

# TRENDSJOURNAL

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## ***TOOBIN*** ***The MASK-U-BATOR*** ***PERSONIFIES PRESSTITUTES***



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## TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

### U.S. MARKETS OVERVIEW



Yesterday, U.S. equity markets sunk on news of rising COVID cases and Washington unable to agree on a money pumping scheme to help boost the sagging economy.

And with virus cases rising in Europe and governments imposing new rounds of lockdown measures, equities were down sharply there as well.

Today, it's more of the same in the States and overseas, with markets down as fears of sagging economic growth intensify. Indeed, with the exception of China – where the virus broke out but only 4,634 died from it, and the only major nation that will have positive GDP growth for 2020 – throughout most of the world, the “Greatest Depression” has begun.

With just a week away from Election Day, there is little expressed concern on the Street as to who wins the Presidential Reality Show. Research shows that regardless of who wins, stocks go up... but not necessarily this time, since there

is growing concern of post-election violence by supporters of the losing candidate.

**Oil:** One of the major indicators of where the economy is headed are oil prices. With tourism tanking, remote offices, and at-home school increasing, hospitality/restaurant business badly slumping as people stay home... demand for oil is falling, as are its prices. Brent crude is stuck in the low \$40 per barrel range, down some \$28 from its January high.

Unless a wild card, such as wars, are played, we forecast oil prices will stay in the \$40 range as the “Greatest Depression” worsens. Indeed, with the mainstream news selling 24/7 COVID Fear and nations and states imposing new lockdown rules, consumer and industrial oil consumption will continue to decline.

**Gold/Silver:** According to analysts, gold prices fell last week because of a stronger dollar, better-than-expected U.S. unemployment numbers, and uncertainties about a stimulus package from Congress before the election.

The dollar is not that strong, however – it fell yesterday and today, and unemployment numbers are still far above pre-lockdown levels. We maintain our forecast for rising gold and silver prices as governments continue to pump in countless trillions to artificially inflate equity markets and sharply slumping economies.

Should the Democrats win the White House and Congress, we forecast precious metals will rise faster since they will inject heavier doses of monetary methadone into the economy. Thus, the more cheap money they print, the lower the dollar goes and the higher precious metal prices rise.

Indeed, the sentiment on Wall Street is that if Biden wins, he will also escalate the COVID War. Thus, that would mean locking down more of the national economy and pushing the United States deeper into the “Greatest Depression.”

**Bitcoin:** As forecast, Bitcoin prices continue to rise as governments, particularly China, go digital. And, unlike older generations who view gold and silver as safe-haven assets, the going-digital trend will prove bullish for cryptocurrencies, particularly for younger generations who live in a digital world and are fearful of an economic future of worthless money.

We forecast Bitcoin will continue to rise, surpassing its all-time high. As the “Greatest Depression” worsens, more cheap money will be pumped into failing economies, thus pushing the value of currencies down... and inflation higher. The

lower currencies fall and the higher inflation rises, the greater the demand for safer haven assets such as precious metals and Bitcoin.

## GLOBAL BORROWERS GO FOR DOLLARS



Although the dollar is in decline, the U.S. Federal Reserve's policy of cheap money and easy borrowing has strengthened the dollar's dominance in the world economy even as China and Russia have sought to weaken it.

As of 23 October, global entities from Nissan Motor Co. to Manila's waterworks had sold \$1.29 trillion in dollar-denominated bonds, up 21 percent this year from the same period in 2019 and edging past 2017's record of \$1.28 trillion, *Bloomberg* reported.

The dollar's share of global funding has reached a 20-year high, according to the Bank for International Settlements, which called the dollar "clearly the dominant international funding currency" in a June report.

There are few alternatives. The euro is weaker and more limited internationally than the dollar, and China's currency is subject to various government controls. While we forecast it will change as the "Greatest Depression" worsens, at this juncture, no other currency has the strength or global acceptance to rival the buck.

The Fed also expanded dollar swap lines this year with its foreign counterparts to counteract a shortage of dollars for global financing and trade.

Corporations in Indonesia and the Philippines have sold more dollar-denominated bonds so far this year than in any other full year. Indonesia's financial market is small and by borrowing in dollars, the government did not crowd out other



domestic borrowers, Deni Ridwan, the finance ministry's bond director, told *Bloomberg*.

Nissan, reeling from scandal as well as sales damaged by the shutdown, found an eager market when it issued dollar-denominated bonds for the first time in decades. The company's \$8-billion September offering was one of Asia's largest corporate issues on record.

“The dollar markets are the only real source available, so the whole situation builds on itself,” said James O’Neill, former Goldman Sachs Chief Economist and now Chair of the International Policy group Chatham House, in a *Bloomberg* interview.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As the U.S. debt level continues to historically escalate, the value of the dollar will continue to decline. We forecast China's yuan will continue to rise over the decades as China overtakes America as the world's largest economy. Thus, the larger and stronger China grows, it will gain global market share from the dollar and eventually replace it as the world's top currency.

## RECOVERY SLOWING, FED SAYS



Remember back in April, the month after the global lockdown, how economists predicted a “V-shaped” recovery, and the media was selling the line, “It will come back”?

The economy did not come back. Any semblance of economic normalcy was created by the artificial monetary methadone injections into equity markets and the economy by the Federal Reserve and Washington.

And the Fed knows it.

According to the Federal Reserve's "beige book" report issued 21 October, the U.S. economy has grown at a "slight to moderate" rate this fall... indicating the economic recovery has slowed.

The recovery also is uneven, with banking, housing, and manufacturing doing well while commercial real estate and consumer spending lag.

For example, Dallas homebuilders have a backlog of work and employees and materials are hard to find. In contrast, the value of storefronts and office buildings is sliding as businesses close and white-collar employees are working from home.

Employment also is uneven, with companies such as airlines laying off workers while others, including many manufacturers, struggle to find qualified employees. Many businesses have hiked wages or offered to pay for child care to lure applicants.

The report found most companies to be "positive or optimistic" about the future, although many feel uncertain, especially about the economic consequences of November's election, the report said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As winter sets in, the already suffering travel, hospitality, tourism, restaurant, theater, and event businesses, among others, will sink deeper into depression.

*By their numbers, already, they have sunk deep into the "Greatest Depression," but the mainstream media ignores this reality. Thus, already terrible economic hardships will intensify.*

## **FED: LOCKDOWN FLAWS, ECONOMIC INEQUITIES**



The economic shutdown roiled financial markets this spring, revealing weaknesses that regulators are working to fix, said Randall Quarles, the U.S. Federal Reserve's Vice Chair for Supervision, in a 21 October speech.

The banking system withstood the turmoil well but non-bank sectors of the financial industry were shown to be "significantly more fragile," he said.

During the financial chaos, the Fed supplied liquidity to money-market mutual funds and commercial paper markets to keep them from seizing up.

"While swift and decisive policy action succeeded in calming markets, this does not mean our work is complete," Quarles said.

## **Economic Despair**

Economic disparities threaten to derail the economic recovery, economist Lael Brainard, a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve's board of governors, said in 21 October comments to a meeting of the Society of Professional Economists.

"The recovery remains highly uncertain and highly uneven, with certain sectors and groups experiencing substantial hardship," she said. "These disparities risk holding back the recovery."

Noting the booming equity markets, in contrast, she cited unemployed workers, small businesses, and state and local governments as being left behind in the recovery and in particular need of help.

"Apart from the course of the virus itself, the most significant downside risk would be the failure of additional fiscal support to materialize," she warned. She urged targeted fiscal support and continuing "accommodative" monetary policy "to turn this K-shaped recovery into a broad-based, inclusive recovery."

Fed officials, including Chairman Jerome Powell, have repeatedly urged Congress to pass another stimulus plan.

The Fed's policies also must remain "dovish" even after interest rates begin to rise again, Brainard said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The gap between the rich and poor, which we have detailed with solid facts and hard numbers over the decades, will intensify as the "Greatest*

*Depression” worsens. As the number of poor people swells, so, too, will violence, protests, riots, crimes, and corruption.*

## **U.S. REAL ESTATE TRENDS**



**MORTGAGE DEMAND DOWN.** The demand for mortgages slipped 0.6 percent during the week of 12 October, the fourth week in a row that fewer applications were filed, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association’s (MBA) seasonally adjusted index.

Applications to purchase a new home were off 2 percent; applications to refinance rose 0.2 percent, which is 74 percent higher than a year previous.

Applications to refinance claimed 66.1 percent of the entire mortgage market for the week, up 0.5 percent year on year.

“Despite the uptick in rates, refinance activity held steady, with FHA refinance applications posting a 17.6% increase, helping to offset declines in the other loan types,” said Joel Kan, MBA’s associate VP of Economic and Industry Forecasting. Purchase demand is down nearly 7 percent compared with four weeks ago.

The volume of applications remains 26 percent higher than a year ago, although the volume of applications to purchase is 2 less percent less than four weeks ago.

The decline may be attributable to the record-low availability of houses, especially for inexpensive homes, and those that come on the market are snapped up, sometimes within hours.

Low interest rates, which also set records recently, make it easier for a wider range of buyers to qualify for loans.



The average 30-year, fixed-rate contract fetched 3.02 percent interest last week, compared with 3.0 percent the previous week; average points rose from 0.32 to 0.36 for loans with a 20-percent down payment.

The interest rate was a full point higher a year ago.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *To again artificially boost the sagging economy, as the “Greatest Depression” worsens, we forecast the Fed lower rates into negative territory next year. In turn, as interest rates fall, so, too, will the dollar, thus pushing up precious metal and Bitcoin prices as investors seek safe-haven assets.*

**HOMES SALES JUMP. SO DO PRICES.** Sales of existing homes rose 9.4 percent in September, year on year. The gain was more than analysts had expected and translates to an annualized jump of 20.9 percent.

Sales in the Northeast rose 16.2 percent, 7.1 percent in the Midwest, 8.5 percent in the South, and 9.6 percent in the West.

Higher sales drove down the inventory of houses available to buy to 1.47 million at the end of September, a 19.2-percent drop from a year earlier. The number represents a 2.7-month supply, according to the National Association of Realtors, the tightest supply since the association began tracking the number in 1982.

The median home price in September was \$311,800, 14.8 percent more than a year previous and an all-time high when adjusted for inflation.

The median price was highest in the West at \$470,800, up 17.1 percent from September 2019. The cheapest homes were in the Midwest, where the median price of \$243,100 was 14.8 percent higher than a year earlier. Inexpensive homes are the scarcest and are the focus of rising prices, the association noted. More expensive homes are more abundant, which skews the median sale price higher.

“Americans are splurging on spending for housing,” said Lawrence Yun, the realtor association’s chief economist. “Home prices are simply rising too fast.”

The market is also boosted by mortgage rates that fell to record lows in September.

Sales of newly-built homes soared 43 percent in September, year on year.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *With downward pressure on interest rates, for the near future, residential real estate prices in select areas will continue to rise. However, when equity markets crash, the residential housing market will decline.*

**NEW YORK CITY APARTMENT SLUMP.** The median rent for a NYC apartment has fallen below 2019's prices in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, the first time a decade that rents in all three boroughs have declined year on year, according to real estate firm StreetEasy.

The asking rent in Manhattan has fallen below \$3,000 a month for the first time since 2011, the company said.

The number of apartments listed for rent in the city during the third quarter increased to 72,267, a gain of 69.8 percent over the second quarter and 30,000 more than the same time last year, StreetEasy noted.

Landlords also are cutting rents an average of 9.1 percent in Manhattan, more than double the typical discounts offered last year.

"Landlords across the city, but particularly in Manhattan, have to be willing to face some really hard hits if they want to fill their units," said StreetEasy economist Nancy Wu in announcing the figures. They are being forced to cut the location premium out of their asking price in order to compete with larger and more affordable apartments in the outer boroughs.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We had forecast the NYC apartment slump in the **Trends Journal** when the COVID War was launched in March.*

*As winter sets in, the apartment slump will deepen in New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and other densely populated, over-built cities where large demographics are leaving to escape high prices, rising crime, and the coronavirus.*

**BROOKLYN HOUSING MARKET REVIVES.** Home sales in the New York City borough of Brooklyn are on the rise as urbanites flee Manhattan for cheaper, more spacious digs across the East River.

After falling 42 percent early in the shutdown, the number of new-home contract signings in Brooklyn has exceeded year-earlier figures in July, August, and September, according to real estate firm Douglas Elliman.

Contract signings in September were up 21 percent year on year, the firm noted, and homes listed for sale in the borough were 11 percent higher than a year previous.

Sales surged 157 percent in the third quarter compared to the second as the shutdown eased and people were able to visit listed houses and flats.

Brooklyn homes are selling at or near their asking prices, while Manhattan's are consistently selling at discounts, according to Urban Digs Analytics.

The median third-quarter Brooklyn sale price was \$689,000, a 3-percent bump from the same period in 2019.

"The attractions to Brooklyn are more space" and "outdoor space is much more available... in a price range that's really attractive," Noemi Bitterman with Compass Realty told the *Wall Street Journal*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As prices drop in select areas, sales will only moderately rise. With unemployment remaining high and the "Greatest Depression" worsening, there will far greater supply than demand of apartments in big cities.

## NEW YORK HOTELS RUNNING ON EMPTY



About 200 of New York City's 700 hotels are still closed, and those that are accepting guests have slashed room rates by an average of more than 60 percent, according to *Al Jazeera*.

Most also have curtailed services, such as ending room service after breakfast and limiting concierges' hours.

October is usually a high-traffic month for the inns, but the month's usual events such as Fashion Week and the NYC Marathon, which would have drawn thousands of visitors, have been canceled.

Occupancy rates in the city's hotels have fallen below 40 percent, with the average daily room renting for \$135. In October 2019, occupancy was 92 percent and the average room night cost \$336, reported real estate research firm Green Street.

However, many hotels have stopped reporting their data.

"The true hotel occupancy is less than 10 percent," Vijay Dandapani, CEO of the Hotel Association of New York City, told Zero Hedge. "Hotels have theoretically been able to be open, but in many cases it's pointless."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The hotel slump will continue through the rest of this year and only begin to regain strength when a vaccination is invented. Until a population that is currently ravaged in masks and social distancing feels "safe," we forecast that over a quarter of the city's hotels will close permanently.*

*And, as with other industries, the Bigs will be buying out the smalls that are going broke and going bust.*

## AIRLINE TRAVEL DEEPLY DOWN



Attempting to make a terrible situation sound better, although passenger traffic is down 60 percent, last week, the Transportation Safety Administration reported more people are traveling this month than at any time since March.



American and Southwest Airlines reports reservations are moving up for the Thanksgiving and December holiday seasons, leading Southwest to resume selling tickets for middle seats on 1 December, a COVID Fear practice it suspended in March.

Trying to sell security to a fearful public, Gary Kelly, its CEO, told the *Wall Street Journal* that recent studies have shown that planes' air filtration and circulation methods reduce the risk of catching the virus on a flight.

While Southwest expects its fourth-quarter schedule to be reduced 40 percent compared to 2019's, American Airlines said it will keep capacity for the period below half of last year's.

### **Lousy Numbers**

American Airlines Group lost \$2.4 billion in the third quarter, Delta \$5.4 billion. Southwest gave up \$1.2 billion and United's loss was \$1.8 billion.

However, airlines' stock prices rose on 22 October on news that federal stimulus negotiations were progressing, lifting hope that carriers would be among the beneficiaries of a new round of federal largesse.

American's shares gained more than 3.3 percent; Southwest's rose 5.8 percent on the day.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Again, as we have stated, the airline industry will not come back until there is a vaccine and a COVID Fear driven society feels safe to be around strangers.*

*Despite a passenger bounce-back, as the "Greatest Depression" worsens, we forecast that business travel and tourism will not return to 2019 levels for years to come.*

## NEW YORK STATE SEES \$59-BILLION BUDGET SHORTFALL



The state of New York, its agencies, and cities face a \$59-billion budget chasm through 2022 due to the costs of coping with the COVID pandemic and the effects of the economic shutdown, state and city agencies have calculated.

The \$59 billion figure is more than half of the state's current operating budget.

The state alone will see a \$14-billion gap this fiscal year and \$16 billion in the next, governor Andrew Cuomo announced.

Cities around the state will confront \$13.5 billion in missing revenues, he said.

Taxes will rise and state services will be slashed unless Congress passes an aid package for state and local governments, he warned.

Moody's Investor Services has forecast a \$22-billion state-level deficit through 2022.

New York State entered the pandemic with the seventh smallest rainy-day fund of any state, according to a study by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Also, from March through August, the state's tax revenues dropped 6.8 percent, the ninth-greatest decline among states, according to an analysis by the nonprofit Urban Institute.

Cuomo has delayed discussions of tax increases, which are favored by many Democrats in the state legislature.

