

# TRENDSJOURNAL

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

## E-MASK-ULATION





**22 September 2020**

## **URGENT TREND FORECAST *by Gerald Celente***

### **THE COVID WAR IS KILLING US**



Never, in the history of the world, have we witnessed such insanity.

Politicians across the globe, power-hungry narcissists sucking off the public tit for most of their lives – little boys and girls whose Daddy got them there or they bought and sold their way up to the top – are destroying life on Earth.

We are heading into a socioeconomic and geopolitical cataclysm the likes of which we have never seen... and are beyond the vision of the brainwashed masses.

Programed by ideologies and institutions they were taught to believe in, they lack the foresight and courage to Think for Themselves.

Instead, they believe what they are told by those whom they believe in.

It's not a "sign of the times" – it's been this way throughout written history.

Name the war, name the plague, name the violence, name the destruction, name the rulers, name the generals....

Don't you remember?

Didn't you go to school and take history classes?

Don't you remember taking tests and having to remember the dates and places of catastrophes?

The masses of the world are brainwashed into subservience.

Imagine the levels of stupidity coupled with arrogance.

Adults who succumb to a class of political freaks of comic-book character, idiotically repeating everything they are told by media Presstitutes who get paid to put out by their corporate whoremasters and government pimps.

Get in discussion with them about the COVID War, and they will repeat, line for line, what they heard or read from their junk news sources.

Trapped in closed minds, they can't see today and are blinded by the future.

Go back to the beginning of the COVID War when politicians started to "shelter-in-place" nations, states, and cities.

Whenever there was a mention of the economic toll it would take, the liberal mind believed, "It will come back."

It hasn't come back.

As we have forecast, it will get much worse if most of the world stays the course of current COVID Lockdown Rules and Regulations.

Take a look outside. The streets are dead!

People are masked up, afraid to go out, go to work, send their kids to school.

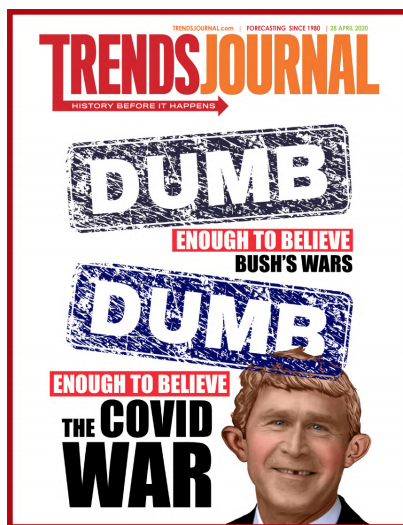
Week after week, we keep reporting the facts.

Travel, tourism, hospitality, restaurant, retail, entertainment, trade shows, conventions ... from weddings to funerals and all the related industries that serve them are economically decimated.

Businesses, lives, and livelihoods destroyed in the blink of an eye by politicians who, without asking “We the People” (the plantation workers of Slavelandia), took it upon themselves to lock down billions of lives to fight a virus of minimal destruction.

Yes, minimal, as we report with hard facts and scientific data in this **Trends Journal** and all of our previous issues since the COVID War began.

Indeed, Anthony Freda’s brilliant **Trends Journal** covers speak thousands of words, and this one says it all about how the masses were “DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE BUSH’S WAR, DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THE COVID WAR”:



Yes, by the facts in the **Trends Journal**, the coronavirus is as deadly and threatening to our lives... as were Saddam Hussein’s weapons of mass destruction.

Media hype and political bullshit, swallowed by the masses then... are swallowing it now in a country near you.

And as we have written since the outbreak of the COVID War, just as politicians start murderous wars that cost trillions and kill millions with no exit strategy, so, too, with the COVID War.



If the COVID War is not stopped now, the consequences will prove deadly and the devastation will be irreparable.

The closing down of world economies has wrought unparalleled levels of despair, misery, and suffering to billions who have lost their livelihoods.

We are at war.

Today's current events forming future trends are the bleakest I've seen in my 40 years of trend forecasting.

Unite with us to restore freedom.

I put my money where my heart is.

In 2014, I launched "Occupy Peace."

And, on the 4th of July, against Governor Cuomo's orders, I held a "Unite for Peace and Restore Freedom" rally on the Four Corners of Freedom in Kingston, New York. Judge Andrew Napolitano, who spoke about the loss of our Constitutional and Bill of Rights, was the featured speaker.

Please do what you can. Support us in any way you wish.

The future is in your hands.

## **TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT**

### **U.S. MARKETS FRONT**



Yesterday, the Dow closed down 510 points, gold prices fell \$38 closing at its lowest level since late July, and oil tanked 2.6 percent.

The S&P fell 1.2 percent, and the tech-heavy NASDAQ fell 14.48 points.

The fear there won't be another money pumping stimulus from Washington before the election and fears of a second wave of the corona virus were the reasons the business media gave for the declines.

Yesterday, the S&P was down 8.4 percent from its 2 September record-breaking high, and the Nasdaq Composite Index, down some 10 percent, is floating in correction territory.

Today, they rebounded, with the Dow up 140 points, the S&P 500 closed up 1.1 percent, and the Nasdaq rose 1.71 percent.

Regardless of where the markets are, there is a total disconnect between Wall Street and Main Street.

In this issue is Gregory Mannarino's new article, "[THE MARKETS, THE GOVERNMENT & THE FED: A CRIME IN PROGRESS](#)," where he explains how the middle class is being robbed of trillions of dollars right before everyone's eyes.

Also in this issue is Gerald Celente's Urgent Trend Forecast, "[THE COVID WAR IS KILLING US](#)," exemplifying how the world is heading toward socioeconomic and geopolitical devastation unprecedented in written history.

As we have long noted, politicians have an unblemished track record of starting wars with no exit strategy (i.e. the U.S.-Afghan war 19 years and losing)... and they have no exit strategy to end the COVID War.

Across the economic spectrum, as Celente wrote, "Travel, tourism, hospitality, restaurant, retail, entertainment, trade shows, conventions ... from weddings to funerals, and all the related industries that serve them, economic decimation.

Indeed, unless people unite to end the COVID War and restore business and personal freedom, socioeconomic and geopolitical conditions will rapidly deteriorate.

## Dollar Up, Gold Down?

Until last week, the dollar was trading at a two-year low, with expectations from mainstream economists it would drift lower. The lower the dollar and interest rates fall, the more investors move toward gold as a safe-haven asset.

However, with no new plans announced for Washington to pump more cheap money into the failing economy, the dollar neared a two-month peak and gold prices sank to its lowest price in two months.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The word on The Street is turning bullish on the dollar with expectations it will maintain its strength and gold prices will continue to fall... into the \$1,700 range.*

*We disagree. The dollar is strong only because other currencies are very weak. Nations around the world are lowering interest rates and printing more money, thus devaluing their currencies.*

*With the U.S. budget deficit tripling this year to \$3.3 trillion, soaring to the largest percentage of GDP since 1945, any rise in dollar value is temporary.*

## FED FREEZES INTEREST RATES THROUGH 2021



The U.S. Federal Reserve will keep interest rates near zero until labor markets tighten and inflation reaches 2 percent and “is on track to moderately exceed 2 percent for some time,” the central bank said in a statement on 16 September.

The Fed officials said they expect the benchmark interest rate to stay near zero through 2021.

Although employment fell to 8.4 percent in August from 14.7 percent in April, Fed chair Jerome Powell cautioned that the lower rate might partly be the result of people who have given up looking for work and so are no longer counted as unemployed.

More than two million people have been fired and 11 million more are jobless now than in February.

Powell renewed his call for Congress to offer aid to out-of-work households, struggling businesses, and state and local governments to avoid more damage to the economy.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We forecast there will be more monetary methadone injections by Washington into the economy before Election Day, and next year... or earlier, the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates into negative territory, thus pushing the dollar lower and gold prices higher.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *Repeating what we have been long forecasting, Ray Dalio, founder of Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest hedge fund with \$138 billion under management, said last week that due to the U.S. Federal Reserve's massive money pumping programs to pump up the U.S. economy with low interest rates and floods of dollars, the greenback's position as the world's reserve currency is in jeopardy*

*In July, Dalio urged investors into stocks and gold and out of bonds and cash because the latter two are likely to offer negative returns as the Fed keeps interest rates low and central banks will continue to create more digital money.*

*The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index has fallen 10 percent from its high value in mid-March. Since then, all of the developed world's currencies, as well as precious metals, have gained value against the dollar.*



## MANUFACTURING, CONSUMER SPENDING SLOW IN AUGUST



In August, consumer spending rose 0.6 percent, the fourth consecutive month of increases, but August's pace of spending was slower than the 0.9-percent increase in July.

Still, retail sales were 2.6 percent above those in August 2019.

Spending on electronics was up 0.8 percent, clothing sales gained 2.9 percent, and furniture 2.1 percent. Spending at bars and restaurants jumped 4.7 percent as parts of the country returned to indoor dining.

Online retail sales were flat and spending at grocery stores slid 1.6 percent, although they still were 10 percent higher than in August of last year. Department stores' take was down 16.9 percent and clothing store sales off 20 percent year on year.

Vehicle sales, which typically account for about 20 percent of retail dollar volume, edged up 0.2 percent for the month and outpaced sales a year earlier.

Also in August, employers added jobs and manufacturing output rose.

In part, the slower pace of spending is likely due to the end of some federal financial aid. That aid's absence probably will continue to slow spending in the months ahead, analysts say, unless Congress can pass another round of stimulus spending.

Industry also increased production in August for a fourth consecutive month but gained just 0.4 percent following a 3.5-percent surge in June.

Analysts had expected a 1-percent gain in August.

Factories achieved the 1-percent rise in production but output from mines and utilities lagged.

The industrial sector's output remains 7.3 percent below February's amounts, the last full month before the economic shutdown began.

The U.S. industrial outlook remains uncertain as consumers and business hesitate to spend now that they have replenished items depleted during the shutdown, federal support payments have ended, and no COVID vaccine is yet available, analysts say.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The slowdown in spending is a result of those federal supports disappearing, and retail sales will go down faster and harder unless Washington pumps more money into the people's pockets.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER MAY BE OFF BY MILLIONS



The official U.S. tally of unemployed workers may be showing millions too many people jobless, due to problems with the Pandemic Unemployed Assistance (PUA) program, which gives aid to gig workers, the self-employed, and others not covered by conventional unemployment insurance.

The problem seems to vary by state. Texas's count of people receiving the program's help closely match the federal number; but Montana shows 9,000 enrolled in PUA, while the federal government's count is more than 60,000. Federal figures show seven million Californians in the program, while the state can find only about two million.

Various counts suggest rather than more than 10 million aid recipients, the PUA might actually be helping five to seven million people.

Each state counts unemployed people in its own way and reports the figures weekly to the U.S. labor department, which then compiles a national report. The “continuing claims” category supposedly numbers people who are collecting benefits from week to week, but the figure represents applications filed; not all are approved.

Also, when the system is backlogged by a tide of applications, people may file retroactively for several weeks at once, distorting the count.

At the same time, undocumented workers, people who work for cash in the black market, and similar shadow populations who are out of work are not counted among the officially unemployed. Also, there are people out of work who are unable to file for benefits or whose claims were denied.

“It’s both an overcount and an undercount at the same time,” Eliza Forsythe, an unemployment economist at the University of Illinois, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

The flawed count makes it difficult to gauge the true state of the job market and can skew estimates of how quickly the economy is recovering, economists say.

***TRENDPOST:*** For decades, the U.S. unemployment numbers have been inaccurate. Indeed, once unemployment benefits run out and people are still without jobs, the United States no longer counts them as unemployed.

For accuracy in U.S. job numbers and government statistics, we go to <http://www.shadowstats.com>.

## **60 PERCENT OF CLOSED BUSINESSES WILL NOT REOPEN, YELP SAYS**



Remember the lines being played out by politicians and the business media in the early months of the government lockdowns that the economy will come back, and it will be “V- shaped” recovery?

As we had forecast in March, the longer and harder the COVID War rages, the deeper the economy will fall and millions of businesses and tens of millions of people will suffer the fallout.

As of 31 August, 163,735 businesses listed on the Yelp customer-review website were closed, compared to 180,000 in March. The number shows 23 percent more businesses closed since 15 July.

The number of businesses reporting on Yelp they have permanently closed is 97,966, or a fraction less than 60 percent of all Yelp-listed businesses. The number is up 34 percent since mid-July, according to Yelp’s latest monthly economic impact report.

Professional and vehicle-related services are among the businesses that have best withstood the economic shutdown; hardest-hit were eateries, men’s clothiers, and non-essential retailers, such as gift shops.

At the end of August, 32,109 restaurants had closed, with 61 percent of the closures being permanent; 54 percent of bars will not reopen.

