.5 million residents. Those who refuse to get tested must quarantine for 14 days. To date, of Slovakia’s 5.5 million citizens, 235 have died of the virus since February or 0.00427 percent of the population.

Mike Tildesley, an infectious disease modeling expert at the University Warwick, told CNN that the mass testing has some shortcomings.

“It is important to realize that just because someone tests negative it does not mean they will necessarily be free from infection a few days later,” he told the network. “So any mass testing strategy needs to be carried out at regular intervals [every few days] in order to be an effective strategy and to allow some lockdown measures to be relaxed.”

TRENDPOST: As we have noted, the “Greatest Depression” has been accelerated by knee-jerk reactions from politicians to grab for more to fight the COVID War.

As the numbers prove, the death rate of the virus in Slovakia is minuscule. Instead of taking a pragmatic approach that focuses on protecting the vulnerable and encouraging good hygiene, states in the U.S. and countries in Europe have taken a sledgehammer to their economies with little to no benefit in preventing new infections.

Moreover, we forecast that just as the nation has imposed mandatory testing, so, too, will they mandate mandatory COVID vaccinations, which will result in anti-vax, anti-establishment political movements.

TREND FORECAST: Already devastated by the lost tourist season this past summer and with businesses long suffering from the spring lockdowns – plus the long list of governments’ rules and restrictions that have been imposed on them and the public – Europe’s economy was in sharp decline.

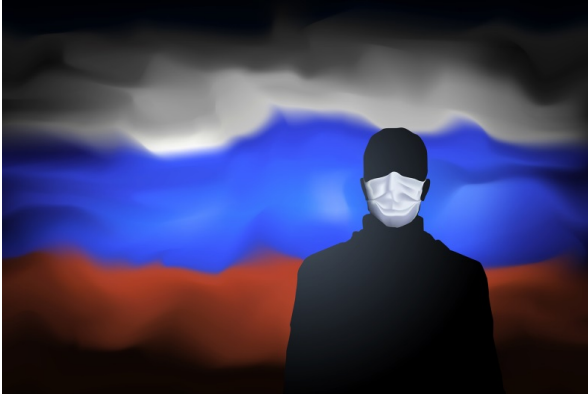
*Now, with the new round of lockdown mandates across the continent, as we have outlined in the **Trends Journal**, Europe will sink deeper into the “Greatest Depression.”*

Indeed, even the front-page headline in yesterday’s Financial Times illustrates the economic dangers ahead: “Eurozone growth outlook darkens after lockdowns fuel downgrades.”

“Lockdowns fuel downgrades”? How about, “Lockdowns fuel economic disaster, social unrest, rising crime, increasing poverty, government protests, and have destroyed countless lives and livelihoods”?

As winter sets in, economic conditions will sharply deteriorate, and anti-lockdown protests will escalate. As we have forecast, new anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-lockdown, anti-establishment political parties and social movements will accelerate.

PUTIN MANDATES FACE MASKS AMID SURGE IN CASES



Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, announced last Tuesday that the country would implement a nationwide mask mandate to prevent new coronavirus cases, reports said.

Rospotrebnadzor, the federal health watchdog agency, also appealed to the heads of Russia's 85 regions to take measures to close bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues by 11:00 PM each night, *The New York Times* reported.

The country of 144.5 million has had 1.6 million confirmed cases and nearly 30,000 deaths. Dmitry Peskov, a Kremlin spokesman, told the *Moscow Times* that all of the country's regions have experienced a shortage in doctors.

The report said Putin insisted he has no plans to close down the entire country and called the new measures "justified" and "targeted."

TRENDPOST: *As with other nations, totally absent in the mask-wearing mandates is the proven ineffectiveness of the most popular worn mask in preventing the spread of the virus or catching it... and the health and psychological damage resulting from wearing them.*

TRENDS IN TOONS *by Stephen Green*

“THE NEVER-ENDING PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW”



A Message from the Mainstream Media:

Thank you for watching our garbage news during the latest Presidential Reality Show. We promise to drag the Show on as long as possible to keep the public confused and divided.

THE PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®

ELECTION DAY 2020: LAWYERS LINED UP. WHO WILL WIN?



Long before today, the campaigns for President Trump and Joe Biden were preparing for a drawn-out legal fight if the election is too close to call even weeks after today.

We forecast this will be the most litigious fight for the Presidency in modern history. *The New York Times* reported in July that there had already been about 130 pandemic-related election lawsuits from 1 January to 23 October... tripled on average between 1996 and 2018.