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

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

## **AMTRAK WARNS OF DRASTIC WORKFORCE & MAINTENANCE CUTS**



Without \$2.8 billion in emergency aid by December to “stave off bankruptcy,” Amtrak will cut as many as 2,400 jobs and delay crucial infrastructure projects, including the Gateway tunnel between New York and New Jersey and bridge improvements in Connecticut, CEO William Flynn told Congress on 21 October.

After the pandemic and economic shutdown began, Amtrak’s ridership dropped by as much as 97 percent, and 2020 revenues are projected to finish 53 percent below last year’s.

In September, Congress passed an emergency budget resolution that included Amtrak’s usual \$2-billion federal stipend but no additional aid.

The rail line already has furloughed about 10 percent of its 20,000 employees and cut long-distance trains in the South and West from daily runs to three times a week, a move criticized by Democrat and Republican lawmakers.

Flynn urged Congress to allot \$5.1 billion to Amtrak in its next economic rescue package so all needed infrastructure projects can be carried out.

**TRENDPOST:** *As we have reported, rather than investing in re-building its third world rail infrastructure and putting people to work as has China... the United States instead injected trillions of dollars of stimulus into equity markets, large corporations, and, to some extent, the unemployed, to artificially generate economic growth.*

*How bad is America's rail system, and where is it going? Read the latest trends in Stephen Green's article in this issue, "[WITH RIDERSHIP PLUMMETING, MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS MAY SOON GRIND TO A HALT.](#)"*

## **PAYPAL TO DEAL IN CRYPTOCURRENCIES**



PayPal and partner Paxos, a financial tech start-up, will be able to buy, hold, and deal in various forms of cryptocurrencies under a “BitLicense” granted to PayPal on 21 October by the New York State Department of Financial Services.

The license will allow PayPal to deal in Bitcoin, Ethereum, Bitcoin cash, and Litecoin.

Until now, PayPal could be used to buy or sell digital currencies but not to hold them in a customer's PayPal account.

Starting next year, customers can use PayPal at millions of retailers to buy merchandise with cryptomoney, PayPal told *Reuters*.

“We are eager to work with central banks and regulators around the world... to meaningfully contribute to shaping the role that digital currencies will play in the future of global finance and commerce,” said PayPal CEO Dan Schulman in announcing BitLicense.

PayPal's move is yet another example of a conventional financial services firm taking a place in the world of digital currencies.



Square, a PayPal competitor, has supported Bitcoin through its Cash app for more than two years. Cash generated more than \$875 million in Bitcoin revenue in this year's second quarter.

PayPal and its social payments app Venmo have about 350 million accounts worldwide, making it one of the largest digital wallet providers outside of China.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *As we long have been forecasting, going digital will be the New World Order.*

*And, as we have reported, the fear of the virus is speeding us toward a future of digital cash, which will make it easier for our purchases, donations, and investments to be tracked.*

*Digital payment systems will permit governments and the tech world to monitor what we buy, when we bought it, who we bought it from, where and what time... thus privacy will be lost, and all tax dollars will be paid.*

## **DARK THEATERS DARKEN MALLS' FUTURE**



As consumers turned to shopping online and major anchor stores such as JCPenny and Macy's closed, malls pinned their hopes on movie theaters to draw customers to the shops that remain.

Ninety of the 240 A-rated U.S. malls have theaters, while 170 of the 700 B-rated centers have them, according to Green Street, a commercial property consulting firm.

But now, with Cinemax Group closing more than 530 U.S. theaters indefinitely, and AMC – the world's largest theater chain – telling market analysts it will run out of cash in two months, shopping malls face an even darker future.

AMC has been the seventh-largest contributor to rents for National Retail Properties, a trust that owns several malls.

Although some landlords have discounted theaters' rents, many have paid less in recent months than malls' struggling retailers, according to the *Financial Times*.

Retail Properties of America, which owns 102 sites, has said it received only 9 percent of its rent due from theaters in the second quarter.

**TREND FORECAST:** *The pall on the malls has been long forecast by the **Trends Journal**. As the "Greatest Depression" deepens, only the strong will survive. Thus, we concur with Morgan Stanley that over the next five years, a third of U.S. malls will close.*

## COCA-COLA KILLS 200 BEVERAGE BRANDS



Coca-Cola is ending about half the drink brands in its portfolio, including Dasani, Vitamin Water, and Odwallah. It will focus its resources on core products, such as Coca-Cola Zero Sugar and fast-growing niche brands including AHA caffeinated seltzer and Topo Chico hard seltzer, CEO James Quincey said recently to analysts.

Sales of water brands and sports drinks fell 11 percent in the third quarter, he noted.

The dying brands make up only about 2 percent of Coke's portfolio, Quincey noted, and many are regional, not national.

The company's third-quarter revenues fell 9 percent to \$8.7 billion. Coke attributed the downturn to restaurants, arena events, and other venues being closed during the shutdown.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As the “Greatest Depression” worsens, as we have reported, the Bigs will continue to get bigger. And, as evidenced by Coca-Cola and others, they will shed niche brands that are not profitable.

*Thus, the number of items available to the public will shrink. This will provide opportunities for OnTrendpreneurs® to fill the market gaps they have created with new products and services.*

## CLEANING PRODUCTS SALES SOAR



Procter & Gamble (P&G) and the maker of Lysol reported strong gains in sales in the third quarter.

P&G, which makes Mr. Clean and Safeguard anti-bacterial soap, saw its biggest quarterly global sales increase in 15 years. Sales in its home care division, the home of Swiffer and other cleaning products, rose 30 percent.

Microban 24, an anti-bacterial surface cleaner launched in February as a niche product, is expected to book \$200 million in sales this year.

Reckitt Benckiser Group, which makes Lysol, said in a statement it recorded its best quarterly sales gain ever, led by its hygiene division, and has doubled its capacity to produce disinfectants.

Officials at both companies attributed the gains to people's concerns for keeping their homes clean during the COVID pandemic.

The concern may be permanent.

"Consumers are adopting better hygiene practices" that will outlast the pandemic, predicted Reckitt CEO Laxman Narasimhan in a phone conversation with journalists.

***TREND TRACKING LESSON:*** *To gauge the fear level of the general public and to estimate when they will feel COVID safe, monitor sales of brands and products such as these. The more sanitizing products they buy, the more afraid they are of catching the virus, the less they buy, the freer they will feel returning to pre-COVID lifestyles.*

## HALF OF CANADIAN RESTAURANTS MAY FAIL BEFORE JANUARY



Without immediate, direct government support, as many as half of all Canadian restaurants might well close permanently by the end of this year, Andrew Oliver, CEO of Oliver & Bonacini Restaurants, told *Bloomberg News*.

Even with government help, 25 percent of the country's dining establishments may disappear by January, he warned.

Patio dining has been allowed at Canada's eateries but that soon will end as winter sets in.

The company has more than 14 restaurants around Canada under various names and employed more than 1,200 people at the beginning of this year.

The nation's eateries have had to rely for aid on the government's rent relief program, which paid part of restaurants' rent if landlords slashed the monthly charge to begin with. Few landlords applied for the program, Restaurants Canada, a trade group, has reported.

Oliver said only about 10 percent of restaurants have benefited from the rent relief program.

Oliver has called on the Toronto city government to cut property taxes for landlords, a savings property owners could then pass on to tenants in the form of rent subsidies or reductions.

Restaurants Canada is pressing the federal government to give aid directly to restaurant owners.

## **OIL COMPANIES MERGING AMID INDUSTRY TURMOIL**



With oil prices languishing around or below \$40 a barrel, smaller oil companies are being subsumed by bigger ones.

In September, Devon Energy announced its purchase of WPX Energy for \$2.6 billion. This month, Chevron paid \$5 billion in stock to acquire Noble Energy and ConocoPhillips is buying Concho Resources for \$9.7 billion, the biggest oil industry takeover since prices collapsed last spring.

After the Concho purchase was announced, share prices for both companies slid about 3 percent, indicating investors are still not enthusiastic about the oil business.

The most optimistic analysts say oil prices will not recover until at least 2022; others say oil consumption permanently peaked in 2019 and the rise of renewables, along with changing consumer preferences, will keep prices to only modest rises in the future.

Americans drove 12.3 percent fewer miles in August than they did a year earlier, the U.S. transportation department reported. Global oil consumption was down 6 percent in September, year on year, according to the U.S. energy department.

The count of oil and gas rigs working in the U.S. has dropped by half, from 569 last fall to 282 this month.

More than 50 North American oil companies with debts totaling more than \$50 billion have filed bankruptcy this year. More failures are expected, especially among shale oil producers, as tens of billions of dollars in bonded debt come due over the next four years.

European oil companies have begun shifting away from petroleum to renewable energy technologies, which have been growing more rapidly.

In contrast, U.S. oil and gas producers have tried to weather the industry's crash by slashing investment 30 percent or more and laying off more than 100,000 oil industry workers.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Merger and acquisition activity will accelerate as more businesses merge to survive and private equity groups seize opportunities to buy up those going down for cheaper prices.*

*Indeed, Market Watch reported last summer was the busiest in decades for mergers and acquisitions, with more than \$1 trillion worth of transactions around the world in the third quarter.*

*As the Bigs get bigger, there will growing political movements to break up monopolies as already evidenced by actions being taken again big tech.*



## CARLSBERG SEES FUTURE BEYOND BEER



Denmark-based Carlsberg, the world's third-largest brewer, is expanding its offering of non-alcoholic beers, a market now growing by more than 20 percent annually in Europe.

The company also plans to offer fermented beverages, a niche between beer and soft drinks. Carlsberg declined to elaborate on the nature of the fermented drinks it might produce.

The company's expanded vision has been prompted by consumers' emphasis on health, which has been sharpened by the COVID pandemic, CEO Cees t'Hart told the *Financial Times*.

"That is where we have an advantage in our portfolio," he said. "Consumers are looking for an offering that is healthy, low or no calories, and no additives. We have an asset: brewing and knowledge of fermented drinks."

The brewer is "pushing hard on this, with some success," Bernstein beverage analyst Trevor Stirling told the *Times*.

Carlsberg now expects its losses for this year to be about 8 or 9 percent, not the 10 to 15 percent it had forecast earlier.

***TRENDPOST:*** As we have long noted, there is virtually no mention by the mainstream media and politicians hyping the coronavirus for people to get healthy and build their immune systems.

*While companies keep repeating the line, "Consumers are looking for an offering that is healthy, low or no calories, and no additives," as evidenced by the sales*

*increases of junk food/commercial brands since the lockdowns, the talk of eating healthy does not show up on the bottom line.*

*Indeed, even before the COVID War began, we have been illustrating the differences between the hype of people eating healthy and the hard facts of how obese and unhealthy children of all ages have become.*

*As economic conditions continue to decline, we forecast a “New Age 2.0” that will bring sizeable population segments toward regaining the meaning of life... spiritually, emotionally, and physically.*

*It should be noted it was the New Age movement that accelerated after the stock market crash of 1987, which gave birth to health food stores, organic foods, and complimentary medicine trends.*

## **GLOBAL ECONOMIC TRENDS**



### **15 PERCENT OF CANADA’S INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES POISED TO FAIL.**

Canada’s holiday shoppers plan to spend 66 percent of their gift dollars online and at big-box stores, according to a new survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Many independent retailers are counting on strong holiday sales to lift them beyond the months of lost sales during the economic shutdown. However, a spike in virus cases across Canada is likely to keep a significant number of shoppers out of stores in the weeks ahead.

Only 38 percent of independent retailers report their sales have returned to pre-pandemic levels, the survey found.

As many as 15 percent of Canada's independent retailers responding to the CFIB survey said they were in danger of going out of business because of the shutdown and consumers' reluctance to venture out in public while the virus is rampant.

"The holiday season is make or break for a lot of businesses," said CFIB executive VP Laura Jones in an interview on Canada's CTV television network. "We need to support local businesses or they just won't be here tomorrow."

**EUROPEAN SHUTDOWNS SHUTTING DOWN ECONOMIES.** As thoroughly reported in the **Trends Journal**, in response to rising cases (not deaths) of the coronavirus politicians' economic shutdowns in much of Europe will drive the continent into prolonged depression.

Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain all mandated renewed closures of various kinds during the week of 12 October. Belgium ordered all bars and restaurants shut for at least four weeks. Ireland is in lockdown.

By itself, the rising number of cases seems to be persuading consumers to stay off the streets. Google data shows that, after rising for months, foot traffic in the business and commercial districts of Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Madrid, and Paris declined in October.

Last month, the European Central Bank predicted fourth-quarter growth in the Eurozone of more than 3 percent.

However, "We now see growth turning negative in several countries in the fourth quarter," Katharina Utermohl, Senior Economist at Allianz, told the *Financial Times*. "Another recession is absolutely possible."

Observers expect the central bank to expand its existing aid program, perhaps by adding another €500 billion to its bond-buying initiative in or before December. Analysts also expect individual countries' governments to come to the rescue.

**TRENDPOST:** *The slow, uneven, and now stalling recovery will continue to buoy the price of gold, silver, and Bitcoin as central banks inject monetary stimulus to artificially pump up failing economies.*

**MORE THAN HALF EUROPE'S SMALL BUSINESSES FEAR FAILURE.** Fifty-five percent of small and medium-size firms – those employing 250 people or fewer – in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the U.K. will close by next September if their

revenues remain at current levels, according to an August survey of 2,000 businesses by management consulting firm McKinsey & Co.

The survey was conducted before the COVID virus's resurgence sparked renewed shutdowns across Europe.

At the current pace, one in ten such companies on the continent is expected to file bankruptcy within six months.

Small and mid-size businesses employ 90 million European workers but most have few cash reserves and so are vulnerable to cash-flow crises. In Spain, 83 percent of the 85,000 businesses that have failed since February had payrolls of no more than five people.

"Policymakers need to do whatever it takes to contain the pandemic and its economic damage, and not withdraw support prematurely, to avoid repeating the mistake of the global financial crisis," the IMF wrote in its blog last week.

"For companies, policies now need to go beyond liquidity support and ensure that insolvent but viable firms can remain in business," it added.

Europe's economy will grow 5.5 percent next year after contracting by 8 percent in 2020, according to Reuters' September poll of economists.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *Government recovery packages are structured in ways that ensures the Bigs are cared for and small businesses are left to fend for themselves. Many will not survive, giving Bigs even greater market shares.*

**COPPER'S PRICE SURGES.** On 21 October, copper's price passed \$7,000 a ton for the first time since June 2018.

The price has gained more than 50 percent since the economic shutdown disrupted mining and manufacturing last March.

The rising price is due to surging demand from Chinese factories and the ongoing global shift to "green" technologies, analysts said, as well as supply disruptions wrought by the global economic shutdown.

Demand for copper among automakers and the electric power industry is predicted to grow by 2.3 million tons over the next five years.

An electric car uses about three times as much copper as a gasoline-powered car, and copper is used throughout wind turbines and their connections to the electric grid.

China is driving much of the demand increase under president Xi Jinping's pledge that China will be carbon neutral by 2060. The mandate is expected to significantly expand the country's production of solar panels, wind turbines, and other clean power hardware.

In the U.S., Joe Biden has pledged a \$2-trillion investment in green energy and infrastructure if he wins the presidency.

With green the color of the future, investors see copper as a way to ride the rising tide, analysts say.

"We believe investors' interest in gaining exposure to the 'decarbonization' theme is... reaching fever pitch," Citi analyst Max Layton told the *Financial Times*.

China, which buys more than half the world's copper, may already have stockpiled as much as 800,000 tons, based on Macquarie Bank's analysis of differences between imports and production.

**CHINA'S STOCK MARKETS BOAST RECORD LISTINGS.** Together, the stock markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen have listed 27 percent of the world's new stock offerings this year, a record 27 percent of the global total.

The value of the IPOs and issues for companies already on exchanges elsewhere total a value of more than \$47.5 billion, market listings show.

Adding listings by Chinese companies in Hong Kong's market, the tally rises to 43 percent.

The Shanghai Composite Index has gained about 9 percent this year, making it an attractive place for Chinese companies to be listed.

The STAR Market – nurtured by president Xi Jinping as China's version of NASDAQ – offers an additional venue. The year-old exchange is tech-oriented and more freewheeling than other markets, with share prices averaging 93 times the companies' valuations.

STAR has booked \$22 billion so far this year in IPOs and secondary issues.

Several businesses listed on Hong Kong's exchange are mulling listing on the STAR in hopes of seeing share prices rise on the tide of enthusiasm and speculation.

Also, STAR welcomes listings by Chinese companies that are incorporated in other countries or listed on foreign exchanges.

In addition, U.S. threats to de-list some Chinese businesses now on American exchanges and to revise listing criteria are persuading some Chinese corporations to transfer their shares to their homeland exchanges.

