

# THE TRENDS JOURNAL<sup>®</sup>

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS<sup>®</sup>

## *The* **BATTLE** *is* *Spiritual*

**WAR OR PEACE?  
GOOD OR EVIL?**

**WHICH SIDE DO YOU CHOOSE?**

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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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## **THE BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL**

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** Last week we launched our new website

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

If you have not logged in already, enter your username and then your email address as the password (you can reset this after logging in). Then click log in.

Once logged in, you can click on individual articles or click on the cover to view in PDF or Flip-book format.

We understand there may be log-in issues, so we have attached a PDF of this week's Trends Journal.

If you have any problems, email [support@trendsjournal.com](mailto:support@trendsjournal.com).

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Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: "THE BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL: WAR OR PEACE, GOOD OR EVIL?"

The Ukraine War continues to escalate. Last Saturday, major sections of the Kerch Strait Bridge linking Russia to Crimea were blown up, killing several people.

Ukraine has denied the charge, but top Kyiv officials celebrated the explosions on social media.

In fact, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the nation's intelligence agency,

shared a photo of the bombed-out bridge and wrote, "The sun is rising, the bridge is burning beautifully."

In response to the bridge bombing, Russian president Vladimir Putin called it an "act of terror" and Moscow has retaliated by launching airstrikes on Kyiv destroying powerplants and civilian infrastructure.

Mohandas Gandhi is often cited for saying, "An eye for an eye will leave everyone blind."

Why is there no peace on Earth? Why are the religious leaders silent? Is there no love for your fellow man?

Beyond this issue of the **Trends Journal** featuring the latest developments in the Ukraine War and the looming economic catastrophe, we also provide insights and observations to help you do the best you can to accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative and get the best that life has to offer. We also remind our readers that no matter what faith you practice, there will be no Peace on Earth until there is love in our hearts for our fellow man.

We invite you to visit and support [The Universal Church of Freedom, Peace & Justice](#) and encourage you to share our messages with your close friends. The message of peace is banned in the media and will only grow at a grassroots level. We thank you for your continued support of our mission.

It was also Matthew's Beatitudes that remind us that "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."



## COMMENTS

### UKRAINE NATO PLAY

“War games” of the banksters, nothing more or nothing less. In the end we will all die because of these psychopaths.

**Robert Cauwenberghs**

### CURRENCY CRISIS

Every time another fiat bill, in this case the dollar, is created and sent forth into the world as money, it grabs a little of the value of all the other dollars in circulation, which devalues the currency as a whole and lessens its purchasing power. Jay Leno said it best with something like, ‘ I hear they are going to mint a new dollar coin. I thought we already had one, it’s called a nickel’.

Sad to say but the purchasing power of the dollar is more like 2 to 3 cents of what it used to be and inflation reflects that devaluation . The way out is to get into real money, gold and silver. If you see gold and silver prices dropping say to yourself fine this phony dollar strength is making it cheaper for me to buy real money. What we are witnessing is a currency collapse.

**Mark Steiner**

### LOST DECADE

OUR “LOST DECADE” ( 2022-2032)

All asset classes are deflating GLOBALLY today except the U.S. Dollar and Treasuries ( the so-called “safe havens”). Each asset class has a different structure but other than cash in U.S. Dollars and perhaps gold ( as a hedge), there is nowhere left to hide in the world, so to speak. Emerging markets are no better either.

So, either buy U.S. Treasuries direct from the govt. or buy brokered, FDIC insured Bank C.D. 's at 3%+ yields. Regular bank accounts still pay squat. No matter where you put your cash, you still will have a net negative yield when considering inflation. Repressed interest rates are policy and stagflation is now “anchored”, along with +5% wage gains each year.

No matter what the FED may do, it won’t change the fact we are now back to the stagflation environment of the 1970’s and in only two years! Therefore, the stock market can not perform well long term, just like the 1970’s. Incidentally, what is happening to America today rings similar to what happened to Germany after WWI (comprehensively). Good Job Biden !  
(Bandon)

**Craig Bradley**

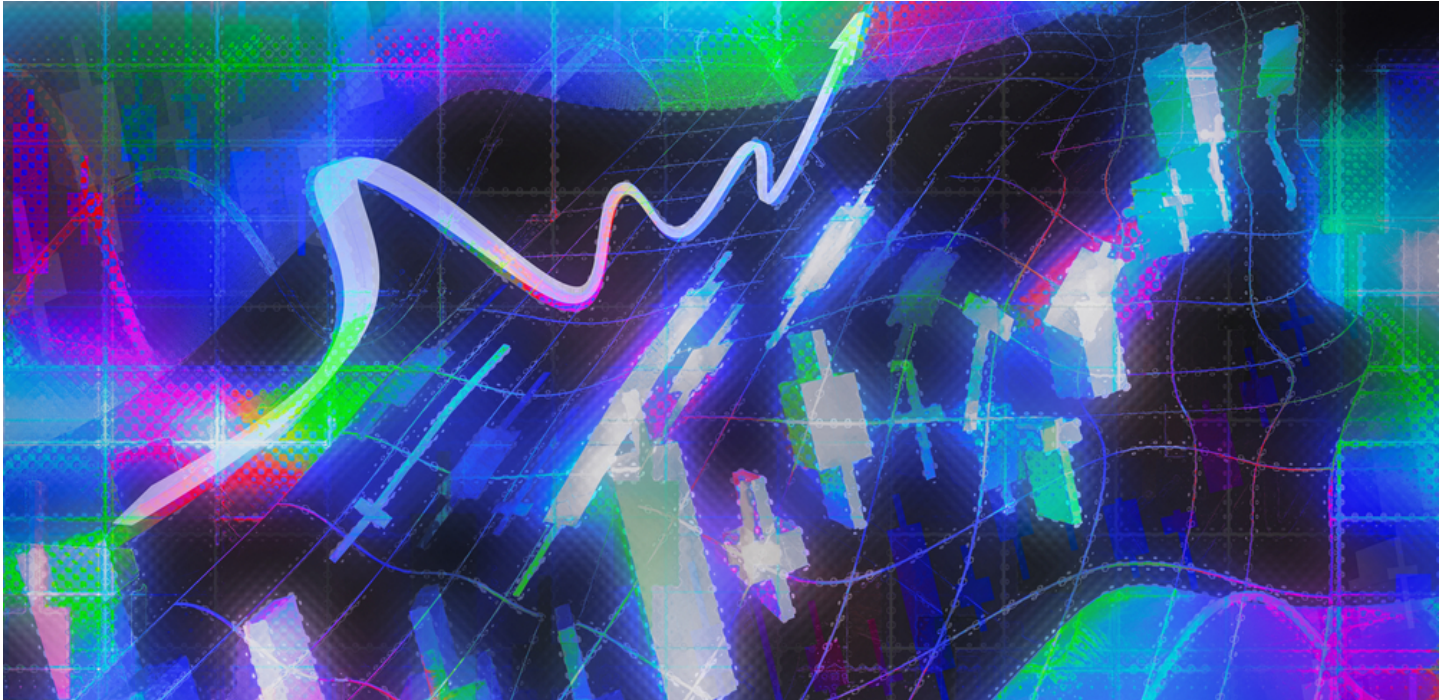
### VACATION? GO SOUTH

Mexico has a taste of the pre scamdemic life that we all shared. I recommend going to Mexico for any vacation. There's a reason Canada is known as America junior.

**Milton Alvarez**

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# TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT



## ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW

When the “officials,” “dignitaries,” “experts” and “authorities” speak... all the little boys and girls who call themselves men and women listen to, believe and do what they are told.

Facts don’t matter. And the facts have been extensively detailed in The **Trends Journal** for decades: The equity markets and economies are rigged. The Federal Reserve and most central banks are Bankster Bandits that do what they are told by governments-in-charge with the main objective—as proven by their deeds—to enrich the rich.

As we have long noted, both economies and equity markets have been artificially propped up with historically low interest rates, scams called “quantitative easing,” cheap money repo market injections, plunge protection teams, etc.



## **Then and Now**

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

On 19 September 2018, the day before the S&P hit a record high, we had forecast an “Economic 9/11” would sink stock markets. We based our forecast on stated Federal Reserve policy to aggressively raise interest rates through 2019.

Perfectly on-trend, equity markets across the globe tanked, many sinking over 20 percent into bear territory following our forecast. In fact, the Dow had its worst December since the Great Depression.

Back then, mortgage refinance applications had hit an 18-year low in the U.S. following the Federal Reserve raised rates a mere .25 basis points in September. With rates at their highest point in eight years for mortgage refinances, volume was a whopping 40 percent down from a year earlier. Subsequently, shares of homebuilders stocks had slumped nearly 30 percent.

However, we did a 180-degree turn, reversing our “Economic 9/11” forecast to a “Trump Market Bump” following U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell’s rate hike U-turn on 4 January when he pledged to be “patient” in raising rates in 2019. Subsequently, by the end of April, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq rallied to record highs.

Immediately after the Fed signaled its high probability of no rate increase in 2019, central banks and governments began shooting new rounds of monetary methadone into their financial systems to help counter slowing economic growth by also lowering interest rates, implementing more quantitative easing provisions, lowering loan standards and/or spending on infrastructure projects.

## **More Bankster Fraud**

Go back to September 2019, when the markets were in sink mode because the gamblers, (which The Street and media call “investors”) needed more cheap money to

keep betting on the markets. Between September to January 2020, the Feds pumped in \$7 trillion into the repo markets.

How about the long-forgotten scheme when the Panic of '08 hit and the Feds injected \$29 trillion into the Bankster Gangs to bail them out? Oh, and remember, children, they are above We the Plantation Workers of Slavelandia; they are “Too-Big-to Fail” and we are just pieces of disposable crap.

## **Better Late Than Never?**

When the COVID War was launched by China in celebration of their Lunar New Year, the “Year of the Rat,” and the “Free World” followed the Chinese way, “You Must Obey,” by imposing draconian lockdown orders which have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of billions... the global economy and equity markets should have crashed.

Instead, they were both artificially propped up with record low interest rates and unprecedented government money pumping stimulus schemes, which, of course, is the foundation upon which sky-high inflation was built.

But again, while we had forecast that inflation would spike, the mainstream media ignored our trend forecasts and instead, as Presstitutes always do, the media whores put out for their corporate pimps and government whore masters.

Almost a year after the COVID War began, at his December 2020 press conference, Fed Head Jerome Powell pointed to “disinflationary pressures around the globe” and said “it’s not going to be easy to have inflation move up.”

A month later, with inflation on the move well above the Fed’s 2-percent target rate, Powell said it was only “temporary.”

In July, with inflation running at 5 percent, Powell told a Congressional committee that “we really do believe that these things will come down of their own accord as the economy reopens,” he noted.

Treasury secretary Janet Yellen echoed his mistaken view in a 24 October CNN



interview, describing high inflation as “temporary” ([“Powell, Yellen Agree: Higher Inflation Ahead.”](#) 26 Oct 2021).

While Powell was waiting for inflation to give up and go away, we documented its relentless rise in [“Inflation Tsunami Approaching”](#) (4 May 2021), [“Inflation Soon to Get Much Worse”](#) (18 May 2021), [“Fed Officials Send Mixed Signals on Policy Shift”](#) (29 Jun 2021), [“When Will Fed End Cheap Money Policy?”](#) (27 Jul 2021) and in many of our [“Market Overview”](#) sections.

## **We Told You So**

And just as the Presstitutes ignored our inflation trend forecasts, so too have they ignored our Dragflation forecast: Gross Domestic products dragging down into negative territory as inflation rises.

But now, they are now pumping up the “Drag” reality by spreading the “recession” word, and repeating what we have forecast.

Ray Dalio, the billionaire founder of Bridgewater Associates—who confirms our statement that The Street is a gambler’s game by saying “I Love the Investment Game, so I’ll Keep Playing It”—is now warning about recession. “The Fed and the government together gave enormous amounts of debt and credit and created a lurch forward. A giant lurch forward and created a bubble. Now they’re putting on the brakes. So now we’re going to create a giant lurch backward,” Dalio said at the Greenwich Economic Forum.

JP Morgan Chase—which has admitted to [five felony counts](#), which includes rigging the precious metals market—heard its CEO Jamie Dimon (or is it Demon?) warn on Monday that a “very, very serious” mix of headwinds would likely push the global economy into recession by the middle of next year.

Interviewed on CNBC, Dimon called the runaway inflation (which is at 40 year highs), interest rates rising higher than The Street expected, and the Ukraine War, “serious stuff.”

**TREND FORECAST:** *“Serious stuff”? What stuff? These are the results of deleterious actions taken by politicians and central banksters that created what we forecast will be the greatest financial crisis in modern history.*

*But, most importantly, remember what Gerald Celente has long noted: “When all else fails, they take you to war.”*

*What was a border and political dispute between Russia and Ukraine—which has been going on for centuries—has been ramped up by the United States and NATO joining the fight to beat Russia.*

*WW III has begun. As we detail in this and previous **Trends Journals**, if this war continues and a global peace movement does not solidify, it will devolve into a nuclear annihilation... in which case, having all the money you could ever wish for won’t mean a cent.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *As the saying goes, “It’s the economy, stupid!”*

*And with the U.S. midterm elections a month away, Washington will pressure the Fed to ease up on their interest rate hikes.*

*The equation is simple. The higher interest rates rise and the more cheap money evaporates the deeper economic growth and equities fall. Therefore, if there is a breath of relief on 2 November after the Fed’s meeting that they will raise interest rates just .25 basis points rather than the expected .50 basis points, that will sharply boost the stock markets and make it seem to the general public that “Happy Days are Here Again.”*

*Feeling the building pressure, two Fed members, Vice Chairwoman Lael Brainard and Chicago Fed president Charles Evans both suggest a need not to be too aggressive in raising interest rates.*

## **LAST WEEK: A CHAOTIC WEEK ENDS ON AN UP NOTE**

Share prices rose through Wednesday last week on news that U.S. manufacturing output had declined, as had the number of unfilled jobs.



The news buoyed investors' hopes that the U.S. Federal Reserve might ease its aggressive march toward higher interest rates.

Stocks then sank during the week's final two trading days, sliding on a jobs report showing 293,000 new slots added—a strong enough result to scotch those hopes of a gentler Fed hand on monetary policy when the central bank's rate-setting committee meets again on 1 and 2 November.

On Friday, all 11 sectors of the S&P gave ground, with tech and communications companies among the biggest losers.

Still, all three major indexes salvaged gains for the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 2 percent, the NASDAQ 0.7 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index 1.5 percent.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year treasury note moved up to 3.883 percent on Friday, from 3.823 percent Thursday. The yield has closed the week higher every week for the last 10, the longest such stretch since the 1970s, according to Dow Jones Market Data.

The bond market was closed this week for the Columbus Day holiday.

Gold's continuous contract traded at \$1,701 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 7 October, up 1.7 percent for the week.

Brent crude's price jumped 10.2 percent last week to \$97.92 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 7 October. Global oil prices leaped on OPEC+'s announced production cut of two million barrels a day, as we detail in [“OPEC+ Cuts Daily Oil Output Limit by Two Million Barrels”](#) in this issue. The price of West Texas Intermediate, which benchmarks U.S. oil prices, shot up 13 percent to \$93.91.

Bitcoin's price rose through the middle of the week but tumbled on Friday to 19,401 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT, giving up 1 percent over the five-day trading span.

Abroad, Europe's Stoxx 600 index closed the week up 1 percent. The Nikkei 225 jumped up 5 percent and the South Korean KOSPI gained 3.2 percent.

The Hong Kong Hang Seng rose 3.4 percent. On mainland China, the SSE Composite lost 1.5 percent and the CSI Composite ticked down 0.7 percent.

## **YESTERDAY: NASDAQ SINKS TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE JULY 2020**

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 93.91 points, or 0.3 percent to 29,202.88 and the benchmark S&P 500 was also down 27.27 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 3,612.39. The Nasdaq Composite also fell 110.30 points, or 1 percent, to 10,542.10, its lowest level since July 2020.

There were several reasons why Monday had an uneasy feeling, led by renewed belief that the Federal Reserve will raise rates by another 75 basis points.

The Street believes Fed Head Jay Powell will be emboldened to continue rate increases due to a still-strong job market, with an unemployment rate of about 3.5 percent.

Yet, with the average hourly earnings up 5 percent and inflation in August at 8.3 percent, it cost the plantation workers of Slavelandia a lot more to buy a lot less.

The latest inflation numbers are due out in the U.S. this week, and economists believe the numbers will remain high. *The Wall Street Journal*, citing FactSet, said traders believe the benchmark rate will be 4.7 percent by the second quarter of 2023.

Elsewhere, European stocks took a hit. London's FTSE 100 was down 31.78, or 0.45 percent, to 6,959.31 and the STOXX 600 was also down 1.55, or 0.40, to 390.12. China's Shanghai Composite was down 50.25, or 1.66 percent, to 2,974.15 and the Shenzhen Composite Index was down 41.49 points or 2.17 percent, to close at 1,870.50. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was down 523.39, or 2.95 percent, to 17,216.66. Markets in Japan and South Korea were closed for holidays.

One of the major news stories that impacted stocks around the world was the announcement that the U.S. would put new restrictions on China's access to semiconductors, which experts say will prompt China to become more self-sufficient and invest more in its own chip capabilities.

**TRENDPOST:** *The **Trends Journal** has noted that the Ukraine War has been another example of the need for countries to be self-sufficient. (See [“TOP 2022 TREND: SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMIES: CHINA LEADS THE CHARGE.”](#) 8 Mar 2022.) The Biden administration has proven—with its reaction to the Ukraine War—that it is more than willing to tank an economy if it believes a rival would suffer.*

**OIL:** Brent crude was down \$1.73, or 1.8 percent to \$96.19 and West Texas Intermediate also down \$1.51, or 1.6 percent to \$91.13 per barrel. Oil has been on the way up in recent days due to news that OPEC+ will cut production and indication that the Federal Reserve is going to continue its monetary tightening.

Oil prices were also negatively impacted by the strong U.S. dollar and China's continued “zero-COVID” policy.

**GOLD:** Gold traded between \$1,685 and \$1,672 as the U.S. dollar rose for the fourth straight trading day and was inching back up to its two-decade high of 114.78.

The **Trends Journal** has long noted that a strong dollar makes the precious metal lose its luster for foreign investors, since gold is dollar based, and the lower their currencies fall, the more it costs to buy bullion.

The 30-year Treasury hit its highest level since 2014 and the yield on the 10-year hit 3.98 percent, an increase of 10 basis points. Economists believe there is greater than a 70 percent probability for another 75 basis point increase by the Fed on 2 November, which could also negatively impact the precious metals market.

**TRENDPOST:** *Gerald Celente has said gold should be trading significantly higher than its current price due to all of the world's uncertainty. The Ukraine War is expanding and Russia, in response to Ukraine blowing up the Crimea Bridge, is now conducting*



*missile strikes deeper into the country. We forecast that low gold prices are just temporary and it remains the world's #1 safe haven asset.*

**BITCOIN:** The price of world's most popular crypto was little changed on Monday and hovered around the \$19,063 per coin range, down slightly from the weekend, but remaining relatively steady.