Hawaii has suffered the greatest rate of business losses, with the absence of tourists. Arizona, California, Nevada, and Washington state are close behind. Metro areas in these states, including Honolulu, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose have seen some of the highest numbers of permanent closures.

Los Angeles and New York City show the highest number of closures at 15,000 and 11,000, respectively. Half of those in Los Angeles are permanent and 63 percent in New York.



## HUNDREDS OF HOTELS ON THE BRINK OF PERMANENT CLOSURE



After closing last spring as the economy shut down, hundreds of U.S. hotels face the prospect of a weak fall and winter traveling season, leaving them without enough cash flow to continue.

Almost 24 percent of U.S. hotels' mortgage payments are at least 30 days late, compared to 1.3 percent at this time last year, according to Trepp, a real estate analysis firm. The total amount past due is \$20.6 billion.

The largest amount that fell delinquent during the Great Recession was \$13.7 billion.

The economic shutdown and its aftermath are "having a more severe and sustained financial impact on [our] business than 9/11 and the 2008 financial crisis combined," said Marriott International, the world's largest hotel chain.

IHG, owner of Holiday Inn and other hotel chains, reported its second-quarter revenue was down more than 50 percent year on year.

New York City's Omni Berkshire Place, a business travelers' haven, already has shut its doors permanently. The 478-room Hilton Times Square closed earlier this month. The Embassy Suites-Midtown West was taken over by lenders after the real estate trust that owned it failed to make mandatory payments. The W New York-Downtown in the financial district is expected to close permanently next month.

A third of the city's hotels are behind on their debt payments, according to a *CNBC* report, which quoted a major hotel investment bank as saying the closures are "the tip of the iceberg."

If the New York City Council enacts a proposal that workers must be kept on the payroll after a property is sold, the industry's situation there would become even more dire, innkeepers said.

The occupancy rate for the city's hotels was 38.2 percent during the week ending 5 September, 56.3 below the same week last year, according to data firm STR. More than 100 New York hotels remain shuttered.

Hotels delinquent on debt and mortgage payments are "rising significantly" in Houston, Los Angeles, and other cities, *CNBC* reported.

Chicago's renowned Palmer House Hotel, now owned by Hilton, was sued in August after it defaulted on its mortgage, owing more than \$330 million. The lenders have asked a court to appoint a receiver for the Palmer House, which now may never reopen.

Metro areas with the highest percentages of delinquencies include Houston with 66.2 percent; Chicago at 53.8 percent; New York City, 38.7 percent; Seattle, 36.1 percent; and Austin, 35.7 percent.

U.S. hotel occupancy plunged to 22 percent in March but had rebounded to 50.1 percent in mid-August. Since then, bookings have slipped; for the week ended 5 September, the rate was 49.4 percent, about 19 percent lower than a year earlier, according to the hotel industry data tracking firm STR.

In July, the American Hotel & Lodging Association sent a letter, signed by 4,000 industry executives, to Congress pleading for a bailout to stave off a massive wave of bankruptcies.

The HOPE Act, which directs the U.S. Treasury to buy a portion of hotels' mortgage debts, is pending in Congress.

***TRENDPOST:*** Today, the American Hotel & Lodging Association survey showed that without more federal aid, 74 percent of hotels will lay off more employees: "As devastated industries wait for Congress to pass another round of COVID-19 recovery legislation... the hotel industry remains on the brink of collapse because of the pandemic. Results show 68 percent of hotels have less than half of their typical, pre-crisis staff working full time," they reported.

*Again, as we keep noting, beyond the one industry that reports their dire conditions, also being destroyed are all the related industries that service them*

*with products and services. With tourism and travel down, beyond empty hotel rooms, businesses such as restaurants, theater, entertainment, bars, discos, etc., are, and will, continue to suffer economically.*

## **ALMOST HALF OF WELL-OFF NEW YORKERS WANT OUT**



Almost half of New York City dwellers earning \$100,000 a year or more have considered leaving the metropolis during the pandemic because the cost of living there is so high, according to a poll by the Siena College Research Institute.

Forty-four percent of the 782 city residents, surveyed in late July, said they had thought about leaving New York at least once from March through June. About 69 percent said the main reason was the cost of living there.

Also, only about 40 percent rated the quality of life in New York as “excellent” or “good,” compared to 79 percent pre-pandemic.

Almost 70 percent said it would take “a year or longer” for life in the city to return to normal.

Two-thirds of respondents said that working from home is New York’s “new normal;” 30 percent of those said the ability to work at home was the spur for them to want to flee the Big Apple.

Among the 50 survey respondents who earn \$100,000 or more and have already left the city, 12 said they did so because they were now able to work from home.

Home prices in Kingston, New York (the hometown of the Trends Research Institute and Gerald Celente’s three pre-Revolutionary buildings on [the nation’s most historic four corners](#)), located some 90 miles north of New York City, had the

fastest-rising home prices in the U.S. in August, according to the National Association of Realtors. Prices also are soaring in the Hamptons on Long Island.

For those who want to flee farther, Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon is selling his 83-acre estate in Aspen. Asking price: \$25 million.

## DEUTSCHE BANK TELLS U.S. WORKERS TO STAY HOME



Deutsche Bank's U.S. employees working from home can expect to continue the arrangement until at least July 2021, the bank announced.

Workers had asked for a clear policy statement, so they can make long-term arrangements regarding child care and other details.

In a memo to its staff, the bank acknowledged their “understandable concerns about public transport, cleanliness, security, and other quality of life issues” and that “many of you do not want to return” soon to the bank’s Wall Street offices.

The memo said Deutsche Bank will open a new office and trading floor next summer near Columbus Circle.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast for a sharp contraction in commercial real estate in major U.S. cities, as more people are afraid to go to work and work from home. We will keep you apprised of where and when we see a rebound in this sector.*



## STARBUCKS: URBAN SALES LAGGING



Sales in Starbucks' urban stores will not recover to pre-pandemic levels for at least another six months, while sales at its suburban sites already are exceeding last year's, the company said on 15 September.

Starbucks is trying to find more parking space for many suburban locations and is adding drive-up windows to many of those stores.

The company will focus future expansion on suburbs while moving or closing 400 stores, most of them in downtown locations.

***TRENDPOST:*** At one time, Starbucks was accused of opening more stores than they needed in big cities to drive out the mom and pop competition. Now with cities emptying out, they will be hosting numerous operations. Indeed, more than just going to a Starbucks for a cup of bitter coffee, people use to hang out as a place to do “work” at and socialize.

## NEW YORK RESTAURANTS CAN ADD 10-PERCENT COVID SURCHARGE



Under a new city council ordinance, New York City restaurants are able to add a 10-percent “COVID relief” charge to the tabs of customers dining indoors.

The measure is intended to help eateries meet the rising cost of labor and added costs of sanitizing their facilities.

The measure allows restaurants with up to 15 locations in the city to add the surcharge, which will end 90 days after full indoor dining is allowed to resume.

Indoor dining at 25-percent capacity can resume 30 September, by order of governor Andrew Cuomo.

The new law ends a four-decade ban on restaurants adding surcharges to customers’ bills.

“I think most New Yorkers would be open to paying just a little bit more to make sure that their favorite neighborhood spot stays open during the pandemic,” said council member Keith Powers, a co-sponsor of the bill.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With the economy falling into the “Greatest Depression,” cash strapped customers will not be willing to pay a surcharge.*

## CHINA GROWS, EUROPE SLOWS



China and the world's rich countries will suffer less economic damage than feared, with the greatest harm falling on poor nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said last week.

The global economy will contract less in 2020 than the group predicted in June, but the recovery will slow from now through the rest of this year and could be hobbled by new COVID outbreaks, the OECD warned.

The group predicts net growth in China's economy this year, no longer a contraction as it had expected earlier.

### Europe Slowing

The Eurozone's industrial production grew 4.1 percent in July compared to July 2019, but fell short of June's 9.5-percent expansion, according to Eurostat, the European Union's statistics agency.

Production of consumer goods rose 4.7 percent in July, a fraction of June's 21.2-percent surge.

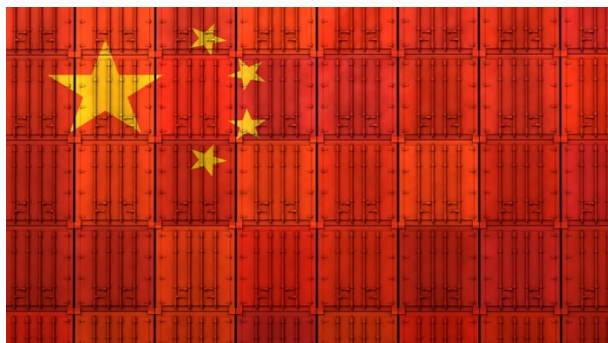
Germany's 2.4-percent July industrial expansion compared poorly with June's 10.9 percent growth, due largely to a slowdown in vehicle production.

Economists reduced their expectations for Britain's economy this year, deepening their predicted contraction to -10.07 percent, according to a survey by Consensus Economics.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Beyond industrial production, the tourism industry in Europe tanked, while it grew in China. With a variety of global travel restrictions, its citizens

*who once flooded into foreign destinations (178.4 million outbound trips last year according to Travel China Guide) instead vacationed across the country.*

## **CHINA'S RETAIL SALES SLOW TO REBOUND**



China's August retail sales, the country's last economic sector to recover from the economic shutdown, grew 0.5 percent in August above the August 2019 level.

August is the first month this year when retail sales grew instead of shrinking. However, retail sales still lag last year's rate overall by 8.6 percent.

Business investment and rail and air travel also showed gains in August. Real estate investments rose 4.6 percent compared to last year.

Industrial production rose 5.6 percent, beating analysts' expectations of a 5.2-percent bump, and is now 0.4 percent ahead of last year's pace.

The gains followed a 3.2-percent boost in second-quarter GDP.

The official unemployment slid to 5.6 percent, its best since January's 5.3 percent when the COVID shutdown was imposed.

The renminbi, China's internal currency, gained 0.3 percent against the dollar, rising to 6.7897, its best showing since May 2019.

Lagging retail sales in prior months sparked worries of a "two-track recovery," with government and industry spending again but consumers failing to do their part.



But now, with only a trickle of new virus cases reported in weeks, consumers are flocking to shopping malls, restaurants, and movie theaters, where box office revenue has climbed to 90 percent of pre-COVID volume.

China's economic recovery "is on a reasonably firm footing now," Oxford Economics said in a statement, and should continue through the rest of this year into 2021.

## **LACK OF SKILLED LABOR THREATENS CHINA'S GROWTH**



A growing proportion of Chinese workers lack the specialized abilities needed to power the country's increasingly sophisticated economy.

Up to 9 percent of China's workers lost their jobs during the economic shutdown and have been unable to find new work because they lack marketable skills, according to a study by Peking University.

The problem is especially acute among the country's 290 million internal migrant workers, most of whom lack any skills beyond manual labor.

Since the pandemic struck, the Chinese government has prioritized professional training, pledging the equivalent of \$15 billion to fund vocational programs.

However, few graduates of such programs report finding work in their new fields within three months of graduation.

"Don't expect our course to help you find good employment, even when the government says so," warned the director of a Chengdu vocational school that trained more than 1,000 people last year.

Government subsidies fail to pay the cost of teaching, the schools complain.

A school teaching cosmetology, for example, receives a government stipend of 800 renminbi (rm) per student but it costs the school 2,000 rm to teach the full 300-hour course. As a result, the government gave the school permission to cut the course to 120 hours, which leaves students inadequately prepared for the job market.

“Our goal is to help students learn the basics, not become an expert,” said one training program official.

***TREND FORECAST:*** China is betting on its people.

*And, as we reported, the 20th century was the American century and the 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business. The business of America has been war.*

*For nearly a decade, Gerald Celente has forecast societies that would thrive in the age of globalization and economic contractions would be “self-sustaining.” The Chinese government’s “dual circulation” policy, articulated by its leader Xi Jinping, is that it must retool in a world of declining economic demand and rely less on exports and more on robust domestic demand, thus becoming more self-sustaining. While most of the world is still locked down, China quickly opened up for business.*

*Unlike the United States, where the Bigs keep getting bigger and the one percent has gotten over a trillion dollars richer since the March lockdown while majority of people got poorer, in China, small and medium size businesses (SMEs) represent more than 90 percent of the enterprises in the country and contribute over 60 percent to the GDP.*

## **ZOMBIE COMPANIES STALK EUROPE’S ECONOMY**



About 20 percent of U.K. companies and more than 16 percent of Germany's are classified as "zombie firms" – the living dead.

A zombie company is one that has over-borrowed, is at risk of default, and must keep borrowing new money to pay off existing loans.

The ranks of zombies have been growing for two reasons.

European banks have held interest rates so low for so long that even high-risk companies have qualified for loans; and poorly capitalized banks have been tempted to roll over risky loans rather than write them off and show a loss.