While the Trump team won some cases that involved setting Election Day deadlines for absentee voting in some states, it lost cases involving expanding the access to some of these ballots. The virus has put a new focus on mail-in ballots. In Texas alone, as of last Sunday, nine million people voted, which surpassed the total vote in 2016.

The *Financial Times* reported the two campaigns have set aside tens of millions in the event they need to hire lawyers to litigate a contested election. Crucial states like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin cannot begin counting mail-in ballots until Election Day.

Joseph Sandler, the former General Counsel for the Democratic National Committee, told the *FT* that campaigns have been in contact with top-flight law firms in Washington, DC and lawyers on the state level.

“It’s fair to say that everybody who knows this stuff has been engaged,” he said, according to the paper.

TREND FORECAST: *As of Sunday, some 96,660,000 million people have already voted. This is two-thirds the total (136.5 million) who voted in 2016’s Presidential Reality Show®.*

With an eligible registered voter population of 239,247,182, we forecast the 2020 election is on track for one of the largest turnouts, especially among rural area voters who will be strongly in favor of President Trump. They are less inclined to fight in the COVID War and support opening up the economy, which Trump wants to do... as opposed to Biden calling for federal mask wearing mandates and possibly more lockdowns.

Again, despite these poll numbers, we forecast a Trump victory or an election that is too close to call. Yes, we know we are going against the odds, and we may be wrong. We base our forecast on President Trumps’ unrelenting campaigning until the last hour, the inaccuracy of polls in the past, and what we believe to be a silent majority who are uncomfortable saying they support Trump.

The polls still show a solid Biden Victory:

Joe Biden leads President Trump by double digits nationally, USC poll suggests

“Former Vice President Joe Biden leads Trump by double digits nationally — 54% to 43% in the poll’s daily tracking, a margin that has remained almost unchanging since summer.” – Los Angeles Times, 2 November

President Trump Trails Joe Biden by 10 Points Nationally in Final Days of Election

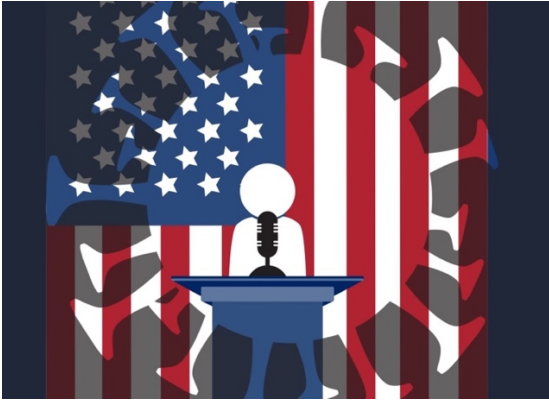
“Former Vice President Joe Biden leads Mr. Trump, 52% to 42%, in the poll’s final reading of voter opinion before Election Day, essentially unchanged from Mr. Biden’s 11-point advantage in mid-October. In particular, women and seniors have turned against the president, the poll finds, with both groups favoring Mr. Biden by double-digit margins.” – Wall Street Journal, 1 November.

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COVID: CENTER STAGE AT DEBATES



As the cover of the 20 October 2020 **Trends Journal** illustrates, the major theme of this year's Presidential Reality Show® is: "It's the Economy, Stupid! Lock it Down or Open it Up."



As the nation goes to the polls, "Open it Up" has become the primary Trump pitch while Biden preaches possibilities of mandatory mask wearing and stricter government actions to fight the COVID War.

President Trump has made it clear he would not shut the country down as cases rise and said he is the president that will revive the economy over the next four years. The White House issued a press release last week celebrating news about the GDP, which grew at a rate of 33.1 percent in the third quarter of 2020. The statement reported the jump is “nearly double the previous record” 70 years ago.

“He said a long, dark winter,” President Trump said at a rally in Michigan when talking about his opponent, Joe Biden. “Oh, that’s great, that’s wonderful. Just what our country needs is a long, dark winter and a leader who talks about it.”

Biden told his supporters he will not shut down the country, but he is “going to shut down the virus.”

Mask-wearing Biden has been taking a more cautious approach to the virus than no-mask wearer Trump, who teased *Fox News* host Laura Ingraham for wearing one to his rally in Waterford Township, MI.

“I can’t recognize you. Is that a mask? No way. Are you wearing a mask? I’ve never seen her in a mask,” Trump said. “Look at you. Oh, she’s being very politically correct. Whoa. Whoa.”