"Homecoming listings allow Chinese companies access to new investors who find it difficult to invest in U.S. markets," Craig Coben, market strategist at Bank of America, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

**CHINA MAY REIN IN RISING RENMINBI.** China's renminbi currency rose 0.5 percent against the dollar to 6.64, its highest level since July 2018. The internal exchange rate has gained 4.7 percent this year and the offshore rate is up 4.9 percent.

If the renminbi breaks through 6.65, the country's policymakers might take steps to drive the value back down, analysts have predicted.

A strong renminbi makes China's exports more expensive abroad and could slow the country's economic recovery and the growth of its export industries.

China's central bank "may want to send some signals in the next few trading sessions" that it may intervene, Frances Cheung, Westpac's head of Asian microstrategies, told the *Financial Times*.

The bank could slow the gains by using something called the "daily fix," which sets a range in which the renminbi can trade against the dollar.

"China likes stability," Kit Juckes, Chief Currency Strategist at Société Générale, said in a *Financial Times* interview. "There is history of not wanting the renminbi to be out of control and go too fast."

The renminbi has been energized by China's robust economic recovery, driving up stock prices, and the central bank's generous interest rates that surpass those in effect in Europe and the U.S.



The dollar has been weakened by low interest rates, the flood of bucks the U.S. Federal Reserve has unleashed on the world to stabilize markets, an unsteady U.S. economic recovery, and anxieties around the November election.

China's economy grew 4.9 percent in the third quarter, year on year, according to government data, strengthening forecasts that China's will be one of the world's few economies to grow this year compared to last.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We do not believe China will take strong action to cool its currency.*

*China's government sees the "Greatest Depression" under way and knows that exports will remain uncertain for some time to come. To guard against a softening economy, it will keep the renminbi strong enough to ensure its imported finished goods and raw materials are cheap, to grow the domestic economy, and to continue to draw foreign investors away from Europe and the U.S.*

**CHINA: RICH GET RICH, POOR GET POOR.** China's higher-income workers kept their jobs and saw their investments grow during the economic shutdown and nascent recovery, while hundreds of millions of lower-paid workers lost hours, lost their jobs, and depleted their meager savings, analysts say.

"Like the U.S., the recovery in China follows a K-shaped trajectory," Tommy Wu, a Senior Economist at Oxford Economics, said to the *Wall Street Journal*. "It's almost certain that" the shutdown "has worsened economic inequality in China."

Low-income workers still make up a significant share of China's \$6-trillion consumer economy, which has lagged other sectors in recovering from the shutdown. The plight of low-income individuals could hobble the larger recovery, analysts caution.

Already, retail sales are down 30 percent for the year and are expected to contract in 2020 while the overall economy expands, driven in large measure by government investment.

Sales of luxury goods are on the rise, while sales of routine consumer goods are more modest, highlighting the disparity between economic classes.

Chinese officials also worry that the sight of many doing well while many more struggle could spark social unrest, although government officials told the *Wall Street Journal* that Beijing has said it sees no signs of that yet.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Beijing will continue to pump more fiscal stimulus to generate growth with its “dual circulation” economic strategy, i.e., a self-sustaining economy.

*Again, it will heavily invest in building its infrastructure to create jobs. With 1.4 billion people, the government will do what it can to prevent social uprising by millions of unemployed who have taken to the streets in the past when the economy declined.*

**SHUTDOWN BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY INVESTMENTS.** Global energy consumption will fall 5 percent this year due to the worldwide economic shutdown, driving down capital investments in energy projects by 18 percent, according to the International Energy Agency’s (IEA) annual report on the future of the world’s energy markets.

Spending on oil and gas projects is falling further than that for any other fuel source, while spending for wind and solar projects sagged the least.

Renewable power sources benefited from the technologies’ falling prices and improving efficiencies as well as an array of government subsidies, the IEA said.

The agency expects renewable energy to meet 80 percent of the world’s new power demand through 2030.

“Solar is the new king of electricity markets,” said Faith Birol, the IEA’s executive director. “This is important for clean energy technologies, as they require relatively high up-front costs.”

“We definitely see further growth in renewable energy investment and certain institutional investors who want to push harder,” said Mark Florian, Director of Energy Investments at Blackrock.

In September, British energy giant BP laid out a future strategy that will lead it away from fossil fuels and emphasize renewables.

“The pandemic only adds to the challenge of oil in the future,” said BP CEO Bernard Looney, adding that world oil demand may have permanently peaked just before the pandemic arrived.

Total, the French global oil company, announced plans last month to raise spending on renewables from \$2 billion a year now to \$3 billion annually by 2030.

Although fossil fuel demand may have peaked in developed nations, demand for it will continue to grow in emerging economies such as China and India, the IEA predicted, leading oil and gas to still supply 40 percent of the world's power by 2040, even if governments continue to subsidize renewable sources.

***TRENDPOST:*** *China's carbon dioxide emissions levels fell during the shutdown but already have returned to pre-pandemic levels, the agency noted.*

*Coal will see a lesser fate, the agency said: demand permanently peaked in 2014 and will continue to fall until, by 2040, coal makes up less than 20 percent of the global energy mix for the first time in almost 250 years.*

**AUSTRALIAN BANKS SLASH INTEREST RATES.** Australia's "big four" banks – ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, NAB, and Westpac – have all cut their interest rates on savings accounts since September to as low as 0.01 percent.

The online-only Xinja bank has announced it will no longer pay interest on savings accounts with balances above \$150,000.

Most of the new interest rates are below the rate of inflation, meaning that savers are effectively losing money by keeping their savings in a bank.

The skimpy rates encourage savers to hop from bank to bank to take advantage of higher introductory rates of as much as 2 percent for short periods, typically four or five months.

The banks resisted cutting rates to zero "because zero is that kind of magical round number that says, 'Oh, I'm getting nothing now'," Steve Mickenbecker, an executive with the Canstar financial comparison website, told Australia's *New Daily* newspaper.

**GOLDMAN SACHS PAYS TO SETTLE CRIMINAL CHARGES.** Goldman Sachs has agreed to pay \$2.9 billion to regulators in Britain, Singapore, the U.S. and other nations as part of admitting its role in a conspiracy to bribe foreign officials so the bank could land lucrative business deals.

On 22 October, the bank's Malaysian subsidiary pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The bank's parent company entered into an agreement with the U.S. justice department that will allow the bank to avoid closing down certain business operations.

The misdeeds are related to Malaysia's ongoing "1MDB" scandal, in which Goldman Sachs allegedly helped a Malaysian financier steal billions from the country's 1Malaysia Development Berhad, a government-run development corporation formed to foster economic development.

The Malaysian swindler used the money to buy a \$250-million yacht and real estate around the world, as well as to bribe officials in Malaysia and Abu Dhabi, according to the U.S. justice department.

Goldman Sachs collected about \$600 million in fees for shepherding bond sales that financed the bank. Financial professionals found the fees to be unusually high, the justice department noted.

The bank admitted failure to take "reasonable steps" to ensure that the corrupt financier was not involved in the bond deals.

In July, Goldman reached a separate \$3.9-billion settlement with the Malaysian government in the case.

***TRENDPOST:*** We note this article to again emphasize how the Bigs get a slap on their financial wrist for committing high crimes and misdemeanors while we, the little people of Slavelandia are punished to the full extent of the law for minor infractions.

## GOING DOWN, GOING BUST, GOING OUT



**BUS INDUSTRY FURLOUGHS 80,000 WORKERS.** The U.S. motorcoach industry has idled 80 percent of its workforce, or about 80,000 workers, as the pandemic and economic shutdown have slammed the brakes on long-distance

bus travel that had been providing about 600 million passenger trips a year, according to the American Bus Association.

In an industry that sees \$15 billion in revenue during a normal year, this year's receipts have been about \$4 billion, the association told CNN Business.

The industry received no allotment from the federal CARES economic rescue program and is petitioning the government for \$10 billion in loans and grants.

**CATHAY PACIFIC CUTS 6,000 JOBS, KILLS DRAGON BRAND.** Hong Kong's airline had planned to fire 8,000 workers but will cut only 6,000 after the city-state's government intervened, sources close to the company's board of directors told *CNN*.

Future layoffs will be made if the pandemic is not controlled and ticket sales do not pick up, the sources said.

The reduction equates to about 24 percent of the airline's workforce, a smaller percentage than many carriers have made since the shutdown began.

The airline is also permanently grounding its Cathay Dragon regional airline, bringing staff and assets under the Cathay Pacific umbrella.

Cathay Pacific will operate at less than 50-percent capacity through 2021, the company said in a 19 October statement, noting that normal traffic might not return until 2024.

The airline lost the equivalent of US \$1.27 billion during the first six months of this year and is consuming about U.S. \$2 billion a month of its liquid assets to stay in business.

**WISCONSIN APPLE GOES BUST.** The company, which operates 25 Applebee's franchise sites in the Badger State, cited rising costs and meager sales as factors underlying the decision to seek Chapter 11 protection.

The bankruptcy was triggered when workers at least two stores tested positive for the COVID virus, forcing the sites to close and be fumigated and sanitized.

The company filed bankruptcy "rather than let the restaurants go dark and have over 600 employees without a job," said company president Seenu Kastori.

**COUNTRY USA, ROCK USA ANNOUNCE BANKRUPTCY.** The organizers of Oshkosh, Wisconsin's two big annual music festivals say that bankruptcy is the best way to refund ticketholders' money after the two festivals were canceled this year.

A claim form will be sent to all ticketholders, the organizers said.

**CINEWORLD SHUTS ALL U.S., U.K. THEATERS.** With the new James Bond film's release pushed back months and the COVID virus's renewed strength in the U.S. and Europe, Cineworld Group has fulfilled its plan to suspend all operations at its more than 650 movie houses in the two countries.

The company had begun reopening theaters in July but ticket sales were weakened by social distancing mandates.

Cineworld, the world's second-largest theater owner, will consider reopening theaters "when key markets have more concrete guidance on their reopening status and, in turn, studios are able to bring their pipeline of major releases back to the big screen," CEO Mooky Greidinger said in a statement.

The shutdown leaves 45,000 employees without work. Cineworld's share price fell 42 percent on the news.

The company is "assessing several sources of additional liquidity and all liquidity-raising options are being considered," Greidinger said.



# TRENDS IN THE MARKETS *by Gregory Mannarino*



## DIGITAL DOLLAR, PARABOLIC DEBT

Over the past weekend, both Bank of America and the Federal Reserve “leaked” critical truths, ones that should come as no surprise to those who follow my articles in the **Trends Journal**.

### New Digital Dollar

Bank of America stated, “The Federal Reserve will create inflation with a digital dollar.”

The release of a digital dollar by the Federal Reserve, a NEW dollar, has been getting a lot of coverage over the past few months, even by the mainstream media.

In my opinion, it’s just a matter of time before the U.S. dollar in its current form goes the way of the dodo bird, something I have covered at length in my daily [MarketReport video blog](#).

So, what does this mean?

It means the Fed is going to devalue the purchasing power of the new digital dollar in relation to the dollar in its current form. We are talking about mass dollar DEVALUATION to create inflation. The effects of this will be profound.

**One:** A devalued digital dollar is massively positive for the stock market. Why? It will take more weaker digital dollars to buy anything – including shares of stock.

**Two:** Multi-national corporations based in the United States will love a weaker dollar, as they will reap the benefits of currency exchange rates when selling their products overseas. This will add to their bottom line.

**Three:** A weaker dollar is incredibly positive for gold, silver, and cryptocurrencies. A weaker dollar is also commodities positive overall.

**Four:** A weaker dollar robs purchasing power, making the lives of those not so well off even more difficult.

A weaker digital dollar is yet another mechanism to suck the middle class dry, which will propel the stock market higher and further enrich multi-national corporations. It is also a boon for hard assets, non-government issued currencies, and commodities in general.

## **The Federal Reserve Warns**

The Fed is sounding the alarm regarding the debt market, talking about the potential of a “credit freeze” or a “lock up” occurring. The effects of a credit freeze are disastrous. A freezing up of the debt market would mean ALL TRANSACTIONS STOP – this would be a catastrophic financial event that would affect the entire global financial system.

Many people, including myself, some multi-billion-dollar fund managers, and even former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan have warned of a potential credit freeze for years.

This past weekend, the Federal Reserve itself is now warning of a potential locking up of the debt market, which they cannot allow to occur.

To prevent a credit freeze, the Federal Reserve must vastly increase its purchases of debt and create epic sums of dollars to purchase it. The effects of this are again positive for the stock market, commodities, and crypto currencies.

## **The Bigger Picture**

With the Fed fully intending to issue a devalued digital dollar and tremendously increase its debt purchases, the Fed, again, moves closer to its “final solution”: to be the lender and buyer of last resort... to own it all.

*by Gregory Mannarino, TraderChoice.net*

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



### **NOTICE TO READERS FROM GERALD CELENTE:**

*As we have forecast, and is now a fact, as the global economy declines, crime and violence will rise.*

*“When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”*

*By the escalation of crime rates across the globe, they are losing it.*

*Beyond how to survive and thrive economically during the “Greatest Depression,” as conditions deteriorate, it may be a fight for your life.*

*When the fight breaks out in the real world, it’s not like what you see in the movies or on TV.*

*The following article by Bradley J. Steiner is a close combat lesson on how to fight for your life if you are attacked.*

***Please note the article contains strong graphic content.***

*Some people may find it not their cup of tea, and they may not want to read it. For men and women who want to read on, it is a true close combat lesson of survival.*

### **EYES & THROAT: WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN**

In reality, of course, it is insane to become embroiled in physical violence of any kind unless a situation is desperate. I want to get the point across, however, of

just how dangerous and serious the information about physical self-defense is that I am going to describe in this article.

Very few people have the discipline, interest, time, energy, enthusiasm, and determination to train to the level of black belt proficiency in a quality martial art.

Over the years since the inception of my system in 1975, American Combato (Jen•Do•Tao), I estimate I have trained well over 5,000 individuals. Of these, fewer than 50 have been graded at 1st degree black belt. Frankly, I think that's a lot!

To reach black belt level in my system, you would need to devote, at the very least, about three years' time in a combination of class drill attendance (at least three times a week) and private lessons (at least twice a month). The more likely time frame for a statistically average student ("average" only in the time he takes to reach black belt) is six to eight years. That's 1st degree black belt.

There is a total of three "learning grades" of black belt, during which new material is taught; and then there are successive black belts through 9th degree. These are awarded for loyalty and contributions to the Art and for contributing to its furtherance.

Only one person holds that rank: Prof. Mark Bryans, who has distinguished himself not merely as the finest student any teacher could possibly dream of, but also as a professional-level teacher who has produced some outstanding black belts himself. This is not to mention countless students who, although not black belts, are nevertheless competent, capable, and confident practitioners of our Art.

No one undertaking the study of American Combato need be discouraged by the time required to achieve black belt. The individual in good health and of average strength and agility can expect to attain a practical level of ability (normally more than enough to handle most types of violent attack) within five to nine months of serious training.

I would like to address any and all decent human beings who may want to know the speediest and most-likely-to-be-effective tactical conduct they might learn right now. Certainly, I am speaking about a minimum skill level, and, frankly, a very helpful but hardly complete skill-set. Still... I am going to describe some very useful stuff. I am directing this to those who are concerned about what they can do now, before they acquire a good level of combative ability.

It is my sincere hope that everyone reading this will, if he hasn't already, taken steps to train seriously in a modern, comprehensive combative method. Even if the reader chooses a system other than mine, I strongly urge him or her to immerse in quality training, and really work hard to achieve solid ability and confidence. My wish is that you become a veritable nightmare for any of the predatory trash who might decide to attack you.

Two key targets of the human body – any human body – are the EYES and the THROAT. They are equally desirable and, when attacked with fierce power, speed, accuracy, and determination, reliable in bringing a halt to even the most determined aggressor.

But they must be attacked properly. And reluctance on your part “not to do too much damage” may negate the effect of these attacks and merely raise the assailant's determination to harm you. DROP ALL CONCEPTS OF MERCY, SYMPATHY, FOREBEARANCE, RESTRAINT, AND COMPASSION when it comes to self-defense.

Step #1 is to make up your mind that yes, it really can happen to you; and when or if it ever does happen to you, you are going to go after your attacker like a wild animal, 100 percent out-of-the-starting gate! You will literally explode with the same desperation and force that you would exert in order to escape a burning building. Without this mindset, I will be honest and tell you that nothing will likely save you, no matter how extensively skilled you might be physically and technically.

WARNING: Violent, all-out, unrestrained attacks with bare hands or objects to the eyes or throat may result in death and will almost always result in severe injury.