Some zombies also have been kept alive by government bailouts, such as renewable energy giant Abengoa, which has been saved from oblivion by Spain's government three times in the last five years.

The number of zombies has grown over the last six months as more companies borrowed to survive the economic shutdown while having little or no revenue.

Worldwide, non-investment-grade companies issued \$322 billion in new debt from 1 January through 31 August, equal to the amount in all of 2019.

Britain's zombies make up a third of Europe's total, according to an analysis by Bank of America. In the kingdom's lodging and restaurant sector, 23 percent of businesses are zombies, up 9 percentage points since March; in entertainment and recreation, the share has risen 11 points to 26 percent, reported Onward, a conservative think tank.

Every 1-percent increase in the ranks of zombie companies means a 0.25-percent slowdown in job growth and a 17-percent drop in the capital investment rate, the Bank for International Settlements has estimated.

Rather than lay zombies in their graves, Onward has proposed converting debt incurred as a result of the shutdown into "income-contingent" loans that a company would need to begin paying back only if and when it makes a profit. George Osborne, formerly head of the U.K. treasury, has suggested simply forgiving shutdown-related debt for small businesses.

Italy's Unicredit Bank has suggested that the country pay off bad loans in return for an equity stake in the companies it bails out.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The impact of the global lockdowns is just starting to ripple across economies. The cheap money pumped into equity markets, industries, and the general public by governments has artificially and temporarily limited the true dimensions of the financial havoc the lockdowns have imposed on businesses and individuals.*

## **60 PERCENT OF CANADA'S RESTAURANTS MAY FAIL**



Six of every ten restaurants in Canada could go out of business by November if the government offers no aid, according to a new study by the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions.

Twenty-nine percent cannot operate at all under current social distancing mandates and 31 percent say they can survive no longer than 90 days without help, Statistics Canada reports.

Sales in the food services sector totaled \$93 billion in 2019 and was trending to surpass \$100 billion this year. Now the sector is estimated to lose between \$22 billion and \$45 billion in sales in 2020.

Business associations are urging the government to extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program past the end of this year, when it expires. The program pays a portion of wages, which enables restaurants to keep people employed and also gives the population a little extra cash, some of which could be spent at restaurants.

The groups also are urging the government to revamp its rent relief initiative, which targets landlords for aid, but few have used it. They also have suggested the government imitate a British program in which the government pays a portion of diners' restaurant tabs.

The province of New Brunswick is offering residents a 20-percent rebate on food and drink, as well as accommodations, activities, and travel expenses, such as car rentals or parking fees, to encourage “staycations.”

Restaurants themselves are innovating in an attempt to survive. Thousands have created take-home “meal kits;” one in five will continue offering them after the shutdown eases.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The meal kits and other “innovations” will, at best, marginally make up for lost revenue. Any government cheap money pumped into the system will only temporarily inflate it. The economic devastation is now beginning to take its toll.*

*As we have reported, some 80 percent of those who died from coronavirus in Canada were elderly people from nursing homes.*

*And, of the nation’s 37.817 million people, to date, 9,232 have died of the virus or 0.02441percent of the population... yet its rulers locked it down and inflicted untold economic havoc on its citizens.*

## NEW ZEALAND ENTERS RECESSION



New Zealand’s economy contracted 12.2 percent in this year’s second quarter, the largest fall since 1987, the year the country began monitoring the number, and the country’s first quarter of negative growth since March 2010.

Household spending dropped 12 percent; construction and manufacturing were off 25.8 and 13 percent, respectively, from the previous year. The travel sector was hit hardest, after the government banned tourists from entering the country.

The shrinkage was less than the 16-percent contraction the government had expected, according to finance minister Grant Robertson.

The country spent part of the quarter in one of the strictest lockdowns of any nation, with people confined to their homes for 30 days unless buying food or medicine or taking an hour of outdoor exercise in their neighborhoods.

The opposition National Party predicted that, as a result of the government's policy, the country would enter "the deepest recession in living memory" and the quarter's economic contraction did damage that "will last for decades to come."

***TRENDPOST:*** While epidemiologists, who don't have a clue on how the lockdowns they called for would destroy businesses and lives, praise the New Zealand government's "go hard, go early" approach which they attribute to the nation suffering only 25 virus deaths.

*And, as we have been reporting, with COVID death rates dropping, the media keeps pumping COVID "cases" to keep the Fear Game going, and power-hungry politicians never let a good crisis go to waste.*

*In late August, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern imposed a stay-at-home order on its largest city, Auckland, because cases were rising.*

*To date, the nation of 5 million people has recorded the grand total of 25 deaths since the COVID War began in March or 0.0005 percent of its population. Yet, despite this tiny death toll, as with other nations, the majority of the population buys what it is sold and marches off to orders.*

## INDIA'S ECONOMIC GLOOM



During the year that will end on 31 March 2021, India's economy will contract by 9 percent, said ratings agency Standard & Poor's (S&P), not the 5 percent the agency had predicted earlier.



The pandemic and shutdown will rob India's GDP of 13 percent of its potential growth over the next three years, S&P added.

Moody's and Goldman Sachs both forecast a double-digit crash this year for what had been the world's fastest growing large economy.

India shut down on 24 March with only a few hours' notice. Hundreds of millions of people of all classes were suddenly out of work.

**TRENDPOST:** *To date, India, a nation of 1.3 billion people, has reported some 90,000 COVID-19 deaths, compared to the United States, with a population of 330 million that has registered 205,000 virus victims.*

*It should be noted that as India's government takes strong lockdown measures to save its people from the virus, according to a 2019 study by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP), about 2.3 million people died of air pollution related deaths.*

*Yet, this does not make the news, only the coronavirus does, and absent is the fact that those who died of the virus represent just 0.00692 percent of India's population.*

*Yet, this does not make the news, only the coronavirus does.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *As Gerald Celente says, "When all else fails, they take you to war."*

*To recap what we have been forecasting, India's economy has long been in decline. As we have reported in the **Trends Journal**, in 2019, auto sales plunged and over one million workers in the auto industry were laid off. And, again, prior to the COVID War, India's GDP had declined for seven straight quarters.*

*According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, India's unemployment skyrocketed to more than 25 percent due to the lockdown.*

*Also, as a result of the lockdown, according to IHS Markit's Purchasing Managers Index, India's services sector collapsed from 49.3 in March to 5.4 in April. (Any number under 50 signals decline.)*

*Considering the scale of the global lockdown and the slow phased reopening of businesses with a vast array of restrictions, we forecast India's economy and its currency will continue to decline, sinking into depression.*

*As a result, civil unrest, which had been tamped down with the lockdown, will again escalate.*

## GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



**RAYTHEON CUTS 15,000 JOBS.** Citing “all the uncertainty in the recovery of commercial air traffic,” Greg Hayes, Raytheon CEO, revealed the company would more than double the number of layoffs from its corporate and commercial aerospace divisions that it had announced previously.

The company sees air travel gradually recovering, finally returning to pre-pandemic levels in 2023, Hayes said.

**CARNIVAL SELLS FOUR MORE SHIPS.** As part of its plan to shed 18 ships – more than originally planned – Carnival Cruise Lines has sold its “Fascination” and “Imagination” boats.

The company also canceled sailings on the “Spirit” from Brisbane until next 12 June and scrapped cruises on the “Valor” from New Orleans until 29 April. The “Paradise” will not sail again from Tampa until 19 March, and “Magic” trips from Miami will not resume until some time after 13 March 2021.

The company anticipates a third-quarter loss of \$2.86 billion.

**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PARES BACK SCHEDULE.** Anticipating November bookings to be 35 to 40 percent of capacity, the carrier will cut its schedule during the month. It predicted overall third-quarter bookings to be 30 to 40 percent of capacity.

Southwest's August revenue was 70 percent below the previous August's, which the company had predicted. It has forecast revenues dropping 65 to 70 percent year-on-year this month and 65 to 75 percent in October.

## TRENDS IN THE MARKETS *by Gregory Mannarino*

### THE MARKETS, THE GOVERNMENT & THE FED: A CRIME IN PROGRESS



In my previous article, "[ERADICATION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS](#)," I outlined how the American middle class is systematically being eradicated in what is a remarkably successful effort to keep the stock market hyper-inflated.

For over a decade, the middle class, the *real economy*, has been legally robbed blind of trillions of dollars in realized wealth via suppressed rates... and soon it will get even worse.

This past week, we heard from the Federal Reserve that interest rates will be kept near zero for the foreseeable future. Moreover, the Fed is in the process of increasing its purchasing of mortgage-backed securities and Treasuries. In addition, the Fed will be increasing its purchases of corporate debt, which, in and of itself, is **a backdoor bailout scheme**. The Fed stated it will work diligently to cause inflation to rise, not just hitting its long-term 2 percent inflation goal but *exceeding it*.

Let's now put this into perspective: Banks can borrow cash directly from the Federal Reserve at zero percent interest and then lend that cash out for a profit. Today, the average personal loan rate is north of 9 percent. The average auto

loan, if you have a credit score of 750 or higher, is around 5 percent; if you have less than stellar credit, you'll pay over 11 percent interest for that same loan. The average credit card interest rate is 16 percent. If you're one of the few who have a perfect credit score, you can get a mortgage with a rate of around 3 percent... if you can afford to front at least 20 percent for the down payment.

Looking a little deeper into this banking scheme... the Fed, in keeping interest rates at near zero, is clearly a boon for the banks. These institutions get to enjoy **not** paying their depositors anything that resembles a real rate of return on their interest-earning accounts. Today, the average savings account yields a yearly rate of return of a paltry 0.06 percent.

According to government statistics, the current average inflation rate in the United States over the last 12 months is 1.3 percent. What this means is that just over the last 12 months, the average saver lost 1.24 percent of their purchasing power in regard to the cash in their savings account, *which is exactly the same as the government reaching their hand into these accounts and stealing money from them!*

We realize that government numbers/statistics are pure fabrications and thus have no real bearing on reality.

Multiple, unbiased private-sector efforts to calculate the true rate of inflation have yielded a rate of around 7 to 13 percent per year, depending on the location in the U.S. In other words, the middle class is a victim of grand theft on an epic scale.

To make matters even more insulting to Americans, corporations, and even entire industries, are getting direct government bailouts. These are the same corporate entities which have been buying back shares of their own stock for over a decade.

As an example, the airline industry recently received a \$25 billion bailout from the Trump administration and is now asking for a second bailout ... or else they will lay off tens of thousands of employees. Thus far, American Airlines has spent \$12 billion on stock buybacks; Delta Airlines, \$11 billion; and United Airlines, \$10 billion. *Shouldn't these corporations be forced to liquidate those shares PRIOR to receiving a second bailout?*

Just this past week, "U.S." farmers received their third bailout from the Trump administration, to the tune of \$14 billion, with much of that cash going directly back to – of all places – China. Yes, *China*, which owns and operates multiple,

large farms here in the U.S. (China has been buying up U.S. farmland for years and is legally entitled to bailout funds.)

As Gerald Celente says, “Welcome to Slavelandia.”

And as Gerald Celente quotes from the late, great George Carlin, “It’s all one big club... and you’re not in it.”

*By Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net*

## **TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM** *by Bradley J. Steiner*

### **FISHING SINKERS FOR SELF-DEFENSE**



A very important aspect of self-defense is learning how to use objects on hand as expedient weapons.

First, because in a crisis, whatever may be right in front of you – on your desk or dinner table, possibly on a shelf (if you are in a store, etc.) – will offer you the advantage of having some kind of weapon in an imminent attack. Second, if you live in an oppressed city and you cannot go legally armed with a firearm, you may desperately need this knowledge and skill. Finally, being able to employ improvised and expedient weapons may one day save your life in a possible hostage situation.

When I teach escape and evasion skills in the urban setting, I never fail to explain how, when held captive, it often is possible to secure some kind of implement, use it lethally to neutralize an abductor, and get away. Anyone can do this providing they possess the requisite know-how.

I was once given a T-shirt on which “DR. DOOM” was lettered. The men who gave it to me had just been taught my course in unconventional and improvised weapons. Most of them were combat veterans and quite proficient and experienced with firearms.

They all expressed genuine surprise that so many objects are usable as a weapon in an emergency. (In fact, nearly anything you can take into your hand!) There is some way to use just about anything to cut, pierce, slash, jab, bludgeon, choke or strangle, or distract an adversary in close combat/self-defense encounters.

In this article, I would like to discuss just one item (well, two, actually) that make an excellent self-defense weapon. The item? A simple fishing sinker. The first way to use it as a weapon I discovered years ago in Kurt Saxon’s classic book, “The Poor Man’s James Bond.” He described what he called the “sinker basher.”

