

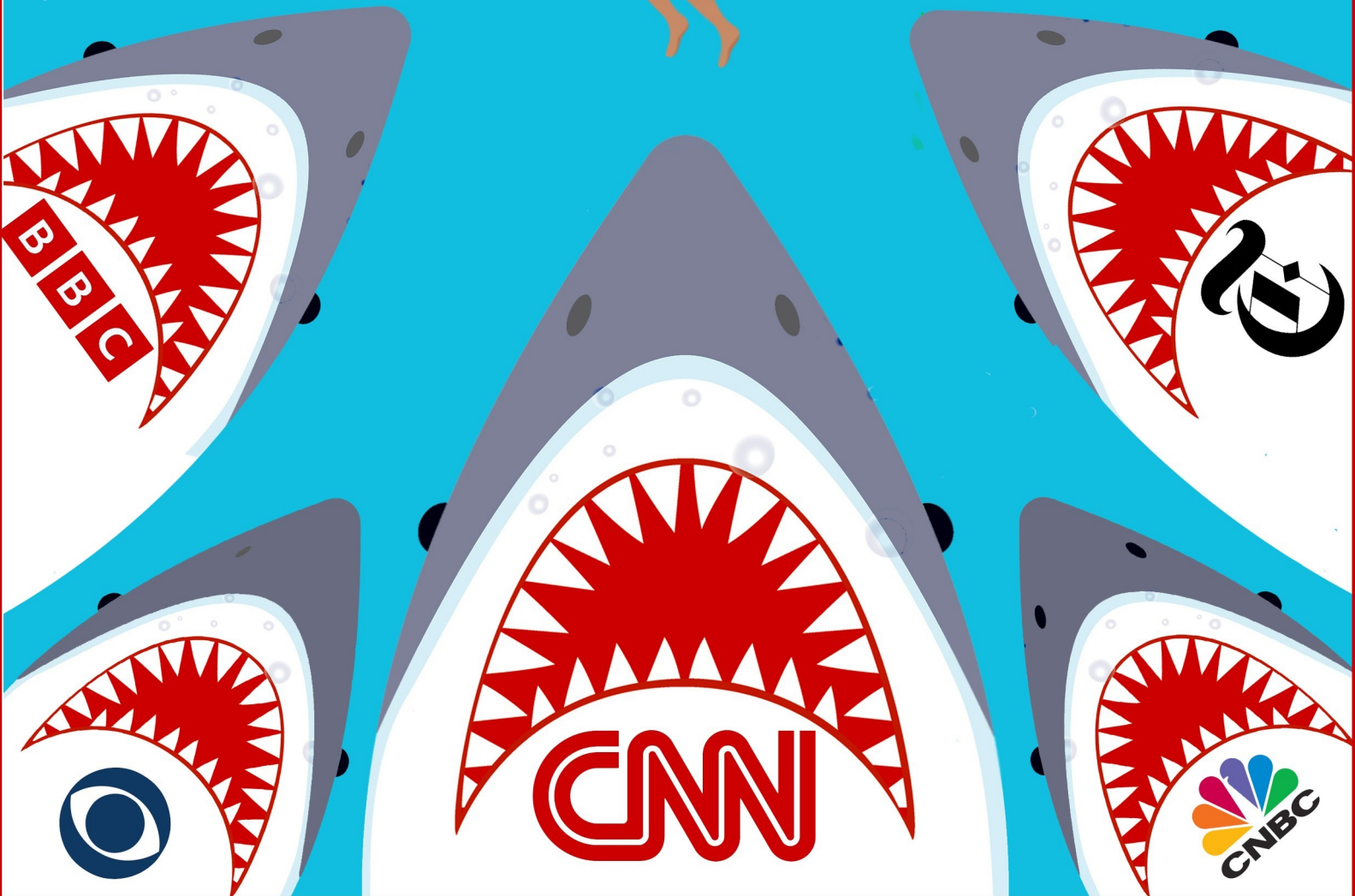
THE TRENDS JOURNAL®

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

STAY STUPID



STAY IN THE MAINSTREAM





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About the TRENDS JOURNAL

Gerald Celente is the Founder/Director of the Trends Research Institute and Publisher of the weekly **Trends Journal** magazine. He is the author of the highly acclaimed and best-selling books *Trend Tracking* and *Trends 2000* (Warner Books).

With a 40-year track record of identifying, tracking, and forecasting trends, Celente is world-renowned as today’s #1 Trend Forecaster. Celente has earned the reputation as a trusted name in trends for his many accurate forecasts; among them the 1987 Stock Market crash, Dot com bust, “Gold Bull Run,” the “Panic of ‘08,” the rise of organic foods, and the popularity of gourmet coffee long before Starbucks was a household name.

Self-described as a “Warrior for the Prince of Peace,” Gerald Celente is also the Founder “Occupy Peace & Freedom,” a not-for-profit movement to honor the Constitution and Bill of Rights and restore Freedoms.

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STAY STUPID

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#): "STAY STUPID, STAY IN THE MAINSTREAM."

Tired of being lied to by their government and peddled with propaganda from the Presstitutes who put out for their government whore masters and corporate pimps, the vast majority of the American public is disgusted with what was once called "journalism."

We have long reported that the government/corporate media complex has lost touch with the American public. And now a damning report about the state of the media was released today that found viewers are tuning out due to what Axios called "a never-ending cycle of bad news."

The numbers don't lie. Social interactions with online news posts have fallen about 50 percent since the beginning of the year, and cable news networks—led by CNN and MSNBC—saw their ratings fall by 47 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

We at [The Trends Journal](#) report on the cold, hard facts and forecast the trends shaping the future that are beyond the scope of understanding of the corporate media. And just as they sold the Covid War with daily doses of fear and hysteria to ramp up their sagging ratings, they are at it again with the Ukraine War.

Ukrainians = Heroes, Russians = Villains. Don't ask any other questions, ignore the facts. Despite Russia controlling nearly 25 percent of Ukraine, its President Volodymyr Zelensky continues to say his forces will not accept a peace deal until Russians surrender every inch of the country, which will never happen.

Just today, the U.S. announced it will send an additional \$1.7 billion to Ukraine. Last Friday President Biden sent a \$400 million package of military aid to Kyiv, the 15th package since Russia launched its invasion on 24 February and bringing the total since then to nearly \$60 billion.

With the war drums beating, it has never been more important to have an independent news media. [The Trends Journal](#) delivers actionable information to our readers each week that they can use to flourish during these volatile times.

Sincerely,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

COMMENTS

LESS MONEY (PRINTING), MORE STUFF

The reason why the interest rates to service a debt in the housing market rises is because the debt for the lenders to lend money rises from the Fed raising rates. It's a chain reaction. Now, the reason why raising rates is theoretically supposed to curb inflation is because it makes it more expensive to borrow money, thus people take out less loans. When there are less

loans, there are less monies in circulation of the economy.

The definition of inflation is that there is too much money in circulation. It may lead to greater competitiveness but not greater inflation. But people tend to spend less when they have less, so that could cause less competition because less people are willing to spend what they have. The only sure way to stop inflation is to have less money and more “stuff”.

Gage Garber

THE NEXT DOMINO

Zelensky asked for 75 billion – but it’s the Donbass where the destruction is – and the Russians and the locals are taking care of that. Any money that goes to Kiev, gets gifted off . Dumbshit west still doesn’t get it! And I guess they never will...

Nevermind. Zelensky’s days are numbered – like Bojo. Yes, 1 down – more to go (Joe, you next?)

Today’s “dominoes” are UK, Germany, France , Netherlands, etc.—I mean their shitty governments falling... Wish I could attend Peace Rally, but am not in US.

atlantis

OLDIES NOT SO GOLDEN

What are we doing with an 81 year old telling us what is best for us? The old fool should have the good sense to retire. That so many old people are now running things long after the normal retirement age, it proves to me how they cannot bring themselves to give up all their POWER. Let some younger folks have a chance. Retire or be fired!

John Kennedy

WAR PRE-PLANNED?

I retired Dec. 31, 2021. Before this date, I had a patient telling me how his son was recalled from leave and told that he should make out a new will and that the army was going to be redeployed. To where was not discussed, if it was even known. My point being that the US and NATO were planning for this war before the Russians even invaded Ukraine.

It might be said that it was due to brilliant intelligence. I believe it just smells of another move by the West to keep up its never ending wars that distract the populations of the West from ever extracting justice against the leaders of the Western world for their crimes against humanity, many of the victims being citizens of those same Western counties.

alachiropactic

FAST FOOD INFLATION EFFECT

IMO—it's not just the price in this sector. The price would be bearable on fast food if they could get an order correct. We stopped patronizing fast food joints and sit-downs because it's not worth the hassle of incorrect orders followed by poor service, poor quality, and poor taste of food. The woke Chick Fil A is not good chicken – tried it a year ago and have not been back. We prefer to cook and eat at home where portions, ingredients, quality, and taste can be better controlled. On another footnote – It seems fresh fruits and vegetables spoil within days or hours after purchase or they are not ripe enough to consume.

rwitkowski01

COVID COMES FOR FAUCI...AGAIN

Obviously it should read "If he had followed the recommended Remdesivir protocol he would never become ill again". Typed it on a tablet – yet another example of "intelligent"

software/government/police/laws that "know what's best for me"! Someone astutely said that Terry Gilliam's films were full of technology that didn't quite work with disastrous consequences. Anyone for a bit of Pandemic Modeling?

Andrew Parsons

LIBYA RIOT TIME

Muammar Gaddafi proposed a gold backed currency to trade within Africa and undermine the Euro and US dollar dominance. A short time later Libya was bomb,invaded and he was murdered. Putin a week ago announced the formation of commodity backed currency of the B.R.I.C.S nations to directly challenge the dominance of the US dollar. But he has the support of other powerful nations and missile technology second to none to see it through,not to mention Big balls!

beautyspot

BRICS BREAK-OUT

The BRIC's are going to win this sanction battle, and in return create a whole new trading system governing the world. Greed is good, but only if it is controlled Greed, which is what the Western developed countries never learned.

As our economies sink, that is when the Chinese will make their play for Taiwan, and being backed by Middle Eastern and Russian Oil, Indian foodstuffs, Russian foodstuffs, Brazilian timber and rubber...They may just pull it off. Just my

opinion of course, which doesn't really count for anything.

RICHARD ALLEN

BIDEN VS. BEZOS THEATER

Most Americans can't find Ukraine on the map and the Zombie in Chief can't tell the difference between his head and his ass. And I'll bet most Americans know which end of his anatomy is smarter. (Hint: It's not the end that emits incoherent bullshit.) And just to show you how absolutely stupid he is, go back and reread this article. On one hand, he blames Putin for high gas prices and on the other he is blaming the gas station owners. And from stage left comes Jeff Bozos.

This is the man who is so paranoid of his company's employees starting a union that he reprogrammed his company's chat bots from using words like, union, slave labor, compensation, diversity, and others. He also loves freedom of speech so much that he silenced the Trump crowd by banning the social media site Parlor.

It must be nice to be so far up the food chain that you can attempt to social engineer an entire country's culture. Matter of fact, he's one of the big-shot, big-shits who made sure the Democrat party overthrew the government. But what the hell does he care? He's one of the richest people on the planet, so he doesn't give a damn what goes down or how many people get killed. So, I hope you'll pardon my passion, but I hope the 2 big B's rot in hell for what they've done to this country.

Mark Ellis

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TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT



ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW

Unlike the mainstream “business” media and the “economists” they quote to see what direction the stock markets and economies are heading, The **Trends Journal** methodology of trend forecasting is Globalnomic®.

Trends are exponents of meaningful change on a global or macro level. The Trends Research Institute, founded in 1980, is the first research organization to integrate social, political, economic, and other data from scores of fields in developing trend forecasts.

By incorporating the most reliable quantitative and qualitative data available from sources spanning the globe, our trend forecasts are uniquely balanced with a comprehensive perspective.

As Founder and Director of The Trends Research Institute and Publisher of **Trends Journal**, Gerald Celente says, “Opportunity misses those who view the future through the eyes of their profession.”

Therefore, when staying with the mainstream “news”, the “economists” that they quote mostly view the world through a narrow economic prism, while avoiding the broad spectrum of current events forming future trends.

For those prepared to proact—take action before it hits the mainstream—trends are harbingers of opportunity.

How We Got Here

Tracking trends is the understanding of where we are and how we got here, to see where we are going.

However, since the financial game is rigged, hard data and indisputable facts are no longer accepted gauges of reality to see “how we got here.”

On the economic front, it’s a 360 degree con-game... “It’s one big club, and you ain’t in it,” George Carlin brilliantly noted: Central Banksters, The Street’s money junkie bandits, Hedge Funds, private equity groups, “the chains” that monopolize every business sector, the billionaires, Davos, etc.

We have reported in great detail over the decades how Washington and the U.S. Federal Reserve Banksters do all they can to make the “Bigs” bigger and bloat up those who are “Too Big to Fail,” their “quantitative easing” schemes of buying up corporate bonds... while the middle class and Mom and Pops are decimated.

Indeed, this trend is perfectly clear. All of a sudden, when the Panic of ’08 hit, millions of Americans lost their homes. Down and out, the private equity bandits began buying up the foreclosed homes and renting them out. Now that trend is in full force, and the American middle class continues to shrink, the chance of home ownership is vanishing. The best option is to, instead, rent from one of those “investment firms.”

And how do the plantation workers of Slavelandia suffer?

While many commodity prices are plunging as the reality of recession takes hold, on the apartment front rents, which account for almost one third of the consumer price Index, have spiked... and keep on spiking.

According to Apartment List, from January to June, rents on new leases shot up 14.1 percent. Last year they were up 17.5 percent.

Why is the world awash in never ending and inflating debt? Moreover, why does global debt keep expanding relentlessly every day, every month, and every year, in what seems like some kind of twisted mass insanity? Where is inflation going? What to expect? Read Gregory Mannarino's article in this issue, ["Complete Lock Up of The System Will Occur."](#)

Before politicians launched the COVID War in 2020, Chinese Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rat, annual rent increases were between 2 and 3 percent.

As we have greatly detailed, the non-scientific draconian mandates imposed on nations across the globe by political dictators to fight the COVID War has devastated the lives and livelihoods of billions. And no, it won't "come back." What is dead is gone.

And now, re-starting it from where the coronavirus began—and further pushing down commodity prices—China has re-imposed its zero COVID policy on some 8 percent of its population to curb COVID cases. And to help bring down business deeper, they also just closed down their center city of gambling casinos, Macau.

What will be some of the implications?

As reported on King World News:

"Kyle Bass: Bank runs are happening all over China. It's important to note that the Chinese banking system represents 350% of Chinese GDP (on balance sheet) while the U.S. system is only 100%. One of the largest lending categories

of Chinese banks is real estate...Chinese property developers are filing bankruptcies at a record pace.

“Moody’s has DOWNGRADED 91 Chinese property developers this year alone...while Moody’s had only downgraded 54 OVER THE PAST DECADE before this year’s actions. China’s banks are insolvent. The CPC is likely to brutally suppress the bank runs in the near term as they can’t allow them to spread further. It’s not just small banks, the biggest crowd over the weekend was found at The Bank of China (one of the largest SOE banks).”

What’s a Yats?

However, while governments control their nations, and the game is fixed, despite their manipulations, the end-game economic trends can be forecast.

But when a war breaks out or some other market changing event hits the mainstream headlines, the “economists” only factor in the economic effects resulting from big “news” events, while they were mostly deaf, dumb and blind to the trend line of “how we got here.”

Thus, with the Ukraine War among the critical geopolitical events that are affecting equities and economies, while “economists” see what is going on through their narrow mainstream filter, with few exceptions, most have no idea of the “how we got here” factors that shaped the trends leading up to the Ukraine War.

Ask the economic experts “What was the “Orange Revolution?” Where is Maidan Square and what difference does it make?” Who is Jeffery Pyatt and Victoria Nuland and what bonds their relationship?

Remember listening to their hacked telephone call: “I think, to help glue this thing and to have the UN help glue it and, you know, Fuck the EU.” And for who should be leader of the Ukraine gang, “I think Yats is the guy.”

Of course, the details of these words and names are part of “how we got here” by understanding the hard facts – and not government and media propaganda – of

America's role in paving the path to the Ukraine War. By knowing how and what built the foundation of this current mega-trend is essential to see where we are going.

And as we have forecast, those who have incited and escalated the Ukraine War have ignited the flames of World War III. (See [“DUCK AND COVER 2.0: PREPARE FOR A NUCLEAR ATTACK”](#) in this edition of the **Trends Journal**.)

Yet, ask Americans to find Ukraine on the world map, mention those names and places we listed above—and while they will know the names and place of every baseball team, their ranking, and their players—the facts and data about the Ukraine War, how it started and why is the \$64,000 question.

LAST WEEK: STOCKS MAKE A COMEBACK

The three major U.S. stock indexes gained ground last week, despite some intraday turmoil and a losing day on Friday for the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Standard & Poor's 500.

For the week, the Dow rose 0.8 percent, the NASDAQ a whopping 4.6 percent, and the S&P 1.9 percent.

The NASDAQ rose in five consecutive trading sessions, its best streak so far this year.

With the S&P down 18 percent on the year, many investors were bargain-hunting, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, especially among tech stocks.

Share prices of Tesla and Micron Technology did especially well last week, each up about 10 percent. The ARK Innovation ETF jumped 14 percent.

In contrast, energy stocks that were stellar performers recently have slipped amid fears of a global recession that would cut oil demand.

Those same recession fears also have torpedoed bond yields and commodities prices, with the cost of copper falling to its lowest in nearly two years, which we detail in [“Is the Commodities Supercycle Over or Just Paused?”](#) in this issue.

Recession jitters were stoked by news that the U.S. economy added 372,000 jobs in June and unemployment remained at 3.6 percent.

A strong jobs market increases the chance that the U.S. Federal Reserve will stick to its plan to raise interest rates three-quarters of a point when it meets late this month.

An aggressive schedule of rate hikes raises the chance that the economy will tip into recession, many analysts warn.

Also, the closely watched yield curve—the spread between yields on the two-year and 30-year U.S. treasury notes—remains inverted, usually a signal that a recession is looming.

Normally, yields on long-term notes are higher than those for shorter terms. That indicates investors' faith in the short-term economic future.

When short-term interest rates exceed longer-term yields, as was the case last week, the spread or “curve” between them is said to “invert,” signaling a darker near-term view among investors.

The strong jobs news lifted the yield on the 10-year treasury note to 3.098 percent, its strongest weekly gain in a month. The two-year note returned 3.119 percent on Friday, up from 3.039 percent Thursday.

Gold broke below \$1,800, trading just below \$1,741 at 5 p.m. EDT on Friday, 8 July, as we detail in [“GOLD KEEPS FALLING”](#) in this issue.

Brent crude began the shortened trading week at \$111.69, slipping to \$107.02 on Friday, losing 4.2 percent. West Texas Intermediate opened the week slightly above \$108 and dipped to \$104.85 at 4:30 p.m. EDT Friday, down 3.8 percent.

Bitcoin gained 7 percent for the week, breaking above \$21,000 on Friday but slipping over the weekend.

Overseas, the Europe-wide Stoxx 600 added 2 percent, Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 1.65 percent, and the South Korean KOSPI index was up 1.73 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index managed to add 0.16 percent, while the Chinese mainland's SSE Composite lost 0.76 percent. The CSI Composite bounced through the week, ending flat.

YESTERDAY: TRADERS HOLD THEIR BREATH WAITING FOR INFLATION DATA

It was another choppy day on The Street Monday with investors considering the upcoming inflation reading due out later this week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 161.31 points, or 0.5 percent to 31173.84. The S&P 500 fell 44.95 points, or 1.2 percent to 3854.43, and the Nasdaq Composite Index fell 262.71 points to end at 11372.60.

Stock traders are anticipating Wednesday's release of the consumer price index that could result in the Federal Reserve to keep increasing interest rates to bring down inflation. The June reading is anticipated to, once again, be near 9 percent, which is expected to prompt the Fed to act aggressively.

Traders are also anticipating corporate earnings from major companies like PepsiCo and JPMorgan, which are seen as indicators of consumer confidence and the impact that the strength of the U.S. dollar has on these earnings.

The dollar is up about 11 percent this year and its value against other currencies could be a drag on companies that sell their products in a foreign market.

Tech stocks took a dive with Meta Platforms and Twitter both down 4.7 percent and 11 percent, respectively. Twitter appears ready to sue Elon Musk after the Tesla billionaire backed out of a deal to purchase the social media company.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal has noted that most of these financial issues were brought on by ineffective COVID-19 lockdowns that destroyed businesses and local economies, the Federal Reserves' miscalculation that inflation was just "transitory," and the sanctions leveled against Russia that have done nothing to stop the war.

FactSet, a market data firm, estimates that the profits for S&P 500 companies will grow by 4 percent, which marks the slowest pace since most countries reopened from COVID-19 lockdowns.

Elsewhere, Europe's Stoxx 600 declined 0.5 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1 percent to 7120. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.44 percent to close at 2340.27. Japan's Nikkei was up 1.02 percent to 26787.00.

Stocks in China also responded positively to the news and were higher today, with the Shanghai Composite was down 1.27 percent and the Shenzhen Component fell 1.87 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell about 3 percent to close at 21124.2.

There are fresh concerns in the European and Asian markets that China will, once again, lock down cities to stop reports of isolated outbreaks of COVID-19. Reports out of the country indicate that there has been an uptick in infections in Shanghai, the city of 25 million.

Europe is also bracing for additional energy cuts from Russia that could send the EU into recession.

GOLD/SILVER: Spot gold was down 0.3 percent to \$1,737.32 per ounce on Monday and gold futures fell 0.3 percent to \$1,737.00 due to the strengthening U.S. dollar and its inverse relationship with Treasury yields.

Gold prices are vulnerable to higher Treasury yields, U.S. dollar, and interest rates.

Gold prices hit their lowest point in more than six months because investors see more attractive alternatives to gold due to the surging dollar and higher interest rates.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that for gold to maintain strength, prices must stay in the high \$1,900 per ounce range and when they solidify above \$2,200 per ounce, gold will spike to new highs. On the downside, should gold fall below \$1,800, its bottom will be in the \$1,730 range.*

BITCOIN: Bitcoin was down to about 19,790.72 on Monday after trading as high as \$21,000 a coin since Friday.

The **Trends Journal** has pointed out that the world's most popular crypto has lost more than half its value since November when it was trading at \$68,982 per coin.

Ruchir Sharma, the chairman of Rockefeller International, told *CoinDesk* that he believes the next six months for bitcoin could see further drops.

"I'm not willing to call the [market] bottom as of yet on bitcoin and cryptocurrencies," Sharma said. "The U.S. bear market regime, which is the driver of risk appetite around the world, is still very much in play."

But he is bullish long-term on the crypto and believes it can replace the U.S. dollar.

"The dependence on the U.S. dollar in general cannot continue ... There is a need for having another currency out there with some transactional need, which is a bit more stable in value ... Three to five years from now, hopefully [bitcoin] will emerge as a more stable asset," he said.

TREND FORECAST: *We had long forecast, the downward breakout point is when prices fall below \$25,000 per coin. They are now below that breakout point, thus bitcoin could fall back to \$10,000 per coin or lower.*

On the upside, we maintain our forecast that bitcoin will find strength to hit new highs when it breaks above \$55,500 per coin.

We have long noted that cryptos would be hurt when governments act to regulate these trades.

*The **Trends Journal** has long pointed out that if an asset is considered by the SEC to be a security, those involved in the transactions must comply with the rules.*

TODAY: ALL EYES ON CPI DATA, MARKET NERVOUS

As it has been for the past few months, it was another roller coaster day on Wall Street with the Dow ending down 192 points or 0.61 percent to close the day at 30985.02.

The S&P 500 benchmark index finished the day down 35.29, or 0.92 percent to 3819.14. Still in bear territory, the tech heavy NASDAQ fell nearly 1 percent to close at 11,264.73

There is a pessimistic feeling on The Street, and investors see a recession on the horizon. Citigroup analysts said Google searches for “recession” are now higher than 2008, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Investors are anticipating key inflation data that is due out tomorrow that could mean continued interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve to bring down inflation, which came in at 8.6 percent last month.

The Consumer Price Index is expected to be high again, and the Biden administration has already shown a level of defensiveness. Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, told reporters at the White House that the data is “already out of date.” The White House noted that gas prices have come down since 13 June. A senior official told Yahoo! Finance that the numbers—which are expected to be red hot—do not represent the current reality for the American consumer.

"The June CPI data will largely not reflect the substantial declines in gas prices we've seen since the middle of June," Brian Deese, the director of the National Economic Council, and Cecilia Rouse, the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, wrote in a memo obtained by reporters. The national average for a gallon of gas fell to \$4.66, which marks a 34 cent drop since May.

Another drag on the market has been persistent, slowing growth and tightening by central banks around the world. The S&P 500 down, more than 20 percent this year, is in bear territory.

COVID-19 lockdowns in China and the Ukraine War continue to worry investors and could impact supply chains. The day ended on a bit of a chaotic note, with the Dow falling up to 300 points in the final hour of trading.

Neil Desai, a portfolio manager for Putnam Investments, told *The Wall Street Journal* that the “days of ‘buy the dip,’ appear to be over.

“We’re definitely more cautious,” he said.

TREND FORECAST: *The Trends Journal* has long warned subscribers that the central bank Banksters were either too stupid to see inflation rising, or are totally in the game of rigging the markets, and were fully aware that the higher interest rates reach, the harder the market will fall.

As we continue to note, while the average person feels the economic pain as inflation rises and it costs them more to buy less, the true levels of economic devastation will not be realized by the general population until Wall Street crashes.

Therefore, the Bankster Bandits and The Wall Street White Shoe Boys will do all they can behind the scenes to delay the market crash. In fact, the Feds may even ease up on rising interest rates if the economy and equities move into crash landing mode.

Europe’s Stoxx 600 was up 2.02 points, or 0.49 percent, to 417.04, and Britain’s FTSE 100 was up 13.27 points, or 0.18 percent 7209.86. South Korea’s Kospi was down 22.51, or 0.96 percent to 2317.76. Japan’s Nikkei was down 475.64 points, or 1.77 percent to end at 26336.66.

The Shanghai Composite was down 32.12, or 0.97 percent to close at 3281.47. The Shenzhen Component was also down 177.96 points, or 1.41 percent to close at 12439.27. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was down 279.46 points, or 1.32 percent, to close at 20844.74.

The European market will continue to watch inflation data from the U.S. and monitor the COVID-19 outbreak in China. President Xi Jinping has been intent on pushing a “Zero-COVID” policy and, holding true to form, put Wugang, a steelmaking hub, on lockdown after there was one case of the virus. The city is home to 300,000 residents.

OIL: Oil was trading lower today due to concerns of slowing economies and growing lockdowns in China. Brent crude was down 7.99, or 7.46 percent to 99.10 and West Texas Intermediate was down 8.41, or 8.0988 percent to 95.66.

Oil prices are also down due to a combination of a strong dollar and high inflation. OilPrice.com pointed out that OPEC, which is normally bullish on crude, lowered its 2023 demand growth forecast to 2.7 b/d due to recessionary pressures and weaker overall demand. The report pointed out that the estimation does not take into account an escalation in Ukraine or COVID-19 lockdown in China.

TRENDPOST: *It's basically a guessing game. Some analysts believe the drop in oil prices is temporary due to the uncertainty with Russia. They see oil rising by 50 percent if Russia dramatically cuts its supply.*

TREND FORECAST: *The picture is clear. The higher oil prices rise, the faster inflation will rise and the greater the pressure on central banks to raise interest rates. And the higher interest rates rise, the deeper equity markets and economies will fall.*

GOLD/SILVER: Gold continued to head lower today and was down 6.10, or 0.3696 percent, to 1725.30 at 3:30 p.m. ET. as the yield on 10-year Treasury fell to 2.956 percent.