USE ONLY WHEN YOU ARE FORCED TO DEFEND AGAINST A VIOLENT OFFENDER FROM WHOM NO AVOIDANCE OR ESCAPE IS POSSIBLE.

### **Target: Eyes**

Whenever possible, always try to launch your attack by surprise. Give your assailant misleading cues. Bring your hands up in a pleading gesture (in order to get them closer to the desired targets, but seemingly in an act of surrender). Now, suddenly combine a blood-curdling shout with the most hideous grimace you are capable of and....

Drive your extended fingers directly into the assailant's eyes. Try to go through his head with your thrust. You must remember that the human eye is tough, the blink reflex is fast, and a slight little "poke" will at best only provide a brief distraction. You want to damage that attacker's eyes, rob him at least temporarily of his sight, and create an opening for yourself to escape the situation you are in.

In a situation where escape may not be feasible (i.e. in an elevator that has been stopped), you want to give yourself, via your fierce eye attack, the opportunity to kick and pound your assailant into unconsciousness and avoid being murdered or raped.

If you form your hand like a waiter holding a tray or a shot-putter holding a shot – i.e. hand flexed back, fingers open and clawed, and held rigid – another method of attacking an assailant's eyes is possible. Thrust that clawed hand straight into his face, letting your fingertips hit his eyes, and your palm smash into his nose. This blow is called the "tiger's claw" and was regarded by several of the top military experts during WW II as the best all-round solution to any frontal attack. (An entire Chinese ch'uan fa "kung fu" system, the Fu Jow Pai System, is built around the "tiger's claw.")

Up close – especially for ladies – the double thumb gouge attack is an excellent technique. Pretend to caress your would-be rapist's face – gently. Perhaps give him a kiss. Convince him that you want to cooperate with him, and he will get no resistance from you. Then suddenly jam both thumbs hard into the inside corners of the attacker's eyes. If you can, insert your middle fingers into his ears, and now clutching his head and eyes in a manner similar to how a bowling ball is secured, **DIG THOSE THUMBS DEEP AND WITH ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH AND GOUGE OUTWARD.** The direct gauge forward may penetrate to the brain; the gouge outward may tear the eyes out. In either case, your attacker will lose all interest in continuing his onslaught. Combining this thumb gouge with repeated knee blows to the testicles is always a good tactic, if this is applied while standing.

Stab any umbrella tip, key, pencil or pen, letter opener, scissor, kitchen knife, utility or pocket knife blade, etc., powerfully into an attacker's eye(s) when and if you happen to have such an object at hand.

Always shout like a crazed animal and grimace and advance into your attacker when defending yourself.



## **Target: Throat**

The little-finger-edge-of-the-hand is a tried and proven “natural weapon” for attacking the throat. From a seemingly terrified position as described, whip a sudden, powerful chop of the edge of your hand directly into your attacker’s throat. Or chop the side of his neck (low and toward the front) hitting his carotid artery. Windpipe blows done right are fatal. Carotid artery blows are knockout shots (and possibly fatal if the recipient has cardiovascular problems, but don’t give this a second thought during an attack! Heart patients should not be violent offenders, heh, heh! Bad career choice.)

Attack the throat by seizing the windpipe in a pincher-like grip, hard, and while securing that grip, yank outward.

Hit the throat with a hard jab of the middle knuckles, using a half-closed “fist.” Always hit hard!

A stick, book, dinner plate, etc., all make excellent objects with which to strike into an attacker’s throat or neck.

Now you know what to do today if someone threatens your life.

Don’t abuse the knowledge... but don’t ever forget it, either.

*by Bradley J. Steiner*

# 2020 COVID-19 TREND REPORT

## MORE LOCKDOWNS, MORE PROTESTS



Despite the drop in death rates, in reply to rising virus cases, European nations are enforcing new lockdown measures in hopes of slowing the virus' second wave across the continent.

As we have reported since the onset of the COVID War, and now again with the new rules and regulations being imposed, a laundry list of unscientific orders and restrictions vary by country.

**AUSTRALIA:** Melbourne has experienced its latest round of violent protests over Premier Daniel Andrews' ongoing restrictions that imposed draconian lockdown rules including, curfews, travel bans, limits on home visitors unless they are caregivers, etc.

The clashes occurred at the city's Shrine of Remembrance, a memorial for all soldiers from the country who served during wartime. 7News reported that hundreds of protesters and city police clashed, and protesters who refused to give their names were arrested.

Victoria Police arrested 16 people and issued 96 penalties. This comes after the city experienced more than 100 days of lockdown. Victoria has a population of 6.3 million and recorded 21 new cases last Saturday. Last week, there were 17 hospitalizations and about 253 active cases.

The protesters insist Andrews' mandates have been too restrictive and call on the leader to resign and end all lockdowns. The restrictions have limited retail

businesses to provide online services only since August and have five million living under a stay-at-home order, according to *Reuters*.

A protest website said, “Restore our freedoms now.”

Jennifer Westacott, Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia, told *Reuters*, “We cannot go on like this. Victorians cannot hang on week to week. People are at a financial and mental breaking point.”

**TRENDPOST:** *It was reported that starting Wednesday, Premier (Dictator) Andrews of Victoria declared friends and family in Melbourne will be able to visit, but strict rules still exist. Making up the numbers as he goes along, and absent a scintilla of scientific data, Andrews declared that households will be able to host two visitors from another household within their 25-kilometre limit – but only once per day.*

*Inventing another set of numbers, Andrews decreed that hospitality venues are allowed to seat a maximum of 20 people indoors and 50 outdoors. For weddings, only ten people are allowed to attend. But, if you die, 20 can come to your funeral.*

*Putting his mouth where his heart and brain are, “expert” Andrews said, “It is not over. This virus is not going away. It is going to continue to be a feature of our lives. It is going to be a feature of our lives every day until a vaccine turns up.”*

*Indeed, the know-it-all expert that he is – a boy who’s been sucking off the public tit all his life and never having a real job after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in politics – Danny knows that the virus “is not over... it is not going away... it will be “a feature of our lives every day... until a vaccine turns up.”*

*We note his arrogant, imbecilic statement to exemplify the level of sociopaths, psychopaths, pathological liars, freaks, and low life fools that are running and ruining life on earth.*

*And, the Premier is prepping the Peasants of Slavelandina to roll up their sleeves and get ready to get vaccinated because if they don’t, he will make them.*

**IRELAND:** In anticipation the worst of the virus is yet to come, Ireland is leading the way by imposing a second nationwide lockdown.

Prime Minister Micheál Martin told the country’s citizens, “It won’t be the same Christmas that we’ve enjoyed in the past.” The reasons for the new lockdown are

because the scientific genius had come to the conclusion that he saw “evidence of a potentially grave situation arriving in the weeks ahead is now too strong.”

All so-called “nonessential” businesses and restaurants are forced to close their dining rooms for the next six weeks, and citizens have to stay three miles within their homes. The Irish government announced fines up to €2,500 and/or six months imprisonment for failing to abide by the COVID rules.

Protests broke out shortly after the announcement, and nine people were arrested last week at anti-lockdown rallies, the *Irish Times* reported. Demonstrators clashed with police officers in Dublin, and some officers reportedly employed their batons.

**ITALY:** On Saturday, the unelected Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte, announced new restrictions: closing down cinemas, theaters, gyms, ski slopes and swimming pools... and forcing restaurants to stop in-house dining at 6:00 PM.

Police in Naples and Rome clashed with protesters who took to the streets over the new restrictions.

As we reported, the Italian government was the first western nation to impose strict anti-virus measures in March, while enforced face mask wearing, social distancing measures, curfews, and travel restrictions were obeyed and which the police enforced. Fines in Italy for not wearing a mask can reach up to €1,000.

Despite the failure of the draconian orders, Vincenzo De Luca, President of the Campania region, doubling down on the government’s failures, told *Forbes*, “We need to make one last effort to get things under control. We need to shut everything down for a month, for 40 days.”

**POLAND:** On Friday, Poland closed down swimming pools and gyms and won’t allow more than five people to socialize... and locked down restaurants, bars, and cafes except for takeout orders. On Saturday, when anti-lockdown protesters marched in Warsaw, police deployed tear gas and used force to end the demonstration.

The event was named, “International March of Freedom” and took place alongside similar protests around the world. It drew a crowd of thousands, reports *RMF24*.

As reported by *Notes from Poland*, “The organizers of the protests said they opposed ‘global political and financial forces’ that are using the pandemic as a means of ‘generating panic and fear’ in order to introduce ‘unlawful and scientifically unjustified restrictions’ that ‘restrict civil rights’ and ‘build a totalitarian state’... and the draconian measures were ‘destroying companies and the economy.’”

**SPAIN:** A new state of emergency and nationwide curfew was declared by the Spanish government on Sunday.

“We are living in an extreme situation... it is the most serious in the last half-century,” Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez declared on Sunday.

Except for the Canary Islands, for the next two weeks, the nation will be on curfew from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM. “Let’s stay at home,” said Sánchez, who is reported to have extended the state of emergency through 9 May 2021.

**CZECH REPUBLIC:** Last Wednesday, Prime Minister Andrej Babis apologized to the public for having to employ new restrictions that will impact the economy in order to get a grip on the virus.

“I am sorry for the new restrictions that will impact the lives of business owners, citizens, employees,” he said, according to *CNN*. “I am also sorry for having de facto ruled out the possibility of this happening because I could not imagine that this would happen.”

Roman Prymula, the country’s newly appointed health minister, made the announcement of the new restrictions, which include restaurant closures, limits on movements, and a strict mask mandate.

Two days after the announcement, Prymula was seen leaving a restaurant without a face mask, which prompted Babis to call on Prymula to leave his post.

## COVID VACCINATIONS: “OPERATION WARP SPEED”



As previously reported in the Trends Journal, nations across the globe have been rushing to get out a COVID-19 vaccine as quickly as possible.

The winners of the COVID vaccination sweepstakes are headline news:

- “Coronavirus vaccine: Short cuts and allegations of dirty tricks.” – BBC, 22 August
- “Wealthy countries have already pre-ordered more than two billion doses... deals to buy more than two billion doses of coronavirus vaccine in a scramble.” – Nature.com, 24 August
- “COVID vaccine rush could make pandemic worse, say scientists.” – Guardian, 30 August
- “Russia, China Rush to Fill COVID-19 Vaccine Void” – Washington Post, 15 October

The mad scramble taking place around the globe continues despite clear warnings of the dangers surrounding past vaccines. On 26 May, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published an article titled, “Adverse Consequences of Rushing a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine.”

The article was authored by Dr. Brit Trogen, pediatric physician at NYU’s Hassenfeld Children’s Hospital; David Oshinsky, Pulitzer Prize winning historian at NYU; and Arthur Caplan, Professor of Bioethics at NYU.

The authors stated, “There is grim historical precedent for allowing expediency to rule vaccine development.” Among the historic evidence presented:

“In 1955, the inactivated polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk was declared ‘safe, potent, and effective’ following the largest public health experiment in the nation’s history, involving more than a million schoolchildren. Within weeks, however, the miracle vaccine intended to end the scourge of polio stood accused of causing it. Years in development, the Salk vaccine had been rigorously tested in preparation for the massive trials.

But the very success of these trials led to an understandable outcry for the immediate, but premature, public release of the vaccine. Five pharmaceutical companies were given Salk’s formula and left to produce the vaccine without significant oversight. As speed took precedence over caution, serious mistakes went unreported.

One company, Cutter Laboratories, distributed a vaccine so contaminated with live poliovirus that 70 000 children who received that vaccine developed muscle weakness, 164 were permanently paralyzed, and 10 died.”

## **Swine Flu Fiasco**

The doctors also noted:

“In 1976, concerns about the emergence of a new swine flu strain reminiscent of the lethal 1918 version led President Gerald Ford to convene a panel that recommended a government-backed mass vaccination program.

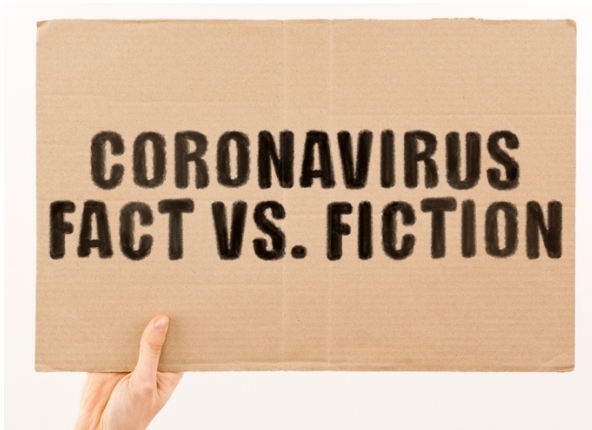
Poorly conceived, the attempt to vaccinate the U.S. population at break-neck speed failed in virtually every respect. Safety standards deteriorated as one manufacturer produced the incorrect strain. The vaccine tested poorly on children who, depending on the form of vaccine tested, either developed adverse reactions with high fevers and sore arms or did not mount an immune response at all... Once again, the pressure to rapidly distribute a vaccine undermined the scientific integrity of the process and damaged public trust.”

## **Troublesome Trend Warning**

The authors of “Adverse Consequences of Rushing a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine” point out that the problematic history of mass vaccinations is a concern with the current rush to get one out for COVID-19:

“Failing to abide by standards of safety and scientific rigor during the COVID-19 crisis will fuel the argument that physicians and scientists cannot be trusted. Vaccination rates, which are declining due to widespread concern about visiting clinicians’ offices, could further decrease.”

## **NEW REPORT: “THERE IS NO DEADLY PANDEMIC”**



In September, over 1,000 concerned scientists, medical professionals, and health officials endorsed the publication of a 60-page Global COVID Report, titled, “There is no deadly pandemic.”

The document was published in association with a group called the Extra-Parliamentary Corona Investigative Commission, headed by concerned German physicians. The group’s leaders wrote on 5 September about their opposition to the enforced lockdown:

*“As the Corona-Extra-Parliamentary Inquiry Committee, we will investigate why these restrictive measures were imposed upon us in our country as part of COVID-19, why people are suffering now, and whether there is proportionality of the measures to this disease caused by the SARS-COV-2 virus.*

*We have serious doubts that these measures are proportionate. This needs to be examined, and since the parliaments – neither the opposition parties nor the ruling parties – have not convened a committee and it is not even planned, it is high time that we took this into our own hands. We will invite and hear experts here in the Corona speaker group. These are experts from all areas of life: medicine, social affairs, law, economics and many more.”*



*Statements published in the report cite confirmable data.* In the section titled, “Hysterical Media vs. Facts,” based on data from the U.K. National Safety Council, the danger of COVID-19 is compared to other causes of death:

Age	Risk of Death From COVID-19
-----	-----------------------------

5-14:	1 in 3,579,551
15-25:	1 in 218,399
25-44:	1 in 34,354
45-64:	1 in 3,478
65-74:	1 in 887
75-90:	1 in 186

And, based on data from the Office of National Statistics, the risk of death from other causes:

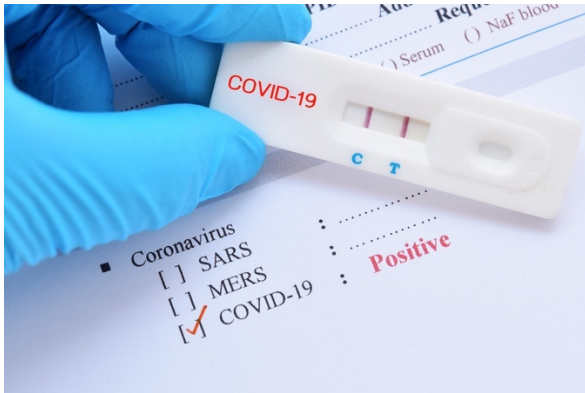
Cause	Risk of Death
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Cancer:	1 in 7
Suicide:	1 in 86
Opioid Overdose:	1 in 98
Choking on Food:	1 in 2,618
Bicyclist:	1 in 4,060
Wasp/Bee Sting:	1 in 53,989

***TRENDPOST:*** *These hard facts are ignored by mainstream media and politicians who only sell their Fear and Hysteria agendas to keep mindless masses tuned in and to obediently follow the orders of their leaders.*

*Indeed, if the media reported the hard COVID facts and scientific data concerning the COVID War, as we have, instead of their one-sided “go to war and keep fighting” agenda, nations would not be locked down and millions of lives and livelihoods would not have been destroyed.*

## CASES UP, PCR TEST FAILS



With headline news hysteria selling the new surge of COVID cases and nations again locking down, virtually ignored is the fact that the virus tests are questionable.

