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TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW



Stocks Surge in Pre-Election Buying Spree

As we had noted last week, U.S. equity markets have had a long history of rising following the Presidential elections. Staying on-trend, U.S. stock indexes booked their best five-day period since April as investors grabbed stocks, despite the uncertainty of who would be the winner of The Presidential Reality Show®.

Stocks and derivatives and corporate, federal, and municipal bonds all rose; Bitcoin's price exceeded \$15,000 for the first time since January 2018. Thus, our forecasts that the cryptocurrency would gain strength when it solidified above \$9,500 have come to pass.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 7.3 percent, the S&P rose 6.9 percent, and the NASDAQ 9 percent, closing on 5 November at 11,890.93, its third-highest mark ever.

And, as we had noted, regardless of who won the race, there would be massive doses of monetary methadone injected into the markets and the economy.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *Four years ago, the markets had priced in a Hillary Clinton victory and many analysts had forecast a market crash if Donald Trump became president. After plunging in the hours following the election, the markets recovered, as the **Trends Journal** predicted, and went on to set new records.*

Also, with the Senate most likely staying Republican, Wall Street worries about higher taxes and more regulations from a Democratic controlled Congress have eased. "The mantra seemed to be 'find some good news and keep buying,'" Mike Bailey, Research Director at FBB Capital, told the Wall Street Journal.

Markets had bet on a Democratic electoral sweep, which would have brightened prospects for a larger, new stimulus program. Although markets still expect a new stimulus measure, its size and scope are now seen as more narrow.

Global Spike

Markets around the world also rose sharply following the U.S. presidential election.

The Stoxx Europe 600 index showed its best weekly gain since June, the Shanghai Composite Index ended its best week since July, and Japan's Nikkei index finished its best week since May.

The U.S. Federal Reserve's reassurance to leave interest rates unchanged added energy to the markets, although the Fed warned again of risks to the economy related to the COVID lockdowns.

With the media continually hyping the worst of COVID is yet to come, the money junkies are gambling heavier before hard data shows that the "Greatest Depression" has begun.

VACCINE HOPES, MARKET RUSH



Global equities spiked on Monday following a report drug dealers Pfizer and BioNTech said they invented a Covid-19 vaccine that is more than 90 percent effective. The Dow ended the day up nearly 3 percent, marking its highest close since February.

Convinced the vaccine would instantly end the COVID War, terribly plummeting travel, retail, banking, and hospitality sector stocks spiked. Retailer Kohl's shot up 20 percent and firms such as Carnival, the sinking cruise line company, soared 39 percent; near-empty American Airlines went up 15 percent; and bankster's JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America both rose 14 percent on Monday.

With expectations that a vaccinated society will leave their lockdown lives, the tech sector – which boomed as more people worked from home, zoomed, shopped online, learned online, and lived online. The tech-heavy Nasdaq, up 33 percent this year, closed down 1.5 percent yesterday.

Also hit hard were sanitizer-rich companies such as Clorox and the pandemic-rich streaming company Netflix, which fell 11 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively.

Today, while the Dow closed up 263 points, the Nasdaq was off 1.37 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *The rush to get vaccinated will boost equity markets and the locked down global economies.*

We forecast that while artificially inflated stock markets will continue to spike on vaccine news and money pumping injections by the Federal Reserve and Washington, the economic damage inflicted upon tens of millions of businesses and hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods will not be saved by a vaccine.

And, yes, with a vaccine, schools, restaurants, tourism, hospitality, and other service sector businesses will rebound from their COVID War lows but will again decline as the economic toll of the “Greatest Depression” sweeps the globe.

JOBS MARKET CONTINUES HESITANT RECOVERY



The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in October as companies added 638,000 jobs to log the sixth consecutive month of job gains, the U.S. Labor Department announced on 6 November.

Private-sector employers added 906,000 jobs in October, offsetting 268,000 workers terminated from government jobs, primarily at the state and local levels.

The largest number of jobs were created in leisure and hospitality, particularly among restaurants as more reopened. Construction and retail also added significant numbers of workers.

738,000 new claims for state unemployment benefits, however, were filed during the same week, a figure little different from the week before.

An additional 363,000 claims were filed under the federal program paying unemployment compensation to part-time workers, gig workers, and others not qualified to receive state benefits.

The economic shutdown in March and April cost the economy 22 million jobs and sent the unemployment rate to 14.7 percent, the highest mark since World War II ended. Now, the U.S. economy has recovered about 12.1 million of those jobs, the Labor Department reported.

Monthly job gains have been shrinking since June, and new data from late October showed small businesses still shedding more jobs than they added. The figures show hiring slowing in the service sector overall.

About 16 percent of October's new jobs were temporary, Gregory Daco, Chief U.S. Economist at Oxford Economics, told the *Wall Street Journal*, signaling that employers are uncertain about the economy's short-term future.

Many restaurants, especially those in northern states, are ending outdoor service now that cold weather is setting in, which once again could cost jobs in that hard-hit sector.

TREND FORECAST: *As state unemployment benefits end, consumers will curtail spending, which will lead businesses to a new round of layoffs. Many industries, such as airlines, tourism, hospitality, entertainment, and retail will not recover to pre-COVID War levels for at least two years. Thus, accounting for inflation and population increases, those levels will represent negative growth.*

For example, the big news last week was U.S. economic output grew 7.4 percent in the third quarter... a record rate that annualized to a 33.1-percent recovery from the economic shutdown.

U.S. GDP, however, remained 3.5 percent lower than at the end of 2019. The 11 million workers still jobless are twice as numerous than before the pandemic, and millions more have stopped looking for work or have left the labor force entirely.

FED LEAVES RATES UNCHANGED, CALLS FOR MORE MONEY INJECTIONS



The U.S. Federal Reserve left the central bank's key interest rate unchanged at 0.25 percent at their mid-November meeting and vowed to leave rates there for the

foreseeable future, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in a press conference on November.

At their September meeting, the officials indicated rates would remain frozen for at least three years.

Powell said, “The pace of improvement has moderated” and the U.S. economic future is “extraordinarily uncertain” with the country “a long way from our goals” and “halfway there on the labor market recovery at best.”

The Fed has been buying government bonds at a pace of about \$120 billion a month recently to keep markets liquid and stimulate demand. The Fed will continue buying at that pace “at least,” Powell said.

The two greatest risks to the economy now are the COVID virus’s unchecked spread and the risk of households burning through any savings they were able to accumulate as a result of federal aid, he noted.

“The fiscal policy actions that have been taken have made a critical difference,” said Powell, but “we’ll have a stronger recovery if we can get some more fiscal support.”

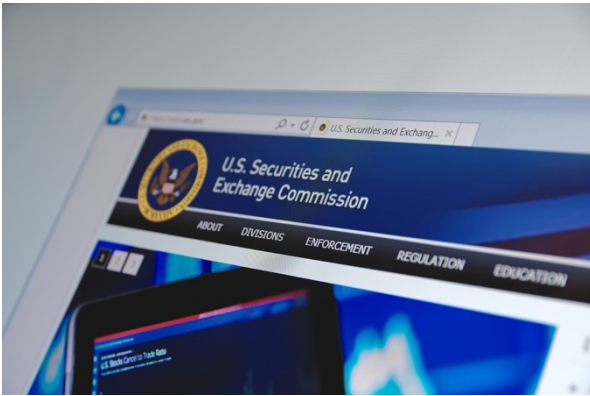
For the Fed’s part in boosting the recovery, the central bank is not “out of power or out of ammo,” he said.

TREND FORECAST: *The overt, in-your-face statements calling for more cheap money to be continually pumped into the economy, to us, illustrate the severity of the economic climate. Powell claiming the bank is not “out of ammo,” indicates they, along with Washington, will forfeit the value of the dollar to boost equities and the economy.*

Indeed, “ammo” equals ongoing money pumping schemes that will devalue the U.S. dollar and prove bullish for safe-haven assets such as gold and silver.

In addition, as winter sets in and the economy further slows, we forecast the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates into negative territory within the next several months, which will further boost gold and silver prices.

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY FINES SET RECORD



Regulatory agencies extracted \$4.6 billion in penalties so far this year from financial industry firms found guilty of wrongdoing, according to a *Wall Street Journal* analysis.

The record haul resulted from a few big cases. They included Telegram Group's agreement to repay investors \$1.2 billion to settle a lawsuit over the company's sale of a cryptocurrency, and Wells Fargo's \$500-million fine to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to end actions over the bank's fake accounts scandal.

Goldman Sachs acquiesced to a \$400-million fine for its work on behalf of a corrupt Malaysian financier in what has become known as the 1MDB scandal; however, the settlement was announced after the government's fiscal year closed. The fine will be included in 2021's fines total.

The SEC filed only 405 actions in the fiscal year ended 30 September, a 23-percent drop from fiscal year 2019 and the fewest in six years. The agency attributed the drop to the pandemic-related shutdown, which closed courts and government offices for several weeks.

TRENDPOST: As we have long noted, over the decades, in America, as with much of the world, from Bankster Bandits to the Pharma Drug Gangs, big-time criminals get a slap on the wrist for high crimes and misdemeanors, while it's prosecution to the fullest for "We the Peasants" of Slavelandia.

“FATTEN UP WITH FAST FOOD” TREND RISING



While the economic shutdown has decimated much of the restaurant industry, the junk food sector has suffered less than most others; some chains, in fact, are thriving.

Yum Brands, owner of KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell, reported sales were down only 2 percent in the third quarter compared to the same period in 2019. Starbucks' sales were down 9 percent for the period, compared to a 41-percent plunge in this year's second quarter.

For Texas-based Wingstop, which has 1,500 stores in nine countries, stores that have been open at least a year averaged an 18-percent growth in sales during the 12 months ended 26 September. The company plans to open as many as 140 new sites in its current fiscal year.

The key has been drive-up windows, which makes fast-food joints much more suited to offsite dining than conventional sit-down eateries.

In this year's third quarter, Taco Bell served 30 million more cars than a year previous, Yum Brands CEO David Gibbs told analysts in an early November phone call. Wendy's has a "new appetite" for opening drive-through-only locations, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on 7 November.

Still, the margins in the restaurant business are thin.

Domino's Pizza reported food costs rose 3.8 percent in the third quarter as cheese prices surged, the company reported in its earnings statement, helping to drop third-quarter earnings to \$2.49 a share, which was less than analysts expected.

Also, the pandemic has forced franchisees to spend for frequent store cleanings and protective equipment for employees, which has forced some owners deeper into debt.

Nonetheless, fast-food companies' stock is at near record levels and private equity firms seem ready to push them higher.

Inspire Brands, backed by private equity money, already owns the Arby's and Sonic chains and just agreed to pay \$8.8 billion to acquire Dunkin' Brands. The price is 20 percent higher than Dunkin's already-record market valuation.

No Breakfast

With millions of workers jobless and millions more working at home, a key fast-food profit center has stalled.

Far fewer people are coming to breakfast.

Like other chains, Burger King has reported breakfast sales still lag, even though more people are gradually returning to work, the *WSJ* noted. IHOP and Dunkin' chains, both dependent on breakfast eaters, have each announced plans to close hundreds of stores.

Weak breakfast sales were the main factor dragging down McDonald's revenue during the shutdown, CEO Chris Kempczinski told analysts in a July earnings call.

The shutdown has disrupted chains' plans for bigger breakfast menus.

Pancake house IHOP was planning a brand of hotcakes called Flip'd for people on the go. Other chains were developing items that would fit in cars' cup holders, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Wendy's had introduced new items, including a "Breakfast Baconator" sandwich made with a sausage patty, cheese, six strips of bacon, and "real eggs." The sandwich was gaining popularity when shutdowns were imposed.

The shift from grabbing breakfast on the way to work to eating at home has shifted business toward breakfast-food makers, with sales of cereal and ground coffee rising, the *Journal* reported.

Kraft-Heinz, which makes Oscar Mayer bacon and Maxwell House coffee, is "in a position to own breakfast," Carlos Abrams-Rivera, the company's U.S. president, gloated to the *WSJ*.

Fast food's breakfast business now is showing signs of reviving, with sales during the week of 25 October just 10 percent below those a year earlier, according to analysis firm NPD Group.

TREND FORECAST: We again note this data to note that despite what is being promoted by the business media as a growing, promising healthy food movement, in America, and in many other countries, more people are becoming addicted to fast, processed food, laden with salt, sugar and unpronounceable chemicals with devastating results to health than those going all natural.

While organic movements have grown substantially over the last two decades, organic in 2019 accounted for only 5.8 percent of the food sold in retail channels. Indeed, a walk through any major supermarket chain store shows how small the organic sections are and how limited the scope of product compared to the low quality, highly processed, non-organic aisles that dominate.

On the fast food front, an industry that had only \$6 billion in revenue in 1970 and surged to over \$200 billion in 2019, while major chains promise fresher ingredients with less additives and more vegetables, for the most part, Americans keep gobbling down burgers, fries and other fast food junk.

And it shows. With some 42 percent of Americans obese, it has become the new normal.

From middle America to the military ranks, coping not only with the physical and health effects of obesity but its emotional, societal and psychological effects and their ramifications are forming the Ready To Explode trend which is exploding into a public health emergency.

Indeed, as we have reported, those suffering from Type 2 diabetes and Obesity are also major victims of the coronavirus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Obesity is a common, serious, and costly chronic disease. Having obesity puts people at risk for many other serious chronic diseases and increases the risk of severe illness from COVID-19."

TREND FORECAST: Weight loss programs will bring in great financial gains. "Whole Health Healing" is a top trend this year and for decades to come. While many will remain overweight and out of shape, new millennium "New Agers" – those who are financially down and physically out – will be seeking new roads to find inner peace and self-satisfaction... that money can't buy.