As the **Trends Journal** has long pointed out, gold prices are vulnerable to higher Treasury yields, U.S. dollar, and interest rates. The dollar hit its highest level in about 20 years. Gold prices hit their lowest point in more than six months because investors see more attractive alternatives to gold due to the surging dollar and higher interest rates.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that for gold to maintain strength, prices must stay in the high \$1,900 per ounce range and when they solidify above \$2,200 per ounce, gold will spike to new highs. On the downside, we had forecast that should gold fall below \$1,800, its bottom will be in the \$1,730 range... it is in that range now.*

BITCOIN: Bitcoin continued to hit resistance as it approached \$20,000 per coin today. The world's largest crypto was trading at \$19,607.70, or down 334.70 at 3:18 p.m. EST.

The **Trends Journal** has pointed out that the world's most popular crypto has lost more than half its value since November when it was trading at \$68,982 per coin. Decrypt.co reported that the crypto fell from \$1.27 trillion in that time to \$377 billion for all the bitcoin today.

The losing streak is not isolated to bitcoin. Ethereum, which is the world's second-largest crypto, is down about 78 percent since November and lost about 7 percent in the last day.

The report, citing CoinGlass, said about 62,000 crypto traders liquidated their funds in the past day.

TRENDPOST: *We have noted that the health of cryptos depends on several factors. Investors are now being lured to Treasuries due to increased interest rates and the U.S. dollar is soaring, which is also seen as a safer investment for foreign buyers.*

We have pointed out that these rates set by the Fed can impact cryptos because of an increased competition for capital. Speculative investments, like cryptos, tend to lose.

TREND FORECAST: *We had long forecast, the downward breakout point is when prices fall below \$25,000 per coin. They are now below that breakout point, thus bitcoin could fall back to \$10,000 per coin or lower.*

On the upside, we maintain our forecast that bitcoin will find strength to hit new highs when it breaks above \$55,500 per coin. As we have been noting for over five years, a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies is dependent upon government regulations.

(For more crypto trends and forecasts, please see our TRENDS IN CRYPTOS section.)

GOLD KEEPS FALLING



Gold's price broke down through \$1,800 an ounce last week as the dollar continued strong.

On 8 July, the metal traded as low as \$1,733 on the London Metal Exchange, the *Financial Times* reported, after peaking at \$2,069 in March shortly after Russia invaded

Ukraine.

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tracking gold saw investors pull out a net \$1.7 billion in June in addition to the \$3.1 billion withdrawn in May, the *FT* said.

The subtractions reduced the global value of gold-focused ETFs by 7 percent to \$221.7 billion on 30 June, compared with a March high of \$240 billion.

The funds' assets remain 5.9 percent higher than at the end of last December.

The number of “long” gold contracts—bets that the price will rise in the near future—recently sank to its smallest since 2019, indicating that institutional investors see no rally in the short term.

Historically, gold has not been able to rally during a time when the U.S. Federal Reserve is tightening monetary policy, HSBC chief metals analyst James Steel told the *FT*.

The Fed is in the midst of a campaign to raise interest rates to, and perhaps beyond, 3 percent by the end of this year and also has stopped buying bonds.

“The economic climate of rising rates still argues for gold to go lower, which it is likely to do in the near to medium term,” Steel said.

Gold bugs may find encouragement as early as the end of this year, according to Joni Teves, metals strategist at UBS.

Gold price's "consolidation and recovery are likely in the next six to 12 months as the Fed nears the end of its tightening cycle," she said. The central bank then "is anticipated to shift back to easing in the second half of 2023."

TREND FORECAST: *Again, facts and data don't count when the dealers are playing with a rigged deck.*

Gold, the #1 safe-haven asset should be spiking during these times of socioeconomic and geopolitical turmoil.

For example, as economies are declining, inflation far above the central bank's 2 percent rate and everyday prices are rising much higher than wages... gold, the most precious of precious metals, should be hitting new highs.

Why are gold prices going down rather than up? According to King World News, the evidence is clear that the game is rigged by the "legalized fraud" derivatives mob: See, ["GOLD MARKET RIGGED: A Chart Says a Trillion+ Words."](#)

ECONOMY SPROUTS 372,000 NEW JOBS IN JUNE



U.S. employers added 372,000 new workers last month, sustaining the previous three months' average of more than 350,000 additional jobs per month, *The Wall Street Journal* noted, but easing off highs touched early this year.

Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg had predicted an average of 268,000 new slots.

June's figure was slightly down from May's revised total of 384,000 new jobs.

Unemployment remained at 3.6 percent for a fourth consecutive month, close to the 50-year low reached in early 2020.

In June, hiring was broad. Every economic sector added jobs except the government, which shed workers.

Transportation and warehousing added workers despite a slowdown in consumer spending.

Leisure and hospitality businesses are still struggling with a shortage of workers, although the sector has partially recovered from the catastrophic losses it suffered during the COVID War's lockdown.

Although more people were working, the labor force itself shrank slightly: 62.2 percent of adults were working or looking for a job, compared to 62.3 percent in May.

The loss of active potential employees was broad and included men, women, Baby Boomers, and adults ages 25 to 55.

Open jobs continue to outnumber willing or available workers, indicating the labor market does not share equity markets' recession worries, the *WSJ* said, despite the U.S. economy contracting by 1.6 percent in this year's first quarter.

The average U.S. wage grew 5.1 percent during the 12 months ending 30 June, the U.S. labor department reported, which is likely to encourage the U.S. Federal Reserve to stick to its announced plan to jack its key interest rate by three-quarters of a point later this month.

"The labor market is cooling but it's far from going into a freeze," Sarah House, Wells Fargo's senior economist, told the *WSJ*.

"It's hard to get a broad retrenchment in [economic] activity when you have 372,000 more individuals receiving a paycheck," she said.

Hiring will continue to be robust, especially in services, she predicted.

The economy continued to shrink in the second quarter, losing 1.2 percent, according to a benchmark model maintained by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

TREND FORECAST: *The higher and faster the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, the fewer jobs will be created and the deeper the economy will sink.*

Some 70 percent of America's Gross Domestic Product is consumer driven, thus, the more that are out of work, the less products they buy. In fact, it is already showing up in the data as consumer goods imports fell \$6.3 billion in June.

Beyond the consumer sector, but related to their spending, industrial supplies and materials slumped \$5.3 billion and finished metal shapes plunged \$5.6 billion.

And what is barely mentioned are the tens of millions that have quit the workforce when politicians launched the COVID War who don't want to go back to the lousy jobs they realized they hated when they were locked down and not allowed to go to work.

This is unprecedented in world history, as is the incalculable destruction caused by the draconian lockdowns.

Not only did the masses march off to their "leaders" orders... those refusing to get the drug dealers' Operation Warp Speed gene therapy jab injected into their body were fired. No Jab, No Job. See:

- ["Want to Keep Your Job? Get the Jab!"](#) (14 Sep 2021)
- ["Hong Kong: No Jab, No Job. No Freedom"](#) (4 May 2021)
- ["UCLA Doctor: No Jab, No Job. Call the Police"](#) (12 Oct. 2021)
- ["Citigroup on Board with No Jab, No Job"](#) (2 Nov 2021)
- ["No Jab, No Job. Vaccine Mandates 'Working'"](#) (5 Oct 2021)
- ["No Vax, No Job, No Future: Biden Knows Best"](#) (24 Aug 2021)
- ["No Jab = No Job"](#) (23 Feb 2021)
- ["New York Unions Fighting Vax Job Demands"](#) (26 Oct 2021)

- ["New Trend: Jab Hectoring"](#) (23 Feb 2021)

If you did not get the shot in the arm, you were not permitted to travel or enter buildings and offices.

U.S. MORTGAGE WEEKLY RATE FALLS MOST IN 13 YEARS



The national average interest rate on a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage fell from 5.7 percent during the week ending 30 June to 5.3 percent by 7 July, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (FHLMC).

It was the second consecutive week of lower rates and the largest one-week drop since 2008.

Mortgage rates tend to reflect the yield on U.S. 10-year treasury bonds. In June, the yield reached an 11-year high near 3.5 percent, but has since fallen below 3 percent due to investors' expectation that the U.S. Federal Reserve will continue to raise interest rates and yields could be higher later.

The yield closed at 2.993 percent on 11 July.

As mortgage interest rates dropped last week, the number of mortgage applications fell by 5.4 percent, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA).

"Purchasing activity is hamstrung by ongoing affordability challenges and low inventory," MBA vice-president Joel Kan said to the *Financial Times*. "Homeowners still have reduced incentive to apply for a refinance," because rates have risen.

The average selling price of a U.S. home topped \$400,000 in May and remains high because homes for sale are scarce.

However, the speed at which prices are increasing slowed in May, decelerating to the slowest pace since 2006 even though they still rose at a pace nearly twice the historical average.

“The housing market will continue to normalize if home price growth materially slows due to the combination of low affordability and an economic slowdown,” FHLMC chief economist Sam Khater told the *FT*.

TREND FORECAST: *With inflation showing minor signs of cooling and consumers draining their savings, which we highlighted in “Americans: Spending More, Saving Less” (7 Jun 2022), the U.S. housing market will collapse should mortgages climb toward double digits.*

Also, as we have forecast, even moderate rate increases will end the artificially boosted housing boom.

Indeed, in April and May, new home sales fell 19 percent, year over year, to their slowest pace since April 2020. Existing-home sales also are slackening as we noted in [“Pace of April Existing Home Sales Slowest in Two Years”](#) (24 May 2022) and other articles.

The hardest hit will be first-time home buyers who made up just 27 percent of all home sales in May, down from 31 percent a year earlier and dropping to the 13-year low reached during the Great Recession.

Minus a wild card event, we forecast a drop in home prices, but we do not foresee a housing market crash. Unlike the Panic of '08, this time, many homes were paid for with cash. Also, a larger proportion of homes this time have been bought by high-earning households that could make large cash down payments.

Therefore, there will be no subprime fiasco that artificially drove up home prices as occurred during the Great Recession, when houses were knowingly sold to people who could not afford to own them.

AVERAGE NEW-CAR PAYMENT HITS NEW HIGH



New cars purchased in June in the U.S. carried a record average monthly payment of \$686, according to car sales website Edmunds.com.

The figure is 4 percent higher than January's average and 13 percent more

than a year earlier.

Another record: 12.7 percent of June buyers signed up for car payments of at least \$1,000 a month.

The proportion was 7 percent a year ago, 5 percent in June 2019, and 2 percent in June 2010.

The average down payment on a new car was \$6,333 last month, 27 percent more than a year previous.

The average interest rate on a new-car loan was 5.2 percent, compared to 4.4 percent in February, the month before the U.S. Federal Reserve began raising interest rates.

Loans to buy cars numbered 5 percent fewer in this year's first quarter than during the same period in 2021, falling to 6.3 million, according to credit bureau Equifax.

However, the average loan was bigger.

Those new loans totaled almost \$190 billion during the quarter, setting a record and growing by 11 percent over the figure in last year's first quarter.

In the past, car loans lasted for five years.

Now, with higher prices, loans can extend for six or seven years, with a “small but growing share of buyers” opting for loans exceeding seven years, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

The longer the loan, the lower the monthly payment but the more the buyer pays in interest over the life of the loan.

June’s average payment for a used car also set a record at \$554, 12 percent above the average in June last year.

Delinquencies on car payments remain low, the *WSJ* reported, indicating American households are still able to afford higher payments and buy more expensive cars, trucks, and SUVs.

“It’s a go-big-or-go-home attitude when it comes to car buying right now,” Ivan Drury, a senior manager at Edmunds, told the *WSJ*.

TRENDPOST: *It also is “a go-big-or-go-home attitude” for car loans and payments.*

Higher average down payments and monthly payments for new cars indicate that most new cars are being bought by higher-income earners. With inflation still outpacing wage growth, fewer modest- and middle-income earners can afford to buy new, no matter how good their credit ratings might be.

As car prices and interest rates both rise, the trend indicates that the U.S. market for new cars will shrink.

As that happens, the loss of jobs and economic activity will ripple throughout the economy.

TREND FORECAST: *Now is the time for billionaire investors or OnTrendpreneur® auto companies to build a simple non-tech, roll down windows, put down the top by hand basic car to sell the growing lower class who cannot afford the over-tech autos of today.*

RED STATES FARED BETTER THAN BLUE ONES IN THE COVID ERA



Since COVID's arrival in February 2020, red states where Republicans hold sway have benefited more in economic terms than Democrat-controlled blue states, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The shift to remote work freed hundreds of thousands of workers to live where they choose.

The COVID-era real estate boom also convinced many Baby Boomers to cash out of their homes and retire to warmer weather.

As a result, many households moved from the business centers along the coasts and in the north to cheaper homes and more spacious communities in the middle of the U.S. and southern states, where taxes often have been lower.

Some people may have jumped to red states because many offered fewer restrictions on movement and business during the COVID War, but data is too sketchy to draw a conclusion.

However, red states tended to have fewer school and business closures, mask mandates, and various forms of draconian lockdowns than blue states.

Over the last 2.5 years, red states have added 341,000 jobs, while blue states were still short 3.1 million jobs, compared to pre-COVID numbers, according to U.S. labor market data.

Small cities, suburbs, and rural areas gained residents; populations shrank in large metro areas with large numbers of commuters

Moves were made not only by individuals, but also by corporations.

Caterpillar transplanted its headquarters from Illinois to Texas. Hedge fund Citadel left Chicago for Miami, joining the migration of financial firms from northern locales to Florida, which we reported in [“U.S. Financiers: Bye-Bye Wall Street”](#) (2 Feb 2021).

In the Texas magnet cities of Austin and Houston, office occupancy rates have rebounded more quickly than in the U.S. as a whole.

In those two cities, occupancy has climbed back above half, while remaining at about a third in San Francisco and 40 percent in Los Angeles, according to Kastle Systems, which analyzes swipe-card data.

In the 10 cities that grew the most, home prices were 23 percent less at the beginning of the COVID war than in the 10 cities that lost the most residents, the American Enterprise Institute said.

Among the states that attracted the largest numbers of new dwellers, the average income tax rate was 3.8 percent. Florida, Tennessee, Texas, and Nevada levied no income tax.

In contrast, the income tax rate averaged 8 percent among states that saw the most people leave.

Tennessee’s economy grew more than any other state’s last year, expanding by 8.5 percent, the *WSJ* reported. Unemployment sank to a record-low 3.2 percent and workers saw wages grow 8.6 percent.

The study could provide no data on whether people moved to red states largely as a matter of political preference.

TREND FORECAST: *The more people that leave states and the less tax revenue the states receive the deeper they will go into debt. Also, as we had forecast, the more people that leave and the more businesses that go out of business, the crime rates will escalate... as they already have. As Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”*

These trends will further push more people out of strong COVID War states to less stringent ones. And, as there are new COVID War fear and hysteria warnings being promoted by the media and politicians, the move from blue to red will continue to escalate.

And this trend is not your friend. Today the clown playing the World Health Organization's chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he was worried that COVID cases were rising and that the COVID War is "nowhere near over" because new virus waves around the world are "running freely".

AS FORECAST: COMPANIES CUTTING OFFICE SPACE



When the COVID War was launched back in 2020, we had forecast the work-at-home trend would be a permanent part of the new world order... and it has.

With costs rising and a recession looming, U.S. companies are cutting costs by axing office space they no longer need and never will again.

The permanent shift to remote work has not only liberated workers from hours long miserable commutes, but also has freed companies from keeping a desk and other infrastructure for as many employees as before.

Now that companies have a better idea of just how many workers will return to central offices and how often, 52 percent of companies plan to have less office space three years from now than they do today, compared to 44 percent a year ago, according to a CBRE survey of 185 companies with offices in the U.S.

Roughly 39 percent of those surveyed expect to need more office space over the period.

On 30 June, about 17.5 percent of U.S. office space was open for lease or sublease, compared to 16.5 percent a year earlier, brokerage Cushman & Wakefield reported.

The number of workers using space that remains under lease is only about 44 percent, card-swipe data gathered by Kastle Systems shows.

Last month, online review site Yelp announced that it will vacate its offices in Chicago, New York, and Washington and cut back its Phoenix footprint as it embraces remote work for most employees.

That takes 420,000 square feet out of the company's future plans, leaving it with 180,000 square feet, compared to 876,000 square feet at the end of 2019.

The company will use the savings to enrich employees' benefits, it said.

"When you're coming into economic headwinds, that puts even more pressure on figuring out where you can cut expenses, so any resource you're not fully utilizing is a target," Kastle chairman Mark Ein told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Consulting firm Korn Ferry is saving more than \$10 million a year by abandoning 230,000 square feet of space over the past two years, the company said.

At the same time, the firm has grown its staff by 32 percent.

"There's probably more space we can wring out of the system," CFO Robert Rozek said to the *WSJ*. "I want to see how many folks are actually coming back into the office, then I'll form a view of our next steps."

Also wondering about next steps: office landlords, as we report in [Financial Squeeze Tightens on Office Landlords](#) in this issue.

TREND FORECAST: Companies honoring employees' desire to work remotely at least some of the time will gain a competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining top talent.

Corporate structures will evolve to ensure that all workers, not just those whom the boss sees every day, receive equal consideration for raises and promotions.

Businesses also will take advantage of the metaverse and other virtual realms to create places where employees can hang out and chat, often a fertile ground for new ideas.

FINANCIAL SQUEEZE TIGHTENS ON OFFICE LANDLORDS



Already losing tenants due to remote work, owners of office buildings find themselves pinched by rising interest rates and tenants' fears of recession that could lead to layoffs and even more space reductions.

Vacancy rates in many traditional business hubs such as Chicago, New York, and San Francisco reached record high levels over the past two years.

The last three recessions all sparked a rise in office vacancies, Moody's Analytics said.

Share prices of publicly-traded office landlord firms lost 29 percent during this year's first quarter, more than the 21 percent the Standard & Poor's 500 index gave up over the period, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Landlords were hoping for a stronger second half of the year in 2022 as employers demanded their workers return to central locations, the *WSJ* said.

However, employees are using their leverage in a tight labor market to negotiate hybrid or fully remote work arrangements, dashing landlords' hopes of rising demand for their spaces.

Still, the number of delinquent mortgages on office properties remains low, in part because landlords are carrying less debt than they did entering the Great Recession in 2008, the *WSJ* reported.

However, if climbing interest rates spark a recession and a greater number of corporate defaults, vacancy rates could spike even higher, the *WSJ* warned.

The market value of office properties already has slumped 8 percent so far this year, according to real estate data firm Green Street.

The outlook is causing potential buyers to cancel deals. Investor Harbor Associates agreed in May to pay \$165 million for Union Bank Plaza in Los Angeles but backed out less than a month later, even though the agreed price was \$40 million less than the current owner paid in 2010.

Sunbelt landlords have a sunnier outlook: during the COVID War, people and companies flocked south, boosting demand for office space, as we report in [Red States Fared Better Than Blue Ones in the COVID Era](#) in this issue.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *As the COVID War was just beginning, we predicted in [“Real Estate Dead? Time to Buy?”](#) (14 Apr 2020) “a long and steady downhill slide” in commercial property values.*

We were correct, with vast numbers of office buildings and shopping malls becoming albatross properties unlikely to survive in their present forms.

TREND FORECAST: *The real estate and financial industries, along with municipal governments, are struggling to figure out what to do with office buildings that are largely empty or with downtowns seeing a fraction of their past commuting workforce.*

Landlords are stuck in the middle. We reported in our [“Real Estate Industry Update”](#) of 13 April, 2021, that Fitch Ratings has calculated that allowing the nation's office workers to spend a day and a half at home each week would reduce office space needs enough to cut landlords' profits 15 percent; three days a week would slash 30 percent from profits, Fitch said.

A move to transform empty commercial towers into apartment blocks has run into trouble, as we detailed in [“New York’s Plan to Turn Empty Hotels to Housing Not Working”](#) (5 Apr 2022). Office buildings have centralized plumbing, little soundproofing, windows that are sealed shut, and are not designed to allow natural light into all corners.

Zoning regulations also often stand in the way of any such change.

That leaves many downtowns’ commuter-dependent retail and services sectors bereft of customers. Most businesses that died during the COVID shutdown will either stay dead or return in some other form—perhaps sharing space with other retailers or open only limited hours.

Municipalities lie under the wreckage. Property taxes make up half or more of most cities’ revenue and taxes are based on property values. Empty storefronts and less-valuable office towers shrink the tax bases cities need to pay for services—and fewer services make a city a less-desirable place to live, driving residents out (as happened during the COVID War) and reducing revenues even further in a downward spiral.

In an effort to pay their bills and salvage their investments, some creative office landlords will offer empty offices to yoga studios, massage clinics, coffee-and-book shops, and other retailers—perhaps even satellite campuses for colleges—to create a new ecosystem for tenants that would allow them richer workday and after-work lives without having to leave their buildings.

START-UP FUNDS DRY UP



Funds invested in tech start-ups sank by 23 percent to \$62.3 billion in April, May, and June this year, the smallest amount for the same period since 2019, data service Pitchbook reported.

Tech start-ups usually repay their investors by going public or selling themselves.

However, those transactions plummeted 88 percent to \$49 billion during the first six months of this year, compared to 2021.

At the same time, the number of deals grew 4 percent to 4,457 during the period. However, the investments were smaller.

In the past, fledgling tech firms were able to thrive because low interest rates helped to fuel a galloping economy and a sure-fire stock market.

However, tech businesses are especially sensitive to interest rates, because the companies typically grow by borrowing and more expensive loans crimp future cash flows.

The skyrocketing valuations that fetched outside investments in recent years have become “unsustainable,” Pitchbook analyst Kyle Stanford said to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The start-up market is “pretty much frozen,” investor Mark Goldberg at Index Ventures told the *WSJ*: entrepreneurs are unwilling to value their companies lower than previously and investors are unwilling to pay what now seem to be inflated prices.

Also, many companies raised a bounty of cash last year and have no need of more yet.

When those companies run short of money next year, “the logjam will break at some point,” Goldberg predicted.

Investors Lightspeed Venture Partners and Sequoia Capital are telling the companies they have backed to cut costs, hoard cash, and hunker down for hard times, according to the *WSJ*.

“Pretty much every venture capitalist is sounding alarm bells, but the management teams we’re talking to all seem to think ‘we’ll be fine, no worries’,” David Spreng at Runway Capital Growth said to the *WSJ*.

TRENDPOST: *A dearth of venture capital makes better pickings for the tech world’s Bigs.*

Many innovations and start-ups that draw attention but not funding can be had for bargain prices by large companies seeking to swallow competitors or grow by acquisition instead of innovation.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



NEW WORLD DISORDER TOP TREND: EMERGING NATIONS DIVING INTO DEBT DEFAULT

The number of emerging nations with troubled sovereign bonds has doubled in the first half of this year to include 19 nations that are home to 900 million people, with El Salvador, Egypt, Ghana, Pakistan, and Tunisia especially vulnerable, Bloomberg reported.

The value of the distressed debt has reached \$237 billion, about 17 percent of the \$1.4 trillion emerging-market nations owe that must be repaid in dollars, euros or yen, according to Bloomberg data.

Bonds issued by 25 percent of the nations monitored by the Bloomberg EM USD Aggregate Sovereign Index are trading in distress, defined as having yields more than 10 percentage points higher than those on U.S. treasury bonds with similar maturities.

The index has lost 20 percent of its value so far this year, a more dramatic fall than it notched during the Great Recession in 2008 and making it one of the worst sell-offs “in history,” T. Rowe Price portfolio manager Samy Muaddi told Bloomberg.

Foreign investors yanked \$4 billion from emerging markets in June alone, marking the fourth consecutive month of net withdrawals.

Many developing nations borrowed heavily at rock-bottom interest rates during the COVID War to pay their soaring costs of health care and keep their economies afloat.

Now that interest rates are rising, foreign investors are retreating to safer venues, such as treasury securities in the U.S. and Europe.

Making matters worse, commodity prices are softening as the world’s economy slows, as we report in [“Is The Commodity Supercycle Over or Just Paused?”](#) in this issue.

Sri Lanka already has stopped paying its foreign lenders after soaring food and energy prices sank the national economy and drove protesters into the streets. Mobs overran the presidential residence and burned the prime minister’s home, after which the officials pledged to resign.

Lebanon also has defaulted, as did Russia late last month as its foreign reserves remained tangled in Western sanctions.

“With the low-income countries, debt risks and debt crises are not hypothetical,” World Bank chief economist Carmen Reinhart told Bloomberg. “We’re pretty much already there.”

In recent decades, even a single default among vulnerable debtor nations has led anxious investors to pull their money from other weak economies that then defaulted, creating a self-fulfilling fear.

Today’s teetering debt load threatens to set off what Bloomberg called “a historic cascade of defaults.”

The most vulnerable countries are smaller with less time dealing in international capital markets. In contrast, countries such as Brazil, China, Mexico, and India have played on the world stage longer and hold substantial foreign currency reserves.

The continuing strong dollar and rising interest rates “are things that are going to continue to resonate in the second half of the year,” Anupam Damani, international debt analyst at Nuveen, said to Bloomberg.

“There’s a lot of academic literature and historical precedence in terms of social instability that higher food prices can cause, and then that can lead to political change,” she pointed out.

“This could have really long-term impacts that actually change the way we think about emerging markets, and in particular, emerging markets in a strategic context,” Gene Podkaminer, Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions’ research chief, said in a Bloomberg interview.

“The first thing it does is to reaffirm the reputation of emerging markets—they are volatile,” he added. “There were certainly periods of time when investors perhaps had forgotten that, but it’s hard to ignore that fact now.”

Caesar Maasry, head of emerging market strategy at Goldman Sachs Group, was more blunt.

“Things can get worse before they get better,” he said in a recent Bloomberg Intelligence webinar. “It’s late cycle. There’s not a strong recovery to buy into.”

TRENDPOST: *Emerging nations’ debt load has been flashing alarm signals for more than a year, as we documented in articles such as [“Emerging Markets Pile On Debt, Sparking Future Default Fears”](#) (2 Feb 2021), [“Emerging Markets Submerging”](#) (9 Nov 2021), and [“Investors Flee Emerging Markets”](#) (14 Dec 2021), among other articles.*

Our comment in [“Strong Dollar Threatens Developing Nations”](#) (27 Jul 2021) still stands: rising interest rates and a strong dollar will write yet another chapter in

developing nations' chronic debt crisis, consigning millions of people to poverty and sparking political turmoil across the southern half of the globe.

However, in this new chapter, developed nations are struggling to manage their massive new COVID-related debts, choking on inflation, and watching their own economies slow.

They will have less inclination, or ability, to bail out failing nations south of the Equator.

The exception is China, which will use the crisis to continue to distribute cash to countries it sees as strategically advantageous to its trade and geopolitical ambitions.

As a result, China will capitalize on the crisis to expand its global influence and secure future supplies of key minerals and other materials needed to maintain its manufacturing empire and develop its consumer economy.

NEW WORLD DISORDER TOP TREND: GERMANY RATIONS POWER AS RUSSIA CUTS GAS SUPPLIES



Getting what they asked for by putting sanctions on Russia, German officials are rationing hot water, dimming street lights, and closing swimming pools as natural gas prices continue to soar after Russia cut back natural gas exports to Europe last month.

“The situation is more than dramatic,” Axel Gedaschko, head of GdW, a federation of German housing businesses, said to the *Financial Times*.

“Germany’s social peace is in great danger,” he warned.

Yesterday [11 July], Russia shut down Nord Stream 1, its main gas pipeline into Germany, for 10 days of maintenance.

“Many in Berlin fear it will never reopen,” the *FT* said.

Last month, German economy minister Robert Habeck activated the second stage of a gas emergency plan that cut some volumes to industry. Now the shortage is extending to households.

“The situation is tense and we can’t guarantee it will not get worse,” Habeck said last week. “We have to be prepared for the situation to become critical.”

In March and April, German industry’s gas use dropped by 11 percent and household consumption by 6 percent, according to a study by Berlin’s Hertie School, a private university.