In our 29 September article, "[COVID GOLD TEST PROVES TO BE 'WORTHLESS,'](#)" we reported on the misleading data from the commonly administered PCR test called the "gold standard" by the CDC. In the article, we quoted investigative reporter Jon Rappaport:

"COVID-19's PCR Test Shows an Overwhelming Number of False Positives and is Essentially Worthless." The article went on to say, "Truth is, the PCR test is not able to produce ANY reliable number that reflects how much virus a person is carrying. A lot, a little, it doesn't matter."

Confirming the gross inaccuracies of the PCR test, the "Global COVID Report," a 60-page publication endorsed by over 1,000 concerned scientists, medical professionals, and health officials, includes a 90-minute interview on 6 October with Dr. Mike Yeadon, Chief Science Officer for the Pfizer pharmaceutical company, in which he states,

"Almost all tests for COVID are false positives... Were it not for the test data you get from TV all the time, you would rightly conclude that the pandemic was over, as nothing much has happened. Of course, people go to the hospital, moving into autumn flu season...but there is no science to suggest a second wave should happen."

The Global COVID Report includes the statement from 30 June on the CDC website, which, even after calling the PCR test the "gold standard," stated:

“A positive test result shows you may have antibodies from an infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. However, there is a chance that a positive result means you have antibodies from an infection with a different virus from the same family of viruses (called coronaviruses) including the common cold.”

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

**TRENDPOST:** *On 26 September, Dr. Helko Schöning, one of the leading voices of the Extra-Parliamentary Corona Investigative Commission that published the Global COVID Report, “There is No Deadly Pandemic,” was arrested while giving a speech at London’s Hyde Park protest.*

*He was the only speaker arrested. It should be noted the protest was legal due to the completed risk assessment forms submitted.*

*According to a report filed by one of the participants, Nigel Jacklin, “After he started to give his speech, Dr. Schöning was surrounded, arrested, handcuffed, and loaded into a police van. He was taken away to Wandsworth Police Station where he was held overnight, accused of organizing the event (when he was just a speaker). Dr. Schöning was discharged 22 hours later and taken to the airport supported by people involved in the demonstrations. His phone and laptop were kept by the police.”*

*The day of his arrest was just a few days before U.K. members of parliament were to vote on extending the coronavirus lockdown.*

## **BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS GO REMOTE-ONLY**



Boston public schools announced last week they would switch to remote-only learning due to an increase in COVID-19 cases in the city, reports said.

Brenda Cassellius, the superintendent for the city's schools, told parents in a letter last Wednesday that the city's positivity rate increased from 4.1 percent earlier this month to 5.7 percent.

Roxi Harvey, whose child has special needs, told *NBC Boston* her heart breaks "for those children who desperately need in-person services."

Jessica Tang, Boston Teachers Union President, said about a dozen students and staff members have contracted the virus since the beginning of the school year. "We continue to advocate for a safe and sustainable plan," she said.

*The Boston Globe* reported that the school year started on 21 September and the students who were prioritized for in-person classes were homeless, had special needs, and those with other challenges.

Harvey insisted the city's decision will add new challenges for children and parents based on unproven science.

"Public schools... these are not the super-spreaders," she said. "OK, and we're talking about 2,600 high-needs students. I think this is manageable."

## ILLINOIS: RESTAURANT RUINATION RULES



With restaurant and bar owners in Illinois already going broke or busted, and winter coming and outdoor dining not an option, Governor J.B. Pritzker declared the suspension of indoor dining and bar service and strict rules for gatherings in regions throughout the state.

**TREND FORECAST:** *The Sun-Times reported that Pritzker's office has received blowback from businesses who say another round of shutdowns means a "death sentence" for businesses.*

*Spiro Roumpas, a restaurant owner in the state, called the new restrictions a "gut punch."*

*"COVID is a tragedy. One life lost is a tragedy," Roumpas told the paper. "In the meantime, we have followed all the guidelines that the governor set out. And the guidelines we have to abide by in normal times make us more sanitary than most places, way more than gas stations or big box stores."*

*Thus, we forecast, as economies sink deeper into debt and hardship spreads among the masses, as with many nation states and cities across the globe, there will be increasing protests and sharp spikes in crime and violence.*

*And as with other densely populated cities, commercial real estate values will fall and more people who can afford to and are able to work remotely will escape to "safe haven" suburbs and ex-urban areas.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *As Illinois' economy goes down, its unmanageable debt level will grow higher, pushing the state toward levels of default:*

*"Despite passing a record income tax hike in 2017, Illinois' pension health remains the nation's worst, according to one of the world's leading credit rating agencies.*

*A new report from Moody's Investors Service shows in fiscal year 2018, Illinois' unfunded pension liability stood at nearly \$241 billion, leaving each Illinoisan on the hook for \$18,896 in pension debt.*

*These findings follow Illinois Policy Institute research, which has found Illinois' pension debt has continued to balloon since 2011 after an income tax hike that year and another in 2017." – Illinois Policy*

*As we have forecast, anti-tax, anti-vax, and anti-establishment will be new platforms for new third-party movements.*

## SCHOOL REOPENINGS NOT SPARKING NEW OUTBREAKS



Researchers announced last week that schoolchildren do not appear to be contributing to new COVID infections, and the majority of available evidence suggests there is only a limited risk of transmission from the young to adults.

*The New York Times* reported data seems encouraging that in-person learning could be safe for young children.

Harvard Medical School said earlier this month that most times, children have no symptoms and their “viral load” did not have a direct impact on the severity of their symptoms, the report said.

Dr. David Rubin, a pediatrician and infectious disease expert at the University of Pennsylvania, told the *NYT* that when considering the harm keeping schools closed inflicts on students and parents, the recent data indicates in-person learning should be an option.

“I think there’s a pretty good base of evidence now that schools can open safely in the presence of strong safety plans, and even at higher levels of case incidence than we had suspected,” he told the paper.

Dr. Ted Triana, Medical Director for the Syracuse City School District in New York, told *The Post-Standard* last Saturday there have been no known transmissions in the district’s schools.

He told the paper the district has 22,000 students, and only 19 children tested positive for the virus. He said contact tracers found none of the cases were transmitted in schools.



“They came to the school with it but they did not spread it to other students or employees,” he told the paper.

**TRENDPOST:** *Despite these findings, schools across the nation have shut down. Ignored are the facts that besides young people not being high case transmitters, according to the CDC, 99.997 percent of those aged 1-20 recover from the virus.*

## WISCONSIN COUNTY SEES UPTICK IN SUICIDES



As we have forecast since February, the draconian actions taken by politicians to fight the COVID War, on many levels, would be more deadly than the virus.

The number of suicides in Wisconsin's Dane County last week has surpassed the total number from the previous year, and health experts reportedly see a link between lockdown orders and the trend.

“When people are lonely, it's really hard to cope,” said Hannah Flanagan, Director of Emergency Services for Journey Mental Health Center.

The *Wisconsin State Journal* reported that Dane County recorded 57 suicides, and the numbers are up for those between 25 and 38. Flanagan told the paper that calls to the hotline have increased by 15 percent. Aside from suicides, UnityPoint Health-Meriter's Child and Adolescent Hospital saw an admission jump in July by roughly 25 percent, the report said.

“I can't tell you the number of times I've heard parents say that they feel like their children have wilted,” Dr. Katy Cahill, a pediatrician at Associated Physicians in Madison, told the paper. “We definitely have seen an uptick in mental health concerns across all ages, which is really sad and concerning to us.”

Health officials have warned it is too early to make any determination based on the connection between COVID lockdowns and mental health, and they say there are other factors outside suicide figures that need to be considered for the public's overall mental health.

*The Des Moines Register* reported that more lowans committed suicide in a couple of months during the coronavirus outbreak, but it was unclear if there was a connection.

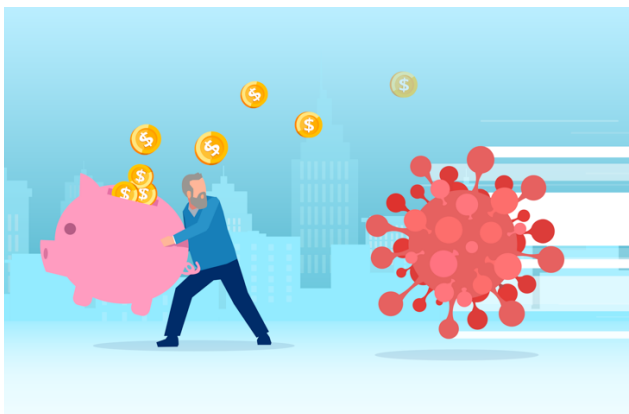
The report also said a study by the CDC pointed out that one in four young adults (aged 18-24) reported contemplating suicide during the coronavirus outbreak.

The *Register* reported that Governor Kim Reynolds has used mental health as a motivator to avoid new lockdowns.

“Do you want to talk about the suicides that have ticked up?” she asked a reporter, according to the *Register*. “Do you want to talk about the kids that aren’t in school? We’re doing a lot. And I’m proud of what we’re doing. Any death is one too many and it’s heart-wrenching to see the numbers, but I have to balance a lot.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Despite Iowa not imposing strict lockdown rules and reopening quickly, restaurants, shops, and the hospitality sector are barely rebounding, and nightlife is lifeless. With the media selling 24/7 Covid Fear & Hysteria, the general public, trapped in a New ABnormal mindset, are not in a “go out and have a good time” state of mind.*

## PENSIONS HIT HARD BY OUTBREAK





The COVID outbreak and its devastating effect on the world economy is expected to have a long-term effect on billions of retirements in the decades to come.

Dr. David Knox, Senior Partner at Mercer Retirement Consulting, told the *Financial Times* last week that the economic recession brought on by the COVID outbreak “has led to reduced pension contributions, lower returns, and higher government debt in most countries.”

He continued, “Inevitably this will impact future pensions, meaning some people will have to work longer, while others have to settle for a lower standard of living during retirement.”

Last month, pension funds for truckers, teachers, and NYC’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority filed a lawsuit against Allianz, an asset manager, claiming they lost about \$4 billion due to the outbreak, *Reuters* reported. The suit, filed in the U.S. Southern District of New York, claims the German company failed to safeguard assets during the downturn.

The *FT* reported that even before the outbreak and turbulence in the markets, lingering low-interest rates and an aging population have added strain on the pension system in the U.S. The paper pointed out that some account holders were able to dip into their 401K during the downturn, which could have a long-term effect on retirement goals.

Countries such as Indonesia reduced its social security contribution from 2 percent to 0.2 percent from May to July, the report said.

Hargreaves Lansdown, a British financial company, reported 14 percent of people reduced their pension contribution and 11 percent cut contributions out entirely, according to the *Mirror*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have been reporting in the ***Trends Journal*** since the outbreak of the COVID War, the rich have gotten much richer while the vast majority of the world’s population have gotten much poorer.

*With the “Greatest Depression” worsening, artificially pumped up equity markets will crash; nations, states, and cities will default on bonds; and much of the population, especially the elderly, will sink into poverty, unable to afford to even live modestly.*

## “SECOND WAVE” IN EUROPE CONSIDERED LESS FATAL



Despite that the number of Europeans being diagnosed with the virus continues to surge, the amount of people dying from the disease is rising at a much slower pace, which is seen as a positive sign.

According to a recent report in the *Financial Times*, there are several reasons the virus now seems to be less lethal than during its first outbreak in March. Health care workers believe one of the key reasons more patients are walking out of hospitals is because doctors and nurses are learning effective treatments that were unknown at the virus' outset.

“People have learned many little tricks which, when added together, make a big difference over time,” Peter Openshaw, Professor of Experimental Medicine at Imperial College in London, told the *FT*.

Doctors have been employing steroids like dexamethasone, which have been effective in reducing inflammation and preventing an overreaction of the body's immune system (called a cytokine storm), according to the *New Scientist*. The report said cells from the immune system are produced to attack the virus in the lungs, but the body can produce too much of an immune response, which could result in hyperinflammation and could also lead to death.

The *FT* reported the number of patients requiring hospitalizations in Europe has also risen at a slower rate. The report said some scientists have speculated the virus could be mutating into a less virulent infection. There is also a possibility that those becoming infected may be receiving lower doses of the virus due to social distancing and mask-wearing.

*Reuters* reported on Saturday that Europe diagnosed 200,000 daily infections last week, which broke a record. Europe has seen 250,000 deaths and about eight million confirmed cases.

New York University released a study last week that seemed to support the *Financial Times*' analysis. Researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine reported they suspected that health care advancements have played a role in stabilizing the numbers.

"Our findings suggest that while COVID-19 remains a terrible disease, our efforts to improve treatment are probably working," says study lead author Dr. Leora Horwitz, Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health at NYU Langone Health. "Even in the absence of a silver-bullet treatment or vaccine, we are protecting more of our patients through a host of small changes," says Dr. Horwitz, who is also Director of the Center for Healthcare Innovation and Delivery Science at NYU Langone.

The study reported that "a younger, healthier group of people were getting infected and were arriving at the hospital with less severe symptoms than those infected in the spring."

## **DIABETICS MORE AT RISK: TOP RUSSIAN OFFICIAL SAYS**



A top Russian official said last week that COVID-19 is especially dangerous for those who suffer from diabetes and pointed to statistics showing these patients are 10.3 times more likely to come down with the virus.

"In patients with diabetes, Covid-19 infection is 10.3 times more common," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova said, according to RT.com. "Patients with diabetes experience the disease more severely, and more

frequently develop acute respiratory distress syndrome, as well as respiratory failure, [requiring] artificial ventilation and, unfortunately, [experiencing] higher mortality.”

**TRENDPOST:** *Ms. Golikova's claim is not new. As we have been reporting since the outbreak, people suffering from obesity and diabetes are among the highest at-risk group for COVID deaths and infection.*

*Indeed, Reuters reported that in July, about 40 percent of those in the U.S. who died from the virus had diabetes. But this fact, as well as the others, including the CDC report that 94 percent of those who died from the virus had 2.6 pre-existing chronic illnesses and some 50 percent were from elder care homes, is barely reported.*

## GERMAN DOC: MANDATORY MASK-WEARING IS “CRIMINAL”

# NO MASK



On 5 October, a video address warning of the dangers of long-term mask wearing was released by Margarite Griesz-Brisson, M.D./Ph.D., a German doctor who specializes in neurology, neurophysiology, and environmental medicine. It has since appeared on a number of websites. An English translation was provided. Among Dr. Griesz-Brisson's comments:

“I do not wear a mask; I need my brain to think. I want to have a clear head when I deal with my patients and not be in a carbon dioxide-induced anesthesia.

There is no unfounded medical exemption from face masks because oxygen deprivation is dangerous for every single brain. It must be the free decision

of every human being whether they want to wear a mask that is absolutely ineffective to protect themselves from a virus.

For children and adolescents, masks are an absolute no-no. Children and adolescents have an extremely active and adaptive immune system and they need a constant interaction with the microbiome of the Earth. Their brains are also incredibly active, with so much to learn. The child's brain, or the youth's brain, is thirsting for oxygen. The more metabolically active the organ is, the more oxygen it requires. In children and adolescents every organ is metabolically active.

The re-inhalation of our exhaled air will without a doubt create oxygen deficiency and a flooding of carbon dioxide. We know that the human brain is very sensitive to oxygen deprivation.

To deprive a child's or an adolescent's brain from oxygen, or to restrict it in any way, is not only dangerous to their health, it is absolutely criminal. Oxygen deficiency inhibits the development of the brain, and the damage that has taken place as a result CANNOT be reversed.

The acute warning symptoms are headaches, drowsiness, dizziness, issues in concentration, slowing down of reaction time – reactions of the cognitive system...

However, when you have chronic oxygen deprivation, all of those symptoms disappear, because you get used to it. But your efficiency will remain impaired and the under-supply of oxygen in your brain continues to progress.

We know that neurodegenerative diseases take years to decades to develop. If today you forget your phone number, the breakdown in your brain would have already started 20 or 30 years ago.

While you're thinking that you have gotten used to wearing your mask and rebreathing your own exhaled air, the degenerative processes in your brain are getting amplified as your oxygen deprivation continues.

I know how damaging oxygen deprivation is for the brain, cardiologists know how damaging it is for the heart, pulmonologists know how damaging it is for the lungs. Oxygen deprivation damages every single organ."

How can a veterinarian, a software distributor, a businessman, an electrical car manufacturer and a physicist decide on matters regarding the health of the entire population? Please, dear colleagues, we all have to wake up.”