Take a strong length of cord (say two and a half to three feet – or adjust as your experience dictates), and tie one end to the sinker. You’ll want a relatively large, heavy sinker. Secure the sinker to the cord. You now have a flail which, if swung powerfully and deftly, could potentially crack the skull of an assailant upon impact. Carry the sinker basher in your outer pocket. A little practice will enable you to pull it and swing it by complete surprise. And there’s a bonus: a fishing sinker and a cord is legal.

The second method of using a fishing sinker I learned from a seaman whom, on leave, visited me at my school and shared his interesting invention with me. He devised it for times when, in port, he wanted to have a weapon on his person just in case.

I call his invention the “sinker jack.” In effect, it is an expedient blackjack.

You take a nice, heavy fishing sinker and wrap it in an ordinary handkerchief. Bind the thing with a couple of strong rubber bands. The bound end is the portion you grab and hold onto. Use the encased sinker as a smashing blackjack-like weapon against the assailant’s face or the skull. Frankly, I personally prefer this to the sinker basher. Keep it in an outer pocket until or unless needed.

Alternative: The second weapon, very similar in use to the fishing sinker, is a heavy padlock. This weapon is popular, as I understand it, amongst outlaw bikers (gotta give credit where and when it’s due!). This is my favorite version of the improvised striking weapon, as I like the added weight of the padlock, and I love the method of carry and instant access. You take your padlock and tie the corner



of a handkerchief or bandana very tightly and securely to the padlock's hasp. Put the padlock in your back pocket, taking care to leave a small section of the handkerchief protruding. Looks just like you've got a handkerchief in your back pocket; not suspicious at all.

In an emergency, grab the end of your handkerchief and pull the weapon from your pocket, using it as a powerful flail. The size and weight padlock you employ will depend upon your preference.

The best way to employ the weapons described is by combining their use with some good unarmed combat tactics, i.e. a fast kick to the knee or shin followed by striking with the weapon.

I trust this information contributes to your self-confidence and your ability to defend yourself if the need ever arises.

Best of luck!

*by Bradley J. Steiner*

## **2020 COVID-19 TREND REPORT**

### **INCOME INEQUALITY: OFF WITH THEIR HEADS 2.0**



The one big message 2011's Occupy Wall Street protests brought to light was income inequality: how the 1 percent owns so much and how the rest of civilization owns so little.

A new study by the RAND Corporation, in collaboration with the Fair Work Center, has clarified just how much the vast majority of Americans are being robbed: \$2.5 trillion a year.

The two lead authors of the RAND study, Carter C. Price and Kathryn Edwards, stated, “We estimate the aggregate income for the population below the 90th percentile over this time period (1975-2018) would have been \$2.5 trillion higher in 2018 had income growth since 1975 remained as equitable as it was in the first two post-War decades.”

To make it even more concrete, the research shows if income had been distributed as equitably as it had been in 1975, the average worker in the U.S. would be earning \$92,000 a year instead of the current \$50,000.

Nick Hanauer, one of the creators of the study, said, “We were shocked by the numbers. It explains almost everything. It explains why people are so pissed off. It explains why they are so economically precarious.”

David Rolf, president of the Fair Work Center, stated, “From the standpoint of people who have worked hard and played by the rules and yet are participating far less in economic growth than Americans did a generation ago, whether you call it ‘reverse distribution’ or ‘theft,’ it demands to be called something.”

The report includes graphs that illustrate just how, from 1973 to 2013, the U.S. productivity rate rose 74.4 percent while hourly compensation for workers went up only 9.2 percent.

The study showed that American workers missed out on \$50 trillion over several decades in what is known as the upward redistribution of income. *Time* magazine wrote the amount “would have gone into the paychecks of working Americans had inequality held constant” and would have allowed many Americans to enter the coronavirus lockdown in a much better financial situation.

The amount would have been enough to pay every worker in the bottom nine deciles \$1,144 a month for every year over four decades.

## **COVID Killer**

As we have noted from the onset of the lockdowns, the economic fallout has been felt far and wide in the U.S. economy, but no category absorbed the brunt like

those in the lowest income, such as hospitality, restaurant, entertainment, tourism, theme parks, seasonal jobs, and workers in jobs deemed “non-essential.”

What none of the media or politicians were talking about in February, March, and April, when the draconian “shelter in place” dictates were imposed, were the implications, which we had warned about, from their launching the COVID War.

*CNBC* reported last week that about three in ten Americans have decreased the amount of money they’re putting into their retirement accounts or have stopped saving at all due to the economic strains from the lockdowns. About 30 percent of those saving money have dipped into their accounts over the past 60 days, according to the report.

*New York* magazine wrote what the **Trends Journal** has been writing about for nearly a decade but only now has become more obvious to those who see what is happening. As the income discrepancies are becoming more obvious, *New York* said the RAND study showed “the 1 percent’s total victory in the 50 Years Class War.”

### **Richest Getting Richer**

The total net worth of the richest individuals in the U.S. increased by \$845 billion over the first six months of the pandemic, increasing their total fortunes from \$2.95 trillion to \$3.8 trillion, a report this week said.

That’s almost a 30 percent increase in just over six months, according to calculations from the Institute for Policy Studies and Americans for Tax Fairness. Both studies used data from *Forbes*.

*Business Insider*, citing a recent study by the Institute for Policy Studies, reported the study included 643 of the richest people in the U.S., which includes names like Amazon’s Jeff Bezos; Tesla’s Elon Musk and the “Oracle of Omaha” Warren Buffett.

Most of the increase is the result of a booming stock market. Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon, now worth \$113 billion, watched his company’s stock go up 40 percent as millions of Americans, obeying stay-at-home orders, passed the time buying products online. In addition, businesses invested more in Amazon’s Cloud Services to support millions of employees working remotely from home.

“The difference is stark between profits for billionaires and the widespread economic misery in our nation,” Chuck Collins, the director of the Institute for Policy Studies’ Program on Inequality, told *Business Insider*. “Clearly, the priorities of our elected officials in Washington, D.C. are completely upside down.”

Along with highly publicized winners such as Bezos and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, who is now 273 percent richer than six months previous, many of the top 1 percent in wealth benefited from the historically low interest rates manipulated by the Fed, helping the stock market to rise 34 percent since March.

Collins said the coronavirus was to blame for “supercharging” the country’s “existing inequalities.”

The U.K.’s *Independent* newspaper reported the current level of unemployment in the U.S. is about four times higher than before the virus outbreak, and 11.5 million Americans have lost their jobs since the beginning of the year.

Despite those numbers, the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates at rock-bottom levels and injected trillions into the economy to avert disaster. Despite the issues on Main Street, the S&P 500 is up by 34 percent since March, according to *Business Insider*.

*CNN Business* reported that, besides Amazon, the combined wealth of the Walton family, which is behind Walmart stores, has also exploded by more than \$60 billion since the beginning of the year.

Collins told the network it is up to Congress to fix the discrepancies or the wealth concentration will continue to damage the country.

“A few people are going to have an extreme amount of power to shape the economy, politics, the media,” Collins said. “None of us are going to want to live in a society like that, where your Main Street no longer has 100 shops. It just has an Amazon loading depot.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Beyond the U.S., income inequality is a global trend. As we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, Oxfam research shows the world’s 2,000 billionaires have more combined wealth than the 4.6 billion people who comprise 60 percent of the world’s population.*

**TREND FORECAST:** Our “[OFF WITH THEIR HEADS 2.0](#)” trend from December 2019, forecasting the global rise in anger directed at the 1 percent, was already spreading globally prior the 2020 COVID War.

*The great wealth gap followed by the destruction of small businesses by politicians who launched the COVID War while allowing the Bigs to get bigger will be a key platform in the formation of new political parties across the globe. As the gap between the rich and poor widens, so, too, will the animosity between the “haves” and “have nots.”*

*Gated communities will increase in popularity and more private security will be hired by the haves who will be gangland targets.*

## GO TO SCHOOL. DON'T PARTY!



Old people telling young people, “Don’t go out and party” is the new Abnormal.

From sex, drugs and rock n’ roll to shelter-in-place, in school districts across America, the new regulations being imposed on young people by school administrators and politicians are: “Don’t go out and party with friends – you’ll either get COVID-19 and die from it or you’ll give it to someone else who will.”

But as Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, told the *Boston Globe* last week, “Schools don’t have the authority to punish or impose penalties for what kids do on their own time.”

“How long are we asking kids not to go to parties for?” Samuel Scarpino, an epidemiologist at Northeastern University, asked the paper. “Are we saying it’s a month, or six months, or a year? How on earth are you supposed to get buy-in

from individuals – asking them to do something hard – when they’re completely in the dark about... how long they need to do it for?”

The schools in Massachusetts also have been dealing with how to resume classes while mitigating certain risk factors. In Attleboro High School, there are 28 students who have been forced to quarantine for two weeks because a classmate who tested positive for the virus was sent to school.

“It was a reckless action to send a child – a teenager – to a school who was Covid-positive,” Paul Heroux, the city’s mayor, told *WHDH*. “It was really poor judgment. If you know that your child has coronavirus, is covid-positive, you should not send your child to school under any circumstances.”

Andrew Keough, Superintendent of MA’s Dover Sherborn Regional School District, told the *Globe* that a high school turned to remote learning after it was revealed there was a house party that involved some of the school’s students.

“What likely happened is that adults chose to turn a blind eye, pretending that what the kids were up to was ‘no big deal’ and simply a case of kids being kids, or even worse, they set their kids loose without any inkling of what they would be up to that evening,” he wrote to parents.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *A great divide will occur between young people who are not afraid of the virus or of transmitting it to others who want to party and those who take seriously all of the COVID Precautions imposed on them by educators and the political system.*

*Beyond the friction between them that will resonate in and out the school room, the cultural divide will create the ground work for new political movements as well as new genres in all forms of art... music, theatre, books, paintings, etc.*



## MASK-WEARINGS DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON CHILDREN



Absent in mainstream media coverage is the reporting of an open letter written by doctors in Belgium to the country's top education official last week, calling on him to reverse his face-mask requirement at school due to its effect on the children's well-being.

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

"Mandatory face masks in schools are a major threat to their development," the letter read. "It ignores the essential needs of the growing child. The well-being of children and young people is highly dependent on emotional attachment to others."

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

The three issues include: the student could have a difficult time recognizing people, he/she may miss social cues from those they're interacting with, and the child may develop issues with speech recognition.

"Masks are not a great thing for communication in young kids," Dr. David Lewkowicz, a senior scientist at the Haskins Laboratories and the Yale Child Study Center, told the *Times*.

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

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

The doctors who signed the letter went further than just pointing out the development issues for children. They also questioned the wisdom of wearing masks in the first place.

“There is no large-scale evidence that wearing face masks in a non-professional environment has any positive effect on the spread of viruses, let alone general health,” the letter read, according to the report.

They said the only “sensible” action is to take students and teachers who are at the highest risk for infection and to isolate them.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *In just a few months, since the COVID War was launched on Chinese New Year 2020, human behavior has been radically altered. Children, just growing up and beginning to learn about life and hopefully becoming themselves, have now been put under full behavioral control.*

*From mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, etc., living in fear has replaced “born to be free” in school and outside. Other than the Belgian doctors’ letter, absent in the media and politicians selling COVID Fear are the short- and long term mental and physical ramifications these rapidly made-up restrictions will have on society, young and old.*

*Again, this great divide will create a split between those who obey COVID Authorities and young people growing up who want to live as they humanly feel during their ages of transition. And, as we have noted, new art forms and political parties will evolve as the split between those who do what they are told and those who disobey widens.*

## VAN MORRISON: ON TREND WITH CELENTE!



Back in March, when New York State was locked down by Governor Andrew Cuomo, Gerald Celente was inspired to write two anti-lockdown songs. Here are some of the lyrics. The first one was “Howmigonna”:

How mi gonna pay my rent  
How mi gonna cut your hair  
How mi gonna serve you food  
When they won't allow ya ...

The other was “Don't Mask Me”

Don't Mask Me, I'm born to be Free.  
Not a Coward,  
Not a Thief,  
Nothing to Hide, you can see me.  
Don't Mask Me....

Celente had someone to put a band together and begin producing the songs, but the lockdowns made it impossible to rent a studio, etc.

### Van Morrison to the Rescue

And now, as reported by *BBC*, Van Morrison, the famed singer behind “Brown Eyed Girl,” has gone back into the studio to accuse the British government of enslaving the population with its strict coronavirus mandates.

Calling the U.K. government “fascist bullies disturbing our peace,” the *BBC* reported Morrison wrote three new songs that include the lyric, “No more taking of our freedom/And our God-given rights/Pretending it’s for our safety/When it’s really to enslave.”

Calling out the cast of “celebrities telling us what we’re supposed to feel,” Morrison said they are being used as mouthpieces for the government to sell the people what they are peddling. He said it is becoming rare nowadays to find an artist who is not afraid to speak out against what is being widely accepted as groupthink.

