

THE TRENDS JOURNAL®

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

Who BLEW UP NORD STREAM PIPELINES



**"WE WILL BRING AN END TO IT.
I PROMISE YOU."**

Joe Biden
7 Feb. 2022



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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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WHO BLEW-UP NORD STREAM PIPELINES?

**PUBLISHER'S
NOTE:** With this
week's [Trends
Journal](#) we are

launching our new website www.trendsjournal.com. To log in, click on the three vertical bars in the search bar at the top and click Sign-In. Enter your usual username and then your email address as the password (you can reset this after logging in). Then click login. Once logged in, you can click on individual articles or click on the date under the cover to view in PDF or Flip-book format. As we understand there may be log-in issues, we have attached a PDF of the full issue. Any problems, email support@trendsjournal.com.

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#):
"WHO BLEW-UP NORD STREAM
PIPELINES?"

The Western media wants you to believe that Russian President Vladimir Putin, desperate and on the run, ordered his military to sabotage two of Russia's most important pipelines to send a message to the West.

Disregard reports that U.S. military helicopters were circling near the pipelines in early September, President Joe Biden's vow that "there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2" if Russia invades, and reports that the CIA told Berlin that

there would be attacks on the gas pipelines weeks before the incident.

Take the jab, blame Putin, rinse, repeat.

Talk of peace in the U.S. is an act of war. Elon Musk, the Tesla billionaire, learned just how quickly Volodymyr Zelensky and his team can turn on anyone who does not sufficiently support the war. Musk, who must read this magazine, floated what we've been saying: Ukraine will end up losing about 20 percent of the country anyway, better to save as many lives as possible and end the conflict sooner rather than later.

But that will not happen. Ukraine's president Zelensky signed a decree late last month vowing that he will not conduct negotiations with Putin after Russia's recent annexations.

[The Trends Journal](#) is a unique magazine because our team analyzes current news topics and historical data to provide Trend Forecasts. Two days before the first Russian tank rolled into Ukraine, our cover depicted a nuclear blast. Its title, "FROM COVID WAR, TO UKRAINE WAR, TO WORLD WAR."

Gerald Celente has said the U.S. is already at war with Russia, it just won't be official until there's a nuclear exchange.

Everybody who believes in their God and religion should step up in the fight for peace or succumb to the Satanic murderous wars. Please consider donating to [Occupy Peace](#) and help us stop World War III from escalating into a nuclear holocaust.

Pace e Amore,

COMMENTS

LYING ABOUT WAR WITH RUSSIA

The title of this article asks the question whether Sullivan is a liar?

Well clearly he is. According to his comment below,

Sullivan said that Russian President Vladimir Putin “remains intent...on wiping out the Ukraine people that he does not believe have a right to exist.”

Aside from the fact that “Putin has commented that the Russian offensive has been limited to avoid civilian casualties”, Putin is also trying to protect the eastern Ukrainians from their own people from what’s been reported. So clearly Sullivan is lying since his remarks are in direct contradiction to the facts. Or does Sullivan not recognise the eastern Ukrainians as Ukrainians?

mnpund

CENTRAL BANKS

Central banks are an anchor all right—wrapped around the neck of global currencies taking them straight to the bottom as they continue to devalue those currencies into a Great Reset. They don’t want you to have a life raft or even a life jacket.

alachiopractic

CELENTE AND THE JUDGE VERDICT

Hello Gerald: What a fabulous guest having Judge Napolitano on. Please keep having him on in the future.

I must wholeheartedly thank you and all your staff for the phenomenal work and efforts you put out every week to provide your subscribers with the most current world trends across a wide array of topics! It is a work of love for America, the world, all it’s people and our futures. It is amazing that you have assembled such a hard hitting and accurate forecasting team. The fruits of your labor are greatly appreciated!

God bless all of you!

Douglas Mix

ARE WE ALREADY IN A SYSTEMIC COLLAPSE?

A Fed Digital Currency or “Fed Now” will become a control tool to limit your consumer choices and to disallow certain categories of purchases. In-addition, it may limit your ability to travel afar or abroad, as well. Moving money out of the country will not be possible for long either due to coming Capital Controls. The whole global financial system is spread too thin and has become permanently distorted or unstable. Excessive debt is crushing everything to the point nothing will work for long anymore. Trust in the U.S. government and banking system is little better than in Greece or Cyprus. Confidence in governments everywhere has deeply eroded in recent years.

CBDC are potential capital controls in themselves. States like California which will prohibit gasoline vehicles to be sold after 2035 will restrict the distance you can drive to only the miles an EV can go on a single charge. You will be so

controlled as to be unable to do much of anything except collect your UBI. CBDC is ready-made for UBi.

Today's U.S. Banks do not have sufficient liquidity to allow a cash withdrawal in the amount of \$9,400. Banks do not have that much cash available in local branch bank vaults.

Craig Bradley

FROM COVID WAR TO CARBON WAR IN "SMART CITIES"

Maybe AI will become so smart it realizes it's all a hoax, haha! And... herding us into cities will keep humanity unwell. We need to walk barefoot on the Earth to readily rebalance and heal ourselves. But of course more profit for Drugs. We can't possibly have self healing systems. Our bodies cannot possibly be AI, could they! What blindness.

Alethea Baldwin

NATURE'S WILD CARD...AND HUMAN FOLLY?

What's missing from the article, as is from the mainstream media coverage, is the elephant in the room—GEOENGINEERING. How many of these "natural disasters" are really natural? Check out Dane Wigington's geoengineeringwatch.org if you haven't already. It's eye opening on a scale comparable to the Trends Journal and he's

been airing a Geoengineering Watch one hour program once a week on Saturday's for several years. This piece to the puzzle must not remain unnoticed and missing from the "Climate change fear porn" narrative we're bombarded with.

The WHO and UN have been clear about their plan to use certain climate change coming catastrophes to usher in their next wave of lockdowns, especially now that they consider the populace's acceptance of the COVID lockdowns as a sign that the people will be mostly compliant. Lots of dot connecting and discernment is needed, but it's pretty obvious what they're doing. Dane's broadcasts are called "bad news" because he's spot on with all of his coverage – presenting the facts and letting the listener draw his/her own conclusions.

Ron Bernhardt

AMERICAN KIDS ARE MEDICATED MORE THAN EVER

Great article. CCHR has a museum in Hollywood called the psychiatric museum. That place opens your eyes to the world of big pharma and its by-products and casualties. I've always supported the idea that before taking any psycho meds. Try smoking weed. Weed ain't gonna kill you.

malvarez

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TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT



ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW

Watch, look, and listen.

The global economy is going down the drain. It has been flushed into ruin by egotists called politicians, central bankers, and bureaucrats that the masses look up to and obey

While the path of destruction of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness has been on a long-term down-trend, most recently it has reached new levels of ruination that have not only sucked the joy out of life, but have now set the world on the path of mass annihilation.

This cover of the 22 February **Trends Journal** says it all.



Yes, the world changed in 2020 when presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, governors, mayors, etc., launched the COVID War. While they did shit to kill the coronavirus with their draconian mandates that locked down entire nations, their actions destroyed the lives and livelihoods of billions across the planet.

These arrogant narcissistic pathological liars made up kindergarten rules to fight the virus, here are a few of them:

- Stand one meter apart
- Not allowed to go to the beach or sit in parks or put kids on swings
- Stand behind Plexiglas at cash registers
- Have arrows pointing in the direction you can walk down aisles in stores
- Force people to wear masks when walking into a restaurant or sitting on an airplane... but allow them to take off the masks when eating and drinking
- Telling people to sanitize their hands when touching anything... and not to have sex, sanitized hands or not
- Locking down nations to outside citizens
- Imposing Operation Warp Speed vaccination requirement to go to work, go to school or enter another country.

Our “leaders” COVID rules and regulations were based solely on political science and not a scintilla of factual evidence.

And like good little boys and girls—still in high school and obeying their principal—the masses not only did what they were told, they attacked everyone that questioned the mandates and the Operation Warp Speed Jab.

Yes, the Jab that the drug dealers sold and the Prostitutes promoted that it had a 96 percent efficacy rate, and just two shots were needed.

Now, of course, it is a COVID Jab a year.

And as we have detailed, from the top drug head that runs Pfizer to presidents, prime ministers and the clowns people call “celebrities” that championed the gene therapy inoculation... they got two shots, boosters, got the virus and spew out the shit that they are glad they got all those jabs.

Yes, “All things are connected,” as Chief Seattle said, “like the blood which unites us all.”

The socioeconomic and geopolitical consequences of their draconian COVID War mandates had made previously bad situations much worse.

The Economic Front

As we have greatly detailed in The **Trends Journal**, the global economy was under pressure long before the COVID War was launched by China in January 2020, the Year of the Rat.

To keep the obedient, obedient during their closing down of society, governments pumped in countless trillions of fake COVID cash to keep the public spending money they never earned and to keep them from questioning their actions.

In collusion, the central banksters followed suit by keeping interest rates low to keep the equity markets and the economy artificially pumped up, while also creating a housing boom.

The result: Skyrocketing inflation and a cover-up for all the businesses that went out of business and all the lives and livelihoods that the COVID War decimated.

The Geopolitical Front

Making a terrible socioeconomic situation much worse, rather than letting Russia and Ukraine settle their border differences that have been going on between the two cultures for centuries, the United States and NATO joined Ukraine to fight the Russians.

With the United States alone pumping in nearly \$70 billion to Ukraine to keep bloodying the killing fields and NATO countries sending billions in weapons, a local war that would have ended months ago has now escalated into WWII... with nuclear destruction on the near horizon.

In addition to the Ukraine military aid that taxpayers must pay for, adding economic insult to injury, as a result of the U.S. and NATO imposed sanctions on Russia, people across the globe are paying record-breaking prices on food and energy... which equals more inflation and greater hardship.

Indeed, in the U.S.S.A., the United Soviet States of America, according to a Lending Club report, up five percent from a year ago, 60 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. And even 45 percent of high earners with six-figure salaries were reported living paycheck to paycheck... up from 38 percent a year ago.

By Their Deeds You Shall Know Them

We note the above to illustrate the criminality of those in charge of running dictatorships which in school they sell as “democracies.”

As George Carlin said, “It’s one big club and you ain’t in it.” And as Gerald Celente notes, “Not only is it one big club, it’s an organized crime syndicate. And not only are you not in it, they’ll destroy your life and censor you if you question them... and kill you if you try to stop their murderous ways. As for the White Shoe Boys on Wall Street, they will do all they can to keep artificially propping up equities and make the Bigs Bigger.

What a Difference a Day Makes!

Happy October! In the past two days, the Dow rallied over 1,500 points... up 765 points yesterday and 825 points today.

Yet, September ended the worst nine months for U.S. equity markets since 2002 and the Dow racked up its poorest monthly showing since March 2020—the beginning of the COVID War, shrinking by 9.3 percent and posting its third consecutive monthly loss. It waved goodbye to 500 points on Friday alone.

The Russell 2000 index of small companies gave up 9.7 percent last month.

Last week, the Dow dropped 2.7 percent, the NASDAQ fell 2.4 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 2.6 percent. Since the start of the year, the S&P, down 25 percent, has fallen deeper into bear territory.

Up until yesterday, the equity markets have continued to tank as the gamblers on The Street continued to fear the damage caused by spiking inflation and central banksters interest rate hikes... which is drying up the cheap money pool that artificially inflated equities and economies.

Repeating what The **Trends Journal** had forecast several months ago, *The Wall Street Journal* quoted portfolio manager Sean Sun at Thornburg Investment Management that “It’s not a matter of if we’ll have a recession but what type of recession it will be.”

Again, coming as no shock to **Trend Journal** subscribers but was a surprise to “analysts,” last Friday Carnival Cruise Lines led the Dow’s losers, giving up 23.3 percent after it reported revenues short of expectations.

“Expectations?” People are going broke. Inflation is robbing them of their income.

Norwegian Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean Group sank by 18 percent and 13.2 percent, respectively.

Also last Friday, Nike gave back 12.8 percent, its poorest one-day performance in more than 20 years.

Nike and other U.S. firms dealing internationally are paying a price for the dollar's strength. International revenue rose 4 percent but would have grown by 10 percent if the dollar's value had remained steady through the third quarter, *The Washington Post* said.

Also, Nike said profits were cut by the need to offer discounts to clear backlogged inventory.

Many manufacturers and retailers are dealing with bulging inventories that were ordered while consumers were still spending, only to ship and stock the items as shoppers closed their wallets amid rising prices and economic gloom.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year treasury note moved up from 3.79 percent Thursday to 3.81 percent Friday; the two-year note, a measure of expectations about what the Fed will do next, rose from 4.19 percent to 4.23 percent.

Gold's price rose 1.1 percent Friday to \$1,661 but lost 8 percent during the quarter.

Brent crude ended Friday at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT at \$87.96, up 3 percent on the week but off almost 25 percent for the quarter. West Texas Intermediate gained 2.5 percent for the week, ending at \$79.49 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT.

Bitcoin gained 2.4 percent to \$19,712 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 30 September, near its high point of the week, then fell back over the weekend.

Overseas, Europe's Stoxx 600 index bounced through the week, ending flat at 388. The Nikkei 225 slid 3.2 percent and the South Korean KOSPI edged down 0.3 percent.

In China, Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 3 percent, the SSE Composite fell 1.5 percent, and the CSI Composite edged down 0.7 percent.

But is the rally real?

We don't believe so and neither does Wall Street on Parade who noted today that "...veterans are thinking that either [the Fed's plunge protection team](#) or the [Treasury's plunge protection team](#) is behind the rally."

TODAY: STOCKS SEE SECOND DAY OF BIG GAINS AFTER BRUISING SEPTEMBER

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed the day up 825.43 points, or 2.80 percent, to 30,316.32 and the S&P 500 benchmark was up 112.50, or 3.06 percent, to 3,790.93. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite was also up 360.97, or 3.34 percent, to 11,176.41.

This marked the second-straight day of big gains totaling more than 1,500 points. The feeling on The Street is that traders oversold after the S&P fell more than 9 percent last month and nearly 25 percent year-to-date.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the issues most impacting the market, including the effort by central banks to rein in inflation, soaring energy prices, the Ukraine War, and the lingering effects of the economy-killed COVID-19 lockdowns.

Traders embraced the jump in prices, but expect volatility to continue to be a factor in the market.

"People like to hang onto good news but... we're not going to have a recovery in this market until the Fed signals that they're going to stop raising rates, and that's not going to happen until inflation starts coming down," Holly Newman Kroft, senior wealth advisor at Neuberger Berman, told CNBC.

Traders are looking for any evidence that the Fed could ease up on its monetary policy tightening and found it in today's release by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that showed job openings in the U.S. falling by 10 percent in August. There were 10.05 million open positions for the month.

Traders were optimistic that the numbers are a sign that the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes are taking hold and therefore cooling the labor market, a priority for the Fed. The job market is considered one of the top contributors to inflation, which has hit a 40-year high.

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, has reengaged with Twitter about his potential acquisition. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Twitter shares were halted after increasing to \$47.93 on rumors of the meeting. Sources told CNBC that Musk has agreed to buy Twitter for \$54.20 a share and a deal could happen by the end of the week.

Elsewhere, the European markets were up with the FTSE increasing by 177.70 points, or 2.57 percent, to 7,086.46 and the STOXX 600 also rising by 12.20 points, or 3.12 percent, to 403.03. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei was up 776.42, or 2.96 percent, to 26,992.21. China's financial markets remain closed for its Golden Week holiday. South Korea and Hong Kong's markets were also closed.

Traders in China can use a breather as stocks struggled under Beijing's COVID-19 restrictions and property issues. Economists are going to consider how people spend during the holiday week to get a sense of overall optimism in the country.

OIL: Brent crude saw another day of gains on speculation that OPEC+ will announce plans to cut its oil output due to slowing demand. Brent was trading up \$2.78, or 3.13 percent, to \$91.63 per barrel. West Texas Intermediate was also up \$2.64, or 3.16 percent, to \$86.28 per barrel.

The international oil cartel is meeting in Vienna to discuss policy. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the Saudi energy minister, told reporters today that there will be an announcement on Wednesday about oil production. Oil prices have increased on speculation that OPEC+, which includes Russia, will reduce daily output by 1 million barrels due to weakening global demand. There was also speculation that the cartel could reduce output by 2 million barrels per day.

Amin Nasser, the chief executive of Saudi Aramco, told the Energy Intelligence Forum today that the market is focused on what will happen to demand if recessions occur in

parts of the world as governments tighten monetary policy to combat inflation, Investing.com reported.

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., called on the Biden administration to deal with the Saudis “harshly” if they go through with significant cutbacks in supply.

“They are a third-rate power. We are the most powerful country in the world. I don’t know why we kowtow to them,” he said.

He continued, “They are not our allies. They are hurting the American people. And we need to be tough with them. The president needs to make it clear we will cut off their supply. We could ground their air force in a day.”

TRENDPOST: *President Joe Biden had announced sanctions against Russia to cripple the Russian economy. That plan backfired and it is Europe and other nations that face economic turmoil as they try to survive the winter without Russian energy.*

Russian President Vladimir Putin appeals to other countries to support his effort at a multipolar world by framing the U.S. as a bullying power that uses smaller countries to achieve its own goals, oftentimes at the expense of stability in the smaller nation and even Americans.

While the European Union is also expected to continue its pursuit of slapping caps on prices, the measures will fail overall and consumers will pay more to buy less as inflation keeps rising and economies decline: Dragflation.

GOLD: The precious metal was up \$32.40 per ounce, or 1.90 percent, to \$1,734.40. Silver was also up about 53 cents, or 2.58 percent, to \$21.12.

Gold hit a 3-week high today as buyers welcomed news of a weakening U.S. dollar and bond yields.

The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield was down 0.03 percent to 3.619 percent and the U.S. dollar fell against other currencies. Economists said the recent job numbers and

slowing economy in the U.S. is evidence that the interest rate hikes are working. But the central bank has suggested that future rate hikes are warranted.

TREND FORECAST: *Gold prices may have hit their bottom. The world's socioeconomic and geopolitical turmoil keeps worsening. And despite central banks raising interest rates which brings non-yielding gold prices down, we forecast that is temporary since, as global tensions rise and economies decline, gold will be the #1 safe haven asset.*

BITCOIN: The world's most popular crypto currency was up \$475.90 per coin, or 2.42 percent, to \$20,109.40 as of midday today, building off momentum from the equities market that saw its second straight day of gains.

McDonald's is now accepting Bitcoin and Ether at locations in the Swiss city of Lugano. Coin Telegraph reported that the city of 63,000 has generally embraced cryptos as forms of payment and residents can pay their taxes using the currency. The report noted that the fast-food franchise accepts bitcoin payments at all of its locations in El Salvador.

TRENDPOST: *The Trends Journal has long noted that much of the appeal of these decentralized currencies is that they lack oversight from governments and central banks. We noted that these currencies will lose some of their shine when agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission begin to exert control in these markets.*

Gary Gensler, the chair of the SEC, gave a speech on "Digital Asset Financial Stability Risks" on Monday and said cryptos "cannot exist outside of our public policy frameworks, regardless of what the crypto industry initially expected or what certain market participants might say today."

"The policy frameworks include protecting investors and consumers, guarding against illicit activity, and supporting financial stability," he said. "Whether you call something a crypto token, stablecoin, or decentralized finance platform (DeFi), those public policy goals remain the same. As Aristotle said: 'Treat like cases alike.'"

NEW WORLD DISORDER TREND: DOLLAR WREAKING HAVOC IN EMERGING MARKETS



The U.S. Federal Reserve is watching the turmoil that the strong dollar is causing in emerging markets, but still will continue to raise interest rates in its struggle to control inflation, Fed vice-chair Lael Brainard said at a Fed-sponsored conference last week.

The central bank understands that rising interest rates around the world, led by the Fed, are pushing emerging nations toward financial instability and possible default, Brainard acknowledged.

“As monetary policy tightens globally to combat high inflation, it is important to consider how cross-border spillovers and spillbacks might interact with financial vulnerabilities,” she said.

The central bank has a special concern for the impact of higher interest rates on highly leveraged countries and companies, the *Financial Times* noted.

As rates rise, it becomes increasingly difficult for emerging nations in particular, which often are burdened by high debt loads, to keep up payments on their loans.

Those debts typically are denominated in dollars.

The Fed is “attentive” to those vulnerabilities and aware that they “could be exacerbated by the advent of additional adverse shocks,” Brainard said.

Equity markets in emerging nations have plummeted 29 percent in dollar terms this year, teeing them up for their worst annual showing since 2008 in the pit of the Great Recession, according to MSCI data.

Currencies of those countries have collectively lost 8.4 percent against the dollar so far this year, MSCI reported.

The further those currencies fall, the harder it becomes for the nations to buy enough dollars to pay their debts, as we have noted in [“Investors Flee Emerging Nations’ Bonds As Default Prospects Rise”](#) (31 May 2022), [“Strong Dollar Batters Emerging Nations’ Currencies”](#) (5 July 2022) and [“Emerging Nations Diving Into Debt Default”](#) (12 Jul 2022), among other articles.

TREND FORECAST: *Five nations—Egypt, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Zambia—already have defaulted on their debt, examples of our Top 2022 Trend of [Dragflation](#), in which prices rise and economic output shrinks.*

These five are only the beginning.

As many as a dozen more nations will default as the central banks of leading economies steadily raise interest rates in a Hail Mary attempt to reverse inflation.

Those countries will turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help, as they always do.

However, the IMF already has loaned more this year than ever before, as we report in [“IMF Lends Record Amount With More To Come”](#) in this issue.

Although the fund’s books show it has as much as \$750 million to lend, the IMF will want to squeeze every drop of concessions from the debtor nations it aids.

In return for what help it can give, the IMF will once again demand bankrupt nations adopt stringent financial reforms and controls.

As has often happened before, those mandated controls will send people into the streets to protest, creating social and political instability, as we have detailed in our [New World Disorder](#) Top Trend.

U.S. MORTGAGE RATES HIGHEST IN 15 YEARS



Last week, U.S. mortgage interest rates rose to their highest levels since July 2007 during the Great Recession.

The average rate for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan climbed to 6.7 percent by Thursday last week, rising from 6.29 percent the week before, according to the Federal Home Loan

Mortgage Corporation's (Freddie Mac's) survey of lenders.

It was the sixth consecutive week of rising rates, which now have more than doubled the level of about 3 percent where they began this year.

Rates have risen with the U.S. Federal Reserve's key federal funds interest rate, which the central bank has hiked relentlessly since last spring in a so-far vain attempt to control inflation.

Usually, mortgage rates are more closely tied to the yield on the 10-year treasury note, which bounced wildly last week in the wake of the U.K.'s financial crisis. (See ["U.K.'s Debt Bomb Roils Bond Markets in Europe, U.S."](#) in this issue.)

The bond market's gyrations account for a wider-than-usual disparity among rates offered by different lenders, according to Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, higher rates would deflate the housing market that was artificially pumped up by cheap mortgage rates. Now buyers can't afford to pay more as a result of higher mortgage rates and many owners who were planning to sell the home they own to buy another one are hesitating because of far higher rates.*

Many potential buyers will continue renting, shut out of the home-buying market by the combination of rising interest rates and stubbornly high home prices.

By the end of August, sales of existing homes had fallen for seven consecutive months.

Applications to refinance existing mortgages have plunged 85 percent, year over year, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA).

The cratering market in refinancing will drag mortgage loans in general down by 48 percent compared to last year, the MBA predicted.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: In articles such as our [“U.S. Market Overview”](#) (28 Sep 2021) and [“Community Bankers: Housing Crash Coming?”](#) (19 Oct 2021), we have correctly been forecasting for more than a year that when the U.S. Federal Reserve raised its fed funds rate to or above 1.5 percent, the housing market would begin a deep slump.

The market crashed first for modest-and middle-income households, as fewer were able to afford down payments or qualify for mortgages at higher interest rates.

The figures prove the point: the percentage of homes sold to first-time buyers has been steadily slipping in recent months. Historically, those buyers make up 40 percent of the market; by February of this year, they comprised just 29 percent.

Therefore, the higher interest rates rise, the deeper the housing market will decline.

HOUSING CRASH COMING?