Biden has said he would try to get state leaders to agree on mask mandates.

“You and I know... the words of a president matter. No matter whether they’re good, bad or indifferent, they matter. And when a president doesn’t wear a mask, or makes fun of folks, like me, when I was wearing a mask for a long time, then people say, ‘Well, it mustn’t be that important,’” Biden said at a town hall earlier this month.

TRENDPOST: As we have continually reported, and have again in this ***Trends Journal***, the masks the vast majority of the public wear are ineffective in spreading and/or catching the virus. Yet, this fact is continually ignored by the Presstitutes.

Furthermore, while Biden says that if elected he is “going to shut down the virus,” he has not stated how he will do it... and the mainstream media has not asked him for his plan on how he would.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW

EPA'S APPROVAL OF CONTROVERSIAL WEED KILLER PROMPTS BLOWBACK



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency faced criticism last Wednesday after approving a weed killer for another five years despite it being blamed for damaging millions of U.S. crops.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported the dicamba herbicides have been embraced by some farmers as being an effective tool that kills weeds which have developed resistance to other pesticides.

The weed killer is used on cotton and soybean crops, Ecowatch.com reported. *The Hill*, citing a study by researchers from the National Cancer Institute, said the product has been linked to liver and bile duct cancers.

The weed killer, produced by Bayer AG and BASF SE, has been criticized by some farmers who claim it has a tendency to evaporate and spread in the wind, which jeopardizes other crops.

“At this point, the EPA has shown such callous indifference to the damage dicamba has caused to farmers and wildlife alike, and has been so desperate to appease the pesticide industry, it has zero credibility when it comes to pesticide safety,” Nathan Donley, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, in a statement, according to *The Hill*.

TRENDPOST: We note this article to further illustrate how our food, water, and air are being poisoned with trillions of tons of chemicals, pesticides, artificial ingredients, big pharma drug residues, etc., that we breathe, drink, and eat.

Yet, much of the world is locked down by politicians to stop the spread of COVID, which has killed a tiny fraction of the victims murdered by those who deploy deadly toxins... that politicians permit and support.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS

ARMENIA APPEALS TO RUSSIA IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin to provide security assistance while fighting continues over Nagorno-Karabakh, which would be seen as a major development in the conflict and could result in a showdown with Turkey.

The *Associated Press* reported last Saturday that the Kremlin was yet to respond to Pashinian's request. Russia has an agreement to provide military assistance to Armenia, and a refusal could be a geopolitical loss for Russia's prestige, the report said. Putin has said earlier that about 5,000 people have already died in the conflict over the predominately ethnic Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan.

The *AP* reported that leaders of the two countries have met in Geneva at the behest of the Minsk Group, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is comprised of Russian, French, and U.S. officials. There have been cease-fire agreements, which have ended with both sides accusing the other of violating the deal.

The *Financial Times* reported that Armenia's request is the first time the country appealed to Moscow since the pact was agreed on in 1997. Azerbaijan has benefited from the support of Turkey throughout the conflict.

On Sunday, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev promised to "go to the end" if negotiations failed and condemned Armenia, saying it has "no basis" to request Russian military assistance in the territorial dispute.

TRENDPOST: *As we have noted, while Turkey's economy is tanking and its lira continues to hit all-time lows against the dollar, it is militarily involved in the Syrian and Libyan wars, and it is in a territorial dispute with Greece over claims to hydrocarbon resources.*

In response to Turkey sending a vessel on a research mission in the contested waters this past Sunday, the Greek Foreign Ministry condemned the Turkish move, stating, "These actions show once again that Turkey is continuing to act in defiance of the appeals of the international community, including the conclusions of the October meeting of the European Council, which called on Turkey to cease these actions."

As Gerald Celente has said, "When all else fails, they take you to war." With economies across the globe failing, governments will divert the public's attention away from national issues by intensifying conflicts with countries they have, or will have, disputes with.

Thus, Turkey's involvement in the Caucasus, the Middle East, and with Greece are key trigger points with explosive potential that could destabilize the regions and lead to World War III.

LEBANON: BLOWING UP, GETTING OUT



As we have been reporting when demonstrations broke out across Lebanon last October, it was a one of many nations erupting in the “New World Disorder.”

From France to South Africa, from India to Chile, tens of millions across the globe were taking to the streets, protesting the lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime, and violence.