In tune with what Gerald Celente and the **Trends Journal** have been advising for decades, “Think for Yourself,” Morrison said his songs are not about “telling people what to do or think,” it’s about “freedom of choice... people have the right to think for themselves.”

The *Irish Post* ran an article that called on the legendary singer to be stripped of the Freedom of Belfast award he had been given due to his new songs.

Emmet McDonough-Brown, a Belfast City councilor, said Morrison received the honor in 2013, and it is the highest honor the “city can bestow.”

“His most recent lyrics undermine the guidance in place to protect lives and are ignorant of established science as we grapple with Covid-19... So I’ve asked Belfast City Council to consider revoking it.”

Harmeet Dhillon, an influential California Republican and lawyer, tweeted, “Is it possible to love Van Morrison more? I don’t know right now.”

Robin Swann, Northern Ireland’s Health Minister, called the new songs from Morrison “dangerous.”

“I don’t know where he gets his facts,” he said, according to the *BBC*. “I know where the emotions are on this, but I will say that sort of messaging is dangerous.”

The new tracks are titled, “Born to Be Free,” “As I Walked Out,” and “No More Lockdown.”

“Morrison makes it clear in his new songs how unhappy he is with the way the government has taken away personal freedoms,” a statement said on his website

announcing the releases, according to *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*. The legendary singer called on the music industry to stand with him because concerts, where social distancing is mandated, are not financially feasible for the artist or the venue.

Morrison goes on to claim that scientists are essentially making up “crooked facts” in order for government officials to justify their mandates.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As Marshall McLuhan emphasized, “The medium is the message.”

*As we have forecast, art will be among the most powerful mediums to spread the message of Liberty, Love, Joy, and Beauty in an era of total corporate/government control of the mainstream media.*

*OnTrendpreneurs® who understand the missing messages large segments of the population want to embrace... and use the proper “mediums” to market them will reap considerable financial and emotional rewards.*

## AUSTRALIANS LASH OUT AT LOCKDOWNS



Some residents in Victoria, Australia, have lashed out at the government over what they call over-the-top mandates to deal with the coronavirus outbreak despite an “extraordinarily low” level of people who require treatment after diagnosis.

Off-guardian.org, a website in the country, wrote that officials there seem to be “undeterred by inconvenient truths” regarding the infection rate. The website reported protests have erupted over these orders even though in the state of 6.35 million people, only 20 people were housed inside intensive care units in hospitals.

On Saturday, the state confirmed 14 new infections and seven deaths.

**TRENDPOST:** *Among the seven deaths confirmed on Saturday were “two men in their 80s, and two men and three women in their 90s,” according the The New Daily. Yesterday, Reuters reported there were two more deaths in Victoria: “They were both women, one in her 80s, the other older than 100.”*

*As we have been reporting, well over 60 percent of those who have died in Australia from the virus are elderly people with pre-existing chronic conditions living in nursing homes.*

*Yet, the hard facts that the victims of the virus are mostly elderly and, as the CDC has affirmed, 94 percent of those who died from COVID-19 had 2.6 pre-existing chronic conditions... are virtually ignored by governments and the mainstream media.*

*Rather than providing guidance, programs, and strategies to protect those most vulnerable to the virus, under the New Abnormal, Chinese-style dictatorships to fight the COVID War, republics and democracies declare draconian Executive Orders for the masses to obey... of which the vast majority follow.*

**TRENDPOST:** *In all of Australia, since March, when politicians launched the COVID War and imposed lockdowns, the grand total of 851 people died of the virus in a country of 25.565 million... or 0.00332 percent of the population.*

*Yet, those who protest are demonized by the media, ratted out by “friends,” and harassed and heavily fined by the government for not obeying rules that have robbed them, for no scientific reasons, of their personal lives and livelihoods.*

### **“I’ll Tell You What to Do”**

Despite the tough police response to previous anti-lockdown demonstrations, with more scheduled, Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews told would-be protesters to stay home.

“People should be positive and optimistic this strategy is working, and therefore, let’s not any of us do anything to undermine that,” he said, according to *Yahoo! News*.

The website Off-Guardian.org reports the state is doing its best to respond to the growing protests by trying to “demonize dissent.”



OffGuardian said most of the new cases in the state occurred with those under the age of 30, meaning there is virtually no risk of death. The website pointed out these individuals have more of a chance of dying in a car crash.

Despite these and other clear facts of who the virus is killing and why, they note how those who do not buy the government line are attacked by those such as Luke Cornelius, the police commissioner for the North West Metro Region, quoted last week in our article, "[ANTI-MASK/ANTI-VACCINE/ANTI-LOCKDOWN PROTESTS SPREADING](#)," who now mocks those who attended the protests as an "anti-vax, anti-mask, tinfoil hat-wearing brigade who were batshit crazy."

## **De-Mask-ulation**

The "attack those who don't obey" technique is not isolated to Australia. In the U.S., if someone refuses to wear a mask, they are considered to be "anti-science" and get painted as a redneck Trump supporter.

Alan Hamilton, the author of the article, wrote that he believes the lockdowns, which have swept across essentially every country, is a "mechanism for reorganizing societies around the world along the lines of the World Economic Forum's 'Great Reset' agenda and all that entails."

He said these lockdowns are designed to see "just how far bureaucrats in authority will exceed the moral limits of their power and how much abuse the Australian public will tolerate before they push back."

**TRENDPOST:** According to OffGuardian, the serological studies done to date found an [infection-fatality ratio of around 0.2 percent](#). Thus, while the media keeps reporting on "cases," a person infected with the virus has 99.8 percent chance of surviving.

## VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA: FEW VIRUS CASES BUT TOUGH RE-LOCKDOWN



Victoria, Australia, has taken some of the world's most aggressive and intrusive steps in its campaign to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The local government reportedly has launched drones to make sure people outdoors are wearing a mask, have shut down businesses and erected a “ring of steel” to limit regional travel, have threatened those who leave their restricted area with a AUD \$4,957 fine (\$3,555), and are considering placing charges against COVID-19 “conspiracy theorists,” according to the *Daily News* in Australia.

Daniel Andrews, the Victorian premier, has faced backlash from the state's 6.6 million residents who call his orders extreme given the relatively few new cases compared to the population. Since the start of the outbreak, there have been 745 fatalities. The most recent included a man in his 60s, two people in their 80s, and five in their 90s.

The argument in Victoria echoes the same concerns about the restrictions in every other country: this is a virus that disproportionately affects the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions, and shutting down an entire economy is the equivalent to using a mallet to kill a housefly.

The report said on Thursday last week, there were a total of 28 cases. Andrews said it was the first time there was that low of a number since June. Despite the downward trend, critics have still criticized Andrews for hand-picking his mandates.

“I am not so much for the debating of models – at some point, this is not a doctoral thesis. Even if it is your fourth doctoral thesis. You want to put the plan in place, get on and get the job done.”

A protest emerged in Victoria on Sunday that resulted in two arrests and six fines. One protester told 9News, “Potentially, there are far more people who will lose their lives due to the lockdown measures.”

“This is freedom of speech and our human rights have been violated. It is disgusting,” another attendee said.

## **VICTORIA GOV'T EYES DETAINMENT OF COVID “CONSPIRACY THEORISTS”**



The government in Victoria, Australia, is preparing to discuss an emergency measure that would allow authorities to detain any citizen they suspect could be at “high risk” for becoming a coronavirus “conspiracy theorist,” according to a report.

The Caldron Pool, a conservative website, reported that under the law, anyone who refuses to follow instructions or “does not have the capacity to quarantine” could be detained and monitored.

The remarkable step by the Victorian government was first reported by the Australian website The Age. The report cited a statement from Attorney-General Jill Hennessy who claimed the changes would allow officials to “continue responding to the challenges the pandemic presents, so we can keep protecting Victorians and delivering the services they rely on.”

The Age reported that the government extended the state of emergency due to the coronavirus to 11 October.

It seems as though the Australian government has seen an increase in resistance due to its restrictions. The website Zero Hedge reported that last weekend’s

protests in Melbourne resulted in 200 fines and 74 arrests, some of whom may be forced to spend time at a “quarantine facility.”

The website’s report pointed to the arrest of a pregnant Australian mother who was arrested inside her home and charged with “incitement” after she allegedly posted a comment on Facebook that was blamed for encouraging a protest in Victoria.

Allegedly, her post read, “Anyone from Ballarat please join us in our fight for freedom and human rights!”

The website reported the 28-year-old woman, Zoe Buhler, said to the police, “I’m in my pajamas, my two kids are here. I have an ultrasound in an hour because I’m pregnant.”

### **Censoring in the U.S.S.A.**

The U.S. has seen censoring when it comes to the virus and information that is allowed to be published on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook.

Tucker Carlson, the *Fox News* host, called out Facebook last week after he claimed the social media company censored his interview with a Chinese virologist who said, “SARS-CoV-2 virus actually is not from nature. It is a man-made virus created in the lab.”

Facebook and Instagram put warning labels over the video interview. The fear is that the government and its corporate allies in the media are working to spin the narrative on the new disease.

The Caldron Pool report questioned how far the bill – if passed – would go in the country and pointed to the recent protests where 74 people were arrested.

“Will the legislation result in anti-lockdown protesters being deemed ‘high risk’ of spreading the virus, resulting in the forced detainment and mandatory quarantining of their family members, work colleagues, and close friends?” the website asked.

## BARR: COVID LOCKDOWN = SLAVERY



U.S. Attorney William Barr compared slavery to the coronavirus lockdowns during an appearance in Virginia last week where he talked about the history of intrusions on civil liberties.

“Putting a national lockdown, stay-at-home orders, is like house arrest,” Mr. Barr said during an even at Hillsdale College in Northern Virginia. “It’s... you know, other than slavery, which was a different kind of restraint, this is the greatest intrusion on civil liberties in American history.”

The anti-Trump media sectors, characterizing Barr as a henchman for President Trump, swiftly criticized his comment.

Joy Reid, the *MSNBC* host, said, “Let’s just be clear: 245 years of forced labor, rape, and the breeding, selling, and violent subjugation of human beings is slavery. And nothing, certainly not being asked to cover sneezes in Walmart, comes anywhere close to that.”

Aaron Rugar, a journalist at Vox, tweeted, “On one hand you have slavery. On the other, you have to do Curbside Pickup at Applebee’s. They’re basically the same, according to Bill Barr.”

“The person in the white coat is not the ‘grand seer’ who can come up with the right decision for society. A free people makes its decision through its elected representative,” Barr said, according to *Politico*.

Joe Biden, the Democrat running against Trump in the Presidential Reality Show®, said Barr's comments were "outrageous."

"I will tell you what takes away your freedom, not being able to see your kid, not being able to go to the football game or baseball game, not seeing your mom or dad sick in the hospital, not being able to do the things, that's what is costing us our freedom," Biden said.

**TRENDPOST:** *From Biden's statement, he and other critics, however, did not prove Barr wrong.*

*None mentioned when, in the history of America, the government has locked down its citizens, closed down the economy, and chose what businesses were essential (i.e., selling alcohol from stores but not in bars, Walmart: OK, Mom & Pop: No) and non-essential without a vote and based on the opinion of unelected health officials.*

*Defenders of Barr say the lockdowns that have been implemented have far greater ramifications than whether or not a person covers their sneeze inside a store. As we have forecast, the Executive Orders have launched the "Greatest Depression."*

*Tens of thousands of businesses were forced to close, leading to the demise of jobs and permanent closing of businesses – not due to a bad product or market conditions – but rather because the state determined the business to be "non-essential."*

**TREND FORECAST:** *In the Presidential Reality Show®, "Masks vs. No masks" plus "end lockdowns and restrictions vs. keep lockdowns and restrictions" will be key points of difference between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.*

*As we have noted, for Trump to win, he must appeal to voters in swing states who are opposed to lockdowns, loss of freedoms, and resistant to shelter-in-place rules and regulations imposed on them. Thus, this will be a major theme from now to Election Day.*

*As the cold weather sets in and businesses such as restaurants and hospitality, which were picking up a bit during the summer, begin to slow down, more voters will favor opening up the economy rather than re-locking it down.*

*A negative for Biden is the "get the youth vote" who want to go out, have fun, go wild, and party. They will not rush out to vote in big numbers for a candidate who*

said in mid-August, “Every single American should be wearing a mask when they’re outside for the next three months, at a minimum”... and would shut down the economy if scientists told him to.

## **VIRUS NOT MAIN CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ALMOST 1/3 OF COVID VICTIMS**



It was reported in the U.K newspaper *The Telegraph* last week that the coronavirus “was not the leading cause of death for nearly a third of registered Covid-19 victims in July and August.”

The Oxford University study they cited stated, “This means that someone who has had a heart attack or even died in a traffic accident may have been included in the numbers if they also tested positive for coronavirus at some point or if doctors believed the virus made their condition worse.”