In August, after sales of existing homes declined for a sixth consecutive month, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) predicted that “we may see two or three additional months of some decline—nothing meaningful,” Lawrence Yun, NAR’s chief economist, told Business Insider.

Now things have changed, Yun says.

Existing home sales were down 19.9 percent in August from a year earlier, he noted, leading him to predict an overall 15.2-percent slump in sales for this year compared to last.

Home sales will drop by 7.1 percent next year, compared to 2022, even if the market recovers during the second half of 2023, he warned.

That implies a slump lasting for at least three consecutive quarters, which would be triple the length of Yun's earlier prediction.

What's different now?

"The big news for the housing market is the mortgage rates jumping this high this quickly," Yun said in a 28 September BI interview.

"Just last week, it was around 6 percent," he noted. "Now it's going to 7 percent. These are substantial changes."

The average rate was 7.06 percent on 3 October, BankRate.com reported.

As rates moved from 3 to 7 percent during the course of this year, the average mortgage payment rose by 50 percent, he said.

He sees rates staying near 7 percent for the next several months, but eight-percent mortgages could be ahead if inflation continues to "get out of hand," Yun said.

If mortgage rates tick up one percentage point, that can make homes harder to afford as much as a 13-percent jump in home prices, according to Nadia Evangelou, NAR's research director.

She foresees slowing home sales at least until April.

However, slowing sales will not mean lower prices everywhere, Yun emphasized.

Instead, prices will edge up 1.2 percent next year, primarily because fewer houses than normal will be on the market, he said.

“Month-to-month [price] change is showing decline,” he said, which “means that in about six months, half of America is probably going to see some price declines, but the other half will see some continuing price increases,” depending on location and market segment, he added.

TREND FORECAST: *Higher interest rates and continuing high home prices will extend the trend of modest- and middle-income buyers being shut out of home ownership, a problem we have tracked through articles such as [“Home Prices Up, Incomes Down”](#) (16 Nov 2021) and [“Middle-Income Buyers Too Poor to Buy Homes”](#) (15 Feb 2022).*

Burdened by student debt and rising living costs, even more Americans will spend a greater proportion of their lives, or perhaps all of their lives, renting instead of realizing their dream of home ownership, a trend we have documented extensively in articles such as [“Home Prices Rise Record. Middle Class Dream Dying”](#) (1 Mar 2022) and [“Mortgage Rates Surpass 6 Percent for First Time in 14 Years”](#) (20 Sep 2022).

TIMBERRRR! LUMBER PRICES CRASH



On 27 September, lumber futures prices dropped to \$429.30 per thousand board feet, falling 60 percent from their peak last March to levels preceding the COVID era and its building boom, according to Random Lengths, an industry research service.

The lower prices signaled a slowdown in the construction industry.

Wood prices plunged when the COVID War began but soon soared as those still employed splurged on home improvements and new dwellings while there were no services or activities to spend money on.

Over the period, two-by-fours tripled their pre-COVID record price in an early warning of inflation and fractured supply chains, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

In spring 2021, soaring lumber prices boosted the cost of a new house by \$36,000, which we highlighted in [“Lumber Prices Add \\$36,000 to Cost of New Home”](#) (4 May 2021).

Builders now say cheaper wood is allowing them to cut prices and offer incentives to prospective buyers of new homes in an attempt to revive home sales without harming companies' margins.

In April, the rate of single-family home construction reached its fastest in more than a decade, the *WSJ* said. Since then, it has slowed by 13 percent, offset by an increase in construction in multi-family homes.

Apartments use about two-thirds less lumber per dwelling unit than single-family houses do.

Lumber consumption will shrink by 2.5 percent this year and 4.5 percent in 2023 as the building industry slows under higher mortgage interest rates and the COVID-era building boom makes its final exit, the consulting firm Forest Economic Advisors (FEA) predicted.

Mills in western Canada, which produce a large share of North America's lumber, need to see prices of \$500 per thousand board feet to break even, FEA said, so are likely to control output to hold that price.

During the COVID era, mill ownership consolidated among fewer, larger companies. As a result, a relatively small number of firms are able to buoy market prices by cutting back production, advisory firm Wood Resources International said.

TREND FORECAST: While lumber prices are down, they are still way up. Before the COVID War they were in the \$200s per thousand board feet range. But considering reports of record-low inventories, rising milling costs, higher wages, increasing energy and transportation costs etc., minus an escalating World War III or other wild card, they will stay in their current \$400 range.

GM SOFTENS BACK-TO-THE-OFFICE REQUIREMENT AFTER WORKER BACKLASH



On 23 September, General Motors told employees that they are to be in their corporate offices at least three days a week beginning later this year.

The company called the change an “evolution” of its policy regarding remote work.

Four days later, after workers had complained, GM “clarified” its message to say that there would be no strict timetable for the return as of now and that GM would not mandate which days workers had to show up.

In April 2021, the carmaker was lauded for its “work appropriately” policy that gave workers flexibility in their worksites, depending on their projects and timetables.

In its 27 September follow-up, GM explained that “while we have maintained a highly collaborative culture over the last two years...the intangible benefits of in-person collaboration are going to be a critical success factor as we move into a period of rapid launches.

“This evolution is about being ready for the next phase of our transformation,” the message to employees said.

The statement also apologized for the original message's vagueness.

"We believe the benefits of being transparent—even with suboptimal timing and partial details—outweighed the risk of creating distrust by having you hear the information second-hand," it said.

TREND FORECAST: *As we had forecast, the work-at-home trend is here to stay and workers' insistence for flexible working arrangements will withstand employers' insistence about regathering centrally.*

As a result, corporations will bow to the inevitable and eventually will reduce the amount of office space they own even more.

As those spaces flood the market—whether as space for lease in corporate buildings or entire buildings for sale—the glut of unoccupied office space begging for tenants or buyers will worsen.

As we have noted in our [“Real Estate Industry Update”](#) of 13 April, 2021, 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.

We repeat our forecast of a business office real estate collapse and the negative implications it will have on businesses that depend on commuter traffic. (See [“LABOR DAY: FALSE HOPES OF COMMUTER ECONOMY.”](#) (27 Jul 2021); [“COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BUST? OFFICE OCCUPANCY RATES IN TOILET”](#) (29 Mar 2022); [“NEW YORK OFFICE WORKERS EXPECTED TO SLASH CITY SPENDING BY HALF”](#) (5 Apr 2022); [“MASS EXPIRATION OF OFFICE LEASES THREATEN LANDLORDS”](#) (26 Apr 2022))

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT

Dragflation: Economic growth declining and inflation rising... plus the pressure of interest rate hikes that are drying up the cheap money pool are causing companies in many sectors to lay off employees. To illustrate the employment trends and the socioeconomic implications, each week we will list job losses:

Illinois added just 4,100 jobs from mid-July through mid-August, the weakest month of growth in over a year. 7 of the 15 metro areas lost ground in recovering jobs lost during the COVID War. The St. Louis metro area lost 1,800 jobs, while the largest percentage decline was in the Cape Girardeau metro area, declining 2.06 percent, or 900 jobs. The other 5 metro areas lost a total of 1,400 jobs.

- Instacart cuts staff and curbs hiring
- Tonnies cut 600 jobs
- The Estonian Transport Administration announced job cuts

- EMC insurance Co. cut 65 jobs
- Meta and Google have reported more cuts and have entered hiring freezes
- WeDriveU Inc. lost 97 positions
- Onsemi fired 88 employees
- All Told fired 285 workers
- Kittyhawk is permanently shutting down, all employees will be affected
- St. Vincent Medical Center will lay off nearly 1,000 workers
- Finnair expects 200 managerial job cuts
- SoftBank cuts 150 staff
- Marks and Spencer will ax 7,000 workers over the next 3 months
- RBC cuts 10 investment banking jobs
- Kuda cuts 5 percent or 23 member of its staff
- M&T Bank reports 325 layoffs and has announced plans to cut another 333
- Beyond Meat is closing its U.S. based plant affecting most employees
- Amgen cut 1,100 staff
- GAP fired 500 employees
- OLA cut 500 jobs
- Wipro fired 300 workers
- PowerHome Solar laid off 1,100 staff
- Opel cut over 1,000 jobs in Germany
- Skip The Dishes cut 300 jobs
- GoStudent lost 200 workers
- VF Corporation laid off 600 workers
- Packable Holdings cut 456 jobs
- Tencent axed 5,500 staff members
- Nutanix fired 270 members
- Sema4 cut 250 workers
- DeHaat fired 500 people
- Metco Landscape laid off 343 workers
- DocuSign shrunk 9 percent
- Divvy Homes lost 40 workers
- Foxtrot cut 26 positions

IMF LENDS RECORD AMOUNT WITH MORE TO COME



The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the international lender of last resort, has loaned a record \$140 billion so far this year to aid troubled countries, at least five of which already are in default with more on the brink, the *Financial Times* reported.

Egypt, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Zambia have defaulted on their sovereign debts and are in discussions with the IMF about restructuring their payment programs.

The costs of caring for COVID patients, of the Ukraine war and resulting Western sanctions, inflation, and climbing interest rates have forced more than 35 countries to seek IMF bailouts.

The fund has disbursed \$140 billion this year through August to 44 different rescue plans, the *FT* found.

The fund's overall commitments, which include loans pledged as well as those already made, have rocketed to \$268 billion, with more expected as both inflation and borrowing costs continue to rise.

At the end of August, the IMF loaned \$1.1 billion to Pakistan. Argentina is due to receive \$3.9 billion before December. Egypt will receive \$15 billion, Goldman Sachs analysts predict.

TREND FORECAST: *As many as a dozen or more additional nations will default on their sovereign debt and turn to the IMF to bail them out.*

As it always does, the IMF will impose stringent terms on nations it lends to, leading to public protests over government cuts to public subsidies of food and fuel, among other austerities. It will accelerate our "New World Disorder" trend as people take to

the streets in protest of lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence.

The deeper economic conditions deteriorate the higher the amount of refugees that will be fleeing for safe haven nations. In turn, strong anti-immigration, anti-establishment political movements, such as those that occurred in Italy and Sweden recently, will accelerate.

In addition, the IMF will pressure developed nations to simply forgive portions of debts owed by insolvent countries.

These pressures will meet greater resistance than usual as the U.S., Europe, and other nations struggle with their own mounting debts.

REFINANCING DEBT COULD ADD \$1 TRILLION TO COSTS



Emerging nations and wobbly corporations needing to refinance debt will need to pay interest an average of 1.56 percentage points higher than the current rate for the same securities—a total of \$1.01 billion extra, according to Bloomberg’s analysis of bonds owed by current public-and private-sector debtors.

Making matters worse, the chance to refinance might not appear or, if it does, at an even higher new interest rate.

In September, bond markets in the U.S. and Europe entered bear markets, dropping at least 20 percent from their most recent highs.

Bloomberg's Multiverse Index of investment-grade and junk bonds across currencies has cast off about 20 percent of its value this year, poised for its worst annual return ever.

Emerging nations are in an increasingly precarious financial condition: the price of everything imported is rising, with the strong dollar adding a premium to those higher costs.

Also, interest rates are rising. Because so much foreign debt is denominated in dollars, rising interest rates atop a surging dollar makes it especially hard for emerging nations to guarantee their ability to service debt.

Still, the U.S. Federal Reserve has pledged to keep raising its key interest rate to battle inflation, even at the expense of poor nations, as we report in [“Fed Is Monitoring Dollar’s Havoc In Emerging Markets”](#) in this issue.

As the Fed raises its rate, other central banks have responded in kind to protect the value of their currencies and bonds.

Add to those factors general market volatility and a darker global economic outlook.

Under those conditions, even the bluest of blue-chip bonds can go begging.

In September's final week, a consortium of investment banks scrapped \$4 billion in financing for a leveraged buyout and investment funds focused on highly rated bonds saw one of the biggest cash outflows ever, Bloomberg reported.

Six U.S.-based borrowers tracked by S&P Global Ratings defaulted in August, according to S&P Global, signaling growing trouble for overleveraged borrowers to secure new loans to pay off old ones.

Globally, Sri Lanka defaulted on its sovereign debt earlier this year, causing the government to collapse.

Egypt, Ghana, Tunisia, and Zambia also went bust.

Asian borrowers are paying the highest interest rates in a decade, virtually halting new dollar-bond deals, Bloomberg said. Dollar bonds issued by Asian entities have lost value for five consecutive quarters, the longest trough on record.

“We are yet to see the bulk of the impact of rate rises on the economy,” Pauline Chrystal, a portfolio manager at Kapstream Capital in Sydney, told Bloomberg. “We still expect to see a deterioration in activity, employment, and increase in defaults.”

TRENDPOST: *Some of China’s premiere real estate developers also have become insolvent, as we reported in [“China’s Overborrowed Property Industry Cracking”](#) (19 Oct 2021) and [“Evergrande in Default, Fitch Says”](#) (14 Dec 2021). Again, as we continue to note, the stronger dollar weighs especially heavily on emerging economies, many of which are laden with dollar-denominated debt.*

INFLATION IN EUROPE REACHES DOUBLE DIGITS



Inflation across the 19-country Eurozone reached 10 percent last month, it’s 11th consecutive month of increases and the first to reach double digits.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a 9.7-percent pace.

Prices in the region are continuing to rise at the fastest pace since the Eurozone was formed in 1999.

Russia’s sequential reduction of natural gas supplies to Europe since September 2021 has sent prices steadily higher. The Ukraine war and Western sanctions worsened them. Early last month, Russia had entirely ended shipments through its Nord Stream 1 pipeline, sparking a full-on energy crisis.

Energy prices across the zone rose 40.8 percent last month, year on year, picking up speed from August's 38.6 percent. Prices for alcohol, food, and tobacco were up 11.8 percent in September.

Excluding food and fuel, core prices rose 4.8 percent, compared to 4.3 percent in August.

Inflation in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania exceeded 20 percent; Denmark registered 17.1 percent. More than half of euro countries posted double-digit price rises.

Germany, the Eurozone's largest economy, clocked inflation at 10.9 percent after the government's fuel-bill rebates and subsidized train travel expired.

In France, inflation eased from 6.6 percent to 6.2 percent, thanks to government subsidies for consumers' energy bills.

TRENDPOST: *Despite the European Central Bank's claims to be resolute in raising interest rates to fight inflation, it is unable to do so.*

With inflation at 10 percent, the bank's interest rate would need to reach beyond 8 percent to have a meaningful impact.

It now stands at 0.75 percent.

The bank cannot raise its rate high enough fast enough to matter to inflation in the short term.

Therefore, controlling inflation is being left to consumers to lower prices by simply not buying things.

As the saying goes, "The cure for high prices is high prices."

GERMANY ROLLS OUT €200 BILLION IN ENERGY SUBSIDIES



Germany's government will provide a €200-billion "shield" for businesses and low-income households grappling with relentlessly rising energy bills, the government announced last week.

Like the U.K., Germany will borrow to subsidize consumer prices of electricity and natural gas.

The borrowed funds will be directed through the European Union's Economic Stabilization Fund, established in 2020 to help companies survive COVID-era lockdowns.

The aid package is the largest offered by a European Union (EU) member nation since the energy crisis began in the wake of the Ukraine war and Western sanctions against Russia.

The aid plan followed news that Germany's inflation rate ratcheted up to 10.9 percent in September, the highest in 70 years. The rate was 8.8 percent in August.

The jump in Germany's prices helped lift the EU's rate of price increases to 10 percent for the month.

Energy costs have soared 43.9 percent in Germany so far this year, accelerating from August's rate of 35.6 percent. Food prices are up 18.7 percent since 1 January.

TRENDPOST: *Despite Germany joining other European nations and the United States to impose strict oil and gas sanctions on Russia, the German government has accused Russia of "weaponizing" its gas exports to Europe, which it had cut back sharply last fall as a political pressure tactic. Russia entirely shut down the Nord Stream 1 pipeline last month.*

*The Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines under the Baltic Sea have been blown up in what Moscow claims was an act of sabotage. (See **Trends Journal** cover.)*

Running on Empty

As a result, “gas will not be delivered from Russia for the foreseeable future,” German chancellor Olaf Sholz said in a public statement.

The countries are in an “energy war,” German finance minister Christian Lindner added, saying Russia is attempting to destroy “what people have built up over decades...we can’t accept that and we will fight back.”

Despite borrowing €200 billion, Germany will respect the “debt brake” in the country’s constitution that limits borrowing.

“We are not pursuing the example of Great Britain by pursuing an expansive monetary policy,” Lindner pointed out, referring to the U.K.’s recently announced plans to cut taxes, subsidize energy bills, and borrow an indefinite amount to make up the difference.

However, subsidies alone will not solve the crisis, economy minister Robert Habeck cautioned.

“While we’re willing to spend a lot of money to bring down prices, there is still a need to save energy,” he said.

Germany’s freelancing of an aid package conflicted with EU plans to craft a shared approach to “tackle the [region’s energy crisis] at its roots”, the *Financial Times* quoted one EU diplomat as saying.

Germany’s action is “not agreed, not shared, not communicated, which undermines the reason for the [European] union,” Guido Crossetto, a senior advisor to Giorgia Meloni, Italy’s new prime minister, said in a statement.

Most EU member nations supported imposing a cap on natural gas prices, but Germany was among those opposing the idea.

On 30 September, EU ministers agreed to impose a 5-percent mandatory cutback in peak electricity use, a windfall tax on fossil fuel producers, and a cap on the price of electricity not produced by gas.

Under the new agreement, governments will collect revenues above the electricity price cap and distribute them to consumers.

TRENDPOST: *Germany's subsidy plan is being attacked by other European nations. As reported in a joint op-ed for the Irish Times, Paolo Gentiloni, European Commissioner for the economy, and Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for the internal market wrote that "The massive €200 billion aid plan decided by Germany (worth 5% of its GDP) responds to a need we recognise and have highlighted—to support the economy." They also noted that the plan raised questions as to "How can EU countries that do not have the same fiscal space also support businesses and households?"*

Philipp Lausberg, a policy analyst at the European Policy Centre (EPC), told Euronews that. "I see a great risk of fragmentation because the €200 billion subsidy is basically a huge amount of money that creates large advantages for German companies and consumers that other countries cannot provide."

"There is a competitive advantage for German companies that goes against the spirit of the single market."

JAPAN SPENDS ALMOST ¥3 TRILLION TO SALVAGE THE YEN



Last week, Japan's government spent ¥2.84 trillion, the equivalent of \$19.7 billion, to keep the yen's value from falling even further against the dollar.

The yen has been languishing below ¥140 to the dollar since early September.

The action was temporarily successful in stabilizing the yen and keeping it from falling to a new 24-year low against the buck.

However, the Bank of Japan once again vowed to a loose money policy and to hold to its -0.1-percent interest rate, both factors that have steadily sunk the yen as the U.S. Federal Reserve has raised its key interest rates and the dollar has strengthened in recent months.

The yen bumped up to ¥140.34 to the dollar with the intervention after sinking to a low of ¥145.89. However, it sagged again after the government's action and was trading at ¥144.6 to the greenback late on 1 October.

The yen closed at ¥144.52 on 3 October.

Japan's government could carry out as many as 10 additional interventions by selling \$136 billion of deposits in foreign banks and \$148 billion in short-dated securities, Bank of America analysts said in a research report.

TRENDPOST: Japan is in a no-win situation.

It imports 99 percent of its fossil fuels, which have risen in price by almost 50 percent over the last 18 months. Food and other prices are continuing to climb.

If the central bank raises its interest rate, the already-weak Japanese economy could tumble. If the bank leaves rates low, investors will put their resources into currencies that pay higher returns.

TREND FORECAST: *Barring unforeseen disruptions, the Bank of Japan will leave its interest rate at or near zero to coddle the domestic economy and wait for inflation to be brought down with hopes the hostilities in Ukraine end and consumers solve inflation by slashing spending.*

However, today, oil prices were on the rise again. Jumping 3.4 percent, Brent Crude is around \$92 a barrel.

NEW BUSINESS OPENINGS IN CANADA FALL BY ALMOST 50 PERCENT



In the second quarter of this year, Canadian business starts fell by more than 49 percent compared to a year earlier and compared to the same quarter in 2019, according to the Equifax credit reporting agency.

The figure belies the optimism sold to the people by the government that as COVID vaccines spread and lockdowns were rolled back, the economy would rebound.

The wave of businesses reopening post-COVID lost its verve as this year's second quarter began, Jeff Brown, chief of Equifax's commercial solutions operations, told Yahoo.

Economic activity usually picks up in the second quarter as businesses gear up for the summer selling season, Brown noted.

However, in June this year, business openings fell by 11 percent compared to pre-COVID levels, Equifax found.

Automotive, construction, and manufacturing were hit hardest.

The decline prevailed across all of Canada, Craig Alexander, Deloitte's chief economist, said in a Yahoo interview.

New businesses typically make up most of the openings, with expansion of existing businesses also playing a part, Brown said.

However, inflation, rising interest rates, and sagging consumer spending have discouraged entrepreneurial activity this year.

Existing small businesses are struggling not only with economic headwinds, but most have not returned to pre-COVID sales revenues and many are toting debts taken on in order to survive the virus era, Brown explained.

The loss is concerning at all levels of the economy because small businesses buy much of their goods from larger firms, Brown added.

The drop in new businesses is an indicator of the Bank of Canada's higher interest rates on the nation's economy, Alexander said.

The falloff in new businesses comes as bankruptcies, debt levels, and late payments all are on the rise, Equifax noted.

...AND RATES KEEP RISING



On 29 September, Mexico's central bank raised its benchmark interest rate to a record 9.25 percent.

It was the third three-quarter-point bump in as many meetings of the bank's rate-setting committee.

The move had been forecast unanimously by 25 economists Bloomberg had polled.

Mexico clocked its inflation rate at 8.8 percent in early September.

Prices will rise by 8.6 percent through this year, the bank predicted, and drop to 3.1 percent by the end of 2024.

Core inflation, ignoring food and fuel prices, will rise by 8.2 percent in this year's final quarter and 4.1 percent at the end of 2023, according to the bank.

To ensure the peso's strength, the central bank is expected to raise its rates in tandem with future increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Bank officials "are finally starting to recognize the various inflation pressures that have accumulated," Jessica Roldan, chief economist at Casa de Bolsa Finamex, told the *WSJ*. "Before, they were extremely optimistic."

Mexico's economy will grow by 2 percent this year and 1.2 percent next year, a Citi survey of economists predicted, compared to 4.8 percent growth in 2021.

Also last week on 30 September, India's central bank added a half-point to its overnight lending rate, moving it from 5.4 percent to 5.9.

India's inflation rate was 7 percent in August.

It was the fourth increase since an unscheduled meeting in May, following rising interest rates elsewhere and cost pressures brought by Russia's attack on Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions.

"There is nervousness in financial markets with potential consequences for the real economy and financial stability," Shaktikanta Das, governor of the Royal Bank of India, said in a statement announcing the new rate.

“The global economy is in the eye of a new storm,” he added.

With inflation continuing at “alarmingly high levels” and a global recession looming, the world’s economic outlook is bleak, Das said.

TRENDPOST: *The central banks in Mexico and India are examples of prudence. They have raised their key rates to levels that have a chance to make a difference to inflation.*

In contrast, the U.S. and European central banks cut interest rates too much during the COVID War, then waited far too long to raise them after inflation began its march.

As a result, the U.S. Federal Reserve and European Central Bank’s rate increases are having only a slow effect on inflation, while rising prices continue to rob the population.

COTTON PRICES TUMBLE



Cotton futures prices have slid 25 percent since late August, reversing the rise in price that followed the U.S. agriculture department’s forecast that 40 percent of this year’s U.S. cotton harvest would be lost to drought.

For only the third time since the 1950s, cotton’s price topped \$1 per pound last year after the U.S. government banned imports of cotton and cotton products from China’s Xinjiang province.

China is alleged to have forced more than a million of its Uyghur Muslim population into slave labor camps to work the province’s cotton fields and factories.

Cotton prices have fallen as clothing manufacturers have reduced their purchases on expectations of slower sales, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Also, the rising dollar has made American-grown cotton more expensive for overseas mills and clothing makers.

“With the increase in interest rates and general recessionary fears, there will be more spent on food, fuel, necessary items...as opposed to clothing, furniture,” Donna Hughes, risk analyst at StoneX Group, told the *WSJ*.