Households are dusting off woodstoves and cleaning fireplace flues. Sales of coal, firewood, and wood pellets have jumped, the *FT* noted.

The war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions will drive up consumers’ energy prices by 71 to as much as 200 percent this year, GdW said.

The annual cost of energy could add as much as an additional €3,800—equivalent to about \$3,900—for a four-person household, compared to last year, it noted.

Prices could rise even higher, thanks to a measure underway in Germany’s parliament.

The measure would place a surcharge on all gas consumers, with the extra money being used to help keep gas importers from going bust.

If that were to happen, the entire energy sector could face a 2007-style meltdown, government officials fear, according to the *FT*.

Surging energy costs and the European Central Bank’s plan to raise interest rates when its governors meet next week has raised the prospect of a European recession from 30 percent to 45 percent, according to economists polled by Bloomberg last week.

TREND FORECAST: *Germany is Europe's most powerful economy. Its exports drive a significant share of the world's economic activity. The German government's restrictions on gas to industry are a blow to global efforts to sidestep a recession.*

If Russia fails or refuses to reopen Nord Stream 1 later this month, Europe will fall into economic chaos, sparking social unrest and pressuring officials to abandon sanctions against Russia and cave to Putin's demands.

IS THE COMMODITIES SUPERCYCLE OVER OR JUST PAUSED?



Seeing an economic slowdown in China and fearing a worldwide recession as central banks hike interest rates, commodities investors are bailing out into dollars and other safe harbors.

Copper was trading barely above \$7,500 a ton last week, down 25 percent from its

peak last fall above \$10,700.

Copper continued to plunge on Monday, 11 July, and closed at \$6,840 per ton.

The metal is known as “Dr. Copper” because its price fluctuations often diagnose the direction of metals and commodities markets more broadly.

Brent crude's price fell below \$100 a barrel last week for the first time since April. A global recession could decrease its price to \$65 before next year, researchers at Citi told clients.

The S&P's GSCI index of agricultural prices reached an all-time high in mid-May but has plunged 28 percent since then, the *Financial Times* reported. The London Metal Exchange's measure of six industrial metals has lost a third of its value since March.

Investors think worse is ahead.

In the week ending 28 June, investors liquidated 153,660 futures contracts worth about \$6.2 billion, according to the federal Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

It was the second largest such reversal in history, Peak Trading Research reported.

The sell-off has been led by hedge funds, many of whom are “taking their chips off the table [and] leading big liquidation flows,” David Whitcomb, Peak Trading’s research chief, told the *Financial Times*.

Florin Court Capital has shorted—placed bearish bets on—copper, iron ore, nickel and zinc, “as markets begin to focus on the considerable risks of a hard landing,” Douglas Greenig, Florin’s founder, said to the *FT*.

Traders are skittish about the U.S. Federal Reserve’s stated plan to raise interest rates aggressively, which is likely to add to the global economic slowdown now under way and perhaps also lead to a recession.

Aspect Capital began shorting cocoa, copper, iron ore, silver, steel, sugar, and wheat in May.

Copper, which led metal prices skyward last year, has felt the brunt of investor fears, with 60,000 short contracts betting against 1.5 million tons in place on 30 June—the second highest number on record—compared to just 4,000 on 1 May, commodities brokerage Marex said.

“We don’t anticipate metals’ outlook—copper included—to improve until we see a change in Chinese demand,” Darwei Kung, commodities chief at DWS Group, told *The Wall Street Journal*.

China accounts for about half of the world’s copper consumption.

“The market is looking ahead six months and saying if orders don’t come through and China doesn’t rebound, we will have higher inventories and things will look a lot worse,” portfolio manager George Cheveley at asset manager Ninety One said in an *FT* interview.

“You have to have a very bearish outlook to come up with that scenario,” he added, “but the market is quite prepared to believe that at the moment.”

TREND FORECAST: *With China’s economy stalling, Europe about to topple into [Dragflation](#), our Top 2022 Trend, the developing world poised on the edge of insolvency (see “[Emerging Nations Stumble Toward Debt Default](#)” in this issue), and inflation still rising, the commodities frenzy is over.*

Prices of key materials, especially metals and timber, will no longer soar but will continue to remain above pre-COVID levels.

Mining operations were paused and new projects shelved during the COVID War, leaving minerals companies two years behind on production. Meanwhile, available supplies were used in meeting roaring consumer demand during the COVID shutdown and since.

Even in a recession or [Dragflation](#), commodities prices will not return to pre-COVID levels.

Russia amassed a 28-year record \$70.1-billion trade surplus in this year’s second quarter as soaring prices for its exports of oil and other natural resources negated effects of Western sanctions imposed to punish Russia for attacking Ukraine, Bloomberg reported.

The surplus was the greatest since at least 1994, according to data the Bank of Russia released last week.

The sanctions halted Russia’s imports from the West, which also aided the surplus.

For this year through 30 June, the country's trade surplus totaled \$138.5 billion, the central bank reported.

Second-quarter exports amounted to \$153.1 billion, slightly less than the \$166.4 billion in the previous three months, according to the bank. Imports fell to \$72.3 billion, compared to \$88.7 billion in the year's first quarter.

Export sales were aided by steep discounts on Russia's goods.

It sells oil to India at prices 30 percent below those prevailing on the world market and is deeply discounting the price of coal it sells to China.

Russia no longer releases data about its foreign trade. However, Bloomberg was able to compile details by analyzing figures from Russia's remaining trading partners.

"In May, there were signs imports had stabilized, with five countries accounting for about half of Russia's trade as the economy adapted and business began to find new routes for shipments," Bloomberg reported.

The trade surplus and stringent capital controls that have cut domestic demand for foreign currencies helped make the ruble the best-performing currency to date this year among emerging markets.

"A ballooning trade surplus says a lot about what's going right for Russia, from high commodity prices to sustained demand from many export partners," Bloomberg economist Scott Johnson said, "but it's also a symptom of distress, with a plunge in imports sowing disruption throughout the economy."

TREND FORECAST: *The trade surplus helps Russia in the short term but only delays an inevitable economic crisis if the Ukraine war drags on long enough.*

The Western sanctions on Russia—warfare by a different means—are slowly pinching Russia's economy, while Russia's use of its natural gas exports to Europe as a weapon are pitted against each other.

Should Russia decide to keep its Nord Stream 1 natural gas pipeline closed to Europe, Russia will gain an upper hand in the standoff.

And as we had forecast, Russia, rich in human and natural resources will break away from globalization and embrace one of our Top Trends for 2022, ["Self-Sufficiency."](#)

And as a result of thousands of U.S. and European businesses leaving Russia, rather than eating and buying foreign products, Made-in-Russia will be the national business anthem.

ECB'S RATE HIKE PLAN FACES POLITICAL DISCORD



The 25 members of the European Central Bank's (ECB's) governing council that sets interest rates thought they were ready to flip the switch on their well-publicized quarter-point rate hike this month.

"They were wrong," the *Financial Times* reported.

The problem: borrowing costs have risen for European Union countries with feeble economies, especially Italy, leading to a widening spread between loan rates for countries doing well and those still struggling, a problem called "fragmentation."

For example, the difference in yields between Germany's 10-year bond and that of Italy widened recently from one point to two.

Italy's national debt now exceeds the amount it owed during the Great Recession. A higher interest rate could lock the country into "an unsustainable spiral of rising debt costs," the *Financial Times* said.

The problem is worsened by varying fiscal policies among the Eurozone's 19 member countries, leading to differing borrowing costs.

Raising the ECB's interest rate likely would widen the spread, drawing investment away from member countries with weaker economies and channeling funds to those doing better.

The council has convened an emergency meeting to design an "anti-fragmentation instrument" to ensure that lagging countries are not disadvantaged by the central bank's forthcoming rate boost.

The "instrument" probably will be a commitment by the ECB to buy the bonds of countries incurring borrowing costs that carry a risk premium, or higher interest rate than is justified by fundamentals, according to the *FT*.

"The difficulty will be in the gray zone between what is warranted and what is not," Pierre Wunsch, governor of Belgium's central bank. "That is the area of moral hazard that we have to navigate."

The aid will need "sufficient safeguards to preserve the impetus of member states toward a sound fiscal policy," ECB president Christine Lagarde said in a recent public statement.

"We need countries to make an effort," Wunsch said.

Countries needing help may be told to formulate a medium-term plan for financial stability and agree to have their finances monitored by the European Commission (EU).

"Otherwise, the [ECB] is steering governments on fiscal policy, which is not what it wants," Carsten Brzeski, ING's head of macro research, told the *FT*.

Germany and the Netherlands, two of the ECB's fiscal hawks, are reluctant to back the plan, worrying that it will cause troubled nations to not do the hard work of righting

their finances or that the bank could wander into “the monetary financing” of governments, which would contravene the EU’s founding treaty.

The ECB’s previous bond-buying scheme was challenged more than once in Germany’s constitutional court and the new plan likely would have to navigate the same complaints, the *FT* noted.

TREND FORECAST: *With inflation spiking in Europe to 8.6 percent and the ECB claiming for a decade that if inflation hit 2 percent they would raise rates, the ECB is constrained by the mental disorders of various members of the bank that refuse to take strong enough actions.*

The ECB continues to err on the side of protecting the economy by making small, incremental rate increases that will have virtually no impact on inflation’s rate and maintaining a too-loose monetary policy.

The European Central Bank is raising rates far too late to have any material impact on inflation in the near term, if not longer.

Bullshit Has Its Own Sound

While inflation alarms were blasting, ECB President Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank (ECB) ignored them and belittled those who sounded the warnings.

This past January, Lagarde once again rejected calls for the bank to raise its base interest rate from its current -0.50 percent, where it has remained since 2014.

(See [“ECB: More Monetary Methadone,”](#) 27 Apr 2021 and [“ECB Pledges to Keep Rates Lower Longer,”](#) 27 Jul 2021.

LONG-STANDING EU DEBT RULES ARE “OBSOLETE,” MINISTER SAYS



European Union (EU) rules limiting the amount of debt member nations can carry and capping the size of their national debts are now “obsolete” in the face of rampant inflation, COVID-related borrowing, and the impact of the Ukraine war and Western sanctions, French finance minister Bruno Le Maire said last week in a *Financial Times*

interview.

Europe is seeing a “new economic model,” he noted, adding that contrasts between frugal nations of northern Europe and highly indebted nations to the south have become irrelevant.

“This concept of ‘frugal states’ has been dead for a long time,” he pointed out. “The Netherlands are not particularly frugal. Germany is not particularly frugal. They spend as much as we do to protect their citizens from inflation.”

Europe needs to make massive investments in renewable energy to meet Paris climate goals and especially as the continent strives to end its dependence on Russian fossil fuels, Le Maire argued.

His views contrast with Christian Lindner, Germany’s finance minister, who said in June that the EU must become “tougher, not softer” in cutting public debt.

Le Maire conceded that limits need to remain on members’ debts and deficit spending but that the current rules—suspended during the COVID War—need to be “rethought,” he said.

The rule limits a member country’s public debt to 60 percent of GDP.

However, Germany's debt is now 69 percent of its economic output, France's stands at 113 percent, Italy's at 151 percent, and Greece's stands at 193 percent.

"The debt rule is obsolete simply because you have a gap of more than a hundred percentage points between one country and another in the same monetary union," he pointed out.

Rather than enforcing old rules, the priority now must be to create a pathway for debt reduction, he added.

Investors are increasingly concerned about both the rise in EU countries' debts as well as the widening spreads of borrowing costs among the nations.

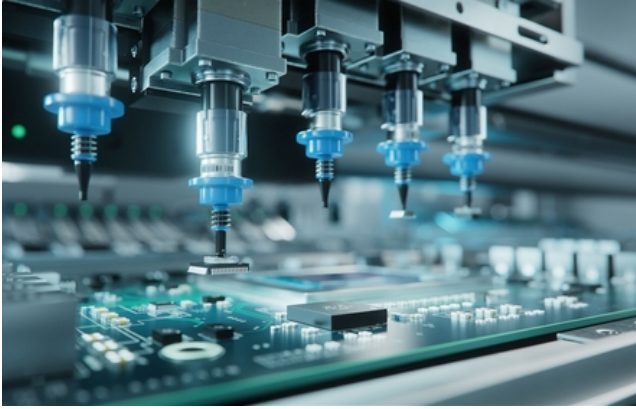
Some observers have voiced concern that the continent might be lurching toward a debt crisis similar to that of 2008, which was marked by high government debt and wide spreads between borrowing costs among countries.

The European Central Bank is drafting a plan to block panic selling of any member country's bonds.

TREND FORECAST: *The harder the coming recession hits, the heavier the debt loads will grow. And, the higher interest rates rise, the more it costs to service the debt.*

Also, with the euro trading at 20 year lows against the dollar, the deeper the euro sinks the more it will cost to service the debt. Therefore, a European debt calamity is on the near horizon.

PRICES FALL AS CHIP CRUNCH EASES



Prices for computer memory chips, which skyrocketed during the COVID crisis and its aftermath, fell 11 percent during this year's second quarter compared to a year earlier, the first such drop in two years, market research firm TrendForce reported.

Memory chips are used in virtually every electronic device and make up about 28 percent of the world's \$595-billion semiconductor industry, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

Prices should decline further as this year progresses, according to the *WSJ*.

DRAM chips make up about 60 percent of the market for memory chips. Sales are expected to fall 21 percent during this year's third quarter, the *WSJ* reported, while sales of NAND flash memory devices will slump 18 percent.

COVID-era demand for all things electronic sent chip prices soaring and created a shortage.

Companies that use chips in their products have scaled back production to accommodate reduced chip supplies.

Those changes are giving chip makers time to catch up with back orders.

However, the shifts also are denting the chip-maker's financial performance.

Samsung, the world's chief producer of memory chips, has projected a drop in second-quarter revenue this year, following three consecutive quarters of record sales.

Micron, the third largest memory chip maker, recently issued financial guidance distinctly below analysts' forecasts.

Early this year, memory chip makers held prices steady, expecting the market to rebound in the year's second half, TrendForce research director Avril Wu told the *WSJ*.

"Now it's clear that demand will be negative" through 2022, she said.

Companies making other kinds of chips also foresee a downturn.

Intel, which mainly makes processing chips, recently told analysts that the second half of this year has become less predictable and that the company will adjust its spending accordingly.

Nvidia, a maker of graphics cards, said that slowdowns in crypto mining and the sale of game consoles likely will shrink its revenues this year.

TREND FORECAST: Now, in a post-COVID economy, consumer spending has been shifting from goods to services, as we reported in ["Consumers Switching Spending Habits. What Does it Mean?"](#) (8 Feb 2022). And the combination of near-record inflation and rising interest rates which will push nations into recession, consumer spending will be further curtailed.

BRITISH, EUROPEAN COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SECTORS FACE "NEW PARADIGM"



Fewer commercial properties will change hands and property values will plunge in Europe and the U.K. as investors enter a "new paradigm" of rising interest rates and a global economy in turmoil, Brad Hyler, who manages \$52 billion in property in Britain and Europe for private equity firm Brookfield Asset Management, said in a *Financial Times*

interview.

“The change of pace and the shift in sentiment from reasonably positive to negative across the board has been a big adjustment,” he said.

“Banks have gotten more selective, more risk-averse” in making loans on commercial properties, he added. “We’re expecting transaction volume to decelerate pretty significantly—it already has.”

A market will remain for “higher quality assets” but less desirable properties such as office towers and shopping malls face a dark future, with less demand for space as inflation and rising interest rates add to landlords’ costs.

The dire scenario will become visible when owners need to refinance mortgages, Hyler said.

Today’s higher interest rates and lower demand have lessened office properties’ values and owners may well find that the interest rate on their new loans could exceed their rate of return from their buildings, he warned.

Share prices for the U.K.’s largest publicly-traded office landlords sank last week after Bank of America predicted that the value of office properties will slump 12 percent by 2024 and rents will not increase between now and then.

About €2 billion was erased from the office property sector’s market capitalization last week.

Property prices might have further to fall but are unlikely to repeat 2008’s disaster, when prices crashed for commercial real estate of all kinds, Hyler said.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: We correctly forecasted this “new paradigm” as the COVID War began more than two years ago: a significant amount of commercial real estate—particularly office buildings—has lost so much value that its owners will never be able to recoup their investments.

TREND FORECAST: Many small operators will be forced to sell their commercial properties to larger concerns and leave the industry.

Thus will begin another cycle of property and wealth consolidating up the investment ladder, with well-financed small operators becoming larger and the Bigs becoming even bigger.

WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT



Inflation and interest rate hikes are causing companies in many sectors to lay off employees. To illustrate the employment trends and the socioeconomic implications, each week we will list new job losses:

- CAA acquired ICM and will be releasing 105 ICM employees.
- Novartis cuts 8,000 jobs or 7.4 percent of its 108,000 strong workforce.
- Substack foregoes fundraising and lays off 14 percent of its staff.
- US Steel announced a possible 950 layoffs.
- 26,000 tech layoffs occurred in June up from 20,000 in May.
- ByteDance has let go of more than 300 since May in its video game department and an additional 3,000 from its educational unit.
- Tencent plans to lay off thousands in their next round of firings.
- About 1,400 employees have been laid off from cyber and privacy firms including Iron-Net Inc., OneTrust LLC, and Cybereason Inc.
- Twitter trims its recruiting staff 30 percent, around 100 people.
- Unity Software Inc. announced a 4 percent staff reduction.
- Microsoft Corp., Snap Inc., and Meta Platforms Inc., have announced hiring freezes.
- California-based loanDepot cut about 2,800 jobs this year and another 2,000 by the end of the year.

LUXURY STOCKS GO OUT OF STYLE



Purveyors of luxury goods such as LVMH, Prada, and Richemont, recovered early from the COVID crisis, with many of the firms boosting prices by as much as 20 percent on some items since the beginning of 2021, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Now investors think the high life might not be so rich.

Share prices of luxury-goods companies have plummeted about 30 percent in the aggregate this year, with LVMH, Kerig, and Richemont now trading near their March 2020 bottoms.

The industry showed 12-percent annual gains in 2010, 2011, and 2012 as the Great Recession eased and newly flush Chinese consumers splurged, adding as much as 15 percent to the sector's annual revenues, according to Bain & Co.

However, luxury brands now have dozens of boutiques all over China. Annual global sales are averaging about 80 percent more than in 2008, making it difficult to expand the market, especially as inflation eats peoples' discretionary incomes and a recession may be lurking ahead.

"If China continues to enforce its zero-COVID policy, the probability of a global recession increases," analyst Luca Solca at Bernstein told the *WSJ*.

In the U.S., luxury purchases by people earning no more than \$50,000 annually doubled in 2021 compared to 2019, Bank of America data shows, but "those shoppers are already starting to pull back," the *WSJ* found.

Also, a healthy market in used luxury items has grown up, allowing consumers to indulge at lower prices.

That market brings no benefit to the luxury companies themselves.

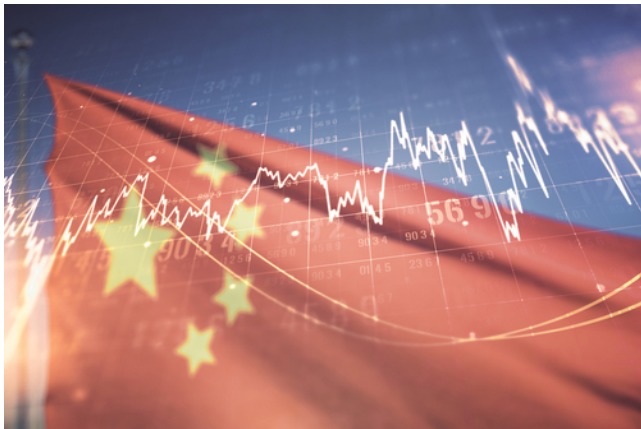
“Investors are rightly skeptical when profits could be about to fall,” *WSJ* analyst Carol Ryan said. “Luxury prices may be going up but luxury stocks are another matter.”

TREND FORECAST: *It is a simple equation. The higher incomes rise and the more people move to upper middle class, the more luxury sales grow.*

However, across the globe—and especially in China where zero policy COVID War mandates have been imposed and is a big luxury market—economies will sink lower and more people will be moving down the economic ladder than up.

The bottom line, as supply greatly outstrips demand, there will be more mergers and the biggest in the luxury market will grow bigger as they buy out the financially stressed competition.

SPOTLIGHT: CHINA



WESTERN INVESTORS FLOCK BACK TO CHINA

After China ended its widespread anti-COVID lockdown in early June, foreign investors poured money back into the country's equity markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) listed in the U.S. that concentrate on Chinese stocks netted \$4 billion of new capital last month, according to Blackrock; Chinese ETFs listed in Europe took in a net \$1.8 billion.

The total of \$5.8 billion far surpasses the previous monthly record of \$4.3 billion set in January this year, according to the *Financial Times*.

Investors also were cheered by Beijing's signals that it would ease last year's crackdown on the country's tech sector.

Chinese ETFs benefited at the expense of U.S. equity funds, which bid goodbye to a net \$900 million in June. Europe's ETFs ended the month down \$800 million.

As a result, China's CSI Composite Index returned 9.6 percent last month as many other nations' markets were weighed down by fears of recession, the impact of rising interest rates, and evidence of [Dragflation](#), our Top 2022 Trend in which prices keep rising while economic output declines.

The switch from U.S. and European equities to Chinese shares is "a marked change in global flows," Blackrock strategist Natasha Sarkaria told the *Financial Times*.

The reason, in part, is that U.S. stock markets seem "terrible" because the U.S. Federal Reserve "looks pretty locked-in to a series of [interest] rate hikes," Phillip Wood, investment director at Rayliant, said to the *FT*.

Although Chinese officials could impose more anti-COVID shutdowns without warning, China's surging stock market could continue "for most of this year and maybe beyond," he said, noting that investors are looking for diversification and growth as well as safety.

TREND FORECAST: Growth investors will continue to be focused on China.

They will jump out and jump back into their investments there as short-term conditions warrant.

However, China will remain one of the world's two most powerful economies, with market control of key metals, an unparalleled manufacturing infrastructure, and more than 1.4 billion consumers.

China's key advantage: to date, it has not allowed itself to become a global military force or presence.

As we have long said, the business of China is business, while much of the business of the U.S. is geopolitical gamesmanship and the deployment of military force around the world.

HYBRIDS AND EVs POWER RECOVERY IN CHINA'S AUTO SALES



China's auto sales leaped 23 percent in June, year on year, following the end of massive anti-COVID lockdowns that extended from late March through May across 46 of the country's metro areas, particularly in Shanghai, a vehicle-building hub.

Sales shot up from 1.35 million vehicles in May to 1.94 in June, spurred partly by government cash incentives, the China Passenger Car Association reported.

Production was up 46 percent, year on year, to 2.2 million vehicles last month.

The sales increase was propelled primarily by consumers' purchases of electric vehicles and hybrids, which doubled last month from a year earlier.

Tesla was a big winner, reversing a three-month sales slump.

Its 78,000 cars sold in June more than doubled its May tally. In April, at the height of the lockdowns, it sold only 1,512 units.

BYD, the Chinese car company of which Warren Buffet owns part, saw sales of EVs and hybrids soar 177 percent, year over year.

Volkswagen's joint venture with Chinese maker SAIC Motor Corp. sold 51 percent more cars last month, compared to a year earlier.

General Motors' sales were down 21 percent in June, following a 47-percent plunge in May.

To reignite the car market after the spring's lockdowns, the Chinese government cut vehicle-purchase taxes in May at a cost of about \$9 billion to the national treasury.

Share prices for car makers BYD, LI Auto, NIO, and XPeng rose on 8 June after the government announced it might extend its tax holiday for the purchase of "new energy" vehicles.

The tax exemption was set to expire at the end of this year.

Beijing has asked local governments to add more EV parking spots and charging stations to their urban renewal plans.

TREND FORECAST: *China's centralized economic control has enabled it to redirect the car market toward EVs.*

China will use its growing EV industry to dominate EV technology and production for the rest of the decade. A key to its strategy: ongoing control over the world's supply of processed lithium and continuing efforts to tie up supplies in Africa and Asia of cobalt and other key materials needed to make EV batteries.

IEA WARNS OF CHINA'S DOMINANCE IN SOLAR PANELS



China's domination of the solar panel industry supply chain could slow the world's transition to clean energy, the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned in a report last week.

China now accounts for 80 percent of the solar panel industry, from processing silicon to assembling the panels, the IEA said, as it warned that China could own 95 percent of the industry within three years.

“The world will almost completely rely on China for the supply of key building blocks for solar panel production through 2025,” the report said.

“This level of concentration in any global supply chain would represent a considerable vulnerability,” it added.

Supply chain kinks and high commodity prices already have led to a 20-percent jump in panel prices in the past year and slowed delivery, the IEA noted.

China’s concentration of the industry “is not only a geopolitical issue,” Fatih Birol, IEA’s executive director, said in a *Financial Times* interview.

“It can be a fire in a major facility. It can be floods. Disruption of the supply chain has huge implications for our clean energy transition,” he emphasized.

Solar power is projected to account for a third of electricity generated worldwide by 2050 as part of a “zero-emission” future.

The transition to green energy is even more urgent in Europe, which is working to end Russian oil imports by the end of this year and Russia gas before 2030.

The European Union needs “tailor-made investment policies” to reach its goal of adding 320 gigawatts (GW) of new solar power by 2025 and 600 GW by 2030, Birol pointed out.

“Tax incentives for manufacturers, build manufacturing facilities in industry clusters to reduce land costs could be concrete, quick, implementable policies that could be introduced to provide a competitive edge” against China’s cheap manufacturing costs, he said.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long noted, the business of America is War and the business of China is Business. Moreover, before China was brought into the World Trade Organization in 2001, their gross domestic product for decades was a slow moving flat line up.*

Seeking cheap labor, the world's top manufacturers went to China where the deal was: give us your manufacturing skill and money and we'll make what you need. But you have to partner with us and the most you can own is 49 percent of the business.

The rest is history and that's why China dominates in numerous business sectors and are key suppliers of finished products and raw materials... especially the much needed rare earth minerals.

SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION



TOP TREND, NEW WORLD DISORDER: INFLATION IN RICH NATIONS IS HARDEST ON THE POOR

A food bank in Norway has seen demand rise 30 percent this year compared to the first half of 2021, itself a year that saw more people in the oil-rich nation needing help to

have enough food.

U.S. food banks also are reporting higher demand this year, while supermarkets see customers foregoing meat and fish and buying cheaper store brands instead of nationally advertised labels.

In Britain, food prices rose 8.6 percent in May, year over year, as households' energy costs rose by as much as 40 percent.

June's price for cheddar cheese, a U.K. favorite, soared 59 percent year over year; milk cost 27 percent more there in April than a year before.

Food insecurity touched 15.5 percent of British households during the six months ending 30 April, more than double the 7.6 percent before the COVID crisis, the Food Foundation said.

The foundation's May survey found 57 percent more Britons are skimping on food purchases or missing meals, compared to pre-COVID numbers.

About 7.3 million adults were living in households that had gone without food at some point in April or couldn't physically get it, the survey reported, compared with 4.7 million in January.

"We're seeing real food poverty for the first time in a generation," John Allan, chair of Tesco, the U.K.'s largest supermarket chain, said in a recent BBC interview.

Forty-four percent of Brits surveyed by the U.K.'s Office of National Statistics in May reported buying less food because prices are so high.

In poorer nations, people spend a higher proportion of their incomes on food, making higher prices a flashpoint for unrest. Nigerians spend an average of 59 percent of their incomes on food; in Mexico, the figure is 28 percent, compared to 9.4 percent in Great Britain.

The U.S. food price gap is similar: the poorest Americans use 27 percent of their income to buy food, while the highest earners spend only 7 percent.

Skyrocketing food prices were a key factor in the collapse of Sri Lanka's government after protesters swarmed the presidential palace and torched the prime minister's house.

Almost 2.5 billion people—about a third of the world's population—are facing moderate or severe food insecurity, according to the United Nations World Food Program.