This will be a great OnTrendpreneur® opportunity for those with free minds to explore the world of natural healing remedies and treatments that are both easily accessible and affordable.

Looking good and feeling strong, self-confident, and self-reliant will be personal survival strategies for those wanting to move up as the world around them keeps going down.

WINE AND BEER MAKERS LANGUISHING



With bars and restaurants closed or operating at minimal capacity, U.S. wine and beer makers have lost about 20 percent of their sales, a figure reflected by others in the industry around the world, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Diageo, the British company that owns Guinness, among other brews, reported a 9-percent sales decline during the second half of its fiscal year 2020, falling to £11.75 billion from £12.87 billion year on year. The company has seen its share prices slide 16 percent so far in 2020.

Shares of Constellation Brands, the biggest U.S. purveyor of beers and wines including Modelo and Robert Mondavi, have sagged 4 percent. The company reported net sales of \$2.26 billion in its fiscal years' second quarter, slightly below the \$2.34 billion notched a year earlier.

The stock price of Crimson Wine Group, a Napa vineyard, is down 35 percent this year.

As in most other sectors of the consumer economy, online shoppers have buoyed the industry.

In September, vintners shipped \$312 million worth of wine direct to consumers, 17 percent more than a year before, according to the Wine Analytics Report. Also, September wine sales in grocery stores were 16 percent greater year on year, Wines Vines Analytics reported, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The consumer staples sector of the S&P 500, which includes beer and wine, has risen about 0.79 percent this year, compared to the S&P's overall gain of 1.95 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *The liquor business will not bounce back to pre-lockdown levels until the COVID War ends and bars, restaurants, hospitality, entertainment, and travel industries fully open up... and fear ridden consumers feel safe to go out, party, and play... which a vaccine will expedite.*

TREND FORECAST: *Just as the Roaring '20s followed the Spanish Flu, we forecast a "Roaring 2020s" to follow COVID-19, as locked down young adults hit the streets to let loose and party.*

From going to speakeasys during the lockdowns and then out to clubs when they are again permitted, there will be numerous OnTrendpreneur® opportunities to create new night club scenes and sounds in the upcoming "Roaring 2020s."

SCOTT'S MIRACLE-GRO GLOWS



More people gardening to pass time during the summer's economic shutdown gave Scott's Miracle-Gro, maker of lawn and garden products, a net income of \$3.9 million during the third quarter. A year earlier, the company had posted \$57.9 million in losses.

Sales for the quarter grew to \$890.3 million against \$497.7 million in the same period in 2019.

TREND FORECAST: We note this income spike, since it is a trend we had forecast at the outbreak of the COVID War in March. Not only has Scott's profited from the lockdown, the entire sector, from Home Depot to mom-and-pop garden centers, have reaped higher sales and profits.

In our 24 March article, [**VICTORY GARDENS 2.0**](#), we wrote,

With nations in lockdown and a ban on all "non-essential" work sweeping the globe, hundreds of millions suddenly have a lot of free time on their hands.

And with masses out of work, short on cash, and millions wanting to improve their health, planting a vegetable garden is not only practical, but also enjoyable for those who want to rise above the climate of fear and reconnect with nature.

As world leaders and the media compare the coronavirus to war, "VICTORY GARDENS 2.0" will help lift spirits and improve the health of nations.

Victory Gardens, also called "war gardens," were originally planted during World War I and II to help reduce the pressure on public food supply during these times of crisis.

Now, in this age of Pandemic Panic, society's survival instincts will return to their roots, rediscovering the path to nature and connecting with the land.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS



POST-ELECTION BOND RALLY INCREASES NEGATIVE-YIELDING DEBT. The settlement of the U.S. election sparked a rally in the bond market, raising the global total of bonds carrying negative interest rates to a record \$17.05 trillion, the *Financial Times* reported.

During the economic shutdown, governments and corporations issued a flurry of new bonds, including many in European and some Asian countries where interest rates are below zero.

Investors snapped up the new debt because of central banks' promise to keep interest rates at or below zero and governments' pledges to support economic recovery by any means necessary, the *FT* reported.

The volume of negative-yielding debt has more than doubled since March, according to the *NYT*.

TREND FORECAST: *The run on bonds that cost money to hold to maturity indicates that investors are still seeking the safety of government and top-rated bonds to ride out short-term economic uncertainties. Thus, for those not willing to invest in losses, safe-haven assets such as gold and silver will continue to gain larger investment market share, which in turn will keep moving prices higher.*

BITCOIN TOPS \$15,000. As we have been forecasting when Bitcoin was trading in the \$9,500 range, it had reached its bottom and would continue to rise higher. For the first time in almost three years, Bitcoin traded above \$15,000 on 6 November, reaching \$15,400 on 6 November. It is still trading in that range despite Monday's sell-off when equity markets spiked on the vaccine news.

The current price is buoyed by a growing number of investors seeking high returns and comforted by the number of major players, such as hedge fund Renaissance Technologies, that are betting on Bitcoin.

Renaissance invested in BlockTower, a crypto hedge fund, and the results have outperformed the company's Medallion fund, in which employees invest, said Renaissance co-founder Howard Morgan in a *Financial Times* interview.

Hedge funds focused on cryptocurrencies have returned a 63-percent gain to their investors this year through September, compared with a 3.2-percent yield from funds holding more conventional assets, according to data firm EurekaHedge.

TREND FORECAST: *Minus wild cards, such as governments banning them, we forecast Bitcoin and other major cryptocurrencies will continue to rise in value as more investors, particularly younger generations, abandon national currencies that are being devalued as governments increase stimulus efforts and go deeper in debt.*

NEW U.K. CLOSURES WILL COST RETAILERS \$2.6 BILLION A WEEK.

Britain's new one-month partial economic shutdown will shrink the country's retail

economy by £2 billion, or about \$2.6 billion, each week it is in force, the British Retail Consortium (BRC) told Forbes.com.

The lockdown is scheduled to end 2 December but could be extended.

The non-essential retailers affected by the order will lose the equivalent of \$9 billion over the four weeks, while online sales will grow \$3.9 billion above the same period last year, according to a model by Retail Economics.

Helen Dickinson, BRC's CEO, called the shutdown the "nightmare before Christmas," warning that it threatens the viability of thousands of small businesses and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

"The previous lockdown cost non-essential businesses £1.6 billion a week in lost sales," she said in a statement announcing the BRC study's results. "Now that we are entering the all-important Christmas shopping period, those losses are certain to be much bigger."

The British government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies said the lockdown will have a "minimal impact" on the virus's spread, the BRC's statement noted, because of the "hundreds of millions of pounds retailers have spent making their stores COVID-safe and secure for customers and colleagues."

TREND FORECAST: *Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales... along with many European nations, as we have reported, have imposed similar shutdowns. Clearly, the longer and harder the lockdowns, the more severe damage they will inflict on businesses, lives, and livelihoods... pushing nations deeper into the "Greatest Depression."*

BANK OF ENGLAND BOOSTS STIMULUS. With Britain entering a new, if modified, economic shutdown, the Bank of England (BOE) decided on 5 November to buy another £150 billion of government bonds, expanding its portfolio to £895 billion.

The bank also left its benchmark interest rate at 0.1 percent.

The central bank is Europe's first to expand its stimulus plans since virus case numbers surged across the continent in recent weeks.

Because of the new shutdown, the bank now forecasts the U.K.'s economy will contract in the fourth quarter instead of expand.

The British government has said it will extend the program subsidizing wages for workers kept away from their jobs by the shutdown. Due to end on 31 December, the program now will continue through March.

The European Central Bank has signaled it will expand its stimulus program next month to blunt the economic impacts of new shutdowns. The plan includes a new round of bond-buying and cuts to interest rates for loans to banks.

Member nations have yet to approve the bank's plan for £750 billion in stimulus for the Eurozone's hardest-hit countries.

TRENDPOST: *While central banks contend they have “fire power and ammunition” to boost equity markets and economies, we forecast that central banks have limited roles in rescuing nations’ economies and that governments will go deeper in debt in their attempts to boost growth.*

NIKKEI CLOSES AT 19-YEAR RECORD HIGH. On 6 November, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index soared to a 29-year record high close as investors pulled out of speculative stocks and took refuge in blue chips such as Sony and Softbank.

The index's rise to 24,325 was propelled largely by individual investors who leveraged their investments – essentially borrowing against expected profits – to buy more stocks than they could pay for in cash, Masatoshi Kikuchi, strategist at Mizuho Securities, told the *Financial Times*.

Japan's individual investors have become more numerous and active during the economic shutdown, which kept many at home and in search of new interests.

The Nikkei's stellar performance was not matched by the Topix index, which includes a broader range of companies. Although the Topix also gained during the week, it remains below February's pre-pandemic level.

TRENDPOST: *Market players were surprised that foreign investors largely sat out the bull run. Overseas investors also sold \$2 billion worth of Japanese stocks during the week ended 31 October, indicating that those players did not see the September installation of Yoshihide Suga as Japan's new prime minister as a signal the country's economy would rebound soon.*

It should be noted that Japan did not impose draconian lockdown rules as did most western nations, thus keeping businesses and enterprises running as normal.

To date, the nation of 123,335,804 million people has, since the COVID War began in February, lost just 1,829 people to the virus or 0.00148 percent of its total population.

Yet, as with Sweden and other nations that did not impose draconian lockdown rules, it is barely reported in the media or noted by politicians. Instead, they promote re-imposing stricter measures, which previously have failed.

DON'T COUNT ON CHINA, AUSTRALIA TELLS ITS EXPORTERS. Australian exporters should seek markets other than China, government officials told the country's business community in a 5 November conference, after Chinese importers informally conveyed threats to ban Australia's copper, lobster, wine, and other targeted goods.

China already has put punitive tariffs on Australian barley, restricted beef imports from down under, and launched an anti-dumping investigation into wine imports in response to Australia's call for a probe of the origins of the COVID virus in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

Australia will "pay tremendously for its misjudgment" in colluding with the U.S. against China, the state-controlled China Daily newspaper warned in a 6 November editorial.

Trade relations between the two countries are unlikely to improve in the near future, Australian government officials told business executives at the conference, one of whom relayed details of the situation to the *Financial Times*.

Some exporters reported having their goods subjected to lengthy new health and safety inspections or otherwise delayed for unusual reasons. Beijing denies any organized effort to trouble Australian exporters.

Australian officials say their phone calls to Chinese counterparts to discuss the situation are not being returned.

With so much of Australia's businesses tied to Chinese markets, finding substitutes any time soon will be difficult, executives told government representatives.

TRENDPOST: *Talk is cheap, but the words of the Australian government will prove costly if they follow through on their threats. China is Australia's largest trading partner; the two countries exchange Au\$252 billion in goods and services each year, and Australia will not make up the loss trading with other nations.*

AUSTRALIA'S CENTRAL BANK WILL BEGIN BUYING GOVERNMENT

BONDS. On 3 November, the Reserve Bank of Australia announced it will buy \$100 billion worth of state and federal government bonds.

The purchases will keep government borrowing costs low to aid recovery from the economic shutdown. The purchases will go on for six months. Governments will be required to pay back the loans.

The bank also cut its benchmark interest rate from 0.25 percent to 0.1 percent. The action may lower mortgage rates, now averaging about 3 percent nationwide.

ARGENTINA NEARING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COLLAPSE.

The year-old administration of Argentine president Alberto Fernández was elected to haul the country out of a worsening economic recession.

So far, after trying several failed policies, he has been unable to. The failures have cost the government the trust of the public, economists say, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

At the same time, a significant leftist coalition remains loyal to vice-president Cristina Kirchner, Fernández' predecessor in the top office. Critics say her priority is to strengthen her political faction and protect herself from corruption investigations.

"There is complete lack of confidence in the management of the economy and that relates to uncertainty over who is really making economic policy," Benjamin Gedan, Argentina expert at the Wilson Center, told the *Journal*.

After the country defaulted on its debt for the ninth time, Fernández restructured \$65 billion in foreign-held bonds.

However, the economic crisis has continued, with foreign companies closing down and moving out and basic commodities scarce on store shelves.

With no economic reversal in sight, the country's economy and government are nearing collapse, according to analysts.

Fernández blames the crisis on the policies of his predecessor.

TREND FORECAST: Argentina's GDP will contract 12 percent this year, the International Monetary Fund has predicted. Already in the depths of the "Greatest Depression," as the economy worsens, the nation will experience rising social unrest and political turmoil.

TURKEY'S TOP FINANCE EXECUTIVES ARE OUT. After Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan fired the governor of the country's central bank on Saturday, finance and treasury minister Berat Albayrak submitted his resignation after two years in office, citing health reasons.

Albayrak, Erdoğan's son-in-law, has been seen as one of the president's chief allies in the government.

The shake-up worsens pressure on the lira, Turkey's beleaguered currency, which has lost 30 percent of its value this year against the dollar and has bounced along a series of record lows in recent weeks.

During his two years guiding Turkey's finances, Albayrak has been harshly criticized by opposition politicians, foreign investors, and members of his own political party.

Turkey's foreign currency reserves are at their lowest level in 20 years, leading rating agency Moody's to issue a warning in September that the country is increasingly likely to face a crisis in its balance of payments.

Raising interest rates would cool the country's rampant inflation and shore up the lira, but Erdoğan has decried such a move as "the mother and father of all evils" and forced the bank to cut rates several times this year, attempting to energize a feeble economy.

Murat Uysal, the central bank governor just fired, had followed Erdoğan's wishes but still was turfed out after only 16 months on the job.