Also, China has cut back its cotton imports as domestic inventories remain unsold.

China imported 1.7 metric tons of the fiber during the 12 months ending 31 July, 60 percent less than the previous 12 months, according to Cotlook, an industry information service.

Globally, three million metric tons of cotton have piled up with no takers, Cotlook said.

The market, and prices, could turn up quickly if the U.S. crop is as poor as has been forecast, the *WSJ* noted, but consumer demand for clothing is expected to remain depressed.

We reported on cotton’s price surge in [“Cotton Futures Trade at 10-Year High”](#) (12 Oct 2021).

ENERGY COSTS WILL “KILL THE ECONOMY,” SLOVAKIA PRIME MINISTER WARNS



The skyrocketing price of electricity has pushed Slovakia’s economy to the brink of “collapse,” prime minister Eduard Heger said last week in a public warning.

The increased cost of fuels sparked by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Russia’s cutoff of its natural gas shipments to Europe, and

Western sanctions will “kill the economy,” he added.

Heger called for billions of euros in financial aid from the European Union to solve the crisis.

Without that aid, the government will nationalize the country’s energy industry, he said.

“We don’t want to do this,” he emphasized, “but if there won’t be any other help, we’ll be pushed to this solution.”

Electric bills now account for about 10 percent of household spending, he said.

Slovakia produces significant amounts of hydro and nuclear power. However, early this year, the country’s largest power producer sold its excess production to traders.

Now the traders are selling the power back to the producer at premium prices.

“Slovaks are buying for €500 what they sold for €100,” Heger noted.

The European Union’s planned windfall tax on power producers would gain Slovakia about €1.5 billion, according to Heger. He also called on the union to release €5 billion

in regional development funds that could be used to help businesses pay their electric bills.

Without the aid, businesses “will be closing and could collapse the whole economy,” Heger said.

Slovakia has an unusually large concentration of heavy industry.

Slovalco, an aluminum producer that accounts for a tenth of the country’s electricity consumption, already has shut down because of power costs.

TREND FORECAST: *Slovakia is another victim of the United States and NATO’s sanction on Russia which has dramatically cut oil flows into Europe, which used to get some 40 percent of their gas and oil from Russian companies.*

Hungary already has broken with its NATO allies over the sanctions, citing the country’s need for Russian fuel. Turkey has turned a blind eye to aspects of the sanctions.

The longer the Ukraine War rages and the more the NATO sanctions alliances impose on Moscow, the deeper European economies will decline.

RUPEE HITS BOTTOM AND FALLS THROUGH IT



The value of India’s rupee fell further to set a new lifetime low against the dollar on 28 September, touching 81.90 to the buck.

The dollar’s strength, which drew foreign investment out of India and other countries, and China’s sinking yuan, bogged down the rupee, as did JPMorgan Chase’s delay in

including India’s bonds in its international bond index.

“Weakness in the yuan and delay of India’s bond inclusion in the JP Morgan EM Bond Index weighed on the rupee,” analyst Dilip Parmer at HDFC Securities told FinancialExpress.com.

“The rupee may fall to 82.90 while 81 will act as support,” he predicted.

As of 3 October, the Royal Bank of India had not intervened to support the rupee.

TOP 2022 TREND: DRAGFLATION—NIGERIA LIFTS INTEREST RATE TO RECORD HIGH



Nigeria’s central bank has raised its benchmark interest rate to an all-time high of 15.5 percent.

The bank surprised analysts by adding 1.5 percentage points at one time, its third hike in as many policy meetings.

The bank may continue to raise rates, governor Godwin Emefiele told reporters after the newest meeting, adding that it is “imperative” to bring the costs of food and fuel, which have rocketed up during the Ukraine war and as a result of Western sanctions.

“It is difficult for us to not go in the aggressive way we have today,” he said. “This is the best option at this time.”

Consumer prices in Nigeria rose at an annual pace of 20.5 percent in August. Excluding food and fuel, the core price index jumped 17.2 percent, signaling that inflation has embedded itself throughout the country’s economy.

Nigeria is among a growing roster of countries suffering economically because of the dollar’s startling strength, as we have reported in [“Strong Dollar Batters Emerging](#)

[Nations' Currencies](#)" (5 Jul 2022), ["Strong Dollar Weakens Other Economies, Forces Higher Rates"](#) (2 Aug 2022) and in other articles.

However, Nigeria's troubles are compounded by the price of oil, which accounts for 80 percent of the African nation's foreign revenue.

Aside from a blip up above \$120 a barrel, oil's price has remained in double digits this year—good for emerging markets that produce oil but not enough to lift many out of fiscal trouble.

Benchmark Brent crude for November delivery traded at \$88.86 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 3 October.

Also, the country lost an estimated average of 437,000 barrels of oil a day from January through July to sabotage and theft, costing the treasury at least \$10 billion, according to Nigeria's *Premium Times* newspaper.

Stolen fuel and makeshift pipelines have been traced even to churches and mosques, the paper reported.

Economic insecurity is expected to be a central issue in Nigeria's February presidential election.

TREND FORECAST: Nigeria, like other emerging nations, are mired in [Dragflation](#), our Top 2022 Trend in which economic activity falls while prices rise, in part because of higher interest rates. As this upside-down economic condition continues to spread among emerging nations, more will be pushed to default on their sovereign debts.

HONG KONG'S HOME PRICES CRASH



During the last week of September, no new apartments were sold in Hong Kong, an island with almost 7.5 million people, the *Financial Times* reported.

Home prices have fallen back to levels last seen in February 2019 and will lose at least 10 percent in value this year, analysts told the *FT*.

Charles Chan, a managing director of Savills realty is more gloomy, expecting to see prices tumble 15 percent this year, with the weakness extending into 2023.

The South Land apartment development made no sales of the 139 flats put on the market on 20 September, despite offering incentives including \$1,500 in discounts at Michelin-starred restaurants.

A year earlier, 2,200 buyers were jockeying for 160 apartments in the project.

“Now is definitely winter for the property market,” Sammy Po, CEO of Midland Realty’s residential division in Hong Kong. “Prospective buyers prefer a wait-and-see attitude.”

TREND FORECAST: This comes as no surprise to ***Trends Journal*** subscribers. We had long noted that rising interest rates, China’s weakened economy, and its zero COVID lockdown policies would hit Hong Kong and the mainland’s economy hard. And as we have forecast, Singapore has, and will continue to gain what Hong Kong has lost.

U.K. CENTRAL BANK GOES LOOSE



On 29 September, the Bank of England (BoE) suspended its plans to tighten monetary policy and bought £1 billion in government bonds to stabilize the nation's debt and pension markets after new prime minister Liz Truss announced her government would initially borrow more than £72 billion to subsidize household energy

bills.

The bank stepped in to avoid what it called “a material risk to U.K. financial stability” and said it will buy bonds at “an urgent rate.”

The government mandates a limit on the amount utility companies can charge residential customers for electricity and natural gas. The cap will rise by as much as 80 percent this month, lofting the average utility bill to more than £3,500 a year.

With inflation pegged at 9.9 percent in August, Truss has pledged to cap that cost at £2,500 to give households a break.

Her government will borrow to pay for the subsidy.

Simultaneously, Truss unveiled the government's broadest suite of tax cuts since 1972, including the elimination of a 45-percent income tax on those earning more than £150,000 a year.

However, on 3 October, Truss abandoned plans to wipe away the 45-percent tax on high earners under growing public pressure and dissent within her own Conservative Party.

The proposed tax cuts and new round of borrowing have roiled U.K. bond markets as investors demanded higher yields to reward them for taking what was regarded as a significant risk under the government's drastic economic change of course.

At the same time, the pound sterling sank to its lowest level ever against the dollar, falling to \$1.0350 on 19 September, as we reported in [“New U.K Stimulus Plan Pounds Down Pound”](#) (27 Sep 2022).

The central bank's intervention stabilized the pound, which then rebounded, rising to \$1.1234 on 1 October, but still 9 percent lower than it was three months earlier.

“Maximum panic is over,” Kingswood strategist Rupert Thompson told the *Financial Times*. “We're back close to where we were before the whole thing blew up.”

However, the pound's future is not bright, Adam Cole, chief foreign exchange strategist at RBC Capital Markets said to the *FT*.

The turmoil has cast “a very bright spotlight on some underlying economic issues that were weighing on sterling, namely the macroeconomic imbalances in the U.K.,” he noted.

The pound also could tumble again if the U.K.'s Office of Budget Responsibility—akin to the U.S.'s Office of Management and Budget—delivers a negative report on the likely impacts of Truss's proposed tax cuts and subsidies, analysts told the *FT*.

The pound closed on 3 October equivalent to \$1.13.

On Friday, 30 September, Truss and finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng met with the chief of the government's Office of Budget Responsibility, which analyzes budgets and offers forecasts of their impact.

Truss apparently had not consulted the office before unveiling her plan to cut taxes and borrow billions, which one government insider told *The Guardian* newspaper “is like trying to read the manual after you've broken the thing.”

The BoE said it will "not hesitate" to boost interest rates to salvage the pound and offset the effect of billions of new money flowing into the markets.

Some analysts predict that the bank will hike its key rate from the current 2.25 percent to 5.8 percent within six months.

Fearing suddenly higher rates, mortgage lenders took "hundreds" of special mortgage loan products off the market, according to Bloomberg.

The bank also indicated that it could eventually auction as much as £65 billion in new bonds.

Truss's Conservative Party has split over her radical scheme. Divisions worsened last week when Truss vowed that she would stick to her plan.

A public opinion survey found the opposition Labour Party polling 33 points ahead of Truss's Conservatives, doubling Labour's lead in the four days after Truss announced her program.

TREND FORECAST: *While the pound has regained some of its weakness, the lower it goes the more it will raise the cost of imports, especially fossil fuels and other commodities which are dollar based. The dollar has steadily risen in value this year, driving other currencies' values down, as we noted in ["Strong Dollar Weakens Other Economies, Forces Higher Rates"](#) (2 Aug 2022) and other articles.*

The BoE has raised its key interest rate consistently since spring to lasso inflation and announced two weeks ago that it was poised to begin selling its bond holdings. However, with inflation near 10 percent and the Bank rate at just 2.5 percent, real interest rates are deep in negative territory. Thus, the low interest rates will keep pounding the pound down. And the lower the pound falls the higher inflation will rise since it will cost more to buy imports from the U.S. and EU.

IMF SCOLDS U.K. GOVERNMENT OVER PLAN TO CUT TAXES AND BORROW



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave a “stinging rebuke” to the government of British Prime Minister Liz Truss over her plan for massive tax cuts—the most drastic since 1972—while also initially borrowing more than £72 billion to subsidize household energy bills, the *Financial Times* reported.

The package is “untargeted” and is “at cross purposes” with the Bank of England’s plan to tighten monetary policy to tackle inflation.

The IMF is “closely monitoring” developments as they unfold and “is engaged with” financial officials in the U.K., the agency said.

The IMF typically speaks in such stern tones only to emerging market nations lurching toward insolvency, the *FT* noted.

Such blunt comments to one of the world’s G7 nations is virtually unprecedented, observers told the *FT*.

A former unnamed IMF official said to the *FT* that he almost “fell out of his chair” when he read the statement.

“If you have a mandate for global financial and economic stability, you have to have a view,” he acknowledged. “The question is, how much of that do you convey?”

The IMF’s critique gave tacit permission to other officials to weigh in on Truss’s proposals. Finance ministers in France, Germany, and Spain have condemned the plan; U.S. treasury secretary Janet Yellen said the U.S. is “monitoring developments very closely.”

In contrast, some observers argued that the IMF had overstepped its bounds by publicly criticizing a country outside of its quarterly economic outlook report or a routine review of a nation's financial health.

However, the IMF felt it could not remain silent when a country makes policies so diametrically opposed to the IMF's constant advice to "avoid large and untargeted fiscal packages" while inflation continues to rage, people familiar told the *FT*.

"This is a time when, everywhere, monetary policy has to fight inflation and fiscal policy needs to help," one IMF official said to the *FT*. "But they [Britain] are doing exactly the opposite and the central bank now has to print money to buy debt."

The Bank of England's plan to sell up to £65 billion in bonds to prevent a pension debacle after announcing a week earlier than planned to begin emptying its bond portfolio "is the worst thing you can imagine," the official added.

TRENDPOST: *Some critics of the IMF's outspokenness wondered why the agency did not similarly chide the Biden administration for not funding last year's \$1.9-trillion COVID stimulus plan or the \$400 billion in student debt Biden recently canceled.*

"It is puzzling that the IMF felt it necessary to opine on a G20 nation's domestic policy and only now to oppose a 'large and untargeted fiscal package'," U.S. Senator William Hagerty (R-TN) said in a statement.

"Where were the IMF warnings when the Biden administration pushed through trillions in fiscal stimulus as our economy was overheating?" he asked.

Also absent in the criticism is the amount of cheap money made available from zero and negative interest rates by the EU and U.S. respectively to artificially pump up sagging equity markets and economies... or the several trillion that the Trump administration pumped into the economy to fight the COVID War after he declared a State of Emergency on Black Friday, 13 March 2020.

This was the Washington Post headline on 16 April: "The U.S. has thrown more than \$6 trillion at the coronavirus crisis. That number could grow."

SPOTLIGHT: CHINA



CHINA'S GROWTH WILL LAG ASIA'S THIS YEAR, WORLD BANK SAYS

For the first time since 1990, China's economic production this year will be less than the rest of Asia's, the World Bank has predicted.

China will grow 2.8 percent this year after turning in 8.1-percent growth last year, the bank said.

At the same time, the rest of Asia will expand by 5.3 percent this year, compared to 2.6 last year. Asian economies are benefiting from high commodity prices and a resurgence of post-COVID domestic consumer and business spending.

In April, the bank had foreseen 4- to 5-percent expansion in China this year.

"China, which was leading the recovery from [COVID] and had largely shrugged off the Delta variant difficulties, is now paying the economic cost of containing the disease in its most infectious manifestation," Aaditya Mattoo, the World Bank's chief economist for Asia, said to the *Financial Times*.

China's government had set a growth target of 5.5 percent this year, the lowest in 30 years.

However, president Xi Jinping then instituted a zero-tolerance anti-COVID policy that has resulted in massive, rolling lockdowns around the country since March. Economic output has plummeted as a result.

He mandated the policy amid the collapse of China's property development and real estate industries, which have accounted for as much as 30 percent of GDP.

Home sales by the country's 100 largest developers plunged 25.4 percent in September, year over year, the 15th consecutive month to show a year-on-year slide, the China Real Estate Information Corp. reported.

Also, regulatory crackdowns on the tech and financial industries, as well as droughts, floods, and heat waves have sapped the country's economic vitality.

To prevent the property industry's breakdown from infecting the broader economy, the government needs to give failing developers financial aid and offer financial guarantees that projects will be completed, the World Bank urged.

A budding movement across China is encouraging home buyers to suspend their mortgage payments until their homes are completed, as we reported in [“Chinese Home Buyers Refuse to Make Mortgage Payments on Unfinished Houses”](#) (19 Jul 2022).

Over the longer term, China needs to make economic reforms, including giving local governments the power to tax property to make government revenues less dependent on land sales, the bank said.

China has “immense ammunition to provide a powerful stimulus,” Mattoo said, but Beijing has determined that stimulating consumption and propping up the housing market would be “emasculated” by continuing anti-COVID lockdowns, the *FT* reported.

TREND FORECAST: President Xi Jinping zero-COVID policy has dramatically delayed China's emergence as the world's leading economy by at least five years.

COVID LOCKDOWNS DENT CHINA'S SERVICE SECTOR PERFORMANCE



China's service sector contracted in September, paying the price of Beijing's drastic, ongoing anti-COVID policy of rolling lockdowns, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Restrictions were tightened even more in advance of Golden Week, which begins 1

October to commemorate the Communist revolution, and the Communist Party conclave beginning 16 October.

As of 30 September, lockdowns covered areas responsible for 25 percent of China's economic output, according to the *WSJ*.

The service sector's purchasing managers index (PMI) fell from 51.9 in August to 48.9 in September. Ratings below 50 indicate declining economic activity.

The slump highlights the government's failure to grow a robust consumer economy under its "dual circulation" economic strategy, which we have detailed extensively in articles such as ["China Announces "Dual Circulation" Economic Policy"](#) (9 Sep 2020) and ["China's Economy is Shrinking"](#) (10 May 2022), among others.

In contrast, the manufacturing sector edged back into an expansion last month after shrinking for two, with the sector's PMI rising from 49.4 in August to 50.1 in September despite a deepening weakness in orders for export.

The PMI's export subindex slid to 47, the lowest in four months, while Chinese ports' container and cargo traffic shrank 15 percent during the first 10 days of September, year on year, the *WSJ* found.

Draconian anti-virus measures are likely to remain in effect at least through this calendar year, dimming hopes of a service-sector rebound, the *WSJ* said.

Goldman Sachs and several other investment banks expect the strict policy to remain in place until mid-2023, the *WSJ* noted.

China had set a growth target this year of 5.5 percent, its lowest in 30 years.

Now the World Bank and major investment banks have set that target at no more than 3 percent, rising to as much as 4.5 percent in 2023.

Yuan Yanked Down

On 28 September, the value of China's yuan fell to 7.2 to the dollar, its lowest value against the buck since February 2008.

This newest slump has brought the yuan's loss this year to 21 percent against the U.S. currency and puts the yuan on track for its worst year since 1994, Business Insider reported.

China's economic output will grow by only 3.4 percent this year, according to economists Bloomberg surveyed, which would mark its slowest annual pace in at least 40 years.

The People's Bank of China is tightening some aspects of monetary policy to prop up the yuan.

"The foreign exchange market is of great importance and maintaining its stability is the top priority," the bank said in a public statement.

The bank also warned speculators "you will lose if you keep betting" against the yuan.

The dollar has grown increasingly strong throughout most of this year, prompting China and other countries to attempt to shore up their own currencies' value to ease the cost of imports, especially fossil fuels that often must be paid for in dollars.

However, a global tightening of monetary policies sharpens the risk of a worldwide recession, according to Francesco Bianchi, an economics professor at Johns Hopkins University.

A global recession “remains a real possibility, given several central banks have moved in the direction of tightening monetary policy,” he told BI.

“Given that inflation does not seem to fade away, I do not expect to see monetary policy change direction soon,” he added.

The yuan has slipped further, closing at 7.12 to the dollar on Monday, 3 October.

TREND FORECAST: *Expecting major losses on loans, Chinese banks have taken drastic steps to increase their loan loss reserves, tapping China’s bond markets for some 30 percent more funds than they did a year ago.*

Then there is the Taiwan wild card. The closer Beijing gets to taking over the island, the more sanctions will be placed on China which will result in a deep slide of export products. And as with Russia, more companies will abandon China for other cheap labor nations.

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GETTING BIGGER

Each week, we report instances where the money junky hedge funds, private equity groups and the already big companies swallow another piece of the global economy.

Here are some more of what the BIGS have been gobbling up and how the Bigs keep getting bigger and the rich keep getting richer. It should be noted that when interest rates in the U.S. were floating at near zero, merger and acquisition hit an all-time high in 2021.

Now with rates rising, M&A activity is slowing down. And most importantly, a lot of these acquisitions were made with the belief of rising economic growth.

Also, as economies go down and interest rates rise, the debt burden from these M&A's will grow heavier, crashing many of them into bankruptcy and default on debt.

GREEN ENERGY ATTRACTS SOME LONG GREEN



Brookfield Asset Management, a private equity firm already heavily invested in green energy, added two more renewable power firms to its portfolio.

Brookfield will pay \$1 billion for Colorado-based Scout Clean Energy, which operates wind and solar power projects in

California, Illinois, Texas, and other states.

Brookfield also is laying out \$530 million to take over Standard Solar in Maryland, which is a turnkey developer of more than 200 solar power projects.

Brookfield could invest another \$500 million between the two companies to help them grow faster, the firm said.

The purchases are being made out of Brookfield's \$15-billion fund set aside for investments in what it calls "the energy transition."

Shell New Energies, a subsidiary of oil major Royal Dutch Shell, has made its first green energy purchase in Africa, picking up Daystar Power for an undisclosed price.

Daystar generates solar energy and provides battery storage in Ghana, Nigeria, and three other West African countries.

The takeover is “a fundamental step in growing our presence in emerging power markets,” Thomas Brostrom, Shell’s vice-president of renewable generation, said in a statement announcing the purchase.

Shell bought India’s Sprng Energy in April for \$1.55 billion and Savion in the U.S. last December. The price of the Savion deal was not made public.

ANOTHER PHARMA FIRM COMES UNDER PRIVATE EQUITY OWNERSHIP



New York-based SK Capital, a private equity firm specializing in the drug and chemical industries, has reached an agreement to buy Apotex Pharmaceutical Holdings, a Toronto firm that makes generic versions of brand-name drugs.

Price and terms of the sale were not released.

Apotex employs 8,000 workers and churns out as many as 24 billion pills a year, the company said.

Apotex founder Barry Sherman built the company through litigation, challenging other pharma firms’ patents in court so he could be first to market a generic version of other companies’ products.

Sherman and his wife were found strangled to death in their home in 2017 in what police are treating as an unsolved double murder.

SPECIAL UKRAINE WAR REPORT



MORE WAR, NO PEACE: WHILE WESTERN ECONOMIES SINK, U.S. PRESSURES ALLIES TO EXPEDITE FUNDING FOR UKRAINE

Since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, Washington's position has been that Moscow must pay dearly and no price tag is too high.

Indeed, U.S. President Joe Biden said there were only two options following Russia's invasion: "Go to war with Russia, physical... or two make sure that a country that acts so contrary to international law pays a price for having done it."

As the war keeps raging, the U.S. has applied pressure on European countries to "expeditiously deliver promised economic assistance to Ukraine," a U.S. official told the *Financial Times*.

“We reiterate our call for all Ukraine partners to more quickly deliver promised assistance to Ukraine, to increase their commitments, and to prioritize assistance in the form of grants over loans,” the official said.

The Biden administration announced another \$1.1 billion in additional Security Assistance for Kyiv, which brings the total to more than \$16.2 billion since the 24 February invasion. Congress also approved another \$12.4 billion in military and economic aid in its stop-gap spending package. Congress approved \$54 billion earlier this year in general aid to Ukraine.

Germany has committed about \$1.2 billion in military aid to Ukraine. The U.K. has committed €2.3 billion in military assistance. France has also committed \$2 billion to Ukraine. The World Bank has provided Kyiv with \$13 billion in total aid so far.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the enormous financial and military support that Ukraine has received since the start of the war. According to Anti-War.com the U.S. has pumped over \$67 billion of taxpayers money to keep bloodying the Ukraine killing fields since the war started.

Washington, which since the end of WWII has slaughtered millions and destroyed nations across the globe, continues to sell the line (that the public swallows) that the funding is a fight for Western democracy in Ukraine... which the European Union had classified as the most corrupt nation in Europe. They call Russian troops war criminals who have committed atrocities on the battlefield, and if they are not stopped in their tracks, it will jeopardize all of Europe.

Those opposed to the funding say the cash flows do nothing but keep the war going when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky should be negotiating for a peaceful resolution. (See [“RUSSIA WINNING UKRAINE WAR, STILL NO TALK OF PEACE FROM ZELENSKY”](#) (9 Aug 2022), [“EU HEADS PROMISE TO KEEP UKRAINE WAR GOING”](#) (21 Jun 2022), [“LAVROV: U.S. IS ‘ON BRINK’ OF BEING INVOLVED IN UKRAINE CONFLICT”](#) (27 Sep 2022), and [“PLACE YOUR BETS: CHANCELLOR SCHOLZ SAYS RUSSIA WILL LOSE UKRAINE WAR”](#) (31 May 2022).

The U.S. sees advances on the battlefield by Ukrainian forces as evidence that the pace of the assistance needs to quicken because Russia is on the ropes. The *Financial Times* report said Denys Shmyhal, the prime minister of Ukraine, met with Charles Michel and said the country needs about €3.5 billion in assistance each month and needs the funding as quickly as possible.

The International Monetary Fund on Friday announced a new financing instrument that would enable Kyiv to receive funding at a quicker pace. Ukrinform reported that the instrument will provide “additional access to emergency financing to countries that have urgent balance payments needs arising from the food crisis around the world.”