TREND FORECAST: *As the dollar has grown stronger, other currencies have weakened, making food even more expensive while also giving governments in poor nations fewer resources to use to subsidize food. Out-of-control prices for food and fuel historically are flashpoints for social unrest.*

In the West, that unrest is likely to take the form of voters turfing out whatever parties or factions are in power at the moment.

In emerging nations, unrest often takes the form of violence and political turmoil. Sri Lanka's fate is a reminder.

There are signs that inflation may be easing, as we report in “[Is the Commodities Supercycle Over or Just Paused?](#)” in this issue.

SOUTH KOREA'S INFLATION WORST IN 24 YEARS



In June, South Korea's consumer prices rose 6 percent, year on year, rising from 5.4 percent in May and setting the fastest pace since Asia's financial crisis in 1998, the *Financial Times* reported.

In August 2021, Korea's central bank became the first among developed economies to raise its rate following the COVID crisis.

The Bank of Korea has raised its rate five times, by a quarter-point each, in the past 11 months to a current level of 1.75 percent.

This week, the bank is due to decide whether to increase rates again. The new inflation record adds pressure to officials to lift the rate yet again.

The weakness of South Korea's Won currency also will play into officials' deliberations.

The won gave up 6.7 percent of its value against the dollar in this year's second quarter. Among Asian currencies, only Japan's yen has turned in a worse record for the period.

As a result, the bank's rate-setters face a dilemma.

South Korean households have record-high debts and the export-driven economy has slowed, arguing against raising rates again.

On the other hand, the U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to raise U.S. rates again next week. South Korean financial institutions would need a higher interest rate to compete with the U.S. for investors.

Large economies risk recession in the coming months by raising interest rates as inflation continues, analysts at Nomura have warned.

Last week, the Royal Bank of Australia raised its key rate for the third time, lifting it by a half-point to 1.35 percent as bank officials warned that inflation there, already galloping at a 21-year record pace, could reach 7 percent this year.

TREND FORECAST: *This is not rocket science. The higher inflation rises and the higher and faster central banks raise interest rates, the deeper economies fall.*

HUNGARY'S CENTRAL BANK RAISES KEY INTEREST RATE 2 PERCENTAGE POINTS



The Hungarian National Bank raised its base interest rate two full percentage points last week to 9.75 percent to prop up the forint, the national currency, after the forint lost 5 percent of its value in a single week during a political scuffle with the European Union (EU) over Hungary's massive national debt.

The interest rate is now higher than it has been in ten years.

Hungary's benchmark 10-year bond yield has spiked to 8.7 percent on fears that the EU will not offer financial aid to Hungary to prop up the nation's post-COVID recovery.

Grants and loans worth €15 billion are at stake as the EU waits for Hungary to make fiscal policy changes, including the higher interest rate.

The forint's value bounced through the trading day after the bank announced it would lift the rate.

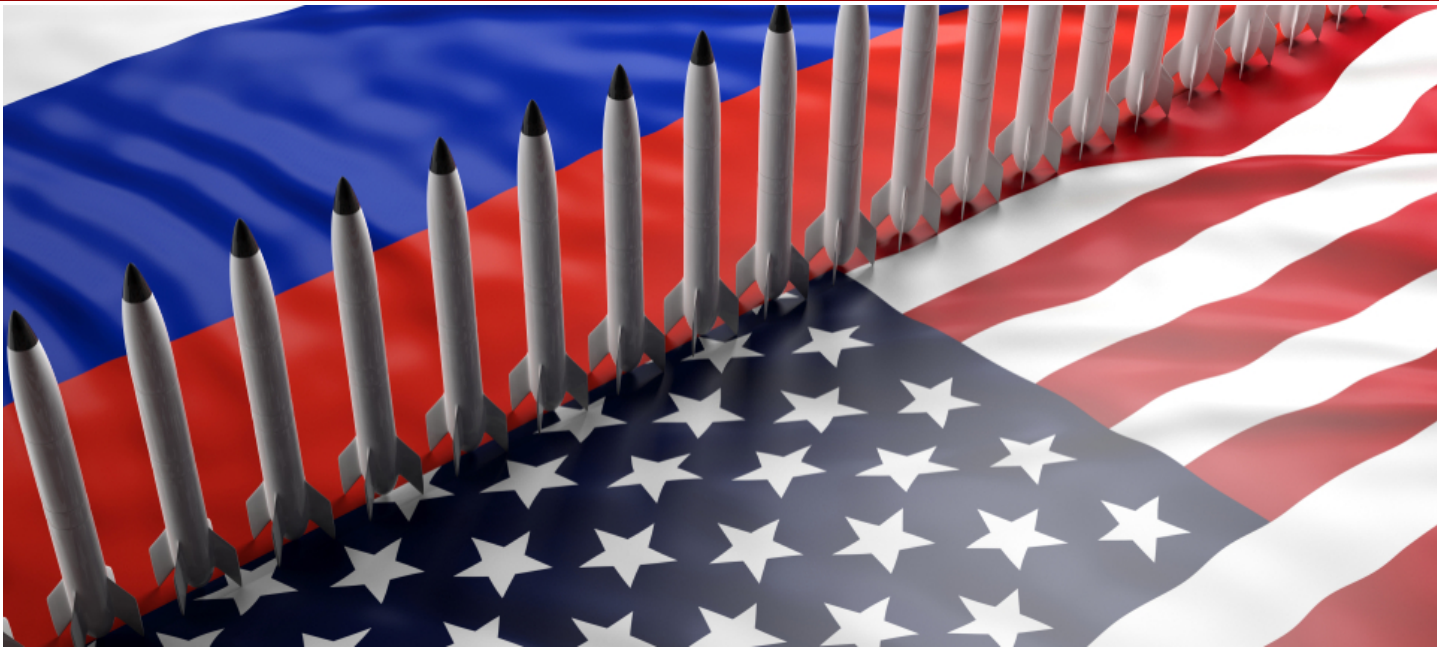
"The market is now waiting for the EU to say it approves of the Hungarian concessions and [is] ready to make a deal quickly," economist Peter Virovacz at ING Bank told the *Financial Times*.

The central bank said it will raise rates to meet inflation as long as prices continue to rise. Hungary's inflation has reached 10.7 percent, the highest in 20 years, and could climb to 14 percent yet this year, the bank has warned.

TREND FORECAST: *The forint is down 10 percent against the euro so far this year, and the euro is down to 20 year lows against the dollar.*

Therefore, inflation will continue to rise in Hungary as it will cost more for people to buy less. And, the higher and faster they raise interest rates to beat inflation, the deeper their economy will dive into recession.

SPECIAL UKRAINE WAR REPORT



NOT A PROXY WAR: U.S. AT WAR WITH RUSSIA, PENTAGON WILL PROVIDE UKRAINE MILITARY AID FOR 'YEARS'

Having sent some \$56 billion to Ukraine since the war began on 24 February, the Biden administration has repeatedly promised it would do all it can to prop up the Ukrainian government and essentially fund its war with Russia until Russia is defeated and President Volodymyr Zelensky decides it is time to negotiate.

Despite the Western media calling the Russian invasion a failure, they now control over 20 percent of Ukraine. Yet, Zelensky refused to negotiate with Moscow and last week reiterated that he will not accept any peace deal if it means carving out some land for Russia.

Appearing on the Cartoon News Network (CNN), Zelensky said "Ukrainians are not ready to give away their land, to accept that these territories belong to Russia. This is our land... and we are intending to prove it."

Following Zelensky's statement that "United States are helping Ukraine, helping a lot, but it's not enough in order to win," President Joe Biden announced that he ordered an additional \$400 million in new weaponry be sent to Kyiv, including four more High Mobility Aircraft Rocket System, or HIMARS.

Military Industrial Complex Winning

Part of Biden's package will include enhanced ammunition, which will help Ukrainians target Russian assets up to 50 miles away. (See ["WARMONGERS ON PARADE: WEST SENDS MORE WEAPONS TO UKRAINE TO KEEP THE KILLINGS GOING," "BIDEN KEEPS WAR DRUMS BEATING, ANNOUNCES ANOTHER \\$1B IN WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE,"](#) and ["WEAPONS POURING INTO UKRAINE, NO TALK OF PEACE, JUST MORE AMMUNITION."](#))

A Pentagon official told RT that Ukrainians have been successful in using these systems to strike "Russian locations in Ukraine, deeper behind the front lines, and disrupting Russia's ability to conduct that artillery operation."

Reports said U.S. troops have trained about 100 Ukrainians on how to use these systems and they will continue to train them at a location outside the country.

"We will continue to train them because we see this as a sustained battle," an official told The Associated Press, pointing out that HIMARS training usually takes about a week to complete.

The announcement of the new military assistance came shortly after Russia claimed control of Luhansk province in the Donbas, the AP reported. Some Ukrainian officials told the outlet that fighting continues in the province.

Washington has sent a total of \$7.3 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the 24 February invasion. The U.S. has authorized \$54 billion in military and other assistance for the country.

War Mongers on Parade

“I think we need to be determined and continue to support Ukraine,” Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) told *The New York Times*. Coons, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, “Exactly how long this will go, exactly what the trajectory will be, we don’t know right now. But we know if we don’t continue to support Ukraine, the outcome for the U.S. will be much worse.”

Avril D. Haines, the director of national intelligence, said last week that Putin’s goal is “effectively the same political goals that we had previously, which is to say that he wants to take most of Ukraine.”

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has said that the U.S. and NATO are already at war with Russia, but it will not be official until a nuclear bomb goes off. Russia has warned of “unpredictable” consequences if the U.S. provides advanced weapons to Ukraine.*

Despite all of America’s tough talk, Gerald Celente has pointed out that the American military has not won a war since WWII and has been stacking up defeats, including the recent retreat from Afghanistan. (See [“DUH! PENTAGON SURPRISED BY CHINA’S TEST OF HYPERSONIC MISSILE,” “PENTAGON: TARGET CHINA”](#) and [“U.S. ‘ALREADY LOST’ AI WAR WITH CHINA, PENTAGON’S FORMER SOFTWARE CHIEF SAYS.”](#))

Yet, as they have since the end of World War II, Washington and their Presstitutes will continue their fear and hysteria Cold War rhetoric to frighten its masses while enriching the military manufacturing mob.

PUTIN WARNS OF 'CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES' TO GLOBAL ENERGY MARKET IF FURTHER SANCTIONS ARE IMPOSED



Western countries, led by the U.S., have imposed a historic amount of sanctions on Russia after its decision to invade Ukraine, which have inflicted serious pain on all parties involved.

The **Trends Journal** reported last week that the latest arrow in the West's quiver would be to impose a price cap on Russian oil, which seems to border on fantasy. (See [“DELUSION RULES: G7 MEMBERS AIM FOR PRICE CAP ON RUSSIAN OIL.”](#))

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the world needs to be prepared for “catastrophic consequences” if there are additional sanctions leveled at Russia. He admitted to his parliament that the Western sanctions have been painful for Russia, but insisted that the pain felt by the West has been worse.

“The further use of sanctions could lead to even more severe consequences, even, without exaggeration, catastrophic consequences on the global energy market,” he said, according to the *Financial Times*.

President Joe Biden has made it clear to Americans that Putin is behind much of the economic pain they've been facing. (See [“BS BIDEN BLAMES PUTIN FOR ECONOMIC PAIN.”](#))

Biden said last month that Americans have been willing to sacrifice after the Russian invasion and “chose to stand with the people of Ukraine.”

"So for all those Republicans in Congress criticizing me today for high gas prices in America, are you now saying we were wrong to support Ukraine? Are you saying we were wrong to stand up to Putin? Are you saying that we would rather have lower gas prices in America and Putin's iron fist in Europe? I don't believe that," he said.

Biden told Americans on Friday that his plans are working, and pointed to gas prices that he said have fallen for 25 days in a row. The national average for a gallon of gasoline was \$4.72 when Biden made the comment.

Putin has shown a willingness to cut gas supplies to Poland, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Finland. Economists say European countries face a possible recession due to rising oil and gas prices.

The Russian president could decide to cut its oil output to Europe.

Analysts at JP Morgan Chase warned that oil prices could more than triple to \$380 (£314) a barrel if Russia cut production by five million barrels a day, Reuters reported.

“It is likely that the [Russian] government could retaliate by cutting output as a way to inflict pain on the west,” they wrote. “The tightness of the global oil market is on Russia’s side.”

Annalena Baerbock, the German foreign minister, said Germany was waging a “hybrid war.”

“We are faced now in Germany with the question now that if there’s no gas coming through Nord Stream 1 ... we have to decide which institution may be cut off the grid,” Baerbock told CNBC.

TREND FORECAST: *As Russia continues to cut Europe off from its energy supplies, the U.S. will find it increasingly difficult to keep a united front against Moscow. The Ukraine war shows no signs of ending and the U.S., just last week, said it will send Ukraine an additional \$400 million in weapons.*

Russia will continue to benefit from China and India’s willingness to keep purchasing its energy so it does not feel the full sting of these sanctions.

TREND UPDATE: Yesterday, the Russian company, Nord Stream AG said it would be working from now to 21 July on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline that brings gas to Germany via the Baltic Sea.

Yet, Gazprom has said that because of delays of equipment being serviced by Germany's Siemens Energy in Canada, it may take longer to repair the pipeline in which Russia pumps some 55 billion cubic meters of the fuel per year into Germany. And overall, the Russian pipelines deliver 40 percent of Europe's gas.

Being a supply and demand issue, gas and oil prices in Europe continue to spike as gas flows from Russia are down some 60 percent.

Germany's energy regulator Klaus Muellertor told CNBC last week, "We cannot rule out the possibility that gas transport will not be resumed afterwards for political reasons."

TREND FORECAST: Gerald Celente has pointed to a growing trend of self-sufficiency for countries and businesses.

He noted Europe's dependence on Russia for its energy demands and how that dependency is being exploited. Russia has also taken steps to be more self-sufficient since before the invasion. (See ["GERMANY TAKES TOUGHER STANCE AGAINST CHINA: 'SELF-SUFFICIENCY' TOP TREND."](#) ["INTEL FOLLOWS ONE OF OUR TOP 10 TRENDS: SELF SUFFICIENCY"](#) and ["TOP TREND 2022: SELF-SUFFICIENCY. BIDEN WILL INVOKE WAR POWERS."](#))

NUCLEAR WAR: MELT, BURN AND FREEZE



As we keep noting, World War III has begun.

So, following the melting down from the nuclear blast and burning to death, researchers conducted a study to examine what a nuclear war with Russia could look like and found that an exchange of about 4,400 100-kiloton warheads would likely result in a “little ice age.”

The study by Louisiana State University’s Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences was released a day after Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia’s national Security Council, warned about nuclear annihilation.

Russia has been locked at war with Ukraine since its 24 February invasion. He has expressed dismay over the West’s support for Kyiv and said, the “idea of punishing a country that has one of the largest nuclear potentials is absurd. And potentially poses a threat to the existence of humanity.”

The study simulated a U.S.-Russia war and several India-Pakistan wars. The report pointed out that there are more than 13,000 nuclear weapons in the world controlled by nine nations.

“In all scenarios, firestorms from nuclear war would deliver soot to the upper atmosphere, blocking out the sun and causing global cooling.”

Some Key Findings

- Nuclear firestorms would release soot and smoke into the upper atmosphere that would block out the Sun resulting in crop failure around the world. In the first month following nuclear detonation, average global temperatures would plunge by about 13 degrees Fahrenheit, a larger temperature change than in the last Ice Age.

- The sudden drop in light and ocean temperatures, especially from the Arctic to the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans, would kill the marine algae, which is the foundation of the marine food web, essentially creating a famine in the ocean. This would halt most fishing and aquaculture.
- When the cooling event ends, Arctic sea ice is left in a new state, a sort of “Nuclear Little Ice Age.” Marine ecosystems would be highly disrupted by both the initial perturbation and the resulting new ocean state, resulting in impacts to ecosystem services worldwide, lasting for decades.

“Nuclear warfare results in dire consequences for everyone. World leaders have used our studies previously as an impetus to end the nuclear arms race in the 1980s, and five years ago to pass a treaty in the United Nations to ban nuclear weapons. We hope that this new study will encourage more nations to ratify the ban treaty,” said co-author Alan Robock, distinguished professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University.

TRENDPOST: *As each day goes by with Western countries providing Ukraine with just enough weaponry to continue its fight against Russia, the world inches closer to nuclear Armageddon. Gerald Celente has said that the West is already in WWII, but it will not be officially declared until there is a flash from a nuclear detonation.*

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not let Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky defeat him on the battlefield, so there seems to be a Catch 22 in the entire conflict: If Ukraine continues to lose on the battlefield and is forced to give up more land, that is bad because they are losing. But if, miraculously, Russia begins to lose, that's bad, too, because Putin would become desperate.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who is just about the only Western leader in touch with Putin, has received criticism for saying that Putin should not be embarrassed on the battlefield. There is no doubt that he is considering Russia's nuclear arsenal.

DUCK AND COVER 2.0: PREPARE FOR A NUCLEAR ATTACK



The Ukraine War continues to escalate and America and NATO have vowed to do whatever it takes to defeat Russia.

As we have forecast, the longer the war drags on, and the more weapons of death that are sent to Ukraine to keep bloodying the killing fields, the hotter it's going to get, even to the point where there will be a nuclear exchange.

Now the message being broadcast via the mainstream media is that the worst is yet to come, and they are warning the people, as they were during the Cold War, to “Duck and Cover.”

Yesterday, New York City released a public service announcement warning the people that a nuclear bomb can be dropped and gave them idiotic and moronic instructions on what to do to save their lives after the bomb was dropped.

Assuming that they did not burn or melt in the initial blast, the New York City Emergency Management Department gave New Yorkers a three-step plan reminiscent of the [duck-and-cover](#) stupidity they sold the people at the height of the Cold War.

The biggest takeaway: you really have to be a stupid dumbbell to swallow the crap from this shit show production.

The short video, which looks like it was filmed on a Hollywood set, takes place on a partially bombed city street with a scene with damage that looks more Sesame Street than a nuclear apocalypse. Dressed in black, the presenter is the culturally perfect presenter in America's dead-woke society. The actor playing the government mouthpiece role appears calm, almost like a flight attendant pointing to emergency exits on a plane and the only indication that something is amiss is the faint sound of sirens going on in the background.

Calm, collected and confident, she said, “So, there’s been a nuclear attack.”

Where’d it come from? Who launched it?

“Don’t ask me how or why,” she said. “Just know that the big one has hit. OK. So what do we do?”

Very simple. Be a complete moron, act as though you are in the third grade, follow her orders and do what she tells you to do. ([WATCH THE VIDEO](#))

Idiot’s Delight

Cold War propaganda is not new and this new video is just a replay of the useless Duck-and-Cover instructions sold to the public at the height of the Cold War. Following WWII, school children in the U.S. were forced to hide under their desks in case the Russians dropped an atom bomb. And, if they were too big to fit under a desk, you were told to lie down on the ground against a wall and cover the back of your head with your hands... as though that would protect you from an atomic blast.

Now, this new Duck and Cover 2.0 idiot’s delight video stressed that when the bomb is dropped it is important to get inside and stay inside. If you were exposed to radiation, take your clothing off and use soap to wash your body. The presenter said, once inside, they should listen to the news media on the next steps.

“As the threat landscape continues to evolve, it is important that New Yorkers know we are preparing for any imminent threats and are providing them with the resources they need to stay safe and informed,” Zach Iscol, the head of the city’s Emergency Management, said.

The Russians Are Coming

Considering the never ending anti-Russian sentiments spreading long before the Ukraine War, it is clear to assume that the imaginary warhead was fired by Russia...

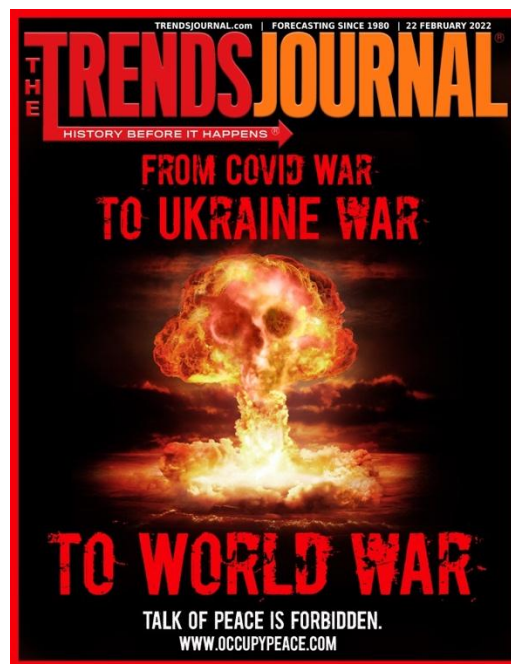
especially since Moscow and Washington have recently warned of a nuclear exchange.

Thus, the same fuel of hatred and fear for the Russians sold to the public back then has been retrofitted for the 21st Century.

TRENDS FORECAST: *As we have warned, WWII has begun and it won't become official until a nuclear exchange occurs, be it false flag or real.*

What adult, with a brain bigger than a pea, would take this Duck-and-Cover 2.0 video seriously?

If a nuclear bomb drops it may be one of many, and no one will survive by following the dumbbell instructions that were given. This video is intended to instill fear and ingrain in peoples' minds that the worst is yet to come. As we noted in our 22 February Trends Journal cover, “FROM COVID WAR, TO UKRAINE WAR, TO WORLD



WAR...Talk of Peace is Forbidden.

We see the future and it is Hell on Earth. If we do not unite for peace, we will be obliterated by war.

We are doing all we can to stop this madness that is unfolding in front of our eyes for all to see. And the question becomes what are you doing? What actions are you taking?

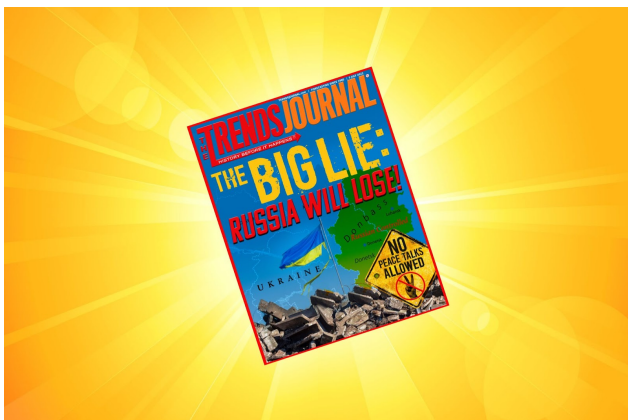
If your heart and soul is for Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All, [join us](#) on Saturday, July 23 in Kingston, N.Y., to help launch the greatest peace movement of this century.

Along with myself, featured speakers include Gary Null of Progressive Radio Network, a champion of natural healing; Judge Andrew Napolitano with judicial authority like no other in the areas of freedom, peace and justice; and Scott Ritter, a former U.S. Marine Intelligence Officer. The Hot Damn Band will headline the entertainment and vendors will be selling food and drinks.

We are calling for peace, we are fighting for peace and we are warriors for the Prince of Peace.

United We Stand, Divided We Die. If we don't unite for peace, this is the beginning of the end of life on earth. Please do everything you can to [donate](#) to the [Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice](#) or www.OccupyPeace.com.

ZELENSKY BLINDED BY TRENDS JOURNAL COVER: VOWS NOT TO GIVE UP AN INCH OF TERRITORY TO RUSSIA



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an interview last week that Kyiv is not willing to cede any land to Russia when it comes to finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Last week, The **Trends Journal** ran a cover titled, “**THE BIG LIE: Russia Will Lose!**,” that noted ongoing reports in the West by military and other “experts” that predict Russian forces are suffering massive casualties and the Ukraine military will beat them. These reports highlighted alleged

troop desertions and victories by Ukrainian forces. The losses were due to a catastrophic miscalculation by Russian President Vladimir Putin who thought Ukraine would lay down its arms when his tanks began to roll.

But the realities on the ground have since become more apparent. Russia now controls all the territory in the Luhansk region, and it is believed that Putin intends to take over larger swaths of the country. Russian troops continue to look to the west in the country and on Monday fired missiles into Chasiv Yar, a town about 12 miles from the front line.

Zelensky has been consistent in his position. He told CNN last Thursday that Ukrainians “are not ready to give away their land, to accept that these territories belong to Russia. This is our land.”

"We always talk about that, and we are intending to prove it," he said.

The **Trends Journal** has reported that Zelensky has refused all calls to negotiate for a peaceful resolution. (See [“ZELENSKY REJECTS PEACE PROPOSAL, SAYS UKRAINE WILL BEAT RUSSIA.”](#) [“CRACKS EMERGE: BIDEN SAYS UKRAINE IGNORED FACTS THAT RUSSIA WOULD INVADE.”](#) [“ZELENSKY WON’T BUCKLE, LAMENTS BEING PRESSURED FOR PEACE.”](#))

Zelensky is not alone in Ukraine. A University of Chicago’s NORC poll found that 89 percent of Ukrainians agree that ceding any land to Russia to achieve peace would be “unacceptable,” and about 79 percent approved Zelensky’s approach to the conflict. The International Republican Institute found 97 percent of Ukrainian participants believed Ukraine will win the war, according to CEPA.

One of Zelensky’s first moves after the Russian invasion was to crush any critics. He banned 11 political parties due to their alleged links to Russia. War has a way of rallying a country. Zelensky was an unpopular president. His approval rating was falling prior to the war, and about 55 percent of Ukrainians said they were opposed to a second term.

Alain Gabon, an associate professor of French studies and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at Virginia Wesleyan University, wrote in *MiddleEastEye* that Zelensky used the war to “eliminate media freedom by merging and nationalizing Ukrainian television channels into a single information platform called “United News” - a platform entirely dedicated to his propaganda.”

Putin came out Thursday in what many said was his most aggressive speech to parliament yet, and said, “Largely speaking, we haven’t even yet started anything in earnest.”

TREND FORECAST: *Ukraine would have been forced to negotiate with Russia months ago if not for the multi-billion dollar weapon flows from the West and billions in funding to prop up the economically broke and busted Kyiv government.*

The West is fighting more than just a “proxy war” with Russia. It is, by its money and weapons transfers into Ukraine, an accessory to the crime.

We forecast, as economies in the West decline, the war drags on, and Ukraine loses more territory to Russia... the massive weapons and money flows will dry up and Russia will win the war.

*But then again, there is always the wild card, and this one is a false flag or real nuclear exchange in which case, if We the People do not unite for Peace and Freedom, it will be the beginning of the end of life on earth and the thousands year “Little Ice Age,” as we noted in this **Trends Journal** (See **NUCLEAR WAR: MELT, BURN AND FREEZE**).*

PUTIN WARNS WEST, WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!



The **Trends Journal**, which is opposed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine—but understands why they have and have long detailed it in our magazine over the decades—had forecast before the war began that little Ukraine would lose a military confrontation against the Russian bear.

Ignoring our forecast and spreading their propaganda, since the war began on 24 February, the mainstream media continues to sell Washington's propaganda that Russia is somehow losing to the Ukrainians and its forces are in disarray.

Get This in Your Head

Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed his parliament on Thursday and gave a war update. He said, "Largely speaking, we haven't even yet started anything in earnest."

Putin's comments about the conflict in Ukraine have been consistent and he has made sure that he does not consider Russia's engagement a "war."

Putin went on to say that Russia is not opposed to peace talks, "but those who reject them should know that the further it goes, the harder it will be for them to negotiate with us."

The Russian president, again, blasted Western support for Ukraine and said these countries are content with fighting Russia until "the last Ukrainian." He said the U.S. cannot envision a unipolar world and wants to "enforce its version of the global order."

"We are hearing that they want to defeat us on the battlefield. Let them try," he said.

Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, also took a shot at the resignation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He wrote in a statement: "We would like to hope that someday in Great Britain more professional people who can make decisions through dialogue will come to power."