"It is a bit surprising," Turgut Kisinbay, Research Director at Invesco, told the *Financial Times*. "We are still scratching our heads to understand the trigger" for Uysal's ouster.

Naci Agbal, the bank's new governor, is a former finance minister who earned the regard of international investors while in that post.

Agbal is said to be one of the few people remaining in the Turkish government who adheres to mainstream economic thinking, including the idea that lower interest rates fuel inflation.

GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



BP SELLING ITS LONDON HEADQUARTERS. The British energy giant is negotiating the possible sale of its St. James Square executive offices for £250 million to the Hong Kong-based Investor Lifestyle International Holdings, a department store company, BP confirmed to the *Wall Street Journal*. Cash from the sale would help retire debt incurred to keep the company functioning during the economic shutdown and subsequent collapse of global oil prices.

If the sale is successful, BP will lease back the building, the company said.

BP bought the building from Ericsson, the Swedish cell phone company, in 2001 when oil was a lucrative business.

Since the shutdown, the building has been mostly empty as employees work from home.

BP has said that oil demand may never return to pre-pandemic levels and, in recent years, has shifted its focus from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR SHUTS STORES. The 82-year-old company is permanently closing “multiple” stores around the U.S. after third-quarter revenues dropped 23 percent, falling more than \$65 million short of the company’s \$767-million forecast.

Columbia has already closed eight U.S. stores after shuttering all its European storefronts in March “until further notice.”

“September was our strongest month of the quarter in our U.S. direct-to-consumer business,” CEO Tim Boyle said in a statement announcing the closings, although “we have not seen a sustained improvement in brick-and-mortar store traffic to

date. We anticipate traffic in these markets to remain depressed until tourism resumes."

Columbia will focus on "improving labor efficiency" and renegotiating leases, said Boyle, who has cut his salary to \$10,000 through at least the end of this year.

The number and locations of stores to be closed were not announced but, Boyle added, additional closings are possible.

HILTON HOLDINGS INTERNATIONAL REPORTS LOSS. With the economic shutdown still battering the hospitality industry, hotel chain Hilton said it lost \$79 million, or 28 cents a share in the third quarter. A year earlier, it reported profits of \$288 million, or \$1 a share.

Worldwide, the chain's room occupancy rate was 36 percent below that of the same period in 2019.

Hilton's share price was down 18 percent for the year but rose 5 percent after the 4 November earnings report because the company outperformed analysts' forecasts.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES WARNS OF FIRST-EVER LAYOFFS. Saying that 322 unionized parts workers are refusing to negotiate concessions, the carrier warned it likely will lay off at least 42 of the employees on 11 January.

The layoffs would be the first in the company's 49-year history.

The airline continues to negotiate with other unions.

Southwest has asked its workers to agree to a 10-percent pay cut for one year after other cost-cutting measures failed to stem a third-quarter cash burn of \$16 million a day.

TOWN SPORTS INTERNATIONAL SELLS OUT. The operator of Lucille Roberts gyms and New York Sports Clubs is selling itself out of bankruptcy for about \$85 million to Tacit Capital, a private equity firm. The sale is largely in the form of debt forgiveness.

Tacit also will pay \$1 million to unsecured creditors and assume various Town Sports liabilities.

Tacit plans to keep 69 of the 185 pre-shutdown locations open if leases can be renegotiated to Tacit's liking. So far, 40 have been, the company told the *Wall Street Journal*.

The sale allows Town Sports to preserve more than 1,500 jobs and maintain good relations with vendors and landlords, a company spokesman said in a statement announcing the sale.

PET VALU TO GO OUT OF BUSINESS. The pet supply retailer, with 358 U.S. stores, will close all of its storefronts and warehouses and shut down its headquarters in Wayne, PA.

Sales were crippled by the economic shutdown, the company had said in an earlier statement.

“After a review of all available alternatives, we made the difficult but necessary decision to commence this orderly wind-down,” Jamie Gould, the company’s recently appointed chief restructuring officer, said in a statement announcing the decision.

Pet Valu is owned by Roark Capital Group, a private equity firm.

CEDAR FAIR ENTERTAINMENT REPORTS THIRD-QUARTER LOSS. The Ohio-based theme park owner lost \$136.3 million during the period, compared to a \$190-million profit a year before.

Because of the shutdown, the company’s parks collectively operated for 314 days during the period, against more than 1,000 operating days during the same period in 2019.

The company owns 12 amusement parks, five water parks, and five hotels across the U.S. and Canada.

STARBUCKS TO CLOSE 200 MORE STORES. After announcing in June that 400 North American locations will shut down, the company has added 200 more sites to its list of closures.

Four hundred U.S. stores and 200 in Canada, almost all in urban core areas, are on the hit list.

Because more people are working at home and “going to school” at home, the company has seen consumer patterns shift from urban to suburban, from sitting in cafés to driving through, from early-morning caffeine jolts to mid-morning pick-me-ups, and more weekend business, CEO Kevin Johnson said in an earnings call last week.

Abandoning stores downtown in favor of the suburbs is part of Starbucks' plan to "clear the way for the development of new, more efficient retail store formats that cater to the customers' increasing desire for convenience," CFO Patrick Grismer said on the call.

PAPER'S SUBSCRIPTION UP, REVENUE DOWN. The New York Times Co. posted a 13-percent increase in subscriptions in the third quarter, with online subscriptions surpassing the hard-copy version for the first time, the company said in a statement announcing the quarter's results.

The paper's digital arm added 393,000 subscribers, down sharply from the gain of 669,00 in the second quarter.

Subscriptions accounted for \$301 million of the paper's \$426 million revenue for the quarter; ad revenues fell to \$79.3 million, with print ad sales plunging 47 percent year over year. Miscellaneous revenue from commercial printing, live events, and other sources dipped 2 percent.

Overall, revenue slipped 0.4 percent compared to 2019's third quarter. Quarterly net profits more than doubled to \$33.6 million from \$16.4 million a year earlier.

ESPN CUTS 10 PERCENT OF STAFF. Disney-owned sports network ESPN will lose 10 percent of its workforce through layoffs and attrition, insiders told the *Wall Street Journal* on 5 November.

The network will lay off 300 workers and not fill 200 open positions, CEO Jimmy Pitaro told the staff in a memo.

ESPN is coping with sharply reduced revenues as the sports contests it televised were canceled for months during the economic shutdown.

The move also is part of a plan to refocus the network on digital streaming, Pitaro said in his memo, a shift accelerated by the pandemic and economic shutdown.

"The speed at which change is occurring requires great urgency and we must now [serve] sports fans in myriad new ways," the memo said.

SAINSBURY'S CUTS STORES, JOBS. The British grocery giant is letting go about 3,500 workers as it closes 120 of its 583 Argos department stores around the U.K.

Sainsbury's bought the Argos chain in 2016 and is closing the stores as part of its plan to shut 420 stand-alone Argos stores by mid-2024, the company said in a statement announcing the closures.

The cuts were announced as Sainsbury's reported a £137-million loss this year through 18 September after taking a £438-million charge related to the store closures.

The closures are a response to consumers' migration online, the company said in a statement announcing its financial results.

Online sales rose 117 per cent to £5.8 billion during the period and made up almost 40 percent of total sales.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS *by Gregory Mannarino*

STOCKS, GOLD, SILVER, CRYPTO: GOING HIGHER



As I'm writing this article on 7 November, we are moving past the election. For many months, I have explained that the market was pricing in a Biden win. Immediately following the election, it became clear to the market that Biden would win, and the stock market has responded positively. I fully expect this trend will continue.

As of today, the election has been called with Biden now President Elect, but, perhaps, more importantly, there has been no call on a Senate majority.

A "goldilocks scenario" for the market – a situation that will vault stocks to new record highs in short order – would be a Biden Presidency and a Senate with a

Republican majority. Keep in mind, what I have addressed here so far and moving forward is specifically from a market understanding perspective.

A Biden Presidency and a Republican-controlled Senate is massively stock market positive; it is also heavily dollar negative. A Biden Presidency will issue in a new phase of debt expansion on an epic scale, with multiple trillions of dollars in stimulus packages moving forward.

Understanding that debt is the fuel of the stock market, mass debt acquisition will propel the stock market much higher. Moreover, a Biden Presidency will also bring with it trade deals – something President Trump was unable to do, which is also massively positive for stocks.

U.S. manufacturing will see big gains and create many jobs. We have witnessed the U.S. trade deficit explode in the last two years. Real deals with our global trading partners will see this deficit begin to normalize.

With a Republican-controlled Senate, many of Biden's campaign "promises" will not happen, and, again, this is stock market positive.

Regarding major tax increases, this will not happen.

Regarding Biden's promise to reign in big tech, this, as well, will not happen.

Regarding a "Green deal" of one type or the other: the GOP (with a Senate majority) will assure that big oil remains in control. A propping up of big oil is massively stock market positive. Crude oil is the life blood of the entire energy sector of the market, and it is positive for the financial sector as well. Investment banks have massively leveraged bets on the price of crude oil being high.

Mass debt expansion under a Biden Presidency will also propel gold, silver, and cryptocurrencies much higher as well as hyper-inflating the already "Frankenstein debt bubble."

The U.S. dollar is already under attack from within... by the Federal Reserve's 100 percent determination to kill the dollar in its current form.

See my 27 October article, "[DIGITAL DOLLAR, PARABOLIC DEBT](#)" outlining the dollar's terminal decline and the upcoming move to a 100 percent digital dollar.

These are some of the main things I see happening with a Biden Presidency.

by Gregory Mannarino TradersChoice.net

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM *by Bradley J. Steiner*

MORE THAN ONE ATTACKER



The prospect of having to confront two or more assailants in a street attack or home invasion, carjacking, etc., is not remote. Punks, like jackals, often attack in groups. They feel safer that way and, since they don't want to get injured, their confidence is highest when they outnumber a victim and feel confident their sheer numbers will overwhelm him.

It is, of course, a supreme act of cowardice for individuals to band together and attack someone. And, it certainly shifts the odds in favor of the scum who are the assailants. Still, such a situation is not necessarily hopeless. Our students (Professor Bryans' and my own) have, on a number of occasions over the years, successfully taken defensive action when confronted by two or more street freaks. Invariably they were not only successful but – perhaps surprisingly – they emerged in excellent shape with no serious injuries.

I mention this to offer realistic and justifiable hope, not to encourage anyone to foolishly assume there is some magical way to handle multiple attackers that insures victory every time. Attacks by multiple assailants is, in fact, one of the three “most dangerous” forms of physical attack; forms of attack that pose a deadly threat and danger even to accomplished experts in combatives. Attacks by armed assailants and attacks from behind are the other two types of attack that no one can afford to underestimate, no matter how skilled, powerful, and experienced he may be.

Right off, let me emphasize that you definitely need some serious training in realistic close combat in order to be successful in fending off any violent attack, especially one in which you may be outnumbered.

(While this is not a sales pitch for my product, I will say my [American Combato Home Study Course](#) provides exactly the kind of skills required for dealing with actual, real world violence.)

The types of techniques you need? That's easy to enumerate, but they must be mastered, not merely remembered. When the pressure of violent combat is on, there is no time for conscious deliberation or recollections. You act and act fast, and you resort to that which you've embedded in your motor memory.

Low kicking, using the side or front kick, as demonstrated in our YouTube presentations, as well as open hand chin-jabbing and chopping and kneeing, also demonstrated, are paramount skills. Elbow strikes and fingertips thrusts to eyes, as well as clawing the eyes, are effective.

Nothing fancy and nothing "Bruce-Leeish." Just utterly ruthless, extremely damaging, very simple actions that frankly knock out, maim, or, if necessary to save a life, take a life. Being attacked by more than a single individual justifies the most savage and brutal retaliatory action. Your life is at stake! This is certainly not the time to become affected by compassion, fair play, or rules of sportsmanship. You get one chance to repel the monsters. Make the most of it!

Tactics and mental attitude are always of greatest importance in all self-defense emergencies. Providing you have serious mastery of a relatively small number of quality skills, your tactics and mindset will insure that those skills do the most good.

The following derives from that which we learned years ago from men who have been in actual hand-to-hand combat and whose tactics have been proven to work in real world combat situations.

- When confronted by a clearly threatening approach by two or more adversaries who provoke in you a certainty that their intention is to physically harm you, **ATTACK FIRST!**
- Attack with the greatest possible element of surprise on your side. Explode suddenly.
- Shout and growl like a madman as you drop one of the attackers immediately and dramatically. Break his leg with a hard side kick to his knee; chop him without warning across the throat; drive your fingertips into his eyes. Then, immediately...
- Attack another (or the other if there are only two). Follow this one-after-the-other attacking pattern, rendering each adversary as seriously injured as

opportunity and your capacity permit. Do not stop attacking! Keep on moving and attacking!

- A relentless, ongoing bobbing and weaving body action, during which you lash out, kick out, inflict injury any way you can, must proceed.
- When dealing with multiple attackers, your objective always will be to escape; escape as soon as you have created the opportunity. But do not attempt to flee by turning your back on anyone in the attacking group who remains ambulatory. Escape when you have maimed or rendered completely helpless the pair or the group, so that no member thereof possesses the physical capacity or the will to pursue you. You must in essence, attack and continue to attack like a madman or wild animal. No halting, no cessation, no mercy, no hesitation; just unbridled, all-out ferocity and murderous action.

Obviously, should you be jumped outright, you must instantly react with murderous violence. There is no time to delay. If you hesitate, you may be killed.

If, as I hope will be the case, you will be legally armed with a handgun in any group attack situation, remember this:

You must not go for your concealed weapon when two or more scumbags are within arms' reach of you. They very well may succeed in neutralizing your effort and securing your handgun. Save the pleasant surprise for when you have created *distance*, *time*, and *space* in which you cannot be prevented from accessing your weapon and, if necessary, using it.