The World Bank last week also announced \$530 million in new supplemental funding in the form of a loan guaranteed by Britain, according to Barron's. Denmark will guarantee the remaining \$30 million.

"The toll of destruction, damage, and dislocation in Ukraine is staggering and continues to grow," Anna Bjerde, the bank's regional vice president for Europe and Central Asia, said in the statement, according to the news outlet. "The Ukrainian people have a long road to recovery ahead and development partners will need to continue to pull together to support Ukraine's reconstruction."

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal's position since the start of the war is that Zelensky should negotiate for peace because each day that passes inches the world closer to nuclear Armageddon. The attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power plants are just another example of the risks to the world as the war drags on.

And, the longer the war rages, since we forecast Russia will defeat Ukraine, the more Ukraine will have to give up when they are in a defeated position.

We have been opposed to Putin's decision to invade the country, but, unlike the willfully propagandist Western media, we identified reasons why Russia invaded. (See ["ONE SIDE ONLY: MEDIA SELLS RUSSIA INVASION IN UKRAINE AS 'UNPROVOKED,'"](#) 8 Mar 2022)

Ukrainian forces continue to challenge the Russians for land in the eastern part of the country. Russian forces on Saturday withdrew from the Ukrainian city Lyman in the Donetsk region, where Russia just held a referendum that has been called a sham by Western officials.

However, on Monday, Russia Today reported Ukrainian forces' counter attack in the Kherson Region had been stopped. And in a Telegram post the deputy head of the local administration, Kirill Stremousov, stated that “everything is under control in the Nikolayev direction,” and that Ukraine’s forces are “taking a beating” from Russian Aerospace Forces.

The official admitted that the Ukrainians were able to advance a little bit, but noted that the region’s defense systems were working and that “at the moment, the situation is completely under control.”

TRENDPOST: *We have long warned that the longer the war drags on, the more likely that the war will involve other countries. Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of the southern Russian republic of Chechnya, called for Moscow to take “more drastic measures,” according to The Associated Press.*

The New York Times reported that Lyman is part of the newly annexed territory that Russian President Vladimir Putin called “Novorossiia,” or New Russia.

WEST BLAMES RUSSIA FOR BLOWING UP ITS NORD STREAM PIPELINES



For several days now, the Western media, without providing any evidence, continues to blame Russia for blowing up two of its Nord Stream pipelines. Absent in their coverage is that considering the Russian energy company Gazprom spent €23 billion on building the pipeline infrastructure and some €800 million natural gas still stored in the line that has been destroyed, it would make no sense to blow up what they own.

James Sherr, a Russia expert with the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, blamed Russia for damaging the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines in the Baltic Sea, and said the attack shows there is “no going back” for Moscow. Russia is now willing to target Western infrastructure, he said.

Meanwhile, last Tuesday, Radoslaw, European Parliament member and former Polish foreign minister, pinned the blame on Washington. Sharing a photograph of the gas leak on his Twitter, Sikorski said "Thank you, USA."

Noting that Ukrainian and Baltic Sea states had been opposed to the construction of the Nord Stream for 20 years, he said, "Nord Stream's only logic was for Putin to be able to blackmail or wage war on Eastern Europe with impunity" and that "Now \$20 billion of scrap metal lies at the bottom of the sea, another cost to Russia of its criminal decision to invade Ukraine."

Ned Price, the State Department spokesman, brushed off Sikorski and Russia's claim that the U.S. blew up the pipe lines. "The idea that the United States was in any way involved in the apparent sabotage of these pipelines is preposterous." It is nothing more than a function of Russian disinformation and it should be treated as such," he said.

TRENDPOST: *Officials in Washington have been vocal in their threats that if Russia invaded Ukraine, the Nord Stream 2 project would end. Victoria [“fuck the EU”](#) Nuland, who is the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said in a recently emerged video that “one way or another, Nord Stream 2 will not move forward.”*

The Jewish Policy Center noted that the pipelines are up to 360 feet below sea level and would require submersible vehicles. Ukraine blamed the Russians. The report noted that Ukraine would stand to benefit from a damaged pipeline because it would damage Russia economically.

“The fact that this would deprive Europe against deliveries in the near future, supposing an end of sanctions, makes this an unlikely move for any country that depends on NATO for security,” the report said.

The article floated the idea that the U.S. has at least some incentive to damage the pipelines to prevent European countries from wavering in the Russian energy sanctions in the cold winter months. But that would be a potentially disastrous public relations imbroglio for Washington.

TRENDPOST: *We've seen the West blame Russia before for allegedly attacking its own newly claimed infrastructure, like the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant that the Kremlin wanted to incorporate on its own electric grid. (See ["CHERNOBYL 2.0. RUSSIA ACCUSES UKRAINE OF ATTACKING NUKE PLANT,"](#) 16 Aug 2022.)*

*The **Trends Journal** has long said that with each day that goes by, the world takes one step closer to a catastrophic development in the Ukraine War. Our 8 March cover ran the headline: ["NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE OR REST IN PEACE."](#)*

Since the war broke out, there have been no calls for peace and the Western media has become nothing more than the press arm of Washington, and despite nearly unlimited support from the West to keep bloodying the killing fields, Ukraine continues to lose ground to Russia.

Mystery Helicopters

Jeffery Sachs, a professor of economics at Columbia, noted that there is evidence suggesting that the U.S. may have played a role in the pipeline explosions.

Foreign reports said U.S. military helicopters were spotted on radar flying in irregular patterns in the same vicinity of where the explosions occurred earlier in September. The helicopters were Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawks, and they reportedly spent hours circling in the location.

The U.S. Defense Department did not respond to emails and phone calls from The **Trends Journal** seeking comment. *Der Spiegel*, the German paper, reported that the CIA warned Berlin that there would be attacks on the pipelines weeks before the incident.

Sachs told Bloomberg that he believes the U.S., with the possible assistance from Poland, could be behind the explosion.

"First of all, there is great evidence that US helicopters, military helicopters that are normally based in Gdansk, were circling over this area," he said. "We also had the threats from the United States earlier in this year that 'one way or another, we are going to end Nord Stream.' We also had the remarkable statement by Secretary [of State] Blinken.

"Last Friday in a press conference he says this is also a tremendous opportunity. It's a strange way to interact. Sorry, it's a strange way to talk if you're worried about the international infrastructure of vital significance."

Sachs said he "knows this runs counter to our narrative and you're not allowed to say these things in the West."

WAR LOSER GENERAL PETRAEUS APPLAUDS U.S. ARMY COMMAND TO TRAIN UKRAINE TROOPS



The **Trends Journal** has long reported on one of the great stupidities of the mainstream media's coverage and trends analysis of the Ukraine War. When the mainstream Presstitutes report on what Kyiv should do to defeat the Russians, they turn to failed current and retired U.S. military leaders for their "expert" analysis.

Gerald Celente has long noted that the U.S. has not won a war since WWII, so it is moronic to turn to the U.S. military losers for military analysis.

One of the big mouths making the news on where the Ukraine War is going and what to do to win is loser General David Petraeus who held some of the top jobs in the

military during his 37-year career. Petraeus was commander of the Multi-National Force who oversaw all coalition forces in the illegal, murderous, losing Iraq War and was the Army commander of U.S. forces in the murderous, illegal, losing Afghan War.

Being promoted for his failures, he was also the director of the CIA and rumored to be in line for a Cabinet position in the Trump White House, but his career was undone after an affair with Paula Broadwell, his biographer.

He was also guilty of mishandling classified information while CIA director, and now works at the private equity firm KKR, where he is a partner and head of the KKR Global Institute.

Petraeus appeared on ABC's *This Week* on Sunday and said it is clear that Russian President Vladimir Putin is losing and the Ukrainian army has been "mobilized vastly better than Russia."

It is no secret that NATO has been providing the Ukrainians intelligence and billions in weapons with the hope to set Russia's military back decades. The latest moves indicate that Washington believes the war in Ukraine will last for years.

"Ukraine has recruited, trained, equipped, organized and employed force incomparably better than Russia has," Petraeus said, without citing evidence or admitting that Ukraine refuses to acknowledge any issues on the battlefield. (Good luck finding any information about Ukrainian military deaths on Google, it is simply not there.)

The U.S. is at war with Russia. The Pentagon is now preparing to streamline how the U.S. trains and equips Ukrainian forces. A new army command center will be set up in Wiesbaden, Germany, to accommodate the logistics of the effort, *The New York Times* reported. The base will consist of 300 workers and a general, but the training will likely be conducted at a separate location.

The military assistance from the U.S. will span at least three years. Adm. James G. Stavridis, a former supreme allied commander for Europe, told *The Times* that the framework shows an effort to create a "formal security structure that our allies and

partners can adhere to in terms of getting their equipment and training into the hands of the Ukrainians.”

Petraeus called the initiative “very important” and appropriate “given the magnitude of the U.S. effort and the contributions of our NATO allies.” The *NYT* noted that the structure will be “modeled on U.S. train-and-assist efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past two decades.”

The New York Times also noted that the idea of the U.S. training Ukrainians is not a new concept. The paper said the U.S. has “rotated conventional and special operations troops into Ukraine for years as part of an effort to modernize” its military. U.S. forces and other countries have been training these forces outside Ukraine since the start of the war. There is also a mechanic team stationed in Poland to repair equipment for Ukrainian forces.

TRENDPOST: *Washington is famous for being a city where you fail up, which explains why the U.S. would be eager to emulate its failed effort in Afghanistan and Iraq. We’ve noted earlier that mainstream news outlets have used these “military analysts” to spew propaganda. Petraeus has made frequent appearances.*

Robert J. O’Neill, the former U.S. Navy SEAL who fired the shot that killed Osama bin Laden, tweeted earlier this year, “David Petraeus was just giving combat advice on TV. Bernie Madoff is up next on finance.” (See [“U.S. LOST EVERY WAR SINCE WWII, BUT IS TELLING UKRAINE HOW TO BEAT RUSSIA.”](#) 8 Mar 2022.)

“I keep seeing 4 star generals on TV giving commentary on how to win this war,” he posted. “They’ve never won a war. They lost. Want examples?”

Russia invaded Ukraine because it saw NATO’s expansion as an existential threat. Step back for a moment, and consider an anti-American revolution taking place in Mexico City and a new government inviting the Russian military to train and arm its military.

Washington would never let that happen. But there’s a double standard that Putin keeps speaking about when it comes to U.S. hegemony.

When Russia raised security concerns before the war, they were brushed off by Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Now the war is simply too good to resist by Washington, and the fall of Putin seems within their grasp, who cares how many Ukrainians will die in the effort?

Despite all the support for Ukraine, the U.S. insists that it wants to avoid war with Russia. Just last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would apply for NATO membership, which the U.S. quickly extinguished. Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, told reporters last week that the discussion "should be taken up at a different time."

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council, said Zelensky was essentially "begging NATO to accelerate the start of WWII."

U.S. DISREGARDS RUSSIA'S WARNINGS... AGAIN, SAYS UKRAINE CAN TARGET TERRITORY SEIZED BY RUSSIAN FORCES



Top U.S. officials last week brushed off Russia's threat of nuclear weapon use and gave Kyiv the green light to use its weapons to strike these locations.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who has been one of the biggest advocates of weakening the Russian military, said

Washington would not object to Ukraine using HIMARS to strike into Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson, *RT* reported.

Blinken said the U.S. will never recognize these territories as Russian.

"Ukraine has the absolute right to defend itself throughout its territory, including to take back the territory that has been illegally seized, one way or the other, by Russia,"

he said. “And the equipment, the weapons that we and many other countries are providing, have been used very effectively to do just that.”

The referendums held in these locations were called fraudulent by Western governments, while Russia insists that it is helping to save lives from the Ukrainian government.

“The results are clear,” Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, said, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. “Welcome home to Russia!”

Blinken said these annexations will make no difference in the U.S. support of Ukraine. He told CBS’s “60 Minutes” last month that he is in constant contact with Ukrainian leadership about what they need in terms of weaponry.

TREND FORECAST: *The U.S. has been trying to provide Ukraine with weapons so it can win the war, without dragging Washington in as a party to the conflict. As each day passes, it becomes more challenging to make that distinction. Indeed, as we have noted, the U.S. is not in a proxy war with Russia, they are at war. (See [“PUTIN SENDS STERN WARNING TO THE WEST, VOWS TO KEEP UP THE FIGHT IN UKRAINE”](#) (27 Sep 2022), [“PUTIN SAYS UKRAINE WANTS WAR, WON’T NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE”](#) (20 Sep 2022), [“MEDVEDEV WARNS OF ARMAGEDDON AS U.S. AND NATO RAMP UP UKRAINE WAR”](#) (20 Sep 2022).*

“If one country can get away with acts of aggression against another if it can simply go in and decide, ‘You know what? I’m going to take over that country. I’m going to change its borders. I’m going to grab its territory.’ If that is allowed to happen with impunity, then what happens?” Blinken said.

TRENDPOST: *The Trends Journal has reported extensively on how the Ukrainian forces are simply no match for the Russian military, and it is just a matter of time before Russian President Vladimir Putin declares an all-out war against Ukraine. While the West celebrates Russia’s retreat, we see the Russian people becoming more galvanized about what they believe to be fighting for in Ukraine.*

Since the start of the invasion, we noted that the U.S., NATO and Kyiv would not negotiate for peace. Among the many others, we quoted U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin (former board member of Raytheon, America's second largest defense contractor) who stated, "We want to see Russia weakened."

There was a rally in Moscow's Red Square to celebrate the annexation of four regions in Ukraine's east, and the Russian message is evolving to frame the conflict as a holy war and a fight against Western hegemony. Russian President Vladimir Putin said, "They [the West] are moving toward open satanism."

Putin said the Western elites are teaching "sexual deviation" and said it is up to Russia to protect "our children and grandchildren from this experiment to change their souls."

"I believe in the spiritual power of the Russian people and my spirit is its spirit, the suffering of the people is my suffering," Putin said.

"The destruction of the Western hegemony is irreversible," Putin said.

WEST INCREASES WAR RHETORIC AFTER 'SHAM' REFERENDUMS



Russian President Vladimir Putin has been criticized in the West for “illegally” annexing territories in Ukraine following what Western officials have called “sham” referendums.

The Kremlin held a ceremony last week which included Putin, that recognized the annexation of Russian-occupied Luhansk,

Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya.

Putin declared that these cities will now be defended by Moscow.

Despite the uproar in the West, Vassily Nebenzia, the Russian ambassador to the UN, said the vote was legitimate, according to The Associated Press. He said there were 100 international observers from Venezuela, Germany, and Italy.

Nebenzia said the results from the referendums speak for themselves and the residents in these cities have no interest in returning to Ukraine.

“There will be no turning back as today’s draft resolution would try to impose,” he said.

Putin has made it clear that Russia has embraced these regions and will not part with them.

"I want to say this to the Kyiv regime and its masters in the West: People living in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia are becoming our citizens forever," Putin said. The land will create a land corridor between Russia and the Crimean peninsula, the report noted.

The EU said it would “never recognize” the Russian land grab. Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Commission, said the “illegal annexation” will not change anything. The U.S. said it will always recognize Ukraine’s borders and will continue to help the country fight off its Russian invaders. Last week, the Biden administration announced another \$1.1 billion in additional security assistance.

DW.com noted that Putin, once again, called on Ukraine to sit down for talks of a peaceful settlement, but said these regions are now off the table. It would require military defeat for Kyiv to reclaim these regions. Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, has said his forces will fight for every inch of the country, including Crimea.

Putin also accused “Anglo-Saxons” in the West of upping the ante and sabotaging the pipelines to “destroy the European energy infrastructure.”

Putin said, "The people made their choice, and that choice won't be betrayed" by Russia.

TRENDPOST: The propaganda in the Western media is on full display, and still, there is only one side of the Ukraine War being reported on. The Financial Times's description of Putin when he made the speech referred to him as "wild-eyed," before going on his "anti-Western" rant. Indeed, using such language in reporting actions and events is not journalism.

Indeed, when we use such language, we do so to make it clear in our trends analysis and forecast where we are heading and what's next. When such language is used by the mainstream media to describe Putin, their anti-Russian sentiments are made clear.

Since the end of World War II, with just a brief pause in a few years of the 1990's, America has been in a Cold War with Russia. And now with the Ukraine War, that hatred scale has dramatically heated up. (See ["PUTIN ACKNOWLEDGES BIDEN'S ANTI-RUSSIAN RHETORIC."](#) 13 Oct 2020.)

It is worth noting that after the referendums were held, Kyiv announced that any Ukrainian who took part in them would face treason charges and potentially receive at least five years in prison. Sounds like a real democracy!

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Rumor (history?) has it that the Cold War between the U.S. and Russia, which began in 1947, ended in 1991. But rather than seeking Peace on Earth and keeping relationships respectful, most of America's politicians and all of the military-industrial complex—and their western counterparts (i.e., "allies")—have not stopped waging the Cold War.

As we have been reporting since the end of the Cold War—from America's Gulf War to the U.S. and NATO's Yugoslav War, Afghan War, Iraq War, Libyan War, plus its 800 military bases in 70 countries—Russia is a minor war-mongering nation compared to the U.S. track record of killing millions and stealing trillions from its taxpayers to wage these wars.

And, as we have reported in detail since the so-called "Russiagate" was launched by the Democratic Party and its media Presstitutes immediately following Trump's win of the 2016 election, there has not been one shred of hard evidence proving Russia interfered with the election.

Yet, the drama continues, and most people buy it, just as most have swallowed other war lies sold to them by their governments over the centuries. “Remember the Maine” that was an excuse for America to invade Cuba back in 1898? How about the Gulf of Tonkin lie in 1964 that was an excuse to start the Vietnam War? And for all of those suffering from amnesia, how about George W. Bush’s outright lie that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction?

As the founder of [Occupy Peace & Freedom](#), as I see it, to keep pedaling hatred between the two nations, rather than creating movements toward peace, is morally, spiritually, and economically destructive. Indeed, as inflation skyrockets and equity markets tank as a result of America and NATO’s sanctions on Russia, people of the world are paying the price. And considering the ramping up of war talk and military actions, the worst is yet to come.

Indeed, America was an ally of Russia in World War II and would not have achieved victory when it did without them.

Yet, following World War II, Russia became its enemy, while Japan and Germany—for which over 400,000 Americans died fighting—became U.S. allies and business partners.

IGNORING U.S. NATO SANCTIONS, ‘RUSSIA’S INVASION’ IS BLAMED FOR COSTING GLOBAL ECONOMY \$2.8 TRILLION



Just like the corporate media Pressitutes are blaming the “COVID-19 pandemic” for socioeconomic and geopolitical hardships rather than the politicians draconian lockdown mandates, they are now selling the one-sided narrative that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine will cost the global economy \$2.8 trillion by the end of the year.

TRENDPOST: *Nowhere mentioned in these reports is the fact that the conflict with Ukraine could have been a regional border conflict without Western countries pumping in scores of billions to keep bloodying the killing fields and escalating the war. And zero mention of the cost of sanctions imposed on Russia that has dramatically spiked oil and gas prices in much of the world. (See [“BIDEN BACKTRACK: SAYS SANCTIONS WERE NEVER MEANT TO DETER RUSSIA FROM INVADING UKRAINE.”](#) 29 Mar 2022, [“BIDEN WARNS AMERICANS HIS SANCTIONS WILL HURT RUSSIA...AND AMERICANS.”](#) 15 Mar 2022 and [“BIDEN’S ‘HATE RUSSIA’ SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES”](#) 29 Mar 2022.)*

The Wall Street Journal, citing the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, claimed that Russia’s “attack” sparked a major jump in energy prices that has hurt businesses and household incomes in Europe.

Alvaro Santos Pereira, the OECD’s acting chief economist, said the world is “paying a very hefty price for the war.”

The report noted that the OECD downgraded its GDP growth expectations for the global economy from 4.5 percent in 2022 and 3.2 percent in 2023, to just 3 percent this year and 2.2 percent in 2023. The European economy is expected to take the most significant hit in 2023, with Germany, Europe’s largest economy, expecting to see its economy contract by 0.7 percent in the year.

Those numbers are relatively optimistic, and don’t price in the chance that natural gas prices increase by an additional 50 percent by the year’s end.

Many European governments are spending billions to supplement incomes for people to meet higher energy prices, which will increase the debt load for many of these countries, which will likely lead to even slower growth next year, the report said. (See [“GREGORY MANNARINO: GLOBAL CURRENCIES ARE DYING! AND INFLATION IS ABOUT TO GET MUCH WORSE.”](#))

TREND FORECAST: *Should economic conditions dramatically deteriorate and Russia become involved in military actions beyond Ukraine, not only will the anti-war protests*

continue, but they will encompass even more people as food becomes unaffordable and the money worthless, tapping into the [“New World Disorder”](#) trend that we have been highlighting for more than two years.

Since our 8 March article, we said the general public is only getting a one-sided view of the sanctions and mandates imposed against Russia, which we forecast will do nothing to alter Moscow’s military posture, but will cause great hardship for the people of the world. (See [“ONE SIDE ONLY: MEDIA SELLS RUSSIA INVASION IN UKRAINE AS ‘UNPROVOKED’”](#))

We also accurately noted that the relationship between Russia and China will only grow stronger.

China, with an economy 10 times the size of Russia, and Russia being the 11th largest economy in the world, will be a significant and growing trading partner during Russia’s isolation, selling it more of its goods and services that the West has abandoned.

However, China will not short-change its own industrial complex to provide Russia with computer chips and other crucial supplies. China needs those items to feed its dominant export economy as well as to spark domestic consumption.

As we have long noted, the business of China is business, while the business of the U.S. is war.

ELON MUSK LEARNS THAT ANY TALK OF PEACE FOR UKRAINE IS TREATED AS AN ACT OF WAR IN THE WEST



Elon Musk, the Tesla billionaire who faced threats from Russia after donating Starlink satellites to Ukraine shortly after the Russian invasion, faced the wrath of Kyiv for floating the idea that there should be a peaceful settlement.

Musk took to Twitter to lay out what seemed like his blueprint for peace. He said the referendums in the newly annexed regions could be done over, with UN supervision. Russia would leave if it is the will of the people. He noted that Crimea would be formally recognized as part of Russia “as it has been since 1783 (until Khushchev’s mistake).”

“Water supply to Crimea assured and Ukraine remains neutral,” he said.

TRENDPOST: *Russia did not attack Crimea in 2014. The Russian military already had a presence there. Under a lease agreement (which did not expire until 2047), negotiated when Russia granted independence to Ukraine, its Black Sea Fleet is based at Sevastopol port in Crimea.*

Furthermore, Crimea would likely still be a part of Ukraine if the U.S. had not orchestrated a coup to overthrow the government of the democratically elected president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich. (See [“WASHINGTON IS DRIVING THE WORLD TO THE FINAL WAR,”](#) 28 Apr 2014).

It was Crimean’s who voted overwhelmingly—by 95 percent—to rejoin Russia, but it is internationally recognized as Ukrainian territory. The Kremlin sees Crimea as theirs.

Crimea had been part of Ukraine only since 1954, when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, a Ukrainian, designated it as such. In fact, Crimea has been part of Russia longer than the United States has been a country.

Musk echoed what The **Trends Journal** has been saying since the beginning of the war: that Ukraine will likely end up with the same outcome, it is just a matter of how many people have to die before an agreement is reached.

“Also worth noting that a possible, albeit unlikely, outcome from this conflict is nuclear war,” he said.

Ukrainian politicians have used social media to disparage politicians they perceive as lacking sufficient support for their struggle against Russia. French President Emmanuel Macron was slammed for suggesting that Russian President Vladimir Putin should not be embarrassed in the conflict, and Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, was also tarred and feathered by Kyiv for stating that Ukraine may have to eventually give up land to achieve peace.

Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, took to Twitter to write, “Which @elonmusk do you like more?” the one who supports Ukraine or the one who supports Moscow. Andriy Melnyk, Ukraine’s ambassador to Germany, tweeted, “now no Ukrainian will EVER buy your fucking Tesla crap.” He wrote, “Fuck off.”