Zelensky, holding true to form, told CNN in an interview that Kyiv will continue its fight against Russia until it reclaims every inch of land that has been lost in the war. Recent estimates say Russia and separatists control about 20 percent of the country. Zelensky pointed out that most of the country controlled by Russia has been reduced to rubble.

Ukrainian leaders insist that once their forces get a hold of advanced missile systems, the tide of the war will turn.

"Ukrainians are not ready to give away their land, to accept that these territories belong to Russia," Zelensky said. "This is our land. We always talk about that, and we are intending to prove it."

One of the most formidable voices who spoke out in favor of concessions was Henry Kissinger, the 98-year-old former secretary of state. He told the World Economic Forum in May that Zelensky should negotiate for a peaceful resolution.

"Negotiations need to begin in the next two months before it creates upheavals and tensions that will not be easily overcome," Kissinger said. "Ideally, the dividing line should be a return to the status quo ante."

He said pursuing the war "beyond that point would not be about the freedom of Ukraine, but a new war against Russia itself."

He said Ukraine should be willing to cede territory in the peace process, which drew immediate backlash in the media and from Zelensky.

U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday marked the 75th anniversary of the Central Intelligence Agency and credited the agents working there for "exposing Putin's playbook," which "punched a gigantic hole in the pretense, and discredited his lies."

TRENDPOST: *Anything less than pure hatred for Putin borders on treason in the U.S. media. The country has been brainwashed since the start of the conflict that Putin is a modern-day Hitler. The only person standing in his way is Zelensky, the Churchill of our time.*

Putin correctly said last week that Western leaders, who are fueled by their hatred for Russia, would be quite content to fight Moscow until “the last Ukrainian.” Putin said the U.S. cannot imagine a unipolar world and wants to “enforce its version of the global order.”

Putin is not afraid of the West and, at the beginning of the war, said countries “that get into their heads to meddle in ongoing events from the side and create unacceptable strategic threats for Russia, they must know that our response to counterpunches will be lightning-quick.”

Gerald Celente has said the world is already at war, but it will not be officially declared until the first flash of a nuclear detonation appears.

Zelensky, in the meantime, insists that the war is far from over, but imagined a world where Ukraine was accepted as a member, and was protected by Article 5 under the charter.

“The world is doing a lot, but it could have been easier—Ukraine could have been accepted as a NATO member. It would be much more straightforward than many people imagine,” he said.

(See [“ZELENSKY REJECTS PEACE PROPOSAL, SAYS UKRAINE WILL BEAT RUSSIA.”](#) [“CRACKS EMERGE: BIDEN SAYS UKRAINE IGNORED FACTS THAT RUSSIA WOULD INVADE.”](#) [“ZELENKSY WON’T BUCKLE, LAMENTS BEING PRESSURE FOR PEACE”](#) and [“BRAZIL’S LULA SAYS UKRAINE’S COMEDIAN SHARES BLAME FOR WAR.”](#))

IS BLINKEN AFRAID? HE WON'T MEET WITH RUSSIAN COUNTERPART



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday refused to meet with Russia's top diplomat, Sergei Lavrov, in Bali during the Group of Twenty meeting.

Ned Price, a spokesman for the State Department, told reporters that “the time is not right” for foreign engagement with

Lavrov.

As tensions were heating up back in February between Russia and Ukraine, Blinken called off his last scheduled meeting with Lavrov two days before Russia launched the invasion. The top U.S. diplomat addressed Russia through the media, and said Ukraine “is not your country.”

Lavrov blamed “blatant Russophobia” for much of the world’s maladies, *The New York Times* reported. He said the U.S. is continuing to put its animosity toward Russia above all else.

Lavrov said it is not Russia’s choice “to abandon all contacts, it was the United States.”

“And we are not running after anybody suggesting meetings. If they don't want to talk, it's their choice,” he said.

The paper reported that the foreign minister from Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, “departed from Western rhetoric” during the conference and said there should be a common goal to end the war “sooner than later.”

Lavrov's decision to participate in the event was seen as a replay of Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to attend the 2014 G20 meeting in Brisbane, Australia, shortly after a Malaysia Airlines plane was shot down over an area of Ukraine

controlled by Russian-backed separatists. Russia was also criticized for allegedly providing weapons to separatists in Ukraine at the time.

Blinken also met with his Chinese counterpart on Saturday at the summit and he said the two shared a candid conversation for more than five hours. He told reporters that the conversation focused on Beijing's alignment with Russia. He said neither country held back.

"We were very open about where our differences are ... but the meeting was also constructive because despite the candor, the tone was very professional," one U.S. official told CNN.

"I would start with the proposition that it's pretty hard to be neutral when it comes to this aggression," Blinken said. "There's a clear aggressor. There's a clear victim."

(See ["CHINA STANDS WITH RUSSIA, TELLS EU, U.S. FU"](#) and ["BEIJING: STOP WESTERN SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA."](#))

The state department said at the beginning of the conflict that the U.S. will "not allow any country to compensate Russia for its losses" from Western sanctions. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the time that Beijing stands on the right side of history over the Ukraine crisis and "will never accept any external coercion or pressure, and opposes any unfounded accusations and suspicions against China."

Blinken reiterated to reporters that his decision not to engage Lavrov at the G20 meeting was based on Washington seeing no evidence that Russia, "at this moment in time, is prepared to engage in meaningful diplomacy."

TRENDPOST: *The Chinese newspapers the Global Times and the People's Daily, wrote at the onset of the war that NATO's eastward expansion is "the root cause of Russia's anger and military operation in Ukraine."*

"It's the US that should put out the fire it lit in Ukraine. Ridiculously, it is demanding Beijing to do this job at the cost of damaging China-Russia relations. This is unreasonable and insidious. By pushing China to denounce Russia and asking China

to bear the responsibility for the fatal strategic mistake the US and NATO made in the construction of so-called European security, Washington has no intention of hiding its desire to sow discord between China and Russia," the paper wrote.

*The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how the U.S. military, the largest in the world, has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations, such as Afghanistan.*

RUSSIA SHOWS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS GRAIN EXPORTS



Sergei Lavrov, Russia's top diplomat, said last week that Moscow is willing to discuss the safe export of grain with Ukraine and Turkey, but said Kyiv needs to make sure the ports are no longer blocked with mines.

Lavrov, who made the comment while attending the G20 in Bali, did not give a clear date as to when these negotiations could take place but said Moscow is "always ready" to negotiate.

Western countries, led by the U.S., have accused Moscow of enforcing a blockade at Ukrainian ports. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Turkey and the UN have taken the lead in these negotiations.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that there is about 22 million tons of grain that Russia has prevented from being exported. Ukraine is referred to as Europe's "breadbasket."

The Associated Press, citing the Ukrainian Grain Association, reported that the country could export up to 7 million tons of grain per month, but only shipped 2.2 million tons in June. The shipments are divided up about evenly between Europe,

North Africa, Asia. The UN said Kyiv accounted for 10 percent of global wheat exports in 2021.

The situation has led to a surge in food prices and a global food crisis. *The New York Times* reported that the price of bread is up 35 percent in Yemen, and cooking oil in Kenya has become a rare commodity.

President Joe Biden has said that he is working with Ukrainian officials to build temporary silos on the borders of Ukraine and Poland to get the grain “out onto the market to help bring down food prices.”

“But it’s taking time,” he said.

(See [“FERTILIZER SHORTAGE WORSENS FOOD CRISIS, DRIVES UP PRICES.”](#) [“FOOD CRISIS WORSENS: PREPARE FOR NEW WORLD DISORDER”](#) and [“EGYPT ASKS IMF FOR AID AS WHEAT, OIL PRICES SKYROCKET.”](#))

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been accused of using grain as a bargaining chip to force Western countries to ease some sanctions.

Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general, said earlier this month that the Ukraine War has been another catalyst in the food shortage that was already unfolding due to COVID-19 lockdowns, climate change, and inequality.”

“There is a real risk that multiple famines will be declared in 2022,” he said. “And 2023 could be even worse.”

Mohamud Mohamed Hassan, country director for Save the Children, says the situation in Somalia is worse than any he has seen before, according to CNN. The report, citing the UN, said about 7 million people—about half the country’s population—do not have enough to eat. The UN said 1.5 million children under the age of 5 are acutely malnourished and about 448 have died this year, though the number may be higher.

Ukraine has accused Russia of stealing some of the grain and exporting thousands of tons on a ship from Turkey. A Russian-flagged ship has been held and is being investigated by Turkish officials to determine the country origin of the shipment.

TRENDPOST: *The **Trends Journal** has warned for the better part of two years that the COVID-19 War launched by politicians and subsequent draconian lockdown orders will kill more people than the virus as it would accelerate the number of the world's poorest who face starvation. (See [“COVID WAR AND CIVIL WARS: KILLING MORE THAN THE VIRUS.”](#))*

Months before the first missile was launched in Ukraine, the World Food Programme (WFP), the anti-hunger agency of the UN, estimated that 45 million people were on the “edge of famine.”

*While the UN said the number of people living in famine conditions is up 500 percent since 2016, and about 270 million people worldwide are facing extreme food insecurity, and this could lead to social unrest, it is old news for **Trends Journal** subscribers. Indeed, it “will” and not “could” lead to social unrest. (See [“NEW WORLD DISORDER TOP TREND: NATIONS SINKING DEEPER, PEOPLE SCREAMING LOUDER.”](#))*

In fact, this was one of our Top Trends for 2020. Back in 2019, across the continents, people were taking to the streets in protest of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence.

The demonstrations were stopped by governments when the COVID War broke out in February/March of 2020 and people were locked down and forbidden to protest.

Now, with both the COVID War which has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of billions and the Ukraine War which has driven up various commodity prices, the levels of protest and demonstrations will dramatically escalate... and so too will the refugee crisis, as more people flee their economically ravaged crime ridden nations. This in turn will escalate new anti-immigrant and populist movements in nations refugees are fleeing into.

FEATURED ARTICLES BY GUEST WRITERS

AMERICAN DREAM

AMERICA IS BEING ERADICATED

By *Paul Craig Roberts*, [*Institute for Political Economy*](#)

No sooner had I given up on the U.S. Congress when Georgia Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene said that “Ukraine is the new Iraq wrapped up with a pretty little NATO bow, with a nuclear present inside.”

She said that instead of sending weapons and billions of dollars to Ukraine, the U.S. should pull out of NATO and avoid nuclear war by ceasing to provoke the Russians.

“Grinding up Ukraine to fight with Russia is disgusting, Russia could have been an ally,” she tweeted.

“Warmongers in Washington seeking war with Russia should suit up and go fight it” themselves, she suggested. “Send your kids and leave ours alone. Pay for it yourself.”

When an American hears such intelligent talk from inside the bought-and-paid-for-Congress, he has to cheer. His spirits pick up. He realizes that if there is one voice, there might be two, and that the possibility of America coming to its senses was not completely ruled out.

But reality crowds in. The Republicans are almost as determined to get rid of Marjorie Greene as the Democrats. Independent thinkers who represent the American people instead of the powerful economic interests who fund the political campaigns and the neoconservative ideologues who rule Washington are a non-welcomed species in Washington.

Greene has survived, so far, which shows a budding awareness of reality among the American people. The American political system cannot tolerate people like Greene and aware, sentient Americans, so the public's interest remains under threat.

That this is a fact is obvious from the way the Republicans and Democrats are trying to frame the coming campaign over which party gets to be the whore for the ruling interests for the next presidential term.

The Democrats are frantic and hysterical. OMG! (Oh, My God) is their opening phrase, Roe vs Wade, the sacred ruling that let us kill babies in the womb, has been overturned!!!

OMG, parents won't let their kids be indoctrinated with critical race theory and Woke rules against gender pronouns!

OMG! Parents won't even let public schools convince the kids to be transgendered!

If we don't DO SOMETHING, the Trump Deplorables will return and stop our destruction of America! OMG! Traditional morality will be taught, sexual perversion as a legitimate choice will be out! Liberal progressivism will be stopped! The Trump Deplorables will take away the legal privileges we Democrats have conferred on blacks and sexual perverts! White people will be able to defend themselves, and OMG they will be able to use gender pronouns and own guns!!! This would mean the end of the world!!!

This captures the essence of the Democrat political propaganda that I daily receive in emails urging me to DO SOMETHING by sending Democrats money.

The only thing better about the Republican political propaganda is that it is not anti-white. Otherwise, it is just as stupid as the Democrats' propaganda, only in different directions.

The Republicans, of course, open, as they have since time immemorial, with “Do you support Republican efforts to cut spending, balance the budget, reduce the national debt, and fight inflation?” As this program has a record of total failure, why do the Republicans remind voters of their inability to control government?

After this downhill start, the Republican “surveys” speed up toward collapse in service to Israel and enmity toward China.

“Do you support efforts to stop the Biden administration from removing the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Jerusalem?” In other words, don't you want Trump back so his Jewish son-in-law can make more millions by having his father-in-law break more international conventions in the interest of Israel? And if Republicans are really this stupid to believe that Biden would antagonize the Jews, the Republicans need an IQ boost.

Another Republican survey question is are you in favor of the Democrats' effort to ban airline travel, forbid air conditioning, and force people to walk to work? This is the Republican description of “green energy,” but it will strike most as off the wall.

The Republicans never fail to damn themselves by being against health care for all. “Medicare for all,” aka national health insurance, which every Western country except the U.S. has, is “socialized medicine.” What the U.S. has is Big Pharma medicine. The medical system is run for the sake of Big Pharma profits.

Private medicine hardly exists in the U.S.. The doctors have been forced by Big Pharma, insurance companies, and incorporated “health care organizations” into employees who no longer have the authority to violate “protocols” and have to treat

patients not according to the doctors' judgment but according to the profits of Big Pharma.

Having shot themselves in the head a number of times, the Republicans can't resist yet another shot at themselves—China. Republicans have done the most to keep Americans from understanding that the reason China is towering over us economically is that Wall Street forced, under threat of takeovers, U.S. corporations to relocate their production for U.S. markets in China and other parts of Asia, where labor costs were far less than in the U.S., thus significantly raising the profits of offshored U.S. corporations.

This relocation devastated the finances of U.S. cities and states, formerly manufacturing powerhouses, and enabled China to surprise the dumbshit American "foreign policy community," by surpassing us in 5 years instead of the expected 50 years.

Trump and the Republicans want to blame China for Wall Street forcing U.S. corporations to relocate their production for U.S. markets in Asia where labor costs were lower.

This means either that Trump and Republicans are stupid, or that they do not dare criticize those on Wall Street who forced American investment offshore. Take your pick.

The only question decided in American elections is which political party gets to provide whore services to its masters. Money is the reason it pays to be in office.

In America who is in office? The military/security complex, Big Pharma, which owns the FDA, NIH, CDC, and Congress. Digital tech, which builds the police state for the ruling elites. Agri-business, oil, mining, timber, and real estate interests at the state and local levels. Those who rule are those who provide the campaign contributions that put people into office. Voters serve only to provide the appearance of "democratic rule." In actual fact, voters' interests, if ever served, are at the bottom of the barrel.

So, what will the next election really be about? It won't be about any of the propaganda of either political party. There are only two issues before Americans, and neither will be addressed.

One is whether "our"—what a joke—government will, under neoconservative leadership, succeed in provoking nuclear war with Russia. China is in that picture as well.

The other is whether the demonization of white Americans, especially heterosexual white males, which is the main goal of the Democratic Party as per the New York Times' 1619 Project that declares the basis of America to be white racism, will continue. If this campaign against white people continues, especially if Democrats retain political offices, white Americans will be in the identical position as Jews are said to have been in Nazi Germany.

The sordid Democrats are running, and have been, on a campaign against Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and the rest of our founding fathers, dismissed by the New York Times as racists who built a country on white racism. This lie is institutionalized in U.S. universities and in public schools in Democratic districts.

This lie divides America, our country. It is destroying us. And it is the Democrats who are destroying us.

Thus, as stupid as the Republicans are, war with China, which we would immediately lose, is preferable to the civil war that the Democrats are promoting. Imagine trying to put on trial an American president elected by the American people for trying to overthrow the U.S. government. Only deranged Democrats who believe that there are 150 different genders can orchestrate such a stupidity.

People only know what they are born into. American youth have no experience of the past, and they do not read. They have no sense of what has been lost. They only know what they are born into, and they are born into anti-white indoctrination.

The loss of the youth is the way countries decline and are lost. To the young, free speech is presented as white racism. The young don't know privacy. They are

accustomed to exposing themselves and their activities on social media. Free speech is offensive. It offends blacks, sexual perverts, transgendered, feminists. A new aristocracy is rising. It consists of those protected against feeling offended. The offenders are white heterosexual males, and the narrative is that these offenders are being justly suppressed.

We are left with the question. Who rises to fight for Sodom and Gomorrah? Will it be the demonized and persecuted white heterosexual males who are forced to take “sensitivity training” and subordinate themselves to women, preferred races and sexual perverts?

Don't count on it. The U.S. military's [ability to recruit](#) has collapsed.



THE COLONIZATION OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHE

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

We delude ourselves at our own peril by wrongly believing that government policy makers and the captains of private finance and industry are older and wiser. Because these people have managed to reach the top of their game, we assume they possess the intellectual acumen to steer a nation past its economic and social ills.

We falsely believe they have the comprehensive skills to tackle the dire challenges that lie ahead such as a warming planet, growing cultural divisions, and an economic system on the verge of total collapse. But as the years go by, more and more Americans are mounting questions with no realistic answers in sight.

People feel we are charging blindly towards unaffordable energy costs, food insecurity, out-of-control debt and runaway inflation. We realize we can no longer rely upon our leading institutions and the mainstream media. Our politicians constantly voice promises that are never fulfilled.

We need to realize that the colonialist perspective, which has dominated American history since its founding, cannot be completely divorced from government efforts to manipulate and control factions within the population.

A colonialist mindset can never offer constructive solutions to solve problems. Promoting common ground to simmer disharmony between seeming oppositional segments of society is counterintuitive to colonialism. Rather it must rely on instilling discord, conflict, and eventually violence, either psychological or physical, in order to keep conflicts alive, which in turn validate further control, surveillance and heavy-handed measures. Our nation's leaders and institutions believe they are the adults in the room and we their children deserve their tough love.

Consequently whatever can be weaponized in order to manipulate the sensitivities of others to keep conflicts alive is fair game. The emotions behind racial and gender tensions are weaponized to keep people divided. For example, Biden wants to criminalize parents who oppose school boards that seem determined to sexualize grammar school education.

Religion has been weaponized whereby authentic religion barely exists in the American landscape anymore. Politicians on both sides of the aisle weaponize any issue contrary to their ideological goals. The Covid pandemic's controversies are manipulated so that science is weaponized against itself.

Physicians and medical professionals who disagree with the pandemic's lockdowns, drug treatments, vaccine mandates and the wet market theory about the SARS-2 virus' origins, are censored, demonized and threatened with the loss of their medical licenses. However there are always blowbacks and serious repercussions when others are weaponized in order to colonize a perceived enemy psychologically or by physical force.

A fundamental problem is that the average person expects very simple solutions to otherwise extremely complex problems. Regardless of the political divide, people expect instant transformation to be backed immediately by legislation.

They want their emotional biases and self-righteous beliefs to be written into law. And the easiest solution is to create a scapegoat and then keep the victim alive and wandering in the wasteland until the problem reaches its final solution.

Nazis colonized the German psyche by scapegoating Jews, gypsies, and members of the LGBT community. But of course a final solution is never reached constructively and inevitably leaves catastrophic destruction in its wake.

Instead we are led to a more rapid breakdown of the remaining threads of democracy. The educational system, the nuclear family, and the very moral fabric that keeps a culture healthy and vital helps avoid collapse. Inescapably, whoever is the aggressor generates its own negative and destructive identity.

The new cancel culture, which has now been absorbed into the federal government, has become the very cancer of hatred and vitriol it tries to marginalize and eradicate. One party or the other becomes vehemently juxtaposed to the opposing party as an enemy to be abolished; eventually that party identifies subliminally with the very pernicious characteristics it blames on its enemy.

The powerless seize power by demonizing those less powerful. What we are witnessing is American culture being displaced by a hyperactive Hollywood dystopia. People are displaced by technological robotism.

News porn displaces pragmatic inquiry. And as we look around, we no longer have a culture that is even capable of defining itself in any way other than a psychological tyranny bent on coercive control. It is as if we inhabit a haunted house of horrors while being completely oblivious to that fact.

Perhaps it is time to regard our nation's politics as grievously and mentally unstable. For many people this is self-evident. The U.S. is the world's most anxious, depressed and mentally disturbed nation. Despite the widespread use of psychiatric drugs to palliate symptoms and enormous resources spent to tackle the epidemic of mental disorders, Americans' psychological health continues to worsen.

Our ruling institutions believe they understand their own psychology but they are unquestionably clueless. The psychological fragmentation and creation of divisions in American culture are sometimes viewed as the Balkanization of American culture. This doesn't suggest that the powers that be desire to carve up the nation into separate regions hostile and uncooperative with each other. That is counter-intuitive for any government or corporate ambition to strengthen political and economic control over a population.

Nevertheless it has resulted in the red and blue factions becoming more distinctly divided and hostile. The Balkanization of the American psyche is the unwanted consequence of a mentally unsound political apparatus and an equally psychologically unstable media.

Perhaps it is more accurate to regard the belligerent quagmire of factional animosity towards the "other" as a fascist colonization of the American psyche. After Trump's surprising 2016 electoral win, book sales dealing with fascism soared. Sales of Hannah Arendt's *Origins of Totalitarianism* and Orwell's *1984* skyrocketed. However we should be very wary of our choice of words and the real life definitions we give them.

Rather than assuming the reemergence of an early 20th century fascism on American shores, perhaps we might consider the term Americanism as a unique fascist ideology contrary to and in opposition to the Constitution.

In 1938, a Yale Divinity School professor, Halford Luccock, gave a sermon at Manhattan's Riverside Church. Luccock derogatorily coined the term Americanism.

"When and if fascism comes to America it will not be labeled 'made in Germany'; it will not be marked with a swastika; it will not even be called fascism; it will be called, of course, 'Americanism'."

Similar predictive warnings were not uncommon in the 1930s. The prominent social commentator H.L. Mencken gave a similar prediction. Writing for the *Baltimore Sun*, Mencken wrote:

“My own belief, more than once set afloat from this spot, is that it will take us, soon or late, into the stormy waters of fascism. To be sure, that fascism is not likely to be identical with the kinds on tap in Germany, Italy and Russia; indeed it is very apt to come in under the name of anti-fascism.”

In her 1939 *Harper's Magazine* article, Lillian Symes wrote about Huey Long's suspected prediction that “Fascism would come to America in the name of anti-fascism” (a quote often wrongly attributed to Winston Churchill):

“If a fascist movement ever triumphs in America it will undoubtedly triumph in the name of our most popular slogan – Democracy, and under the leadership of some such “friend of the common people” as the late Huey Long.... Whoever its angels and whatever their purpose, it will speak the language of a populist left.”

The fragmented Balkanization of the American psyche has certainly given rise to warring populist factions. The triumph of cancel culture, in groups such as Antifa, the radicalized factions in the race-based and gender movements, the White Fragility phenomena, and Silicon Valley social media censorship is evidence of a new emerging authoritarian Americanism growing within the ranks of the left's liberal populism.

Roosevelt's vice president Henry Wallace likewise observed signs that the US's weakness might flirt with fascism. In April 1944, the *New York Times* quoted Wallace stating:

“The American fascist would prefer not to use violence. His method is to poison the channels of public information. With a fascist the problem is never how best to present the truth to the public but how best to use the news to deceive the public into giving the fascist and his group more money or more power... They claim to be super-patriots, but they would destroy every liberty guaranteed by the Constitution... Their final objective, toward which all their deceit is directed, is to capture political power so that, using the power of the state and the power of the market simultaneously, they may keep the common man in eternal subjection.”

Wallace believed that the greatest weapon to prevent fascism was to prioritize the importance of human well being above dollars and profit. He saw evidence that

‘fascism in the postwar inevitably will push steadily for Anglo-Saxon imperialism and eventually war with Russia.’

Although such a war would never erupt during America’s Cold War against the Soviet Union, Wallace’s warning now seems to be at our doorstep. “Already American fascists,” Wallace wrote, “are talking and writing about this conflict and using it as an excuse for their internal hatreds and intolerance toward certain races, creeds and classes.”

If Wallace could hear the venom spewed by the neo-con cartel surrounding Biden in the Oval Office, he would certainly see America’s fascist moment on hand. However, domestically, the ultimate goal of American political conceit and elitism is to impose homogeneity across society.

Thus we observe the government imposing an aberrant universal vanity not only on its own population but repeatedly upon other nations through electoral interference and military or intelligence intervention.

Another obstacle is that America’s attention skills are direly weak. Most Americans emotionally react to wherever the headline of the day leads them. Their priorities about the nation’s most urgent challenges shift and change dramatically. For example, when the economy is strong, global warming and the preservation of the environment are high on people’s lists.

Today with rising popular uncertainty, confusion and aimlessness, the percentage of people who place climate change as the single most important threat barely reaches double figures. It is only the most conscientious among us who are aware of how our activities and habits contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and the depletion of the environment.

Our international climate change summits are utterly worthless. They are little more than week-long seminars for world leaders to learn more platitudes and more talking points for political campaigns and press conferences. Since no nation is held legally accountable by international environmental treaties, everything is voluntary and nothing essential is done. It is all smoke and mirrors to cover over Washington’s guilt.

Fortunately distrust in government and the media is growing exponentially. Yet sadly this will not solve our population's growing disorientation in USA's new no-man's-land.

Similar to the warnings given seven decades ago, the American media has been fully captured by private and secretive national security interests. We hear the dreaded dirge of a single official mantra; that is, increase irrational hope, surrender your independence and individuality, leave your reason at the door and obey your elected leaders and the unelected cartels that keep them in office.

Only a tiny percent of the US population actually controls the larger national dialogues and agendas, both domestic and foreign. But a new generation of technocrats, groomed in the halls of the culture wars of division, condemnation and conquest are now entering the halls of government, finance and corporate boardrooms.

These are new shock troops that are leading the assault to colonize the American psyche, the mass formation of a distinctly American hive mentality, that forebodes far worse things to come in the near future.

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



COMPLETE LOCK UP OF THE SYSTEM WILL OCCUR

By *Gregory Mannarino*, TradersChoice.net

Why is the world awash in never-ending and inflating debt? Moreover, why does global debt keep expanding relentlessly every day, every month, and every year, in what seems like some kind of twisted mass insanity?

What is THE REAL TRUTH behind all this?

The answer is simple, and frightening. The expansion of debt cannot ever stop! Additionally, it must constantly and ceaselessly be expanded on EXPONENTIALLY.

What this means is that the amount of debt being borrowed into existence CANNOT EVEN REMAIN STATIC! It must be expanded VASTLY every moment, every day, every week, every month, and every year, just to allow the system itself to function day to

day. If the amount of debt being borrowed into existence were to remain at its current level, without being expanded on, the entire system would FREEZE UP in an instant.

The insanity of all this actually gets even worse.

Despite the FACT that global debt is continually expanding, there is not enough of it.

As most people who follow my work are already aware, the current central bank run global financial system is debt based, and at its core what this means is every conceivable reason, including things which the average person could not even dream of, must and will be utilized to continually find reasons/create more reasons to borrow more cash into existence.

As of late the two biggest machinations being forced upon the people of the world and are currently being used as mechanisms to pull EPIC sums into the now by more borrowing are:

1. Global disease processes like Covid and the various variants thereof, also
2. Expanding war(s).

It's this crisis-to-crisis economic model which has given world leaders a blank check, spending which is not allowed to even be questioned! As they have turned this upside down on the people of the world as ANYONE who now dares question as to why all this crisis-to-crisis spending is being done is then branded as being "unpatriotic!" Or a person who does not care about "helping" people.

NOT ONE mainstream media source will EVER be allowed to explain the truth behind the crisis-to-crisis borrowing debt expansion mechanism, nor will a single world leader, OR a central banker explain it.