Only when you have ample time and distance should you access your weapon. It is unrealistic to expect two or more street punks to stand by and allow you to draw a sidearm.

If you possess a stout walking stick, you have a huge advantage – providing you know how to use it as a weapon, and, of course, if don't need it for assistance.

If you are armed with a knife (lockblade folder of legal blade length), the same caution applies as for a handgun. It takes too much time to draw, open, and use such a knife effectively for you to attempt to access it before you achieve the opening to do so.

A utility knife may be a perfect solution. Inside your pocket, in your hand, you can press the razor blade without being seen and whip the knife suddenly to gash open an attacker's face or throat.

Throwing some gravel or small change (or perhaps a hat or sweater that you are carrying across your arm) into one man's face, and powerfully kicking a second in the testicles or chopping him across the carotid artery or throat may be a workable opening move. But follow up fast! It is your vicious and relentless attack with which the scum had never anticipated that your advantage relies.

Never confront a pair or group of street rodents in a "fighting stance."

Never let them know or feel you intend to resist and that you can.
The element of surprise remains key; be sure to capitalize on it.

I will close by saying that, frankly, you have nothing to lose by taking aggressive action against multiple attackers.

They likely won't leave you in good shape if they are successful. So determine to destroy them first. You'll almost certainly be injured to some degree in the process... but if you escape with superficial injuries and leave them immobile on the sidewalk, you've done a great thing!

by Bradley J. Steiner

2020 COVID-19 TREND REPORT

COVID CASE "SURGE" HYPE



Since the COVID death rates rapidly declined in late May, day after day, week after week, month after month, the mainstream media has blasted the headline news of rising virus "cases."

While they hype the cases, they totally ignore that cases do not equal deaths. Thus, the Presstitutes do not report the recovery rate, which for those aged 1 to 50 years is 99.98 percent.

Also, while pumping case rates, the mainstream media fails to note the largely increased rate of people getting tested. Therefore, in article after article, while they report the rate of rising cases, they rarely note the decline in the virus death rate. When the media does report on the number of those who have died from virus, they don't list the victims ages and if they had pre-existing health conditions.

Below are just a few examples of virus coverage over the past month that has greeted readers with fear-inducing headlines:

“Coronavirus updates: New U.S. cases surpass 128,000, setting record for third straight day” – *Washington Post*, 6 November

“COVID-19 news: US cases surge to record 121,000 infections” – *New Scientist*, 6 November

“Coronavirus Surges: 40 Million Cases Now Reported” – *NPR*, 19 October

“COVID-19: U.S. Breaks Daily Record with Over 99,000 New Cases as Surge Quickens” – *The New York Times*, 31 October

Fake Tests?

Yet, the same *New York Times* that for weeks has been publishing hyper-emotional headlines about a virus “surge” published a revealing article on 29 August which clearly showed how the most common test for identifying people with infectious-level amounts of the virus, known as the PCR test, is significantly flawed and unreliable.

As previously reported in the Trends Journal, the PCR test has been called the “gold standard” by the CDC.

The 29 August NYT article, titled, “Your Coronavirus Test Is Positive. Maybe It Shouldn't Be” makes the below key points.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: As described by Dr. Sebastian Rushworth, a practicing physician in Stockholm, Sweden, here is what is meant by “cycle thresholds”:

“The number of times you choose to cycle through the steps of PCR before you decide there was no virus in the sample after all is known as the cycle

threshold. The number of cycles used to get a positive result is actually a pretty important number because it tells you how much virus is in the sample. The lower the number of cycles required, the more virus is in the sample. The higher the number of cycles, the more likely that the result is a false positive, caused perhaps by having a tiny amount of inactive virus in the respiratory tract, or by contamination of the sample in the lab.”

- “In three sets of testing data that include cycle thresholds, compiled by officials in Massachusetts, New York and Nevada, up to 90 percent of people testing positive carried barely any virus, a review by The Times found.”
- “On Thursday (27 August), the United States recorded 45,604 new coronavirus cases, according to a database maintained by The Times. If the rates of contagiousness in Massachusetts and New York were to apply nationwide, then perhaps only 4,500 of those people may actually need to isolate and submit to contact tracing.”
- “Most tests set the cycle threshold limit at 40, a few at 37. This means that you are positive for the coronavirus if the test process required up to 40 cycles, or 37, to detect the virus. Tests with thresholds so high may detect not just live virus but also genetic fragments, leftovers from infection that pose no particular risk – akin to finding a hair in a room long after a person has left.”
- “Any test with a cycle threshold above 35 is too sensitive, agreed Juliet Morrison, a virologist at the University of California, Riverside. ‘I’m shocked that people would think that 40 could represent a positive,’ she said.”

“A more reasonable cutoff would be 30 to 35, she added. Dr. Michael Mina, an epidemiologist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said he would set the figure at 30, or even less. Those changes would mean the amount of genetic material in a patient’s sample would have to be 100-fold to 1,000-fold that of the current standard for the test to return a positive result – at least, one worth acting on.”

On 17 September, the Center for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) published the following critique of the PCR test for identifying those with infectious rates of the coronavirus:

“A PCR test might find the virus it was looking for. This results in a PCR positive, but a crucial question remains: is this virus active, i.e. infectious or virulent? The PCR alone cannot answer this question... if the PCR detects the virus in the human sample, this detection might correspond to a virus that is now incapable of infecting cells and reproducing.

The CEBM also confirms that “Some PCR manufacturers tell us there is ‘cross contamination’ and ‘non-specific’ interference with a list of viruses in their instruction manuals... PCR manufacturers typically remind the users that ‘the detection result of this product is only for clinical reference, and it should not be used as the only evidence for clinical diagnosis and treatment.’”

The CEBM concludes, “It is highly likely these tests are detecting the virus in patients where the virus is no longer capable of infecting.”

Even in California, where Governor Gavin Newsome has been ordering some of the strictest lockdowns in the country, the Los Angeles Public Health Department web site includes the following:

“No tests give a 100% accurate result; tests need to be evaluated to determine their sensitivity and specificity. For COVID-19, there is no clear-cut gold standard which makes the evaluation of test accuracy challenging. No clinical performance data is required for an EUA (emergency use authorization) and there is limited information on how these different COVID-19 tests perform in real world settings. Note: RT-PCR tests may remain persistently positive for prolonged periods (up to 12 weeks) after a patient has recovered.”

“GOLD STANDARD” COVID TEST INTRINSICALLY FLAWED



Last Friday, John Rappoport, veteran investigative reporter who was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, published the following:

“The COVID delusion is finished, blown apart... smoking gun. Jackpot. Right from the horse’s mouth. Right from the man we’re told is the number one COVID expert in the nation. What Fauci says is the golden truth...”

On the 16 July 16, 2020, podcast, 'This Week in Virology:' Tony Fauci makes a point of saying the PCR COVID test is useless and misleading when the test is run at 35 cycles or higher. He said, '... if you get to [perform the test at] a cycle threshold of 35 or more... the chances of it being replication-confident [a.k.a. accurate] are miniscule... you almost never can culture virus [detect a true positive result] from a 37 threshold cycle... even 36.'"

Rappoport continues,

"What Fauci failed to say on the video is: the FDA, which authorizes the test for public use, recommends the test should be run up to 40 cycles. Not 35. (This is confirmable on the CDC web site). Therefore, all labs in the US that follow the FDA guideline are knowingly or unknowingly participating in fraud. Fraud on a monstrous level, because... The total number of COVID cases in America – which is based on the test – is a gross falsity. The lockdowns and other restraining measures are based on these fraudulent case numbers.

Let me back up and run that by you again. Fauci says the test is useless when it's run at 35 cycles or higher. The FDA says run the test up to 40 cycles, in order to determine whether the virus is there. This is the crime in a nutshell."

Note: Dr. Marie L. Landry, Director of the Clinical Virology Laboratory at Yale New Haven Hospital, made note of the fact that according to the New Times 29 August report, 'In a NY state lab, 50% of recent positives had PCR cycle levels over 35.'"

Additionally, a letter signed in August by hundreds of Belgian doctors stated, "According to the CDC in the United States, reducing it from 40 to 30 test cycles would reduce 'positive cases' by 70% as the test now responds to genetic material and old infections."

Mr. Rappoport cites the 29 August *New York Times* article revelation stating, "This number of amplification cycles need to find the virus, called the cycle threshold, is never included in the results sent to doctors and coronavirus patients."

He concludes, "Millions of Americans are being told they are infected with the virus on the basis of a false positive result... The total number of COVID cases in America – which is based on the test – is a gross falsity."

TRENDPOST: According to The New York Times investigation, when someone having taken the PCR test is told they have tested positive, the important cycle threshold number isn't provided.

Many of those told they are infectious have cycle numbers over 35, which most likely means while the coronavirus is present, it's at such a low level the person isn't infectious, according to a number of infectious disease experts including Dr. Anthony Fauci.

It should also be noted that on 29 September, Science Magazine wrote this about the "gold standard" PCR test: "The same sample can give different CT (cycle threshold) values on different testing machines, and different swabs from the same person can give different results. 'The CT value isn't an absolute scale,' says Marta Gaglia, a virologist at Tufts University. That makes many clinicians wary.'"

500 ACADEMICS TELL U.K.'S JOHNSON OFFICIAL DATA "EXAGGERATING" COVID RISK



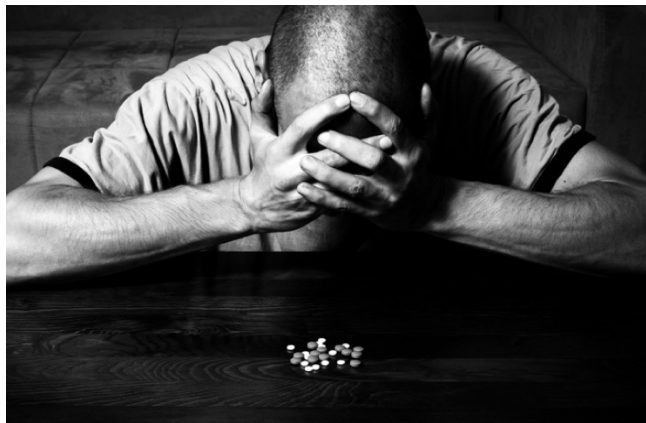
An open letter signed by 500 academics in the U.K. told Prime Minister Boris Johnson that his government's response to the coronavirus second wave has become "disproportionate" and raised questions about widespread testing.

"We urge policymakers to remember that this pandemic, like all pandemics, will eventually pass but the social and psychological damage that it is causing risks becoming permanent," the letter read. "After the initial, justifiable response to COVID-19, the evidence base now shows a different picture," the letter said, according to the *Daily Mail* website.

Johnson's new lockdown restrictions, announced last week, will continue until 2 December. The restrictions impact bars and restaurants, which can only provide takeout, and it limits the reasons citizens can leave their homes.

The letter also questioned the widespread testing and the “problem of functional false positive rates,” and that these false positives are “likely to exceed true positives substantially and moreover correlate poorly with the person being infectious.” (See our article in this issue, “[‘GOLD STANDARD’ COVID TEST INTRINSICALLY FLAWED.](#)”)

LOCKDOWN MADNESS: CURE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE



The American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) is the non-profit think tank that was the driving force behind the Great Barrington Declaration. (See our 13 October article, “[THE GREAT BARRINGTON DECLARATION: NO COVID FEAR.](#)”)

As reported in the **Trends Journal**, released on 4 October and signed by over 10,000 scientists, doctors, and public health officials, the report called for an end to all lockdowns based on the damage they are creating.

As we forecast in the **Trends Journal** in March, the AIER predicted the negative effects of lockdowns that same month when they published the document titled, “Drugs, Suicide and Crime: Empirical Estimates of the Human Toll of the Shutdown.” Some of the key points made:

- “We have already started to see some of these human effects as the unemployment has quickly rocketed beyond even the early initial projections. A rise in unemployment is correlated with a number of negative socio-economic effects. For some, these effects can be quite deadly, particularly when the changes are rapid as is currently the case.”
- “In a 2018 study, Bruguera, et al, found that of the 180 drug users they surveyed about use during the Great Recession, 58.3% reported an increase in

use while only 25.6% reported decreasing use, resulting in greater all-drug use for the period. Similarly, Mulia, et al, (2014) connects a rise in alcoholism to economic loss during the Great Recession.”

- “The deaths related to economic downturns go beyond those from chemical dependency, also. The mental toll is not inconsequential. For example, Blakely, et al, (2003) find that being unemployed may also increase the risk of suicide two to threefold. Milner, et al, (2014) similarly finds that unemployment is associated with a higher relative risk of suicide, with prior mental health issues being a key factor in that association.”
- “Increased harm to oneself is not the only harm caused by economic downturns. There is also the threat of rising crime in general. Ajimotokin, et al, (2015) estimate that a one percent change in unemployment will increase the property crime rate by 71.1 per 100,000 people and the violent crime rate by 31.9 per 100,000 people.”

The article ends with this prescient warning:

“It is vitally important, literally life and death, that the proper costs and benefits are weighed with the decision on how much and how long to shut down economic activity through the pandemic.”

COVID Data Update: “Death by Lockdown”

How substantive was the concern that an extensive shutdown would cause rampant health problems separate from COVID? Here is information provided by the CDC on 23 October:

“Overall, an estimated 299,028 excess deaths have occurred in the United States from late January through October 3, 2020, with two thirds of these attributed to COVID-19. The largest percentage increases were seen among adults aged 25-44 years and among Hispanic or Latino (Hispanic) persons.”