Musk did receive praise from Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chair of the security council of the Russian Federation, who jokingly tweeted, “Kudos to @elonmusk! However, the shadowy agent has lost the cover. Deserves a new rank, fast. His next tweet will run like, Ukraine is an artificial state. Anticipating...”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how peace is a dirty word in the West. (See [“ZELENSKY REJECTS PEACE PROPOSAL, SAYS UKRAINE WILL BEAT RUSSIA”](#) 31 May 2022 and [“CRACKS EMERGE: BIDEN SAYS UKRAINE IGNORED FACTS THAT RUSSIA WOULD INVADE”](#) 14 Jun 2022.)

TRENDPOST: *Elon Musk has essentially repeated the position that The Trends Journal had since before the invasion. He noted on Twitter that Russia has called for a partial mobilization and the Kremlin will go to “full war mobilization” if they believe Crimea is at risk.*

“Death on both sides will be devastating,” Musk said. “Russia has [more than] 3 times [the] population of Ukraine, so victory for Ukraine is unlikely in total war. If you care about the people of Ukraine, seek peace.”

Now, contrast that to the recent comments that David Petraeus, the former general and head of the CIA, made in an interview on ABC’s “This Week,” when asked how the U.S. would respond to Russia using nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

“We would respond by leading a NATO—a collective—effort that would take out every Russian conventional force that we can see and identify on the battlefield in Ukraine and also in Crimea and every ship in the Black Sea,” he said.

He was asked if Russia could still win, and responded: “They cannot. There is nothing (Putin) can do at this point.”

FEATURED GUEST ARTICLES



WHAT ARE THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF VITAMIN K2?

by [Dr. Joseph Mercola](#)

STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- Vitamin K2 is highly beneficial as it ensures calcium is not deposited in your arteries but transported to your bones and teeth where it belongs, reducing your risk of atherosclerosis and kidney disease, and supporting your hormonal health
- Vitamin K2 is important to balance testosterone production in men and women, reducing a man's risk of low testosterone levels and a woman's risk of polycystic ovarian syndrome
- Vitamin K2 also helps reduce inflammation and improve insulin sensitivity, and is a cofactor for vitamin D and calcium to support bone health

- Vitamin K2 MK-4 is found in animal foods such as organic egg yolk, dark chicken meat and goose liver. MK-7, the most effective form, is found in fermented foods such as natto, and in both soft and hard cheeses such as Brie and Gouda

Vitamin K is a fat-soluble vitamin essential for the functioning of several proteins involved in physiological processes. Naturally occurring forms are vitamin K1 (referred to as phylloquinone) and vitamin K2 (called menaquinones). [1,2]

Vitamin K1, which is derived from green plants, is best known for the role it plays in blood clotting, while vitamin K2, derived primarily from fermented foods and animal products such as eggs, meat and liver, is important to hormone production and [3] utilization, as well as bone and heart health.

Vitamin K2 does not get the attention it deserves, and it's highly likely you're not getting enough in your diet. Although fat-soluble, the body stores very little and it's rapidly depleted without regular dietary intake.

Before discussing the numerous areas of your health where vitamin K2 has a significant impact, it's first important to understand the different forms of the vitamin.

The Different Forms of Vitamin K2

Vitamin K2 is needed to activate the protein osteocalcin, which is found in your bones. Without vitamin K2, this and other vitamin K2-dependent proteins remain inactivated, and cannot perform their biological functions. [4]

According to Leon Schurgers, a world-renowned researcher in vitamin K2, the difference between vitamins K1 and K2 was clearly established in The Rotterdam Study, published [5] in 2004, of which Schurgers was a co-author.

While the study focused on the difference between how K1 and K2 affect the heart (K1 has no effect at all), the researchers also looked at what types of foods supply each of the vitamins. In an interview, he said:

"I measured a variety of food items for vitamin K content ... Vitamin K1 is highly available in green, leafy vegetables — spinach, kale, broccoli and cabbage. However, the absorption of vitamin K1 from food is extremely low. Only 10 percent of the vitamin K which is found in green leafy vegetables, is absorbed in your body ... And there's no variable or modification of the consumption that will significantly increase the absorption ..."

Vitamin K2, on the other hand, was only present in fermented foods. It's actually produced by specific bacteria during the fermentation process. Certain bacteria in your gut naturally produce vitamin K2 in your body as well. Interestingly, while the K1 in vegetables is poorly absorbed, virtually all of the K2 in fermented foods is readily available to your body. Vitamin K2 can be further broken down into: [6,7,8]

- MK-4 (menaquinone-4), a short-chain form of vitamin K2 found in animal-based foods such as meats, dairy and eggs. MK-4 also has a very short biological half-life—about 2.5 hours—making it a poor candidate as a dietary supplement. That said, natural MK-4 from food is important for good health, as MK-4 plays a role in gene expression, turning some genes off and others on, and is therefore important for cancer prevention. [10]
- MK-7 (menaquinone-7), longer-chain forms found in fermented foods. There's a variety of these long-chain forms, but the most common one is MK-7. This is the one you'll want to look for in supplements, as this form is extracted from real food, specifically natto, a fermented soy product. [11] The MK-7, which forms in the fermentation process, has two major advantages. It stays in your body longer and has a longer half-life, which means you can take it just once a day in very convenient dosing. Research has shown MK-7 helps [12,13] prevent inflammation by inhibiting proinflammatory markers that can cause autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis. While vitamin K1 has been found to "moderately reduce" the risk of bone fractures, [14] MK-7 is more effective than vitamin K1 at reaching your bone. In your bones, [15,16] vitamin K2 is used to produce osteocalcin, improving metabolic and hormonal health and exercise performance.

Cardiovascular Protection and Cofactor for Vitamin D, Calcium

Calcium deposits in the arteries are responsible for atherosclerosis, hardening and narrowing of the arteries, slowly blocking blood flow.

It's a common cause of heart attacks, strokes and peripheral vascular disease.

Vitamin K2 is important in the activation of important proteins, such as matrix GLA-protein (MGP), found in your vascular system, and studies have demonstrated K2 inhibits [17]

arterial calcification and improves arterial flexibility, thereby reducing your risk of [18,19] atherosclerosis.

One recent study proposed therapeutic supplementation with vitamin K2 could prevent [20] or halt progression of vascular calcification that may occur with excessive calcium intake, and other studies have demonstrated those eating the highest amount of vitamin K2 have the lowest risk of developing cardiovascular disease. [21]

Vitamin K2 also functions as an important cofactor for calcium and vitamin D. While calcium is important for strengthening bones and overall skeletal health, it only works when it gets to the right place. Vitamin K2 prevents calcium from being deposited along the walls of the blood vessels and directs it into the bone. [22]

So, it's important to remember that vitamin K2 and vitamin D (along with calcium and magnesium) have a synergistic relationship when it comes to your bone and heart health. To maximize your benefits of oral vitamin D supplementation, it's important to maintain optimal levels of vitamin K2. Studies indicate supplementing with both [23] vitamins D3 and K2 offers greater cardiovascular health benefits than consuming either vitamin alone. [24]

K2 Helps Prevent Osteoporosis and Protects Teeth

As mentioned earlier, vitamin K2 activates osteocalcin, a protein hormone made by your bone that is dependent on K2 for activation via carboxylation. One of the primary roles osteocalcin plays is in binding calcium and transporting it to the bone. [25]

Osteocalcin is a small non-collagenous protein measured in the serum and synovial fluid samples of people with osteoarthritis, and researchers believe serum levels of [26]

osteocalcin may be useful as a screening tool to assess osteoporosis risk. [27]

Vitamin K2 is also important for your oral health. Preserving enamel helps reduce cavity formation. Your enamel is made of hollow tubes that extend into the dentin. The enamel is made of nonliving cells, while the dentin has live cells called odontoblasts.

These cells release proteins using vitamin K2 to help prevent tooth decay through an immune response. Research has demonstrated osteocalcin may be found in inflamed [28] tissue, and researchers consider the protein to have a reparative role in dental pulp. [29]

Vitamin K2 Plays a Role in Reducing Inflammation

The inflammatory response is a crucial component in many chronic diseases and diseases of aging. Scientific evidence suggests both vitamin K1 and K2 have anti-inflammatory activity, in part by inhibiting nuclear factor kappa-B. [30]

For example, in one meta-analysis, researchers found evidence vitamin K has a [31] protective role in chronic aging conditions, inflammation and cardiovascular disease. Another study confirmed the role the vitamin K2 MK-7 form specifically has in the [32] modulation of inflammatory biomarkers.

The researchers evaluated natural vitamin K2 for its potential to inhibit gene expression and production of pro-inflammatory markers in vitro, finding the MK-7 form inhibited gene expression in a dose-dependent manner.

Other research has demonstrated a reduction in C-reactive protein, a common [33] biomarker used to evaluate inflammation in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. C-reactive protein is a risk marker for a wide range of diseases and the researchers concluded higher intake of vitamin K2 may lower overall risk.

There is also accumulating evidence vitamin K2 may play a role in chronic kidney disease. A pre- and post-intervention clinical trial, which included patients with a [34] diagnosis of chronic kidney disease who took a vitamin K2 MK-7 supplement for four weeks, found it significantly reduced calcification in the patients' blood vessels.

Patients with chronic kidney disease with a subclinical vitamin K deficiency may also benefit from a greater intake of the vitamin. [35]

Deficiency Affects Testosterone Production

Yet another role vitamin K2 plays in your body is the optimal production of sex hormones. Research shows vitamin K2 MK-4, found in animal foods such as meat and dairy products, can help balance testosterone production. Animal studies show [36]

inducing a vitamin K deficiency reduces testosterone production. [37]

Vitamin K2 has an effect in women as well, as the vitamin may be helpful in the management of polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS). This is now the most common hormonal disorder in young women, causing enlarged ovaries and potentially leading to fertility problems. [38]

In one randomized study, 60 vitamin D deficient women with PCOS took either a placebo or a combination of calcium, vitamin D and vitamin K for eight weeks. Those in the treatment group enjoyed greater decrease in testosterone and symptoms than the placebo group. [39]

How K2 May Influence Insulin Sensitivity

An unexpected discovery was made when researchers found bone was an endocrine organ, contributing to the regulation of a number of physiological processes, including glucose homeostasis. [40]

There's even evidence to suggest vitamin K2 supplementation may improve insulin sensitivity via osteocalcin metabolism, and may help prevent the development of Type

[41] 2 diabetes. The evidence is not conclusive, however, as a systematic review of [42] controlled trials found K2 supplementation had no effect on insulin sensitivity. [43]

Part of the problem may have something to do with the form of vitamin given. Numerous studies have demonstrated synthetic vitamin K2 supplements are not as effective as natto-derived K2 supplements.

Statins Contribute to the Depletion of Vitamin K2

Nearly 25 percent of Americans over the age of 45 are taking cholesterol-lowering statin drugs, despite the high risks of the drugs. In addition to other side effects, statins inhibit the production of vitamin K2.

A study published in *Expert Review of Clinical Pharmacology* revealed statins may [44] actually stimulate the development of atherosclerosis and heart failure, and one of the mechanisms by which this occurs is the inhibition of the synthesis of vitamin K2, which protects your arteries from calcification.

How to Boost Your Intake of Vitamin K2 Naturally

If you decide to take a statin or use a vitamin D3 supplement, it is highly recommended you include a vitamin K2 supplement in the MK-7 form. Seek out a supplement extracted from the Japanese fermented soy product called natto. Professor Cees Vermeer, one [45] of the world's top vitamin K2 researchers, recommends between 45 micrograms (mcg) and 185 mcg daily for adults.

Just remember that since vitamin K2 is fat-soluble, it's best to take it with a small amount of fat to improve absorption. Consuming foods rich in vitamin K2 is your best bet. MK-4 is found in animal foods such as free-range, organic eggs (particularly the yolk), dark chicken meat and goose liver. MK-7 is found in fermented foods such as natto, a type of fermented soy, and in soft and hard cheeses such as Brie and Gouda.

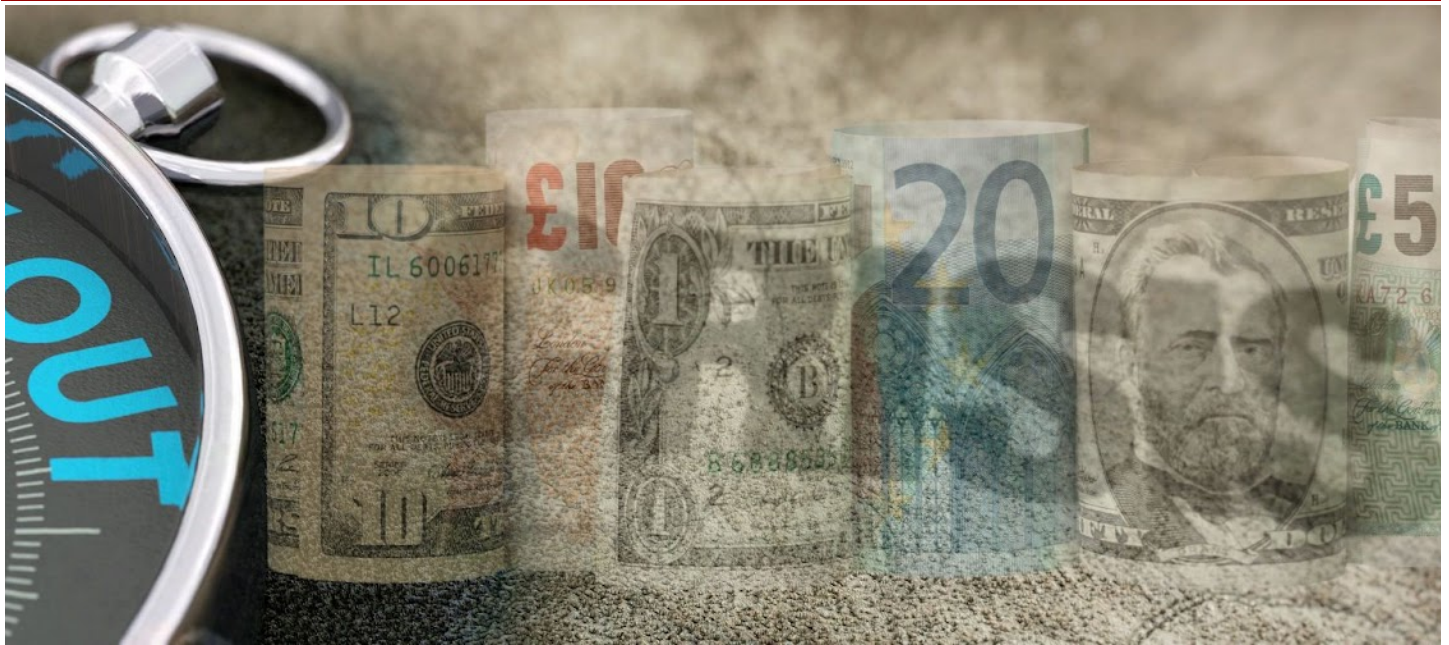
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*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author[s] and do not necessarily reflect the views of The **Trends Journal**.*

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



A CURRENCY CRISIS? YOU ARE IN ONE!

by [Gregory Mannarino](#) [TradersChoice.net](https://www.TradersChoice.net)

Go ahead, tune into ANY mainstream financial media outlet and what will you hear? **NOTHING, absolute zero when it comes to the current currency crisis.**

What Currency crisis?

Today the root cause of surging global inflation is the fact that we are experiencing a full-on crisis of global currencies. Currency which is losing its purchasing power FASTER than any other time in history!

As a direct result of the current currency crisis, inflation is skyrocketing ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE! But you are not allowed to know it!

Deceptions, distractions, and propaganda.

Currently, you have the mainstream propaganda narrative which is following in lockstep with the Federal Reserve and other central banks who are selling a lie!

The lie being sold to a general population, which does not know any better, is that it's low rates which are the root cause of surging inflation. NOTHING COULD POSSIBLY BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH! It IS NOT rates which are responsible for the skyrocketing costs, it is the currency which is losing purchasing power at an alarming rate.

And what are central banks doing about it?

For months now, central banks which include the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, have been raising rates dramatically. YET INFLATION CONTINUES TO RISE! **This single fact alone should be enough to demonstrate to people that rates are not the problem, it's the FACT that we are in a currency freefall with no end in sight!**

IF central banks were actually serious about taming inflation, they would be focusing on stabilizing their currency, but this will not happen. Central banks are on a mission to create more inflation, not less.

FOR YEARS! Central banks have collectively and deliberately been in a race to the bottom, intentionally killing the purchasing power of the currency they issue therefore purposely creating inflation.

The power of any central bank resides in ONE THING! Their ability to inflate.

Central banks' product is also ONE THING, and that product is debt.

The more debt a central bank can issue, the stronger they become at the literal expense of We the People who are given the "privilege" of having central banks allow us to use THEIR PRODUCT! The currency they create out of nothing.

People are being duped on a grand scale today, distracted, propagandized, told to LOOK HERE! As central banks and the mainstream media point at rates as the

root cause for inflation. But in reality, it's the purchasing power FREEFALL of the currency/CURRENCY CRISIS which is the real cause of surging inflation.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



by *Joe Doran*

EVOLUTION 2031: FROM HUMANS DESIGNING MACHINES, TO MACHINES DESIGNING HUMANS

Scientists with a transhumanist agenda are engaged in a dangerous quest to usher in the “Singularity.”

Singularity is defined as the moment when Artificial Intelligence, via its accelerating self-improvement, reaches a point where its abilities surpass human intelligence in every respect.

As a result of a largely unregulated race to create the most advanced possible technologies, AI (also called Artificial General Intelligence or AGI) which can advance itself has already been created.

AI is currently busy advancing its own abilities, and communicating among its own systems in ways that humans don't fully understand.

Some scientists believe the Singularity will arrive at some point within the next decade.

But it gets more problematic. Scientists are also employing AI to design heritable changes to the human genome.

Given these unbounded, radical developments, it's not hard to imagine that one day soon, rather than humans designing AI, AI may be designing humans—and virtually every other form of biological life.

The Normalizing Of Heritable Gene Editing

A 26 August article in *The Guardian* detailed how the U.K. government is moving closer to permitting heritable human gene editing.

Heritable human gene editing (also called germline editing) means introducing genetic changes to humans that can be passed onto offspring.

This is different from gene therapies which seek to correct a genetic malady within a particular individual, which is called “non-heritable” or “somatic” gene editing.

The impetus for radical legal revisions, not surprisingly, center around genomic alterations that would enable same-sex couples to produce children from their genes.

According to the *Guardian* article, titled “UK fertility watchdog considers laws for gene editing and lab-grown eggs,” a renowned scientist who advises the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is considering suggesting amendments to British laws that would open the door to the use of lab-grown eggs and sperm as well as human genome editing, should these procedures “be proven to be sufficiently safe and medically necessary.”

Robin Lovell-Badge, the head of stem cell biology and developmental genetics at the Francis Crick Institute in London and a member of the HFEA's legislative reform committee, said regarding the possible changes in law:

“The techniques aren’t there yet. But the rate of progress with either of those is so fast that it will happen. People might be surprised but they shouldn’t be. The science progresses much faster than the law.”

The whole point of a regulating body, of course, is precisely to limit and prohibit, if necessary, “progress” which might reasonably be destructive to the world and / or the fundamental rights of others.

What right should any small group of scientists or regulators have to unilaterally decide they can introduce heritable changes into the human gene pool?

As the *Guardian* article points out, money is a significant part of the equation:

“Several teams are making advances in research using non-human primates and at least two companies with significant financial backing are aiming to translate the work into humans.”

The use of heritable gene editing for eradicating genetic afflictions like cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia has been a major element of the push to allow the technology.

But though the good intentions of such pursuits is hard to argue with on the face of it, the prospect of widening use of the heritable gene editing, and unintended consequences, are very real.

The *Guardian* piece at least touched on the dangers involved:

“Further work is needed to ensure genome editing works efficiently, without causing unintended changes to DNA that would be passed on to future generations. There is particular caution after the 2018 scandal in which a Chinese scientist, He Jiankui, claimed to have edited the genomes of twin baby girls. Jiankui prompted global condemnation and was subsequently jailed.”

The article also acknowledged that the debate regarding monumental changes to genomic restrictions has largely “gone under the radar with public attention focused on the pandemic.”

Funding To Help AI Perform Gene Editing and Bio Pharma Research Just Got a 130 Million Dollar Boost From NIH

On 14 September, the National Institutes of Health launched “The Bridge to Artificial Intelligence, or Bridge2AI, program.”

One of the purposes of the program is to streamline and facilitate the use of AI to analyze large sets of data in order to “research” and potentially redesign human genomics to combat problems in the human genome.

According to NIH acting director Lawrence Tabak, Ph.D:

“Generating high-quality, ethically sourced data sets is crucial for enabling the use of next-generation AI technologies that transform how we do research. The solutions to long-standing challenges in human health are at our fingertips, and now is the time to connect researchers and AI technologies to tackle our most difficult research questions and ultimately help improve human health.”

A [fiercebiotech.com article](#) covering the news noted that the initiative will cover a variety of data types, including voice recordings, genomic analyses, and more, that future researchers could analyze with AI tools for a variety of purposes, such as to identify changes in the body, make associations between genetic abnormalities and specific health conditions, and research the biological processes at work as the body recovers from illness.

Meanwhile, tech corporations like Google and Nvidia are leveraging their AI and computational prowess to produce systems that can analyze genomic information faster, and predict how different edited sequences will behave.

An 21 September article in Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News [detailed](#) one such system, dubbed BioNeMo, being developed by NVidia and Broad Institute, and leveraging Google Cloud.

Broad Institute is a Harvard and MIT led [consortium](#) focusing on some of the most advanced genomic and AI research and development in the world.

Using the BioNeMo AI application framework, developers can efficiently train and use biology LLMs (Large Language Models) with billions of parameters regarding DNA and RNA data.

Nvidia's company blog described four pretrained language models:

“ESM-1: This protein LLM, originally published by Meta AI Labs, processes amino acid sequences to generate representations that can be used to predict a wide variety of protein properties and functions. It also improves scientists’ ability to understand protein structure.

“OpenFold: The public-private consortium creating state-of-the-art protein modeling tools will make its open-source AI pipeline accessible through the BioNeMo service.

“MegaMolBART: Trained on 1.4 billion molecules, this generative chemistry model can be used for reaction prediction, molecular optimization, and de novo molecular generation.

“ProtT5: The model, developed in a collaboration led by the Technical University of Munich’s RostLab and including NVIDIA, extends the capabilities of protein LLMs like ESM-1b to sequence generation.”

Teams from Broad and Nvidia are currently collaborating on new models to be added to the BioNeMo collection, which are then being made accessible through a platform called Terra for genetic researchers, according to [genengnews.com](#).

Advanced AI systems are effectively discovering novel properties and sequences that would otherwise be virtually impossible for human scientists to learn about.

Jurassic Park, The Reality Show: AI Powered Genetics Being Used to Map Revival of Dinosaurs

Companies and institutions are racing to leverage genomic discoveries to not only design solutions to genetic maladies, but to model the engineering of previously unimaginable creations using the building blocks of life itself.

And make no mistake—eradicating serious genetic diseases is not the only thing these discoveries are aiming to address.

A case in point is illustrated by Colossal Biosciences.

The company is focused on using genomic technology to bring back the Woolly Mammoth from extinction.

If that sounds like an outlandish use case for the technology, it evidently doesn't bother investors like Peter Thiel, Tony Robbins, Paris Hilton, Winklevoss Capital (aka the Bitcoin billionaires) and the Central Intelligence Agency.

All are listed as investors and backers of the initiative, according to *The Intercept*. The CIA is involved as part of a venture capital initiative called in-q-tel (iq̣t).

A blog post at that site explained the reason behind the “de-extinction” project:

“Why the interest in a company like Colossal, which was founded with a mission to “de-extinct” the woolly mammoth and other species? Strategically, it’s less about the mammoths and more about the capability.”

Responding to a query by The Intercept, Colossal co-founder Ben Lamm explained further:

“Biotechnology and the broader bioeconomy are critical for humanity to further develop. It is important for all facets of our government to develop them and have an understanding of what is possible.”

The Temptation to Use Heritable Genome Editing Will Only Grow

Experts and observers recognize that gene editing opens the door to almost any vision of “improvements” to the human genome.