In Lebanon, the protests were triggered by new taxes on gasoline, tobacco, a dying economy, soaring unemployment, the value of its currency rapidly devaluating... and disgust of the ruling class.

After replacing a series of prime ministers, Saad Hariri, the former Lebanese prime minister who quit his position about a year ago due to protests, was tapped by the country’s president to save Beirut from economic ruin, just months after a deadly explosion renewed calls for governmental reforms.

CNN said that Hariri, who is supported by lawmakers, aims to build an “apolitical and technocratic government.” The *Wall Street Journal* noted Hariri was asked to take the premier job after an original candidate quit.

“I tell the Lebanese people, who are facing despairing hardships I say that I am dedicated to my promise to them to work on stopping the collapse that is threatening our economy, our security, and to rebuild the distraction of the terrible port explosion in Beirut,” he said in a speech last Thursday, according to *CNN*.

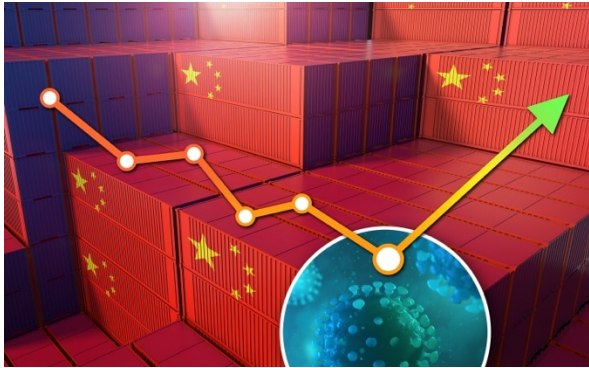
The massive, devastating explosion in Lebanon in August has seriously shaken its residents and was seen as a catastrophic failure by the government. But, as the dust settled, many in the country see Hariri’s return as doubling down on his previous failures.

To date, Lebanon’s currency, the pound, lost 80 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar, and its annual inflation reached 462 percent, a senior fellow at the Troubled Currencies Project said. About half of the country’s population is suffering from poverty, and unemployment is around 40 percent. According to the International Monetary Fund, its economy is set to contract by 25 percent this year.

And now, in fear of terribly deteriorating socioeconomic and political conditions, there is wave of Lebanese citizens fleeing the nation for safer havens.

TREND FORECAST: As we have forecast, beware of the destabilization throughout the Middle East, Africa, and Caucuses. With Brent Crude oil selling below \$40 a barrel, down from a January high of \$68, and the COVID War having destroyed both oil-rich and oil-poor economies, violence will escalate throughout the region, the refugee crisis will worsen, and regional conflicts will erupt.

CHINA'S SURGE IN NATIONALISM RAISES CONCERN



The rise of China has fostered national pride among its citizens. Some see a disturbing trend that any public criticism is met with a fierce rebuke, which could result in online harassment and the loss of a job, a report said.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Monday that political researchers say the surge in nationalism is to be expected. Ray Dalio, the billionaire founder of Bridgewater Associates, wrote in the *Financial Times* that China's rise is "changing" the world order.

"For as long as I can remember, people have said that China cannot succeed," Dalio wrote. "Communism doesn't work. Authoritarianism doesn't work. The Chinese aren't creative. They have a big problem with bad debts and property speculation. Yet every day we see China succeeding in exceptional ways."

He pointed out the country's economy grew at about 5 percent over the past year, and about half of the world's IPOs will take place in China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has promoted nationalism and has focused on achieving the "China Dream" of national rejuvenation, the *WSJ* reported.

In 2018, Yu Zhengsheng, a top Chinese official, told the annual Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference that patriotism has been a top priority. The *Associated Press* said Xi's goal was to "mobilize all the sons and daughters of

[ethnic Chinese] to work together for the greater national interests and the realization of the Chinese Dream” – to be the world’s top power.

Limits on debate seem to be one of the ways Chinese officials could achieve that goal. Internet companies and many in the population seem like willing participants. Alicia Fawcett, a researcher at the Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council think tank, told the *Journal* that the People’s Liberation Army has taken part in information operations. Social media companies in China reportedly promote “positive energy” on their platforms.

TREND FORECAST: What Ray Dalio surmises is years’ old news to Trends Journal subscribers. As Gerald Celente has long noted, “The 20th century was the American century, the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business, the business of America is war.”

Celente has noted that while America spent countless trillions waging and losing endless wars and enriching its military industrial complex, China has spent its trillions advancing the nation’s businesses and building its 21st century infrastructure.