Will it ever end?

YES! The system, despite ever expanding debt, will eventually become illiquid.

A lack of liquidity in the system, despite finding ever more reasons to borrow, will eventually reach a saturation point. This saturation point will, and is already, manifesting itself in the form of skyrocketing inflation worldwide.

The inevitable end of the current debt-based system is rapidly approaching, and a move to yet another central bank run system is coming. A system of extreme control, a cashless system, where every single transaction is tracked down to the ten thousandth of a cent.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

THE FARMERS SHRUG: EURO PROTESTS SPREAD

Farmer protests against radical green agenda regulations spread from where they began in the Netherlands, to other countries in Europe this past week.

Next-stage green initiatives designed to radically cut fossil fuel use, nitrogen fertilizers and raising cows, among other things, touched off a massive protest in the Netherlands in early July (See [“DUTCH FARMERS DEMONSTRATE TO SHOW CLIMATE AGENDA IS A LOAD OF CRAP.”](#) 5 Jul 2022.)

Protesters driving tractors and other equipment blocked roads, swarmed government buildings, and clashed with police.

That organized frustration is now spreading. Radio Genoa in Italy reported:

“Italian farmers also rise up: ‘We are not slaves, we are farmers! We cannot make ends meet!’ Then a warning to politicians: ‘Let's come to Rome!’ The unjustified and nefarious increase in raw materials and basic necessities have brought the agricultural sector to its knees.”

Protests became more generally anti-elitist as they have gained momentum in France, Germany, Macedonia and elsewhere.

For example, French railroad workers initiated a general strike demanding higher wages to counter exploding consumer inflation.

The U.K. saw a highway “go slow” protest against exorbitant fuel prices.

The Russia - Ukraine conflict has surely helped ignite a growing frustration with the dictates of what the Biden administration termed “The Liberal World Order.”

Europeans have been asked to endure crushing gas and energy shortages and high prices as a result of attempts to sanction Russian gas.

The Eurozone set itself up for pain with years of “climate change” policies that saw Germany sunset its nuclear power station capabilities, for example.

They finally reversed at least some of those policies last week, [voting](#) to reclassify natural gas and nuclear power as “green energy” compliant.

Economically disastrous COVID policies have also played a huge role in the current moment.

Many protesters are blaming elitist NGOs like the World Economic Forum (WEF) for coordinating with and influencing governments to adopt policies that amount to “DeGrowth” and depopulation.

Last August Gideon van Meijeren, a member of the Dutch parliament, [called out](#) Prime Minister Mark Rutte’s close working relationship with the WEF.

The **Trends Journal** has extensively detailed the elitist agenda, most recently in [“DON’T CALL IT DRAGFLATION, IT’S “DEGROWTH” SAYS WEF”](#) (21 Jun 2022) and [“ENERGY INFLATION AND GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS”](#) (17 May 2022).

MSM Forced To Pay Attention to Popular Rebellion

Corporate and government media outlets sought to mostly ignore the Dutch protests. But that could no longer hold as protests spread.

An MSN / Newsweek [opinion piece](#) that slipped through the cracks observed:

“A popular uprising of working-class people against the elites and their values is underway—and it's crossing the globe. There is a growing resistance by the middle and lower classes against what Rob Henderson has coined the ‘luxury beliefs’ of the elites, as everyday folks realize the harm it causes them and their communities.”

The article noted that authorities and compliant media have been trying to use the Canadian Truckers COVID vaccine mandate protest as a blueprint for putting down the new popular groundswell (See [“O CANADA: GOVERNMENTS UNLEASH NEW REIGN OF ‘TERROR.’”](#) 22 Feb 2022.)

Farmers have been cast as extremists, and reporting has downplayed the protests. That means [footage of massive assemblies](#) aren’t being as widely seen as they deserve.

But European populations long mired in a cultural and demographic death spiral as a result of elitist policies and propaganda, may finally be reaching a breaking point.

Disastrous climate change dictates, prolonged COVID lockdowns, and now a raging and costly conflict affecting the whole continent and the whole world, are all part of the equation.

Russia has long stood out for its resistance to the “Liberal World Order” of globalism, elitist dictates, and conformity to a secularist anti-human agenda. That opposition is a large part of what has made it a pariah in the eyes of the puppet masters of the world.

Along with a few countries like Poland and Hungary, Russia has sought to incentivize the sustaining of their populations and culture, only to be castigated as “xenophobic” and green agenda apostates.

They have also objected to American hegemony—and the values and worldview it entails—in Eastern Europe. Their drawing a line at the instigations of NATO in Ukraine, now appears to be igniting a larger resistance to long-seeded policies designed to suppress and limit the power, potentials and even continuance of Europe’s peoples.

As the NewsBlog outlet [put it](#) concerning the Dutch farmer protests:

“PM Rutte and Kaag say to the Dutch people: ‘You will own nothing and you'll be happy.’ Rutte and Kaag are members of #WEF. Agenda of WEF is: globalist rich get richer. Poor people get poorer.”

Addendum: *Epoch Times* Features Population Control Story

The efforts of at least some Euro nations like Russia and Poland to encourage family policies to sustain population birth rates have been attacked as xenophobic, racist, environmentally irresponsible, etc. by elites and their green agenda proxies.

It’s encouraging to see *The Epoch Times* feature an article on 9 July squarely examining the role of elites in fostering human depopulation.

The [article details](#) the current state of downward spiraling birth rates in virtually all of the developed world outside of parts of Africa.

Steven Mosher, President of the Population Research Institute, was quoted detailing some of the modern history of depopulation efforts around the globe, led by the United Nations Population Fund, and elites like Bill Gates and Klaus Schwab.

That history has included ugly forced sterilization programs, child limit laws, and “incentives” for poor nations to depopulate, that truly do smack of racism and eugenics.

Mosher pointed to examples in South America, Africa and China. He noted that in Peru, for example, coerced sterilizations often focused on indigenous populations, while descendents of Spanish colonizers were not targeted:

“Doctors and nurses in Peru were given quotas of women to bring in each month for sterilization, on pain of losing their jobs unless they comply...”

“It’s always the majority sterilizing the minority, the ethnic minority, the religious minority.” In China, ethnic minority Tibetan or Uighur women are subject to sterilization, not the Han Chinese population which is the dominant ethnicity in China.”

SHINING LIGHT ON ELITE TAX AVOIDANCE



The tax schemes of the rich and powerful revealed in the “Pandora Papers” were only the latest revelation regarding how elites preserve and grow their own wealth at the expense of the rest of us.

The policies of the COVID pandemic, often backed and even developed by elites like Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Klaus Schwab, also notoriously shifted wealth and power from small businesses and average citizens, into the hands of pharmaceutical and tech billionaires, media moguls and political leaders.

The Biden administration, unfortunately, misfired with its plan to tax the unrealized gains of the wealthy.

The idea is patently unfair, of course. Unrealized “gains” and “losses” change from moment to moment, as one holds an investment. All those paper gains only become actual when cashed out or spent.

But the unfairness might be perfectly fine if confined to the truly mega rich. Any idea that these elites gained the bulk of their wealth by acting fairly themselves, is, to be charitable, naive.

The wealthy virtually always leverage their power and wealth to accrue more power and wealth, manipulating systems and policies, and often breaking laws to do so.

The **Trends Journal** has chronicled many examples. A few include:

- [“TOP 10 BILLIONAIRES IN U.S. WEALTH GREW \\$1 BILLION A DAY DURING COVID WAR”](#) (25 Jan 2022)
- [“LOOKING FOR COLLUSION? TRY GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK”](#) (18 Jan 2022)
- [“ZUCKERBERG BOUGHT 2020 ELECTION WITH HALF A BILLION”](#) (19 Oct 2021)
- [“AMAZON CAUGHT ILLEGALLY UNDERCUTTING COMPETITION”](#) (19 Oct 2021)
- [“RICHEST AMERICANS ARE BIGGEST TAX CHEATS TREASURY REPORT FINDS”](#) (14 Sep 2021)
- [“HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY”](#) (17 Aug 2021)
- [“BILLIONAIRE TAX SCOFFLAWS PLOW SAVINGS INTO WEBS OF CONTROL”](#) (15 Jun 2021)

The biggest problem with Biden’s plan isn’t its unfairness. It’s in the definition of “wealthy.”

The initial definition might encompass only the uber rich. But like any government law, once in place, it will no doubt be revised down to cast a wider and wider net, until the middle and working classes bear the brunt of the burden, while the rich devise clever loopholes only high paid lawyers can navigate, to minimize their compliance.

GMDR Might Mitigate Tax Haven Evasion

One tax-related proposal that may hold some promise is the idea of Global Mandatory Disclosure Rules (GMDR).

Currently, elites often use tax advisors, lawyers, financial institutions, and other intermediaries to hold their wealth through corporations and trusts organized in tax havens.

And many of those advisors exist in regions other than residence of the elite (largely non)tax payer, where regulations and reporting are much more lax, and out of the reach of the countries losing out on tax revenues.

GMDR would be a new international reporting standard, imposing reporting obligations on intermediaries assisting taxpayers with designing and implementing cross-border tax schemes.

That's according to Noam Noked and Zachary Marcone, two tax law specialists who first proposed the standard.

Noked, a Harvard Law graduate, is currently an Assistant Professor of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Marcone is also a Professor of Law there.

Their February 2022 research article on the subject of countering Tax Avoidance noted that mandatory disclosure rules (MDRs), which require that intermediaries report their clients' tax schemes, were introduced in the United States in the 1980s.

An international GMDR would build out that framework.

The authors argue that "GMDR is a missing piece in the global tax transparency framework which could close gaps in other international tax reporting standards."

They say GMDR could be an indispensable tool in the international effort to curb cross-border tax abuse.

The paper cites several ways in which current MDRs discourage or prevent tax avoidance schemes.

Perhaps the most important way is by forcing the schemes into the open:

“The first reason why MDRs are effective is straightforward: more tax schemes are detected by governments that employ MDRs. MDRs require reporting transactions that contain specific characteristics associated with tax avoidance or suspected tax evasion schemes. Thus, MDRs provide tax authorities with a valuable tool to identify such schemes...”

Their full proposal can be reviewed [here](#).

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



NY TIMES TRIES TO REHABILITATE GOVT DISINFORMATION BOARD

Poor *NY Times*. They were so close to being a disinfo paper of record.

It was not to be, as the Biden Administration’s Disinfo Governance Board went down in flames this spring.

A 6 July article tried to spin the failed initiative as a victim of the very “disinformation” it was being established so valiantly to fight.

In fact, Americans actually raised their voices against the Biden administration’s propaganda gambit to undermine First Amendment free speech protections.

Even on purge-happy Twitter, [reaction](#) against the latest *NY Times* agit-press spin was strong.

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya of the Stanford School of Medicine, who was directly disparaged by the *Times*, tweeted:

The

@nytimes

should take responsibility for the disinformation campaign it has waged in support of lockdowns, school closures, and institutionalized covid hypochondria these past 2+ years. This campaign included smears of dissenting scientists, as I can personally attest.

Others pointed out that the “paper of record” has been a world-class champ in disinfo going back to Walter Duranty. In the last 20 years, the paper crusaded with disinfo about WMDs in Iraq, Russian collusion, COVID and vaccine narratives, and most recently, the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The *Times* also launched a new line of attack against an old enemy, talk radio. In a piece titled, “On Conservative Radio, Misleading Message Is Clear: ‘Democrats Cheat’”, the paper [lamented](#):

“Misinfo experts warn that talk radio channels, many of which air political commentary 24 hours a day, receive far too little scrutiny ... also uniquely difficult to analyze and ... moderate, because the on-air musings from hosts usually disappear...”

Government Media Complex Wants to Expand “Fire In A Crowded Theater” Burn Down Free Speech Rights

Especially with the onset of the COVID War in 2020, the Federal government has coordinated with media, pharmaceutical and tech corporations to expansively define virtually any speech that threatens the elitist hegemony as “dangerous disinformation.”

The authoritarian tactic is not at all new. Of course.

It was seen during the Trump years, as a U.S. intelligence fueled deep state (with the very active help of corporate media) hobbled a political movement with bogus Hillary Clinton campaign concocted charges of Russian collusion.

Before that, the “climate change” lobby had created an effective blueprint for delegitimizing those who would debate the issue. They were called “science deniers.”

And “science” was the supreme bludgeon of the COVID War. There was no brooking opposition to the pronouncements of the CDC, and the personification of science itself, COVID czar Dr. Anthony Fauci.

To do so was to engage in disinformation dangerous to the public health and welfare.

The government used that rubric to crack down on peaceful objections and protests against COVID lockdowns, track and trace surveillance, and vaccine mandates.

But “dangerous disinformation” expanded to cover those who doubted the integrity of the 2020 Presidential election.

The Biden administration used it in 2021 to pillory those opposed to vaccine mandates, radical “green” energy policies, and gun control. Parents protesting CRT (Critical Race Theory) curriculums at PTA meetings were fingered by Biden’s Attorney General Merrick Garland as “dangerous disinfo” potential terrorists, worthy of special FBI response.

And when open war between Russia and Ukraine broke out in February of this year, the Biden administration was on it, smearing objections to its Nato expansionist “weapons and sanctions” policy as acts of Russian collaboration and dangerous disinfo.

Americans Fed Up With Institutional Control And Failure

The wreckage wrought by elites via COVID, environmental extremism and belligerent foreign policy has wakened many Americans to the blizzard of disinfo coming, not

from average Americans on Twitter, and YouTube, but from elitist controlled institutions.

They have seen and endured the disparity of treatment of COVID and election fraud protests, compared to much more violent and destructive BLM and Antifa protests.

They know “dangerous disinformation” is a political tool to gut yet more of their rights and power, and to cede even more of it to elites.

It’s not surprising that the Biden presidency, in the wake of catastrophic losses in public support, tried to spring a full-blown “Disinformation Governance Board” on the American public.

But Americans are fed up with being on an unending short stick of policies which succeed only in driving more power and wealth to elites, while everybody else loses.

And they’ve had it with being told to shut up about it all.

A June 2022 Gallup poll showed all-time lows in public confidence along a spectrum of institutions.

The poll found that the government, especially Congress and the Presidency, media and Big Business all dropped to abysmal all-time lows in public support.

Small business notably retained the highest public confidence of any group.

Gallup [said](#):

“This year's poll marks new lows in confidence for all three branches of the federal government—the Supreme Court (25%), the presidency (23%) and Congress. Five other institutions are at their lowest points in at least three decades of measurement, including the church or organized religion (31%), newspapers (16%), the criminal justice system (14%), big business (14%) and the police.”

If things keep going in the direction they are right now, elites soon might not have to worry about events in Europe.

The full whirlwind might be coming to America.

For further reading, see:

- [“FBI ENCOURAGES SNITCHING ON “EXTREMIST” FAMILY MEMBERS”](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- [“GOVERNMENT: FREE SPEECH IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH”](#) (21 Sep 2021)
- [“FBI: THE POLITICIZED POLICE UNDERMINING AMERICA”](#) (2 Nov 2021)

U.S. INTEL WORKING WITH “DATA BROKERS” TO TRACK AMERICANS, NEW EFF REPORT SHOWS

Remember those phone apps you clicked to “allow location,” assuming the data would be kept private and used only to provide you with more convenient services?

They’re not private. That data, funneled through several large private vendors, is being pipelined to U.S. Intel agencies to give them granular capabilities to identify and track American citizens.

No warrant needed or sought, no probable cause required.

The violations of Constitutional privacy rights have been detailed in a June 2022 Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) report titled “How the Federal Government Buys Our Cell Phone Location Data.”

According to the report, most app creators don’t even necessarily know or understand how the Software Development Kits (SDKs) they’re using are sending the location data to companies like Venntel.

Venntel, a “Data Broker” named in the report, has contracts with U.S. intelligence, selling the data and a platform for portal access to access and perform data queries and searches.

According to the EFF:

“Venntel has sold several annual licenses to its “Venntel Portal,” a web app granting access to its database, at a price of around \$20,000 for 12,000 queries. It has also sold direct access to all of its data from a region, updated daily and uploaded to a government-controlled server, for a more lavish \$650,000 per year.”

Babel Street, a government contractor, was also identified by the EFF as a phone app data siphon, via its “Location X” technology. The **Trends Journal** previously profiled abuses of the Babel Street / U.S. Intelligence relationship in [“WATCH THE SNARK: AI CAN NOW DETECT SARCASM ON SOCIAL MEDIA”](#) (11 May 2021).

Some other data brokers that siphon and sell via embeds in SDKs include Anomaly 6 and X-Mode.

The EFF notes:

“Perhaps the most prominent federal buyer of bulk location data is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as well as its subsidiaries, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).”

DHS has paid at least \$2 million for location data products from Venntel, according to records cited by the EFF.

Few politicians are seeking to do anything about the corporate-government scheme to abuse data collection for the purpose of what EFF describes as comprehensive tracking and surveillance.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) has been one who has been investigating and trying to shine light on the abuses.

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

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



AUTOMATING OUT OF WORLD CRISIS?

Workforce disruptions, supply chain woes, international conflict, energy sector chaos, food shortages—how are businesses responding to the challenges of the current moment?

A new report points to automation.

Put together by Futurum Research and Automation Anywhere, a leading company in the field, the report found that businesses are rapidly increasing their moves to automate business processes, leveraging AI and robotics.

It amounts to a new automation revolution which will likely be as transformative as the original industrial revolution.

But with automation and AI technology, come serious questions about who benefits, and who gets left behind.

Could crypto-based blockchain technologies not only power responsible automation and AI advancement, but provide a basis for a fair and wide dispersal of the economic benefits?

It's something that should be on the agenda of forward-thinking policy makers and crypto communities looking to build an age of "crypto" utility.

Automation Becoming the Measure of How Business Gets Done

More than 77 percent of organizations said they will boost their automation budgets in the year ahead and expect to have 500 or more bots deployed within 12 months.

A quarter of respondents said their automation spending will increase by at least 25 percent.

The report also revealed that:

- Businesses say they see an average return on automation investment of 6.3X
- 94 percent of respondents said automation is helping address supply chain issues
- 61 percent of respondents strongly agreed that automation has helped address staffing shortages
- A majority of companies—some 70 percent—said that almost a third of their their current work across various business functions could be automated

Who Wins In the Automation Boom?

Crypto based blockchain technology, and AI and robotics represent some of the most transformative innovations currently changing modern life.

But there are crucial questions concerning who stands to benefit.

In the case of crypto technologies, virtually anyone can participate in the innovations, by investing and using cryptocurrencies, fungible tokens, NFTs, and / or getting involved with a DAO community, for example.

Cryptos have been especially noted for their democratizing aspects.

Right now AI fueled automation and robotics is a different story. While tech giants are leading the way, they're also reaping the most profits. And those profits are flowing disproportionately to a relative few in the upper echelons.

What's more, workers already hurt by COVID policies and now a NATO exacerbated Russia-Ukraine conflict that has worldwide repercussions, are facing competition and even obsolescence driven by a new automation revolution.

As the **Trends Journal** noted recently in [“AI IS LEARNING YOUR JOB”](#) (24 May 2022), even many business experts agree that the new automation drive will have negative ramifications for many.

A recent Pew Research poll found that experts say AI and robotics will displace huge numbers of human workers in the near future:

“According to Pew Research, about half (48%) of experts surveyed felt that robots and digital agents will displace a significant number of blue- and white-collar jobs. Their concern is that this will increase income inequality and create a mass of virtually unemployable people.”

How Cryptos Might Work To Democratize The New Automation Revolution

The crypto sector already employs AI and automation, and that trend is sure to grow. Smart Contracts are an example of automation. The code automatically executes when a given set of criteria are met. Smart contracts form much of the basis of the “software” functions of networks like Ethereum and Solana.

AI is also being employed and/or developed on various blockchain based crypto projects.

[Singularity Net](#) is perhaps the most well known project. The initiative has created the famous (or infamous, depending on one's point of view) Sophia robot, who has spoken at the UN, and in the world's first "robot debate."

As its name indicates, the Singularity Net project is predicated on ushering a future moment when AI becomes more capable than human intelligence in every respect.

It's a highly dangerous goal that many argue should face a moratorium, and quite possibly a permanent ban. At the very least such decisions should not be in the hands of a relative few, operating without public scrutiny or regulation. Careful oversight is needed to prevent dangerous potentials.

DeepBrain Chain is a platform that uses blockchain to create AI algorithms. It runs on the NEO blockchain.

DeepBrain Chain says [its technology](#) can lower hardware related AI computation costs for enterprises that want to employ AI algorithms, by as much as 70 percent.

According to a project [whitepaper](#):

"DeepBrain Chain allows the artificial intelligence neural network operation to be decentralized and distributed over the mass nodes of the whole world through blockchain technology. Thus, the cost can be just 30% of the user's self-built neural network server; and less than 50% of the traditional artificial intelligence centralization cloud computing platform."

Other crypto projects employ AI to assist investing, and perform other services or functions.

But crypto technology can also potentially more widely disperse the rewards of efficiencies and capabilities that AI and automation are producing.

Projects like DeepBrain Chain have crypto tokens in which anyone can invest.

But DAOs offer an even greater potential for widely disbursing benefits. DAOs not only can replace many aspects of a traditional business with automated processes. They offer people an ability for communities to participate in the governance and operating structures of the blockchain based organization.

Think of it as a stockholder meeting that is continually in session and evolving based on the inputs of the stockholders.

DAOs could transform the private—and public—sectors in ways that are just beginning to be imagined.

A few examples:

- Governments could require giant tech companies currently hoarding profits from AI and automation, funneled to a few mega billionaires, to institute DAOs that disseminated profits and decision making to all employees, and even members of communities where companies operated provided services. Think of how that might transform Amazon, Google and Facebook.
- Governments could be required to employ DAOs in a crypto powered version of what Sarah Palin achieved while Governor of Alaska, where Alaskan citizens widely received the financial rewards from natural resources the state leased.
- Governments could work with the private sector and supposedly civic-minded elites like Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk to use DAOs to implement a BUI (Basic Universal Income) from the productivity of AI and automation.

With DAOs and crypto ecosystems where anyone can invest and participate, decision-making about who gets that pie needn't and shouldn't be left to politicians or plutocrats (or AI itself).

The bulk of humankind can be empowered to have a direct stake in and governance of both the technology, and the rewards derived from it.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT DEFINES KEY TERMS OF COMING CRYPTO REGULATIONS



The Treasury Department has put forward definitions of “digital assets” and “mass adoption,” that would be used in any coming federal crypto regulations.

The Department’s issuance in the *Federal Register* follows a Biden executive order early this year on an all-government approach to investigating and reporting back on cryptocurrencies and a possible CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency).

According to Treasury:

“Regardless of the label used, a digital asset may be, among other things, a security, a commodity, a derivative or other financial product,” Treasury wrote. “Digital assets may be exchanged across digital asset trading platforms, including centralized and decentralized finance platforms, or through peer-to-peer technologies.”

The term “Mass Adoption,” meanwhile, would be applicable to a digital asset that was “used as a common and regular payment method for goods and services.”

According to the tech and government conduit website Nextgov.com, the government will seek [comment](#) over the next 30 days regarding its proposed definitions.

Nextgov noted that though the crypto market has seen a huge overall devaluation since Biden’s executive order in January, many politicians consider the use and growth of digital assets as an inevitability.

BRAINARD URGES TIGHTER RULES FOR CRYPTO



Tighter regulation of digital currencies is needed to protect small investors and to help tame the industry's volatility as it continues to grow, Lael Brainard, vice-chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, said in a London speech last week at a conference hosted by the Bank of England.

Cryptocurrencies dangle “the false allure of seemingly easy returns that obscures significant risk,” she noted.

Crypto’s risks “are all too familiar from traditional finance, such as leverage, settlement, opacity, and maturity and liquidity transformation,” she said.

The crypto industry has faced only minor regulation by governments so far.

Europe is studying the issue and U.S. regulators have been pushing for years for Congressional authorization to impose rules on crypto, as we have reported in [“SEC Push to Regulate Crypto”](#) (7 Dec 2021), CFTC Chief Seeks Authority to Regulate Crypto (15 February, 2022), and other articles.

As well as protecting investors, the rules should cover trading and lending firms that operate in ways similar to traditional financial institutions “without comparable regulatory compliance,” she said.

“This is the right time to ensure that like risks are subject to like regulatory outcomes and disclosures,” she added.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives each are drafting regulatory frameworks for digital assets with a special emphasis on governing stablecoins, which are digital currencies the value of which is tied to a non-digital asset, such as the dollar, euro, or price of gold.

Rules should begin by protecting individual investors from “exploitation, conflicts of interest, and market manipulation—risks to which they are particularly vulnerable, according to a host of research,” Brainard said.

The absence of such protections can lead to investor stampedes, she warned.

“It is important that the foundations for sound regulation of the crypto financial system be established now before the crypto ecosystem becomes so large or interconnected [with traditional financial infrastructure] that it might pose risks to the stability of the broader financial system,” she emphasized.

TREND FORECAST: *In May, the European Union proposed a new set of more comprehensive regulations over the crypto industry. If adopted, the rules will take effect in 2024.*

Europe’s draft regulations will serve as a template and starting point, as well as a prod, for the U.S. and other nations to begin structuring their own formal oversight of the cryptocurrency industry.

EL SALVADOR’S BITCOIN BET GOES BUST



As we reported in [“El Salvador Becomes World ‘s First National Bitcoin Experiment”](#) (22 Feb 2022), the tiny Central American nation became the world’s first country to honor Bitcoin as legal tender as part of president Nayib Bukele’s plan to leverage the digital coin to enable his country’s economy to flourish.

In 2021, Bukele's administration allotted about 15 percent of the national budget to build an infrastructure for acquiring, spending, and receiving Bitcoin and processing the digital transactions through financial institutions.

Bukele then offered each El Salvadoran about \$30 worth of Bitcoin—about 1 percent of the country's annual average wage—to everyone who downloaded a digital Bitcoin wallet.

Then reality arrived.

Although Bukele says 60 percent of adults in his country downloaded the wallet and claimed the stipend, only 10 percent continued using Bitcoin after they spent their \$30, according to a study by U.S. economists.

Almost no one has downloaded the wallet this year, the study found.

The government's Bitcoin holdings have lost 60 percent of their value, El Salvadorans have stopped using it, and the country is running out of money as Bukele remains unable to raise more money from Bitcoin investors to bankroll his vision.

Only 14 percent of merchants report having had Bitcoin transactions and a scant 3 percent say they see any business value in it, according to a poll taken by El Salvador's chamber of commerce.

Salvadorans in the U.S. have ignored Bukele's call to use Bitcoin to send remittances home; the digital currency has made up less than 2 percent of remittances from the U.S. this year through May, the country's central bank said.

Also, the notion that El Salvador's celebration of Bitcoin would bring digital currency businesses to the country has flopped.

Only 48 related companies have registered in the nation since Bitcoin became a national currency, which accounts for less than 2 percent of the number of businesses that opened there in 2019, the *WSJ* said.

“The impact has been null,” Leonor Selva, executive director of the country’s National Association for Private Enterprise, said in a *WSJ* interview.

The economy is careening toward a choice between slashing public services or defaulting on foreign debt, which could halt imports of staples and even cause a bank run, the *WSJ* warned.

“Bukele has shown that he cares more about public image than about sound economic management,” Frank Muci, a London School of Economics policy analyst who studies emerging markets, told the *WSJ*.

“Eventually, the chickens will come home to roost, at a very high cost to the country,” he added.

That time has not come yet: Bukele remains popular among the public, largely because of his administration’s subsidized fuel prices and crackdown on gangs.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



POLS SUDDENLY DISCOVER “ETHICS” WHEN IT COMES TO CRYPTOS

Remember Nancy Pelosi overseeing huge government decisions regarding government contracting to tech companies, while her husband was trading on those stocks?

Remember those SEC Presidents trading on inside information who conveniently retired after they were found out?

Or how about the hundreds of Federal judges who had no problem presiding over cases where they had financial interest?