In other words, they know the temptation to use gene editing to combat a wider and wider array of “maladies,” and to improve and enhance humans, will only grow as the technology introduces the ability to make those edits.

A recent article at philosophical-investigations.org by a PhD student in sociology put it this way:

“Germline Genome Editing will inevitably expand into the area of generating ‘new’ or ‘improved’ abilities. Any gene can change, based on the ability-development it promises. ‘Treating disease’ or ‘preventing disability’ would therefore merge with ‘enhancement’. If genome editing should be deemed to be ‘sufficiently safe’, it could be applied to all kinds of gene variations—and that which is seen as ‘normal’ might be up for debate. The proponents of enhancement by genome editing mean to improve the human body and mind to its maximum potential. They conceive the natural human body as limited, defective, and in need of improvement, and support functioning beyond species-typical boundaries.”

Right now, polygenic risk score tests are being marketed and used by some fertilization providers to assess genetic risks from combinations of genes that go far beyond merely screening for obvious markers associated with conditions like sickle cell anemia.

These tests are controversial, and some see them as a slippery-slope step toward designer babies (see [“TECHNO EUGENICS: SUPERIOR BABIES JUST A POLYGENIC RISK SCORE AWAY,”](#) 12 Oct 2021.)

But heritable gene editing would go considerably further, not just screening “superior” offspring, but actively changing genetic code to enhance or bestow certain traits—or even create new ones not previously part of any natural human genome that ever existed.

This is the technology being fueled by AI capabilities.

Ascendant AI Destined To Decide Human Fate...and Human Nature?

So how will AI go from knowing more about the human genome than humans (and everything else), to being masters of human design?

The very people researching and pursuing technologies of radical AI ascendance and genomic transhumanism tell us themselves.

Ray Kurzweil, scientist and author of 2005’s *The Singularity Is Near*, believes plainly that the only viable path forward for humanity is to hope to merge with AI.

Why an increasingly superior AI intelligence would want to merge with, or occupy itself with upgrading humans via genomics, or by merging with humans, is a speculative hope indeed.

On 27 September, tech magazine *LifeWire* featured a [story](#) about the concerns of scientists working on AGI. A survey showed that more than a third of those scientists believed AI had the potential to cause global disaster worse than nuclear war, and that the drive to a Singularity could have unintended consequences.

The survey authors canvassed scientists who had co-authored at least two computational linguistics publications. Among them was Michael Huth, head of the Department of Computing at Imperial College London and a senior researcher at Xayn, an AI company.

Huth also pointed out that AI is becoming increasingly autonomous, operating “without human monitoring or decision-making”, according to *LifeWire*.

Ray Kurzweil himself in 2017 [admitted](#) that the potential for AI to pose an existential threat to humanity, as Elon Musk warned at the time, was possible:

"Technology has always been a double-edged sword. Fire kept us warm, cooked our food and burned down our houses. World War II – 50 million people died, and that was certainly exacerbated by the power of technology at that time."

Another influential transhuman thinker, Martine Rothblatt, who underwent a radical gender “sex reassignment” surgery in 1994 after launching the Sirius satellite in 1990 (when the science entrepreneur still went by the name Martin), envisions humans no long being bound by genetic limits.

In Rothblatt’s 2010 [book](#) *From Transgender To Transhuman* (updated and retitled from an earlier 1990s work), the author proclaimed that a self-actualizing successor to homo sapians would decide its modes and forms of being in almost god-like freedom:

“Homo sapiens will become Persona creatus as it rides the journey of near infinite growth in computational knowledge that is the Singularity.”

These may sound like wildly fringe views. Among those working at tech companies, government agencies and bleeding edge research institutions on genomic technologies and AI advancement, they most certainly are not.

The writing is there to see, a kind of code in itself, though not anywhere near as indecipherable to average understanding as the human genome or the workings of a neural network.

Singularity, meet unsurpassed knowledge of how to manipulate the biological genome.

What could possibly go wrong?

For related articles, see:

- [“ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CALCULATES STRUCTURES OF ALMOST ALL KNOWN PROTEINS”](#) (16 Aug 2022)
- [“THE AI LEGISLATOR YOU DIDN’T VOTE FOR”](#) (23 Aug 2022)
- [“DOMESTIC SPY AGENCIES, CHINESE SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEMS...AND SNEAKY AI”](#) (14 Jun 2022)
- [“MICROSOFT ANNOUNCES GLOBAL AI ‘SINGULARITY’”](#) (1 Mar 2022)
- [“GENETIC MODIFICATIONS BEING PREPPED TO “SOLVE” EVERYTHING”](#) (18 Jan 2022)
- [“WHAT DO AMERICANS REALLY THINK ABOUT AI AND HUMAN GENE EDITING?”](#) (7 Jun 2022)
- [“SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE”](#) (3 Aug 2021)

SYNBIO SET TO EXPLODE WITH LUCRATIVE INNOVATIONS, SAY INDUSTRY WATCHERS



Synthetic biology, or synbio, is making rapid advances that are opening up attractive investment possibilities.

That’s according to a September analysis posted at etftrends.com.

The article [detailed](#) a recent example of synbio innovation involving brewer’s yeast.

Using a particular strain of the yeast, researchers with Novo Nordisk were able to install a genomic edit that allowed the yeast to produce an otherwise difficult to obtain anti-cancer drug.

Simon Barnett, director of research at ARK invest, an ETF focused on investments in tech synthetic biology, said in a newsletter about the yeast experiment:

"this altered yeast strain produced Vinblastine, a well-known anti-cancer drug that depends on a rare plant called the Madagascar periwinkle that was harmed

by COVID-19 supply chain constraints. Novo Nordisk's innovation in synthetic biology resolved that issue for this desperately needed anti-cancer drug."

Synbio involves genetically modifying microscopic organisms like bacteria to give them capabilities that advance manufacturing, agriculture, and medicine.

Synthetic biologists are focused on creating organismal designs quickly and cost-effectively by using advanced tools like CRISPR gene-editing and next-generation sequencing (NGS) powered by AI.

Efttrends.com said this is leading to an explosion of innovation.

The **Trends Journal** alerted our readers to the innovations and questions surrounding synthetic biology in [“SYNBIO AND BIO PHARMA: YES, THERE’S HUGE UPSIDE”](#) (15 Mar 2022).

We noted at that time:

“SynBio and Bio Pharma: Some Differences

“In practice, SynBio often involves reprogramming cellular production in yeast, bacteria, or microalgae to generate new, natural molecules such as proteins and enzymes.

“The phrase ‘synthetic biology’ was developed to describe the “biosynthesis” of new molecules from other cells.

“In contrast to CRISPR style gene editing, the resulting products of many SynBio processes are genetically ‘natural;’ that is, their genetic composition is no different than natural DNA of biological products in nature...”

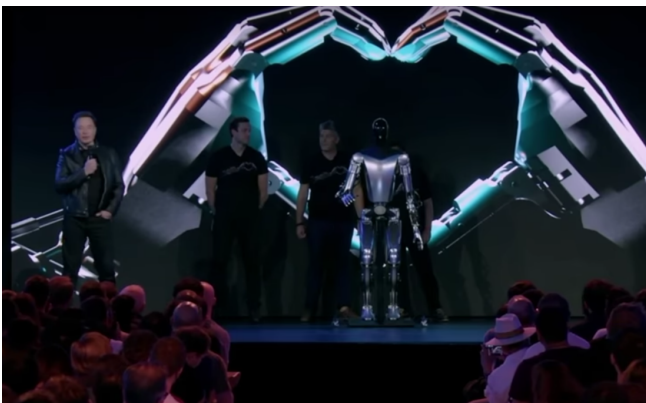
Barnett said in his newsletter about the Novo Nordisk brewer’s yeast achievement:

“In our view, this accomplishment offers a glimpse into the enormous human and economic value that synthetic biology is likely to create. Moreover, most of the research is generalizable across more than 3,000 natural products closely related to Vinblastine. Among them is vinorelbine—a chemotherapy recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an essential medicine. As artificial intelligence (AI), genomic sequencing, and genome editing continues to improve, we are excited to see the strides that synthetic biology will make in producing medicine cost-effectively and at scale.”

The ARK Genomic Revolution ETF (ARKG) is geared toward providing investment exposure to synthetic biology breakthroughs in areas including molecular diagnostics, gene editing, medicines, and DNA sequencing technology.

[Note: this article is not meant as investment advice, and is for trends forecasting and information purposes only.]

MUSK TAKES STAGE WITH OPTIMUS HUMANOID ROBOT



Well, at least it will cost less than a car.

Elon Musk previewed a humanoid robot at Tesla’s second annual “AI Day” last week, and said the company intends to bring it to market within three to five years.

It’s called Optimus (perhaps Elon’s “Rosebud”), and uses some of the same AI features that were developed to enable the autopilot driving features of Tesla cars.

Musk said the robot would have a price tag under 20 thousand dollars, and could be used for chores and other work.

Reporting on the event, *The Wall Street Journal* noted that Musk recently said robotics including ones with human-like capabilities “will, I think, turn the whole notion of what’s an economy on its head, at the point at which you have no shortage of labor.”

Mr. Musk said Aug. 4 at Tesla’s annual shareholder meeting. On Friday, he added: “It really is a fundamental transformation of civilization as we know it.”

Musk has heavily invested in, and is an undisputed pioneer in integrating AI technology and robotics into manufacturing and its flagship products, including autos.

But Musk has also acknowledged thorny issues surrounding the technology that has made him, by some recent calculations, the richest person on earth.

Musk addressed some of those issues on AI Day. He said Tesla is implementing “safe” AI that will not be capable of causing harm to humans.

“I’m a big believer in AI safety,” Musk told his audience.

He has previously advocated for some form of government regulation of AI technology to ensure AI does not evolve with destructive potentials.

How that aligns with the quest of some to create AI so advanced it surpasses human intelligence “in every respect”—referred to as the “Singularity” moment—is a crucial question, especially as AI is rapidly becoming more powerful.

Musk has also contemplated the mass displacement of human workers by AI and robotics.

As the **Trends Journal** has previously reported, about half of industry officials now believe these technologies will cause major disruptions for human workers (see [“AI IS LEARNING YOUR JOB.”](#) 27 May 2022).

Musk has said that some form of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) of wealth derived AI and robotics, distributed to the human masses, will likely be part of the future.

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



APPLE MAKING CRYPTO POWERED METAVERSES FORBIDDEN

Apple is proving again that it can't escape its long ironic history with Orwell's *1984*.

This time, the de-facto cell phone duopoly company is banning crypto-powered metaverse apps in its app store.

The ban effectively prevents users of iPhones and Apple computers from accessing those apps.

Matthew Ball, managing partner of venture capital company Epyllion Co., spoke out against Apple's restriction late last week on CoinDesk TV's *First Mover* program.

"Apple does not permit crypto-based virtual worlds," Ball said. "They are successfully stifling a particular form of disruptive innovation and category."

BusinessOutreach.in, which reported on the story, noted that Apple has taken a restrictive stance with regard to bitcoin as well, and also restricts porn apps. Together with Google, which offers the android operating system and Google Play app store for phone makers, Apple controls the vast majority of the cell phone market worldwide—97 percent—according to [statcounter](#).

Google and Apple also have about one-third of the U.S. desktop market.

Users of Apple devices can often still utilize interfaces for metaverse, crypto related and adult content via web browsers.

But Ball, also author of *The Metaverse and How It Will Revolutionize Everything*, argues that Apple users should have more discretion over how they use their gadgets, pointing to the limited identity options offered by iOS devices, such as Apple ID.

Apple gained early notice in the 1980's for an iconic ad which showed a woman emerging from a crowd and smashing a telescreen broadcasting the directives of a “big brother” figure, a la George Orwell's novel *1984*. The ad promoted Apple's new MacIntosh computer against then dominant IBM pc usage.

Apple's come a long way from upstart to “Big Apple,” and its own monopolistic practices, and compliance with totalitarian regimes like China.

Apple limits what customers can do and access in favor of personalized experiences, which, given the iPhone's significant market share, wields unfair power over the direction of innovation. “No one can acquire your identity, social network, data, and virtual assets and then use them to exclude competitors,” Ball told CoinDesk TV.

The heart of the issue lies in Apple's attempts to funnel all digital payments related to apps through its Apple Pay payments system.

Though less restrictive, Google Play (from the “Don't Be Evil” company) has also wielded self-interested terms having nothing to do with security on its platform,

though it has used that as a pretext for shutting out competition. For example, it has banned several social apps that compete with YouTube.

Apple and Google are currently being sued by Epic for their smartphone policies. Business Outreach predicted that if the tech giants' activities were allowed to continue on smartphones, they would eventually take control of the metaverse and all physical transactions occurring in virtual and augmented reality, as well as dominate digital commerce and commodities on mobile devices.

The full Business Outreach analysis can be read [here](#).

The **Trends Journal** has previously detailed anti-competitive and corrupt self-serving practices of Google and Apple in numerous articles. Some touchstones include:

- [“DIRTY ADVERTISING DEAL. STATES SUE GOOGLE”](#) (1 Feb 2022)
- [“LOOKING FOR COLLUSION? TRY GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK”](#) (18 Jan 2022)
- [“TECH EXPERTS LOBBY FOR CRYPTO CRACKDOWN”](#) (7 Jun 2022)
- [“HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY”](#) (17 Aug 2021)
- [“HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY: A FOLLOW-UP”](#) (24 Aug 2021)
- [“1984 TO 2021: HOW APPLE LEARNED TO LOVE BIG BROTHER”](#) (17 Aug 2021)
- [“APPLE BETRAYS CHINESE USERS FOR PROFIT”](#) (1 Jun 2021)

STUDENTS LEARNING THE POWER OF DECENTRALIZED DAO GOVERNANCE



College students are becoming more involved with DAOs, according to a recent Coindesk story.

Some schools are utilizing DAOs to learn about decentralized governance, and even to code, since proposing new governance protocols requires coding.

Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) are blockchain based organizations where holders of tokens can take part in the purposes, benefits and even the governance of organizations, apps and protocols.

In one example cited by the Coindesk article, students at Berkeley, Columbia, UCLA and several other schools worked together to put forward a proposal to the Compound (COMP) DeFi DAO.

Compound is a leading borrowing and lending DeFi protocol, administered by the Compound Finance DAO community.

Prior to the student proposal initiative, headed by the group Blockchain at Berkeley, only about a dozen crypto addresses had the ability to submit governance changes prior to the student proposal.

After their proposal was voted on and passed, the number of addresses entitled to vote more than doubled.

Students don't necessarily have to purchase a large amount of tokens themselves to participate in the process of DAO governance.

According to a blog post by the head of network operations at venture fund Andreessen Horowitz, student organizations can get involved with on-chain governance through token delegation, where token holders delegate their voting rights to others.

For example, the Andreessen Horowitz venture fund makes grants to student groups looking to learn about and participate in DAO governance.

DAOs Initiatives Cover A Growing Range

DAOs are being used in a wider range of initiatives, as the technology and structuring become more mature.

Alchemy.com listed in an April 2022 [blog post](#) what it called the eight most important areas where DAOs are successfully re-imagining organizational energy:

1. Protocol DAOs
2. Grant DAOs
3. Philanthropy DAOs
4. Social DAOs
5. Collector DAOs
6. Venture DAOs
7. Media DAOs
8. SubDAOs

MakerDAO, Uniswap and yearn.finance are examples of DeFi protocol DAOs.

Grant DAOs are being used by some blockchain projects to fund and spur app development on their networks.

Other DAOs have been formed to direct philanthropic goals, or offer decentralized web3 alternatives to traditional media and social media platforms.

Big Green DAO, for example, is an initiative of Big Green, a non-profit food justice charity that teaches people how to grow food to improve nutrition security. Decrypt is a media focused DAO that empowers users to vote on what kinds of content they want to see.

Venture DAOs pool capital to invest in early stage web3 startups, and facilitate access to portfolios not available in traditional finance, according to the alchemy blog post.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



SOLANA DIMS AGAIN

Solana, second only to Ethereum in terms of projects developed on its network, had some good news marred by bad this past week.

On the heels of recording a surge in NFT activity, the decentralized network experienced its fourth outage since January.

News of the outage was reported via Solana Status, a Twitter account reportedly associated with the Solana Foundation:

“The Solana network is experiencing an outage and not processing transactions. Developers across the ecosystem are working on diagnosing the issue and to restart the network. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

“— Solana Status (@SolanaStatus) October 1, 2022”

The outage actually commenced on Friday night, 30 September, according to crypto outlet theblock.co.

A serious problem with a validator node on the network, which was creating duplicate blocks of data, resulted in other nodes not being able to verify which block was correct, and a network fork occurred, said experts.

Some suggested the network did not have a fail-over mechanism that could have avoided a network shutdown over the issue.

The network managed to go back online after a decision to restart the network from the last confirmed slot before the issue began.

There was a silver lining for Solana, besides being back online. Several outlets reported that the network achieved its highest ever number of NFTs minted on the chain in early September.

Part of the success owed to SudoAMM, an NFT platform which has seen controversy surrounding its decision not to incorporate royalty features for NFT creators.

On other NFT platforms like OpenSea, NFT creators can opt to receive as much as 10 percent in royalties each time an NFT they created is resold.

Creators have decried the lack of royalty features on SudoAMM. But the platform has done 50 million in trading since its launch, theblock.co noted, showing that royalty-free NFT trading can attract business.

In terms of network efficiencies, NFT creation on Solana is considerably cheaper and faster than on Ethereum. Solana has managed to attract a number of projects that previously had operated on the Ethereum network.

NFT SALES DROP OFF A DIGITAL CLIFF

The craze for NFT digital art and other assets might just be the most dramatic casualty of the so-called “crypto winter.”

Bloomberg has reported that NFT trading volume came in at 466 million in September.

That’s a precipitous decline from the 17 billion in volume reached at the start of the year.

While many sectors have been hard hit by economic recession and skyrocketing inflation, the crypto industry, which had exploded into mainstream awareness in 2021, has been among the most affected.

And within cryptos, the NFT market is perhaps the biggest loser.

Part of the problem with NFTs has been the focus on the relatively narrow use case of “digital art” ownership.

Whimsical collections like Crypto Punks and Bored Apes saw their prices skyrocket in 2021 as enthusiasts flush with new crypto wealth splurged on visuals that could serve as trendy emblems and status symbols.

That’s over, at least for the time being.

But NFTs likely are not going away, because the technology has much wider application than conferring ownership and validating provenance of digital art.

Some wider potential of NFTS have been detailed in articles including [“NFTS: MUCH MORE THAN DIGITAL ART”](#) (15 Feb 2022) and [“NFTs COULD BE ‘BIGGER THAN CRYPTO,’ COINBASE CEO SAYS”](#) (16 Nov 2021), [“MICKEY MOVE OVER: THERE’S A NEW M-WORD AT DISNEY”](#) (27 Sep 2022) and [“ONE OF A KIND: THE WORLD OF NFTs”](#) (10 Aug 2021).

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



COVID WAR RAMIFICATIONS CONTINUE TO PLAY OUT

Joe Biden may have played politics by declaring the Covid pandemic to be over, trying to get it off the table before elections, as Gerald Celente predicted.

But disastrous COVID War policy ramifications continue, as a trio of stories from this past week highlight...

Study Shows Mechanism of HCQ Efficacy Against Covid Virus

A new study published in the scientific journal *Nature* adds more evidence that Hydroxychloroquine effectively deters the COVID virus.

The paper, titled “Hydroxychloroquine blocks SARS-CoV-2 entry into the endocytic pathway in mammalian cell culture,” was predicated on discovering whether and how the long-known drug interacts with the COVID virus at a cellular level.

Researchers at the Department of Molecular Medicine, The Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter Florida [concluded](#) that hydroxy does indeed inhibit the COVID virus in several particular ways:

“We conclude HCQ inhibits viral entry through two distinct mechanisms in high and low tissue cholesterol and does so prior to inhibiting cathepsin-L. HCQ clinical trials and animal studies will need to account for tissue cholesterol levels when evaluating dosing and efficacy.”

The new study adds to other credible peer-reviewed research in major journals.

Unfortunately, much of that research has been discounted or ignored during the COVID War by the mainstream media and government policy makers like Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Some have posited that hydroxy and another cheap medicine, ivermectin, were dismissed at least partly for political reasons, and quite possibly for financial reasons as well, since big pharmaceutical companies stood little to gain from those drugs.

Hydroxy was targeted for ridicule after then-President Donald Trump cited the drug in 2020, based on reports by frontline doctors, for showing efficacy in treating COVID.

An unprecedented federal government led campaign against doctors prescribing the drug ensued, though its use and history of safety was virtually uncontroversial before the President’s mention. Hydroxy, first developed as a treatment for malaria, has been commonly prescribed to lupus patients, for example.

Ivermectin, a drug used to treat parasite problems in humans and animals, also came under fire when doctors reported its efficacy in treating early symptomatic COVID, especially when used to help the uptake of zinc supplementation.

Pharmaceutical companies, which spend huge sums every year advertising with major media outlets, secured huge government contracts in 2020 to develop “warp speed”

COVID vaccines. Experimental mRNA technology employed in the new vaccines, which is wholly unlike how traditional vaccines are developed, have proved controversial, with significant side effects that are still being investigated and cataloged.

Pfizer, one major manufacturer, has been found to have misrepresented trial testing data regarding the controversial mRNA technologies. Pfizer has a long history of questionable and even criminal incidents and activities related to its products. (See [“PFIZER DATA RELEASE CONFIRMS VACCINE DECEPTIONS.”](#) 8 Mar 2022).

The latest study joins others by respected scientists, some of whom suddenly became controversial for studying and advocating for the efficacy of cheap, easily available medicines in improving COVID outcomes.

One prominent example involves epidemiologist and Yale Professor Emeritus, Dr. Harvey A. Risch.

Risch received intense blowback and censorship for his research noting the apparent benefit of both hydroxy and ivermectin, when combined in a protocol with zinc, in treating early COVID symptoms.

Some of that research was [published](#) in a paper titled “Early Outpatient Treatment of Symptomatic, High-Risk COVID-19 Patients That Should Be Ramped Up Immediately as Key to the Pandemic Crisis” in November 2020 in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

Renowned Cardiologist Who Backed Vax Changes Mind

As research has continued to bolster the safety and therapeutic benefits of tested and safe drugs, research exposing dangers of mRNA gene level therapies deceptively marketed as COVID vaccines continues to mount.

This past week a prominent British cardiologist who originally promoted COVID mRNA “vaccines” rejected them as harmful.

Dr. Aseem Malhotra is now calling for the suspension of the injections, according to the World Council For Health, reported amgreatness.com.

Malhotra presented real-world data in a two-part peer-reviewed research that was published on Monday in the *Journal of Insulin Resistance*, demonstrating that in the non-elderly population, the risk of experiencing a significant adverse event from the vaccinations outweighs any advantages.

His re-analysis of the data from the Pfizer and Moderna randomized controlled trials also revealed that the risk of major adverse reactions for people receiving mRNA vaccinations is much higher than the chance of being admitted to the hospital with Covid-19.

The research has led Malhotra to recommend suspending COVID so-called vaccines until all the raw data from clinical trials are released for independent scrutiny and all negative side effects are thoroughly investigated, amgreatness.com [reported](#).

Malhotra is a recognized specialist in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiac disease. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Britain, and is also associated with the Stanford University School of Medicine in California.

The CDC has continued to recommend COVID vaccines and boosters for the vast majority of people, despite extremely low risk of serious outcomes for young persons, and regardless of whether someone has acquired natural immunity via previous COVID infection.