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

China Turns Inward

“Technology self-reliance is the strategic support for national development,” Chinese Communist Party officials said in a 29 October statement announcing a new five-year plan that forecasts a “protracted battle” with the U.S. over global trade.

Developing its own technological capacity is key as the U.S. threatens bans on apps WeChat and TikTok and has laid sanctions on Chinese tech powerhouse Huawei, as a result of which the company soon may run out of chips it uses to make smartphones.

China’s leadership has concluded that the U.S. will not be a reliable partner no matter the outcome of the presidential election, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, and so is placing a stronger focus on domestic companies and markets to drive growth.

Foreign investments and technology will play a reduced role under the new plan. Party leaders also promised to raise the per-capita GDP to the level of “moderately developed countries” by 2035.

THAILAND RESCINDS EMERGENCY DECREE AS GESTURE TO PROTESTERS



Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha last week called off the country’s emergency decree that was in place due to the months-long, student-led protests which have engulfed the country.

Prayuth said in a nationally televised address that he hoped to de-escalate the situation in the country. The *Wall Street Journal* reported Prayuth has also put some initiatives in motion, which are expected to be discussed next week.

Protesters want Prayuth to resign and want the country to take several steps toward becoming more democratic. These include an amendment to the constitution and reforms to the monarchy. The *AP* reported protesters say King Vajiralongkorn has too much power. They also resent that the monarchy controls a fortune of about \$40 billion.

The Heritage Foundation said Prayut, a former army commander, became prime minister in 2014. National elections, which were held in March 2019, “solidified the power of the junta-aligned Phalang Pracharat Party.”

The *AP* reported days after Prayuth backed off the emergency decree, protesters were back in the street to mock a fashion show that was held by the king’s daughter.

TREND FORECAST: Nations that rely on tourism will be among the hardest hit. Indeed, 13 percent of Thailand's GDP is from tourism. Those who work in hospitality, restaurant, and related service sectors, who are in the lower income strata, and those most needy for full time work will suffer the most economically.

Thus, as the COVID War rages and economic conditions deteriorate, protests, uprisings, and civil wars will ignite across the globe. Again, when people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.

And, as we have forecast, for the Thailand protests to gain traction and produce desired results, while they are currently dominated by Generation Z, they must gain support from millennial and baby boomer generations.

TRUMP CRACKS DOWN ON CUBA REMITTANCE FLOW



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last Thursday that the U.S. would impose new financial restrictions on Cuba because its military has been dipping into remittances and using the funds to “oppress the Cuban people” and fund its “interference in Venezuela,” *The New York Times* reported.

The paper reported the Trump administration wants to end the wire transfer of money through companies in Havana that have ties to the country's military.

The new rules are expected to go into effect in November, and Cuban authorities already said more than 400 Western Union offices there will shutter. The report said a Cuban military-controlled entity called Fincimex processes billions in remittances a year, and the closures will be a devastating blow to the economy already reeling from the coronavirus.

Fincimax said in a statement that employing such a move “in the midst of a pandemic emphasizes cynicism, contempt for the Cuban people and the opportunism of the American government.”

Emilio Morales, the president of Havana Consulting, based in Miami, told the paper, “If the military does not give up the remittance business to other state institutions, they will run out of oxygen, it’s that simple.”

TRENDPOST: We note this barely reported story to illustrate how President Trump continues to crack down on Cuba in an effort get the votes of “anti-Cuban government” Cubans who live in Florida, a swing state he must win to beat Joe Biden in the race for the White House.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE *by Bennett Davis*

NEW IMMUNE CELL MAY REVERSE NEUROLOGICAL DAMAGE



Researchers from the University of Michigan and The Ohio State University have discovered a previously unknown immune cell that may not only halt neurological damage by diseases such as multiple sclerosis and ALS but also repair the damage the illnesses already have done.

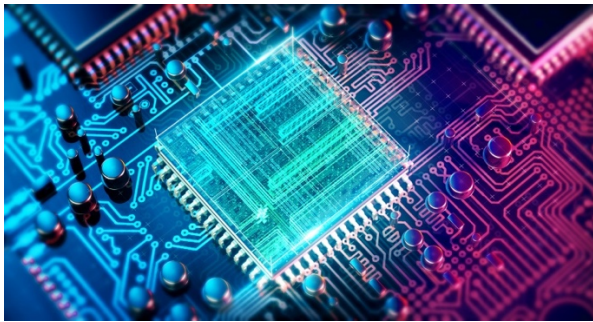
The cell is a member of the family of neutrophils, immune cells that have been described as the body’s first responders: neutrophils are the first to arrive at inflamed or infected tissue. However, neutrophils can work too hard to contain the damage some diseases cause, making them worse.