Another element of the crypto is that it continues to mirror equities. Investors were already thinking about Thursday's CPI data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to get a sense of future Fed monetary tightening. The higher interest rates go, Treasury yields often rise and become more appealing investments than non-interest-bearing cryptos.

The **Trends Journal** has noted that crypto investors have been on a rollercoaster ride for a while now, but CNBC, citing Kaiko, noted that bitcoin ended within the \$19,000 level for the fourth Sunday in a row, which could be seen as a sign of market stability.

**TREND FORECAST:** *Word on The Street is that this week's CPI numbers will show a 0.3 percent monthly increase and an 8.1 percent year over year gain, which means the Federal Reserve will likely act more hawkish in its approach to taming inflation. That means crypto traders will not likely get the breakout that they are hoping for.*

*Paul Tudor Jones, the billionaire investor who once seemed bullish on cryptos in 2020, seems to have adjusted his expectations.*

*"I've still got a very minor allocation, I've always had a small allocation to [Bitcoin]," Jones said, according to CoinTelegraph. "In a time when there's too much money—which is why we have inflation and too much fiscal spending—something like crypto, specifically Bitcoin and Ethereum, where there's a finite amount of that, that will have value at some point."*

*But again, as we note above, with the midterm elections just a month away, the Fed may well do Washington's bidding by raising interest rates just .25 basis points following their 2 November meeting.*

*This will sharply boost the equity markets and Main Street will see this as a signal that inflation will ease, wages will rise, and economic growth will be strong... thus they will vote for the political gang in power.*

## **TODAY: DIZZYING DAY ON THE STREET**

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 36.31 points today, or 0.12 percent, to 29,239.19. The S&P 500 was down 23.55, or 0.65 percent, to 3,588.84, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite also shed another 115.91 points, or 1.10 percent, to 10,426.19.

It was another rocky day in the market as traders are facing uncertainty over the CPI numbers that are due out on Thursday, future Fed moves, and a weakening global economy. Economists believe that the Federal Reserve will raise rates to 4 percent and then get a sense of how the market reacts. But as we note, with the midterm elections coming, they may well raise rates just .25 basis points on 2 November to boost the stock markets before people go to the polls on 8 November.

Jamie Dimon, the JPMorgan boss, warned that the S&P 500 could fall another 20 percent.

And as we note in this **Trends Journal**, The International Monetary Fund released a new report today that showed global growth is forecast to slow next year more than previously expected, and that policy makers “face an unusually challenging financial stability environment.”

Elsewhere, in Europe, the FTSE 100 was down 74.08 points, or 1.06 percent, to 6,885.23, and the STOXX 600 was also down 2.17, or 0.56 percent, to 387.95. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei fell 714.86 points, or 2.64 percent, to 26,401.25 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 384.30 points, or 2.23 percent, to 16,832.36. South Korea's Kospi was down 40.77 points, or 1.83 percent, to 2,192.07. In China, the Shanghai Composite was up 5.65 points, or 0.19, to 2,979.79 and the Shenzhen Component Index was up 55.70, or 0.53 percent, to 10,577.81.

The Nikkei was hurt badly after a three-day weekend by declines in the tech sector a day after the Biden administration announced new semiconductor controls to help spur growth in the U.S. chip-making market and to limit China's access to U.S. technology.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell below 17,000 points for the first time in 11 years as mainland China imposed new COVID lockdowns as infections broke out in major cities after a recent holiday. The country is preparing for a major Communist Party meeting in Beijing that begins Sunday that will finalize the country's plans for top leadership in the country for the next five years, *Kyodo News* reported.

***TRENDPOST:*** *It's nice to see top economists catching up to what we have been warning about for over a year: the Fed's decision to downplay inflation as "transitory" for months only led to the contagion spreading and becoming dangerous to the global economy as a whole.*

*The corporate media does not listen to any voices except for those "approved" for commentary, so our readers will continue to get trend forecasts months before famous economists catch on.*

**OIL:** Oil prices were down today with Brent crude shedding \$2.64 per barrel, or 2.74 percent, to \$93.55 and West Texas Intermediate also falling \$2.67, or 2.93 percent, to \$88.45 per barrel.

Gerald Celente has said there are wildcards at play in the oil market so where these prices are headed seem to be anyone's guess.

Here's what we know: Oil prices continued to be pulled down by recessionary fears due to another round of interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve and the strength of the U.S. dollar.

The oil market is at a volatile point. There are factors that could lead to a jump in oil prices, including OPEC+'s recent announcement that it will cut back on its oil production, and the push by the U.S. Treasury for the G7 to finalize a price cap on Russian oil to damage Moscow's economy.



Gal Luft, the co-director for the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, a think tank in Washington, noted on Twitter that a price cap would likely mean that Russia would sell oil to its friends at a discount and will withhold oil from the EU market.

“The loss of 4mbp will send oil to \$200,” he posted. “Sure, Russia will lose revenues but the West will lose its economy.”

***TRENDPOST:*** It is worth noting that Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, said in an interview with CNBC Monday that the U.S. should pump more of its own oil and gas. He compared the situation to a security risk of war-level proportions.

*He said the U.S. should have been pumping more oil and gas and the effort should have been supported.*

*“America is the swing producer, not Saudi Arabia,” he said. “We should have gotten that right starting in March [when the Russian invasion was in its infancy].”*

*He said it was encouraging that gas storage supplies in Europe are nearly full before the cold months, but these leaders need to look to the future energy risk. It is important to note that Russia has been sending gas into Europe for months before dwindling supplies.*

*“I would put it in the critical category. This should be treated almost as a matter of war at this point, nothing short of that,” he said.*

**GOLD:** The precious metal was down \$1.90 per ounce, or 0.11, to \$1,673. Silver was also trading down about 2.37 percent to \$19.14 per ounce as of 3:56 p.m.

***TREND FORECAST:*** We have long noted that gold prices have been depressed due to a strong dollar and monetary tightening by the Federal Reserve, which makes the precious metal less attractive for foreign investors. Therefore, for the short term, the higher interest rates rise, the deeper gold will fall.

*However, we forecast gold is near its bottom level. Furthermore, should the Fed be aggressive in raising interest rates it will crash the U.S. and much of the global economy, making gold the primary safe-haven asset in times of economic turmoil.*

*Also on the upside, small interest rate hikes in the near future will be bullish for gold. As we have forecast in this **Trends Journal**, the Fed may only raise interest rates .25 basis points on 2 November so as to juice up the equity markets before the 8 November midterm elections. Indeed, the higher equity prices rise and the stronger the stock market appears, the general public will see this as a sign of economic strength and vote for the party in power.*

*Remember, “It’s the economy, stupid,” and the masses are stupid enough to believe what their “leaders” and the mass media tell them.*

**BITCOIN:** The crypto stayed consistent today and was trading in the low \$19,100 range, or up slightly by \$20 per coin. The **Trends Journal** has long noted that bitcoin is down significantly from its November high of about \$67,000.

Crypto traders seem ready to hold on to their coins until there is a break that reduces risk in the equities market. These crypto traders seem to be comfortable to consider their next moves in the \$19,000 price range. There are other factors at play including how much the Federal Reserve is going to increase interest rates, which would be a drag on cryptos.

CNBC noted that despite headwinds, Google is considering using Coinbase for cryptocurrency payments for its cloud services, and BNY Mellon will add cryptos to its asset pool and will serve as a custody manager.

**TREND FORECAST:** *Barring any major, unexpected jump in CPI numbers later this week that would send the entire equities market into a tizzy, we see bitcoin continuing in the \$18,500- \$21,000 range.*

*Stack Hodler, a popular crypto Twitter account, noted today that bitcoin is up 16 percent in the past six months against long term treasuries.*

*“Did BTC just get the crash over early and now it's waiting for everyone else to catch up?” the account asked.*

*It is worth noting, however, that even with the big news that Google will likely begin accepting bitcoin for payment, the price remained the same.*

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## TOP TREND 2022, DRAGFLATION: ANALYSTS CHOP EARNINGS OUTLOOK FOR MAJOR U.S. CORPORATIONS



Since July began, analysts at the largest U.S. banks have pared \$34 billion off their expectations for third-quarter growth among American corporations listed on the Standard & Poor's 500 index, FactSet reported.

That would make the quarter just closed the poorest for profits since the third quarter of 2020, during the thick of the COVID War.

Analysts now say they expect earnings per share to grow by 2.6 percent instead of the 9.8 percent they were forecasting at the beginning of July.

Excluding S&P-listed energy corporations, which have seen windfall revenues this year, the analysts forecast not a growth in earnings but a 3.8-percent decline.

Even a 2.6-percent growth represents a loss in practical terms, with U.S. inflation running above 8 percent.

Rising interest rates, inflation, and a slowing global economy have left investors skittish about the prospects for large, international businesses, the *Financial Times* reported.

The dollar's near-record strength also pinches earnings. An expensive dollar makes exports more expensive and about a third of revenue for S&P companies comes from overseas, according to the *FT*.

The S&P already has lost about 20 percent of its value this year.

"There are some positives in the mix, but there's little incentive for companies to paint a particularly optimistic outlook when the market is going to discount that anyway,"



Chris Shipley, chief North America investment strategist for Northern Trust Asset Management, told the *FT*.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has signaled a steady rise in interest rates into next year. Higher rates have doubled borrowing costs this year in many areas and will cause consumers to cut back spending, the *FT* said.

Even with \$34 billion sliced off earnings estimates, those estimates “are still higher than what I would rationally expect,” CEO Omar Aguilar at Schwab AM said in an *FT* interview.

“They don’t necessarily have to come down dramatically,” he added, “but there’s a high probability that if the Fed is successful in its journey to destroy demand, then that will be reflected in earnings numbers in the first half of next year.”

Some market-watchers have said that as earnings decrease, companies that have done a better job of weathering recent economic turmoil have a chance to distinguish themselves from their less-well-managed peers.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The analysts agree with our Top 2022 Trend of [Dragflation](#): economic activity is declining while prices continue to rise, squeezing corporate revenues and profits from both directions.*

## **TOP TREND: NEW WORLD DISORDER. DOES STRONG JOBS REPORT SIGNAL BIG RATE HIKE?**



The U.S. economy’s addition of 263,000 jobs in September shows the labor market is strong enough to withstand another three-quarter-point interest rate increase when the U.S. Federal Reserve meets in early November, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

Job gains of around 50,000 a month would be enough to keep the employment rate steady and signal the possibility that inflation may begin to ease, according to the *WSJ*.

“Anyone looking for a reprieve that might give the Fed a green light to telegraph a pivot [to slower or lower rate increases] didn’t get it from this report,” Liz Ann Sonders, Charles Schwab’s chief investment strategist, told CNBC.

“Maybe [the Fed] can step back from” another two three-quarter-point rate increases and just add one, she said.

At the September meeting of the Fed’s Open Market Committee, which sets interest rates, officials indicated they plan to keep raising the key fed funds rate until it reaches 4.6 percent next year.

Last week, Fed officials confirmed that another spike in rates is ahead.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has “more work to do” to tame inflation and is “quite a ways away” from pausing its campaign of interest rate increases, Neel Kashkari, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, said during a 6 October public forum.

“With inflation running well above our 2-percent goal, restoring price stability likely will require ongoing rate hikes and then keeping policy restrictive for some time until we are confident that inflation is firmly on the path toward our goal,” Lisa Cook said in a 6 October speech at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, her first public comments as the Fed’s newest governor.

“Commodity prices move up and down, but underlying inflation—like wages and services—tend to be stickier,” Kashkari noted. “We’re not seeing any evidence yet that those things are moving in the right direction.

“Until I see some evidence that underlying inflation has solidly peaked and is headed back down, I’m not ready to declare a pause,” he added.

Kashkari has not yet "seen anything that changes" the need to lift the Fed's key rate to 3.9 percent by 2023 and to at least 4.4 percent by 2024, he said. The rate now ranges between 2.25 and 2.5 percent.

Fed officials have vowed to hold firm to their plan to keep rates rising, even though higher interest rates risk the financial stability of emerging nations.

"I fully expect that there are going to be some losses and there are going to be some failures around the global economy as we transition to a higher-interest rate environment, and that's the nature of capitalism," Kashkari said.

"To me, the bar to actually shifting our stance on policy is very high," he added. "It should not be up to the Federal Reserve or the American taxpayer to bail people out."

Fed vice-chair Lael Brainard stated similar views in a late September speech, saying that the Fed is aware of the dangers higher rates pose to developing nations but will continue hiking rates just the same.

Cook's background as an economics professor specializing in the impact of economic inequalities on growth had led some observers to hope she would advocate a softer touch with rate increases.

They were disappointed.

Cook worked in Russia after the Soviet Union collapsed and learned first-hand the damage that high inflation does to households, she said. Her work in Africa taught her the importance of relying only on data and not forecasts, she added.

"With risks to inflation forecasts skewed to the upside, I believe policy judgments must be based on whether and when we see inflation actually falling in the data," she said.

Cook said she fully supported the Fed's successive rate hikes of 75 basis points in recent meetings.

“Although lowering inflation will bring some pain, a failure to restore price stability would make it much harder and much more painful to restore it in the future,” Cook emphasized.

The Fed’s rate-setting Open Market Committee will meet again during the first two days of November.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Fed officials say the central bank is committed to seeing inflation’s annual rate fall to its goal of 2 percent.

*The Fed began raising rates a year later than it needed to. As a result, the rate hikes so far have begun to soften the market for housing but have not yet begun to weaken consumer prices across the broader economy.*

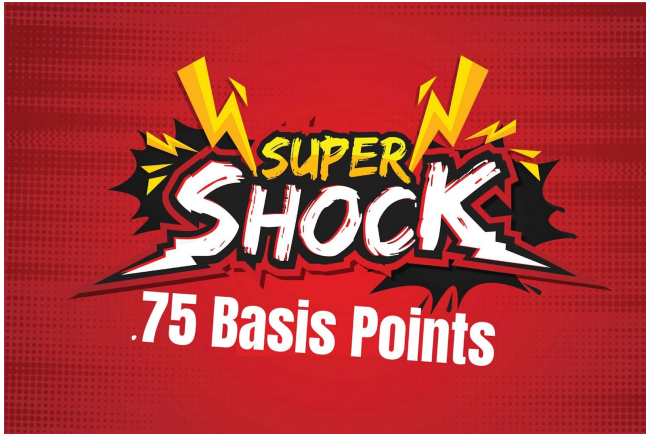
*To make a frontal assault on inflation, the central bank would have to quickly jack its benchmark rate to at least 7.5 percent. It will not do so for fear of tanking the economy.*

*And as we forecast, to help the political party in power to do well in the midterm elections just a month away, with pressure from the White House, the Feds may well raise interest rates only .25 basis points following their 2 November meeting. Such a small interest rate hike will be a big boost for equities which will in turn make the public believe the economy is on an upswing and “Happy Days are Here Again” thanks to the party in power... which will get their votes.*

*Long term, the Fed must continue to raise its rate steadily and incrementally for inflation to wear away so consumer buying power increases.*



## “RATE SHOCK” WEARS ON MARKETS



Around the world, central banks are raising interest rates at the fastest clip in at least 40 years, stressing some markets to the point of cracking, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Corporate bonded debt is showing signs of distress, the *WSJ* noted, and which we reported in [“OECD Warns About Corporate Debt”](#) (25 Feb 2020), [“Corporate Debt Bomb is Ticking”](#) (4 Aug 2020), [“Money Dries Up for Corporate Bond Issues”](#) (19 Jul 2022) and [“Junk Bond Defaults Rising”](#) (13 Sep 2022), among other stories.

When rates are low, investors often borrow cheap money to make investments that offer higher returns. If the investments fail to deliver, the amount of money lost is minimized by the rock-bottom cost of borrowing it.

Years of interest rates held near, or below, zero encouraged “risk-taking, complacency, and leverage,” the *WSJ* said, as central banks bought trillions’ worth of government bonds to make cheap money available and keep markets lubricated.

For example, the U.S. Federal Reserve dropped its key federal funds rate below 3 percent in early 2008 and left it there, training borrowers and speculators that rock-bottom interest rates were a permanent fixture.

Until then, rates below 4 percent were a rarity except in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

As a result, corporate debt grew from a size equal to 40 percent of the U.S. economy to 50 percent, an increase in the debt load of 20 percent.

Now that interest rates are rising, players in the debt market face massive losses.

For example, Bank of America, Credit Suisse, and Goldman Sachs are poised to lose \$500 million on a leveraged buyout of Citrix Systems. The bonds financing the deal had to be sold at a drastic discount after interest rates began to rise, leaving the underwriters to eat the loss.

Credit Suisse's stock price slumped 18 percent as a result.

The total bonded debt of low- and middle-income countries rose 6.9 percent in 2021 to a record \$9.3 trillion, according to the World Bank.

Those nations owe a collective \$86 billion in payments on dollar bonds coming due by the end of 2023.

Many of those nations are starting to buckle as a result.

Sri Lanka and Zambia already have defaulted on their debts, with at least a dozen more countries on the brink, according to the International Monetary Fund.

For more details about developing economies' plight, see [“Strong Dollar Means Weakness Among Emerging Nations”](#) in this issue.

“Alarm bells are ringing most for developing countries, many of which are edging closer to debt default,” the United Nations said in a 3 October statement urging the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks to pause rate hikes.

The Fed is “attentive” to those vulnerabilities and aware that they “could be exacerbated by the advent of additional adverse shocks,” vice-chair Lael Brainard said in a late September speech. Nevertheless, the central bank will continue to raise rates aggressively until U.S. inflation is under control, she vowed.

Even pension funds, usually islands of relative stability during economic turmoil, have not been immune to the pressure of higher rates, as recent events in Britain have shown.

After their new government slashed a variety of taxes and set out to borrow more than £72 billion to fund household energy subsidies, the Bank of England jumped into the market to buy billions' worth of government bonds to keep bond yields from crashing.

Pension funds are obligated to pay benefits at a steady rate. Many invest their capital in bonds because bonds tend to be safe and steady.

However, when the U.K. government announced plans to issue tens of billions in new bonds, yields crashed. Bond yields typically fall as the supply of bonds increases.

Pension funds faced losses and even margin calls and began selling assets, including more bonds, to make up losses.

The British bond debacle resonated through the world's markets.

U.S. pension funds managed by brokerage Willis Towers Watson were forced to put up tens of millions of dollars in collateral to satisfy margin calls, according to the *WSJ*.

Many U.S. pension funds faced margin calls because they invested in derivatives instead of bonds. Derivatives promised higher returns during an era of rock-bottom interest rates and as long as rates didn't budge, all was well.

The extra selling to cover losses drove yields even higher in a "liquidation spiral," the *WSJ* said.