Not to worry. The government has suddenly found ethics when it comes to cryptos. Or at least a twisted version of it.

This past week, an ethics watchdog announced a rule that would bar any government employee who owns any amount of crypto, from developing or writing crypto regulations.

The rule goes beyond what is allowed for other types of assets including securities.

In other words, it sets a “crypto only” ethics standard that is de facto anti-crypto, and anything but fair or ethical.

A New Double Standard For Crypto

According to a legal advisory notice released by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), cryptocurrencies and stablecoins are not covered by the de minimis exemption, which allows government employees to personally hold small amounts of investments, without being considered to have a conflict of interest.

The complete crypto bar would be in force even if the cryptocurrencies "constitute securities for purposes of the federal or state securities laws." It would apply even if the aforementioned cryptocurrencies "constitute securities for purposes of the federal or state securities laws.”

The rule makes an exception for Fed employees who are invested in mutual funds that have crypto exposure, up to 50-thousand dollars. Mutual funds that primarily focus on crypto investment would not be permitted for investment.

Overall, it effectively ensures that people who are “crypto dumb” or anti-crypto will write the crypto rules.

The crypto rule is another step in the wrong direction for a nation already sabotaging itself on energy policy, trade policy, financial and monetary policy, immigration, foreign policy and in almost every other way possible.

Prominent crypto investor Raoul Pal put it this way in a Twitter post:

“We have created the perfect storm: an unimagined global, financial, economic and potentially humanitarian crisis that is going to take everything we've got to stop it.”

Pal noted in another [series of posts](#) that cryptos, which are much bigger than just bitcoin, have the power to be a huge economic innovation engine:

Yes, there is a bitcoin revolution but there is a digital asset revolution going on that is beyond incredible. It is very early days, like BTC in 2013, but it's happening. Some will be on the BTC blockchain but the vast majority will not be. 1/...

This makes it all the most exciting opportunity I have EVER seen. The metaverse, the internet of value, SoV, pristine collateral and an entirely new future is beyond BIG. It is the next and biggest part of the internet revolution and its only just started...

It will have booms and busts. Projects will fail and some will be worth hundreds of billions.

But everything has changed. Keep your mind open.

LIGHTNING NETWORK SEEDS CREATOR ECONOMY AS SAYLOR DOUBLES DOWN

To help spur a crypto-based internet “creator economy,” Mash, a platform for Lightning Network based Bitcoin payments, raised \$6 million in seed money in June.

Whitecap Venture Partners and Nic Carter's Castle Island Ventures jointly led the fundraising round, according to CoinDesk.com. Other entities including Maple VC, Strategic Cyber Ventures, and Aquanow also took part.

The [Mash platform](#) enables developers and content producers to provide clients with "pay-as-you-enjoy" pricing choices for internet content.

By utilizing the platform, content creators can monetize things like scrolling through an article on a website, watching a video, downloading a pdf, paying for chapters of a book or series, etc.

According to the company, content creators can “Charge for any action, click, event or time based experience with web components, apps & modules. Crowd-fund and unlock experiences at contribution thresholds.”

Mash includes a Lightning Network enabled wallet that creators can offer users, though it’s not required for payments.

Saylor Buys More BTC and Says It’s the “Only Commodity”

As projects like Mash and others continue to build during the crypto winter, MicroStrategy’s Michael Saylor reportedly picked up another 400-plus BTC.

Saylor also offered his opinion on what cryptos qualify as “commodities” and which were “securities.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the bitcoin maximalist said only bitcoin was a true digital commodity.

“I think Ethereum is a security, I think it’s pretty obvious,” Saylor [opined](#) in an [Altcoin Daily](#) YouTube channel interview. “It was issued by an ICO, there’s a management team, there was a pre-mine, there’s a hard fork, there’s continual hard forks, there’s a difficulty bomb that keeps getting pushed back.”

U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Cynthia Lummis, currently working on bi-partisan crypto legislation, have both previously stated they believe Ethereum qualifies as a commodity.

Meanwhile, the SEC has been embroiled for years in a suit against Ripple, claiming XRP is a security.

Securities are fungible, tradable financial products, while commodities are items with a financial value and/or function. Commodities can encompass precious metals like gold, energy resources like coal and oil, and staple foods like corn and wheat.

The issue is crucial, since regulations for securities differ substantially from government regulations involving commodities.

Without a doubt, if Bitcoin were designated as the sole significant crypto commodity in the U.S., it would have a huge impact on the sector, the price of bitcoin, etc.

Saylor can hope.

But the fact is, crypto networks have been hard to classify, and that has to do with the unprecedented aspects of the technology.

On a fundamental level crypto networks power software that can do anything that software can do: everything from gaming, to accounting, to facilitating financial transactions and arbitrage, to data processing, to high level AI and algorithm development, etc.

But crypto networks are also ecosystems which assign and distribute value they create and sustain, via tokens and cryptocurrencies paid to those who maintain network nodes, to communities and investors, etc.

Fast Evolving, Hard to Classify

Crypto networks and their functions and abilities are fast evolving, and regulators, late to the game in recognizing the impact of the technology, will likely be playing catch up for some time.

The question is whether implemented regulations can protect participants and investors from scams, minimize abuses like money laundering and so on, while allowing legitimate innovation to continue.

As always, government interest is also motivated by making sure it receives its cut of generated wealth. That's as it ever has been in history.

The real problem would be if government regulators acted on behalf of entrenched tech and financial interests (like old line tech corps and banks) to try to co-opt, suppress or even snuff out crypto technology.

The SEC's drawn out lawsuit against Ripple points to a possible worst case scenario. Quoted at dailyhodl.com, John E. Deaton, partner at Deaton Law Firm and a specialist in crypto law and outspoken critic of the SEC action, said [getting it wrong](#) with XRP might cripple the crypto sector, especially in the U.S.:

“Considering [U.S.] Congress is not going to provide regulatory clarity (especially in an election year on the heels of the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade), the ruling by Judge Analisa Torres in the Southern District of New York will decide whether the SEC has jurisdiction over the existing altcoins that have traded for years.

“The SEC IS NOT only alleging the way Ripple offers and sells XRP is illegal but that ALL XRP are unregistered securities. It's the functional equivalent of claiming the oranges or groves in SEC v. W.J. Howey Co. were securities. If successful, then almost every other altcoin is a security.”

Malicious regulation would be a costly mistake. It wouldn't ultimately stop crypto innovations, which will flow to friendlier regions. But it would hurt the jurisdictions that failed to take advantage of the efficiencies, innovations and subsequent value created by the technology.

G20 TO GET CRYPTO REG RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FSB THIS OCTOBER

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) called for new international regulations for cryptocurrencies yesterday, and it will provide a report on regulatory and supervisory approaches to stablecoins and other crypto assets to the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in October.

The FSB, composed of a group of regulators, government representatives, and central bankers, cited recent crypto market volatility to argue that there was a risk to financial stability.

Many of the same G20 nations have supported a deeply destabilizing prolonged conflict and disastrous set of sanctions against Russia, as a result of the Russia - Ukraine conflict.

They also supported COVID lockdown and other related policies that have decimated world economies.

Based in Switzerland, the FSB does include some representatives from Russia and China.

An FSB statement announcing their intent to produce a set of recommendations emphasized how the failure of one market player could quickly spread risks to other components of the ecosystem and have repercussions on traditional finance.

The statement specifically included crypto stablecoins, which have been on the agenda for several financial regulators since the Terra meltdown in May, according to theblockcrypto.com.

Last week U.S. Federal Reserve vice chair Lael Brainard, sounded a similar rationale, and said the crypto sector needs "strong guardrails."

Guardrails might be read as protections to consumers. But just as likely, it could mean prohibitions on cryptos to prevent them from competing with and assuming certain functions of traditional finance, including banks, governments, and even telecom and tech corporations.

Some believe the strategy of these invested groups may be to pick the crypto sector clean of its innovations and absorb them into old-line existing centralized powers and entities.

A corpse of crypto's original anti-authority ethos and mechanisms might be the intended result.

China, with its digital yuan and “blockchain without crypto” initiatives, is showing the way on that strategy (See [“CHINA ‘INNOVATING’ BLOCKCHAINS WITHOUT CRYPTO.”](#) 5 Jul 2022).

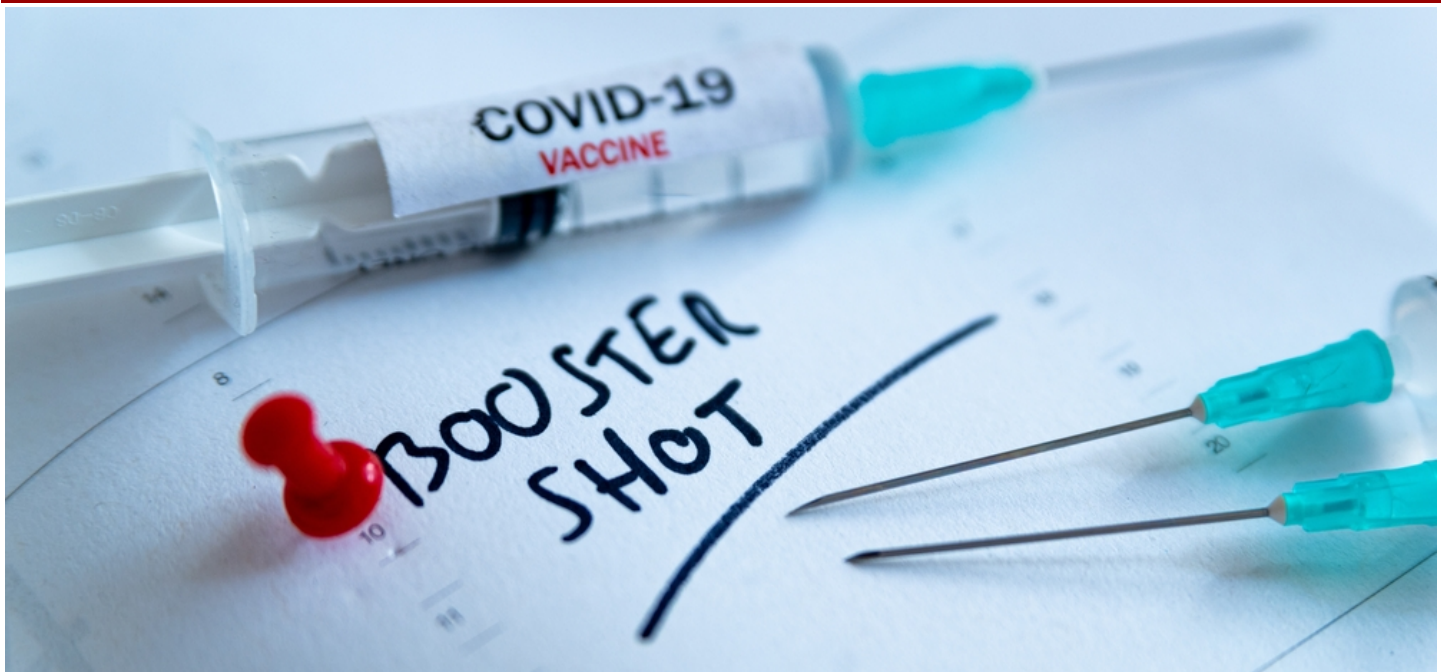
Finally...

Let no one say we can't have a laugh at Blockchain Battles in the midst of 2022's “crypto winter.”

For those who might enjoy a tongue-in-cheek guide to major cryptocurrencies, check out this [post by whiskasthecat](#) on reddit.

And for a more serious forensic on how “CeFi” and “DeFi” have played out in the current crypto crisis, check out this CoinDesk article, [“Satoshi Wept.”](#)

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



COVID-19 BOOSTERS BARELY WORK, STUDIES SHOW

The COVID-19 vaccine's effectiveness could drop to about 20 percent a few months after the booster shot is administered, according to an Italian review of COVID studies.

"Booster doses were found to restore the VE [vaccine effectiveness] to levels comparable to those acquired soon after administration of the second dose; however, a fast decline of booster VE against Omicron was observed, with less than 20% VE against infection and less than 25% VE against symptomatic disease at 9 months from the booster administration," the authors wrote in the paper.

The study found that two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were less than 5 percent effective at preventing a symptomatic infection with the Omicron variant, which is famous for evading the immune defense system. Three doses were up to about 22 percent effective at preventing symptomatic infection.

95 Percent Effective

Pfizer and BioNTech announced in November 2020 that they created a COVID-19 vaccine that was 95 percent effective at preventing the spread of the virus. At about the same time, Moderna announced that its vaccine was about 94.5 percent effective at reducing infections.

But as millions of Americans lined up to take the vaccines to be considered “fully vaccinated,” there began to be what was called “breakthrough” cases of the virus. Health officials first brushed off these infections, and said there is no such thing as a vaccine that is 100 percent effective, and people should still sign up for the jab.

These breakthrough infections have since become commonplace. Just last weekend, “fully vaxxed and boosted” Sens. Chuck Schumer and Richard Blumenthal announced that they came down with the virus.

The number of breakthrough infections has created a new challenge for politicians in selling the jab. There is no more pretending that these vaccines actually prevent infections. The new selling point is that they reduce the risk of serious infection and hospitalization.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that fewer than 1/3 of Americans have taken a booster shot. The Omicron variant appears to be more effective at evading previous immunity.

There was also a similar study in Israel to get a sense of the fourth jab’s effectiveness among the elderly. The study found that the jab was associated with 34 percent protection against infection, 64 percent to 67 percent against acute hospitalizations, and 72 percent against deaths, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

The report said the fourth jab saved lives but its protection against infection with the Omicron variant was only “modest.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the sub-variant and its impact on the population. (See [“PLAY SCRAMBLE: DOES OMICRON= MORONIC.”](#) [“OMICRON: WE](#)

[DON'T KNOW IF VACCINES ARE EFFECTIVE. BUT YOU MUST TAKE THE JAB](#) and ["FU' OMICRON. DENMARK QUITTING THE COVID WAR."](#))

From Normal to ABnormal

A recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the SCAN Foundation found that just 12 percent of adults think their life is the same as it was before the COVID-19 outbreak. About 34 percent say their lives are not the same.

According to the survey, 51 percent of Americans believe that a COVID-19 vaccine is "essential for them," while 39 percent believe that widespread vaccinations are needed to get back to normal.

The survey found that just 22 percent believe that wearing masks in public indoor places is essential to going back to pre-COVID life.

TREND FORECAST: *Gerald Celente had forecast since the beginning of the year that the COVID War would wind down by late March, mid-April and draconian mandates would be lifted as the once sheltered-in-place population wants to let loose, go out, dine out, travel, and spend on entertainment.*

And, on the government side, politicians and bureaucrats who suck off the public tit need tax revenues so they can get paid. Therefore, with businesses closed down on and off for two years and other restrictions placed upon them, less taxes are coming in, thus a need to ease draconian COVID mandates.

In addition, after two years of lockdowns and draconian mandates, a once compliant majority is dwindling to a minority, thus politicians are relaxing the mandates to build their voter base. (See ["DENMARK: PROTESTS SUCCESSFUL, NO FORCED VACCINATIONS."](#) ["DENMARK LEADING TO END COVID WAR."](#) ["MUTATION FEARS: 17M FARMED MINK KILLED IN DENMARK"](#) and ["DELTA VARIANT THROWS NEW OBSTACLE IN WAY OF EU RECOVERY."](#))

And as for the side effects of taking the Operation Warp Speed COVID Jab, see Dr. Joseph Mercola's article: [“Will Pfizer Be Charged for Mislabeling Vaccine Side Effects?”](#).

AMERICANS SEE WASHINGTON AS LOSING THE COVID WAR



A recent Pew Research poll found a dramatic shift in the trust Americans have in health officials after more than two years of dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The survey found that President Joe Biden has lost public support in his handling of the outbreak. The survey pointed out that about 65 percent of Americans said they were confident in his ability to deal with the virus at the beginning of his presidency.

The survey now says 56 percent of Americans believe he is doing a “fair or poor job” in handling the outbreak. Just 43 percent polled said he is doing an excellent job.

The survey questioned 10,282 adults in the U.S. and was conducted from 2 May to 8 May.

Medical officials for the government have also seen their overall ratings fall since the beginning of the outbreak. Democrats, or those who lean towards the party, are more likely to say these officials have done an “excellent or good job” at responding to the outbreak. About 72 percent of these individuals agree with the comment compared to just 29 percent of those who align with Republicans.

Pew noted that both Republicans and Democrats gave public health officials positive ratings during the start of the outbreak.

Vaccines were ranked at the top of the list of what worked at slowing the virus' spread, but not by much. About 55 percent said these vaccines were effective at limiting the spread while 22 percent said these jabs were only somewhat effective. About 23 percent said these vaccines were not effective at all.

"I think people thinking it's very much influenced by the fact that the chances you're going to die of COVID have gone down substantially on a per-case basis," Dr. Robert Wachter, a professor and the chair of the medicine department at the University of California, San Francisco, told *The New York Times*.

TRENDPOST: *It's clear why these numbers have taken a dive: these "health officials" and politicians have used the COVID-19 outbreak to instill fear in public based on "political science" rather than science. And, to even associate the word science with "political" is not only a misnomer, it elevates politics to a level far above the depths of criminal actions and deeds.*

These "health officials" rushed through vaccines that lose effectiveness over a short period of time and against new variants. We heard the constant drone that masks were essential in preventing the spread, but these officials later clarified that they have to be worn correctly and the type of mask plays an important role in keeping you safe.

Inconsistency breeds doubt, and we have seen that inconsistent messaging has been an Achilles heel for health officials, who were led by the political showman, Dr. Anthony Fauci. In March 2020, he assured the public that masks were pointless and should be used only by medical workers.

The lockdowns and mandatory vaccinations that were imposed by politicians were also an infringement on our basic rights as Americans. (See ["FAUCI THE FAKE: THE ROOT OF ALL PANDEMIC LIES."](#) ["QUADRUPLE-VAXXED FAUCI GETS COVID, GETS SICK."](#) and ["FAUCI: FACTS DON'T COUNT, AUTHORITIES DO AND WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO."](#))

While politicians and health officials have promoted vaccines, they do nothing to promote a healthier lifestyle and ways to improve your immune system for a good outcome if infected.

URUGUAY: NO JAB FOR KIDS. LEGAL FIGHT CONTINUES



A judge in Uruguay issued an injunction last week that suspends the COVID-19 vaccine for children under the age of 13 while a legal case plays out about the jab's safety and government contracts.

The case focuses on information about the ingredients of the Pfizer COVID-19 jab and contracts that were signed prior to its approval in the country.

Alejandro Recarey, the judge of the Administrative Litigation Court, said last month that the company should provide documentation on the composition of the vaccine "including the possible presence of 'graphene oxide' or 'nanotechnological elements.'"

The AFP, citing the document, reported that Recarey, the judge who issued the injunction, requested that authorities "explain whether alternative anticovid-19 therapies have been studied" and "if not, clarify why these solutions were not explored."

The anti-vaccine activists who are suing for the information claim Uruguay has failed to provide information about these contracts that could offer Pfizer civil and criminal immunity due to any adverse effects from the jabs, The Associated Press said. The judge has requested the chemical composition of the vaccines.

We have reported extensively on the COVID-19 vaccine and how the drug was rushed to the marketplace. (See ["YOU ARE WRONG IF YOU BELIEVE ALL VACCINES ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE."](#) and ["PFIZER: DRUG DEALERS ON PARADE."](#))

Uruguay called the judge's decision a threat to public health, and said these vaccines will continue to be administered to those over the age of 13.

TRENDPOST: The **Trends Journal** has been a leader in reporting on the dangerous adverse events of COVID vaccines. (See our many Vaccine [“Fast Facts”](#) articles dating back to early [February 2021](#), when data from the COVID vaccine rollouts began coming into the VAERS database.)

Little wonder that Pfizer and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention tried to block information concerning COVID vaccine “Warp Speed” development and trials from being released to the public for 75 years.

Many would call that cover-up attempt criminal.

The AFP reported that the court will require the explanation as to whether studies have been “aiming to explain the notorious increase in deaths from COVID-19 as of March 2021 in relation to the previous year.”

“Very especially, Pfizer will be instructed to state within 48 hours—with the provision of documentary data if applicable—if the company has admitted (...) the verification of adverse effects of vaccines against the so-called COVID-19. In general, and also in detail regarding the child population,” the report said, citing the document.

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



BIG JOKE: U.S. AND U.K. SECURITY HEADS WARNS OF CHINA'S SPYING

The head of the FBI and Britain's M15 held a joint press conference last week to talk about the rising threat of Chinese spying amid tensions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine and threats to Taiwan.

Christopher Wray, the FBI head, and Ken McCallum, the British spy head, told reporters in London that Beijing has been using “elaborate shell games” in the business sphere to disguise its spying.

“The Chinese government poses an even more serious threat to western businesses than even many sophisticated business people realize,” Wray said. “I want to encourage you to take the long view as you gauge the threat.”

Wray said there is no sunlight between the Chinese government and Chinese companies and that needs to be understood when it comes to the challenge of spying.

McCallum told reporters that Beijing's threat is the most "game-changing" to other countries because "it pervades so many aspects of our national life."

Bullshit Has Its Own Sound

To put this into perspective, Philip Giraldi—a former CIA station chief and military intelligence officer and now executive director of the Council for the National Interest, a US-based non-profit anti-war advocacy—told *Sputnik* news, "What strikes me immediately about this joint performance is the sheer hypocrisy of it."

Confirming what we have long forecast, Giraldi noted that "... of course, there is the irony that this anger expressed by the UK and US will be counterproductive as it will only serve to drive China and Russia closer."

Indeed, the world has made a significant shift since Russia's 24 February invasion. On one side there's the closer unification of the United States and NATO, on the other side, Russia and China.

The joint conference was seen as a sign of the close relationship between agencies and how they believe a joint effort is required to counter China. Beijing has been accused of stealing intellectual property from Western tech companies.

"The Chinese government is set on stealing your technology—whatever it is that makes your industry tick—and using it to undercut your business and dominate your market," Wray told the audience, which was mainly comprised of business people, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. "They're set on using every tool at their disposal to do it."

McCallum followed the comments by accusing Beijing of engaging in a "coordinated campaign on a grand scale" to win a "strategic contest across decades."

"We need to act," he said.

No Proof Needed

Commenting on their ready to “act,” act. Giraldi noted that, “As a former intelligence officer, I am reflexively skeptical of claims of ‘breathtaking’ or ‘immense’ Chinese illegal activity and threats without evidence to back up those assertions.”

Giraldi said McCallum and Wray “have provided no such evidence and their bluster should be dismissed as little more than the latest political smokescreen sent up to bolster the fortunes of the foundering governments in Washington and London that seem to have lost the art of diplomacy and are instead relying on innuendo against their perceived enemies.”

TRENDPOST: The ***Trends Journal*** has long forecast that the next century will belong to China. (See [“TOP TRENDS 2021: THE RISE OF CHINA.”](#)) We also pointed out that one of President Joe Biden’s first moves after taking office was to inform the country that his top priority as president is to make sure the U.S. keeps its edge over China. (See [“CHINA TASK FORCE: U.S. APPROACH TO BEIJING”](#) and [“BIDEN VS. CHINA’S BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: U.S. LOSES.”](#))

Wray told reporters at the M15 headquarters that the countries want to “send the clearest signal we can on a massive shared challenge—China.” He said taking on China is a priority if “we are to protect our economies, our institutions and our democratic values.”

TREND FORECAST: The United States and Europe will lose in the economic challenge against China. While President Biden stated that Beijing would not surpass Washington in power during his term in the White House, that has zero to do with U.S. policy or the Biden administration.

The hard facts and analyses project China to surpass the U.S. as the world’s largest economy by 2028.

As we have long noted, the business of America has been war, and the business of China is business.

As we have been reporting, former President Bill Clinton brought China into the World Trade Association in 2000 (which Senator Joe Biden supported), and China's GDP at the time accounted for a 3.6 percent share of the world's economy. Now, just 20 years later, it has grabbed a nearly 18 percent share.

Thus, as China expands its domestic economy and continues to develop its BRI, it will continue to grow in financial and military power as the United States and Europe decline.

HUNDREDS KILLED AS ETHNIC VIOLENCE INTENSIFIES IN WAR-TORN ETHIOPIA



Hundreds of people were killed in Ethiopia's Oromia region last week in what was seen as the latest flash of ethnic violence.

The **Trends Journal** has long documented the ongoing conflict in Tigray. (See [“ETHIOPIA UPDATE: TIGRAY FORCES RETAKE CAPITAL CITY,”](#) [“ETHIOPIA'S WAR:](#)

[DEATHS OF AT LEAST 2000 TIGRAY CHILDREN NOT 'NEWS'...ONLY UKRAINE VICTIMS COUNT,”](#) and [“ETHIOPIA CIVIL WAR= MASS MURDER, MASS STARVATION.”](#))

The recent massacre was blamed on the Oromo Liberation Army. *The New York Times* pointed out that Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is a member of the Oromo ethnic group and was born there, which it called a “thorny challenge” for the leader.

Abiy is a former Nobel Peace Prize winner who went to war in Tigray after it held elections in September 2020 despite a countrywide voting ban allegedly due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Ethnic militias have also formed across the Tigray region and have taken part in campaigns of rape, looting, and killings.

Some of the victims in Oromia were buried, so it is hard to put a precise number on deaths. The Amhara Association of America told the *Times* that about 300 people were killed. Abiy called the killings a “massacre,” and took to Twitter to vow that his government will “eliminate” the OLA fighters.

The BBC, citing witnesses, reported that the killings started on Monday, at dawn, in Hawa Gelan, and spanned for three hours. Witnesses said the killings were indiscriminate, and included men, women, and children. Homes were set ablaze.

"We heard about 25 youths were taken to the woods and killed. We still haven't found their bodies," one man told the outlet.

Another told VOA News that residents are still living in fear.

“In the afternoon, yesterday when we tried to bury our loved ones, there were lots of snipers shooting, we couldn’t bury our family members,” he said. “We are not alive, we are waiting to die.”

The reports of the killings comes three weeks after hundreds of people in the Amhara community were killed in the region, according to The Associated Press. The same rebel group was blamed. The group called the allegations false and blamed government forces and other local militias.

The country has been torn apart due to ethnic clashes and hunger remains a constant threat. Ethiopia is among several countries that have sections of its population living with phase-5 catastrophic levels of hunger, according to the United Nations. The COVID-19 lockdowns and sanctions tied to the Ukraine War have exacerbated the problem.

The recent UN's Development Program's report found that 51.6 million more people fell into poverty since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. World poverty is considered a daily

income of \$1.90 or less. The report found that an additional 20 million fell to the poverty line at \$3.20 a day.

TRENDPOST: Is a Ukrainian life more valuable than an Ethiopian life?

The Western media has been reporting on the Ukrainian War with nearly wall-to-wall coverage, and every allegation of Russian atrocities has prompted the U.S. government to demand answers. The Bucha killings, for example, resulted in satellite images being released, CCTV footage, and a visit by world leaders to fully comprehend the tragedy.

Don't hold your breath for them to visit Ethiopia any time soon. Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Ethiopia ...who cares?

George Packer's 2019 book, "Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century," pointed to a reported 2010 conversation then-Vice President Joe Biden had with Holbrooke, who was a top diplomat at the time. They spoke about the almost-certain humanitarian costs that would unfold if the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan.

"Fuck that. We don't have to worry about that," Biden reportedly told Holbrooke. "We did it in Vietnam. Nixon and Kissinger got away with it."

The interaction is notable because Biden has tried to appear magnanimous when it comes to Ukraine.

WHAT UKRAINE WON'T DO: RWANDA AND CONGO CALL FOR CEASEFIRE



While Ukraine has stated that it will not accept a ceasefire with Russia and the United States and NATO won't either, over in Africa, a ceasefire agreement was put in place between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo last week as tensions run high between the two countries with a long history of bloody conflicts.