The CDC then editorializes by stating,

“These results provide information about the degree to which COVID-19 deaths might be under ascertained and inform efforts to prevent mortality directly or indirectly associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, such as efforts to minimize disruptions to health care.”

Note the term “under ascertained,” which implies that some of the remaining one-third of excess deaths (some 100,000) might also have been caused by COVID-19.

Left out is the point made frequently in the **Trends Journal** that often “COVID-19” is listed as cause of death when it was likely something else.

For example, in our 14 April issue, we quoted Dr. Scott Jenson, physician and state senator from Minnesota, who stated during a March press conference, “I know I’ve talked with nursing staff... and led to believe that there may have been a COVID-19 diagnosis included on the death certificate document without having had a COVID-19 confirmed laboratory test.”

One more example of over-stating COVID deaths rather than “under ascertaining” as the CDC claims: on the Mississippi State Department of Health website, the following appears in the section titled, “COVID-19 Death Reporting: Questions and Answers for Medical Examiners, Coroners, and Physicians”:

“If the death is a suspected/probable COVID-19 case, should the physician indicate that on the death certificate? Yes, the physician should list Probable COVID-19 as the Cause of Death in Part I, or if there is a reasonable likelihood that COVID-19 contributed to the death then list COVID-19 as the cause of death in Part II.”

Jeffrey A. Tucker, Editorial Director for the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER), published a 2 November article titled, “Death by Lockdown” to update his group’s assertions made in March that an extended lockdown would cause enormous health concerns above and beyond the effects of COVID-19.

Commenting on the 23 October CDC report confirming some 300,000 excess deaths in the U.S. compared to previous years with at least one-third not attributable to COVID-19, Mr. Tucker writes:

“That’s the CDC’s way of saying: these policies (lockdowns) are killing people. As for minimizing disruptions to health care, a major factor here is that people have been completely avoiding getting health care this year, for fear of COVID, for fear of contract tracing, and also because many medical services have been forcibly reserved for people with COVID, and to hell with everyone else. Cancer screenings, routine checkups, normal procedures, to say nothing of dentistry have certainly been disrupted. Now we can see the carnage in plain daylight.”

Mr. Tucker quotes Scott W. Atlas, Chief of Neuroradiology at Stanford University Medical Center from 1998 until 2012 and currently a senior fellow and health care investigator at Stanford’s Hoover Institution:

“The Centers for Disease Control has documented a shocking number of excess deaths not from COVID:

- Hispanic: 40% excess deaths NOT COVID related
- Black: 46% NOT COVID related
- White: 38% NOT COVID related
- 25-44: 77% excess deaths NOT COVID related
- 65+: 39% NOT COVID related.”

Mr. Tucker concludes his updated analysis of the extended lockdown:

“The most startling data concerns the age group 25-44. This is a group with a COVID-related infection fatality rate of 0.0092%, which is to say barely a disease at all for nearly everyone in this group. And yet they are dying at a rate far above what is expected, and mostly from issues not related to COVID. There should not be any excess deaths. Instead we find people dropping dead in ways that are shocking.”

MEDICAL EXPERTS: “REVERSE THE LOCKDOWN”



The *Brussels Times* published an article on 27 August with the headline, “Hundreds of medical experts question Belgium’s coronavirus policy in 2 open letters.”

The article reported two open letters signed by doctors, medical researchers, lawyers, and economists that call into the question the legitimacy of testing for COVID and the strict lockdowns based on faulty data.

Excerpts from the first letter, published on 27 August and signed by 40 authors, include:

“The crisis is being managed by a handful of experts appointed on the basis of unknown and unclear criteria. Too many decisions taken in recent months have an unfounded scientific basis. All too often, the direct and indirect impact of the measures has been underestimated.”

“Citizens have the right to objective and honest information... the current climate of COVIDophobia is completely unjustified and generates harmful anxiety for a large part of the population.”

Excerpts from the second letter, signed on 24 August by hundreds of doctors, nurses, medical researchers, scientists, and other healthcare professionals, include:

- “Based on nine months of scientific data, it increasingly appears the current measures are disproportionate. A recent article in The Lancet clearly states that no link has been found between the measures imposed and the number of deaths. Social distancing appears to be based on dated articles published between 1894 and 1940. Furthermore, the efficiency of face masks is debatable as aerosols (virus particles) move over distances of up to 8 meters even when using them.”
- “We therefore question the current approach and demand on the one hand scientific justification and an evaluation of the collateral damage. On the other hand, we propose to move to a reverse lockdown that can proportionally protect these groups that benefit from this and to phase out actions that negatively influence the socio-psychological well-being of the population and thus cause very great damage.”
- “During the first lockdown, the focus was on hospital admissions and deaths. Now that there are relatively few deaths and hospital admissions to report, communication is being conducted around the increasing number of infections. Infections that say nothing in themselves. A review study clearly shows that ‘positive tests’ can occur in previously experienced illnesses or in patients who are non-infectious. Test patients for strep, staph, cold (corona) viruses and many will test positive. We seem to forget that we live in symbiosis with pathogens.”
- “In addition to the fact that there is still no evidence on the usefulness of open-air face masks, this is massively encouraged. It is plausible that this can contribute when social distancing cannot be guaranteed, although the latter is also a precursor without much scientific basis.

- Our society is subject to strict hygiene rules for more than 8 months. For years we have been trying to sensitize the health care sector to abandon over-hygienic measures, since research shows that these have a detrimental effect on our immunity. Physiologically we need contact with pathogens to keep the adaptive immune system active. For several weeks now, the mouth mask obligation has also been introduced. We are in danger of drifting towards possibly a greater susceptibility to all kinds of pathogens. The collateral damage from increases in allergies, myocardopathies, and higher susceptibility to influenza and corona strains is likely to cause more damage.”
- “The maligned Sweden has now shown that we can limit this damage. Their death rate of 5,776 on 82,852 tests scores is in any case better than Belgium, and this without mandatory use of mouth mask and over-hygienic measures. The Swedish data is perfectly comparable with Belgium: about the same number of inhabitants, comparable number of inhabitants in the major cities (98% of Sweden is uninhabited). We also differ little in terms of socio-demography, degree of urbanization and medical care.”

The letter concludes:

“In short, protect those who need it, let the rest of the population move freely so that the disease can spread naturally. It will eventually weaken the virus.

Let us set an example for the rest of the world with our country and question ourselves, evolve towards a scientific-critical analysis without taboos and dare to opt for a reverse lockdown. There is no zero risk, let’s live together with Sars-Cov-2 in a healthy way.”

Note: [Click here](#) to read the complete letter and view the professional range of signatories.

COVID COMPARED TO SEASONAL FLU



One of the most important questions continually being asked by those opposing the continued lockdowns in so many countries is whether or not the coronavirus is in reality much more dangerous than seasonal flu. One of the main reasons given is the higher death rate.

According to a report on Livescience.com, “The death rate from seasonal flu is typically around 0.1%.”

In May, when the report was published, it noted, “Researchers from Columbia University recently estimated the fatality rate from COVID-19 at 0.06 percent, or six times greater than seasonal flu.”

As some medical experts have been claiming for months, the COVID-19 death rate is significantly lower than reported because of the high level of underreported cases.

Now we have key information Dr. Michael Ryan, Head of Emergencies at the WHO, who stated on 5 October, “About 10% of the global population may have been infected by the coronavirus.”

Using this updated data from the WHO, the website offguardian.org published an article on 8 October: “W.H.O. (Accidentally) Confirms COVID is No More Dangerous Than Flu.” The article states,

“The global population is roughly 7.8 billion people, if 10% have been infected that is 780 million cases. The global death toll currently attributed to Sars-Cov-2 infections is 1,061,539. That’s an infection fatality rate of roughly or 0.14%. Right in line with seasonal flu and the predictions of many experts from all around the world.”

The article also notes that a fatality rate of 0.14 percent for COVID-19 “is over 24 times LOWER than the WHO’s ‘provisional figure’ of 3.4% back in March. This figure was used in the models which were used to justify lockdowns and other draconian policies.”

TRENDPOST: *While the mainstream media continues to use the higher infection rate of COVID as a reason to support lockdowns, they leave out the fact that this means the actual death rate of COVID-19 is significantly less threatening than reported and more in line with seasonal flu.*

*As for the fact that the virus is much more contagious than seasonal flu, as reported in the 13 October **Trends Journal**, The Great Barrington Declaration, signed by over 10,000 scientists, doctors, and public health officials, pointed to a strategy of “Focused Protection.” This calls for putting in more safety measures for those at greatest risk – the elderly with pre-existing health problems – while minimizing the enormous harm being inflicted on hundreds of millions of people by the extensive lockdowns.*

As The Great Barrington Declaration makes clear, “Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as normal. Simple hygiene measures, such as hand washing and staying home when sick should be practiced by everyone.” This is supported by the letter signed by hundreds of Belgian physicians and scientists coming to the same conclusion. (See our article in this issue, [“MEDICAL EXPERTS: ‘REVERSE THE LOCKDOWN’”](#).)

More Misinformation

Last May, a Stanford University study contradicted the estimates for COVID-19 death rates from Dr. Anthony Fauci, who on 11 March stated in congressional testimony, “People always say the flu does this, the flu does that. The flu has a mortality of 0.1%. This has a mortality 10 times that. That’s the reason I want to emphasize we have to stay ahead of the game of preventing this.”

The Stanford University study, as reported by the **Trends Journal** at the time, was led by Dr. John Ioannides, a distinguished Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Population Health. He claimed in May the death rate from COVID-19 would be well under 1 percent. He wrote: “While COVID-19 is a formidable threat, the fact that its IFR (infection fatality rate) is much lower than originally feared, is a welcome piece of evidence.” He added, “At a very broad, bird’s eye view level, worldwide the IFR of COVID-19 this season may be in the same ballpark as the IFR of influenza.”

Updating the True Picture

On 6 October, the CDC published an article to answer the question, “What is difference between Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19?” They state, “COVID-19 seems to spread more easily than flu and causes more serious illnesses in some people. It can also take longer before people show symptoms and people can be contagious for longer.”

TRENDPOST: *The new estimates from the WHO (cited above) that some 10 percent of the world’s population has been infected with COVID-19 confirms what legitimate medical studies, such as the Stanford University report from May, reveal: the high rates of death from COVID-19 predicted by government leaders and their public health officials, used to justify the global shutdown, are now being proven to be dramatically inflated.*

The actual fatality rate from COVID-19 is looking more and more likely to end up in the same percentage range of seasonal flu. As far as the news that COVID is far more contagious than flu and, as the CDC stated, “causes more serious illnesses in some people,” we’ve known for many months who these “some people” are: the elderly with serious pre-existing health issues, the clinically obese and significantly overweight, those with type 2 diabetes, and those with chronic health or lung issues.

Thus, they can be better protected while the vast majority of people not vulnerable to the virus can get their freedoms back.

EUROPEAN BUSINESSES BRISTLE AT NEW LOCKDOWNS



Europeans with lockdown fatigue have taken to the streets in protest over their governments’ decisions to enforce new mandates aimed to fight the spread of the second wave of COVID on the continent.

Irate protesters said their businesses were devastated by the first round of lockdowns that began in March and the new round will put them out of business.

“What we want is not just aid money,” Francis Palombi, head of the Confederation of French Traders, told the *Financial Times*. “We want above all to open, open, open!”

The second wave of virus infections on the continent has prompted governments to implement similar lockdown standards enforced during the first wave. Reports indicate small business owners like bakers, restaurateurs, and theater-owners were willing to accept the first mandates because so much about the virus was new.

But many business owners now appear to be scoffing at the new mandates because more is understood about the virus, who it affects, and why. They say the previous lockdown measures failed, and now the governments are doubling down on failure. They also say the economy should not be a casualty for a disease that is only dangerous to a small percentage of the population.

French President Emmanuel Macron has been criticized by small business merchants who say the mandates in France clearly benefit the mega-chains and online stars like Amazon.

“You have small traders against whom the big retailers are competing and so you say, ‘OK, no competition, we’ll shut down everything for everybody,’ and at the end of the day, it’s a godsend for Amazon, which will be the only name able to sell in this period of lockdown,” Olivier Faure, the leader of France’s Socialist party, told *France 2* television, the *FT* reported.

Getting Worse

The European Commission warned last Thursday that Europe’s planned recovery could be weaker than previously assumed due to the virus’ resurgence, *Fortune* magazine reported. The EU’s GDP for 2021 is expected to come in at 4.1 percent, followed by 3 percent in 2022, which means the recovery would take at least two years “until the European economy comes close to regaining its pre-pandemic level.”

ITALY. As we have reported, protests have broken out across Italy over Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte’s orders that essentially break up the country into three zones, based on infection rates in each area.

In Milan, which has the strictest guidelines, residents and business owners have lockdown fatigue. Despite rules against eating outside, people have been seen standing outside cafés drinking coffee despite the orders.

One taxi driver, who was protesting lockdown orders just outside Rome, told *Reuters* he simply cannot afford to not work. “We don’t have money to pay the monthly costs of our vehicles, we don’t have enough money to provide for our families,” he said.

Reuters reported that Prime Minister Conte justified the measures and compared the virus to a train. “We hope these latest measures will only last a few weeks,” he said. “The virus is like a train on the move. Today we need to slow down, otherwise, this train will hit us.”

TRENDPOST: Again, when the virus first hit Italy in February, the average age of those who died was over 80 years old. Of those who are dying of the virus now, the media doesn’t report ages and pre-existing illnesses. In addition, throughout Europe, some 50 percent of the victims were from eldercare homes, yet this fact is also ignored by the press.