The scenario raised the specter of past bond market debacles, including the 1994 bond sell-off that bankrupted Orange County, Cal., Russia's 1998 default, and the Great Recession of 2007.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Rising interest rates will continue to put emerging markets under extreme pressure, as we have detailed in articles such as [“Emerging Markets Submerging”](#) (9 Nov 2021), [“Investors Flee Emerging Markets”](#) (14 Dec 2021), and [“Emerging Markets Diving Into Debt Default”](#) (12 Jul 2022).*

*Many of the nations piled up dollar-denominated debt to pay the costs of caring for their citizens during the COVID era and to keep their economies afloat.*

*The dollar's value has been rising relentlessly for months, sucking value out of the currencies of developing economies, which now have to spend more of their own currencies to buy enough dollars to service their debt.*

*As we have long forecast, the deeper the emerging market economies sink, the greater the New World Disorder as people across the globe take to the street in protest of lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence.*

*This will in turn escalate the refugee crisis as people flee for safe haven nations. Thus, the greater the refugee crisis, the more populist, anti-immigration political movements will gain strength as they take down establishment parties.*

## **U.S. MARKETS MAY BREAK POST-MIDTERM STREAK, ANALYSTS SAY**



After each of the last 40 midterm elections, the Standard & Poor's 500 has gained an average of 15 percent in the following 12 months on a sense of clarity about short-term tax, fiscal, and economic policy, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

That sense of clarity has buoyed markets no matter which party controlled Congress, the *WSJ* noted.

This year's election could break that streak, analysts say.

Markets are clouded by inflation, rising interest rates, a global economic slowdown, Russia's war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions, food shortages, and emerging markets' increasingly unsustainable debt burden.



The S&P has lost 25 percent of its value so far this year and is at or near its lowest levels of the past nine months.

The index closed at 3,612 on 10 October, down another 0.7 percent.

The dollar's strength also presents a problem: it makes U.S. exports more expensive, reducing sales for the international firms that make up a large portion of the S&P index.

Tech stocks usually have led post-election rallies, but tech stocks recently have been beaten up by rising interest rates, which often crimp their future cash flows.

"We don't necessarily have an accommodative monetary policy environment," Strategas analyst Courtney Rosenberger told the *WSJ*.

Bond prices have sunk along with stock values.

On 5 October, the 10-year treasury's yield surpassed 4 percent for the first time, closing the session with the biggest single-day plunge since 2009. Bond yields rise as bond prices fall.

In the past three weeks, investor optimism slumped to its lowest and most bearish level since 2009, a survey by the American Association of Individual Investors found.

Contrarians, always a minority by definition, see the dark mood as an indicator that investors are ready to plunge back into equities and shop for bargains.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We disagree with the "analysts." As we have forecast in this Trends Journal, with pressure from the White House, the Fed will raise interest rates only .25 basis points following their 2 November meeting. This will sharply boost equity markets in time for the 8 November 2022 midterm elections.*

*As equity markets soar for a few days, the general public will believe it is a sign that the economy is rebounding and their financial future will be much brighter, thus, they will cast their votes for the political party in power.*

## MOST AMERICANS LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK, NEW STUDY FINDS



Six in ten Americans live from one paycheck to the next, slightly more than the 55 percent who reported a hand-to-mouth existence 12 months earlier, according to a new survey by LendingClub, an online loan company.

Even among six-figure earners, 45 percent report living paycheck to paycheck, up 38 percent from a year previous.

“More consumers are continuing to lose their financial stability,” Anuj Nayar, LendingClub’s financial health officer, told CNBC.

U.S. inflation ran at 8.3 percent in August, year on year, while purchasing power declined 2.8 percent over the same period, CNBC reported.

The number of Americans who feel financially insecure has reached 71 percent, according to a Bank of America survey, with half falling deeper into debt.

Many are attempting to maintain their habitual lifestyle using credit cards, steadily increasing their balances, CNBC noted.

“This can have detrimental consequences for someone who pays the minimum amount on their credit cards every month,” Nayar said.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has raised its key interest rate by three-quarters of a point in June, July, and September, which raises the cost of borrowing and speeds a household debt spiral for those unwilling or unable to cut back their spending.

The Fed has indicated it will raise rates again at its meeting during the first two days of November.

**TREND FORECAST:** In [“Paycheck to Paycheck: The American Way”](#) (29 Jun 2021), we pointed out that inflation, rising housing costs, student debt, child care costs, and a job market demanding increasingly specialized and sophisticated skills will leave more and more Americans falling behind financially.

Also, as we reported last year, the Pew Research Center found that 52 percent of young adults lived with one or both of their parents, a rate higher than any previous measurement, according to the U.S. census bureau.

As a result, Millennials—already more socialistic in their politics—will turn up pressure for a more expansive social safety net and sharing of costs in education, health care, child care, and other areas.

## AMERICANS DRAIN THEIR SAVINGS TO KEEP SPENDING



U.S. households built up a cash cushion of about \$2.1 trillion during the COVID War, when the national savings rate soared as high as 30 percent of income as many Americans stashed their federal stimulus payments into their savings accounts.

The savings rate peaked in August 2021, according to the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and has now reversed.

Americans have spent about \$360 billion, or almost a third, of the cushion to maintain their spending habits as inflation drives prices ever higher, according to the bureau's August data.

The shrinking cash stash indicates "the risk of recession is higher than we previously thought," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, wrote in a 3 October note to clients.

As savings dwindle, more people are likely to cut spending, slowing the U.S. economy's engine.

"The risk has increased that people will not be prepared to run their savings down far enough and fast enough to keep consumption rising at a pace sufficient to offset weakness elsewhere" in the economy, Shepherdson noted.

Major retailers, including Amazon, Target, and Walmart, have responded to that concern by offering their "holiday season" deals beginning this month so shoppers can spread out their outlays over more time.

Even so, Americans' disappearing savings probably mean a lackluster holiday selling season for retailers.

Retail sales will expand by only 4 to 6 percent between 1 November 2022 and next January, business services giant Deloitte predicted in a September analysis.

During the same period last year, retail sales ballooned 15.1 percent.

"Sustained strength in consumption will be essential to keep the economy out of recession," Shepherdson added. "We are less confident of that" after the new data about the shrinking savings pad was released, he wrote.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As inflation continues to erode consumers' spending power, more and more households are being forced to slash their discretionary spending.*

*That is already true among households with modest incomes; increasingly, middle-income earners are having to make the same choice. Higher-income earners will continue to spend for longer.*

*The combination of higher prices and higher interest rates will bring the U.S. economy to a tipping point at which enough consumers halt spending to have a meaningful effect on inflation.*



*Inflation will begin to reverse not because the central bank raises its interest rate another half or three-quarters of a point, but when consumers stop fueling it.*

*However, while prices will ease, they will be much higher than before the 2020 COVID War. Therefore, the plantation workers of Slavelandia will be getting smaller pay rises and will pay more to buy less.*

## **JOB MARKET LOSES MOMENTUM BUT REMAINS STRONG**



The U.S. economy sprouted 263,000 new jobs in September, the U.S. labor department reported.

The seasonally adjusted total was less than August's 315,000 new berths and well below the monthly average of 400,000 over this year's first six months.

The leisure and hospitality sectors led in hiring, adding 83,000 jobs, although the sectors remain one million jobs short of their pre-COVID totals, with about 6.7 percent fewer workers.

Healthcare and social service agencies brought on another 75,000 workers, finally regaining the strength of their 2019 labor force.

Construction jobs grew by 19,000 and manufacturing's workforce by 22,000, despite data showing the sectors' economic output slowing.

The increased number of workers hired in those sectors should ease fears of an imminent recession, CNBC noted.

A few areas shed workers, including government agencies, which pared payrolls by 25,000. Retail, transportation, and warehousing rid themselves of 9,000 workers collectively as consumers cut back spending on merchandise.

The unemployment rate ticked down to 3.5 percent last month from 3.7 in August, matching July's 50-year record low.

However, the number of people actively working or looking for work also fell in September from the month before. The so-called "labor force participation rate" slipped from 62.4 percent of adults to 62.3 and remains below pre-COVID levels.

Among people not working, 4.8 million cited the lack of affordable child care as a reason in a census bureau poll. Another 1.7 million said they were caring for an elder.

"We are seeing labor demand cool," Wells Fargo senior economist Sarah House told *The Wall Street Journal*, "but we have a long way to go toward restoring balance between supply and demand for labor."

Average hourly earnings, including salaries and wages, grew 5 percent in September, year on year, down from 5.2 percent in August and the slowest growth since December. Hourly wages alone crept up 0.3 percent, according to figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While considered strong, the gain in earnings is "still too strong for an inflation target of 2 percent but a step in the right direction," House said.

## **Jobless Claims Jump**

The number of new claims for unemployment benefits rose by 29,000 to 219,000 during the week ending 1 October, the U.S. Labor Department reported, more than the 203,000 predicted by economists polled by Reuters.

In September, U.S. employers announced 29,989 jobs to be cut, 46.4 percent more than in August, according to a report by outplacement specialist Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Job losses number 67.6 percent more than a year previous, with retailers posting the most cuts, although layoffs total 21 percent fewer than during the first nine months of 2021.

**TREND FORECAST:** *We see a growing number of unemployment claims and jobs cut, a sharp reduction in unfilled jobs (see “August Job Openings a Million Less Than In July” in this issue), and a multi-decade low employment rate.*

*We are at a crossover point: the economy is reaching full employment just as it is sliding toward recession. (The first two quarters of this year showed shrinking economic productivity, which is the technical definition of a recession.)*

*The number of available jobs going unfilled will continue to shrink and the number of new claims for unemployment payments will grow as the year moves toward its end. (See, “**WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT,**” in this and past **Trends Journals**).*

## AUGUST JOB OPENINGS A MILLION LESS THAN IN JULY



In August, the number of open jobs fell to just under 10.1 million, about 1.1 million fewer than in July but still leaving 1.7 jobs available per unemployed worker, CNBC noted.

Employers announced plans to hire another 380,014 workers, the smallest monthly total since April 2020 when the COVID lockdowns began, the fewest in any August since 2011 during the Great Recession, and the second-largest reduction since 2002, the *Financial Times* noted.

The number of workers who quit their jobs held steady at about 4.2 million, slightly above pre-COVID levels.

Although the number of “quits” has been trending down in recent weeks, the current rate indicates that workers seeking something better remain confident of finding it, analysts told the *Financial Times*.

The declining number of job openings “shows some clear signs that the job market is cooling,” economist Daniel Zhao at Glassdoor, an employment website, said to the *FT*.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Fewer open jobs means less people are working and contributing to the economy. And the fewer people in the workforce means lower consumer spending... which accounts for two-thirds of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.*

*However, overall, as economic conditions deteriorate and inflation stays high, those out of work and seeing their lives going down and out, will seek work. Therefore, the unfilled job openings will shrink. Overall, however, considering the dire global economic climate, the ranks of the jobless will grow.*

# 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. Job cuts in September came in at 29,989, up 46.4 percent from a month earlier. Job cuts have jumped 66 percent year on year in September according to the Challenger report.

To illustrate the employment trends and the socioeconomic implications, each week we will list job losses:

- Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo make cuts
- Kepro will layoff 100 workers
- Ashley Furniture will shut down a NC plant affecting 111 staff
- Google has shut down its gaming service Stadia
- Stanley Black & Decker cut 1,000 jobs
- WazirX cut 60 staff



- Arcimoto laid off 50 in restructuring
- Tesco to cut 325 jobs
- Arm has cut 1,250 jobs
- Peloton will cut another 500 jobs
- GE is slashing hundreds of jobs at its wind turbine unit with plans for more
- 8x8 has laid off 200 staff
- Facebook is sacking 15 percent of its employees, nearly 12,000 jobs
- Keller mortgage has laid off more employees
- Pioneer Credit Recovery will cut 230 jobs
- Suncor Energy is making cuts
- Meta is reporting a 15 percent reduction
- BioMarin laid off 120 employees
- Spotify laid off 38 podcast workers about 30 percent of union members
- Geico is cutting 70 employees
- Downtown Music and Soundrop fired “several” team members “due to current economic conditions”
- Lower a mortgage lender has cut 6 percent
- Amneal telegraphs layoffs for 89 workers
- Home cut 162 staff
- Spin struck 10 percent affecting 78 positions
- Pacaso slashes 30 percent of workforce

## DRAGFLATION: IMF CUTS GLOBAL GROWTH FORECAST AGAIN



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reduced its expectation for global economic output for the fourth time this year, paring it to 3.2 percent this year and 2.9 percent in 2023.

Prospects for growth are being battered by a “toxic mix of inflation, higher borrowing costs, and lingering supply chain disruptions,” the *Wall Street Journal* said.

Europe's economy is being crushed by an energy crisis, China's property industry remains in crisis, and economic growth in the U.S. is ebbing, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva noted in a 6 October speech at Georgetown University.

The world's economy will produce \$4 trillion less in value by 2026 than if the COVID lockdowns, inflation, rising interest rates, war in Ukraine, and Western sanctions had not happened, the IMF's trendline shows, she said.

"This is the size of the German economy," she added, "a massive setback for the world."

"Multiple shocks, among them senseless war, changed the economic picture completely" and are causing "severe strains," especially among emerging economies, Georgieva said, transforming earlier optimism about strong post-COVID recovery to fears of runaway inflation and global recession.

"Far from being transitory, inflation has become more persistent," she noted.

Raising interest rates and "tightening monetary policy too much and too fast—and doing so in a synchronized manner across countries—could push many economies into prolonged recession," she warned.

In a 6 October speech at the Center for Global Development, U.S. treasury secretary Janet Yellen said central banks' "prime responsibility" is to stabilize prices, but also urged them to "recognize that macroeconomic tightening in advanced countries can have international spillovers."

Still, the IMF is encouraging central banks to continue raising interest rates.

"Not tightening enough would cause inflation to become de-anchored and entrenched, which would require future interest rates to be much higher and more sustained, causing massive harm on growth and massive harm on people," she argued.

Too many dramatic rate hikes could lead to a recession, she acknowledged, but raising rates too little or too slowly would have worse consequences, Georgieva said.

The U.S. Federal Reserve, the engine driving many of the global increases in interest rates, is aware of the burdens the hikes place on emerging nations but will continue to raise rates nonetheless, Fed vice-chair Lael Brainard said in a late September speech.

“Even when growth is positive, it will feel like a recession because of shrinking real incomes and rising prices,” Georgieva added.

The war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions will drain \$2.8 trillion in potential economic activity out of the global economy next year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a statement last week.

The growing number of extreme weather events is an additional factor exacerbating other crises such as food shortages and contributing to unmanageable debt loads among emerging nations, she pointed out.

“Things are more likely to get worse before it gets better,” she said. “The risks of recession are rising.”

Countries accounting for a third of the world’s productivity will see at least two consecutive quarters of economic contraction this year or next, meeting the technical definition of a recession.

Also last week, OPEC+ announced a cutback in global oil production, a move likely to push up oil prices and add to the woes of developing economies.

## **The Worst is Yet to Come**

A new report by the IMF’s World Economic Outlook published today foresees “the weakest growth profile since 2001.” Last year the global Gross Domestic product was 6 percent. For 2022, they see falling by almost 50 percent to 3.2 percent.

“The worst is yet to come, and for many people 2023 will feel like a recession,” the report said, repeating what we had forecast.

***TREND FORECAST:*** As we noted in [“Fed Raises Rate Three-Quarters of a Point as Recession Looms”](#) (27 Sep 2022), the Fed, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other agencies are chipping away at their growth forecasts for the balance of this year and next.

*The cause: [Dragflation](#), our Top 2022 Trend in which economic output contracts while prices rise higher.*

*Those forecasts are backward-looking, based on data being collected now from past events.*

*Data we see now, in real time—from Britain, from the European Union, from China, from the U.S.—all point toward a crumbling global economy that will be in turmoil at best, and a disastrous recession at worst, for the balance of 2022 and well into 2023.*

*While we forecast deep economic pain, Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, to an extent, agrees with our forecast: even if 2023 manages to avoid a worldwide recession, it still will feel like one.*

## **Going Down**

The world’s trade in goods will grow just 1 percent next year under the burden of higher interest rates, rising energy prices, and shortages and disruptions wrought by Russia’s war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) predicted last week.

The WTO’s previous prediction was 3.4 percent. The new projection is a 70-percent reduction from that earlier figure.

The global economy overall will grow 2.3 percent next year, the WTO said, down almost a third from its earlier expectation of 3.3 percent.

Growth could stall further if central banks raise interest rates too high too fast, the WTO warned.

“The global economy faces a multipronged crisis,” WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said in a statement announcing the reduced outlook. “The picture for 2023 has darkened considerably.”

U.S. export of goods was 0.3 percent lower in August than in July, the first decline since January this year, the U.S. Commerce Department reported. Also in August, the U.S. imported 1.5 percent fewer goods than in the month before.

The slowdown in international trade already has taken a toll on the shipping industry, with voyages canceled and rates plummeting, as we report in [“Shipping Lines Cancel Cargo Voyages for Lack of Demand”](#) in this issue.

## **OPEC+ CUTS DAILY OIL OUTPUT LIMIT BY TWO MILLION BARRELS**



The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia, and its other allies, known collectively as OPEC+, have agreed to cut daily oil production by two million barrels a day in an attempt to lift oil prices back up above \$100 a barrel in the face of a weakening global economy.

The cut, which will take place next month, represents about 2 percent of the world’s current daily oil supply.

The actual reduction is likely to be closer to 600,000 barrels a day, several OPEC+ delegates told reporters, because a number of OPEC+ producers already are failing to meet their production targets, as we reported in [“OPEC+ Continues to Raise Oil Output: What’s the Deal?”](#) (8 Feb 2022).



“The actual hit to oil supply will be much smaller” than two million barrels, Capital Economics confirmed in a note to clients, and predicted oil will close this year at \$100 a barrel.

The expected supply pinch already is raising U.S. gasoline prices just ahead of the midterm Congressional elections. Republicans have been pounding Democrats over high gas prices and inflation generally.

Oil prices had fallen into the mid-\$80s recently, then edged up in advance of OPECs Vienna meeting last week. Benchmark Brent crude posted a price of \$93.95 after OPEC’s announcement and was trading at \$96.19 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 10 October.

OPEC’s move swiftly followed an agreement by the U.S. and European Union to cap the price of Russia’s exported oil in another attempt to deny revenue that will fund Vladimir Putin’s Ukraine war.

OPEC feared the cap would push down oil prices in general.

“This is hugely political and a very clear signal of OPEC’s discontent regarding the price cap,” oil analyst Amrita Sen at consulting firm Energy Aspects told the Associated Press.

“Regardless of whether the cap is effective,” she added, “they see this as a dangerous precedent.”

The production cut also is seen as a slap to U.S. president Joe Biden, who visited Saudi Arabia in July to personally lobby for greater oil production to lower gasoline prices around the world.

The Biden administration was quick to denounce the cut in a public statement, calling it “short-sighted” when “maintaining a global supply of energy is of paramount importance.”

The White House also said it is “clear” that in its decision, OPEC+ is “aligning with Russia” and has put itself “on a collision course with the Free World.”

Saudi energy minister Abdulaziz bin Salman denied the cut was an act of defiance directed at Biden or the West.

“Show me the act of belligerence,” he said to reporters. Instead, the cut is meant to encourage long-term investment in oil production, he explained, under OPEC’s mission to be a steward of stable energy markets.