**TRENDPOST:** *While we have continually reported research from the CDC, the WHO, The New England Journal of Medicine, and the Presstitutes’ “top U.S. infectious disease expert” on the ineffectiveness of wearing a mask to fight the virus, such information is conspiracy theory by the mainstream and social media monopolies. (See our 20 October article, “[DOCTORS: WEAR MASKS, GET SICK.](#)”)*

*Thus, those providing it are blackballed and the scientific facts and hard data are censored. Indeed, when there was a large protest in New Mexico this past weekend against draconian rules imposed by its governor, Lujan Grisham, her office said, “The data is not open to debate,” and “the protestors are not welcome to their own set of facts about the pandemic.”*

*Under the rules of the New ABnormal, We the Plantation Workers of Slavelandia must believe what we are told and accept what the dictators dictate... and we must not Think for Ourselves!*

That such an arrogant and imbecilic statement is made that “the data is not open to debate,” and other scientific “set of facts” are prohibited clearly illustrates the depth of the political totalitarianism that now rules once, so-called peoples’ democracies.

**TRENDPOST:** *A recent study focused on the effectiveness of masks to prevent the spread of coronavirus transmission is looking for a medical journal to publish its findings because they reportedly challenge the status quo, a report last week said.*

*Despite the evidence we have reported from major health institutions of the ineffectiveness of most masks to stop the spread of the airborne virus, politicians, bureaucratic “health” officials, and media across the world have embraced mask-wearing as an effective step to stop it from spreading.*

*And, as we have been reporting, across the globe, from big cities to small towns, politicians have made face masks mandatory when out in public. But a Danish study, which included 6,000 Danes, challenges the widely embraced theory, according to RT.com.*

*Christian Torp-Pedersen, Professor and Chief Physician at the Research Department at North Zealand Hospital, told a local news outlet he does not want to discuss the study until it is published. Alex Berenson, ex-New York Times writer and coronavirus lockdown critic, asked the lead researcher about when the study would be published. The scientist responded, "As soon as a journal is brave enough to accept the paper."*

*The concerns raised in the article hinted that medical journals want to avoid questioning face masks because so much of the world is in lockstep with the protocol.*

*The RT report also pointed out that researchers in Japan released a study showing masks can provide some protection but even the highest-grade masks don't eliminate all risk.*

"If we want the people to abide by the rules... it is us who have to set an example," Babis said, according to the *Associated Press*. "We can't preach water and drink wine."

**BELGIUM:** A nationwide closure of bars and restaurants and a curfew of midnight to 5 AM have been imposed. Brussels issued a new round of restrictions last week, forcing shops to shut at 8 PM; gyms, theatres, and cinemas to close down; and a curfew of 10 PM to 6 AM. The restriction will last until at least 19 November.

Masks will once again become mandatory in public spaces in Brussels, and public gatherings of more than four people are banned. "We won't be issuing warnings anymore," Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said. "Those who don't follow the rules get a \$294 USD fine, to be collected immediately."

**LUXEMBOURG:** Last Friday, Luxembourg ordered a nighttime curfew and curbs on social contacts.

**TREND FORECAST:** *As depicted by the new, wide array of lockdown rules and regulations being imposed without the support of any scientific facts, and, despite having imposed strict draconian orders that shut down nations earlier this year that did not accomplish what the governments said they would, they insist on doubling down on failure.*



*Totally absent in the reporting by governments and the media of these new restrictive measures is Sweden's success of not locking down, not robbing its citizens of their freedom, and not destroying its economy.*

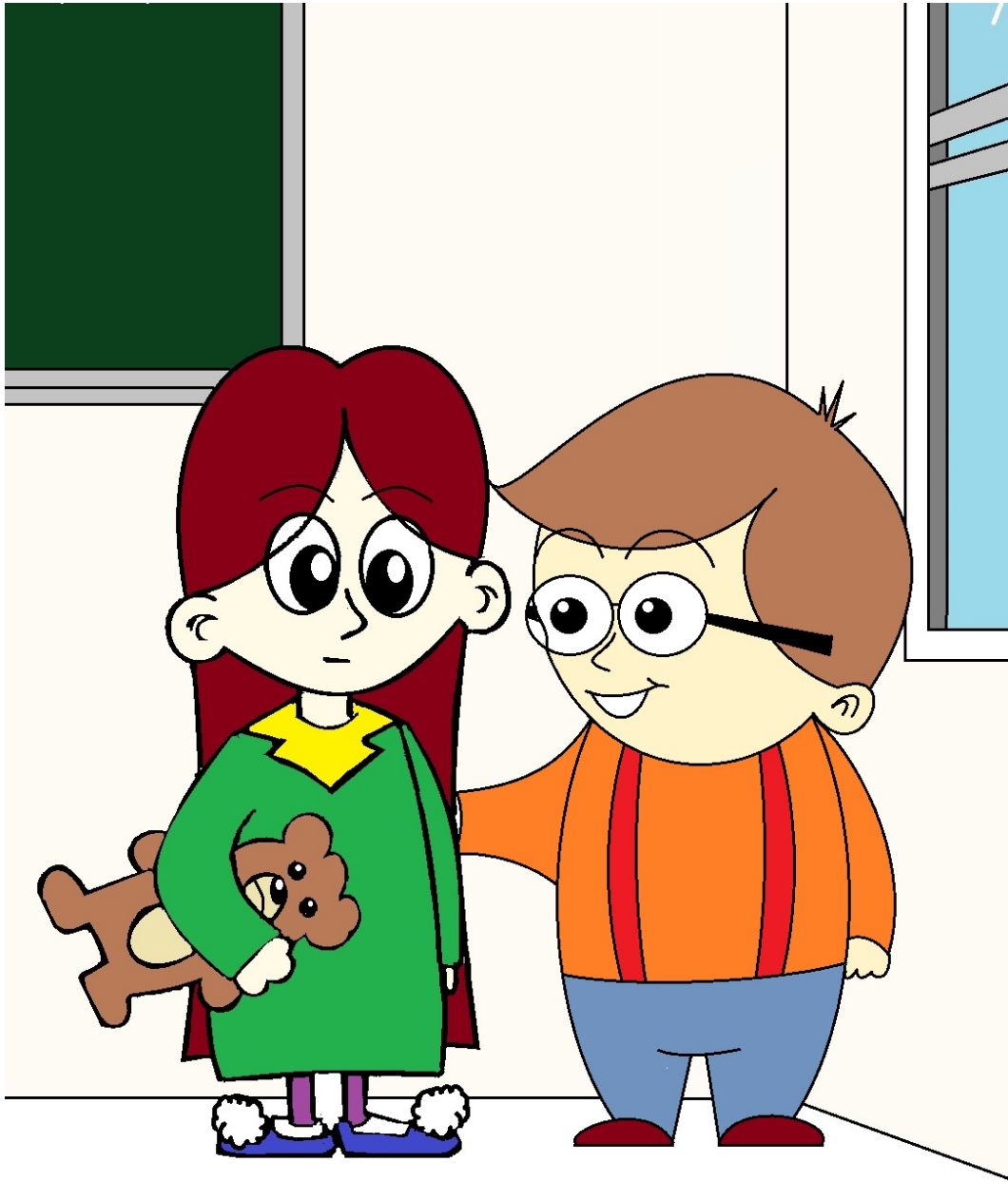
*Also ignored by governments and the media are the facts that while virus cases are going up, death rates are declining, and for those under 50 years old, the recovery rate is 99.98, according to the CDC. Despite these facts, ineffective government COVID sanctions are destroying millions of businesses and tens of millions of lives across Europe and around the world.*

*As millions lose everything and have nothing left to lose, the protests that are now erupting will dramatically escalate. Germany's Robert Koch Institute, a national disease control center in Berlin, was attacked with incendiary devices this past Sunday.*

*Crime, violence, and corruption will intensify as economic conditions worsen. New populist parties will replace many existing ones. As the "Greatest Depression" worsens, support for both the European Union, the euro, and NATO will decline.*



## TRENDS IN TOONS *by Stephen Green*



"Your bear is just as effective as their masks and it looks cooler."

[www.MuseumofAwesomeArt.com](http://www.MuseumofAwesomeArt.com)

## TRENDS-EYE VIEW

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES



In the 11 December 2018 **Trends Journal** article, “[CENSORSHIP 2019](#),” we forecast the proliferation of internet censorship across the globe:

“Freedom of speech? Freedom of Expression? Forget about it! From the United States to China, from New Zealand to Nepal, Censorship is a megatrend. For well over a year, social media giants and governments have been silencing voices that challenge establishment agendas.”

In our 21 January 2020 issue, we doubled down on the forecast, stating:

Our “Censorship” Top Trend of 2019 has now become a way of life: unchallenged and barely reported by the mainstream media, who are included among social media giants as the chief censors banning those who don’t tow their party lines and special interests.

As the **Trends Journal** has been warning for years, Silicon Valley is silencing users on the internet who dare challenging the official narrative. Unfortunately, ever since the politicians and Presstitutes started the COVID War, censorship has increased dramatically.

The degree of censorship muzzling the globe is now potentially so comprehensive that it poses an imminent threat to the fundamental concept of freedom.

The mainstream media has been spreading alarm about the decentralized distribution of news. The mainstream concern is evidenced by a 17 October *New York Times* article that begins:

“There’s a disease that has been spreading for years now. Like any resilient virus, it evolves to find new ways to attack us. It’s not in our bodies, but on the web.

It has different names: misinformation, disinformation or distortions.”

The article goes on,

“The rise of false news is bad news for all of us. Misinformation can be a detriment to our well-being in a time when people are desperately seeking information such as health guidelines to share with loved ones about Coronavirus.”

In response to the decline of traditional media’s influence coupled with the rising popularity of independent media on the internet, BigTech (perhaps working under the protection of corrupt politicians) is now heading the all-out assault on free speech. Google, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Amazon, YouTube, etc. have all ramped up their censorship efforts.

Recently Gerald Celente was censored by LinkedIn for this message:



**Gerald Celente** Author

2w ...

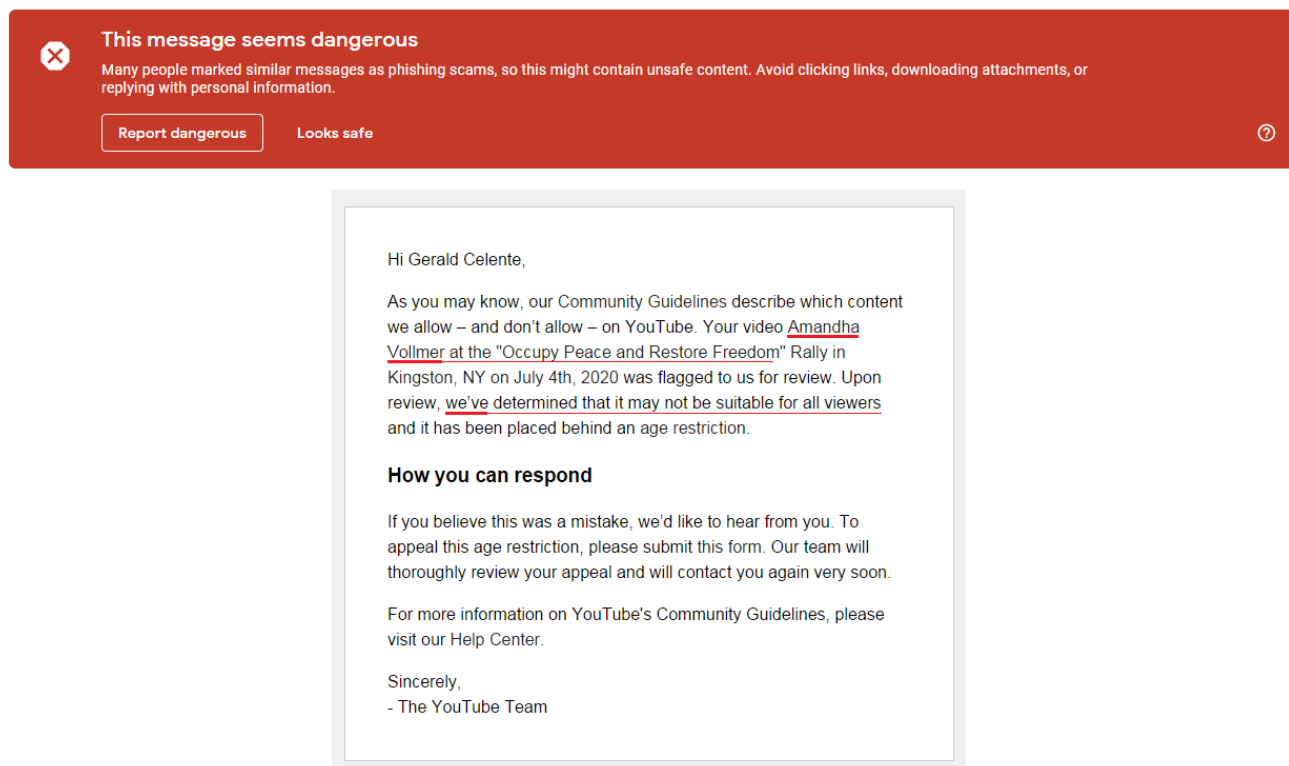
Trends Journal Publisher and Founder/Director of The Trends...

We all must speak out or just keep bowing down, sucking up and taking orders from Liars, Cowards, Freaks and Fools who believe they have the power to rule us and destroy our lives and livelihoods.

❗ **Only you can see this comment. It's been removed because it goes against our Professional Community Policies. [Learn more](#)**

According to the LinkedIn Trust & Safety Team, Gerald Celente’s freedom of speech was curbed because the comment “goes against [LinkedIn’s] policy on bullying and harassment”

YouTube has also censored the **Trends Journal** by placing the following warning on the video of [Dr. Amandha Vollmer's speech](#) at the Occupy Peace & Freedom “Unite for Peace & Freedom Rally” held on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



In addition to intimidating potential viewers with scary-looking warnings, YouTube has been demonetizing many “controversial” videos. (A “demonetized” video is not eligible to receive ad revenue.) By eliminating the ability to receive revenue, demonetization discourages creators from spending the time and effort necessary to produce quality content.

Other channels on YouTube fared much worse when they were eliminated/taken down from YouTube’s website, thereby destroying countless hours of work when channels simply “disappeared.”

To avoid the remuneration restriction imposed by YouTube, many content creators turned to payment services like Patreon or PayPal in the hopes of maintaining income. Not surprisingly, in lockstep with their BigTech cohorts, these services have restricted many independent content creators from utilizing their payment processes.

The founder of SGT Report, a friend of the **Trends Journal**, recently had his YouTube and Patreon accounts terminated. He had spent over three years

amassing an audience of nearly 750,000 members, only to have it all vanish in a week.

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:19:55 PM

**Subject:** Friends, PLEASE HELP. PATREON just terminated my account

Dear friends (dozens of you from over the years),

PLEASE, I beg you to tell people within your sphere of influence that I was just terminated by PATREON after 3+ years.

Patreon was pretty much my last line of financial defense since being terminated by YouTube on OCT 15th thereby losing my relationship with 745,000 combined subscribers across two channels.

Friends, **PLEASE tell people that they can find me and support me & REAL news at SGTreport.TV**

<https://sgtreport.tv/> - we have a dedicated server.

Our oldest son has special needs, and what PATREON has just done is devastating. Please help me out by spreading the word, and I appreciate you keeping me and my family in your prayers as well.

THANK YOU one and all.

Sean

SGTreport.TV

SGTreport.com

Paypal: [sgtreport@gmail.com](mailto:sgtreport@gmail.com)

PS - If anyone has any ideas about suing Patreon, please email me back, I'd like to talk.

Even those who are not seeking any income and are just trying to spread the truth are being heavily discouraged and censored.

Facebook recently altered its censorship policies despite stating that they would not do so until after the election. *The New York Times* reported on 17 October:

“At Facebook, the recent policy changes have grabbed attention partly because the company said on Sept. 3 that it did not plan to make changes to its site until after the election. ‘To ensure there are clear and consistent rules, we are not planning to make further changes to our election related policies between now and the official declaration of the result,’ Mr. Zuckerberg wrote in a blog post at the time.

Yet just weeks later, the changes started coming rapidly. On Oct. 6 Facebook expanded its takedown of the QAnon conspiracy group. A day later it said it would ban political advertising until after the polls closed on Election Day, with the ban lasting an undetermined length of time.

Days later, Mr. Zuckerberg said Facebook would no longer allow Holocaust deniers to post their views on the site. And less than 24 hours, after that the

company said it would disallow advertising related to anti-vaccination theories.”

The grip is so tight at Facebook that employees are afraid to speak out. The *New York Post* recently reported that disgruntled workers are forced to vent on anonymous platforms like Blind (a chatroom that requires a company email to sign in but then hides that login information.)

One employee claimed, “[Facebook] employees want Trump to lose. If that means rigging [the platform] against him, they don’t care.”

Another employee stated, “The whole thing [Facebook] is run by super-woke millennials and gen Xers.” It was also noted that some “apolitical” employees were the target of bullying and harassment for not being “woke” enough.

Facebook’s censorship policy is especially preposterous considering just a few years ago the platform acted as an online arms bazaar spreading weaponry across Libya and North Africa.