*The Telegraph* goes on to note, “Throughout the pandemic, about one in 13 people currently classified as Covid-19 victims did not have the disease as the underlying cause of death. This means that 3,877 deaths (7.8 percent) where the coronavirus was not the main cause are included in the numbers.”

The article goes on to report, “In July and August, that number rose to 28.8 percent of all registered deaths, meaning Covid-19 was not the leading cause of death in 465 out of 1,617 registered victims.”

Dr. Jason Oke, a member of the team at Oxford Center for Evidence-Based Medicine, stated the new data shows many people “died with” coronavirus but not “from it.”

He added, “The true death rate is important to know as it gives us an idea of the effects... The effects seem to be wearing off now and if that’s true – as it certainly



looks right now because there doesn't seem to be the same death rate – then that will guide risk management decisions, so it is important to get this number right.”

The *BBC* reported on 17 July, “Health Secretary Matt Hancock has called for an urgent review into how coronavirus deaths have been recorded in England.”

The controversy was around PHE's protocol which, according to the *BBC* report, “included anyone who has tested positive for coronavirus, but then died at a later date, be included in PHE's Covid-19 death figures.”

The *BBC* then quoted Professor Carl Heneghan from the University of Oxford, who looked at the data and stated, “We need correct and accurate statistics so we can really understand the trend – otherwise it's very difficult to know what's going on.”

*The Telegraph* also quoted Paul Hunter, Professor of Medicine at the University of East Anglia, on the challenge of determining cause of death when a patient already sick contracts the coronavirus: “For example, let's say you have a patient with leukemia, you get COVID and a few weeks later you die. There is evidence that they had some degree of pneumonia. So, what is the main cause of death? How much COVID causes is not easy to say.”

*The Telegraph* reported the researchers are concerned that as the pandemic matures, more deaths are going to be attributed to the virus and “over-counting” will only get worse.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Oxford team worked to itemize coronavirus deaths that involved people who died “from” the disease and those who died “with” the disease.*

*Thus, the study supports our long-stated contention that the blanket lockdowns imposed by politicians across the globe were both economically unwise and based on faulty scientific data, and that the most vulnerable in society – not entire nations – should have been isolated.*

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Telegraph story and these facts were not reported in the mainstream media. Instead, they continue to blast out the number of new “cases,” again ignoring the fact that a person infected with the virus has 99.8 percent chance of surviving. [See [Off-Guardian article here](#).]*

## COVID TRUTH & CONSEQUENCES



The **Trends Journal** has long been reporting protocols whereby doctors list COVID-19 as the cause of death even in those cases where the patient had not been tested, and it was just “assumed” the patient had been infected.

On 14 April, we reported, “Dr. Scott Jensen, a Minnesota state senator who is also a medical doctor, accused the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of directing doctors to list COVID-19 as a cause of death even for someone who was never tested for it, which he said is ‘ridiculous’ and misleading.”

Dr. Jensen added, “I know that 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.”

Note: For his truth-telling efforts, Dr. Jensen was investigated by the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice for spreading false information. On 28 July, Dr. Jensen announced the charges had been dismissed.

In May, the **Trends Journal** wrote about the controversy in Belgium, a relatively small country with a modern health care system, which was reporting the highest death rate from the virus in the world. That made no sense. It turned out they listed COVID-19 as the official cause of death for every person dying in a nursing home, whether or not they had even been tested.

Earlier this month, the **Trends Journal** reported CDC data showing that some 94 percent of those dying from COVID-19 had at least one additional, significant pre-existing health condition and, more often, more than one. These other health issues were primarily heart disease, diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, and adult respiratory distress syndrome.

## TEMP CHECKS GOOD THEATER, BUT OFFER MINIMAL VIRUS PREVENTION BENEFIT



Some health officials see little use in employing temperature checks in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, saying these screenings do nothing more than offer a bit of pandemic theater for the public.

*The New York Times* reported last week that some governors have incorporated temperature checks into their coronavirus mandates. Running a fever is one of the hallmark symptoms of COVID-19, and they see these ubiquitous digital thermometers as just one extra step to protect the public.

The report said a person who clearly is running a fever will likely not venture outside. It has long been known that the most dangerous virus carriers are the ones who are asymptomatic and who appear otherwise healthy.

There have been studies, however, that show many patients who have been hospitalized with symptoms do not present a fever. Those who have a fever and take ibuprofen can also slide by some of these scans.

“We have found at the NIH, that it is much, much better to just question people when they come in and save the time because the temperatures are notoriously inaccurate many times,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, according to Quartz.

*The Times* reported that the CDC seemed to reverse its earlier call to check workers for symptoms like fevers.

Dr. David Thomas, an infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, told the paper that these temperature checks are equivalent to “getting the oil checked before you go on a long car trip. It makes you feel

better, but it's not going to keep you from wrecking the car or prevent the tires from falling off. It's not going to make your trip any safer."

Temperature checks have been used at schools in other countries such as Turkey, and they are growing in popularity due to the widespread use of no-contact thermometers.

Önder Ergönül, the Chair of Infectious Diseases at the Koç University School of Medicine in Istanbul, told Quartz he would describe temperature checks as "tedious but minimally effective."

## **HIGH PERCENT OF COVID PATIENT FATALITIES HAD PRIOR HEALTH ISSUES**



The *Journal of the American Medical Association* published a study in April that said of those hospitalized due to coronavirus symptoms, a large percentage had health issues prior to contracting the disease.

The peer-reviewed journal said 34 percent of the patients had diabetes, 42 percent were obese, and 57 percent had high blood pressure. A common factor, the report said, was the individuals had immune systems that cause inflammation.

"It's almost like you're using all the immune system's resources just to keep this fire smoldering," Helen Messier, an immunologist and Director of Altum Medical, told the journal. "When a viral infection happens during chronic inflammation, the immune system may either not be able to mount an appropriate immune response or, in the case of COVID-19, it doesn't have a good response initially but then tries to overcome it; the underlying inflammation can lead to an overpowering response, or 'cytokine storm.'"

Doctors in San Antonio said diabetes and heart conditions are the most fatal conditions in patients who have died from the disease.

“It’s a reminder that many of these health conditions are common in San Antonio,” said Ron Nirenberg, the San Antonio mayor, according to the local news channel *KSAT*. “You have to wear a mask and keep your physical distance and keep others safe if you’re interested in helping us keep containment of this virus.”

Dr. Anita Kurian, the Metro Health Assistant Director of Communicable Disease, told the station, “Any time you have one of these chronic conditions, you are susceptible because your immune system may not be up to par. Somebody who has diabetes may have not just diabetes, but may have other risk factors like heart disease, atherosclerosis, obesity.”

Dr. Kurian continued, “As the number of these underlying medical conditions or co-morbid conditions go up, your risk of getting any infection, not just COVID infections, but any infection increases.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have continually reported, there is never a mention in the mainstream media for people to get healthy and build their immune system to fight the virus. Instead, whether from Wall Street or nation’s capitols, the only solution provided to withstand the virus and reboot the economy is a vaccine.*

## **SWEDEN GOT IT RIGHT: CENSORSHIP 2.0**



As we have been reporting since the COVID War began, Sweden did not lock down its people and the economy; they do not wear masks; and their virus death rate is lower than France, Italy, Spain, the U.K, Denmark, Belgium, and many other countries which imposed strict lockdown rules and regulations.

Last week, the WHO said other European countries may do well to look into Sweden's coronavirus approach while much of the continent, which has employed strict lockdowns as a measure to stop the spread of the virus, is now seeing a second wave of infections.

Catherine Smallwood, Senior Emergency Officer at WHO/Europe, told the *Associated Press* it is important that other countries "recognize" Stockholm's relative success. The report pointed out the country has seen 30.3 new cases per 100,000 people in the last two weeks. By comparison, Spain has seen 292.2 cases.

"I think there are lessons for that," she said. "We will be very keen on working and hearing more from the Swedish approach."

Sweden is different from some of its neighbors because it does not mandate mask-wearing, which its health officials say encourage a false sense of security and most citizens, unlike those in much of Europe and the U.S., are an ineffective tool in preventing the disease's transmission.

"People will not wear masks for years," Lena Hallengren, the country's health minister, told the *AP*.

### **Think For Yourself**

Much of the credit in Sweden's success story has been given to Anders Tegnell, the country's chief epidemiologist, a rare health official to buck the universal approach to the virus that included economy-crushing lockdowns.

"It's really like using a hammer to kill a fly," Tengnell told the *Financial Times*.

"We don't see it as viable to have this kind of drastic closing down, opening and closing. You can't open and close schools. That is going to be a disaster. And you probably can't open and close restaurants and stuff like that either too many times. Once or twice, yes, but then people will get very tired and businesses will probably suffer more than if you close them down completely," he told the paper.

The government relied on its citizens to make responsible decisions during the outbreak that included common-sense approaches like hand-washing and staying home if you're feeling ill.

**TRENDPOST:** As we have noted, in Sweden, as much of the world, over half of its virus deaths were individuals in nursing homes. Dr. Tegnell has been criticized, as have many other epidemiologists and politicians, for their slow response to prevent the virus from infecting and killing the most vulnerable sector of society.

Indeed, New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo, as we reported, demanded that elderly COVID-19 patients be taken out of hospitals where they were being treated and sent to nursing homes where they spread the virus.

## MADRID'S PARTIAL LOCKDOWN MET WITH CITIZEN FRUSTRATION



A recent surge in coronavirus cases in some areas in the Spanish capital of Madrid has prompted the government to order a partial lockdown that has been the source of anger from those who say the mandate is extreme and will crush the economy.

*Reuters* reported the lockdown would target poorer areas in the city where about 850,000 people live. The report said these citizens say they feel abandoned by the government, and the restrictions would make it impossible to earn a living.

“We have to avoid at all costs a state of alert and above all confining people to their homes,” Isabel Diaz Ayuso, the head of Madrid's regional government, told the *Financial Times*. She said, “A state of alert and confining people are an economic disaster.”

Diaz Ayuso, a member of the country's conservative Popular Party, told the paper the new mandate would affect areas where there are more than 1,000 cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day span.



*El País*, one of the country's top newspapers, reported the new restrictions will be put into place on Monday and span 14 days. Under the mandates for the affected areas, residents will be able to leave home only for essential activities like work or school.

**TRENDPOST:** *It should be noted that Spain was among the early western nations to impose the strictest of lockdowns beginning in March. Yet, totally ignored in this article and most others is the fact that Sweden did not lock down its people nor the economy, and its virus infection rate is minimal compared to Spain. Sweden had 30.3 new cases per 100,000 people in the last two weeks compared to Spain's 292.2 cases.*

*Moreover, while there is panic in the Spanish streets as its GDP plummeted and the once tourist-rich destination suffered a tourist-less summer, ignored is the fact that its virus death rate is minor when compared to New York State.*

*To date, Spain, with 46.758 million people has 30,663 virus deaths or 0.0655 percent of the population. Thus, the devastating socioeconomic cost of closing down an entire nation with such a low overall death rate is barely addressed.*

*And, while the media champions New York Governor Andrew Cuomo for bravely fighting the COVID War (and getting a major book deal to write about it), with 19.5 million people and 33,182 virus victims, the state's death rate is 0.1701 percent.*

**TRENDPOST:** *Last week, Spain's central bank forecasted that once there is a COVID vaccine, the economy will not recover to pre-lockdown levels until at least 2023.*

*The Bank of Spain expects the nation's GDP to slump between 10.5 percent and 12.6 percent this year and unemployment to hit 22 percent next year if tourist bans are not lifted and the hospitality sector continues its decline.*

**TRENDPOST:** *Countries in Europe which have seen a spike in virus cases in recent weeks appear to be uneasy about adhering to another round of lockdowns in an effort to slow the spread during a second wave being felt in the U.K. and Spain.*

*The Wall Street Journal reported last week that despite the new infections, many cases have been recorded in the younger population. Many of these carriers have exhibited no symptoms or mild symptoms.*

**TRENDPOST:** *Officials in Spain are not the only ones who see a second lockdown as a surefire way to devastate the economy. Emmanuel Macron, the French leader, promised he would not issue another lockdown order and said he would be willing to just “live” with the pandemic. President Trump has also vowed not to implement another lockdown.*

*Again, we note new “Freedom” parties with populist/nationalist agendas will grow throughout the world as the “Greatest Depression” worsens and poverty, crime, violence, and government corruption increase.*

## **IRELAND’S PM ENFORCES “DRACONIAN” MEASURES TO SLOW VIRUS SPREAD**



The County Dublin, Ireland, announced this week it would add on additional restrictions due to recent virus cases within the country, after the country’s Prime Minister Micheal Martin said the “threat is growing” and needs to be slowed, according to a report.

*Irish Central* reported that Martin said the new restrictions will include allowing home visitors from only one other household with no more than six at a time and outdoor gatherings to include no more than 15 people.