Investment in exploration and expanding production has not recovered after the COVID era, which we noted in [“Oil Majors Withhold Investment in New Production”](#) (3 Aug 2021) and [“Oil Majors Use Cash to Buy Back Stock, Increase Dividends”](#) (10 May 2022).

OPEC’s production cuts come as Europe struggles with a full-fledged energy crisis after Russia has shut off almost all natural gas shipments to the continent and the European Union has vowed to end its imports of Russian oil by the end of this year.

After OPEC’s announcement, Biden directed the release of another 10 million barrels of oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The White House said it will work with Congress to continue to find ways to reduce energy prices for U.S. consumers.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As we have said before, OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, sees its markets diminishing in the future as the world transitions to non-fossil fuels and plastics made from feedstocks other than petroleum.*

*In response to global economic shifts, the OPEC cartel will continue to tweak oil prices to maximize profits it can still extract from a resource that will see demand shrink in the coming decades.*

*The world economy is sinking into [Dragflation](#), our Top 2022 Trend in which prices rise while economic productivity shrinks.*

*That will prevent oil prices from rising no more than slightly into triple digits, and then only for a short period. As the global recession continues, oil prices will stabilize near their current levels and eventually ease lower.*

*However, there are the wild cards, and one being played now is the Ukraine War and the sanctions imposed on Russia by NATO and the United States which has dramatically driven energy prices up in Europe and other nations.*

*We forecast that with the United States and NATO ramping up the Ukraine War following Russia's latest rounds of attacks following the Ukraine's blowing up their Crimea Bridge last Saturday, natural gas and oil prices will continue to rise... hitting new highs.*

## **STRONG DOLLAR MEANS WEAKNESS IN EMERGING NATIONS**



Sri Lanka and Zambia have defaulted on their debts, with another dozen countries at, or already tipping over, the edge of insolvency, Reuters reported.

Households in Ghana are paying two-thirds more this year than last for necessities such as flour and fuel. The Egyptian government is a half-billion dollars over its budget for bread subsidies.

Rising interest rates, inflated prices, the Ukraine war and Western sanctions against Russia all play a part in pushing developing nations toward insolvency.

The strong dollar is a pervasive factor running through all of them.

The dollar is stronger against other currencies than it has been in 20 years, thanks to two forces.

First, the U.S. Federal Reserve has raised interest rates dramatically this year. That has raised yields on dollar-denominated investments above those available from most other currencies, drawing investors away from them and to the dollar, which we reported in [“Investors Flee Emerging Markets”](#) (14 Dec 2021).

Second, the U.S.’s economy is stronger than that of most other countries and regions, providing a measure—or at least a sense—of safety for investment.

The dollar also is the de facto currency used in the bulk of the world’s cross-border trade, especially in oil and gas.

Developing nations that need to import fuel need to pay for those imports in dollars. As the dollar becomes stronger, an emerging nation must spend more of its own currency to buy enough dollars to pay its bills.

The same holds true for wheat and soy, of which America exports a large portion of the world’s supply, especially now that the Ukraine war and Western sanctions have slashed grain supplies normally available from Ukraine and Russia.

Development banks and the International Monetary Fund need to be ready to come to the aid of nations sinking under financial hardship, U.S. treasury secretary Janet Yellen warned.

Several emerging economies will need “considerable debt relief,” she said in a 6 October speech at the Center for Global Development.

**PUBLISHER’S NOTE:** As we reported in [“The Powell Push: For Better or Worse”](#) (7 Dec 2021), Yellen joined Fed chair Jerome Powell and other economic seers in insisting inflation was “temporary,” then “transitory” until they were the last to recognize that rising prices were out of control.

Finally last July, she stated the obvious and said in a CNN interview, “I think I was wrong then about the path that inflation would take” ([“Yellen Half-Admits She Got Inflation Wrong.”](#) 7 Jun 2022).

*Now she's urging developed nations to pick up the pieces of the world's economies she helped to break.*

**TREND FORECAST:** In [“Emerging Markets Submerging”](#) (9 Nov 2021) we pointed out that many developing countries were deep in debt before the COVID crisis and, seduced by low interest rates, borrowed even more to survive 2020.

*With prices and interest rates rising and economies slowing in China, the U.S., and around the world, emerging nations are moving steadily toward a new debt crisis and will appeal to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for bailouts.*

*However, new rounds of rescue funding will be harder to come by.*

*Developed nations fund the loans and grants these global aid agencies make. With Europe and the U.S. buried under their own COVID-related debt, there will be less money to funnel to poor countries. Thus, the risk of these nations defaulting on billions of dollars in loans is real and not far off.*

**TREND FORECAST:** As we have long forecast and detailed, as emerging market economies submerge, there will be increasing demonstrations as people take to the streets to protest lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence, all part of our long-range Top Trend of [New World Disorder](#).

*These events will, in turn, drive more people from their home countries to seek refuge in safe-haven nations—and in those nations where they seek refuge, there will be growing anti-immigration, anti-establishment, populist movements to stop the refugees from entering their nations.*

*We already are seeing this trend strengthening in the U.S., the U.K.—a key driver of the Brexit vote—and in Italy's recent election, where a fervent anti-immigrant, nationalist message won the popular vote.*



## ECB FEARS INFLATION WILL LAST FOR YEARS



The European Central Bank's [ECB's] governing council is expressing concern that inflation in the Eurozone, which ran recently at 10 percent, will become "self-reinforcing" and last for years as the euro remains weak and governments pump stimulus money into national economies to soften the impact of soaring energy costs,

the *Financial Times* reported.

The stimulus plans pose "an upside risk to inflation," the council warned, adding that the programs should be "temporary and targeted to the most vulnerable households and firms to limit the risk of fueling inflationary pressures."

The sagging value of the euro, which recently posted a 20-year low against the dollar, also sharpens the risk of prolonged inflation, the group noted.

Even a weakening economy might not be enough to stanch the rise in prices, the group said in its September policy meeting, according to minutes of the session.

During the session, the committee raised the bank's key interest rate by three-quarters of a point to 0.75 percent.

The rate is "significantly below neutral," the point at which inflation slows markedly while the economy keeps humming, the group noted.

With inflation at 10 percent and the bank's key interest rate at 0.75 percent, the actual return on euro-denominated investments is sharply negative, discouraging savings in Eurozone banks.

The comments lent greater certainty to assumptions that the bank would continue to raise rates aggressively in the months ahead, even if the region's economy slid into recession, the *FT* said.

Inflation across Europe worsened as Russia progressively cut back natural gas deliveries to the continent through its Nord Stream 1 pipeline. Russia shut down the pipeline indefinitely in August and the conduit was severely damaged by an explosion in September that Western nations judged to be sabotage.

"The longer high inflation persists, the higher the risk that inflation expectations could become unanchored and the costlier it would be to bring them back to target," the minutes noted.

The ECB's target inflation rate is 2 percent.

The central bank will push up its key rate to 2.5 percent before 2023 and to a peak of 3 percent early next year, Andrew Kenningham, chief European economist at Capital Economics, predicted in an *FT* interview.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Like the U.S. Federal Reserve, the ECB waited a year too long to raise rates. Christine Lagarde, the former head of the International Monetary Fund (aka International Mafia Association) and now the leader of the European Central Bank bullshitted for two years that inflation was not rising and the ECB could keep interest rates in negative territory and keep buying up corporate and government bonds.

*An outright scam, as with the United States and other nations, so these Banksters could give a reason to keep pumping cheap money into equities to artificially prop up economies decimated by politicians that lockdown economies to fight the COVID War.*

*Last November, while we had long forecast surging inflation, Lagarde said she didn't see it coming and it would be "wrong" to raise interest rates now because inflation will begin to cool by the time the new rates would have a chance to impact the economy.*

*On 3 December 2021, she told the Financial Times that inflation was peaking and that the inflation profile looked “like a hump...and a hump eventually declines.” She said at the time that the ECB is “very unlikely” to alter its interest rate—which has remained negative for seven years—in 2022.*

*The Eurozone is sinking deeper into [Dragflation](#), our Top 2022 Trend defined by rising prices and shrinking economic productivity.*

*The energy crisis created by the Ukraine war and Western sanctions will prolong not only inflation, but also the continent’s recession, realizing the ECB’s fears that inflation will become embedded across the economy.*

## **DRAGFLATION: GERMANY’S FACTORY OUTPUT SLUMPS AS ENERGY CRISIS TAKES HOLD**



German factories turned out 0.8 percent fewer goods in August than in July and 2.9 percent less compared to February, just before Russia invaded Ukraine, the national statistics office reported.

Among industries that are particularly energy-intensive—including ceramics, chemicals, and metals—production slid 2.1 percent month on month and 8.6 percent below February’s volume.

New orders for factory goods and retail sales both declined in August, boding more losses through the fall months, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Germany is Europe’s largest economy and its financial well-being depends on manufacturing more than other nations in the region do.

Europe, and industry-heavy Germany in particular, have faced a growing energy shortage over the past 12 months.

The continent, especially Germany, receives much of its natural gas supply from Russia. Last fall, Russia began cutting back deliveries through its all-important Nord Stream 1 pipeline as a political pressure tactic. The pipeline carried about 35 percent of Russia's European gas exports.

In June, Russia cut the pipeline's flow by 75 percent after NATO nations enacted sanctions against a variety of Russian exports and financial transactions.

Russia then shut it off for 10 days in July for "routine maintenance." In August, it closed the pipeline entirely for an indefinite period, citing equipment problems. Last month, the pipeline and its non-operative sister Nord Stream 2 were severely damaged by explosions under the Baltic Sea in what Western authorities deem "an act of sabotage."

It remains unclear when repairs might begin.

Businesses have taken the greatest beating from the energy shortage, with the government prioritizing household uses. Germany's government has instituted rationing of natural gas in some forms of use.

Germany's stores of natural gas are at 92 percent of capacity ahead of winter, so the country is unlikely to run out of natural gas, barring a dramatically cold and prolonged winter, analysts told the *WSJ*.

However, gas prices are unlikely to ease any time soon and will remain high indefinitely into next year as the nation seeks to rebuild gas supplies toward the following winter.

Germany and other European Union nations have vowed to end all Russian gas imports before next year and stop importing Russian oil by the end of this decade.

To make up the shortfall, the U.S. has increased its shipments of liquefied natural gas to the continent, straining supplies and raising prices at home.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Germany is Europe's front-line victim of the energy crisis wrought by Russia's shutdown of natural gas exports to Europe and Western nations as a result of sanctions imposed upon Moscow by NATO and the United States.*

*Germany already is mired in [Dragflation](#), with the factory output that drives its economy shrinking while inflation runs at 10.9 percent.*

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The rest of Europe will follow Germany deeper into [Dragflation](#), to varying degrees.*

*Nations in northern Europe that have strong manufacturing sectors, such as Poland, and countries deep in debt such as Italy, face the worst outcomes.*

## THOUSANDS OF GERMAN RETAILERS POISED TO GO OUT OF BUSINESS



More than 15,000 German stores face bankruptcy brought on by energy prices that have risen an average of 147 percent since the beginning of this year, the German Retail Association (HDE) said last week.

In a letter to economy minister Richard Habek, the association said “exploding energy costs” are “existentially threatening” German’s retail sector and as many as 16,000 shops could disappear this year in a “negative trend” that would extend through 2023.

Electricity costs have risen to 3 percent of revenues for retailers and could reach 5 percent next year, the HDE said.



Such an increase would exceed profits for many businesses and drown them in red ink, according to the association.

Clothing retailers average a profit of 2.1 percent, food stores no more than 4 percent, and shoe stores already are operating in the red by -1.2 percent, the HDE reported.

Inflation and households' plummeting purchasing power make it impossible for stores to pass the higher costs to consumers; therefore, the German government should reduce tariffs on imported fuels and slash taxes on electricity, the HDE urged.

***TREND FORECAST:*** Lockdowns during the COVID War set up these businesses for failure; Russia's cutoff of most of its natural gas exports to Europe and the West's war-related sanctions delivered the death blow.

*As COVID variants rise up again this fall and winter, most countries other than China will be less draconian in their response, simply because their economies are unable to withstand more mass shutdowns.*

*Instead, national governments will treat COVID as they do the flu: they will encourage people to be vaccinated and take precautions, but will not close schools and businesses.*

## SHIPPING LINES CANCEL CARGO VOYAGES FOR LACK OF DEMAND



During what normally is the busiest time of year, ocean cargo lines are canceling sailings due to lack of demand as retailers cancel orders or place no new ones.

For the period from 3 to 17 October, 40 voyages from Asia to the U.S. west coast and 21 to the U.S. east coast have been

canceled, according to research firms Xeneta and Sea Intelligence. Typically for the period, no more than four trips are scratched.

In September, shippers had 13 percent more capacity available than a year earlier, the equivalent of 21 idle ships, each able to tote 8,000 shipping containers at a time, the data firms reported.

The shipping industry's relatively sudden slack is another signal of slowing international trade generally, which we detail in [“WTO Slashes 2023 World Trade Outlook By 70 Percent”](#) in this issue and that also is reflected in falling revenues in the package shipping business, as we reported in [“Troubles for “Bellwether” FedEx Foreshadow Global Downturn”](#) (20 Sep 2022).

As a result, the average cost to ship a full container across the Pacific has fallen 75 percent from last fall's prices.

Trans-Pacific freight rates now average \$3,900, compared to \$14,500 as this year began and more than \$19,000 last year, the Freightos Baltic Index said.

We tracked skyrocketing shipping costs in [“Shipper Books Tenfold Increase in Net Profits”](#) (17 Aug 2021) and [“Maersk Reports Record Profits, Warns of Slowing Economy”](#) (10 May 2022), among other articles.

Many shops already are overstocked with inventory ahead of a December holiday shopping season overshadowed by higher interest rates, persistent inflation, and a glum mood among consumers.

For example, on 6 October Nike revealed it is holding 65 percent more inventory than at the same time last year and will mark down goods to get rid of them.

“The global economy has thrown us a few curve balls and our outlook on future [shipping] demand is uncertain and tepid,” Jonathan Roach, an industry analyst at Braemar, told the *WSJ*.

“Overcapacity will likely become an issue from the middle of 2023 to 2024 and perhaps beyond,” he warned.

Overcapacity drives cargo companies to cut prices to draw customers. As margins fall, companies are pushed toward the brink of failure.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *The ocean shipping industry was beset by overcapacity and price-cutting for a decade following 2007 when the Great Recession began. Many shippers closed or were bought. As a result, six companies now control 70 percent of ocean shipping.*

*However, demand for trans-ocean shipping remains above pre-COVID levels and operators have stockpiled cash from the windfall profits they reaped during the COVID War, as we noted in the articles cited above.*

*Therefore, even though shipping rates are settling back to 2019 levels, the industry will not shrink much further, if at all.*

*Instead, shippers will use their windfall cash to diversify, following Moller-Maersk’s example of establishing a global beginning-to-end logistics network, which we reported in [“Maersk Building End-to-End Logistics Service”](#) (12 Oct 2021).*

## INFLATION IN RUSSIA IS SLOWING, PUTIN SAYS



Russia’s annual rate of inflation edged down to 13.5 percent at the end of September, president Vladimir Putin told an economics meeting last week.

He contrasted Russia’s declining rate with rates that have risen across Europe and the Baltic states.

The Eurozone's inflation pace was 10 percent, Germany's 10.9, and the Netherlands 17.1, Putin said. He also cited the rate of price growth in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, all above 20 percent.

Russia's inflation rate peaked in April at 17.8 percent after the country invaded Ukraine and NATO members slapped sanctions on an array of Russian exports and financial dealings.

Since then, continued trade with China and India, among other nations, and discounts of as much as 20 percent on Russian oil exports, has kept its foreign trade alive.

Since the invasion, the ruble has risen to multi-year highs against Western currencies.

The Central Bank of Russia will hold inflation between 11 and 13 percent by the end of this year, bank officials said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *We maintain our forecast that Russia, having far advanced over the past three decades from its old Soviet model, is in a key position to become a [Self-Sufficient Economy](#), aligned with our Top 2022 Trend.*

*Rich in human and natural resources, Moscow will fight against the sanctions being imposed upon it. Indeed, prior to the Ukraine War Russia had bolstered itself over a long period of time in preparation for the assault by creating as much of a self-sufficient economy as possible.*

*And while there is doubt being expressed in the major media, politicians, and "experts" that Russia will be unable to fill its tech-void and the U.S. and NATO chip void, we forecast they will be able to sustain combat operations, high-tech advancements and solid economic growth since they have prepared for such sanctions and as we have been reporting, they are working to become self-sufficient.*

*Also, it will continue to use its wealth in grains, petroleum, and other strategic minerals to trade with a much-reduced number of nations, primarily China, India and African nations to secure what it can.*



# SPECIAL UKRAINE WAR REPORT



## U.S. AT WAR III WITH RUSSIA: SPECIAL FORCES ARE ON THE GROUND IN UKRAINE

There are more U.S. special forces and CIA agents in Ukraine today than there were at the beginning of the war, according to a published report.

The Intercept, citing “several current and former intelligence officials,” reported that President Joe Biden has decided to have these forces conduct clandestine operations inside the country, which is counter to what he had said at the beginning of the war that U.S. troops would not be positioned on the ground in Ukraine because their presence would mean WWIII.

The report said U.S. intelligence thought Russian forces would make quick work of the Ukrainians, and so Washington withdrew some of its forces from the country. But as Kyiv held its ground, the U.S. became more comfortable with the idea of a larger presence in Ukraine.



The report did not say how many of these CIA agents or Special Forces there are in Ukraine, but they are operating under a covert presidential finding and just a few members of Congress are aware of the program.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** *The State Department and Pentagon did not respond to email inquiries from The Trends Journal about the report.*

News of the CIA stationed in Ukraine is not new.

*The New York Times* reported in June about their presence in the country. The report also noted that special operations forces from Lithuania, Canada, France, and Britain are also there.

In July, former CIA agent Philip Giraldi wrote that U.S. special ops troops continued to secretly carry out missions in Ukraine. They direct most of the intelligence flow the U.S. is sharing with Ukrainian forces and have been managing the movement of weapons and equipment into Ukraine and providing some specialized training.

Giraldi noted that there have been reports that British Special Forces are guarding Zelensky, and we have written extensively of the U.S. and NATO's role in fighting the Ukraine War and its implication. Ukraine (See ["JOE BIDEN'S SECRET WAR IN UKRAINE"](#) 19 Jul 2022, ["U.S. INTEL HELPED UKRAINE KILL RUSSIAN GENERALS, SINK FLAGSHIP"](#) 10 May 2022 and ["THE MASTERS OF WAR, AT WAR WITH RUSSIA"](#) 3 May 2022.)