Congo has accused Rwanda of backing rebel fighters in the eastern region of the country and launched a counteroffensive. About 170,000 people have been displaced over the past four months of the offensive by M23 in North Kivu province. The New Humanitarian reported that there are more than 100 armed groups in the region and about 700,000 people have been displaced in the past year.

Paul Kagame, the president of Rwanda, told France 24 he recently met with Congolese President Tshisekedi and said he saw the meeting as “another step forward.” He told the network that he was “surprised” that the U.S. accused Rwanda of placing troops in Congo. (See [“U.S. CONDEMNS CONGO KILLINGS OF INNOCENTS.”](#))

Tshisekedi has said there is “absolutely no doubt Rwanda is backing the March 23rd Movement.” He said Congo wants peace “but if push comes to shove, we will take action,” the *FT* reported.

The ceasefire seems tenuous. Maj. Willy Ngoma, the spokesman of the M23 rebels, told the *Saturday Monitor* that the group was not party to the pact signed by presidents and therefore the agreement is not binding to them, made up of mainly of Tutsi fighters from Congo.

Troops from Congo have been accused of fighting with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which include Hutu militants, who were accused of slaughtering Tutsis during the Rwanda genocide in 1994.

“Those saying that we immediately withdraw from Bunagana, where do they want us to go? We are going nowhere because we are Congolese nationals. We can’t go to Uganda or America because we are not citizens of those countries. We shall not withdraw our forces because we are citizens of this country,” he told the paper.

Tshisekedi said Rwanda is fighting in his country under the guise of the rebel group with its sights on Congo’s vast mineral wealth. The *FT* pointed out that Congo is home to massive amounts of coltan, gold and metallic ore.

“Its latest emergence is due to the Rwandan Defense Force, which is hiding behind the M23,” he said, according to the *FT*.

TRENDPOST: *On 17 January, 1961, the same day U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower gave his farewell address warning the American people that the military industrial complex was in control of the country and robbing it of the genius of the scientists, the sweat of the laborers and the future of the children.*

Patrice Lumumba, Congo’s first elected president, was executed in a plot that was allegedly designed by the CIA and its Belgian cohorts.

Lumumba was seized, tortured, and executed in a coup supported by the Belgian gang, the CIA, Jacobin magazine reported. He was replaced by the US-backed dictator Mobutu Sese Seko who the magazine said "laid the foundation for the decades of internal strife, dictatorship, and economic decline that have marked postcolonial Congo."

The killing occurred while the Cold War was playing out, and the U.S. and its allies could not imagine a world where the raw materials found in the country could somehow end up in the hands of the Soviets.

The Guardian, in a 2011 article, reported that Lumumba's hope was to use the raw materials to improve the living conditions of its people.

“In Congo, Lumumba’s assassination is rightly viewed as the country's original sin. Coming less than seven months after independence, it was a stumbling block to the ideals of national unity, economic independence, and pan-African solidarity that Lumumba had championed.”

PEARL HARBOR BOMBERS BOOSTING ITS MILITARY



Using the Ukraine War and rising tensions between China and Taiwan, Japan is taking a fresh look at building its military and its capabilities.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on how the conflict in Ukraine has prompted other countries—from Germany to Taiwan—to

reconsider their defenses. (See [“WILL CHINA SOON INVADE TAIWAN?”](#) [“SPOTLIGHT CHINA: EAST VS. WEST,”](#) and [“JAPAN: WILL CHINA ATTACK TAIWAN LIKE RUSSIA INVADED UKRAINE?”](#))

Fumio Kishida, the Japanese prime minister, summed up his government's fears in May during a visit to London with outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He told reporters that Ukraine could very well be “East Asia tomorrow.”

Japan’s foreign ministry issued a statement shortly after the 24 February invasion that Moscow’s aggression “shakes the foundation of international order not only in Europe but also in Asia.” The comment, although benign, was unusual for Tokyo, which tends to avoid wading into such issues.

Against the Law?

Following Japan's defeat by the United States in WWII, the 1946 Constitution of Japan written by Washington includes Article 9 that legally prohibits Japan from possessing combat potential and waging war.

Despite those limitations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies reports that Japan is the world's sixth-best army in terms of funding.

The *Financial Times* recently spoke to Japanese citizens to get a sense of what issues are paramount before Sunday's upper house election. Hisao Terasawa, 73, a small business owner, told the paper that he will support lawmakers who have security on top of their agendas.

"For too long, Japan has ignored the issue of how to defend itself," he said. "There is a blind faith that China won't invade [Taiwan] but what are to do if there was an invasion? Look at what happened. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was unprovoked."

The paper also pointed to a poll conducted by NHK, the state broadcaster, that found a shift in concerns among voters in the country.

Asahi Shimbun, a national newspaper, published a survey in May that showed 64 percent of the respondents believe the country should boost its defense capabilities.

Takao Toshikawa, the editor of *Insideline*, a political newsletter, told the newspaper that it is likely the first time in two decades that "foreign policy and security has emerged on the front lines of an election."

Japan currently spends about 1 percent of its GDP on its military, making Tokyo the world's seventh-biggest military spender. The country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party recently proposed increasing the military budget to about 2 percent of the GDP by 2027.

Tomoaki Iwai, a professor emeritus of Japanese political science at Nihon University in Tokyo, told *The Wall Street Journal* that Russia's invasion of Ukraine ended the theory that great powers will behave rationally.

"If that's the case, you never know what countries such as Russia and China would do, and the Japanese people have started to recognize this," he said.

Abe Assassinated

Shinzo Abe, the former Japanese prime minister, was assassinated while campaigning on Friday in the city of Nara.

One doctor who was first to treat Abe at the scene told reporters that the former prime minister was shot through the heart.

Two days later, his ruling coalition won a clear majority of parliament and top of the agenda to revise the country's constitution to now make it legal for Japan to maintain a military, even though it has security forces.

While being credited for his domestic achievements, Abe was unable to ease tensions with South Korea. One of the top issues dividing the countries is the compensation for wartime slave labor during Tokyo's colonial occupation of Korea.

Seoul recently announced plans to resolve the issue that has been a source of distress between the two countries after South Korea's Supreme Court told a couple of Japanese companies to compensate the families of victims.

Although compensation was not expected from the government, both Seoul and Tokyo responded. Japan imposed sanctions on Seoul's semiconductor industry in 2019.

There was a hearing on 4 July and lawyers for the laborers insisted that the dispute will only be settled when Tokyo and these companies—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal—fulfill their responsibility.

The Asahi Shimbun reported that the lawyers called for direct talks between the plaintiffs and company officials. The report pointed out that there is also an unsettled lawsuit by former South Korean “comfort women,” who demand retribution from Japan.

TRENDPOST: *The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on Washington’s effort to form a Pacific NATO to stop the growing threat of China in its tracks. Japan and South Korea are pivotal in that equation. (See [“AUSTRALIAN PM PRAISES NATO-AFFILIATED ‘ASIA-PACIFIC FOUR!’”](#))*

As we have reported, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol is the first piece of the puzzle. He is a former prosecutor who will almost certainly push Seoul into Washington’s orbit. South Korea is the third-largest American military presence outside the U.S. behind Japan and Germany.

He is reportedly looking to resolve these long-festering issues with Tokyo to secure a closer partnership in the future.

The South Korean president was the first to attend a NATO summit earlier this month. China and Russia were key topics. He said that there is clearly “a new structure of competitions and conflicts is taking shape, there is also a movement that denies the universal values that we have been protecting.”

FIVE STAR MOVEMENT WARNS DRAGHI AGAINST CURBING POVERTY RELIEF PROGRAM



Italy’s embattled Five Star Movement has warned Prime Minister Mario Draghi to keep a poverty relief program in place despite claims from business leaders that the “citizens’ income” program has been a drag on the country’s labor force.

Italy's "Annual Report 2022" said there are about 5.6 million Italian residents living in absolute poverty in 2021, which amounts to about 9.5 percent of the population, according to Xinhua news agency.

The report identified someone in "absolute poverty" as an individual who is unable to afford daily needs. The study also found that another 5 million residents in Italy were employed but considered to be "vulnerable."

The "citizens' income" scheme was put together in 2019 by the populist Five Star Movement and has been a "rallying call" for the movement since its foundation in 2009, Reuters reported. The report said it cost Rome about 7 billion euros in 2019 and is a steady income of about 2.7 million.

The *Financial Times* reported that the program has faced backlash because the country is trying to emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns and needs a workforce. Italians who collect the payments are less likely to feel compelled to get a job, according to critics.

"We are willing to share government responsibility as we have done so far in a loyal and constructive way, but we want major changes," Giuseppe Conte, the Five Star leader, told the paper. "We will no longer permit the citizens' income to be questioned on a daily basis."

Last month, we reported that the Five Star Movement put a new strain on Draghi's coalition government after announcing it will split due to differing views about the best approach to the Ukraine invasion. (See ["ITALY'S FIVE STAR MOVEMENT SPLITS DUE TO INFIGHTING OVER APPROACH TO UKRAINE."](#))

The **Trends Journal** has pointed out that despite both the Five Star Movement and the Northern League, movements that had campaigned on breaking away from the European Union, doing away with the euro, and restoring the lira... both parties voted for Draghi to become prime minister. Thus, the populist movements showed their first cracks in early 2021.

Both parties will have to contend with the emerging Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia) political movement that has been called “rightwing” in reports. Brothers of Italy was the only party that stayed out of Draghi’s government and has emerged as Rome’s top opposition force. There have been whispers that Giorgia Meloni, the movement’s leader, could be Italy’s next prime minister.

“Brothers of Italy is a party in line with the neo-fascist tradition,” Andrea Mammone, one of Italy’s pre-eminent contemporary historians, told Euronews. “Many of its members show a positive approach toward Mussolini's regime.”

Meloni has been a critic of COVID-19 lockdowns in the country and accused some countries in the EU of exploiting the pandemic to their benefit.

TRENDPOST: *The **Trends Journal** has long pointed out that the COVID-19 virus outbreak has changed employment for good. Workers no longer want to toil in jobs that go nowhere with little to no benefits.*

Italy’s unemployment rate hit 8.1 percent in May, which is the lowest reading in two years, but Reuters pointed out that the number reflects Italians who are no longer in the workforce.

The report found that more than half of the jobs created in Italy in the last 12 months have been temporary, which usually means inconsistent hours, no chance for career development, and no future. There were 3.17 million temporary jobs, which is the highest number since 1977, the report said.

TREND FORECAST: *As Gerald Celente has long said, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.” Therefore, as socioeconomic conditions continue to deteriorate, [“NEW WORLD DISORDER.”](#) one of our 2020 Top Trends, will escalate as billions take to the streets, demonstrating against the lack of basic living standards, crime, violence, and government corruption.*

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



TOP TREND UNIONIZATION, HEATING UP: TOP GERMAN UNION PUSHING FOR HIGHER WAGES

Germany's IG Metall union, the largest industrial union in the country, announced Monday that it wants an 8 percent pay increase for its members to help deal with the rising prices as the inflation rate came in at 7.6 percent in June.

Joerg Hofmann, the head of the union, told The Associated Press that the German economy needs higher incomes to offset inflationary pressures.

He said companies are able to pass rising costs, but employees do not have that luxury. About 3.8 million workers in the metal and electric industry would stand to benefit from the pay increase.

Thorsten Groeger, the IG Metall negotiator, told *Automotive News Europe* that inflation is destroying wealth, "hitting incomes, and putting many households in economic difficulties."

The recommendation is the highest in about 13 years. The negotiations will start in September. The European Central Bank has warned that high pay increases could increase inflationary pressure on economies. (See [“TOP 2022 UNIONIZATION TREND UPDATE.”](#))

WSWS.org reported that steel prices have soared on the world market and the profits of these companies have “exploded” since many COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. These companies are in line to make even more profit as the Ukraine War drags on.

The website said “champagne corks” must be popping in steel company boardrooms after Germany announced its €100 billion euros investment in its military revamp.

These workers are producing steel for tanks, submarines, and warships, the report said.

Greg Fuzesi, a JPMorgan economist, called the request “not a particularly strong pay increase, especially when considering the surge in inflation and the strong orders position of the German industrial sector.”

TREND FORECAST: *Unionization will continue to be a Top Trend and, as inflation continues to rise faster than wages, corporations that wish to incentivize their workforce to do and give the best they can, will raise the pay scale to levels higher than inflation rates. In doing so, they will create atmospheres of mutual appreciation.*

FARMERS ACROSS EUROPE FIGHT AGAINST GREEN REGULATIONS THAT THREATEN LIVELIHOODS



It has been the summer of chaos in the Netherlands after the government came out with new green regulations that farmers in the country say will make it impossible to make ends meet.

Videos emerged on social media that showed tractors forming blockades and confrontations between protesters and police throughout the country. Videos also showed farmers spreading manure on government buildings and slowly driving their tractors on highways. The farmers have been supported by many on social media.

The protests started when Amsterdam announced that it aims to reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxide and ammonia by half, and the plans to achieve that goal will be to reduce livestock and purchase farms that are a large emitter.

Some of the protesters said they aimed to paralyze the country. There have been roadblocks and food distribution centers have been targeted with demonstrations. Fishermen in the country have also blocked harbors in an act of solidarity.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte ruled out negotiating with farmers responsible for radical protests.

“Blockades of distribution centers hurt the citizens of the Netherlands. Supermarkets do everything they can to keep the stores stocked, but if blockades continue, it could lead to people not being able to do their daily shopping,” the Central Bureau for Food Trade said in a statement obtained by The Associated Press.

Farmers in the country see worsening economic conditions.

Jaap Zegwaard, a dairy farmer in the country, told the AP that he would not push the career for his children.

“If you ask me now, I’d say, please don’t even think about it,” the 41-year-old said. “There are so many worries. Life’s much too beautiful to deal with what’s going on in the agriculture sector at the moment. Ask the average farmer: it’s profoundly sad.”

German, Italian, Spanish, and Polish farmers have also launched protests, according to *Farmers Weekly*. The movement is seen as a campaign against policies seen as “anti-farming.”

German farmers blocked roads into the Netherlands and have lashed out at Berlin's newly approved renewable energy act.

"It is completely incomprehensible that in the middle of this far-reaching energy crisis, a sustainable domestic energy source such as biogas is being curbed in the production of electricity, heat, and biomethane," Bernhard Krüsken, secretary-general of the German Farmers' Association, said, according to thedeepdive.ca.

Farmers in Poland have criticized Warsaw for the spike in costs to manage their farms. They took to the streets in Warsaw and yelled, "Enough is enough! We won't let ourselves be robbed!"

TRENDPOST: The **Trends Journal** has been highlighting its ["New World Disorder"](#) top trend for more than two years.

We noted that politicians across the globe are fighting for survival against angry mobs who want to overthrow them. The COVID-19 War and the Ukraine War have been a devastating one-two combination for many economies which has increased their fury against the lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime, violence and government mandates that help the Bigs and punish the working class.

In December 2021, we reported how Indian farmers were successful in their protests against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed farm laws. The laws that were passed in September 2020 essentially deregulated farms from state control and opened the door to new, outside competition.

The success of the farmers' protests is evidenced in their resolve to peacefully fight for their rights without backing down. As Gerald Celente continues to note, one of the most important elements of protests is to continue with them day after day, night after night, week after week, month after month... however long it takes to win the battle.

Among the articles detailing the Indian Farm protest and what it took to win, See:

- ["INDIAN FARMERS PROTEST CONTINUE"](#) (8 Dec 2020)
- ["PROTESTS CONTINUE IN INDIA OVER AGRICULTURE BILL"](#) (15 Dec 2020)

- [“INDIA’S MODI VS. FARMERS”](#) (5 Jan 2021)
- [“INDIAN FARMERS BLAST COURT: NOT BACKING DOWN”](#) (19 Jan 2021)
- [“PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN INDIA OVER FARM BILL”](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- [“INDIA GOVERNMENT VS. FARMERS: NO END IN SIGHT”](#) (16 Feb 2021)
- [“PROTESTERS KILLED IN INDIA: FARMERS FIGHT TO THE FINISH”](#) (12 Oct 2021)
- [“MODI LOSES, FARMERS WIN. A MEGA-TREND BEYOND INDIA”](#) (23 Nov 2021)
- [“INDIAN FARMERS WIN: A PROTEST LESSON TO BE LEARNED”](#) (14 Dec 2021)

NUCLEAR ENERGY, ‘GREEN’ ENERGY? EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MOCKED FOR GOING NUKE



The proposal advanced by the European Parliament last week that categorizes nuclear energy and gas as climate-friendly investments in hopes to spur private funding in the technology.

The European Commission passed the proposal after tense debate among various countries in the EU. The *Financial Times* pointed out that France, for example, is bullish on nuclear power while Berlin is bearish, and has been turning to other energy sources.

The designation will enable these projects to benefit from government subsidies and loans.

The EU aims to be considered climate neutral by 2050, but the Ukraine War has thrown a wrench in those plans. *Mother Jones* pointed out that the “green” designation for gas and nuclear would be a “gift” to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Bas Eickhout, the vice-president of the European parliament's environment committee, called the vote a "dark day for the climate and energy transition," the report said.

The magazine also pointed to Svitlana Krakovska, a Ukrainian climate scientist, who said she was in "shock" after the vote.

"Russia's war against Ukraine is a war paid for by climate-heating fossil fuels and the European parliament just voted to boost billions of funding to fossil gas from Russia," she said. "How in the world is that in line with Europe's stance to protect our planet and stand with Ukraine?"

The argument that nuclear energy is "green" is hung on the fact that it does not produce carbon dioxide emissions while natural gas emits about 58 percent as much carbon dioxide as coal, the U.S. Energy Information Association said.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on nuclear power's popularity in Europe. (See ["ENERGY INFLATION AND GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS," "RADIOACTIVE NUCLEAR WASTE, FUKUSHIMA, CHERNOBYL GOOD. COAL BAD," "FRANCE EARMARKS BILLIONS FOR NUCLEAR AND 'GREEN' ENERGY; INVESTORS BULLISH ON URANIUM"](#) and ["FRANCE GOING NUKE TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE."](#))

France, for example, has about 1,200 producers of radioactive waste. About 90 percent of the waste is considered short-lived, but 10 percent is highly radioactive and its half-life can extend tens of thousands of years.

The European Environmental Bureau, an environmental lobby group, issued a statement in response to the vote that said billions of euros will now be "diverted into polluting energy sources that are far from being harmless and temporary, at the expense of energy efficiency and renewables."

John Sterman, the director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan Sustainability Initiative, called the move an "extreme bald-face attempt to greenwash," according to *TweakTown*.

He said the plan included stipulations that natural gas projects will only be considered "green" if they can convert to renewable sources by 2035. He said these plants will "be producing significant greenhouse gasses, and worsening climate change."

TREND FORECAST: *Science has become completely politicized and "fact" seems to depend on who you're asking and who would benefit. As we have forecast, it will be a long haul before the world goes "Green."*

There will not be a fast move to alternative energies until new ones that are affordable, efficient and truly "sustainable," are invented.

And as for nuclear energy as an energy of the future, please see:

- ["*RADIOACTIVE NUCLEAR WASTE, FUKUSHIMA, CHERNOBYL GOOD. COAL BAD*"](#)
- ["*A NEW PATH TO CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY*"](#)
- ["*FRANCE EARMARKS BILLIONS FOR NUCLEAR AND 'GREEN' ENERGY: INVESTORS BULLISH ON URANIUM.*"](#)

AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN MAJOR U.S. INSTITUTIONS DOWN FROM LAST YEAR



A new Gallup poll found that Americans are less confident in major U.S. institutions—like the Supreme Court and Congress—than they were a year ago, marking new lows for all three branches of the federal government. The poll found that only 27 percent of Americans have confidence in 14 major American institutions on average. Gallup

said the number marks a new low since 1979 and a plunge of 5 percent from last year.

The poll was conducted from 1 June to 20 June, while Americans faced increased crime and high inflation. The survey pointed out that confidence in these institutions has lagged for the past 15 years. This year, the average confidence across all institutions is four points lower than 2021's bottom.

The Supreme Court and presidency faced the most significant drop in confidence with declines of 11 and 15 percentage points, respectively. Gallup said it has never recorded a confidence reading as low as Biden's 23 percent. The poll pointed out that all three parties are "much less confident in the presidency than they were a year ago, showing declines of at least 10 points."

Americans have the lowest amount of confidence in Congress and television news, according to the survey. Congress experienced a 5-point drop to 7 percent.

The report pointed out that small businesses and the military are the only institutions that Americans express confidence in at 64 percent. The average confidence in these institutions was at least 40 percent from 1998 to 2004, but the number has been falling.

The poll seems to correspond to the general read from other polls. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released last week found that 85 percent of Americans believe the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction.

Last month, a Wall Street Journal-NORC Poll found 83 percent of respondents described the state of the economy as "poor or not so good." About 35 percent said they "aren't satisfied at all with their financial situation."

Of those polled, just 27 percent said they are optimistic that they can improve their standard of living in the next year, while 46 percent said they will not improve.

"In the prior years that we've asked this question, there's at least been some hope, a little bit more hope, that things might get better," Jennifer Benz, vice president of public affairs and media research at NORC, told the paper. "That's a key difference underlying all of this right now."

Engagement With News Outlets Plummet in the U.S.

Americans are beginning to tune out the bullshit.

Both news consumption and engagement in the U.S. has plummeted in 2022 after reaching new highs in 2020, with prime time viewership down 19 percent in the first half of the year and engagement on social media with news outlets falling 50 percent in the first six months of the year.

Axios, citing NewsWhip, reported that engagement on social media has fallen to its “pre-pandemic” rate. The report said interest in the presidency has also fallen during the Biden administration. Google searches that include “Biden” are at the same level of searches with the key word “Trump,” according to the report. Love him or hate him, Trump got people clicking. He generated 7 times more search interest than President Obama when he took office in 2017.

TRENDPOST: *The Axios report said Americans have grown tired of “what feels like a never ending cycle of bad news.” The news media’s modus operandi during the COVID-19 outbreak was to stoke fear. The **Trends Journal** has been documenting the sorry state of corporate media. (SEE: [“CNN+ CRASHES AT LAUNCH: PUBLIC WON’T SWALLOW CARTOON NEWS CRAP”](#) and [“CNN CLOWN SHOW EXPOSES MEDIA’S POLITICAL TIES.”](#))*

In April 2020, then-President of CNN Jeff Zucker held a meeting to use the virus to increase the network’s lagging ratings. He urged editors and producers at the network not to shift focus from coronavirus new updates despite weeks of wall-to-wall coverage of the pandemic.

“You need to stay on the news,” Mr. Zucker said, according to a person who listened. “People are coming to CNN for the news right now.”

The problem with the corporate media is that they do not approach journalism as a public service, but rather an entertainment business. They are happy to sell the Johnny Depp - Amber Heard trial while the Ukraine War continues and the U.S. sends an unprecedented amount of weapons to Kyiv.

Editors only consider the amount of clicks that a story receives, accuracy and relevance is a distant second and third.

TRENDPOST: *As we detail in the **Trends Journal**, COVID-19 lockdowns did more than just crush small businesses, they crushed the human spirit. Look out your window, what is there to be optimistic about? Inflation? Nuclear War with Russia or China? Rampant mass shootings? Choosing from the surplus of open jobs in Slavelandia?*

The disaster that we are facing has nothing to do with the coronavirus, it has to do with the political science “pandemic.” For over two years—and still trending in China where the COVID War was launched on Lunar New Year 2020, The Year of the Rat—moronic, made-up, draconian lockdowns that lacked a scintilla of scientific data have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of billions across the planet.

As we have clearly illustrated and supported with facts, not one of the political, media or Bankster “officials” have blamed the COVID War’s made-up lockdown mandates for destroying the global economy. And neither of them blame the actions of governments and central banks that have created the inflation cycle by pumping trillions of dollars into economies and keeping interest rates low despite rising inflation, to artificially pump up 2020 crashing economies.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

BACTERIA PRODUCE ENERGY-DENSE JET FUEL

Bacteria have been around longer than dinosaurs and are still capable of making energy-dense fuel even if dinosaurs aren't, as long as the bugs have some human help.

Researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory started with a molecule called a polycyclopropanated fatty acid methyl ester (POP-FAME). A POP-FAME holds carbon atoms bound at sharp angles, so when the bonds break, considerable energy is released.

Next, the scientists spotted bacteria that naturally produce the key carbon cluster in POP-FAMES and transplanted the genes that make it into bacteria that are easier to work with.

Those easygoing bacteria produce POP-FAME molecules dubbed “fuelimycins” that need just one additional, relatively simple processing step to turn into a drop-in replacement for jet fuel that holds about 40 percent more energy per volume than the original, according to computer simulations.

The team is scaling up production so fuelimycins’ real-world performance can be verified.

Meanwhile, the group also is figuring ways to coax the bacteria to produce carbon chains of different lengths.

A longer chain likely would be solid, which could replace rocket fuel, the existing short chain is right for jet engines, while in-between lengths could replace fossil-based diesel fuels.

TRENDPOST: *The bacteria can be grown easily in tanks and their excreted fuelimycins filtered out, reducing the need to drill for oil—increasingly costly now that big, easy-to-reach fields have been tapped.*

Also, the bugs feast on plant matter, which is nourished by carbon dioxide. As a result, producing the new fuels would put less carbon overall into the atmosphere.

With fossil-free drop-in replacement fuels that hold more energy than petroleum, vehicles could go longer between refueling, or fuel tanks could be made smaller to allow room for extra features.

SIMPLE ENZYME COULD END OBESITY, EATING DISORDERS



German researchers have discovered that an enzyme called autotaxin can control eating disorders and may be able to cure or prevent obesity.

In Germany alone, 67 percent of men and 53 percent of women are overweight and 23 percent of adults are obese, the Robert Koch Institute has calculated. In the U.S., 41.9 percent of adults qualify as obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Autotaxin could well hold the key to reducing those numbers.

The cascade of chemical reactions leading to overeating or other disorders starts in the hypothalamus, the part of the brain that controls hunger.

Autotaxin controls the flow of biochemicals from the hypothalamus that tell you that you need to eat.

If the brain isn't producing enough autotaxin, the signaling biochemicals flow too freely and you make too many trips to the kitchen.

When the German researchers administered autotaxin to mice, it normalized their eating behavior. Taking an autotaxin booster daily helped obese mice lose weight.

TRENDPOST: Obesity is a gateway illness, leading to a host of ailments from bad knees to chronic back pain to diabetes. In the U.S. alone, obesity carries a price tag that was estimated by the National Institutes of Health to be about \$200 billion in 2020.

Autotaxin, a substance the body already makes, could similarly be a gateway to halting the root cause of a range of diseases and slashing the related costs of healthcare.

Tests of "autotaxin therapy" in adults are being planned.

RESEARCHERS GROW CROPS WITHOUT SUNLIGHT



We learned it in grade school: plants grow by using carbon dioxide and sunshine in a process called photosynthesis.

Or not.

At the University of California Riverside, scientists are growing crops in the dark to see if they can improve energy efficiency.

Photosynthesis uses only about 1 percent of the solar power that plants collect. Higher energy efficiency could mean bigger plants and greater yields.

The researchers combined carbon dioxide and water with salt and a few other additives and shot an electric current through the mix.

The current converted the blend into acetate, not only the main ingredient of vinegar but also a food for primitive edibles including yeast, green algae, and mycelium, which produces mushrooms.

The new process for growing algae was four times more energy-efficient than photosynthesis and a whopping 18 times more for yeast.

But people aren't going to sit down to a bowl of algae and yeast.

The researchers found that canola, cowpeas, green peas, rice, and tomatoes were able to “take the acetate we provided and build it into the major molecular building blocks an organism needs to grow and thrive,” even when grown in the dark, the researchers said in a statement describing their work.

TRENDPOST: In addition to growing crops in outer space, the new grow-in-the-dark technology could allow food to be grown indoors or to create a year-round growing season in places where sunlight is weak, such as far northern latitudes.

Also, the new method could boost yields, feeding more people with less land and less energy.