This new sub-cell, resembling an immature neutrophil, has an opposite effect: it can stimulate the regrowth of damage nerve tissue.

In tests on mice, these young neutrophils secreted growth factors that sparked the repair of tissue in damaged spinal cords and optic nerves.

TRENDPOST: *The researchers found the same cells in humans, launching a new field of research that could harness the body's own neutrophils to regenerate severed spinal cords and allow people with diseased or damaged optic nerves to see again.*

U.S. GOES LONG ON AI & QUANTUM SCIENCE



The U.S. will invest \$765 million through 2024 to establish 12 research centers in artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum information science, including quantum computing, according to a Trump administration announcement.

Quantum information science exploits quirks of quantum mechanics to create computers and similar devices that can operate exponentially faster than current designs.

Google, IBM, Intel, and other tech giants will take part, boosting the project's funding to more than \$1 billion.

Seven centers will be university-based, with each focused on an AI specialty and receiving \$20 million a year for five years. For example, a center at the University of Oklahoma in Norman will house the National Science Foundation's Institute for Research on Trustworthy AI in Weather, Climate, and Coastal Oceanography.

The other five centers will be sited at the U.S. Energy Department's national laboratories. As with the AI centers, each will focus on a specific aspect of quantum science, such as developing quantum computers, quantum sensors, and creating a potentially non-hackable quantum Internet.

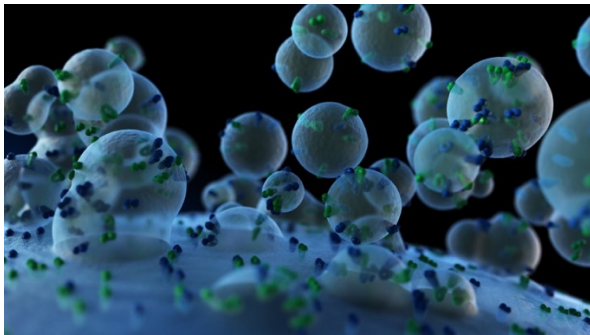
The Argonne National Laboratory's Illinois center has been dubbed Q-NEXT and will develop quantum networks and materials for quantum technologies.

The private companies involved will add another \$300 million to the centers' budgets.

The initiative to establish the centers is the fruit of five years of planning and development across the Obama and Trump administrations.

TRENDPOST: *The centers will help the U.S. begin to catch up with similar research already well along in China, setting both countries to compete for ownership of technologies that will define 21st-century computing.*

CELLULAR “TRASH BAGS” FOUND TO PROTECT HEARTS UNDER ATTACK



Extracellular vesicles (EVs), once thought to be the trash bags of the cellular world, have been found to play a key role in helping heart cells survive a heart attack – a discovery that will expand research into the biological role of molecules once thought insignificant.

Originally, the vesicles were seen as the way cells disposed of used-up or unwanted molecules, bagging them in vesicles and sending them out into the bloodstream to eventually be excreted.

Then EVs were discovered to be ferrying biochemical signals from transmitting cells to receivers, in some cases spreading disease and in others helping to combat it.

Now Harvard researchers have found these cells play a key role in helping heart cells survive a heart attack.

A heart attack happens when blood flow to the heart is blocked, killing or damaging heart cells. However, emergency treatment for heart attacks often causes more damage as the heart is shocked by the sudden influx of calcium and other chemicals, suffers stress overload, and other adverse reactions.

The Harvard scientists put heart cells on a chip laden with sensors, then induced a heart attack, introduced EVs from vascular tissue, and watched EVs come to the rescue.

Although the diameter of EVs is about one five-hundredth that of human hair, they contain as many as 2,000 proteins that help cells respire, produce energy, and manage biochemical stress. EVs from heart tissue were found to be particularly attuned to the needs of a malfunctioning heart, helping maintain the cells' ability to function and minimize the shock from emergency treatments until the danger eased.

TRENDPOST: *The discovery that extracellular vesicles can have therapeutic effects expands research into these protein bombs that likely will lead to new or enhanced treatments for injury and disease that amplify the body's own response mechanisms.*