**TRENDPOST:** *Gerald Celente has said for months that contrary to reports that the U.S. is in a "proxy" war with Russia, Washington is currently at war with the Kremlin. He said it will only become "official" after the first nuclear flash or a disastrous false flag event.*

*Besides U.S. President Joe Biden and Congress injecting some \$70 billion into Ukraine to keep bloodying the killing fields and their plunging economy, Washington has taken a lead role in training Ukrainians and updated intelligence reports to troops during battle.*

## **Another Lie**

*Weeks before the first Russian tank rolled into Ukraine, Biden brushed off the idea that U.S. troops would get involved in the conflict and went as far as to say they would not even assist in evacuations. He said flatly that an American presence could spark a world war.*

*Biden appealed to Russia to be wise and not invade while American lives were in danger. He told NBC's Lester Holt in an interview that "when Americans and Russians start shooting at one another, we're in a very different world than we've ever been in."*

*Biden, who seemed more rational in early February, said in the interview that Russia is not a terrorist organization.*

*"We're dealing with one of the largest armies in the world," he said. "This is a very difficult situation, and things could go crazy quickly."*

*And things did get crazy.*

*Now Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed a resolution stating that he will never negotiate for peace with Putin and Russia must give up its newly occupied land—about 20 percent of the country—and Crimea, which will never happen.*

## **GERMANY ON HIGH ALERT: NORD STREAM PIPELINE AND NOW RAILWAY SABOTAGE?**



German rail lines were targeted by saboteurs who severed cables that are essential for the country's rail network system, raising new concerns about more incidents across Germany.

Officials in the country see increased risk of a widespread issue after the sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines that connect Germany to Russia.

Carsten Breuer, a major general in the German armed forces, said every “substation, every power plant, every pipeline” is a possible target. He told *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper that Germany is in an unusual position where it is “not quite peace anymore, but not really war either.”

The railway sabotage stranded thousands of passengers and halted the cargo traffic.

*The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the scores of billions of dollars in weaponry NATO nations and the U.S. have given Ukraine to fight the Russians. Never is there any discussion on how to negotiate a ceasefire. Instead President Biden continues to get away with ramping up the war because the Presstitutes that put out for their corporate pimps and government whore masters have an unblemished track record of selling war and banning those who promote peace. (See [“HEY STUPID! PROPAGANDA NETWORKS WILL TELL YOU ‘WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UKRAINE’](#) 1 Mar 2022, [“BIDEN KEEPS WAR DRUMS BEATING, ANNOUNCES ANOTHER \\$1B IN WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE”](#) 21 Jun 2022 and [“WEAPONS POURING INTO UKRAINE, NO TALK OF PEACE, JUST MORE AMMUNITION”](#) 12 Apr 2022.)*

Volker Wissing, the transport minister, said these cables were hit by a “malicious and targeted action,” according to *The Financial Times*. He told reporters that those responsible knew exactly what cables are most important. One was cut in two different locations. Federal police have taken over the investigation.

The paper noted that there are widespread concerns that Germany’s infrastructure could be targeted ever since the sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines. The paper noted that a preliminary investigation by Sweden found evidence of “gross sabotage.”

The cables were cut in a suburb of Berlin and in North Rhine-Westphalia, NPR reported, citing Germany’s *dpa* news agency. Investigators said there is no immediate evidence of the incidents being politically motivated or carried out by a foreign state.

Anton Hofreiter, a Green Party lawmaker, told a local news outlet that disrupting the railway network's communications cables would require "very precise knowledge of the railway's radio system," DW.com reported. The sabotage brought much of the train traffic in the country's north to a complete standstill for more than three hours.

**TRENDPOST:** *Again, the Kremlin has noted, as we long have, that countries that are assisting the Ukrainian effort will eventually be pulled into the conflict one way or another. Other European countries are increasing patrols near critical infrastructure locations due to the growing risk and claimed to have spotted drones near oil platforms in Danish waters.*

*It is worth noting that the war rhetoric from Ukraine has only increased in recent weeks, led by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky who, at one point, said Russia will not retreat until it is "smashed" on the battlefield.*

*He urged Ukrainians to fight for every inch of land. Russia is reportedly forcing Ukrainians in occupied areas to enlist in the military. Zelensky has called on these individuals to fight from the inside.*

*"If you get into the Russian army, then sabotage any enemy activity, interfere with any Russian operations. Give us all important information about the occupiers: their bases, headquarters, ammunition depots," he said.*

## **PUTIN: UKRAINE'S CRIMEA BRIDGE ATTACK 'ACT OF TERROR'**



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday called the bombing of the Kerch Strait Bridge, which connects mainland Russia to Crimea an "act of terror" carried out by Ukraine's secret services.

Initially, the bridge blast has been blamed on a bomb-laden truck. There are several other unconfirmed theories that the bridge was struck by missiles, and even questions about a mysterious wave seen before the blast.

Putin told reporters that there is “no doubt” that the incident over the Kerch Strait was a terrorist attack aimed at destroying “the critically important civilian infrastructure of the Russian Federation.”

“The performers, and customers are the secret services of Ukraine,” he said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, took to Twitter after the explosion, “Crimea, the bridge, the beginning. Everything illegal must be destroyed, everything stolen must be returned to Ukraine, everything occupied by Russia must be expelled.”

The bridge was severely damaged in the blast early Saturday morning and an entire section collapsed. A train that appeared to be hauling oil tankers was also engulfed. Three people were killed and traffic resumed on Sunday, according to AntiWar.com.

*Ukraine did not claim responsibility for the attacks, but for many in Kyiv, the bridge is a reminder of the annexation of Crimea in 2014. (See [“UKRAINIAN SABOTEURS TAKE AIM AT RUSSIAN MILITARY COMPLEXES IN CRIMEA”](#) 23 Aug 2022, [“ZELENSKY SAYS UKRAINE WAR WILL END WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES CRIMEA”](#) 16 Aug 2022 and [“TOP RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT SEES NO END IN SIGHT FOR UKRAINE WAR”](#) 23 Aug 2022.)*

The bridge is Russia’s most important supply line for troops in the southern part of the country. Crimea, which sits on the northern coast of the Black Sea, has been a “key staging ground” for the invasion, *The New York Times* reported. Paula J. Dobriansky, a former American diplomat, told the paper that the strikes in Crimea were “both operational and symbolic.”

A senior Biden administration official said the U.S. supports strikes on Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in 2014, if Kyiv sees it as needed in its fight against Russia, according to a report.



Putin made his comments during a meeting with Aleksandr I. Bastrykin, the leader of Russia's Investigative Committee and a transcript was posted online. Dmitri Peskov, the Kremlin's top spokesman, was asked if a terror attack would warrant a nuclear response from Russia, and he responded, "No," The *Times*, citing *RIA Novosti*, a state-run outlet, reported.

Russia has made it clear, however, that it will defend its own territory with all weapons at its disposal, including nuclear.

***TRENDPOST:*** *President Joe Biden was asked during an interview on "60 Minutes" how the U.S. would respond to a nuclear strike by Russia in Ukraine.*

*"You think I would tell you if I knew exactly what it would be? Of course, I'm not gonna tell you. It will be consequential. [The Russians] will become more of a pariah in the world than they ever have been. And depending on the extent of what they do will determine what response would occur."*

***TRENDPOST:*** *The chicken hawks in the U.S. are circling, and people like John Bolton, the former national security adviser, continue their tough talk against Putin and Russia. Bolton told CBS on Friday that the U.S. should make it clear to the public that if the Russian president OKs a nuclear strike against Ukraine, he is "signing his own suicide note."*

*"He's a legitimate military target... he needs to know that he's on our target list at this point," he said.*

*And, unfortunately for the peace movement in the U.S., these warmongers, who made their careers selling failed wars while enriching their friends, find platforms to speak because the corporate media is selling the war. CNN.com ran a headline that read, "Putin to Chair Russia Security Council Meeting After Humiliating Explosion on Strategic Crimea Bridge."*

*How does a truck bomb “humiliate” Putin? When was the last time CNN ran a headline that America’s disastrous losing Vietnam, Iraq and Afghan Wars that cost trillions and killed millions, “humiliated” American presidents?*

## **PRO-NAZI WAR HAWK UKRAINE AMBASSADOR’S SON DODGING DRAFT IN GERMANY**



Andriy Melnyk, Ukraine’s ambassador to Berlin who is known for his tough-guy act, was embarrassed on social media by a German politician who noted that his 20-year-old son is avoiding military service in Ukraine because he is going to school in Germany.

Sven Tritschler, a regional legislator from the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, posted on Twitter that Melnyk is considering having their children stay in Germany for safety reasons.

“I wonder a bit how Mr. Melnyk wants to drag half the world into this war, while his 20-year-old son is comfortably studying in Germany instead of fighting,” he posted. “The Americans call such a thing ‘chicken hawk,’” according to RT.com.

The **Trends Journal** noted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has banned most Ukrainian men from leaving the country during the war with Russia.

The Ukrainian “Ambassador” Melnyk angrily responded to the post by writing, “That is none of your fucking business, you shit stain.”

Tritschler fired back, “Oh, but it is exactly my business, if German citizens should pay not only for your tanks, but also for the studies of your draft-dodger son, you Bandera fanboy.”

## Nazi Time

Melnyk has faced backlash in July after he defended Stepan Bandera, the pro-Nazi Ukrainian nationalist leader who Wikipedia notes led “the militant wing (OUN-B), served as head of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists responsible for massacres and ethnic cleansings, also implicated in collaboration with Nazi Germany.” (See [“TOP UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR: HEIL HITLER.”](#) 5 Jul 2022). We also noted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky dodged the draft while he was still making a living as a clown.

The group was accused of massacres and ethnic cleansing of Poles and Jews. The Israeli embassy told the paper that Melnyk’s comments were a “distortion of the historical facts,” and the Polish deputy foreign minister posted online: “Such an opinion and such words are absolutely unacceptable.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Melnyk’s comments are essentially in lockstep with Kyiv. He told Elon Musk to “fuck off” after the Tesla CEO mentioned that Kyiv should consider negotiating for a peaceful settlement. RT also noted that he called Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, an “offended liver sausage,” which is an insult intended to portray a person as thin-skinned.*

*Ukrainian leadership has shown a willingness to turn on any ally if it does not show what Kyiv considers a sufficient level of military and financial support. Russia must be defeated and Ukraine must win. But that will not happen.*

*We maintain our forecast that Russia will defeat Ukraine’s military and will achieve its goals. The question is how long the U.S. and NATO are willing to keep fighting Russia to the point of nuclear annihilation.*

## AS WE FORECAST: UKRAINE WAR WILL ONLY GET WORSE UNLESS THERE IS A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION



Two days after the Ukrainians launched explosions on Russia's strategic Crimean Bridge, Ukrainians in some cities woke up to a new reality on Monday and now find themselves targeted by Russian missiles.

On Monday, President Vladimir Putin said its military carried out "massive strikes with long-range precision weapons on Ukrainian objects of energy, and military control and communications."

Putin warned that "If there are further attempts to conduct terrorist attacks on our soil, Russia will respond firmly and on a scale corresponding to the threats created against Russia."

### Damage Control

Besides the disastrous attack on Russia's Nord Stream pipelines on 26 September, Russia blamed Ukraine for attempting to blow up the TurkStream gas pipeline that carries natural gas from Russia to Turkey deeper inside Europe.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Ukraine has not claimed responsibility for any of these attacks, and yesterday Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said Sweden refuses to share findings of the investigation into the Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions with Russian authorities or Gazprom who owns them.*

Some of the cities targeted in these strikes were Kyiv, Kharkov, Dnepr, Odessa, and Lviv.

*Sputnik News*, a Russian state-owned news agency, reported that the objectives of the strikes were achieved and all “designated targets were hit.” At least eight people were killed in the strikes.

India and China called for an immediate de-escalation.

The paper also noted that Belarus’s president, Aleksandr G. Lukashenko, said Monday that more Russian troops will return to his country, indicating that the war will continue to intensify.

“This won’t be just a thousand troops,” he said, according to the paper.

Putin said Ukraine's "terrorist methods" have resulted in the killings of journalists, scientists, and other public figures. He also accused Kyiv of carrying out terrorist strikes for eight years on separatists in the Donbass. He also blamed Ukrainians for purposely targeting the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, which had its power restored on Sunday after renewed shelling in the area. (See [“ZELENSKY ADMITS TO ‘EIGHT YEARS OF WAR’ IN DONBAS – BUT IGNORED BY PRESSTITUTES AND POLITICIANS”](#) 2 Aug 2022 and [“CHERNOBYL 2.0 RUSSIA ACCUSES UKRAINE ATTACKING NUKE PLANT”](#) 16 Aug 2022.)

He said Kyiv's actions have put it on par "with the most odious terrorist groups," and it was "simply impossible to leave such crimes unanswered," *Sputnik* reported.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Ukrainian leaders seem to relish in provoking Russia on social media in the same way a teenager would poke at a rival. Of course, the Western media would never call out Kyiv on this fact. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky could not hide his excitement about the bombing of the Crimea Bridge and said in a nightly address on Saturday, “Today was not a bad day and mostly sunny on our state’s territory. Unfortunately, it was cloudy in Crimea. Although it was also warm.”*

*Peace will only be achieved when Kyiv is cut off from Western support. And the support is now starting to run thin. Yesterday, U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) called on Washington to stop supporting Ukraine and cut off foreign aid, saying the U.S. should have “no involvement in” fighting the war: “NO MORE Foreign Aid, especially not to*



*fund a war that we should have NO involvement in,” Gosar tweeted on Monday. “Biden and his crime family may owe Zelensky, but America doesn't owe him a damn thing.”*

*Last week Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene declared that U.S. aid to Kiev has “killed thousands and thousands of people [and] drastically driven up the cost of living all over the world.” And on Sunday, warning of the threat of a nuclear war, Rep. Matt Gaetz wrote on Sunday that “maintaining Ukraine as an international money laundering Mecca isn’t worth” the price.*

## **SERBIA: EU LATEST SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA WILL CRIPPLE ECONOMY**



A top Serbian government official lashed out against the latest round of sanctions to be imposed against Russia and called them the first package that also takes aim at Belgrade.

Aleksandar Vulin, the Serbian interior minister, took issue with newly announced restrictions on the maritime transport of

Russian oil, which means Belgrade will have to look to Iraq for oil sales and lose hundreds of millions of euro due to the price difference.

The country imports all its oil from Russia and hoped that JANAf, Croatia’s pipeline operator, would continue to be able to flow Russian oil through its pipes that arrived there on tankers. But the country announced that would not be the case and that it was vital that all countries take a stand against Russia. Ana Brnabić, the Serbian prime minister, called the decision “an openly hostile act by Croatia against Serbia,” Euractiv reported.

Serbia has applied for EU membership, but its position on Russian sanctions could hurt its chances, Euronews reported. The report said Serbia historically takes a neutral stance when it comes to NATO and Moscow.



Andrej Plenković, the Croatian prime minister, said the decision was made by the EU and Belgrade should get on board if it wants membership.

“Serbia cannot sit on two stools and expect progress on its European path while disrespecting sanctions against Russia,” he said.

RT, the Russian state-controlled television network, reported that Vulin said the only “consistent” element of EU policy is that the bloc takes “revenge on free nations,” and said it was unfair that Western Balkan countries were not exempted from the measures.

Victor Orban, Hungary’s prime minister, has long opposed these sanctions and noted last week on Facebook that these sanctions did not “fulfill the hopes attached to them, the war [in Ukraine] did not end. Europe is slowly bleeding, and Russia is making good money in the meantime.”

“It is clear that the failed Brussels sanctions policy must be changed,” he said. (See [“HUNGARY REFUSES TO AGREE TO BAN RUSSIAN OIL”](#) 17 May 2022, [“EU COUNTRIES CAN’T SURVIVE WITHOUT RUSSIAN OIL, FISSURES EMERGE”](#) 31 May 2022 and [“HUNGARY CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE: ‘IT’S THE ECONOMY, STUPID’](#) 28 June 2022.)

Vulin said these sanctions are not the eighth package against Russia, “but the first sanctions package against Serbia.” He used these sanctions as an example why it is, at times, politically expedient to be a country that is politically and militarily neutral. He said otherwise you let countries with “[psychological] complexities” lead the way, the report said.

***TRENDPOST:*** Russian President Vladimir Putin believes the Western alliance will begin to fracture as the winter months drag on and economies suffer and Europeans are huddled in their dark, cold, homes and decide to demand an end to Russian sanctions and immediate negotiations in Kyiv.

*President Joe Biden said last week that he does not know Putin’s “off ramp.” That is his off ramp. When Paris, Rome, and Berlin face massive protests due an economic*

*catastrophe, Kyiv will be forced to work out a deal with Russia that includes demilitarization, assurances that it will not join NATO, and cede the four regions that voted for annexation in the Donbas.*

*While the **Trends Journal** has been opposed to Russia's invasion, we understand why they launched the war and wrote about its beginning in our Spring 2014 **Trends Journal** when the United States overthrew the democratically elected government of Viktor Yanukovich. (See ["Washington is Driving the World to the Final War."](#))*

*And we maintain our forecast that if not assassinated—or minus a nuclear strike or major false flag event—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will lose support from the West and will have to negotiate a peace deal with Russia.*

## **U.S. UKRAINE ASSASSINATED MAJOR PUTIN SUPPORTER'S DAUGHTER**



*The New York Times*, citing intelligence sources, published a report last week detailing that Ukrainian authorities were behind the car bomb that resulted in the death of the daughter of a top supporter of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The young woman died in a blast likely intended for her father.

The *Times* said the revelations are a far cry from Ukraine's initial rejection of the allegations. Ukraine initially said, "We are not a criminal state like the Russian Federation, much less a terrorist one."

The car bombing took place in August near Moscow and killed Darya Dugina, 29. The findings indicate that a remote-controlled explosive device evidently latched on to her SUV.

The Associated Press reported that the vehicle blew up while she was driving outside Moscow. She was likely killed instantly.

Washington denied any role in the killing and expressed concern that her death could spark a wider conflict. (See [“RUSSIAN NEWS OUTLET WARNS OF WWII, WESTERN MEDIA CALLS IT ‘PROPAGANDA’”](#) 7 Jun 2022, [“PUTIN SENDS STERN WARNING TO THE WEST, VOWS TO KEEP UP FIGHT IN UKRAINE”](#) 27 Sep 2022 and [“RUSSIA WINNING UKRAINE WAR, STILL NO TALK OF PEACE FROM ZELENSKY”](#) 9 Aug 2022.)

The widely accepted theory is that the bomb was intended for her father, Alexander Dugin, a political theorist and major supporter of the Ukraine invasion and Putin. Her father reportedly decided to travel in another vehicle just before the blast. Russia’s security services said at the time that the assassination was “prepared and perpetrated by the Ukrainian special services.”

Ukraine continues to deny any role in the killing.

Mykhailo Podolyak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s top adviser, told the paper that “murder during wartime in some country or another must carry with it some kind of practical significance.”

“We have other targets on the territory of Ukraine,” he said. “I mean collaborationists and representatives of the Russian command, who might have value for members of our special services working in this program, but certainly not Dugina.”

The *Times* report said the risks that come with the assassination is that Russia could retaliate against Ukrainian leaders. Washington has been frustrated for a while due to the lack of transparency from Ukraine.