Twitter generally has been considered less regulated than Facebook, but, recently, Twitter has attracted national attention for its censorship policies. In October, Twitter censored President Trump for his tweet about his COVID recovery:

“A total and complete sign off from White House Doctors yesterday. That means I can’t get it (immune) and can’t give it. Very nice to know!!!”

President Trump was flagged for violating rules about “spreading misinformation and potentially harmful information related to COVID-19.”

Similarly, Dr. Scott Atlas, Chief of Neuroradiology at Stanford University Medical Center, was censored by Twitter for sharing scientific studies about the inefficacy of masks.

With the election approaching, Twitter’s information control has expanded to the political sphere. The *New York Post* recently broke a story concerning shady payments between the Biden family and international governments. Twitter reacted by immediately censoring the story (without fact checking it) and blocking the accounts of several users who had shared the story, including several politicians and the editor of the *Post*.

Twitter's policies seemed so one-sided, Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff at the Federal Communications Commission, was prompted to point out that the Supreme Leader of Iran has been tweeting while the *New York Post* account has been locked.

The domestic censorship has also attracted the attention of Missouri Senator Josh Hawley. Senator Hawley notes that the Republicans have been complicit in the BigTech takeover. Hawley has been in the senate for 22 months, and he has sponsored 15 bills targeting BigTech's overreach (including measures that would allow the public to sue the tech giants), only to be met by bipartisan eye-rolling. Mr. Hawley notes the "establishment's anti-trust agenda is aimed at weakening rather than strengthening the laws we need to combat these threats to our democracy."

In the event the government is not in lockstep with Twitter, the company's decision to censor the Biden story could result in legal consequences if it is proved that the act of censorship constitutes a political contribution. Adding further intrigue to this angle, Twitter staffers involved in the censorship have pre-existing professional relationships linking them to Biden and Harris.

The implications of a handful of power-hungry, elitist nerds manipulating public opinion should alarm all human beings. The issue is not whether you support Gerald Celente, President Trump, or the *New York Post*. It is whether you support freedom of speech... or not.

*By Stephen Green*

## **SOUTH KOREA: CONNECTION BETWEEN FLU SHOTS AND RECENT DEATHS?**





While the Presstitutes, politicians, and Big Pharma keep promoting, with anxious anticipation, the arrival of a successful vaccine to end the COVID War, barely reported are the approximately 50 South Koreans who died after receiving flu shots, according to *Reuters*.

While the Director of the Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said “it is not the time to suspend a flu vaccination program,” the *Korea Herald* reported,

“More than 1 million doses of flu vaccine have been withdrawn in the past month due either to mishandling or contamination, or both. The government authorized the use of the remaining 4.9 million doses that underwent varying ranges of heat exposure and another 4 million packaged in syringes deemed to cause formation of suspicious residue.”

The KDCA said over nine million people had received flu shots since September, and over 1,000 cases of adverse reactions have been reported.

### **Beware the “Twindemic”**

The new word gaining popularity among health officials and quickly picked up by the media is “Twindemic,” referring to the combination of the annual winter flu with the continued spread of COVID cases.

Thus far, 457 South Koreans have died from COVID-19 in a country of 51,269,000 or 0.00089 percent.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The mainstream media, continuing its strategy of ramping up fear and anxiety to get more viewers and readers, has quickly adopted the new term, “Twindemic” into its emotionally-charged reporting.*

*On 21 October, NBC News had this headline on its website: “Experts Warn of ‘Twindemic’ as COVID Cases Rise and Flu Season Looms.” On 1 October, AP blared this headline: “High Demand for Flu Shots? Experts Hope to Avoid Twindemic.” And, on 2 October, the Washington Post headline read: “Twindemic Fears Increase Flu Vaccine Demand.”*

*And, as we have been reporting, many colleges across America are forcing students, teachers, and all other employees to get flu vaccinations.*



## FLU VACCINES: ARE THEY SAFE?



On 9 May 2009, the American Thoracic Society published the article, “Children Who Get Flu Vaccine Have Three Times Risk of Hospitalization for Flu, Study Suggests.”

The article, published on the “Science Daily” website, stated,

“The inactivated flu vaccine does not appear to be effective in preventing influenza-related hospitalizations in children, especially the ones with asthma. In fact, children who get the flu vaccine are more at risk for hospitalization than their peers who do not get the vaccine, according to new research.”

On 12 February 2017, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. published an article for the non-profit organization Children’s Health Defense that called attention to the dangers of Thimerosal, the vaccine preservative containing mercury, one of the most toxic substances on earth.

Among the key points made by Mr. Kennedy:

- “I’ve spent over ten years researching and writing about the mercury-based preservative Thimerosal, which is detailed in my book, *Thimerosal: Let the Science Speak*. The preface to the book is written by Mark Hyman, M.D., and the introduction is by Harvard University neurologist Martha Herbert, M.D./Ph.D.
- Thimerosal is about 50 percent ethyl mercury by weight. Thimerosal exposure has been linked to attention disorders, speech delays, language delays, Tourette Syndrome, misery disorder, seizures, epilepsy, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, narcolepsy, heart disorders, neurological disorders, asthma and

allergies. Over 165 peer-reviewed scientific studies show a link between Thimerosal and neurological injuries.”

- There is no known safe exposure level to mercury. Even if the flu shot contained only 1 microgram, it would still be double the amount deemed safe by EPA for a nine-pound baby. Furthermore, the ethyl mercury in vaccines is fifty times more toxic and twice as persistent in the brain as the methyl mercury in fish for which EPA established those standards.”

Despite the study by the American Thoracic Society and the peer-reviewed data presented by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the vast majority of health care officials and doctors encourage everyone to get a flu shot.

*Reuters* reported in October 2010 that an online survey revealed 96 percent of doctors recommended the flu shot. More recently, in November 2019, *USA Today* reported, “The CDC advises nearly everyone over the age of 6 months to get vaccinated against the flu, except in rare cases of allergies or specific health histories.”

Dr. Jack Wolfson, a board-certified cardiologist in Phoenix with 24 years of medical experience, following up on Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s medically-backed study, wrote:

“The flu shot is full of poisons that actually harm your body, not help it. Two of the worst are known cancer causing agents formaldehyde and thimerosal, which is actually 49% mercury by weight. According to the Center for Disease Control, the vast majority of flu vaccines include thimerosal. Some contain as much as 25 mcg of mercury PER DOSE. That’s 250 times more than the Environmental Protection Agency’s safety limit for mercury.

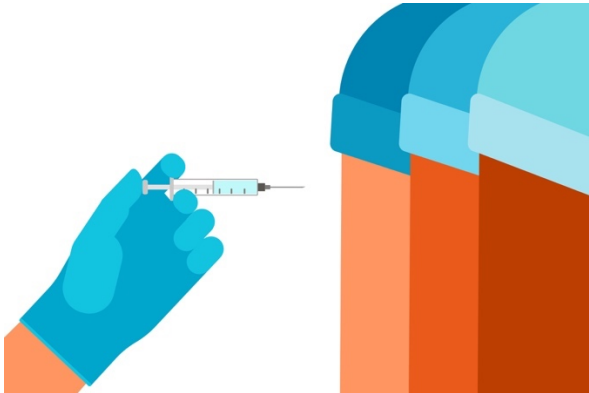
Flu shots also contain aluminum (linked to Alzheimer’s disease), Triton X-100 (a detergent), Betapropiolactone (a disinfectant), Ethylene glycol (anti-freeze), Phenol (carbolic acid), Octoxinol 9 (used in spermicides), and Nonoxynol (used to stop growth and kill sexually transmitted diseases). It’s like a laundry list of poisons injected into your body.”

Dr. Wolfson asserts that financial gain is the key reason behind the heavy push by health officials and doctors for getting the flu shot:

“Big Pharma is at it again and what you don’t know could kill you. For years Big Pharma’s formula has been: Huge Profits = Flu Shots + Flu Season + Scare Tactics + Massive Advertising.”

**TRENDPOST:** As we have noted since the outbreak of COVID Hysteria, the mainstream media and governments, while heavily promoting vaccinations, are virtually silent on the necessity of self-responsibility. Indeed, Dr. Wolfson also notes the need to boost the body's natural immune system through proper nutrition and exercise rather than depend on a flu shot, which contains toxic elements.

## FLU SHOT U.



DrugStoreNews.com reported that in 2017, in an average year, fewer than half of college students typically receive a flu shot. Now, colleges across the U.S. are beginning to require on-campus students to receive a flu shot or face disciplinary action, like being locked out of their school email account.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday that the University of North Carolina at Charlotte said all students and faculty must receive the flu shot or come up with a medical, religious, or personal exemption.

As we have reported in the **Trends Journal**, Massachusetts has required all students to receive a flu shot by 31 December or they will not be able to attend class in January.

Lawrence Gostin, Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law, told *Politico*, “This is a brave new experiment by the state of Massachusetts.”

*Politico* reported that besides colleges, states are also embracing these universal flu-shot initiatives because they want to avoid a “Twindemic.” The theory is that the health care system cannot handle the strain of a flu outbreak and COVID at the same time. They also worry about how individuals would respond if they came down with both viruses at the same time.

“If it turns out to be a wholesale success, that should influence other states to go a similar route, not just with flu but with other vaccines. But if it causes a backlash and only marginal benefit, states might be hesitant to adopt that model in the future,” he said.

## ACROSS U.S. & EUROPE: MORE SAYING “NO” TO VACCINATIONS



In last week’s **Trends Journal**, it was reported that Americans are becoming less confident in the safety of a future COVID vaccine, citing the Wall Street Journal/NBC poll showing “only 20 percent of registered voters said they would be willing to take a vaccine once it hits the market.”

This is part of a larger, long-term trend of Americans becoming more suspicious of all vaccinations. On 26 October 2018, the *British Medical Journal* reported, “The percentage of American children aged under two who have had no vaccinations has quadrupled since 2001, according to new data released in a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).”

As for the flu vaccine, on 5 December 2018, NORC, the non-partisan and objective research organization at the University of Chicago, released data showing over 40 percent of Americans will not get the flu vaccination despite 80,000 deaths from the flu the previous year.

The NORC report showed that among adults who have children under age 18 living in their home, 39 percent said they do not vaccinate their children.

In the report, “When asked why they do not intend to be vaccinated, adults were most likely to cite concerns about side effects from the vaccine (36 percent). Roughly 3 in 10 adults cited concerns about getting sick from the vaccine (31

percent). Three in 10 adults said a major reason they do not get vaccinated is because they never get the flu or they do not think the flu vaccine works (31 percent).”

A Pew Research Center survey from September showed, “The share of Americans who say they would get vaccinated for the coronavirus has declined sharply since earlier this year. About half of U.S. adults (51 percent) now say they would definitely or probably get a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 if it were available today; nearly as many (49 percent) say they definitely or probably would not get vaccinated at this time. Intent to get a COVID-19 vaccine has fallen from 72 percent in May, a 21-percentage point drop.”

In response to Pew’s findings, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Presstitute’s “top U.S. infectious disease expert,” stated, “It’s disturbing that so many people are reticent to get a vaccine... Americans should feel confident in the development and efficacy of a vaccine.”

## **Shoot Me Up**

As for the flu vaccine, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer promoted its importance by taking off her blazer at a 25 August press conference, rolling up her sleeve and having a doctor inject her in front of the media. Warning about the “Twindemic” of the upcoming flu season with the ongoing spread of COVID, Governor Whitmer stated, “When we all get our flu vaccine, we can help keep thousands of flu patients out of the hospitals and prevent overcrowding.”

Despite the governor’s efforts, on 28 September, the *Detroit Free Press* reported, “Among the 32 percent of parents who said their child was unlikely to get a flu vaccine this year, the most common reasons include concerns about side effects or beliefs that it isn’t necessary or effective.”

## **Europe: Vaccination Vacation**

This past April, Sally Robertson, a journalist for *News Medical*, wrote about declining trust in vaccinations by many Europeans, particularly among parents when it comes to having their children vaccinated.

Citing data from the Wellcome Global Monitor survey taken in 2018, she writes, “One in three people in France thought that vaccines are unsafe. Only half of the people living in Ukraine trusted vaccination... In the UK, the proportion of children

receiving both MMR jabs [the vaccine against mumps, measles and rubella] by the age of five had dropped for the fourth year in a row.”

The 2019 report by the European Commission, “Europeans’ Attitude Towards Vaccinations” showed that only around 50 percent of Europeans surveyed said the injections were “definitely effective.” This led the *Guardian* to publish a 19 June 2019 article titled, “Survey Shows Crisis of Confidence in Vaccines in Parts of Europe.”

The Wellcome Global Monitor reported in June 2019 that in Eastern Europe, confidence in vaccinations was down to 40 percent.

The highest percentage of pro-vaccine nations were in low-income countries, with some 98 percent of the people from Bangladesh and Rwanda saying inoculations are safe and effective. Rwandans also trusted their healthcare system more than any other nation, with 97 percent giving a positive response compared to the global average of 76 percent.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Governments, institutions, and businesses across the globe will institute “Must Get COVID Vaccinated” mandates. In response, as we have forecast, “anti-vax/anti-tax/anti-immigration” will be major platforms in newly-forming, anti-establishment populist parties.

## 1 IN 6 CHILDREN LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY



As we noted in February, when the politicians launched the COVID War and the media promoted it, it would cost trillions and kill millions... and, as with their other wars, they would not have an exit strategy. Indeed, as we note in this and other issues of the **Trends Journal**, they are ramping up their war.

And as with their legions of war crimes launched throughout history, those who suffer the most are those who have the least.

The World Bank Group-UNICEF said last week about 1 in 6 children globally lived in extreme poverty before the coronavirus outbreak and number is expected to rise significantly.

The statement, released last Wednesday, said about 356 million children lived in extreme poverty, which translates to less than \$1.90 a day or less per person in a household. The statement said South Asia accounts for about a fifth of these cases.

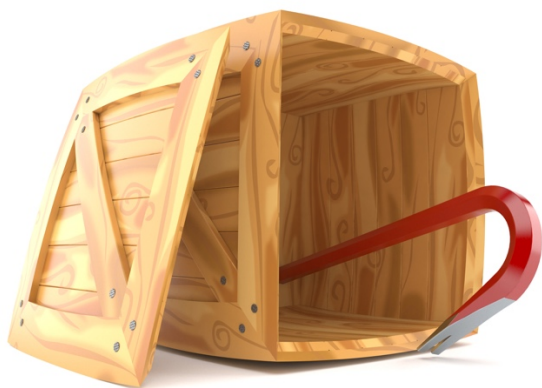
The analysis said there has been a decrease in extreme poverty from 2013 to 2017, but officials worry the virus outbreak and negative economic effects are only “set to make matters far worse.”

Children below the age of five are most at risk for extreme poverty.

Carolina Sánchez-Páramo, Global Director of Poverty and Equity for the World Bank, said the high number of children in extreme poverty before the outbreak is concerning.

“In the wake of the massive economic disruption caused by the pandemic, it is more crucial than ever that governments support poor households with children now and rebuild their human capital during the recovery,” she said in the statement.

## **CARGO THEFT UP, HUMAN SMUGGLING INCREASING**





Confirming what we had forecast at the outbreak of the COVID War – that crime, corruption, poverty, and violence would increase – the British Standards Institution (BSI) reported last week that the lockdowns have “led to complex and varying responses by individual governments and businesses and has wreaked havoc on supply chain continuity.”

Their annual Supply Chain Risk Insights Report said there has been an increase of drug smuggling and theft of shipments of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. The research showed a spike as well in human smuggling and “stowaway incidents.”

“Unfortunately, we are seeing it’s most significant impact on vulnerable populations including migrant workers and children,” Jim Yarbrough, Global Intelligence Program Manager at BSI, said in a statement. “For example, through the data collected by our SCREEN intelligence tool, we’ve found that COVID-19’s negative impact on global economies has led to exploitation of vulnerable migrants who may be stranded in detention centers due to mobility restrictions and an increased use of child labor due to lockdowns and school closures.”

*Reuters* reported that human trafficking is a \$150 billion-a-year trade, and about 25 million people across the world are victims of trafficking, according to the U.N.

John Cotton Richmond, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, told *Reuters* COVID and the world’s response to it “is making vulnerable people more vulnerable. The lockdowns, the inability to find work, the constraints on the economy, all of this makes you more vulnerable to criminal activity.”

“If you are a trafficker, this is a boon to your illicit operations. Traffickers are not shutting down; they are innovating and capitalizing on this chaos,” he said.

The BSI report said much of the pharmaceutical theft has occurred in Mexico, and warehouses across Europe have also been targeted. The statement said food and beverage products were the most stolen commodity in Asia.

## BIG PHARMA DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY



Purdue Pharma, the maker of Oxycontin, the highly addictive opioid, pleaded guilty last week in connection to the marketing of the painkiller that experts say contributed to the country's drug opioid epidemic.