The orders also affect bars and restaurants in the county, which still do not allow indoor dining. Customers can use curbside pickup, and outdoor dining is permissible as long as there are under 15 people.

“I know the additional restrictions that are needed for Dublin will make many people angry, but we have received very clear advice that these restrictions will help reduce the spread of the virus and save lives,” Martin said.

*Reuters* reported Ireland has been one of the slowest countries in Europe to loosen restrictions from lockdowns amid the pandemic, and Martin said the tighter restrictions were being put in place “despite people’s best efforts over recent weeks.”

The Level 3 restriction is set to be in place for three weeks until there’s another assessment.

The European Centre for Disease Control said last week that Ireland had the 17th highest COVID-19 infection rates in Europe, with 57.4 cases per 100,000 during 14 days.

It should be noted that after being locked down for six months, 1,792 died of the virus in a nation of 5 million people or 0.0358 percent of Ireland’s population.

Weary of the lockdown restrictions, the city of Dublin has seen protests break out. A week ago, about 2,000 protesters, described by *Irish Central* as “far-right,” took to the streets to speak out against the mask mandate. The report said there were hardly any people wearing masks and “little signs of social distancing.”

The protests came after a doctor from the Dublin Midlands Hospital spoke out against the virus’ risk for those infected and said it is “much less severe” than your average seasonal flu. *Irish Central* reported that Dr. Martin Feeley called the government’s crackdown “draconian.”

He told the *Irish Times*, according to the report, that the virus’ financial cost “can be seen in any walk or drive through cities, towns and villages.”

“Mortgage repayments and other financial setbacks are virtually all suffered by the young worker or business person and not by the over-65, who are guaranteed their pension, as indeed are the salaries of the individuals who decide to inflict these draconian measures,” he told the *Times*.

**TRENDPOST:** Prior the COVID War, as we reported in the **Trends Journal** in our “[DUOPOLY SMASHED IN IRELAND](#)” article from February 2020, there was a strong anti-establishment movement in Ireland with the election Mary Lou McDonald of the Sinn Féin party.

*Again and again, as we continue to note, as the “Greatest Depression” worsens and poverty, crime, violence, and government corruption increase, there will be escalating social unrest and formation of new populist/nationalist political parties.*

## POLICE & PROTESTERS CLASH IN LONDON



Over the weeks, we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal** on the growing number of protests against COVID-19 rules and breach of freedoms as people took to the streets from Berlin to Dublin, London to Paris, Melbourne to Montreal.

Anti-government anger is growing across four continents as political leaders, reacting to higher infection rates (while death rates are dropping) are re-locking down societies and coming up with new ways to restrict basic, individual rights.

Some of the most draconian, new lockdown measures are being enforced in the U.K. As previously reported in the **Trends Journal**, on 14 September, the U.K. government announced a “rule of 6” prohibiting any social gatherings of more than six people, aside from limited exemptions including for work and education.

Police were instructed to disperse illegal gatherings and fine individuals £100 (\$128) and doubling each additional offense up to £3,200 (\$4,096).

Citizens are fighting back.

On Saturday, several thousand protesters from a wide range of groups opposing lockdown impositions organized a “Resist and Act for Freedom” rally at London’s Trafalgar Square. Police were called in, which led to physical confrontations, injuries, and the arrest of more than 30 people.

The protest was advertised with an image showing a vaccine bottle and urging people to “Come together, resist and act.” Demonstrators carried signs such as “This is Now Tyranny.” Video footage of the event showed a large group of protesters moving toward police chanting, “Choose your side.”

During the pushing and shoving that ensued, protesters clasped hands in solidarity, forming what the *Guardian* called a “human blockade” to make it difficult for police on foot and mounted on horses to arrest individuals.

The London Metropolitan Police issued a statement that demonstrators were urged to disperse because they were putting the public at risk: “This, coupled with pockets of hostility and outbreaks of violence towards officers, means we will now be taking enforcement action to disperse those who remain in the area.”

The *Guardian* reported that while there were flare-ups, overall, the rally was peaceful.

The Metropolitan police stated, “It is important to remember we are still in the middle of a global pandemic, and the changes have been introduced to help control the spread of the virus, keep everybody safe and save lives.”

In addition to protesting freedom restrictions, a number of those participating opposed mandatory vaccines and voiced anger at the media for its coverage, including signs that read “Media Distancing.”

### **New Fines, New Restrictions**

The day before the protestors took over Trafalgar Square, Prime Minister Johnson issued a warning about a second wave of COVID-19 and said he would consider additional lockdown measures.

Then, on Saturday, the same day as the rally, the British government announced a new legal mandate: any citizen in England who has tested positive or through tracking surveillance is considered at risk for being in contact with someone testing positive must “self-isolate.”

Johnson announced, “People who choose to ignore the rules will face significant fines.” The fines will start at £1,000 (\$1,292) and can go up as high as £10,000 (\$12,920).

He added that low income workers forced to self-isolate but who can’t work remotely from home will receive government payments of £500 (\$646). The Prime Minister said, “I don’t want to see a situation where people don’t feel they are financially able to self-isolate.”

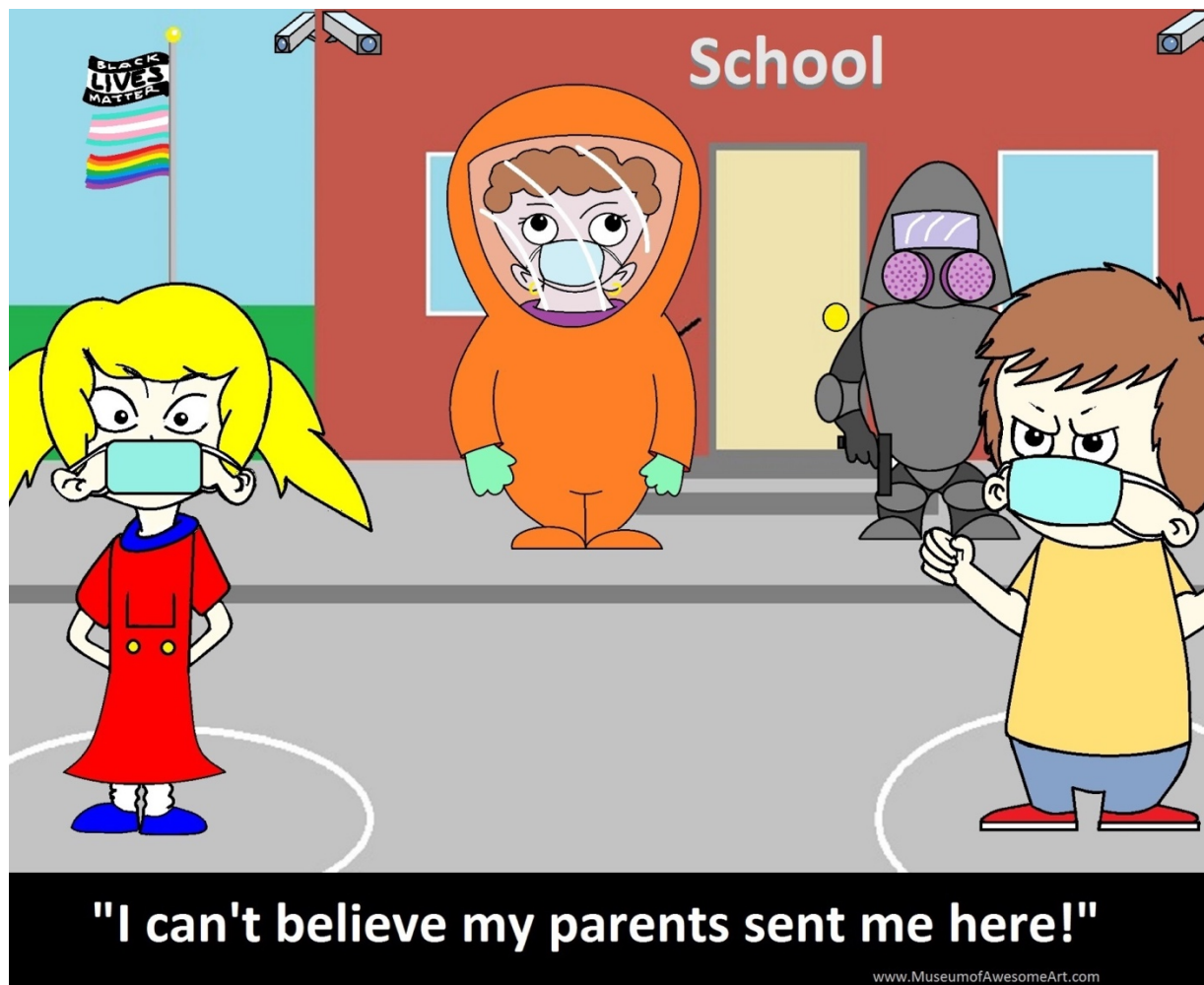
The new legal restriction with fines becomes effective on 28 September. U.K. officials are considering expanding it to Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

To exert pressure on citizens to comply, police will be monitoring those locations known to have high amounts of infection. Those required to self-isolate will be checked on by National Health Service workers who have the option of reporting violators to police.

To date, about 41,800 people in the U.K. have died from COVID-19 in a country of 66.65 million or 0.06 percent.

## TRENDS IN TOONS *by Stephen Green*

### “ELEMENTARY INCARCERATION”





# TRENDS-EYE VIEW

## AMERICA: IN FARMERS WE TRUST



The analytics company Gallup has been polling Americans on their opinions of various businesses and industries. This year's poll, which came out on 3 September, states, "For the first time in Gallup's 20 years of tracking Americans' views of various business and industry sectors, farming and agriculture is the clear leader."

Farming and agriculture had been rated favorably before 2020, but now, with a 69 percent positive rating, an 11 percent improvement from last year, it has risen to the top.

It's interesting to note that all three of the top-rated industries were food-related. The grocery and restaurant industries ranked second and third.

Computer companies gained favorable ratings, ranking fourth. The Internet received a 6 percent boost in favorable rating compared to last year.

With the coronavirus being the major story in 2020, the U.S. healthcare industry was ranked 13th on the list of 25 (see end of article for complete list), with just over 50 percent of those polled viewing it positively. Finishing in the middle of the pack, however, was a significant improvement as last year healthcare was ranked third from the bottom.

As for the pharmaceutical industry in the year of the coronavirus, it came in second to last based on the poll's "net-positive score which subtracts the percentage of those polled viewing an industry negatively from the percentage of those viewing it positively." As low as Americans view drug companies, they



showed even less respect for the federal government, which finished at the bottom.

Some pharmaceutical websites, such as FiercePharma.com, tried to paint a “glass half full” picture by highlighting the fact that according to the poll, “Americans pushed the pharma industry’s positive perception to 34% overall, a jump of seven percentage points over last year.”

True, but it can’t hide the fact that other than the government, drug companies are viewed more negatively than any other business category.

The travel industry, hampered by social distancing mandates and a reluctance of so many people to get on a plane, saw its positive rating fall 11 points to 41 percent.

### **“Where Have You Gone, Joe DiMaggio?”**

The biggest slide in favorable rankings in the Gallup poll went to the sports industry. Compared to last year, the positive view of sports dropped from 45 percent all the way down to 30.

The distaste for the sports industry can be seen even more clearly when comparing what Gallup calls the “net-positive” score. Last year, the net-positive number for sports was a “plus 20.” This year: “minus 10.”

Gallup notes that sports lost most of its support from Republicans and independents. Democrats continued to view the industry the same as last year. Also, enthusiasm for the sports industry weakened more with women and older adults while maintaining a strong connection with non-white Americans.

Gallup revealed white adults are now more negative on sports by a 22-point margin.

The report mentions the drop is likely due to both inconsistent scheduling due to the virus as well as “public displays of support for the Black Lives Matter movement.”

The report adds, “The greater social and political activism of players and, in some cases now, coaching staffs and entire leagues appears to have turned off Americans who disagree with their messages or the way they express them. The net effect at this point has been negative for the industry's image.”

## Media Mediocrity

Television & radio finished in the bottom tier, 19th out of 25, sandwiched between the oil and gas industry and the legal field.

As for social media, the report commented, “At a time when social media has been an amplifier for political and social movements in the country, and internet companies like Facebook, Google and TikTok have faced scrutiny from the Trump administration, the internet has also seen its rating improve slightly; however, this has occurred disproportionately among Democrats.”

It should be noted that a previous survey of 20,000 Americans conducted by Gallup and the Knight Foundation, published on 4 August, titled, “American Views 2020: Trust, Media and Democracy,” found:

- Half (49 percent) of all Americans think the media is very biased. Fifty-six percent say their own news sources are biased, and seven in ten are concerned about bias in the news others are getting.
- Americans think the media is pushing an agenda. Three in four people (74 percent) worry owners of media companies are influencing coverage, up five points since 2017.
- They also suspect inaccuracies in reporting are purposeful, with 54 percent believing reporters misrepresent the facts and 28 percent believing reporters make them up entirely.
- Americans think the media is vital for democracy. The vast majority of Americans (84 percent) say that the news media is “critical” (49 percent) or “very important” (35 percent) to provide accurate information and hold the powerful accountable.