***TRENDPOST:*** *WSWS noted that three days before Dugina’s assassination on 20 August, The New York Times ran an article titled, “Behind Enemy Lines, Ukrainians Tell Russians: ‘You Are Never Safe’.*

*The article goes on to lay out how Ukrainians use the cover of night to fasten these explosives to cars, and how they wrap the explosives with tape inside a wheel well, with the sticky side facing outward. The bomb is positioned in a way that an explosion will occur when the wheel is turned. These attacks are commonly overseen by special forces from the Ukrainian military. The report noted that U.S. intelligence was fully aware of these actions.*

*WSWS raised the theory that U.S. intelligence leaked their supposed outrage over the Dugina killing to put some daylight between Washington and Kyiv if it turns out that Ukraine has ties to the attacks on the Nord Stream pipelines.*

*The Times' report, once again, noted that Ukraine has not been forthcoming to the U.S. about its next move. In June, the Times, citing current and former U.S. officials, noted that American intelligence agencies have "less information than they would like about Ukraine's operations and possess a far better picture of Russia's military."*

*Beth Sanner, a former senior intelligence official, told the paper: "How much do we really know about how Ukraine is doing?"*

*"Can you find a person who will tell you with confidence how many troops has Ukraine lost, how many pieces of equipment has Ukraine lost?" she asked.*

*The **Trends Journal** has pointed out since the beginning of the conflict that it was nearly impossible to find the number of casualties suffered by Ukrainian troops in Google searches. But if you were interested in finding out Russia's war dead, there were dozens of article links.*

*It is widely known that the U.S. has a better understanding about Russia's military's condition than Ukraine's. Even Avril D. Haines, the director of national intelligence, told the Senate in May: "We have, in fact, more insight, probably, on the Russian side than we do on the Ukrainian side."*

*Stephen Biddle, a professor of international affairs at Columbia University, told the paper, "I'm not sure it's in the interest of the American public or Ukrainian public to*

*have Ukrainians be upfront about their losses if the result is it strengthens the Russian war effort. But that means we don't really know both sides of the story."*

## **IF ONLY WOMEN WERE IN CHARGE! GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER URGES WIDER WAR WITH RUSSIA, ESSENTIALLY ASSURING NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION**



There is a constant mainstream media line that “If only women were in charge, there would be no war. Forgetting about the long list of women warmongers including Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, Hitlerly Clinton, Samantha Power, Susan Rice, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, and the war mongering lady now leading the war

charge is the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.

But the Ukraine War has continued to show that most politicians become war hawks when they achieve a certain level of power, regardless of their sex, creed or color.

Last week, Christine Lambrecht, the German Defense Minister, became the latest example of how warmongering has become the standard in the West during a visit to Lithuania, which has been provoking Russia with restrictions on trade in Kaliningrad, Russia’s only access to the Baltic Sea. (See [“TINY LITHUANIA RAMPS UP MILITARY SPENDING.”](#) 28 Jun 2022).

Lambrecht said NATO needs to bolster its forces and defense capabilities due to the rising threat from Russia. She made her comments while visiting German troops stationed in the country, which borders Russia.

“One thing is certain: the current situation means we need to do more together,” she said. Lambrecht continued, “The brutal war of aggression in Ukraine is getting more

and more brutal and unscrupulous... Russia's threat of nuclear weapons shows that Russian authorities have no scruples.”

Lambrecht said, "The fact is that we, NATO, must do more for our common security because we cannot know how far Putin's delusions of grandeur can go."

***TREND FORECAST:*** *European leaders are going to have to increase the level of anti-Russian propaganda to keep their citizens willing to face a self-imposed energy crisis as many countries enter a long, cold winter. Like Lambrecht, these leaders will have to sell the Ukraine War as far more than a centuries-old border conflict between the two countries. They will need to insist that the existence of Europe is on the line.*

*Hermann Wilhelm Göring, Adolf Hitler's close associate, once said in an interview before killing himself that it is easy to get a population to embrace war.*

*“People can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders,” he said. “That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country.”*

## **More War Talk**

Gitanas Nausėda, Lithuania's president, said the West needs to build up its deterrence systems in order to prevent Moscow from expanding the conflict.

Lithuania, a tiny nation with a population of 2.7 million—half the size of South Carolina. The country hopes to be able to host more NATO troops in the future. Its current infrastructure cannot accommodate an entire NATO brigade, which is up to 5,000 soldiers. The country hopes to correct the issue by 2027.

Lithuania, officially the Republic of Lithuania, is a country in the Baltic region of Europe that shares a border with Russia. There have been tensions between Moscow and Vilnius over Lithuania's move to ban transit of goods between Russia and Kaliningrad, which is Russia's only access to the Baltic Sea.



Andrey Gurulyov, a parliament member of Russia and a Putin supporter, voiced his anger over the move.

"We'll destroy the entire group of enemy space satellites during the first air operation," he said. "The first to be hit will be London. It's crystal clear that the threat to the world comes from the Anglo-Saxons."

Lambrecht said the West is aware of Russia's threats to the country and the world should take these threats seriously.

**TRENDPOST:** *We have reported that Germany has perhaps made the most significant about-face when it comes to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Berlin was first accused of going too soft on Moscow, but has since taken a more aggressive stance. (See [“GERMANY JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST RUSSIA: ‘OPERATION BARBAROSSA 2.0?’” 24 May 2022](#), [“HEIL GERMANY AS IT RAMPS UP WAR MACHINE TO BE EU’S TOP FORCE” 28 Jun 2022](#) and [“PLACE YOUR BETS: CHANCELLOR SCHOLZ SAYS RUSSIA WILL LOSE UKRAINE WAR” 31 May 2022](#).)*

Chancellor Olaf Scholz told the World Economic Forum in Davos in May that Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to invade its much-smaller neighbor was dangerous.

"We cannot allow Putin to win this war. It is a matter of making it clear to Putin that there will be no dictated peace—Ukraine will not accept that and neither will we," he said.

**TRENDPOST:** *Again, male or female, politicians have been pushing for more war with Russia. We noted in June that Claudia Roth, Germany's female cultural minister, visited Ukraine's Odessa after an invite from Oleksandr Tkachenko, her Ukrainian counterpart. She held up stamps at the time showing a Ukrainian soldier gesturing to Russia's Black Sea fleet. The stamps commemorated the sinking of Russia's Black Sea flagship Moskva. One Ukrainian soldier was holding up his middle finger.*

*"This is Russia," Roth said, holding up one of the stamps, "and this is 'f-k you.'"*

*The New York Post pointed out that she attempted to edit her comment and clarified, “F–k you, ship.”*

*This rhetoric has done nothing to ease tensions and just adds more fuel to the fire.*

*Indeed, Vladimir Solovyov, a presenter on Russia-1, who is called Putin’s mouthpiece, lashed out at Germany for her comments.*

*“What are we to do now?” he asked. “Are we to once again shake the dust off Teutonic graves with the powerful march of Soviet boots? Otherwise, they will never understand?”*

## **WHITE HOUSE GAVE PUBLIC GREEN LIGHT TO UKRAINE TO BOMB CRIMEA BRIDGE, DID BRITAIN PLOT ATTACK?**



The White House signaled publicly to Ukraine that targets in Crimea are fair game just before the bombing of the Kerch Bridge, which connects mainland Russia with the peninsula and used as an important supply route for Russian troops.

While the U.S. media uses Kyiv as an unbiased source in its war reporting, it treats any statements by Russia as pure Kremlin propaganda, even when it comes to something so obvious as the bridge bombing that was essentially encouraged by the U.S. and Western countries.

*The Grayzone*, an investigative news website, reported that it obtained an April 2022 presentation that showed British intelligence drew up plans on how the bridge could be taken out. The website noted that the truck bombing was different from the strategy laid out in the British plans.

The **Trends Journal** noted that former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson – at about the same time these plans were being drawn up—torpedoed the idea that Kyiv should negotiate with the Kremlin. (The website posted a PDF of the documents [here.](#))

The report of the British plan was not all that surprising given how U.S. officials spoke about the bridge.

WSWS.org noted that Philip Breedlove, the U.S. general who was NATO's former supreme allied commander in Europe, called the Kerch bridge a "legitimate target."

He was quoted in *The Times of London* in July saying, "Several people I have spoken to say 'dropping' [destroying] Kerch bridge would be a huge blow to Russia. Kerch bridge is a legitimate target."

The report noted that Breedlove is a trained civil engineer and he said all bridges have their weak points. He said it would require a "more dedicated bombing operation" to take down this particular bridge.

He said he does not understand the argument against its bombing.

The website noted that five days before the attack on the bridge, Laura K. Cooper, the deputy assistant secretary of defense, was asked if Kyiv assured the U.S. that it would not target infrastructure inside Russia. She said it is important to recognize that "Crimea is Ukraine."

Three people died in the blast on the bridge that was built in 2018. The massive explosion collapsed three sections of the bridge that spans 12 miles of water.

The Western media embraced the bridge bombing as though it was another major setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin, who days later approved airstrikes in about a dozen Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv.

Ukraine did not claim responsibility for the bridge bombing. Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, took to Twitter after the explosion,

“Crimea, the bridge, the beginning. Everything illegal must be destroyed, everything stolen must be returned to Ukraine, everything occupied by Russia must be expelled.”

Alexander Vindman, the former director for European Affairs for the U.S.’s National Security Council, tweeted a photo of the bridge engulfed in flames and posted, “I’ve been dreaming of this moment.”

***TRENDPOST:*** *Gerald Celente has long said that we are led by mentally deranged people who want war with Russia. Vindman is an example of the people we have at the top reaches of our security apparatus. In August, he traveled to Ukraine because he thought he could help the country. The Hill noted that he fled Soviet-era Ukraine when he was three years old with his family.*

*“This war is the most important geopolitical event of the last 20 & maybe the next 20 years. It’s largely out of the consciousness of the U.S. public & that’s dangerous. Our politicians should know that we still care about what happens in Ukraine. I’m doing media to remind us,” he said, basically admitting to working directly with Ukraine to spread propaganda.*

*Vindman represents the overt hatred for Russian President Vladimir Putin that is leading U.S. and NATO war policy, and that puts all of us at risk for nuclear annihilation. Indeed, as we have long forecast, WWII has begun.*

## FEATURED GUEST ARTICLES



### IS TECHNOLOGY STEALING YOUR EYESIGHT?

by [Dr. Joseph Mercola](#)

*An epidemic of myopia, or nearsightedness, is occurring at younger ages. Too much screen time and not enough time outdoors have been pinpointed as the likely culprits.*

#### STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- The way technology has infiltrated our lives, in many cases from morning until well into the night, has dramatically changed the way humans use their eyes in just a short blip of time
- The prevalence of myopia (nearsightedness) has increased in recent decades, especially in East Asia, and the numbers are expected to get worse in the next 50 years



- For some populations in Asia, especially university students, myopia prevalence is over 90 percent. When a person is nearsighted, their eyeballs become elongated, an anatomical change that's irreversible and increases the risk of serious vision problems, including blindness
- Home confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with worsening myopia in children. No treatments are capable of curing myopia; prevention is a better option, and spending more time outdoors—and far less time on screens—is key, especially for children

Myopia, or nearsightedness, causes faraway objects to appear blurry while close-up objects look clear. (1) One of the greatest risk factors for myopia is having a parent who also suffers from this vision problem. As such, it's long been considered a primarily genetic condition—until recently.

Speaking with *The Atlantic*, Dr. Marina Su, a New York City optometrist, noticed that more children in her practice had declining vision, even though their parents' vision was perfect. “If it's only genetics, then why (2) are these kids also getting myopic?” she said. Myopia is on the rise worldwide—not just in New York City — and there's debate over what's driving the change.

A frontrunner is the theory that technology—particularly staring at screens all day—is the culprit, leading to problems with vision at younger and younger ages, which could lead to “an epidemic of blindness that's decades down the road,” according to Dr. Michael Repka, an ophthalmology professor at Johns Hopkins University. (3)

## **An Epidemic of Myopia**

The prevalence of myopia has increased in recent decades, especially in East Asia, and the numbers are expected to get worse in the next 50 years. In 2019, the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) established the Task Force on Myopia to address the “substantial global increases in myopia prevalence (4) and its associated complications.”

In a report from the Task Force, it's stated that the prevalence of myopia is expected to grow from 1,406 million people, or 22.9 percent of the population, in 2000 to 4,758 million people—49.8 percent of the population, in (5) 2050.

Severe nearsightedness, known as high myopia, is also expected to rise, from 163 million (6) people (2.7 percent of the population) in 2000 to 938 million people (9.8 percent of the population) in 2050. (7)

For some populations in Asia, especially university students, myopia prevalence is over 90 percent. Among young adults in East and Southeast Asia, 80 percent to 90 percent have myopia and 10 percent to 20 percent have high myopia. The tendency to study long hours and perform “near work” with the eyes has long been linked to poor (8 9) eyesight. According to *The Atlantic*:

*“Historically, British doctors have found myopia to be much more common among Oxford students than among military recruits, and in ‘more rigorous’ town schools than in rural ones. A late-19th-century ophthalmology handbook even suggested treating myopia with a change of air and avoidance of all work with the eyes—‘a sea voyage if possible.’”*

It's a concerning trend that goes far beyond the inconvenient need to wear glasses. The fact is, the way technology has infiltrated our lives, in many cases from morning until well into the night, has changed the way humans use their eyes dramatically in just a short blip of time.

“Long ago, humans were hunters and gatherers,” Liandra Jung, an optometrist in the Bay Area, told *The Atlantic*. “We relied on our sharp distance vision to track prey and find ripe fruit. Now our modern lives are (10) close-up and indoors. To get food, we forage by getting Uber Eats,” she said.

## **Progressive Myopia Carries Significant Risks**

The increasingly early onset of myopia in children, combined with high progression rates, paints a particularly poor picture for the future, which could easily lead to an “epidemic of high myopia” even in (11) children as young as 11

to 13 years of age. When a person is nearsighted, their eyeballs become elongated, an anatomical change that's irreversible and increases the risk of serious vision problems, especially later in life.

According to the AAO Task Force, by age 75, 3.8 percent of people with myopia and 39 percent of those with high (12) myopia have “uncorrectable visual impairment.” In other words, myopia increases the risk of conditions that can cause permanent blindness, including retinal detachment, cataracts and glaucoma, even when myopia is low to moderate severity. (13)

The AAO task force explained that the widespread clinical and societal impacts of increasing myopia (14) prevalence require a “coordinated global response,” particularly since the younger a person is at onset, the (15 16) faster progression tends to be. AAO added:

*“It is projected that uncorrectable visual impairment resulting from myopia will increase 7 to 13 times in high-risk areas by 2055. The public health burden posed by myopia extends beyond the direct costs associated with the optical correction of refractive error and includes the socioeconomic impacts and diminished quality of life associated with visual impairment.”*

In China, large-scale changes have been implemented to combat the growing trend of myopia in children. Along with restricting video games, no written tests are given before third grade, and metal bars have even (17) been added to school desks so children are forced to stay farther away from their schoolwork.

### **Screen Time, Lack of Outdoors to Blame?**

With the rate of technological development continuing to grow exponentially, it's unclear if anyone envisioned how society would become obsessed with staring at screens, such that our waking hours are dominated by them in one form or another.

Vision is suffering as a result. Writing in the journal *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research*, a team of experts identified intensive education (i.e., more studying)

and limited time outdoors as the major risk factors in the (18) epidemic of myopia. They wrote:

*“The localization of the epidemic appears to be due to the high educational pressures and limited time outdoors in the region, rather than to genetically elevated sensitivity to these factors.”*

Causality has been demonstrated in the case of time outdoors through randomized clinical trials in which increased time outdoors in schools has prevented the onset of myopia. In the case of educational pressures, evidence of causality comes from the high prevalence of myopia and high myopia in Jewish boys attending Orthodox schools in Israel compared to their sisters attending religious schools, and boys and girls attending secular schools.

Combining increased time outdoors in schools, to slow the onset of myopia, with clinical methods for slowing myopic progression, should lead to the control of this epidemic, which would otherwise pose a major health challenge. Reforms to the organization of school systems to reduce intense early competition for accelerated learning pathways may also be important.

AAO also stated, “Too much time spent indoors increases a child’s risk for nearsightedness. Studies show (19) that more time outdoors in natural light reduces a child’s risk.” Similarly, French researchers described (20) “outdoor activities” as one of the most promising treatments for myopia in children.

An alarming increase was further identified in myopia in children in 2020, when home lockdowns occurred, keeping an already nature-starved population indoors even more. One study found that home confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with worsening myopia in children. Myopia prevalence (21) among children aged 6 to 8 years increased 1.4 to three times in 2020 compared to the five years prior.

Another study, published in the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, described digital screen time during the COVID-19 pandemic as a “risk for a further myopia boom.” “Increased digital screen time, near work, and limited outdoor activities

were found to be associated with the onset and progression of myopia, and could potentially be aggravated during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak period,” they wrote in 2021. (22)

## **Moving Toward Myopia Control**

With nearsightedness worsening in young children, treatments aimed at myopia control, or myopia management, are becoming more popular. Myopia-control clinics have popped up in well-to-do areas throughout the U.S., and they’re also common in China. Myopia control aims to slow the rate of axial elongation that occurs in the disorder. (23)

Treatments include atropine eye drops, multifocal soft contact lenses and orthokeratology lenses (OrthoK), which are worn overnight. OrthoK are contact lenses that reshape the eyeball’s clear, front layer, changing (24) the way light enters the eye and helping to improve vision.

No treatments are capable of curing myopia, however; they’re only able to slow down its progression. Prevention is a better option, and spending more time outdoors—and far less time on screens—is key for that, especially in young children.

## **Blue Light Exposure From Screens Also Dangerous**

Technology is interfering with eyesight in multiple ways, not only because people are spending so much time focused on close-up screens but also because they’re being exposed to blue light in the process. Data presented at the 60th Annual European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology Meeting further revealed that longer exposure to blue light was associated with earlier onset of puberty in rats, along with reduced levels (25) of melatonin, increased levels of certain reproductive hormones and changes in the ovaries.

LEDs found in many screens have virtually no beneficial infrared light and an excess of blue light that generates reactive oxygen species (ROS), harming your vision and possibly leading to age-related macular (26) degeneration (AMD),



which is the leading cause of blindness among the elderly in the U.S. LED lights may also exacerbate mitochondrial dysfunction leading to chronic conditions ranging from metabolic disorders to cancer.

“Although not conclusive, we would advise that the use of blue light emitting devices should be minimized in prepubertal children, especially in the evening when exposure may have the most hormone-altering effects,” Dr. Aylin Kiliç Uğurlu said in a news release.

If you view screens at night, it's therefore essential to block your exposure to blue light while doing so. In the case of your computer, you can install a program to automatically lower the color temperature of your screen. In addition, when watching TV or other screens, be sure to wear blue-blocking glasses after sundown. Better yet, eliminate the use of screens entirely after sunset, particularly in young children who are most susceptible to their deleterious effects.

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## THE RULE OF POWER

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

Last week PayPal, an online service for making and receiving payments, announced that at [PayPal's "sole discretion" \\$2,500 would be seized](#) from accounts of those PayPal decided were guilty of spreading misinformation.