Conte’s remark that the virus is “like a train that will hit us” is juvenile and moronic. Indeed, it is a train that will hit those most susceptible to the virus, but not the entire Italian population. And, as with all statements by politicians and the media, there is no mention of people building their immune systems, eating healthy, getting in better shape... or a mention of vitamin and other natural remedies.

Instead, it is only the vaccine that counts, and, now, as reported yesterday, the vaccine countdown has begun: U.S. Big Pharma giant Pfizer and German biotech firm BioNTech announced their coronavirus vaccine was “more than 90 percent effective in preventing Covid-19.”

GREECE. Greece announced a nationwide strict lockdown that includes a ban on all non-essential travel, wearing of masks indoors and outdoors in any public place, plus the following regulations that went into effect on Saturday:

“Citizens are allowed movement (with identification on them) outdoors only for the following reasons:

- To go and return from work during working hours,
- To go to a pharmacy or attending an appointment with a doctor,

- To go to the supermarket if it is not possible for groceries to be delivered,
- To go to a public service office with a scheduled appointment and to the bank strictly if online transactions are not possible,
- To provide assistance to people in need or to accompany young students (minors) to/from school,
- To exercise outdoors (jogging) or walk a pet, solitary or strictly in pairs and observing the necessary distance of 1.5 meters from one another.”

Violators of the rules would be fined up to 300 euros.

On Friday night, before this second lockdown took place, anti-lockdown protesters, comprised mostly young people, clashed with police.

TREND FORECAST: *To young people, COVID-19 is an “old people’s disease.” We continue to note this is a key market sector to provide goods and services that address their emotions, needs, and desires, which currently are not being fulfilled.*

GERMANY. Virtually unreported in the American press, this past Saturday, some 20,000 Germans protested in Leipzig over new lockdown measures that will extend throughout November, according to DW.com. There were violent clashes with police that involved “numerous attacks against security forces,” police said.

Germany has had a total of 11,226 deaths and a daily record of 23,000 new cases. The protesters called on Chancellor Angela Merkel to step down and chanted, “Peace, Freedom, No Dictatorship!”

The *FT* reported Merkel used “uncharacteristically emotional language” in her address to the nation and said if her country abides by the orders and infection levels drop, Germany may be able to have a “bearable December.”

Merkel ridiculed those opposing her dictates saying her measures were met with “doubts, skepticism, and hostility” and that the “virus punishes half-heartedness.”

She “urged” citizens to accept the rules because they “don’t have any other option.”

TRENDPOST: *We note the demeaning language used by Ms. Merkel, which the press accepts and promotes as well, for all those who do not want to give up their rights and freedom to join the COVID War.*

For example, Ms. Merkel dismisses anyone not believing what she is selling as having unwarranted “doubts.” And, the people have no right to express “skepticism” of what she believes nor show “hostility” for losing their businesses, lives, and livelihoods.

Moreover, in what is sold as a democracy, she told the citizens of Slavelandia they “don’t have any other option” than to obey her.

TRENDPOST: *Totally ignored by Presstitutes and politicians is the fact that after nine months of fighting the COVID War, Germany, with 83,879,886 people, registered 11,657 virus related deaths or just 0.0139 of its population. Yet, yet draconian lockdown rules are imposed. When people protest, don’t believe what they are told, and fight for their freedom, they are chastised.*

Furthermore, this is the same Western media that continually champions New York Governor Andrew Cuomo as the supreme commander of the COVID War, whose state of 19.5 million has registered some 33,840 virus deaths, which equals 0.1735 percent of the population.

U.K. Anti-lockdown protests erupted in London last Thursday, resulting in 190 arrests. One protester could face a €10,000 fine for allegedly organizing the protest, the *BBC* reported.

The *Guardian* reported that the protest in central London was called the “Million Mask March.”

“My business has closed again, and it was closed for six months,” a woman from the city told the paper. “I managed to get nine weeks [of sales]. Last Thursday was the first day that I felt it was getting back to how it used to be, and then Saturday we got the lockdown news.”

Last week, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new month-long lockdown after the country confirmed one million COVID cases. Under the guidelines, bars, restaurants, and other non-essential shops will remain closed, and residents can only leave their homes for specific reasons, such as exercise.

MUTATION FEARS: 17M FARMED MINK KILLED IN DENMARK



The rulers of Copenhagen blasted fear of a new strain of COVID emerging in its farmed mink population and called for the killing of 17 million animals at 1,000 farms over concerns about animal-to-human transmission.

Danish “experts” warned that the mutation appearing in mink at these farms could potentially interfere with future vaccines. They said minks are known to spread the virus in their close quarters and become very sick, very quickly.

The *BBC* reported 200 people have been infected in Demark from mink. The variant in the disease in 12 cases is reportedly less sensitive to protective antibodies.

Scientists said there is nothing concrete about the new strain or its impact on humans.

“Every time the virus spreads between animals it changes, and if it changes too much from the one that is circulating within humans at the moment, that might mean that any vaccine or treatment that will be produced soon might not work as well as it should do,” Dr. Marisa Peyre, an epidemiologist from the French research institute Cirad, told the *BBC*.

TRENDPOST: Back in the 1980s and early ‘90s, as the economy slowed, anti-fur protests broke out across the United States. However, with the dot.com boom and the “shop until you drop” mentality becoming the American Way, fur coat sales rebounded.

We note this, since, despite the major media coverage, there was no mention of anti-fur movements relative to the slaughter of several million animals. Second, while there are reports of 200 people infected from minks in Denmark, a nation of 5.8 million people, there were no reports of deaths from the animals.

OUT OF THE NEWS: WHY COVID KILLS NURSING HOMES RESIDENTS



As we have been reporting since the start of the COVID War, nursing homes in the U.S. and Europe account for, on average, some 50 percent of all COVID-19 deaths.

Not only have there been tens of thousands of deaths at these locations since the start of the virus outbreak, some elder care facilities are now reporting they are understaffed and their workforce is at dangerously low levels.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported more than 300 U.S. nursing homes have said they have had at least one day where staff levels fell below 40 percent when compared to the same time in 2019.

The report said some of the reasons included sick workers and workers who were forced to self-quarantine because they were exposed to the virus.

David Grabowski, Professor of Healthcare Policy at Harvard Medical School, told the *WSJ* that when staffing levels get that low, it becomes a risk for the residents. The paper reported there have been 88,000 COVID-related deaths at these facilities, which accounts for about 40 percent of all recorded COVID deaths.

TRENDPOST: Since February, the ***Trends Journal*** has been reporting that when the coronavirus first hit the U.S., the first casualties were hundreds of nursing home residents from Washington State.

The current estimate is, at minimum, some 40 percent of virus-related deaths occurred in these long-term facilities. As we reported, nursing homes, however, did not have to report how many of their residents died of the virus until after early May, when the death rate began to subside.

Moreover, we also reported that in New York State, patients who were ill with the virus in nursing homes and then sent to hospitals were not counted as dying in nursing homes.

We continue to report on who is dying of the virus, why, and where to illustrate the evidence that these extreme, draconian lockdown measures were pointless in stopping the virus, and they have proven deadly to tens of millions who have lost their businesses, jobs, livelihoods... and lives.

We believe the U.S. should have taken steps to protect the country's most vulnerable while allowing some semblance of normal life to continue for the vast majority of the population.

The CDC reported that 2.1 million people live in these long-term care providers, which include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day service centers, home health care, and hospices. That represents 0.6 percent of the U.S. population, according to The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, a non-profit think tank. The think tank said 85 percent of COVID-related deaths in countries such as Ireland and Canada occurred in these facilities. Yet, the lockdowns persist.

UTAH GOVERNOR: GET MASKED



On Sunday, Utah Governor Gary Herbert ordered a face covering mandate, declaring that the efficacy of mask wearing was not open to discussion and the state “cannot afford to debate this issue any longer.”

“Individual freedom is certainly important, and it is our rule of law that protects that freedom,” Herbert said, but he discarded the laws by declaring, “Laws are put in place to protect all of us. That’s why we have traffic lights, speed limits, and seatbelts, and that’s why we now have a mask mandate.”

The dictates include requiring face coverings whenever state residents are within six feet of someone who does not live in their household.

The mandate went into effect on Monday and will continue until 23 November, the report said. The state, which has a population of some 3.2 million, had 2,386 additional cases on Sunday and 424 people are currently hospitalized. There have been a total of 132,000 confirmed cases and 659 deaths.

Anyone disobeying the mask mandate could face fines up to \$10,000.

TRENDPOST: While the governor speaks about individual freedom, he completely disregards it by imposing rules that were not voted on by the representative state government.

Furthermore, Utah, with a population of 3.2 million and 659 virus victims since the COVID War was launched in March, has registered a death rate of 0.0205 percent.

As for Herbert's statement regarding laws to have "traffic lights, speed limits, and seat belts," in 2018, 1,284 people died from car accidents – twice the number that have died thus far in 2020 from COVID.

NY STATE BAR RECOMMENDS COVID VACCINE BE MANDATORY



The New York State Bar Association said the state should consider making any future coronavirus vaccine mandatory and created a task force to address the “unique legal and ethical questions” the disease raises.

Law 360, a legal news service, reported the state bar came up with its position just days before Pfizer announced a potential breakthrough and a vaccine that could “prove to be 90% effective.” Health officials have said a vaccine could help speed up the process of the world achieving herd immunity.

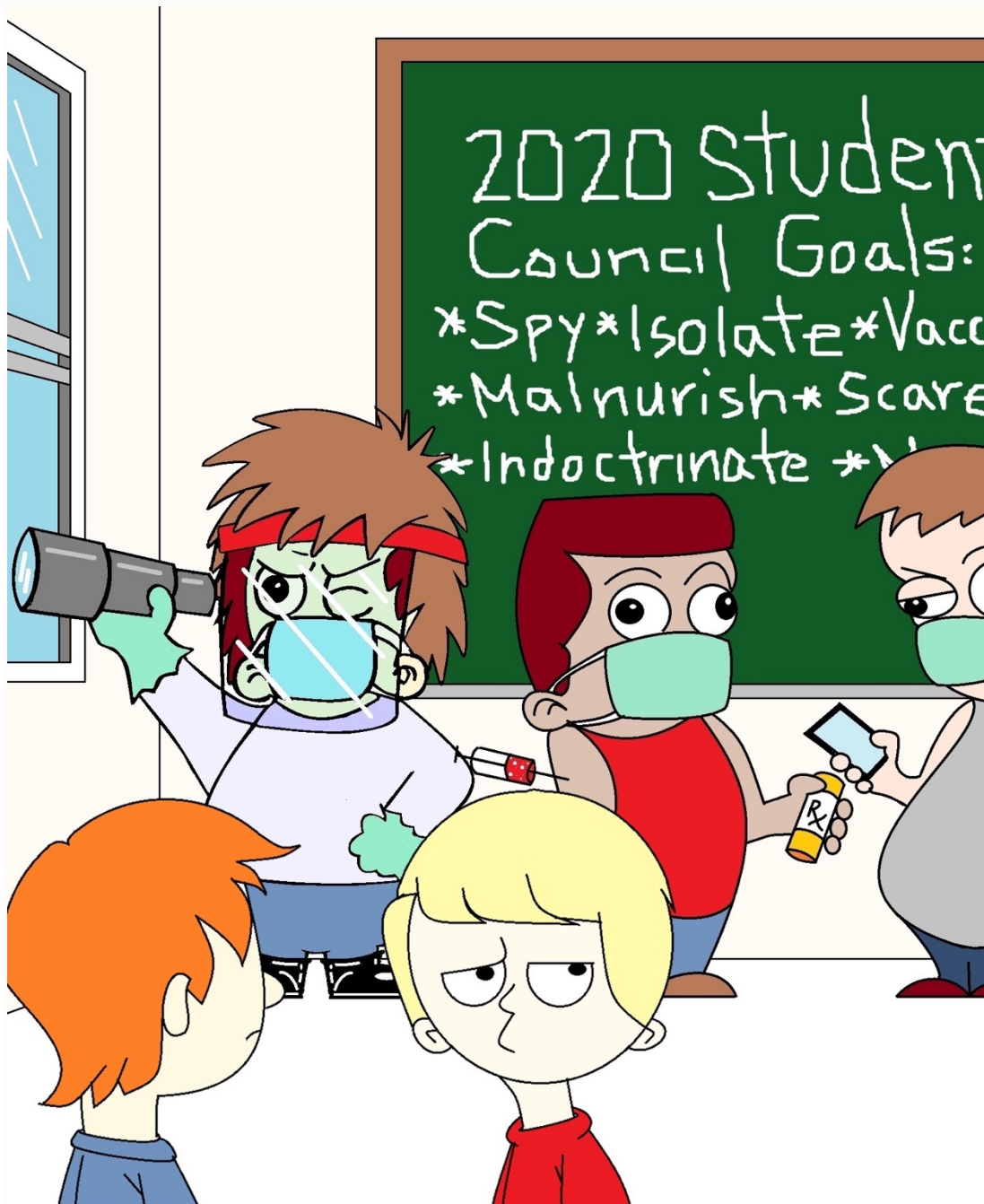
Mary Beth Morrissey, Chair of the NYSBA Health Law Section's COVID-19 Task Force, said in a statement obtained by Law 360, "The authority of the state to respond to a public health crisis is well-established in constitutional law. It may become necessary to require that certain individuals or communities be vaccinated, such as health care workers and students, to protect the public's health."

PrecisionVaccinations.com reported that 15 states allow "philosophical exemptions." Law.com reported the New York State Bar has called for the vaccination even if people reject it on philosophical grounds.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast, there will be strong "Anti-Vax" movements in the United States and western nations as vaccination mandates are imposed upon the general population. It should be noted they were gaining strength before the COVID War in Italy and the U.S. began. Again, anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-establishment, "Off With Their Heads 2.0" will be among the major political platforms.*

THE ART OF TRENDS

"ELECTIONS OR SELECTIONS?" by Stephen Green



"I'm telling you, the whole thing is rigged."