Following is the 3 September Gallup Poll list of industry rankings from the highest to lowest based on net-positive percentages:

Farming & Agriculture  
Grocery Industry  
Restaurant Industry  
Computer Industry  
Retail Industry  
Accounting

Automobile Industry  
Electric and Gas Utilities  
Real Estate Industry  
Telephone Industry  
Banking  
Internet Industry  
Healthcare Industry  
Education  
Travel Industry  
Publishing Industry  
Airline Industry  
Oil and Gas Industry  
Television and Radio Industry  
The Legal Field  
Movie Industry  
Advertising and Public Relations Industry  
Sports Industry  
Pharmaceutical Industry  
The Federal Government

## **TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS**

### **U.S. OFFICIALS AT RISK FOR WAR CRIMES CHARGES**



The U.S. State Department has not addressed the legal ramifications of selling weapons to Saudi Arabia and could be increasing its exposure to war-crimes charges for top U.S. officials, according to a report last week.

*The New York Times* reported that President Obama's State Department first raised the issue back in 2016, during the air war between the Saudis and Yemen. The conflict resulted in a high civilian death toll, and the inspector general from the department said officials at the Pentagon did not address some of the legal risks for selling the bombs.

*The Times'* report was extensive and mentioned how the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia, in this case, was a unique one. The paper said never before has the U.S. provided such material support "that have caused the continuous killing of civilians."

*The Times*, citing an estimate from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, reported 127,000 died in the war, including 13,500 civilians.

Human Rights Watch said the war in Yemen is approaching its seventh year and – aside from the deaths – the organization documented 1,605 "cases of arbitrary detention and 770 cases of enforced disappearance by all parties to the conflict." Saudis and their geopolitical allies are almost fighting a proxy war with Iran and are trying to defeat Iranian-backed Houthis in the country.

Nicholas Goldberg, a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, wrote a column recently that was critical of Obama for taking so long to restrict the bomb sale to the Saudis. The article also blamed President Trump for increasing sales again and then vetoing an effort by Congress to produce a bipartisan resolution.

"Since then, a wedding party and even a school bus have been bombed with U.S.-made weapons supplied to the Saudi coalition forces," he wrote. A coalition jet dropped a U.S.-made bomb on the bus that killed 54 people, including 44 children, *The Times* reported.

Goldberg wrote the war in Yemen "has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world."

According to the U.N., some 80 percent of Yemen's population of 24 million need humanitarian assistance and protection; 20 million of which need help securing food and almost 10 million considered "one step away from famine."

"If we know they're being committed with our weapons, and if the country we're selling to is refusing our advice to change its behavior, from that point on we are complicit. And the Saudis have consistently refused our advice even as they have taken our weapons," Rep. Tom Malinowski said, according to the column.

*The New York Times* report, which cites legal scholars, said the U.S. knew these weapons would be used on the civilian population and, hence, these U.S. officials become legally vulnerable in international courts.

***TRENDPOST:*** *As we have been reporting since the outbreak of the Yemen war, it was launched from Washington, D.C., by the Saudi Ambassador to the United States in March 2015.*

*Long forgotten was President Barack “The Nobel Piece of Crap Prize Winner” Obama’s strong support for a war that has devastated Yemen, the poorest nation in the Middle East.*

*This is how Reuters reported America’s involvement following the Saudi announcement on 7 April, some two weeks after the Saudi’s attacked Yemen:*

***U.S. expedites arms shipments to coalition bombing Yemen***

*RIYADH/ADEN (Reuters) –The United States is speeding up arms supplies and bolstering intelligence sharing with a Saudi-led alliance bombing a militia aligned with Iran in neighboring Yemen, a senior U.S. diplomat said on Tuesday.*

*U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S., a key ally of oil-rich Saudi Arabia, had also set up a coordination center in the Sunni Muslim kingdom, whose forces have led an air campaign against the Shi’ite Houthi group which rules most of Yemen.*

*“Saudi Arabia is sending a strong message to the Houthis and their allies that they cannot overrun Yemen by force,” he told reporters in the Saudi capital Riyadh.*

*“As part of that effort, we have expedited weapons deliveries, we have increased our intelligence sharing, and we have established a joint coordination planning cell in the Saudi operation center,” Blinken added.*

*And this is from The Council on Foreign Relations six months after the Saudi’s launched the war:*

*Nevertheless, since March 25, the United States has been providing in-air refueling, combat-search-and-rescue support (including the rescue of two Saudi pilots whose helicopter crashed in the Gulf of Aden), detailing forty-*

*five intelligence analysts to help advise on target selection, and redoubling weapons exports and contractor support to the GCC countries.*

*Indeed, Saudi Arabia's relationship with the United States is primarily as a source of cash for weapons. Since October 2010 alone, the Obama administration has agreed to sell \$90.4 billion in weapons to the Gulf kingdom, according to the Congressional Research Service.*

*Yet, these facts are ignored by The New York Times whose reporting has become bias, taking positions for who and what they support rather than reporting as a member of the Fourth Estate.*

## **THE PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®**

### **BIDEN TRUSTS VACCINES. TRUMP? NOT SO MUCH**



Joe Biden, the 2020 Democratic presidential nominee, said last week that he trusts “science” and will trust a vaccine after it is approved by top health officials, but he said he puts no stock in what President Trump says about advances in the search for an inoculation.

Biden’s comments are not surprising and follow in the footsteps of Senator Kamala Harris, his running mate, who said earlier this month she would “not trust Donald Trump, and it would have to be a credible source of information that talks about the efficacy and the reliability of whatever he’s talking about.”

Trump and his campaign, no doubt, see a vaccine prior to the 2020 election as a major victory in the fight against the coronavirus and see its potential to make Americans feel easier about venturing back into the economy. Jared Kushner, the

president's son-in-law and senior advisor, recently praised Trump for his commitment to finding a vaccine and speeding up the process unlike any test trial in U.S. history. (Trump's critics say he is being reckless and simply trying to get reelected.)

"Scientific breakthroughs don't care about calendars any more than the virus does," Biden said. "They certainly don't adhere to election cycles. And their timing and their approval and their distribution should never, ever be distorted by political considerations."

Democrats also have been accused of looking at the calendar during the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County Public Health Director, said in a leaked audio earlier this month that despite a drop in coronavirus cases in the county, she did not expect schools to reopen until after the elections.

"We don't, realistically, anticipate that we would be moving to either Tier 2 or to reopening K-12 school at least through, at least until after the election. After, you know, in early November. When we just look at the timing and everything, it seems to us a more realistic approach to this would be to think that we're going to be where we are now until after we're done with the elections," she said.

Trump has accused both Biden and Harris of trying to wage something of an anti-vaxxer campaign in recent weeks in order to affect public opinion about the vaccine.

Biden said Trump's team still does not have a plan in place to "bring us out of this crisis."

***TREND FORECAST:*** Again, the foundation of this election will be "It's the economy, stupid." Trump will blame the Democrats for locking down the economy, and Biden will blame Trump for not aggressively fighting the COVID War.

*It should be noted that national defense and America's foreign entanglements are not campaign issues at this time.*

*As of now, despite polls showing Biden the winner of The Presidential Reality Show®, we forecast Trump the winner.*



*In this COVID Year of Unprecedented Wild Cards, however, it's an "anything goes," down-to-the-wire election. Also, as we have noted, the debates will prove instrumental in who wins the race.*

*At this time, Joe Biden's selection of Kamala Harris to win over Black and female voters, is, as per our research, having at best a minor effect on the election outcome.*

## **TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE** *by Bennett Daviss*

### **KILLING COVID WITH LIGHT**



Schools, corporate headquarters, and other institutions are stocking up on bleach and microsprayers and are hiring extra staff to constantly clean surfaces where the COVID virus may lurk.

Now Corvus Robotics has found a way to eliminate all that extra work and gear.

The Boston-based drone maker has devised a robot that stops coronaviruses with light.

The vigilante is a collection of vertical tubes that look like fluorescent light bulbs. The bulbs pulse ultraviolet light at very short wavelengths that have been shown to damage coronaviruses' DNA, leaving them unable to reproduce.

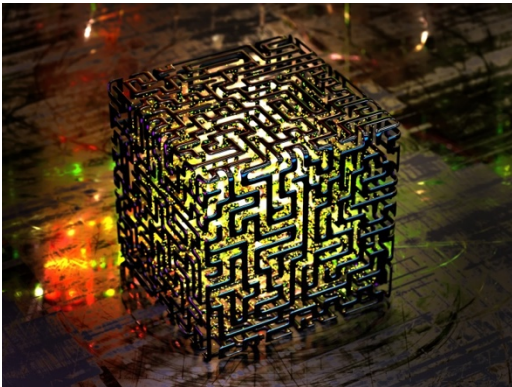
The tubes are mounted on a motorized, wheeled base holding batteries and a computer. A human must guide the robot along its first trip through the area to be treated while the onboard computer makes a map.

Once the unit has learned the terrain, the light robot can be turned on through an app or programmed to start at a certain time. A person also can tell the computer to clean a specific area and set it to work at any time.

The robot is priced at \$25,000 but can be rented for unlimited use for \$1,500 a month.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Versions of Corvus's robot virus-killer could potentially be made as tabletop units or even as drones. Mass production would lower the price to put it within reach of almost any school, office, or business.*

## **IBM: 1,000-QUBIT QUANTUM COMPUTER IN NEXT THREE YEARS**



IBM has announced a “road map” that will lead it to build a 1,000-qubit quantum computer by 2023.

The state of the art now: a year ago, Google claimed its 53-qubit quantum computer solved in 200 seconds a calculation that would have taken a conventional supercomputer 10,000 years to complete.

IBM's plan is to build a 127-qubit machine next year and a 433-qubit computer in 2022, leading to the 1,000-bit machine the year after.

A quantum computer is one that can calculate using quantum bits or “qubits,” which are subatomic particles such as electrons or photons.

A conventional computer calculates using a series of ones and zeroes, one after the other. But qubits avail themselves of the quirks of quantum physics: under certain conditions, a qubit can be a one and a zero at the same time, a

characteristic called “superpositioning.” This allows calculations to be made simultaneously instead one at a time.

Quantum computers also capitalize on “entanglement,” which means that two qubits can be linked, even across space, so that changing one instantly changes the other – what Einstein called “spooky action at a distance.”

Combining superpositioning and entanglement speeds calculations exponentially, allowing quantum computers to solve staggeringly complex problems in a matter of minutes.

But don’t look for a quantum computer at Staples. To control qubits precisely requires lasers, finely tuned electromagnetic fields, and temperatures near absolute zero. The machines will be reserved for tackling the most urgent and complex problems.

***TRENDPOST:*** *By 2030, engineers will combine artificial intelligence and quantum computing. The combination will raise the power, speed, and “intelligence” of computers to unimaginable levels. The ethical and social issues this will raise will need to begin to be addressed now to anticipate and avoid unintended consequences.*

## **BODYBUILDERS’ SUPPLEMENT STALLS AGING**



Alpha-ketoglutarate (AKG), a supplement bodybuilders use to bulk up, has delayed the symptoms of aging and extended healthspans in mice, researchers at California’s Buck Institute for Research on Aging have found.

AKG occurs naturally in mammals, including humans, and is a compound needed to convert food into energy. Physicians sometimes prescribe it to treat kidney disease and osteoporosis.

The researchers began feeding black-furred mice 2 percent of their daily food allotment as AKG, starting when the mice were 18 months old, equivalent to age 55 in humans.

Soon, the treated mice looked “blackier, shinier, and younger” than their untreated litter mates.

The treated mice also scored an average of more than 40 percent better than their untreated siblings on 31 tests of “frailty,” including hearing, gait, and grip strength. Female mice receiving AKG lived 8 to 20 percent longer, probably because AKG blocks inflammation, a key cause of several diseases associated with aging, the researchers said.

The youthful mice performed no better on tests of heart function or treadmill endurance. Mental acuity was not tested.

AKG had less effect on mice’s health and lifespan than other compounds, such as rapamycin, a drug used to suppress organ rejection after transplants. But, in addition to suppressing the immune system, rapamycin can promote diabetes. “The big thing about [AKG] is that its safety profile is so good,” said Holly Brown-Borg, a leading researcher on aging at the University of North Dakota. She was not involved in the Buck project.

Two human trials are now under way using middle-aged to older adults to determine AKG’s effects on such aging markers as inflammation, hardening of arteries, and changes to DNA.

***TRENDPOST:*** Medical research, especially in aging, is shifting from the search for new, more powerful synthetic drugs to enhancing or amplifying the body’s own health-maintaining compounds and processes.