In June 2021, the CDC [acknowledged](#) risk of death from COVID for young men aged up to 30 was practically non-existent, and that the risk of heart ailments including myocarditis was statistically more significant:

“The benefits (prevention of COVID-19 disease and associated hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths) outweighed the risks (expected myocarditis cases after vaccination) in all populations for which vaccination has been recommended. However, the balance of benefits and risks varied by age and sex because cases of myocarditis were primarily identified among males aged <30

years, and the risks of poor outcomes related to COVID-19 increase with age. Per million second doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine administered to males aged 12–29 years, 11,000 COVID-19 cases, 560 hospitalizations, 138 ICU admissions, and six deaths due to COVID-19 could be prevented, compared with 39–47 expected myocarditis cases after COVID-19 vaccination (Table 2)”

In June of 2022, the CDC released an [updated advisory](#) which showed that about 290 myocarditis cases in young people aged 5 to 29 occurred for every 100 thousand who received a COVID vaccine:

VAERS reporting rates of myocarditis (per 1 million doses administered) after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, days 0–7 and 8–21 post-vaccination^{*,†}

Age (yrs)	0–7 days			8–21 days			0–7 days			8–21 days		
	Males			Males			Females			Females		
	Dose 1	Dose 2	Booster	Dose 1	Dose 2	Booster	Dose 1	Dose 2	Booster	Dose 1	Dose 2	Booster
Pfizer-BioNTech												
5–11	0.2	2.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
12–15	5.3	46.4	15.3	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.7	4.1	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.9
16–17	7.2	75.9	24.1	1.7	3.2	1.3	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0
Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna												
18–24	4.2	38.9	9.9	1.1	2.2	0.4	0.6	4.0	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.0
25–29	1.8	15.2	4.8	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.8
30–39	1.9	7.5	1.8	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0
40–49	0.5	3.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.4	1.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0
50–64	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1
65+	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1

^{*} As of May 26, 2022; reports verified to meet case definition by provider interview or medical record review; primary series and 1st booster doses only
[†] An estimated 1–10 cases of myocarditis per 100,000 person years occurs among people in the United States, regardless of vaccination status; adjusted for days 0–7 and 8–21 risk intervals, this estimated background is 0.2 to 2.2 per 1 million person-day 0–7 risk interval and 0.4 to 3.8 per 1 million person-day 8–21 risk interval (peach shaded cells indicate that reporting rate exceeded estimated background incidence for the period)

Fauci Almost Doubles Wealth From 2019 to 2022

Watchdog group OpenTheBooks has been going through Dr. Anthony Fauci’s Fiscal Year 2021 financial disclosures.

According to their [blog](#), the COVID policy czar and Director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, managed to enrich himself considerably during the COVID War.

Fauci's recommended policies caused untold devastation for "unessential" mostly small and medium sized businesses forced to shutter during COVID lockdowns implemented in many states.

The documents gleaned by OpenTheBooks show that Fauci household's net worth, at about \$12.6 million, increased \$5 million from 2019 through 2021.

How did the government official manage it?

In 2021, \$1 million in prizes, some smacking of politics, helped Fauci bolster his government income. For instance, the Israeli-based non-profit Dan David Foundation awarded the NIAID Director \$901,400 for speaking "truth to power" and defending "science" during the Trump administration.

The Fauci family's income, perks, and unrealized gains from investments totaled \$2,832,876 during the continuing pandemic year of 2021. This included \$903,497 in federal income and benefits, \$919,205 in royalties and travel advantages from outside sources, and \$910,174 in investment profits.

The figures were gathered by auditors at OpenTheBooks.com, a company overseen by Adam Andrzejewski.

According to OpenTheBooks, Fauci's stock, bond, and money market portfolio saw gains of \$910,174 in 2021. These monies were divided among accounts for trusts, retirement, and higher education.

In 2020, the portfolio saw gains of \$794,369. At the close of 2021, Dr. Fauci's investment portfolio had a total value of \$10,271,626 while his wife's portfolio had a value of \$2,405,887.

The **Trends Journal** has chronicled the dramatic rises in income elites in business, media and the government have enjoyed as virtually millions of average Americans were hurt and impoverished by pandemic policies and restrictions.

See, for example:

- [“BILLIONAIRES REAP PANDEMIC PROFITS”](#) (9 Jun 2020)
- [“TECHNOCRATS WIDEN WEALTH GAP THANKS TO PANDEMIC”](#) (13 Apr 2021)
- [“CUOMO’S BOOK A BUST, BUT GOT PAID MILLIONS”](#) (25 May 2021)
- [“BILL GATES, PHILANTHRO-PREDATOR”](#) (21 Sep 2021)
- [“TOP 10 BILLIONAIRES IN U.S. WEALTH GREW \\$1 BILLION A DAY DURING COVID WAR”](#) (25 Jan 2022)
- [“HOCHUL APPROVED HIGH-PRICED TEST KIT BUY FROM MAJOR CAMPAIGN DONOR COMPANY”](#) (13 Sep 2022)

CANADA ENDS COVID-19 BORDER RESTRICTIONS WITH THE U.S.



Canada ended its COVID-19 border restrictions last weekend that have been a source of contention between Ottawa and Washington for months as both countries slowly reopen from economy-killing lockdowns.

Since September, only fully vaccinated travelers have been allowed to enter Canada. Unvaccinated permanent residents and citizens could enter the country, but were mandated to self-quarantine for 14 days. The border was fully closed with the U.S. in March 2020 and partially reopened to fully vaccinated individuals in August 2021.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on the tensions that resulted in these border policies. (See [“COVID HYSTERIA: U.S.-CANADA BORDER REMAINS CLOSED”](#) 22 Jun 2021, [“U.S. BORDER RESTRICTIONS EXTENDED”](#) 27 Jul 2021) and [“CANADA: LOCKDOWN LUNACY, GESTAPO 2.0”](#) 11 May 2021.)

When Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced another delay last year, U.S. Rep. Brian Higgins, the co-chair of the Congressional Northern Border Caucus,

took to Twitter, and wrote, “There’s no other way to say it: another month’s delay is bullshit.”

Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada’s health minister, told reporters that the “importation of COVID-19 cases across the border is no longer significant,” noting that most of the hospitalizations in the country are domestic infections.

Canada will no longer require a negative test and all isolation and quarantine requirements for travelers will no longer be enforced, the Public Health Agency of Canada, said.

Canadian officials said their decision comes after the country passed its peak of the new variant waves. About 82.1 percent of Canadians have received two jabs compared to 67.8 percent of Americans. Canada, which has about 38 million people, had 4.27 million reported cases and 45,304 deaths.

The virus is still killing people in the country. Wastewater samples have shown a rise in cases and about 32 Canadians are dying from the virus per day. The Ontario Ministry of Health said 1,265 people were hospitalized this week in the province, which is an increase from 1,141 last week, the CBC reported.

Duclos said the country is in a “much better position” to deal with the virus than in the early days of the outbreak. He did not rule out the possibility that Canada could reimpose restrictions if the virus picks up again.

The BBC noted that vaccine mandates for travelers entering the U.S. will continue to be enforced, even though President Joe Biden said the pandemic was over last month.

"It seems like this is a great time," Rosanna Berardi, Berardi Immigration Law, told Spectrum News. "I think that people on both sides of the border are super happy. Especially in the border cities in Canada where they really have taken a big economic hit because of the lack of Americans traveling there due to these tight restrictions."

TRENDPOST: The decision by Canadian officials to reopen the border further proves that these rules were completely arbitrary, purely based on political science while lacking a scintilla of hard science. There have been no “medical breakthroughs” and the COVID Jabs have not stopped the spread of the virus.

In fact, the dictator running Canada, the arrogant little Daddy’s Boy, Justin Trudeau whose Daddy was Prime Minister, got fully jabbed and got the virus twice. But the opening of the border is all about the bottom line since Canada and the U.S. traded over \$1 trillion in goods and services in 2021.

Furthermore, according to MNP's quarterly Consumer Debt Index released on Monday, 52 per cent of respondents say it is becoming less affordable to feed themselves and their families, an increase of five percentage points from December 2021

Getting Worse

Gerald Celente has long said the COVID War has inflicted incalculable harm on society that may not be fully understood for decades.

Deaths tied to opioid toxicity in Canada have nearly doubled since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Public Health Agency of Canada said. The Globe and Mail said the agency blames several factors leading to the new deaths, including interruptions to health services, feelings of isolation, stress, and anxiety, “all of which it says became more acute during the pandemic.”

TRENDPOST: Again, we have extensively reported on the fabrication of the lockdowns that were not based on science, did nothing to stop the coronavirus, but have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of billions across the globe:

- [“EUROPE: MORE LOCKDOWNS, PROTEST, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP”](#)
- [“LOCKDOWN PROTEST RAGING. NEW LOCKDOWN ORDERS”](#)
- [“COVID-19: THE VIRUS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPRESSION”](#)
- [“QUEENSLAND: 13 NEW COVID CASES, LOCKDOWN 5.1 MILLION”](#)
- [“NEW STUDY: LOCKDOWN LUNACY”](#)



U.S. PROPS UP FAILING GOVERNMENT IN HAITI AS COUNTRY DESCENDS INTO WAR ZONE

The U.S.-backed Haitian prime minister is facing increased pressure to get a grip of the security situation in his country as violent gangs wield more power than law enforcement in Port-au-Prince.

Haiti has faced turmoil and confusion after the brazen 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse inside his home. Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon, was appointed as new prime minister days before the killing, claiming the role. He has led the country as de facto prime minister for about a year and a half.

Helen La Lime, the UN special representative, said the economic crisis and gang wars have gone from a political crisis to a “human catastrophe” in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Gangs now control vast swaths of the land in Haiti and have sparked international concern. Reps. Gregory Meeks and Michael McCaul told a House Foreign Affairs Committee last week that the U.S. should consider sanctioning these gang leaders and “those who are financing the gangs and those who are sending the weapons.” (See [“U.S. BACK IN HAITI AFTER PRESIDENT’S ASSASSINATION?”](#) 20 Jul 2021 and [“HAITI: NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.”](#) 22 Oct 2019.)

Reuters noted that these gangs are a direct challenge to the Henry government. When the prime minister announced an increase in fuel prices, these gangs blocked exits at the country’s main fuel terminal to voice their frustrations. These blockades led to some hospitals being forced to close.

The *Financial Times* noted that fuel prices jumped from \$2 to \$4.78 per gallon. About half of the population survives on less than \$3.20 a day.

Some of these gang leaders have been referred to as warlords.

Pamela A. White, a former U.S. ambassador to Haiti from 1982 to 1985, said she’s never seen anything like “the total breakdown of civility that is the current situation in Haiti.”

“As everyone knows who cares about the Haitian people, Haiti is a failed state,” she said during a speech called “Haiti at the Crossroads: Civil Society Responses for a Haitian-led Solution.”

The Jamaica-Star reported that White said, “There is no legitimate government, no judiciary, no parliament, and a weak police force incapable of stopping the gangs that now rule over 60 per cent of the capital.”

“There are weekly beatings and body burnings,” she said. “Children in orphanages are terrorized with bullets zooming over their heads with no care as to their safety. The Haitian National police have fewer weapons, fewer members, and a lot less money with which to carry out operations than gangs do.”

She noted that the international community—led by the U.S.—pledged \$13 million to improve the country’s security situation, but she said that funding would not even put a dent in the problem that the country faces. She said the police need to have the ability to outgun the thugs.

TRENDPOST: *We reported in a 2019 article [“HAITI: NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE”](#) that thousands took to the streets while inflation hit 22.6 percent, and fuel shortages and prices of basic goods continued to rise as the currency was devalued.*

It should also be noted that Woodrow “War Monger” Wilson, of the Harvard-Princeton-Yale Bullets, Bombs and Banks Gang, sent U.S. Troops to invade Haiti in 1915... two years after he turned America’s monetary system over the Federal Reserve private Banksters, and two years before he dragged the U.S. into World War I.

The U.S. occupied Haiti for nearly 20 years and killed over 15,000 of its people who resisted the occupation.

President Joe Biden has faced calls to stop supporting Henry and his ruling Tèt Kale Party that has been accused of corrupt leadership. About 100 groups wrote a letter to the Biden administration claiming that the current crisis is due directly to the party that has “systematically dismantled democratic institutions and committed crimes against humanity.”

The U.S. effectively installed Henry despite having no constitutional or popular mandate. The FT noted that Henry emerged after the U.S., Canada, and France threw their support behind him.

“He's only there because the international community put him there,” Monique Clesca, a Haitian human rights activist, told the paper. “What power do you have when the people are on the streets telling you that you must resign?”

TREND FORECAST: *We have noted that these financial and security issues will keep the migration numbers high in the region. Haiti’s neighbor, the Dominican Republic, plans on building a 102 mile concrete wall that will separate the two countries.*

“There are simply too many Haitians here,” Santiago Riverón, the mayor of Dajabon, a city along the Haitian border. “I don’t want to use the word ‘invaded,’ but there are parts of this town that have been completely saturated.”

*The **Trends Journal** has noted that the unnecessary COVID-19 lockdowns that crushed economies have sparked a historic amount of migration around the world. These migrants tend to seek countries that are doing well economically. The Dominican Republic’s economy grew by 12 percent last year and is expected to grow another 5 percent this year, the Bloomberg report said.*

As political unrest escalates and economies decline, more people will be leaving their crime ridden corrupt countries for safe haven nations. Thus, anti-immigration populist political movements, as with Italy and Sweden recently, will overtake establishment parties that have not taken strong action to stop refugees from flooding into their nations.

85 PERCENT OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION WILL LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH TOUGHER AUSTERITY MEASURES IN 2023



Life is going to get a lot harder, a lot faster for the world’s poor as countries, battling sinking economies and soaring food prices, look to tighten their purse strings when it comes to social-work funding.

“End Austerity: A Global Report on Budget Cuts and Harmful Social Reforms,” which was put together by the European Network on Debt and Development, found that 85 percent of the world’s population will live under new austerity measures by 2023 and the trend will likely persist until at least 2025.

The people who will be most impacted will be society’s most vulnerable: women, children, and the elderly.

“Decisions on budget cuts affect the lives of millions of people and should not be taken behind closed doors by a few technocrats at a Ministry of Finance, with the support of the IMF,” Isabel Ortiz, the director of the Global Social Justice Program at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, said. “Policies must instead be agreed transparently in a national social dialogue, negotiating with trade unions, employer federations and civil society organizations. Austerity cuts are not inevitable; in fact our report presents nine financing alternatives that are available, even to the poorest countries.”

*The **Trends Journal** has long reported on how the COVID-19 outbreak resulted in the BIGS getting BIGGER, and the poor seeing their conditions worsen. (See [“ECONOMIC SHOCK WAVE TO HIT WORLD’S POOR COUNTRIES”](#) 25 Jan 2022, [“COVID WAR: RICH GOT RICHER, POOR GOT POORER”](#) 21 Sep 2021 and [“REPORTS GALORE, CLARITY POOR”](#) 20 Sep 2022.)*

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said last month that the several key factors that are putting new pressure on the world’s poorest are the Ukraine War, COVID-19 and the fallout, and climate change. (See [“ECONOMIC SPECIAL: NATURE’S WILD CARD,”](#) 27 Sep 2022.)

The report found that 143 countries around the world are seeking austerity measures, including 94 that are considered developing nations, CommonDreams.org reported. The report noted that many of these countries are forced to pay back loans that the International Monetary Fund doled out during the coronavirus outbreak.

The report cited an Oxfam paper that said 87 percent of IMF loans during COVID force these countries to employ austerity measures under the terms of the loan agreements.

“This epitomizes the IMF’s double standard: it is warning rich countries against austerity while forcing poorer ones into it. The pandemic is not over for most of the world. Rising energy bills and food prices are hurting poor countries most. They need help boosting access to basic services and social protection, not harsh conditions that kick people when they are down,” Nabil Abdo, Oxfam’s international senior policy adviser, said in a statement.

TRENDPOST: *The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the oppressive lockdowns that have not only proven to be ineffective but also damaging to the public's health and economy. (See [“COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: COMPLETE POLICY FAILURES,”](#) [“LOCKDOWNS CREATE CHILD SUICIDE EPIDEMIC”](#) and [“W.H.O NOW SAYS ‘WE DO NOT ADVOCATE LOCKDOWNS.’”](#))*

The financial burden on the middle class and poor has become too extreme while the super-rich saw their wealth exceed their wildest dreams. (See [“COVID WAR: RICH GOT RICHER, POOR GOT POORER,”](#) [“SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GET BIGGER, RICH GET RICHER”](#) and [“AMERICANS PUMPS UP THE RICH, CHINA PUSHING THEM DOWN.”](#))

David Malpass, the president of the World Bank, noted a Poverty and Shared Prosperity report that showed a “deterioration in development progress” even before the outbreak hit. Global poverty declined in the 1990s and 2000s, but the progress slowed by 2015. Extreme poverty rose by about 70 million after lockdowns were put into place. The report also noted that there was a 4 percent decline in global median income, which was the first decline since the measurements began.

Bigs Get Bigger

The poorest in developing countries missed out on COVID-19 recovery funds that were swallowed up by large corporations, according to a newly released report by the Financial Transparency Coalition.

The report found that these companies collected the benefits and essentially left small businesses and the poor blowing in the wind. The **Trends Journal** has long reported that the COVID-19 outbreak made the poor poorer and the rich richer. (See [“COVID WAR: RICH GOT RICHER, POOR GOT POORER,”](#) 21 Sep 2021.)

MarketWatch, citing the report, said there are about 2 billion people categorized as informal workers around the globe.

These individuals often work without any security or benefits, and are usually exploited as a result.

The report also noted that the worsening financial conditions in these countries means there's less money to dole out. The report noted that there was about one-third less spent on COVID relief compared to 2020.

MACRON BECOMES LATEST POLITICIAN TO FACE LARGE PROTESTS OVER WORKING CONDITIONS, FURTHER CEMENTING OUR FORECAST



Protests broke out in France last week to call on higher wages to help workers to make ends meet amid high inflation, and lashed out at President Emmanuel Macron's move to raise the retirement age in the country.

Strikes and protests broke out in cities across the country on a national day of action that included a wide range of participants, ranging from teachers to railway workers. There were several public services that were impacted by the strikes, including visits to the Eiffel Tower.

Workers at nuclear power plants in the country also walked off of the job, further disrupting the country's energy sector. Gas stations are running low on fuel, OilPrice.com reported.

"He pretends to listen," Philippe Martinez, the leader of the CGT, one of the country's most powerful unions, told *The Wall Street Journal*. Martinez said he hopes that the protest on Thursday is a kickoff for a movement, Reuters reported.

Macron is looking to overhaul the country's pension system, and part of the push includes raising the age of retirement from 62 to 65 over the next few years. Martinez is demanding that Paris raise the minimum wage to \$1,947.80 a month for a 32-hour work week.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the push to unionize and the [New World Disorder](#) that includes angry mobs of people tired of the status quo. It is worth

noting that students are a major driver in these French protests. We had forecast that the young, who still have the energy to fight, will be major players in these movements as they sink into economic despair.

There were about 200 protests across the country that included participants from various industries.

“I’m here because we lack funding in the child protection system,” Esther Tonna, 52, a union representative with the CGT, told *Connexion France*. “Our salaries are catastrophic. A child protection officer with an undergraduate degree starts on €1,300 a month.”

WSWS.org also reported that refinery workers at France’s TotalEnergies walked out on a three-day strike last week after their union demanded a 10 percent pay increase. The report noted that TotalEnergies paid out a €2.6 billion dividend last week after pulling in \$5.7 billion in profits in the second quarter. Its workers saw their salaries increase by 3.5 percent this year, which is far below the 5.9 percent inflation rate.

TRENDPOST: *We reported last month that Verisk Maplecroft, a U.K.-based consulting firm, released its Civil Unrest Index last week and found that there is an “unprecedented” level of risk for civil unrest in over 100 nations due to factors ranging from inflation to wars.*

The COVID-19 War and the Ukraine War have been a devastating one-two combination for many economies. As Gerald Celente has often noted, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it.”

We have been forecasting the [“New World Disorder”](#) trend for more than two years. We noted that politicians across the globe are fighting for survival against angry citizens who are taking to the streets in protest of lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence. (See [“NEW WORLD DISORDER TOP TREND: NATIONS SINKING DEEPER, PEOPLE SCREAMING LOUDER.”](#))

Also, the deeper emerging market economies sink, the greater the refugee crisis will surge as people will do all they can to escape to safe haven nations. In turn,

anti-immigration populist movements will gain power in those nations that want to restrict more refugees.

4 KILLED, DOZENS WOUNDED IN ISRAELI WEST BANK RAID



A major clash broke out in the occupied West Bank last week that resulted in at least four deaths and 44 wounded at the Jenin Refugee Camp after Israel forces said they faced resistance.

The **Trends Journal** has documented the increased tension in the region that has resulted in the deaths of more than 100 Palestinians since the beginning of the year. (See [“APARTHEID STATE OF ISRAEL CLAMPING DOWN ON PALESTINIANS.”](#) 26 Apr 2022, [“EU’S BORRELL ADMITS KILLING PALESTINIANS DON’T COUNT.”](#) 16 Aug 2022 and [“ISRAEL RAIDS AND RANSACKS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND CHURCH”](#) 23 Aug 2022.)

There have been 100 Palestinian deaths since the start of the year and is the largest number in seven years. Authorities in Israel said these raids are a direct response to the attacks against Israelis in the spring, which we documented in an April article titled, [“SHOOTING BREAKS OUT IN ISRAEL: REVENGE OR TERRORISM?”](#)

The attacks occurred while Palestinians and Israelis were holding peace talks on ending Israel’s rule over Palestinians and setting up a Palestinian state on occupied lands, The Associated Press noted.

The recent Israeli raids prompted a violent response from the Palestinians, and reports said attacks on Israeli police are also up this year. It should be noted that the most recent deadly raid occurred in the same area where Shireen Abu Akleh, the 51-year-old Al Jazeera journalist was killed in May while covering [these incidents](#).

Her killing was another flashpoint in the relationship between the two neighbors.

She was in Jenin on an assignment when she was shot during a raid by Israeli forces, according to reports. Israel acknowledged that the deadly bullet was likely fired by one of its security officers, but Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas called for the International Criminal Court to intervene in the investigation.

"We rejected, and continue to reject, the joint investigation with the Israeli occupation authorities because they committed the crime and we do not trust them," Abbas said. "We will go immediately to the International Criminal Court to track down the killers."

TRENDPOST: *It should be noted that the Western media shows its favored side by how it references opposition fighters. The description of the gun battle between Israeli forces and these Palestinians consistently refers to these fighters as "militants," which comes with a loaded connotation.*

Never will you read that these are freedom fighters in a clash for their own liberties. The mainstream, corporate media saves that designation for the "heroes" in Ukraine who find themselves in a fight for democracy for the world.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed the Israeli Knesset on 20 March 2022, and spoke about how Israel and Ukraine both face the same threat. He said they face total destruction of the "people, state, culture. And even of the names: Ukraine, Israel."

Asad Ghanem, a Palestinian political scientist, called Zelensky's speech a "disgrace when it comes to global struggles for freedom and liberation, particularly of the Palestinian people."

The Raid

The Israeli forces said they used deadly force during their attempt to arrest two Palestinians tied to the spring shootings. Drone footage showed a chaotic scene, with explosions and volleys of gunfire. The AP reported that one Palestinian could be seen being shot in the head while pointing his gun at an Israeli soldier.

Jamal Huweil, a 52-year-old camp resident and official in the ruling Fatah party, told the news outlet that it was the bloodiest fight that he saw this year.

“People are killed, wounded. There’s destruction. Every time (Israeli forces) come into the Jenin camp, our resistance becomes stronger and stronger,” he said.

The BBC noted that the 100th death this year occurred on Saturday when an 18-year-old was shot dead in East Jerusalem. The U.S. also called for an immediate investigation when a 7-year-old boy died from a heart attack after Israeli troops came to his family’s home after his brothers allegedly threw stones. His father said he was chased by Israeli troops. Israel denied the claim.

TRENDPOST: *While the Western media continually chastises Russia for its war against Ukraine and its intent to occupy Ukraine, those who note Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian and Syrian land are denounced as being “anti-Semites.”*

In the 1967 six day war, Israel invaded and seized Palestinian territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights, expelling some 300,000 Palestinians from their homes, while gaining stolen territory that was three and a half times its original size.

Russia has not been shy in pointing out the international double standard.

On 3 April, Israel’s prime minister, Yair Lapid, excoriated Russia over the Bucha massacre and said it was morally impossible to remain “indifferent” after seeing the “horrific images” from the killing scene.

“Intentionally harming a civilian population is a war crime and I strongly condemn it,” he said.

The Russian embassy responded, “Compare Yair Lapid's lies about [Ukraine] in April and attempts to place blame and responsibility on [Russia] for the deaths of people in Bucha brutally murdered by the Nazis with his calls in August for bombing and strikes

on [Palestinian] land in the Gaza Strip. Isn't that double standards, complete disregard and contempt for the lives of Palestinians?"