*The New York Times* reported the guilty plea, and the approximately \$8.3 billion settlement does not eliminate all litigation against the company, but the plea is considered a win in the effort to hold the drug maker accountable, the report said.

The settlement was the largest ever for a pharmaceutical company in the U.S., but it is unclear the amount the company would be able to pay. Reports indicated Purdue filed for bankruptcy in 2019, and assets were below the settlement amount.

According to the CDC, some 450,000 people died from overdoses involving any opioid, including prescription and illicit opioids, from 1999 to 2018.

William Tong, Connecticut's attorney general, criticized the settlement on *PBS' "The News Hour"* and called it a "mirage of justice."

He said the settlement does not require executives and owners to leave the business, and there is a chance the company can reemerge under a different identity. He said there is also no assurance the Sackler family – the wealthy owners of the company – will stay out of the drug business.

"We have to shut down Purdue and get these people out of business," Tong said.

*The Times* reported the family agreed to pay \$225 million in civil penalties and insisted they "acted ethically and lawfully." The family described a situation where they were left in the dark about what was occurring during the offense and

blamed “management” for essentially misleading them. (The family’s net worth is about \$13 billion, and some critics of the settlement said the amount was too low.)

The company’s chairman, Steve Miller, issued a statement after the settlement announcement that the drugmaker “accepts responsibility for the misconduct detailed by the Department of Justice in the agreed statement of facts.”

Daniel S. Connolly, a lawyer for members of the Sackler family, told *NBC New York* he regretted the rush to judgment against the family and criticized New York University’s decision to remove the name from its “Sackler Institute.”

“As soon as Purdue documents are released, they will show the company’s history and that members of the Sackler family who served on the board of directors always acted ethically and lawfully, so it is disappointing that NYU is rushing to judgment,” Connolly said.

*The Times* reported that Purdue Pharma has been blamed for misleading elements about its drug, which contributed to the opioid crisis in the country. The CDC reported in 2018 alone, there were 67,367 overdose deaths.

The company hopes to resolve all of the thousands of suits against it and reportedly offered a “global settlement” of \$10 billion and an additional \$3 billion from the family.

Maura Healey, the Massachusetts attorney general, told the *NYT*, “The D.O.J. failed. Justice, in this case, requires exposing the truth and holding the perpetrators accountable, not rushing a settlement to beat an election. I am not done with Purdue and the Sacklers, and I will never sell out the families who have been calling for justice for so long.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *In America, as with much of the world, from Bankster Bandits to the Pharma Drug Gangs, big-time criminals get a slap on the wrist for high crimes and misdemeanors, while it’s prosecution to the fullest for “We the Peasants” of Slavelandia.*

*Indeed, while the big pharma drug dealers make billions and kill millions, in 1994, the New England Journal of Medicine reported the “War on Drugs” resulted in sending one million Americans off to jail each year.*

*The Washington Post reported in 2008 that of 1.5 million Americans arrested each year for drug offenses, half a million would be locked up and one in five black Americans would go to jail on drug law charges.*

*No, the Oxycontin penalty is not “a mirage of justice” as Connecticut’s attorney general states.*

*“Justice” is the mirage... considering the criminal politicians who start wars based on lies; the chemicals/pesticides pumped into our food, water, earth and air; poisons by businesses and industries... who do no time for their crimes that cost trillions and kill millions.*

## **WITH RIDERSHIP PLUMMETING, MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS MAY SOON GRIND TO A HALT**



Prior to the declaration of the COVID War, America’s mass transit systems were falling into disrepair. Last spring, the once-gradual decline of America’s mass transit systems was accelerated to near warp-speed by political lockdowns. Many systems that slowly had been losing riders suddenly experienced a decimation in ridership almost overnight.

Ben Fried of Transit Center, a non-profit advocating for improved public transportation in American cities, stated, “At the peak, it was down 90-95%. Now, depending on the system, it’s typically down about 75% of normal rates.”

The MTA, America’s largest mass transit system, which services the New York City metro area, has seen a similar decline in ridership. *The New York Times* reported on 14 October, “Weekday ridership is down 70% compared with pre-pandemic levels. Ridership on the commuter rail lines is recovering even more slowly.”

*CBS Boston* recently reported similar declines in ridership: “Ridership on the subway is at 24.5% of pre-pandemic levels; on buses it’s about 40%... Ridership on the Commuter Rail is ‘significantly lower’ at 12% of pre-pandemic levels. There are only about 15,000 riders during the morning rush hour, which is 8.5% of normal peak time.”

With the decline in ridership often comes an increase in crime.

According to New York Police Department statistics, subway crime is up across several major categories: homicides, rapes, robberies, burglaries, and vandalism are all higher than last year at this time. The six homicides recorded year-to-date are particularly alarming when compared to the three total homicides recorded during 2017, 2018, and 2019. Rapes have also increased from two last year to five already this year.

The rising violent crime rate reinforces the ridership decline:

- The ridership decline reduces the revenue.
- The revenue reduction exacerbates the rising debt.
- The rising debt results in service cuts.
- Service cuts lead to decreased ridership and increased crime.
- And the vicious cycle repeats.

The sharp decline in ridership is devastating for transit systems nationwide, which were already strapped for cash prior to the political pandemic. *The New York Times* writes:

“The authority [MTA] was burdened by debt before the crisis. Earlier in the year, the authority had more than \$40 billion in debt outstanding and debt repayments that consumed almost 20% of its \$17 billion operating budget.”

With decreased ridership, the debt burden will only grow larger with every passing day. New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli fears the decline in revenue might cause debt to spike to “suffocating levels that could take multiple generations to recover from.”

DiNapoli’s fears are warranted as Mass Transit is facing a confluence of unprecedented challenges to re-attract riders. Considering virtual meetings are on the rise, cities are depopulating, crime is spiking, and budget cuts and bailouts are needed to sustain service, DeNapoli has good reason to be concerned.

With more businesses than ever encouraging employees to work from home, many former mass transit commuters may decide never to return to the daily commute. Others who formerly commuted via mass transit may decide to drive for themselves noting the reduced traffic on the roads and the increased crime on public transportation.

However, the bigger threat to the revival of traditional mass transit is the invisible enemy attacking cities worldwide: power-hungry parasites in government, mainstream media, and BigTech who are trying to reshape the way human beings live and interact.

Cities, like New York, have been transformed from dynamic engines of culture and energy to massive human-farms where sullen, faceless strangers fearfully wander through a concrete maze eagerly awaiting the latest official orders and restrictions. With Broadway still boarded up and restaurants subjected to regulations that seemingly change by the hour, it is going to take years for NYC to recover.

The longer NYC and other major cities remain locked down, the less chance their mass transit systems will have of recovering. Conversely, the more degraded these mass transit systems become, the less chance these cities will have of recovering.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Mass transit will continue experiencing a ridership decline as cities are increasingly unappealing and off-limits to tourists, commuters, and residents. Furthermore, with many citizens still fearful of contagion, the probability of a return to crowded public trains and buses seems almost unthinkable. Accordingly, as revenue fails to approach anywhere near the projected figures, debt will soar to such an extent that many of the systems will need to be bailed out.*

*As large cities with failing transportation system experience depopulation, capital and culture will eventually flee to newer cities in locations with less authoritarian regulation.*

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS

## NIGERIAN PROTESTS ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION



The weeks-long protests that have broken out in the Nigerian city of Lagos, the most populous city in the African continent, have sparked international condemnation and vows from local police to get the situation under control by employing all means necessary.

The protests, which have been violent at times, are focused on police brutality. These protesters originally wanted the country's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), which has been accused of extrajudicial killings, to be disbanded. The government dissolved the unit, but the protests continued over police brutality in general.

Mohammed Adamu, Nigeria's Chief of Police, reportedly said, "Enough is enough." The *BBC* reported he ordered the country's police to "use all legitimate means to halt the further slide into lawlessness." The news outlet reported at least 69 people have died, however, the official death toll is something that has been disputed by protesters. The *Financial Times* spoke to one person who said he counted at least 15 bodies on the same day the country's official death toll was zero.

The protests remained tense. In Lagos, a crowd set a police station on fire.

Obianuju Catherine Udeh, a disc jockey in the country of 206 million, described some of the chaos during a livestream, according to the paper.

The *BBC* reported that President Muhammadu Buhari dissolved the notorious police unit, but the protests continued and called for more police reforms. The



alleged killings that stemmed from the protests were also a source of tension in the country.

Protesters sealed off one of the country's major roads and stormed a terminal at an airport, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. The paper reported that aside from the demand for police reform, the virus pandemic has damaged the country's economy, and more than 55 percent of Nigerians are underemployed or unemployed.

The city has been under curfew, and residents are only allowed to leave their homes between 8 AM and 6 PM.

*Al Jazeera* reported the government deploys cleaning crews to try to respond to buildings set on fire and other debris from the unrest. "As much I would love to clean up my state and have my state back to its normal form, we the youths didn't make that mess – the hoodlums hired by the government did that," Chelsea Balls, a 36-year-old entrepreneur, said.

***TRENDPOST:*** Riots, protests, and demonstrations against government brutality and corruption, declining living standards, crime, and violence will erupt across the globe as the "Greatest Depression" worsens. Civil wars will spread into regional wars. The future is seen in the financial and human devastation that politicians have wracked on populations across the globe when they launched the COVID War.

## ARMENIAN-AZERI PEACE DEAL BROKEN



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with leaders from Armenia and Azerbaijan last Friday to calm the boiling tension in the region over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The *Associated Press* reported the U.S.'s top diplomat met with the foreign ministers of the neighboring countries in Washington, D.C. He aimed to get the leaders to agree to a cease-fire agreement. The bloody clashes have resulted in about 5,000 deaths between both sides, including civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh, according to Russian intelligence. The fighting, as we have been reporting in the **Trends Journal**, began on 27 September.

The *AP* reported Turkey has supported Azerbaijan in the conflict, which has given the country a military advantage.

Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, the Armenian foreign minister, said he had “very productive” meetings with Pompeo last Friday, according to *Reuters*.

“We have been assessing the way in which we can immediately, without delay, achieve the establishment of a ceasefire and go back to the peaceful resolution. I think what we’ve been hearing from the United States was very encouraging,” he said.

The *Reuters* report pointed out that world powers like the U.S. and France want the isolated regional conflict to avoid spilling over into a confrontation that pulls in Turkey and Russia. Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has promised his support to Azerbaijan, and Russia has a defense pact with Armenia, *Reuters* reported.

“Turkey is a valued ally, but I also expect Turkey to use its considerable influence in the region to calm tensions,” NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said, according to the *Moscow Times*.

According to Anti-War.com, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said the ceasefire broke down within hours. “It’s clear that, once again it wasn’t possible to maintain the ceasefire,” Pashinyan wrote on Facebook on Monday. “We don’t yet know how the US president will react to the failure.”

## THAI PROTESTERS VOW TO RETURN



Pro-democracy protesters in Thailand vowed last Saturday to not be deterred after Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha disregarded their demand that he resign by 10 PM that night or face renewed protests in the heart of Bangkok.

The *Japan Times* reported protesters also demanded the release of others who have been arrested during the months of protests, which was also apparently ignored.

“We hear the answer from the prime minister to our request,” Jatupat Boonpattaraksa, an activist, said, according to the paper. “Tomorrow as citizens, we will protest against Prayut at Ratchaprasong at 4 p.m.”

Reuters reported Prayuth was asked if he would resign, and he responded, “Won’t quit.”

The report said that Prayuth, who took power following a military d’état in 2014, called for an emergency meeting next week. He previously revoked a state of emergency for Bangkok to de-escalate the tension on the ground.

As we reported in last week’s **Trends Journal**, protestors are demanding the prime minister resign, the military-drafted constitution be re-written, and the powers of King Maha Vajiralonkorn’s monarchy be curbed.

The *Washington Post* reported that some police officers have been photographed giving the three-finger salute back to protesters. The gesture was adopted by protesters from the movie “The Hunger Games,” and it is a way to show support for democracy.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we have written, discontent in Thailand has been brewing since the 2014 military coup d'état. As with the Hong Kong protesters who ignited in 2019, many of the demonstrators are young adults.

*We do not forecast the ruling government relinquishing power or meeting the demonstrators demand. Again, as we have noted, unless a wider and older demographic strongly supports the young people's demands and participates with them, the Thai military will quash the current movement.*

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

### **RETURN OF THE DUST BOWL**



Dust storms across the U.S. central plains states have become more frequent and intense over the last 20 years, according to a study by multi-disciplinary team of meteorologists and atmospheric scientists.

Andy Lambert, a meteorologist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, noticed the trend when he reviewed satellite data about atmospheric dust and haze. He looked more deeply into the data and could trace it back into the previous century, finally concluding that levels of wind-blown dust have doubled since 2000.

The dust-bowl-level storms are being revived by two trends.

First, grasslands on the plains are being plowed under and planted with corn to be turned into ethanol, encouraged by government policies favoring renewable fuels.

Often, these lands are being left unprotected after harvest, leaving the topsoil to blow away.

That adds more dust to the soil already being carried away by winds during spring planting and fall harvest, times when the new dust storms are worst.

As topsoil vanishes with the wind, more grassland is plowed up to gain access to new fertile soil, exposing even more to the winds.

The flying dust particles borne on the wind are small enough to enter the lungs and cause heart and pulmonary disease, the scientists say.

Second, the region is beset by a long-term drought that could grow to be worse than any seen in the last 1,000 years, according to a recent study by NASA and researchers at three U.S. universities. The Ogallala Aquifer, the underground lake stretching from New Mexico to South Dakota on which plains farms depend, is gradually, relentlessly going dry.

***TRENDPOST:*** Heat, drought, and changing consumer preferences are spurring crop scientists to develop new strains of staple crops and will force industrial-style, single-crop farmers on the central plains to radically redesign the way they farm. Ultimately, the new Dust Bowl could force changes in how and what we eat.

## REVIVING NUCLEAR POWER



Attempting to bring the nuclear power industry back to life, the U.S. Energy Department's "Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program" has chosen two novel designs to receive up to \$1.6 billion in funding to put them into operation by 2028.

Terrapower, a U.S. company, has partnered with GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy to build its “Natrium” reactor, which replaces water with molten sodium as a coolant.

Molten sodium has a much higher boiling point than water, slashing the chance of a meltdown. The design separates the nuclear side of the reactor from the electricity-generating side, enabling the plant to be built with as much as 80 percent less nuclear-grade concrete for construction than conventional nukes.

The plant also will produce hydrogen to create an additional revenue stream.

The Maryland-based X-energy will collaborate with Burns & McDonnell and Energy Northwest to construct its Xe-100 reactor, which features two innovations.

The first is uranium fuel encased in ceramic pebbles – 220,000 of them – instead of in solid rods. The pebbles are fed gradually through the reactor’s core and, when their fuel is spent, the used pebbles are collected at the bottom of the reactor and removed. The ceramic casings should prevent meltdowns.

Second, the design uses high-pressure helium, not water, to cool the fuel and heat water to turn turbines and generate power. The gas will generate power more efficiently than a conventional plant’s boiling water does, the designers say.

Both plants use uranium enriched to 20-percent uranium-235 instead of the 3.5 percent used by conventional designs. The more highly enriched fuel will enable the plants to operate longer between shutdowns to refuel.

The energy department plans to make another five to seven grants this year to nurture other nuclear plant designs that are even more exotic.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Out of the public eye for decades, nuclear power has been reinventing itself and will reprise its role in the U.S. energy mix starting in the 2030s.*



## MEDICAL LAB IN A BAND-AID



A translucent strip the size of a Band-Aid and embedded with electrochemical sensors can detect the presence of various substances and chemical signals in the body by analyzing sweat.

The “lab on a strip” was developed by researchers at four Brazilian universities and the country’s Center for Research in Energy and Materials.

The strip itself is made from microbial cellulose, a polymer made from sugar that has been used in wound dressings for years. Laid over the skin, the material is porous enough to allow sweat from the skin to enter it.

The strip is printed with electrodes about a half-inch, or 1.5 cm, long. In sweat, the electrodes can detect a range of biochemicals, including glucose, lactic acid, potassium, sodium, and various hormones.

The sensors produce an electrical signal that indicates the concentration of a particular biochemical. The signal is picked up by a measuring device that forwards it to a computer to record and analyze.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The lab-on-a-strip is another step toward personalized, decentralized medicine that places the patient, not the doctor, in charge.*

*Rather than physicians drawing blood and sending it to a lab for analysis, the lab-on-a-strip could be used to monitor a range of conditions, from blood sugar in persons with diabetes to cortisol fluctuations in persons dealing with anxiety. Eventually, home versions of the technology will enable individuals to check their own conditions when they wish.*