THE PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®

MEDIA CALLS BIDEN WINNER, TRUMP SAYS HE'S WINNER. SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE?



President Trump has maintained that he will continue to challenge the outcome of the 2020 presidential elections after allegations of widespread voter fraud and counting irregularities which have emerged in ballot-counting centers in key swing states.

The election between President Trump and Joe Biden, his Democrat opponent, was razor-thin in states like Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, and Nevada. Even if Biden, who is seen as a moderate in a party shifting farther left, ends up being certified the winner, political observers say the victory was far from a public rebuke of Trump's last four years.

The *Associated Press* pointed out that shortly after the race was called for Biden, Trump came out with his own statement that read, "Beginning Monday, our campaign will start prosecuting our case in court to ensure election laws were fully upheld and the rightful winner is seated."

That effort could take the Trump campaign to the Supreme Court. Justice Samuel Alito, who was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2005, signed an order that forced the Pennsylvania election boards to separately count mail ballots obtained after 3 November.

The court rejected the Republican effort to get the state to stop counting ballots until there is more transparency. *The Hill* reported this case would only affect the national election if Trump's success hinged on Pennsylvania, nicknamed the "Keystone State."

The *AP* reported that, unlike Bush vs. Gore in 2000, Trump would theoretically be fighting over several states. The report said Chief Justice John Roberts has shown an unwillingness in the past to mingle the High Court with political disputes. Thus far, President Trump's claims of widespread election fraud have been unsubstantiated.

Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal attorney, vowed to file a lawsuit in Pennsylvania over allegedly not being allowed to "inspect if a single one of those ballots is legitimate."

"That is unheard of, it's illegal, it's unconstitutional, and we will bring an action challenging that."

The former New York City mayor held a press conference, joined by three Republican poll watchers who all claim they were kept out of the counting room. Some of the questions raised is why down-ballot Democrats in these cities did not see the same support that Biden benefited from, so these voters were just checking off the presidential column on their ballots, which is seen as unusual.

Professor Kevin MacDonald wrote in the *Occidental Observer* there is "a huge uncertainty about how the election will turn out." He wrote that when he went to bed on election night, it seemed Trump was overperforming across the U.S., winning more support from Latinos and African-Americans than any Republican president in history.

But then he woke up and saw every race tighten. Professor McDonald blamed what he said appears to have been "massive fraud – unprecedented stopping of vote counting on Tuesday night, vote-dumps in the middle of the night in Wisconsin and Michigan in which 100% of the votes went to Biden."

"The folks who firmly believe that Putin rigged the 2016 election and studiously ignore how supposedly neutral platforms like Google, Twitter and Facebook have tilted their coverage in favor of the Democrats, now would have us believe that Democrats would not do anything to cheat," he wrote.

President Trump said in a statement, "We all know why Joe Biden is rushing to falsely pose as the winner, and why his media allies are trying so hard to help him: They don't want the truth to be exposed. The simple fact is this election is far from over."

The disgraced former Illinois governor, Rod Blagojevich, told *Newsmax TV* that election fraud is a serious problem in these Democrat-controlled cities.

“I don’t think it’s just confined to Philadelphia,” he told the station. “Coming out of the Democratic Chicago political establishment, I know how they operate. It’s a time-honored tradition.”

He said one of the tactics employed is stopping the vote counts when it appeared your favored candidate is lagging.

“They just want to be Donald Trump at all costs,” Blagojevich said. He called the current situation a critical moment in the nation’s history.

Pro-Trump protests have broken out across the U.S. after the media announced the Biden victory. One of the protests emerged outside Michigan’s state capitol in Lansing. Signs read, “It’s not over” and protesters chanted, “We won!”

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *In last week’s **Trends Journal**, I forecast that against all the odds and despite the polls giving Joe Biden a 10-point lead, either President Trump would win the race for the White House or the election would be “too close to call.”*

Subsequently, in my “Trends in The News” video broadcasts last week, I had forecast numerous lawsuits would be filed by the Trump administration, and the race would finally be decided by the United States’ Supreme Court.

Now, with each passing day, there are new accusations of voter fraud committed in Democrat-controlled swing states where President Trump had large leads but then lost them to Joe Biden.

PELOSI ATTACKED BY FELLOW DEMS



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi failed to protect Democrats from being attacked as socialists and tied to the extreme left wing of the party, which contributed to the loss of several congressional seats, according to colleagues in the House.

The *Washington Post* reported Democrats held a tense call that lasted more than three hours, which included many members feeling dismayed that they failed to have a better showing in light of President Trump's popularity and handling of the coronavirus.

Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-Va., reportedly got heated and said, "We need to not ever use the word 'socialist' ever again... We lost good members because of that." She continued, "If we are classifying Tuesday as a success... we will get f**ing torn apart in 2022."

Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that movements such as "Defund the police" hurt the party.

"Some titles hurt," Richmond said in an interview. "'Defunding the police' is a title that hurts Democrats, especially when the fact of the matter is nobody is calling for defunding the police. We're calling for reinventing how we police communities in this country, how we do criminal justice."

The paper, citing multiple people who were on the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity, reported that centrists in the party blamed positions like "defunding the police" as one of the major vulnerabilities.

As of last Friday, Pelosi's House lost seven incumbents. *Politico* reported the number could increase to about a dozen. The report said the fallout "means the House is indeed in play in 2022."

Pelosi said, "We held the House, that was our goal. If we could win more, that would be good. We're still in the hunt for a number of seats right now."

She said Democrats lost some battles but "we won the war. We have the gavel."

President Trump and his supporters have pointed to the down-ticket Democrats and their lack of success as evidence Biden's success in swing states should be looked at again. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Pelosi's comment on winning the war was troublesome to centrist lawmakers who say policies such as the "Green New Deal" will continue to haunt the party.

"I think progressives are going to make this argument that Democrats just weren't progressive enough," said Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla. "Either they are already

partaking in the mushrooms that D.C. approved, they are living in their own fiction here.”

TRENDPOST: *Joe Biden, the president-elect, has said one of his top priorities after being elected would be to bring the country together after four years under President Trump.*

But shortly before media outlets named him the president-elect, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., the leader of “The Squad,” posted on Twitter, “Is anyone archiving these Trump sycophants for when they try to downplay or deny their complicity in the future? I foresee the decent probability of many deleted tweets, writings, photos in the future. Lol at the ‘party of personal responsibility’ being upset at the idea of being responsible for their behavior over the last four years.”

TREND FORECAST: *Should Joe Biden win the election, in essence, considering who ran his campaign and who his advisors are, it will be a return of the Barack Obama team to the White House.*

Thus, Biden’s domestic, economic, and foreign policy will be a mirror image of the Obama presidency.

Moreover, there is a high likelihood that before his term expires, old Joe Biden may retire, thus paving the way for Vice President Kamala Harris to take over the White House and be well positioned to be a 2024 Presidential Reality Show® superstar.

FACEBOOK PULLS PLUG ON “STOP THE STEAL” GROUP



The censorship trend, which we have continually detailed in the **Trends Journal**, continues to escalate.

Social media giant Facebook pulled the plug on a group called “Stop the Steal,” which was created shortly after President Trump claimed troubling irregularities during the 2020 election.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday that the company’s decision was based on the group’s focus on the “delegitimization of the election process” and after “worrying calls for violence from some members of the group.”

In a statement to the *Associated Press*, Facebook said,

“In line with the exceptional measures that we are taking during this period of heightened tension, we have removed the Group ‘Stop the Steal,’ which was creating real-world events... The group was organized around the delegitimization of the election process, and we saw worrying calls for violence from some members of the group.”

President Trump and his supporters have accused the tech giants of playing politics and promoting Democrats while damaging Republicans. One recent incident involved news reports on Hunter Biden, Joe Biden’s son, and his international business dealings while his father was VP. Twitter banned the *New York Post* from posting about the story and has frequently posted warnings on tweets from the president.

The *WSJ* reported that the “Stop the Steal” group obtained 361,000 members within a day of its release. The report said Facebook also removed an anti-lockdown group called “Stand Up Michigan to Unlock Michigan.”

TREND FORECAST: *President Trump took to Twitter last Friday to call Jack Dorsey’s company “out of control.” He blamed Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which Dorsey himself called “the most important law protecting internet speech. In removing Section 230, we will remove speech from the internet.”*

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said Section 230 protects these companies from “endless and potentially ruinous lawsuits,” but has “also given these internet platforms the ability to control, stifle, and even censor content in whatever manner meets their respective standards.”

President Trump has been a vocal critic of these tech companies that he says favors Democrats.

No matter who becomes president, Section 230 seems to be under fire. Joe Biden has said these platforms don’t do enough to stop misinformation and also says

major changes are needed. Thus, should he take the helm as President, we forecast increased Internet and media censorship.

POLLSTERS CALLED ELECTION WRONG. TRENDS JOURNAL CALLED IT CLOSEST



Once again, pollsters have proven to be ineffective at predicting trends in major elections after they continued to claim President Trump would be left for dead in his matchup with Joe Biden.

“We’re all trying to figure out where we go from here,” Mark Blumenthal, a pollster, told *The New York Times*.

There are a number of theories as to how they could get these elections so wrong so often. As we noted last week, many Americans who support President Trump are simply not as forthcoming as their Democrat neighbors and have a distrust of these polling institutions.

“It’s very difficult to get men who are 45 and under on the phone, and when they get on the phone and figure out it’s a pollster, they hang up or... prank them,” Rep. Guy Reschenthaler told the *Financial Times*.

Republicans claim there’s an inherent fear they would face social odium for backing a president so reviled in the media. Another theory is that pollsters want to get mentioned in major newspapers and news channels and assume the best way to promote their companies is to give these outlets what they want.

RealClearPolitics showed Biden benefiting from 51 percent of the vote compared to Trump’s 44 percent.

The Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll predicted Biden would carry the women and senior votes by 20 and 23 points, respectively. The *AP* reported that Biden won the women's vote by 11 percent and actually lost seniors to Trump by 3 percent.

And, as we had noted in last week's **Trends Journal**, the polls had Biden beating Trump by 8 to 10 percent. While final tally is still being counted, Biden secured 50 percent of the vote, and Trump pulled in 48 percent, which is a 2 percent plurality.

The polls also projected Texas would be a tossup, but Trump easily won the Lone Star State by about 8 percent.

Many political observers said Trump stumbled in the first debate against Biden, and then he was diagnosed with COVID, which also seemed to leave him vulnerable to Biden's attack on his handling of the virus outbreak.

But Trump supporters said the president turned the corner and made a gallant effort in the waning days of the campaign, focusing mainly on swing states such as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

It should be noted that in the 2016 race for the White House, the polls had Trump losing those states to Hillary Clinton.

And while the polls indicate Trump lost those three states to Biden, the president, at this time, is contesting those results and others, including Nevada and Arizona.

TRENDPOST: *The political polling methodology is 20th century antiquated. According to the American Association for Public Opinion Research, it is increasingly difficult for polling companies to even attract participation. The response rate to pollsters fell from a 36 percent in 1996 to 6 percent in 2018.*

Indeed, these are the same crew of pollsters that had Hillary Clinton easily defeating Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential Reality Show®. As evidenced, we called Trump the winner in May 2016 and reaffirmed his win in August when Clinton was ahead in the polls by some 10 percent.

We suggest that Trump's assertion that the negative polling numbers suppressed voter turnout for him does have merit. Indeed, with the polls showing for several months that he had no chance of winning, it is reasonable to assess that those who would have voted for him did not go to the polls because they thought he didn't have a chance of winning.

TRENDPOST: *On Saturday, after Associated Press, MSNBC, and CNN (not the U.S. government) called the race for Biden, Trump wrote in a statement, “We all know why Joe Biden is rushing to falsely pose as the winner, and why his media allies are trying so hard to help him: they don’t want the truth to be exposed.”*

Trump said the election is “far from over” as Biden “has not been certified as the winner of any states.”

Yesterday, Attorney General William Barr authorized the Justice Department to look into voting irregularities in the 2020 presidential election.

“Now that the voting has concluded,” Barr wrote, “it is imperative the American people can trust that our elections were conducted in such a way that the outcomes accurately reflect the will of the voters.”

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS

AZERBAIJAN FORCES CLOSE IN ON NAGORNO-KARABAKH



The weeks-long conflict that erupted in Nagorno-Karabakh between Azerbaijan and Armenia resulted in 90,000 civilians fleeing the area, as Azeri forces advance on the key strategic town of Shusha.

Zaur Mammadov, Chairman of the Baku Club of Political Scientists, a think tank, told the *Wall Street Journal* this is “the most important moment now in the military conflict because today battles are taking place in the depths of Karabakh, for the most important settlements, for the most important cities. The continuation of military conflict and hostilities depends on the results.”

The *WSJ* reported the recent clash began on 27 September, and the fighting is approaching Shusha, which is ten miles from Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Whoever controls Shusha controls Artsakh,” Arayik Harutyunyan, Karabakh’s separatist leader, told the *AFP*. The Armenian government’s information center said, “Multiple attempts by Azerbaijani offensive units on Shusha were also repelled.”

The clash risks destabilizing the region and dragging Russia and Turkey into the fight. The *Journal* reported a human rights ombudsman from Nagorno-Karabakh said 50 Armenian civilians died in the clashes, and 146 have been injured. There have been ceasefire agreements, but both sides accused the other of violating them.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron had a phone call on 7 November and vowed to continue to work on mediation efforts. *Radio Free Europe* reported that Putin spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The Turkish leader said Armenia must withdraw from Azerbaijan and then sit down to negotiate.