["Misinformation"](#) is whatever some speech control office at PayPal doesn't like or dissent from official narratives. In other words, PayPal announced a policy of thought control as described in George Orwell's *1984*.

Moreover, \$2,500 would be seized for each bit of misinformation, apparently even for errors resulting from being misinformed or from misunderstanding. If an account holder spreads misinformation twice, \$5,000 is seized; ten bits of misinformation costs the account holder \$25,000.

Since the definition of misinformation is at PayPal's sole discretion, it wouldn't be long before PayPal, faced with missing its quarterly expected profits, would jack up its earnings by seizing people's accounts.

It is unclear how a person spreads “misinformation” on a payments mechanism. Does it mean that “spreading misinformation” means donating to an organization that challenges official narratives? Does it mean that PayPal would have an army of employees watching social media comments of account holders and reading their emails?

The first seizure was in England where the robbed account was that of the Free Speech Union. It caused an uproar and protests from Members of Parliament and PayPal’s former president, and a couple of days later [PayPal said that PayPal’s announcement](#) that it was going to seize money from customers’ accounts for spreading misinformation was itself misinformation.

Think about this for a moment. If PayPal can seize \$2,500 from your account because some woke freak in PayPal’s Thought Control Police Force finds your opinion “offensive,” so can your bank, your 401k, your IRA, your investment account.

Your credit card company can bill you \$2,500 for each disapproved statement and turn your account over to bill collectors when you don’t pay.

Maybe your car and house will be seized. Once central banks impose digital money on their insouciant populations, people can be robbed at will by every approved party for every imaginable offense.

## **A Fish Rots From the Head**

Where did PayPal get the idea that it can seize the money of people whose statements it disapproves? Obviously, they got it from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has seized people’s property because the property “facilitated a crime,” which means that a crime took place on the property by someone, not necessarily the owner (*The Tyranny of Good Intentions* by Paul Craig Roberts).

The U.S. government seized Venezuela’s gold because it disapproved of Venezuela’s politics. The U.S. government seized Russia’s central bank reserves when Russia intervened in Ukraine to protect the Russian population of former Russian territory.

U.S. lawmakers [want to punish Saudi Arabia](#) for tending to its own interest instead of Washington's.

The California government [wants to steal the medical licenses of doctors](#) who ignored medical protocols designed to serve Big Pharma's profits and instead saved their patients' lives.

It should be obvious that Western Civilization no longer exists. A civilization is defined by its values, such as free speech, and when those values are no longer honored, the civilization no longer exists.

Think about what the U.S. government has done to Julian Assange. His decade-long incarceration in the absence of charges, trial, and conviction violates all legal principles that comprise our constitutional protections from arbitrary and unjust treatment by government. It shows how far gone we are that Assange's illegal and unconstitutional treatment continues year after year and produces no outrage from Congress, media, law schools, bar organizations, courts, or the American population.

The official narrative is that he is a Russian spy and we have to get him at all cost, including the establishment of precedents that destroy our security from arbitrary and ruthless oppression. The assertion that Assange is a Russian spy is an intentional lie, and for the sake of supporting a lie we are depriving ourselves of our constitutional protections.

The U.S. government's policy of seizing whoever's property it wants to seize is spreading worldwide. If the home of democracy and the rule of law can arbitrarily do as it likes, so can the [South African government which says it is considering seizing the farms of white people without compensation](#).

In other words, there is no longer a rule of law. There is a rule of power.

The rule of power is what Putin, Xi, Maduro, and the American and European peoples are up against, and they seem very slow to realize it.

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# TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



by *Joe Doran*

## BIDEN ADMINISTRATION SUBVERTS CONSTITUTION WITH “AI BILL OF RIGHTS”

This past week the Biden Administration issued a [“Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights.”](#) setting out a legal framework for how AI should be developed.

Unfortunately, the blueprint represents a tech-focused assault on the actual Bill of Rights. Remember—that one so important to the Founders, they refused to adopt the rest of the Constitution without it?

Predictably, the Biden “Blueprint” reads like a woke manifesto, advocating for protocols that assume and/or instill certain political objectives and viewpoints, while banning others.

Under the rubric of protecting civil rights and preventing racial, gender and ethnic biases, the guidelines effectively direct companies to build tech guardrails that discriminate against and bar Constitutionally protected freedoms of expression, rights of association, religious and conscientious beliefs, and even hard science.

“It's a technical plan to bring principles into practice,” a White House spokesperson said, according to NextGov, a web platform that reports tech news and serves as a conduit for government agencies and tech companies. “This blueprint provides examples and concrete steps for technologists, companies, governments, civil society and communities to take in order to build these key civil rights protections into policy practice or technological design.”

The blueprint lists a series of “rights” to be built into apps to protect users.

Some general areas include ensuring “Safe and Effective Systems” and “Data Privacy.”

The document repetitively names tropes of safety and equity to establish boundaries in the design of automated systems including AI, but also “less sophisticated” technology.

Of course, safety, “misinformation” and equity are loaded terms that have been weaponized to suppress the rights of Americans to politically advocate for rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

“Data Privacy,” of course, is a sad joke that means virtually nothing to a government comprehensively exposed by Edward Snowden a decade ago, that literally buys citizen data from brokers and sifts through info without warrant or cause. (See [“FBI DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE ABUSE: NO WARRANT, NO PROBLEM.”](#) [“COVID ZEALOTS TAKE A U-TURN ON BIG TECH TRACKING.”](#) and [“DHS PARTNERING WITH SOCIAL NETWORKS ON CITIZEN SNOOPING”](#)).

Data privacy also means nothing to tech corporations whose business models have been predicated on granularly tracking and exploiting user data, and the Biden AI blueprint recommends little of any substance to change that.

## Prohibitions on Government vs. Prohibitions on Free Citizens

Under a section titled “Algorithmic Discrimination Protections,” the blueprint [says](#) in part:

*“You should not face discrimination by algorithms and systems should be used and designed in an equitable way. Algorithmic discrimination occurs when automated systems contribute to unjustified different treatment or impacts disfavoring people based on their race, color, ethnicity, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions, gender identity, intersex status, and sexual orientation), religion, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or any other classification protected by law...”*

Prohibiting private entities and persons from engaging in “discrimination” has been the cudgel used to progressively destroy Constitutionally protected freedoms of Americans in the modern era.

Original Constitutional prohibitions on discriminations were directed toward limiting government and ensuring it treated Americans equally. Its constraints on discrimination did not apply to citizens and private entities.

Private entities like religions, for example, by definition discriminate and advocate for a given set of beliefs, modes of behavior, and associations.

Private citizens and entities cannot exercise the essential freedoms that same Constitution guarantees not to interfere with, if they are not allowed to believe, follow, associate with, speak their mind about, and pursue their own preferred ideals and conceptions of happiness.

### **“Safety” Used to Decimate Freedom Yet Again**

The expansive prohibitions of the Biden blueprint effectively allow corporations allied with government actors to control and suppress virtually any political or cultural forces that threaten their power and hegemony.

The AI blueprint states that its proscriptions are voluntary. According to NextGov, “Entities like private and public organizations, as well as individual users, are asked to abide by the guidelines at their own discretion.”

But there’s little doubt that companies that don’t comply are likely to face blowback and legal jeopardy.

Examples of politicization surrounding the kind of proscriptions in the Biden AI blueprint abound, including in recent stories:

- Medical Organizations asking the Justice Department to prosecute people speaking out against medical providers profiting from gender reassignment surgeries being performed on minors
- The FBI, Justice Department and other authorities virtually ignoring dozens of incidents of violence against pro-life pregnancy centers, churches, and persons
- More [legal battles](#) for a Colorado baker who won a Supreme Court victory for the right to decline to bake a cake celebrating a gay wedding; this time time for declining to bake a cake celebrating a “gender transition”
- Vilifying Americans who oppose illegal immigration (ie. immigration which flouts applicable federal laws) as racist xenophobes
- Castigating those opposed to America fueling the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as Russian stooges and propagandists deserving of deplatforming and silencing

The case of three medical associations proselytizing for silencing opposition to surgeries that remove physically healthy and functioning body parts from children, in the news this past week, is a ready example.

According to the [Daily Citizen](#) and others, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the Children’s Hospital Association asked the Justice Department “to investigate the organizations, individuals, and entities coordinating, provoking, and carrying out bomb threats and threats of personal violence against children’s hospitals and physicians across the U.S.”

The letter is plainly aimed at intimidating anyone speaking out against the surgeries on minors.

The same medical organizations are also enlisting social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to censor opposition to the surgeries.

The Human Rights Campaign, the biggest LGBTQ+ organization in the nation, which backed the letter by medical groups, illustrated the way smears regarding inciting violence are being used to shut down opposition:

“What starts with a post or a tweet quickly spirals into bomb threats, harassing phone calls, death threats and more, and the pace of it has been relentless,” Jay Brown, one of the group’s higher-ups, tried to justify the political suppression.

In 2021, The Justice Department and FBI received blowback when they tried similar tactics to intimidate parents speaking out at PTA meetings against radical school curricula including CRT (Critical Race Theory).

These are the kinds of “safety” limits being baked into AI powered tech apps and creative tools.

### **What the Blueprint Doesn’t Address: Viewpoint Diversity And The Singularity Quest**

There are several dangers the Biden AI blueprint doesn’t seem overly concerned with, including threats to Viewpoint Diversity, and the prospect of AI ascendance.

The intro to the blueprint lists a number of dangers that automation technologies present to American rights. But the document assiduously avoids delving into the viewpoint and political bans that many dissident voices have been subject to by the algorithms and biases of tech companies.

The intro states:

*“Among the great challenges posed to democracy today is the use of technology, data, and automated systems in ways that threaten the rights of the American public. Too often, these tools are used to limit our opportunities and prevent our access to critical resources or services. In America and around the world, systems supposed to help with patient care have proven unsafe, ineffective, or biased. Algorithms used in hiring and credit decisions have been found to reflect and reproduce existing unwanted inequities or embed new harmful bias and discrimination. Unchecked social media data collection has been used to threaten people’s opportunities, undermine their privacy, or pervasively track their activity—often without their knowledge or consent.”*

Nowhere is the acknowledgement that Federal and even state governments are increasingly colluding with and directing corporations to leverage automation technology to undermine rights of political expression of Americans.

Algorithms suppressed dissent over COVID policies including lockdowns and shuttering of “non-essential” businesses. They were used to deplatform and destroy opposition to COVID “vaccine” mandates (“vaccine” being in quotes, because the controversial mRNA gene level therapies marketed as vaccines are significantly different than traditional vaccines).

Algorithms are currently being used to censor opposition to American and NATO fueling of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The Biden blueprint is similarly unconcerned with clearly identifying, or outlining how to prevent the potential for fast evolving AI systems to outstrip human abilities—and human control.

Many involved in building AI systems openly advocate and anticipate an AI “Singularity” moment (when AI surpasses human capability in virtually every respect) as either an inevitability that must be accepted, or an explicit goal worthy of pursuing.

The dangers are enormous, as even those furthering and enormously profiting from AI capabilities, like Elon Musk, have warned.



But those potential dangers to every American, and indeed every human being on earth, didn't make the cut for Biden's AI blueprint.

In all, the "Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights" is a political document, not a true framework for ensuring that automation technologies benefit American citizens in the widest possible way, in terms of enlarging political, creative, financial or other freedoms.

The **Trends Journal** has detailed the Biden Administration playbook for using "Dangerous Disinformation" as a tool to crush political opposition, and covered the emerging uses and dangers of AI in many articles, including:

- ["THE AI LEGISLATOR YOU DIDN'T VOTE FOR"](#) (23 Aug 2022)
- ["WAR, PROFIT AND TRANSHUMANISM: THE QUEST FOR THE 'SECOND QUANTUM REVOLUTION'"](#) (15 Mar 2022)
- ["SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE"](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- ["METAVERSE: THE NEW COLLECTIVE"](#) (14 Dec 2021)
- ["CANCELED IN THE METAVERSE"](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- ["THE FUTURE: MORE TECH NIGHTMARE THAN NIRVANA?"](#) (20 Apr 2021)
- ["'DANGEROUS DISINFORMATION' LABEL BEING USED TO GUT FUNDAMENTAL FREE SPEECH RIGHTS"](#) (4 Apr 2022)
- ["U.S.S.A. IF YOU DON'T OBEY THE GOVERNMENT, YOU ARE A DOMESTIC TERRORIST"](#) (18 Jan 2022)
- ["GOVERNMENT: FREE SPEECH IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH"](#) (21 Sep 2021)
- ["FBI: THE POLITICIZED POLICE UNDERMINING AMERICA"](#) (2 Nov 2021)
- ["FBI ENCOURAGES SNITCHING ON 'EXTREMIST' FAMILY MEMBERS"](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- ["FBI USES 'DOMESTIC TERRORISM' LABEL TO TARGET POLITICAL DISSENT"](#) (4 May 2021)

## RADICAL AMERICANS FUNDING LONDON “JUST STOP OIL” PROTEST



Will their bank accounts and crypto accounts be shut down?

This past week saw chaos in London, as a radical group called “Just Stop Oil” formed human blockades across major city streets, glued themselves to police vehicles, and were even dragged to the curb by angry

motorists.

The group has promised to block roads in Westminster every day in October, according to *The Daily Mail*. The paper reported that protests so far have been taking place every day since the beginning of the month, including blockades around Parliament Square, Waterloo Bridge and Trafalgar Square.

And the chaos is being funded by the Los Angeles-based Climate Emergency Fund (CEF).

The connection was revealed back in April, when the group made news for disruptive activities.

*The Guardian* newspaper, which gave the group [sympathetic coverage](#) at the time, revealed that America based CEF has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Just Stop Oil.

CEF executive director Margaret Klein Salamon acknowledged “We're their leading institutional funder...I believe that at this time, their sole institutional funder.”

The latest blockades and chaos caused by the groups isn't being received quite as kindly by at least some in the press, or on the streets of London.

Perhaps that's because of recent events surrounding the Russian-Ukraine conflict and NATO war baiting that have driven up the price of energy, helped crash world currencies including the British pound, contributed to skyrocketing general inflation, and made many Europeans afraid they might freeze over the winter.

Either that, or be consumed by an escalation of war threatening to go nuclear.

## **A “Next Stage” Climate Army, American Funded, Being Exported Around The Globe**

Activists in 25 nations, including the U.K., U.S., Australia, Canada, France, Germany, and Switzerland, have received \$1.7 million in funding from CEF in 2022, according to the *Guardian* April report.

Extinction Rebellion, one group known for extreme protests, has received about \$200,000 from the fund. They've also been active in October eco protests, according to the *Daily Mail*, via an offshoot called Animal Rebellion, which describes its activities as a “mass movement using non-violent civil disobedience to call for a just, sustainable plant-based food system.”

Salaman lauded Just Stop Oil for their extreme, highly coordinated protest methods, the *Guardian* noted. “A lot of groups we fund use civil disobedience and high stakes civil disobedience. But Just Stop Oil to me is the next stage, the next evolution of climate campaigning, in that they really seem to me to be operating as a nonviolent army with that level of discipline, planning, coordination.”

So, will the British or American government employ protest-busting shutdowns of funding of Just Stop Oil and CEF, and arrests of leaders of the groups?

Those were the tactics used to shut down the Canadian Truckers Convoy Protest against vaccines early this year.

In that case, as the **Trends Journal** detailed at the time, American authorities coordinated with the Canadian government to cut off funding to the truckers, jail leaders, and declare an unprecedented national emergency—all to implement

unprecedented experimental mRNA and DNA gene level therapies deceptively marketed as “vaccines.”

Also part of the CEF funding agenda? DeGrowth. The April *Guardian* article quoted Salaman referencing funding Scientists Rebellion, a group that she acknowledged explicitly calls for Economic DeGrowth.

For related reading, see:

- [“FROM COVID WAR TO CARBON WAR: THE THINLY DISGUISED GOAL OF SMART CITIES”](#) (27 Sep 2022)
- [“WEF TEAMS UP WITH TED TALKS TO PUSH DEGROWTH AGENDA”](#) (13 Sep 2022)
- [“ELITES: THE REST OF YOU ARE AN INVASIVE SPECIES”](#) (23 Aug 2022)
- [“GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS READY TO LAY WASTE TO GREENLAND”](#) (16 Aug 2022)
- [“GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS UPDATE: INVESTIGATING THE ‘CLIMATE CARTEL’”](#) (19 Jul 2022)
- [“THE FARMERS SHRUG: EURO PROTESTS SPREAD”](#) (12 Jul 2022)
- [“DUTCH FARMERS DEMONSTRATE TO SHOW CLIMATE AGENDA IS A LOAD OF CRAP”](#) (5 Jul 2022)
- [“DON’T CALL IT DRAGFLATION, IT’S ‘DEGROWTH’ SAYS WEF”](#) (21 Jun 2022)
- [“O CANADA: GOVERNMENTS UNLEASH NEW REIGN OF ‘TERROR’”](#) (22 Feb 2022)
- [“TRUCKER’S FREEDOM CONVOY, MEGATREND TROUNCED BY PRESSTITUTES AND POLITICIANS”](#) (8 Feb 2022)

## FIRST AMENDMENT SHOWDOWN: MISSOURI VS BIDEN



The case is Missouri vs. Biden.

It could bring the trampling of American free speech rights by the Federal government centerstage, if there's still any honesty or integrity left in American jurisprudence.

But that's a very open question.

The case got a boost this week, via an amended complaint that adds more government agencies to a list that colluded with tech companies to censor defendants, many of them public figures.

The case also added 41 defendants to the suit, bringing the total to 54, as reported by *The Epoch Times*.

The suit argues that supposedly private entities lost their status when they were directed by, and coordinated with government agencies and figures to censor the free speech of the parties named.

But the suit is a proxy for a much broader use by the government to censor opinions regarding the COVID War, and more recently, the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The legal filing, viewable [here](#), sets out persuasive allegations:

## SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

### NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. In 1783, George Washington warned that if “the Freedom of Speech may be taken away,” then “dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the Slaughter.” George Washington, *Address to the Officers of the Army* (March 15, 1783). The freedom of speech in the United States now faces one of its greatest assaults by federal government officials in the Nation’s history.

2. A private entity violates the First Amendment “if the government coerces or induces it to take action the government itself would not be permitted to do, such as censor expression of a lawful viewpoint.” *Biden v. Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia Univ.*, 141 S. Ct. 1220, 1226 (2021) (Thomas, J., concurring). “The government cannot accomplish through threats of adverse government action what the Constitution prohibits it from doing directly.” *Id.*

3. That is exactly what has occurred over the past several years, beginning with express and implied threats from government officials and culminating in the Biden Administration’s open and explicit censorship programs. Having threatened and cajoled social-media platforms for years to censor viewpoints and speakers disfavored by the Left, senior government officials in the

Some of the plaintiffs in the case include doctors censored for dissident opinions expressed regarding COVID War policies and medical treatments, including Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, and Dr. Martin Kulldorff.