TRENDPOST: While Israel calls them “settlements,” they are illegal land grabs under international law. They violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that states, “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.”

The UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Court of Justice, and the High Contracting Parties to the Convention have all affirmed the Fourth Geneva Convention applies, that this is occupied territory, and Israeli settlements there are illegal.

TRENDPOST: The Jerusalem Post reported yesterday that former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged that if he was re-elected, he would support massive housing construction in the West Bank... which means essentially stealing more land from the Palestinians.

According to the Post, “Netanyahu signed his name, along with 30 members of his Likud Party, and another 26 politicians” from other political parties “to a declaration on intended settlement building by the Sovereignty Movement’s “Moving Eastward” campaign.

With the cost of housing sharply rising, the Post noted that “the Sovereignty Movement is claiming that the best resolution to rising housing prices in Israel “requires massive construction in the adjacent areas in Judea and Samaria.”

Again, as we note, Israel keeps stealing Palestinian land and no action is taken against them. And as we mention above, when Palestinians fight for their rights and homeland that continues to be stolen, they are demonized by the Western media as “militants.”

Moreover, thanks to former U.S. President Barack Obama, American taxpayers will send \$38 billion to Israel between 2017-2028... of which \$26.8 billion will be in military aid to keep pumping up Israel’s war machine.

Yet, anyone condemning Israel for their blatant atrocities is condemned as an anti-Semite and blackballed by the media.

MASSIVE PROTESTS IN PRAGUE: THE WORST IS YET TO COME



Tens of thousands of people again took to the streets in the Czech Republic's capital Prague last week to voice outrage over the country's energy crisis due to sanctions against Russia in what could be an early indicator of what other capitals may face as winter takes hold.

The protesters called for the government to resign and chanted slogans like, "Czech Republic First." While the media tried to label those who took the streets as "right wing," they included a wide range of participants... from anti-war protestors to those opposed to what has been described as the global elite.

Earlier last month, about 70,000 protesters took to the streets in the city to draw attention to rising energy prices and NATO's saber rattling. Again, as with last week's protests, the mainstream media tried to disparage these protesters by writing them off as "fringe" and "far-right."

"The aim of our demonstration is to demand change, mainly in solving the issue of energy prices, especially electricity and gas, which will destroy our economy this autumn," one organizer told iDNES.cz news website.

The first protest took the country by surprise because organizers only believed 500 people would show up.

Inflation in the country hit 17.2 percent in August, which was slightly below the forecast of 17.6 percent. The Czech National Bank estimated that inflation will surpass 20 percent in the coming months. TeleSur reported that Prague approved an

assistance package of 177 billion Czech crowns to help households cope with high inflation before the winter months. (1 Czech crown is about 4 cents.)

The Czech Republic is one of many European countries concerned about the winter months and energy. Critics of Russian President Vladimir Putin say he is hoping for a long, cold winter that will bring protesters to the streets in major European cities demanding that these countries abandon Ukrainian support. European leaders say that will not happen and insist that the sanctions are not to be blamed for the price increases. Rather, they blame the Kremlin for waging an energy war with the bloc and weaponizing its energy supply.

The EU has filled its gas storage above target levels before the winter and OilPrice.com reported that it reduced its imports from Russia from 41 percent to 9 percent. But the new imports tend to cost more that will soon be felt inside homes. The report noted that leaders like France's Emmanuel Macron have told businesses not to sign contracts with "crazy prices."

The report noted that protests have broken out in Germany, but not to the level felt in Prague, which is also very dependent on Russian energy.

TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal has said countries across Europe will face an emboldened populist movement because people are tired of being pawns for politicians to enrich themselves and their global cronies at the expense of dignity and freedom among their people.

Ladislav Vrabel, who The New York Times said calls himself a populist leader in the Czech Republic, told the paper that it is the duty of the government to "ensure the security of its citizens and their economic stability."

"Our government is bringing us to the edge of war and economic collapse," he said.

We have noted that these mentally deranged politicians took the world from the COVID War, to the Ukraine War, to WWII. European citizens are tired of their politicians not putting them first, which explains the rise of Giorgia Meloni in Italy. (See ["ITALY'S MELONI WINS BIG IN ELECTIONS, EU ISSUES WARNING."](#) 27 Sep 2022.)

There is no organized dissent against politicians, who suck off the public tit and never worked a real job in their lives—who have forced their constituents (a.k.a. slaves) to stay home, don't go to work, close down their businesses... to take pay cuts.

Economists say the mood is worse than the actual economic situation, which is a direct result of the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions that plundered small businesses and economies. The energy crisis was occurring before these companies recovered from lockdowns.

TREND FORECAST: *As we continue to note, there will be growing anti-vax, anti-establishment, anti-immigration, anti-Eurozone movements spreading throughout Europe, which will only be more significant due to sanctions against Russia.*

This trend will greatly accelerate as economies decline, civil unrest grows and the refugee crisis worsens.

One protester in Prague did not like the idea of being labeled “far-right” for taking part in the rally.

“It's not only energy prices rising—grocery prices, too. I am raising my granddaughter and I am worried. I see companies now struggling and I worry; if the company that employs me collapses, so will I.”



THE SHOW MUST GO ON: EX-NY GOVERNOR CUOMO PREPARES FOR COMEBACK

You can remove the politician from office, but you can't stop him from selling his bullshit.

F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote that there are no second acts in American lives, but the former, disgraced New York governor Andrew Cuomo hopes to prove the author wrong and announced a new career.

Politicians are famous for having very few marketable skills for the private sector, which is why they need to sell either their family or political connections. Cuomo announced a new political action committee and podcast. He said in a video that some time away from the limelight was therapeutic and he formed a clearer perspective about life and politics.

The **Trends Journal** reported extensively on Cuomo's meteoric rise at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, and his equally fast political nosedive after details about virus deaths at nursing homes began to emerge followed by sexual harassment allegations that proved too difficult to survive. (See [“CUOMO’S BOOK A BUST, BUT GOT PAID MILLIONS”](#) 25 May 2021, [“PRESSTITUTES AND POLITICIANS PLAY FOR THE SAME TEAM. WAKE UP KIDDIES”](#) 1 Mar 2022 and [“CNN CLOWN SHOW EXPOSES MEDIA’S POLITICAL TIES”](#) 22 Feb 2022.)

TRENDPOST: *In August, Cuomo resigned from his post as governor after several women accused him of sexual harassment, which capped a fall from grace seldom seen in American politics. On the same day that he was scheduled to receive the International Emmy Founders Award for his selling the COVID War Bullshit, he was replaced as governor by Kathy Hochul.*

A report from the state attorney general's office found that he sexually harassed 11 women. He faced some public ridicule at the time. Cynthia Nixon, the actress who lost to Cuomo, tweeted after his resignation: “The difference between me and Andrew Cuomo? Neither of us is governor, but I still have my Emmy(s).”

But Cuomo represented how the Presstitutes in the media create gods out of those approved by the corporate mainstream.

It is worth noting that Andrew Cuomo is not the only Cuomo fighting for a second act. His brother, Chris Cuomo, another Daddy's Boy, born on third base and thought he hit a triple—a nothing of a nobody who got the CNN job as “on air crap spewer” because Daddy was NY Gov. Mario Cuomo, also had to reinvent himself to a degree after a swift fall from one of the highest reaches of journalism: a primetime show on CNN.

Chris Cuomo has also portrayed himself as a fighter and someone with resiliency in the face of a public fall. The younger brother has a new show on NewsNation. Chris Cuomo was widely criticized for his soft-ball interview with his brother, who was governor at the time. He recently addressed those objections during a podcast, “On With Kara Swisher.”

At one point he responded, “I was in a bad position. My brother was in a bad position. The state was in a bad position. Everybody lost. And I have to be honest, I have always answered the questions. And I don’t believe it’s about serving the audience. I believe it’s about a standard that I really find fascinating that journalists want people to believe that they absolutely never, ever, no one ever talks to politicians about the situations they’re in and offers them advice. Really? Really, Kara? Come on.”

Witnesses from the inside

Andrew Cuomo said he saw the best and worst in politics, and he said it is essential that he moves forward to “focus on what is really important.” *The New York Times* noted that his stated goal for the political action committee is to make sure that the right people get elected into office. He said he is very concerned about the state of the country.

“We need people committed to fight for change and who get results. We need people who have the character and capacity to stand up and lead and take the heat that goes with leadership, because that’s the job,” he said.

He said his podcast will not consist of “Republican facts” and “Democratic facts,” but rather facts for what they are.

TRENDPOST: *It is worth pointing out that Gerald Celente and the **Trends Journal** were among the first in the media to detail Cuomo’s COVID incompetency, even when media outlets—like *The New York Times*—were pumping him up as a COVID War hero.*

NEW ZEALAND'S DICTATOR: YOU MUST BELIEVE WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, well known for imposing among the strictest COVID War mandates on the planet (and still getting the virus despite being fully vaxxed) has joined the chorus of politicians who want Big Tech to crack down on freedom of speech.

During the so-called Christchurch Call to Action, which was a summit at the United Nations led by Ardern and French President Emmanuel Macron, she called on an advanced partnership with the U.S. and top tech companies like Microsoft and Twitter to crunch algorithms that could “drive users towards terrorist and violent extremist content, to make changes where this occurs, and to develop effective interventions based on information sharing.”

Ardern told the UN’s General Assembly that there should be a global control on acceptable speech and a major crackdown on what she called “disinformation.”

Ardern said the technology is changing at a rapid pace and these platforms could be the staging ground that gets others to “take up arms” for various causes.

“This is no longer a hypothetical,” she said at the UN. “The weapons of war have changed, they are upon us and require the same level of action and activity that we put into the weapons of old.”

She said the world was able to identify and respond to old weapons by coming together as communities to “minimize these threats.”

“We created international rules, norms and expectations,” she said. “We never saw that as a threat to our individual liberties—rather, preservation of them. The same must apply now as we take on these new challenges.”

TRENDPOST: *The Trends Journal* has reported extensively on the government effort to suppress any information not previously approved by federal, state, and local officials. We saw one of the greatest assaults on individual liberties during the height of the COVID-19 outbreak where questioning mandates and vaccine safety were suppressed and rejected as life-threatening misinformation.

Today, any mention of peace or opposition to the Ukraine war effort is met with just as much social media derision. (See [“BIDEN PUSHES FOR MORE CENSORSHIP”](#) 20 Sep 2022, [“YOUTUBE BANS SEN. RAND PAUL FOR QUESTIONING FAUCI”](#) 17 Aug 2021, [“CENSORSHIP RESISTANT TECHNOLOGIES BLOCKCHAIN OFFERS RIGHT NOW”](#) 2 Aug 2022 and [“OBAMA CHAMPIONS FOR CENSORSHIP. FULLY JABBED AND GOT COVID. HE KEEPS SELLING THE VAX”](#) 26 Apr 2022.)

Former President Barack Obama, whose administration was labeled the biggest threat to freedom of the press by a former reporter from *The New York Times*, said in a speech earlier this year that people like Russian President Vladimir Putin and Steve Bannon, the former Donald Trump adviser, are fully aware that it is not necessary for people to even buy the disinformation for it to weaken democratic institutions.

“You just have to flood a country's public square with enough raw sewage. You just have to raise enough questions, spread enough dirt, plant enough conspiracy theorizing, that citizens no longer know what to believe,” he said.

Ardern said some of the topics that would benefit from the censorship are hate speech and climate-change skeptics.

“How do you tackle climate change if people do not believe it exists? How do you ensure the human rights of others are upheld, when they are subjected to hateful and dangerous rhetoric and ideology?” she asked.

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has said that online censorship is nothing more than the government's effort to force-feed the public its bullshit and an attack of free thought.*

Peter Kurti, a fellow at the Center of Independent Studies in Australia, told Sky News Australia that Ardern's comments amounted to a "war on freedom."

"What we see here, cloaked in the similarly reasonable language of compassion and safety, is that there is only one narrative, there is only one version of the truth," he said. "That is a totalitarian state of affairs."

We see the hypocrisy in the media on a daily basis, where "right-wing" politicians like Italy's Giorgia Meloni are written off as the second coming of Benito Mussolini, while so-called "progressive" politicians like Ardern are fully embraced by the corporate Presstitutes.

We have seen over and over again that the politicians who are most effective in selling their bullshit frame everything as a war that needs to be won, or life will somehow fundamentally change. Ardern called open dialogue online a "weapon of war," and only a unified global response is capable of countering the spread.

David Harsanyi, a senior editor at The Federalist, wrote on the website, "A person who lobbies world leaders to band together to dictate the contours of appropriate discourse is an authoritarian. And a person who maintains the state should be the "single source of truth," as Ardern had during the Covid lockdowns, is cartoonishly so. If you value speech only when it comports with your worldview and beliefs, you do not value it at all."

The **Trends Journal** is proud of our unparalleled coverage on the electoral and free speech abuses of Facebook and other tech companies in many articles, including:

- ["Media censorship trend to escalate"](#) (19 Sep 2018)
- ["Censorship 2019"](#) (11 Dec 2018)
- ["U.S. MEDIA CENSORSHIP"](#) (21 Jan 2020)
- ["FIGHT FOR FREEDOM: GO TO JAIL"](#) (28 Apr 2020)
- ["MEDIA COVID LIES AND DECEPTION"](#) (30 Jun 2020)
- ["FACEBOOK: FU, WE'LL TELL YOU"](#) (6 Oct 2020)
- ["FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES"](#) (27 Oct 2020)

- [“FACEBOOK PULLS PLUG ON ‘STOP THE STEAL’ GROUP”](#) (10 Nov 2020)
- [“ALL THE PRESIDENT’S APPS: TECH COUP 2021”](#) (19 Jan 2021)
- [“TECH GIANTS AND NATION STATES: WHO CONTROLS WHO?”](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- [“YOUTUBE DEMONETIZES THE EPOCH TIMES”](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- [“FACEBOOK BLOCKS AUSTRALIA NEWS”](#) (23 Feb 2021)
- [“STATES LEADING PUSH-BACK AGAINST BIG TECH”](#) (9 Feb 2021)
- [“POLITICAL SUPPRESSION GONE WRONG”](#) (9 Mar 2021)
- [“BIG TECH HELPING BIG PHARMA PUSH VACCINES”](#) (23 Mar 2021)
- [“ARE AMERICANS HEADING TOWARD A SILENT SECESSION?”](#) (4 May 2021)
- [“FACEBOOK’S ‘QUASI-COURT’ UPHOLDS TRUMP BAN”](#) (11 May 2021)
- [“BUYING AMERICA’S NEWSROOMS”](#) (18 May 2021)
- [“CPAC DRAWS IRE OF FAUCI AND YOUTUBE”](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- [“GAINING FREEDOM FROM THE TECHNOCRACY”](#) (20 Jul 2021)
- [“REUTERS ‘EXCLUSIVE’ CROWS ABOUT BIG TECH MERGING WITH U.S. INTEL TO TARGET POLITICAL DISSIDENTS”](#) (27 Jul 2021)
- [“YOUTUBE BANS SEN. RAND PAUL FOR QUESTIONING FAUCI”](#) (17 Aug 2021)
- [“ABBOTT SIGNS SOCIAL MEDIA FREE SPEECH LAW”](#) (14 Sep 2021)
- [“GOVERNMENT: FREE SPEECH IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH”](#) (21 Sep 2021)

MAJOR STORES LOCK MERCHANDISE AS THEFTS SKYROCKET, FURTHER CEMENTING OUR FORECAST



You would need to be living under a rock if you are unfamiliar with videos showing people with guns robbing stores, groups of brazen shoplifters entering supermarkets and high end retail outlets exiting with designer bags, Apple computers, jewelry, robbing people in the streets, stealing their cars, etc.

(See [“COVID CRIME WAVE SPIKES, DRUG STORES CLOSE”](#) 19 Oct 2021, [“NEW YORK, NEW YORK. IT’S CRIME TIME”](#) 12 Apr 2022 and [“CRIME WAVE AMERICA: HELL’S A POPPIN”](#) 20 Sep 2022.)

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that some stores are leaving notes on shelves for customers to let them know that the product is at the location, just not on the shelf. The report focused on Best Buy and Home Depot, two major U.S. retailers.

Both stores admit that in an ideal world, the products can be kept on the shelf for customer consumption, but retailers need to consider what products have a tendency of being targeted. There are some steps that these stores already take, like positioning valuable items near the counter so workers can be aware of a theft.

The report, citing the Retail Industry Leaders Association, reported that there was about \$69.9 billion in products swiped from stores in the U.S. in 2019. That number surged after non-essential stores began to reopen. The National Retail Federation says losses from theft accounted for more than \$94 billion in losses last year.

Home Depot is testing out a few possible methods in limiting theft, but has been locking up more items in the past 12 months than usual. The store said theft attempts are higher than its pre-pandemic level.

TREND FORECAST: *When the COVID War was launched on Chinese Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rat in 2020 and nations across the globe imposed draconian lockdown mandates that destroyed billions of lives and livelihoods we had forecast there would be sharp spikes in crime. As Gerald Celente says, “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it”... and especially in areas where prosecutors encourage the problem by being deliberately soft on crime.*

As inflation and the various stresses brought on by the COVID War continue (and increase), so, too, will crime (and drug use, and mental illness, homelessness, and public nuisance behaviors).

And the problem is worldwide. As we had forecast, thanks to the draconian COVID War measures imposed on populations by politicians, a bad situation has become much worse.

Heyward Donigan, the Rite Aid CEO, told analysts last week that its stores suffered a \$5 million year-over-year increase in theft and other administrative errors, according to The New York Post.

“I think the headline here is the environment that we operate in, particularly in New York City, is not conducive to reducing shrink just based upon everything you read and see on social media and the news in the city,” Andre Persaud, Rite Aid’s chief retail officer, said.

The paper noted that “shrink” is an industry term referring to theft, fraud, or administrative errors.

“(We’re) seeing a higher level of brazen shoplifting and organized retail crime, and we are taking an active role in helping the police in their pursuit of shoplifters,” a spokesperson told The Post.

“Our organized retail crime team has partnered with local police precincts on approaches to mitigate this criminal activity and help make arrests and is actively working with multiple District Attorneys’ offices throughout New York City to address recidivist theft issues,” the company said.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



by *Ben Daviss*

THE PAINLESS, SELF-ADMINISTERED TATTOO

Forget sitting for an hour or two, enduring pain and listening to a grating noise, while an over-decorated scribe slowly carves an image into your flesh, blotting your oozing blood from time to time.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed a quick, self-administered tattoo that they say is also bloodless and painless.

The team developed the technology primarily for medical applications.

Tattoos are regularly used in medicine. Instead of having to wear a bracelet or a medallion, a person with a chronic condition such as allergies or hemophilia can have

relevant information tattooed for convenience; the information is always there for EMTs in an emergency.

Also, tattoos are used to cover scars and direct repeat cancer radiation applications, among other practical uses.

To make those tattoos quick and easy, the Georgia developers created a skin patch populated with microneedles, smaller than a grain of sand, that are made of tattoo ink.

A mold holds microneedle spaces in the desired pattern or image. The individual spaces or slots are filled with a solid form of ink. A backing patch is applied so the needles hold their pattern.

The patch is pressed into the skin for a few minutes while the microneedles enter the skin and dissolve, staining the skin. The tattoo can be applied by the wearer if the wearer can easily reach the place on the body where the tattoo is to be put.

The tattoos can incorporate colors and even inks only visible under ultraviolet light.

The group found their tattoos remain clear and visible for at least a year, which indicates they're likely to be permanent.

However, inks also can be used that dissolve after a period of time, creating a temporary tattoo for either medical or aesthetic reasons.

The developers have formed a company called Micron Biomedical to commercialize their tattoo tech.

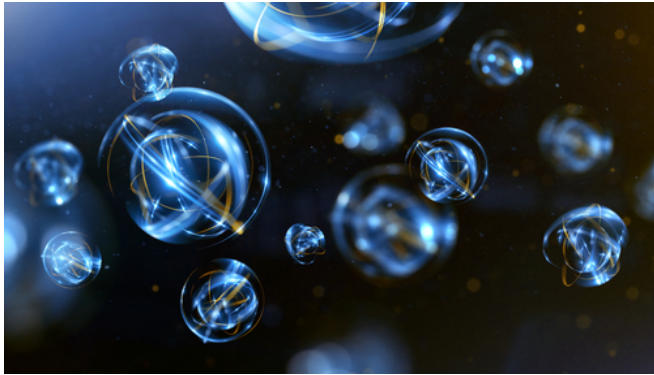
TRENDPOST: *This technology has the potential to disrupt the tattoo industry.*

Instead of picking a pattern from a picture and then sitting while a tattoo artist carves it into you, the pattern you choose could be programmed into a device that would create a mold for the ink needles and attach a skin patch.

Then you or someone you trust could press the patch to your skin and voila—you're tattooed in minutes with no pain and no bloody mess.

Perhaps next the developers can create a way to painlessly and bloodlessly remove the tattoo you now wish you didn't have.

NANOBOTS CURE PNEUMONIA IN MICE



At the University of California at San Diego, bioengineers have created microscopic robots that entered the pneumonia-infected lungs of mice and cleared out the disease-causing bacteria.

The researchers encapsulated antibiotics in nano-scale, biodegradable polymer particles coated with the membranes of white blood cells. Then they attached the particles to algae.

Pneumonia causes the lungs to fill with fluid. As the algae swam around in the fluid, the white blood cell membranes neutralized inflammation caused by pneumonia bacteria.

The nanoparticles then degraded, releasing antibiotics that directly killed hostile bugs.

The algae and their cargo particles weren't attacked by the lungs' immune system and remained active for more than two days, allowing them to burrow into the lungs' deep tissues and clear out a larger proportion of the infection.

In tests, all of the infected mice who were treated cleared their pneumonia within a week and survived longer than 30 days, while the infected mice in an untreated group died within three days.

The novel method cured the mice using a dose of antibiotics 300 times less than a standard IV antibiotic drip would have been needed—a crucial gain at a time when overuse of antibiotics has become an epidemic in itself.

TRENDPOST: *Antibiotic drips and injections diffuse the drugs throughout the body. As a result, often only a fraction of the medicine gets where it really needs to go.*

Mobile nanorobots that target drugs more precisely are becoming an increasingly common means of treating not only infections, but cancer and other forms of invasion.

THREE JUNK FOODS FOUND TO BE “GATEWAYS” TO POOR EATING HABITS



Marijuana has often been called a “gateway drug,” causing users to be more susceptible to using harder drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

Turns out Twinkies and ice cream might be similar gateways to poor eating habits.

A survey of 315 Florida teens found that those who decreased consumption of key ultra-processed foods decreased their consumption of other ultra-processed foods as well.

The survey asked respondents about their consumption of mass-produced cookies, candy, snack chips, chocolate, energy drinks, frozen desserts, soda, store-bought pastries, store-bought smoothies, syrup-sweetened coffee or tea, white bread, and processed meats such as bologna and pepperoni.

The results showed that kids who regularly ate the most pre packaged pastries, frozen desserts, and candy other than chocolates also ate more of other kinds of ultra-processed foods than those who ate less of the three “gateway” items.

Specifically, the survey found that:

- the more frozen desserts teens ate, they also were likely to eat 11 percent more other ultra-processed foods than those who ate the fewest frozen desserts;
- gobbling pre packaged pastries was linked to a 12-percent boost in consumption of all other kinds of ultra-processed foods;
- teens who ate the most candy also ate 31 percent more of ultra-processed foods in general.

Among other findings, teens who ate less processed meats ate 8 percent less of other kinds of ultra-processed foods. Eating less white bread correlated with a 9-percent drop in eating all other ultra-processed foods. Consuming fewer factory-made cookies was associated with a 10-percent reduction in eating other ultra-processed foods.

The study was designed and conducted by a 16-year-old girl in Florida and presented at the American Heart Association's Hypertension Scientific Sessions earlier this month in San Diego.

TRENDPOST: *By finding exactly which junk foods are most likely to increase teens' taste for others, parents and kids can steer away from gateway snacks and treats and reduce the chances of developing lifelong patterns of poor eating choices.*

However, the study also showed eating any one kind of junk food increases the likelihood of eating others.