TRENDPOST: *Following Azerbaijan’s seizing of Nagorno-Karabakh’s second-largest city, it was reported that Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a peace agreement to end the fighting.*

In what appears to be a loss for Armenia, Pashinyan said on Facebook, “I have signed a statement on the termination of the Karabakh war with Russian and Azerbaijani presidents,” and the deal “is unbelievably painful for me and our people.”

Anti-War.com reports as part of the deal, Russian and Turkish peacekeepers will patrol Nagorno-Karabakh.

PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS CONTINUE TO RAGE IN THAILAND



The months-long protests in Thailand that involve the country's youth, who have demanded changes to its constitutional monarchy, continued last week. Riot police used water cannons to break up at least one demonstration that was approaching Bangkok's Grand Palace.

These protesters have also called on Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to step down.

The Guardian reported that the crowd on Sunday did not disperse after the police tactic and even put on goggles and helmets to prepare for the next assault. The report said many protesters carried "mock letterboxes" loaded with letters urging reform. One report, citing police, said the water cannons were a warning.

"Down with feudalism, long live the people!" protesters chanted as they worked their way toward the palace, the *Financial Times* reported. The paper reported the movement's anthem was, "Do you Hear the People Sing?" from *Les Misérables*. The refrain in the song is, "A people who will not be slaves again."

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Chulalongkorn University, told the paper the monarchy in the country went from being a "taboo subject" to being front and center.

"The students, at minimum, succeeded in making the monarchy a policy issue for discussion and debate," he said.

The protesters were praised by outside observers because they face strict prison sentences. The penalty is 15 years if they insult or threaten the king. The *Guardian* reported 84 protesters have been charged since 13 October.

TREND FORECAST: As we have written, discontent in Thailand has been brewing since the 2014 military coup d'état.

As with the Hong Kong protesters who ignited the uprising in 2019, many of the demonstrators are young adults.

And, as with Hong Kong, which is now under full control of Beijing, we do not forecast the ruling Thai government relinquishing power or meeting the demonstrator's demands. As we have previously forecast, unless a wider and older demographic strongly supports the young peoples' demands and participates with them, the Thai military will quash the current movement.

We also note that should the COVID War continue to rage on and Thailand's economy continue to deteriorate, despite harsh military crackdowns, protests, uprisings, and civil unrest will continue. As Gerald Celente says, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it."

ANOTHER NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER GOES TO WAR



Last Wednesday, Nobel Peace Prize winner, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops and aircraft into the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. This follows in the footsteps of Barack Obama, another Peace Prize winner, who launched a series of continuous and murderous wars during his eight years as president of the United States.

According to *Al Jazeera*, federal government fighter jets have bombed targets including arms depots in Tigray, and heavy fighting has broken out between troops loyal to each side.

“These airstrikes aren’t aimed at civilians but rather at targets stored by this dangerous group,” Ahmed proclaimed. The operation will continue “until the junta is made accountable by law.”

Tension between the country’s federal government, led by Prime Minister Ahmed, and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), considered to be a formidable ethnic group comprising some 6 percent of the country’s 110 million people, have been rising over the past few months, which culminated in airstrikes last Friday.

Ahmed’s government blamed Tigray leadership for violating “the constitution and endangering the constitutional system.” The major offense was Tigray’s decision to hold its own election in September without approval. It is Ahmed’s hope to centralize the country’s government.

The New York Times reported that analysts called Ahmed’s initial strike – on the same day as the U.S. presidential election – a high-risk gamble. The paper said Rashid Abdi, a Horn of Africa analyst, posted on Twitter that the leader “just made the worst strategic blunder of his career.”

The report said the United Nations called for an immediate de-escalation. Tigray reportedly has its own formidable paramilitary force comprised of 250,000 armed men.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Ahmed accused his adversaries of attempting to steal military equipment and artillery from a base.

“The last red line has been crossed with this morning’s military attacks and the federal government is therefore forced into military action,” Ahmed said, according to the *WSJ*.

The Times reported that even though the Tigrayan people only make up a relatively small percentage of the population, they have a “disproportionate power and influence in government affairs.”

The *BBC* reported an official from the TPLF posted a statement on Facebook that read, “Through their capacity and in the just war they are engaged in, the Tigray people will win.” The TPLF also appealed to the military in Addis Ababa to turn on Ahmed, *The Times* reported.

Debretsion Gebremichael, Tigray Regional President, said, “There is no reason for this because the people of Tigray held an election.”

Elections were barred in the country due to the coronavirus outbreak, the report said.

The *NYT* reported that Ahmed has had challenges trying to unite the different ethnic groups in the country, yet the country's parliament has allowed him to stay in his position and postponed his own election due to the virus outbreak.

Al Jazeera reported that lawmakers recommended the "elections to be held nine to 12 months after the coronavirus is deemed not to be a public health concern."

Money Woes

Prime Minister Ahmed has had domestic challenges after the virus' outbreak. The country of 109.2 million has had 1,518 COVID deaths. The World Bank reported that 42 percent of the country's businesses have closed, and 37 percent reported no revenue in March or April.

Schools in the country have closed, leading to what the World Bank said would be particularly damaging for poor children, "jeopardizing their ability to build human capital and affecting their future earning potential."

TRENDPOST: While Ethiopia's economy had been steadily growing and was strong, the COVID War has severely damaged it. Indeed, as the "Greatest Depression" worsens, economic conditions will deteriorate and civil unrest, which had been quelled, will escalate. As Gerald Celente has long noted, "When all else fails, they take you to war."

And, the greater the tensions rise, the more people in this highly populated nation will seek refuge in safe-haven European nations, which will, in turn, boost populist political party movements throughout the Eurozone.

POLAND SET FOR MORE PROTESTS OVER ABORTION RIGHTS



Protests across Poland have attracted more than a million people, angered over a court ruling barring abortions of fetuses with congenital defects and what demonstrators claim is a patriarchal society.

Marta Lempart, a lawyer and a leader of Ogólnopolski Strajk Kobiet (OSK), a grassroots women's movement, told the *Guardian* she believes the protests are "backlash against" the country's culture and the "fundamentalist religious state, against the state that treats women really badly."

The New York Times reported on Wednesday that the country's "right-wing" government did not immediately implement the Constitutional Tribunal's ruling on 22 October that essentially bans all abortions after two weeks of gestation. The paper said the government's actions were likely a direct response to the protests, which were largely peaceful, but there are times when those who supported the new ruling confronted protesters.

Protesters claim the court's decision and lockdown mandates are two examples of Warsaw skipping the democratic process and using its favorable courts to approve the measures.

Poland has some of the strictest abortion laws in Europe. There were 1,100 abortions performed legally last year in a country of 37 million. The report said 60 percent in the country supported the old abortion laws compared to 15 percent in favor of the new law.

"We are a religious state where we are all demanded to think in one possible way," a 15-year-old girl told the *Guardian*. "We don't want to live in a country where we don't have a choice, where everything is decided for us." One protester held up a sign that read, "I wish I could abort my government. This is war."

TRENDPOST: *We note the demonstrations going on in Poland not because of the abortion issue. To make this clear, we are not taking a position on the subject, which is a very sensitive. But rather to illustrate the power of the people. The large masses that protested government actions (so far) are achieving what they set out to do by peacefully uniting and refusing to bow to government pressure.*

FEARS OF NEW TERROR WAVE BREWING IN EUROPE



Last month's "Islamist terrorist" stabbing attack at a church in Nice, France, has put all of Europe on edge over fears of a new terror wave on the continent.

The *Associated Press* reported that a Tunisian man carrying a knife and a copy of the Quran killed three worshipers at the Basilica of Notre-Dame. The report said the man could be seen at a train station in the city at 6:47 AM and spent 30 minutes inside the basilica after the attack. He advanced on the police yelling, "Allahu Akbar," according to witnesses.

He fatally stabbed a 55-year-old sexton at the church and beheaded a 60-year-old woman. A 44-year-old woman was stabbed and fled to a nearby café where she alerted people about the attack before she died, *Reuters* reported.

French President Emmanuel Macron deployed thousands of additional soldiers throughout the country. He reportedly said the attack in Nice was over "our values, for our taste for freedom, for the ability on our soil to have freedom of belief... and I say it with great clarity again today: We will not give any ground."

The *Financial Times* reported that since the Nice attack, an ISIS militant killed four people in Vienna and injured 22 in a shooting. The U.K. raised its terror alert to "severe," according to the report, and Germany's domestic intelligence agency said it was "highly likely" another attack would materialize.

Raffaello Pantucci, a counterterror expert at the London-based Royal United Services Institute, told the *FT* he is concerned the attacks appear to be occurring so close to one another.

"The underlying problems which drive violent Islamist extremism have not gone away," he said. "There is the fundamental problem of radicalized people who joined ISIS coming out of prison still radicalized."

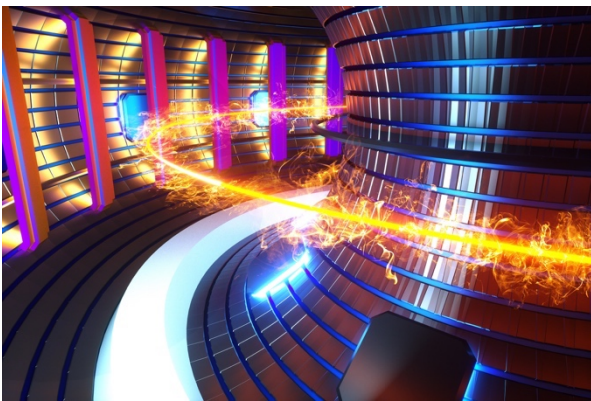
PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Absent in their reporting are what “the underlying problems which drive violent Islamist extremism” are.

*Ignored are the facts we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal** for some three decades: the ongoing western wars launched against Islamic countries that we had named “Crusades 2000.” Not a word about the destruction of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and other wars and conflicts in Africa either started by or supported by Western nations, which have destroyed nations and killed millions.*

As we used to say in the Bronx, “Payback’s a Bitch.” Violence will continue to escalate as the “Greatest Depression” worsens, and more people will leave their Arab homelands that, already economically devastated, will dive deeper into poverty, crime, and corruption.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE by Bennett Davis

A NEW FUSION REACTOR TRIES AGAIN



Keeping hope alive after decades of false starts and failed attempts, scientists are firing up the latest redesign of a fusion energy reactor.

Nuclear fusion smashes together hydrogen isotopes under such high temperatures they meld into one particle. Fusion releases vast energies; the sun is a giant, continuous fusion reaction.

If humans could capture the same energy, we would gain a virtually limitless source of clean power.

But human-made reactors are intricate and complex. A gas of ionized hydrogen is heated by microwaves and particle beams to temperatures approaching those of

the sun. The hot gas is contained in a magnetic field in a donut-shaped chamber called a tokamak.

The new design, a £55-million attempt by Britain, is known as the Mega Amp Spherical Tokamak (MAST) Upgrade, which was successfully tested on 29 October after seven years of construction.

Instead of a donut shape, MAST takes the form of a cored apple. The spherical form is thought to give the ionized hydrogen plasma greater stability, but the design is not yet well understood, even though U.K. physicists built its forerunner in 1999.

The MAST team has received £220 million from the British government to build a commercial version of MAST that could be ready to generate electricity by 2040, the scientists say.

In the U.S., the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory tested a similar design, called the National Spherical Torus Experiment, in 2016. But a magnet failed and the machine is now being rebuilt.

TRENDPOST: *Over the last 50 years, tens of billions of dollars have been invested around the world to make fusion energy work. The reactors have been as quirky as they are costly and have yet to demonstrate their practicality. While hot fusioners seek a breakthrough, the softer side of the renewable power industry is likely to render hot fusion moot.*

“BEETING” DISEASE



Beetroot has been shown to be nature’s equivalent of a wonder drug, holding biochemicals that reduce blood pressure, ease inflammation, and boost white blood cell counts, among other feats.

Now, researchers at the Medical University of Vienna have isolated a short-chain protein in beetroots that can cripple prolyl oligopeptidase, an enzyme that cuts up neuroprotective substances in the body and has been identified as a culprit in a range of inflammatory conditions and neurodegenerative diseases.

The bioscientists pinpointed the protein by analyzing genetic data, then looked in the genomes of existing organisms to find it.

Arthritis or Alzheimer's Disease can't be defeated by eating beetroot, the scientists cautioned, because the beneficial protein occurs in only minute amounts in the vegetable.

They continue to hunt for similar useful proteins and hope that other researchers will engineer ways to scale their discovery for use in clinical research.

TRENDPOST: *The research is part of the biotherapeutic industry's slow shift from treating illness with synthetic chemicals, which often carry dangerous side effects, to using biochemicals from nature to cure and prevent disease.*

NEW ROBOT SWIMS, CRAWLS, RUNS OVER WATER



The new AmphiSTAR robot from Ben Gurion University swims, crawls over rough ground using a sprawling mechanism inspired by cockroaches, and runs over water like a basilisk lizard, the designers say.

The robot, which fits in the palm of a hand, holds four propellers on outboard fins. The propellers can be tilted out behind to push the robot through water or over water surfaces as its two air tanks keep it afloat.

The propellers also can be tilted vertically as wheels when the robot needs to crawl over grass, loose stones, or concrete at speeds of up to 11 feet per second.

The AmphiSTAR's next generation will grow to a bigger size and be able swim underwater, its engineers say.

TRENDPOST: *The new robot will have broad uses in military reconnaissance, search and rescue, and agricultural research, among other applications.*

Photo: David Zarrouk, Bioinspired and Medical Robotics Laboratory, Ben Gurion University of the Negev