The Attorney Generals of several states, including Erich S. Schmitt of Missouri and Jeffrey M. Landrey of Louisiana, are supporting the suit.

### **Government Voiding Of Bill Of Rights, Via Tech Proxies**

The case against the government is strong, if evidence is the criteria.

For example, White House senior COVID-19 adviser Andrew



Slavitt is named for calling on Twitter to ban journalist Alex Berenson (formerly of The New York Times) over supposed misinformation.

Slavitt also allegedly communicated with Facebook regarding censoring posts on that platform.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, perhaps the most prominent government official presiding during the COVID War, is named in the suit, for among other things, coordinating with Facebook at the highest levels to favor and promote official federal government COVID narratives.

Many Federal agencies and operatives are named in the suit, along with instances of censorship and big tech coordination, including the FDA, DHS, DHHS and the State Department.

The lawsuit identifies what the **Trends Journal** has long argued regarding the Biden administration using claims of “dangerous misinformation” to undercut the free speech and political rights of Americans:

201. Defendants, those acting in concert with them, and those allied with them routinely seek to justify overt censorship of disfavored speakers and viewpoints by wrapping it in the monikers “misinformation,” “disinformation,” and/or “malinformation.” Their standard tactic is to label speech that contradicts their preferred political narratives “misinformation,” “disinformation,” and “malinformation” to justify suppressing it. Other common buzzwords include calls for a “healthy information ecosystem,” “healthy information environment,” or “healthy news environment,” among others. This is the Orwellian vocabulary of censorship. It is deployed aggressively to undermine fundamental First Amendment rights.

202. As noted above, these labels have proven extremely unreliable. Defendants’ and the political Left’s ability to accurately identify “misinformation” and “disinformation” is unreliable because they apply such labels, not based on actual truth or falsity, but based on their current preferred political narrative. This has resulted, again and again, in the suppression of truthful information under the name of “disinformation” and “misinformation.”

The role of political bodies including Congress, as well as various federal agencies, in coercing and directing tech companies to engage in censorship, is a major feature of the lawsuit.

It alleges that government figures used section 230 of federal law as a key “carrot and stick” to gain tech company cooperation. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 gives immunity to online platforms from civil liability based on third-party content posted on the platforms.

495. As alleged further herein, Defendants have coerced, threatened, and pressured social-media platforms to censor disfavored speakers and viewpoints by using threats of adverse government action, including threats of increased regulation, antitrust enforcement or legislation, and repeal or amendment of Section 230 CDA immunity, among others.

496. As alleged further herein, Defendants also hold out the “carrot” of continued protection under Section 230 and antitrust law, and thus preserving the legally favored status of social-media platforms. Commentators have aptly summarized this carrot-stick dynamic: “Section 230 is the carrot, and there’s also a stick: Congressional Democrats have repeatedly made explicit threats to social-media giants if they failed to censor speech those lawmakers disfavored.” Vivek Ramaswamy and Jed Rubenfeld, *Save the Constitution from Big Tech: Congressional threats and inducements make Twitter and Facebook censorship a free-speech violation*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (Jan. 11, 2021). “Facebook and Twitter probably wouldn’t have become behemoths without Section 230.” *Id.* “Either Section 230 or congressional pressure alone might be sufficient

The **Trends Journal** has extensively called attention to the unconstitutional censorship measures and tactics of the Biden administration and federal government, in articles including:

- [“U.S. GOVERNMENT CROSSING THE CONSTITUTIONAL LINE”](#) (23 Feb 2021)
- [“CONGRESS PRESSURES BIG TECH TO CENSOR EVEN MORE”](#) (30 Mar 2021)
- [“DC ATTORNEY CIRCUMVENTING BAR ON GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE OF FREE SPEECH”](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- [“GOVERNMENT: FREE SPEECH IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH”](#) (21 Sep 2021)
- [“BIDEN PUSHES FOR MORE CENSORSHIP”](#) (20 Sep 2022)
- [“‘DANGEROUS DISINFORMATION’ LABEL BEING USED TO GUT FUNDAMENTAL FREE SPEECH RIGHTS”](#) (4 Apr 2022)
- [“U.S.S.A. IF YOU DON’T OBEY THE GOVERNMENT, YOU ARE A DOMESTIC TERRORIST”](#) (18 Jan 2022)

- [“U.S. SURGEON GENERAL GOES FULL COMMIE, TELLS TECH TO GIVE HIM NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN’T BUY GOVERNMENT’S COVID LINE”](#) (8 Mar 2022)
- [“‘DANGEROUS DISINFORMATION’ LABEL BEING USED TO GUT FUNDAMENTAL FREE SPEECH RIGHTS”](#) (5 Apr 2022)
- [“BIDEN’S PICK TO HEAD NEW DOMESTIC ‘DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD’: HOW LOW CAN YOU GO”](#) (3 May 2022)
- [“THE ‘DECLARATION’ TRASHING THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET”](#) (3 May 2022)

# TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



## BINANCE BLOCKCHAIN HACK FORCES NETWORK SHUTDOWN

The Binance blockchain, one of the largest in crypto by market cap, this past week dealt with one of the worst attempted exploits the crypto sector has seen yet.

A hacking effort managed to target what's called a "cross-chain" bridge utilized by the blockchain to transfer the BNB native token to and from other major blockchains like Bitcoin and Ethereum.

About 110 million was intercepted using the cross-chain bridge exploit, and whisked away by the hacker(s) to other networks, before the Binance technical team intervened by temporarily shutting down the BNB blockchain.

The shutdown, undertaken on early Friday morning 7 October, prevented at least 400 million more worth of tokens from being stolen.

Binance CEO Changpeng Zhao [acknowledged](#) the exploit on Twitter:

*“An exploit on a cross-chain bridge, BSC Token Hub, resulted in extra BNB. We have asked all validators to temporarily suspend BSC. The issue is contained now. Your funds are safe. We apologize for the inconvenience and will provide further updates accordingly.”*

Binance later declared that the network had restarted at 2:53 a.m. ET on Friday, theblock.co reported, and that the blockchain's validators had restarted their operations. Security experts and on-chain data determined the hack happened because of a bridge fault that made it possible for the attacker to fake security proofs.

According to security firm SlowMist, shutting down the network prevented an additional 430 million in BNB token value from being heisted off the chain.

BNB was trading at 284 dollars per token on Friday morning, down some 3.5 percent over a 24 hour span, though that was only somewhat underperforming compared with other top cryptos.

Bitcoin and Ether were both down about one percent on Friday morning.

## **Hacks, Collapses and Recession**

A startling crash of the stablecoin Terra / Luna in May spelled bad news for an already contracting crypto market.

The sector, which is still decidedly immature in terms of use cases, potential, and technology infrastructure, has seen declines in value in 2022 that significantly outstrip even a woeful stock market.

Other exploits, including problems with software wallets associated with the Solana blockchain, have served as sobering reminders that, along with crypto innovations have come crypto dangers.



A silver lining in the BNB hack was that the transparency of blockchain technology allowed observers to quickly spot the unusual attempt to transfer the huge amount of BNB tokens.

The Tether stablecoin blockchain (USDT) spotted the attempt to move BNB tokens into a USDT address, and quickly blacklisted that address, according to [cryptoslate.com](https://cryptoslate.com).

## BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



### **LIVE WEB3 BASED GAMING WILL TAKE CENTERSTAGE AT ESA ESPORTS ARENA IN ISTANBUL**

The Esports industry—also known as competitive video gaming—has grown exponentially over the past decade, including inclusion at many colleges.

Web3 game developers are hoping to develop the next wave of Esport interfaces and gaming, and an Istanbul showcase set for November will mark a significant launching pad.

W3E, the first-ever live Web3 esports competition, will inaugurate Istanbul Blockchain Week. The event, which will take place on November 17 at the ESA Esports Arena in the center of Istanbul, will also feature game demos, exclusive developer announcements, demo testing, and some rivalry action in one of the most well-known Web3 games in the world.

Damian Bartlett, the team's manager, and Thang Phan, a former FaZe Clan member and marketing strategist, run and direct W3E. They are both esports and gaming industry veterans and former professionals.

On the outskirts of the W3E Tournament, W3E will also have the first Web3 gaming exhibition in history. Attendees will have the chance to meet the development team, test out new Web3 games, and view emerging projects.

“I am incredibly excited to be leading the team putting on the first-ever live Web3 esports tournament, alongside the first Web3 games expo,” Erhan Korhaliller, founder and CEO of W3E and Istanbul Blockchain Week, said in an event press release. “Web3 gaming is the next leap forward in this revolutionary technology. Watching it mature over the past few years has been incredible, but 2022 feels like the inflection point. It is a privilege to have our contestants play EV.io, and I couldn’t be more proud to welcome the world to what will be a history-making event in this space.”

Chriss Scott, co-founder and game director of EV.io, added “We’re excited to be part of Istanbul Blockchain Week and contribute to a growing Web3 esports scene. We’re huge fans of W3E and support their initiatives in moving the needle forward.”

EV.io is a first-person shooter set in a succession of future venues. It currently ranks as the most played game on the Solana blockchain.

Designed to be an open platform for all gamers, the web3 based game offers some intriguing wrinkles in skills and weaponry like teleporting and impulse grenades. The game's fast-paced fighting style reportedly makes for an enjoyable gaming experience.

## **SHARJAH BECOMES FIRST REAL WORLD CITY IN THE METAVERSE**

The United Arab Emirates has marked a global first with a project that has brought the city to the metaverse.

Those behind the project say it will trailblaze in the area of virtual tourism and other commercial potentials.

The project, called Sharjahverse, a new kind of metaverse tourism for the Emirate of Sharjah, was undertaken by the city together with Multiverse Labs<sup>TM</sup> in collaboration with the Sharjah Commerce & Tourism Development Authority (SCTDA).

Nvidia Inception was also involved.

Built on the Multiverse Labs platform, Sharjahverse represents the first real city-scale metaverse with practical economic and social applications.

Sharjah is recognized as the cultural and historical center of the UAE.

Khalid Jasim Al Midfa, Chairman of the SCTDA, said via a press release:

*"Transforming the mass market tourism industry towards next-generation, sustainable practices requires a new way of thinking. Virtual tourism in Sharjahverse will provide unprecedented access to almost any location, personalized guest experiences and enhanced entertainment. Multiverse's groundbreaking and AI-driven approach will help push the limits of imagination and promote Sharjah as a destination of excellence."*

Virtually recreating a total area of 2,590 square kilometers (1,000 square miles), Sharjahverse is designed to promote the emirate to a wider audience, help the local tourism industry, and give locals the opportunity to work in the metaverse at some of Sharjah's most well-known attractions.

It is being touted as a photorealistic, physically correct metaverse that fosters large-scale innovation, business, and creativity while elevating the emirate as a premier travel destination.

The crypto sector is still struggling to build out use cases that will generate value beyond the speculative potential that has undergirded much of the investment so far.

*Bloomberg* [noted](#) in a May 2022 article that more cities were testing metaverse technologies, and said that by 2024, the industry could approach one trillion dollars in value.

Sharjahverse is significant because it may serve as a model for bringing value to the potentials of metaverse technologies.

## **MORE UPBEAT NEWS FOR COINBASE: PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT WITH GOOGLE**

Summer brought news that Black Rock, one of the world's largest investment firms, would integrate Coinbase crypto services for clients.

Now Coinbase has another massive player coming to the party: Google.

Google said it would rely on Coinbase to start allowing users to pay for cloud services using cryptocurrencies, beginning in 2023.

The agreement was revealed at Google's Cloud Next conference.

Conversely, Coinbase will utilize Google Cloud services for infrastructure needs.

The move, reported by CNBC, Yahoo and others, helps diversify Google, which is largely geared toward advertising in relation to its search engine, and services like YouTube.

Jim Migdal, vice president of business development at Coinbase, confirmed that Coinbase services which currently utilize Amazon Web Services cloud will be migrated to Google, as part of the new strategic partnership.

Coinbase, like most things crypto related, has undergone a steep devaluation in 2022—upwards of 70 percent, by some estimates, according to CNBC. But its stock reacted positively to the Google announcement, gaining about 8 percent on the day.

# TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



## FEDERAL COURT SINKS CRUISE LINE'S EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT VACCINE PASSPORT IN FLORIDA

Florida can keep enforcing its ban on businesses from requiring customers to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status in a closely watched legal fight that was seen as an important victory for Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings sued the state claiming that its ban on companies to require vaccine passports is unconstitutional. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision, turned down an earlier lower court ruling that said the state's ban infringed on the cruise line's First Amendment rights.

Chief Judge William Pryor wrote in the decision that, like any anti-discrimination statute, unvaccinated individuals are protected from businesses excluding them from the market.

“The statute prevents real harm, not some abstract economic impact,” he wrote in his decision. “Without this statute, unvaccinated Floridians risk being turned away from the businesses that make their lives possible—grocery stores, restaurants, fitness gyms, clothing stores, barber shops and hair salons, and even pharmacies.”

The court's ruling also noted that the statute that came under fire “only incidentally burdens speech,” while preventing the unvaccinated from facing discrimination.

The cruise line scored a legal victory in August 2021 when another court granted a preliminary injunction and allowed the cruise line to require vaccine documentation for its passengers.

Judge Robin Rosenbaum issued the court's dissent and cited the Commerce Clause that requires the court to “balance the local benefits a state’s law brings against the burdens that law imposes on interstate and foreign commerce.”

She said people who come down with COVID-19 are a greater drag on commerce because some are "confined to beds and hospitals or who are otherwise unable to work because of the lingering effects of COVID-19 and long COVID—not to mention those who die from the virus—cannot participate in commerce as they would if they were not infected."

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Trends Journal has reported extensively on how politicians used the COVID-19 outbreak to seize control over the public. Americans were told what businesses were “essential” and what businesses would be forced to close for the greater good. (See [“BIDEN PUSHING HARD FOR VACCINE PASSPORT”](#) 30 Mar 2021, [“VACCINE PASSPORT: THE NEW ABNORMAL”](#) 13 Apr 2021 and [“CHINESE WAY, YOU MUST OBEY: MUST GET VAX PASSPORT”](#) 13 Apr 2021.)*

*It is worth noting that businesses have been dropping their self-imposed COVID-19 guidelines, including Carnival. Lawyers, citing the company's updated policies, called the court’s ruling likely moot since the requirement was dropped anyway.*

*The Wall Street Journal noted that DeSantis defended the policy because these mandates essentially “create two classes of citizens based on vaccination.”*



*DeSantis issued an executive order last year banning businesses from requiring these vaccine passports that was approved by the state's legislature.*

# TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



## U.S. AIMS TO FLOOD TAIWAN WITH WEAPONS TO TURN ISLAND INTO A 'PORCUPINE' IF CHINA INVADES

The U.S. wants to arm Taiwan with so much weaponry that the tiny island off the coast of mainland China would be able to stand up to an invasion.

*The New York Times*, citing unnamed U.S. officials, reported that the reality is that Beijing would likely enforce a blockade of the island before its invasion attempt.

The report said the U.S. studied the Chinese military's exercise around the island after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit in August and determined that it would become increasingly difficult to supply Taiwan with weapons once an invasion is underway.

The idea is that the island would be able to hold off the invaders until other countries also intervene.

Jacob Stokes, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security, told the *Times* that stockpiling Taiwan is currently a “very active point of discussion.” Stokes, who also advised Biden on Asia policy while he was vice president, told the paper that the question is also what the best strategy is to harden the defenses so “Chinese missiles can’t destroy it.”

President Biden told reporters four times in the past year that the U.S. would come to the defense of Taipei if China invaded only to have his comments walked back by the White House that said the U.S.’s position of strategic ambiguity has not changed.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The Trends Journal has reported extensively on the tense relationship between Washington and Beijing over the Taiwan issue. Part of the problem has been inconsistency out of Washington. (See [“TAIWAN VS. CHINA: UKRAINE WAR SETS THE STAGE”](#) 5 Apr 2022, [“PRODUCING NEW ENEMIES FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER”](#) (9 Aug 2022 and [“WHAT CELENTE HAS SAID IS NOW PROOF: POLL SHOWS MOST AMERICANS CAN’T FIND UKRAINE OR TAIWAN ON A MAP”](#) 16 August 2022.)*

We have reported that the Ukraine War has been studied by Taipei and Washington to learn effective ways to counter an invasion by a more powerful neighbor.

Taiwan spent a record \$17 billion on its military in 2022 and, in January, its parliament approved \$8.6 billion more that will be earmarked for precision missiles and high-efficiency naval ships.

But Taiwan has seen the relative success that Ukrainian troops are having in defending Kyiv and could turn more of its attention to guerilla warfare.

Taiwan has been particularly impressed with Ukraine’s use of drones, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. The U.S. is pushing for Taiwan to shun the big-purchase items and instead opt for smaller, more mobile weapons, according to the *Times*’s report.

AntiWar.com noted that the Biden administration recently OK'd a \$1.1 billion arms deal for Taipei that includes 60 Harpoon anti-ship missiles and the Senate hopes to pass legislation that would provide Taiwan with up to \$6.5 billion in military aid.

The island would not stand a chance in a direct conflict with China. Beijing spends about 25 times the amount Taipei does on its defenses. China also has a hundred times as many ground-force troops as the island.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *Despite these grandstanding visits and vows of support, we forecast that just as Beijing has clamped down on Hong Kong protests and taken full control, so, too, will they take control of Taiwan when they are ready.*

*Despite condemnations when they do so, there will be no military forces from other nations that will challenge Communist China's military might. Indeed, America, with the largest military in the world, has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations, such as Afghanistan, after invading that nation some 20 years ago.*

*"60 Minutes" aired an episode on Sunday night that focused on Taiwan and living under the threat of a Chinese invasion. The report said many in Taiwan are not concerned about a Chinese attack. The report noted that Beijing has promised that if there were re-unification, Taiwan could maintain many of its freedoms.*

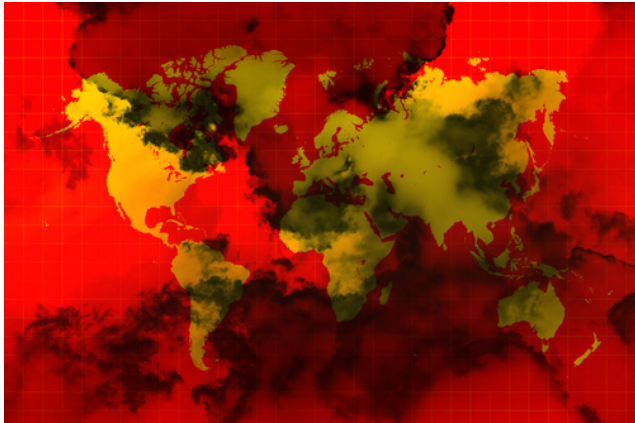
*One Taiwanese writer compared the threat to global warming: "You know it's there and it's going to get worse... but mostly though people go about their lives. What can one individual really do?"*

*The Ukraine invasion showed that the U.S. is willing to offer support by exporting military equipment and level sanctions, but it does not want to fight China in a war that it would lose.*

*We have noted several times where U.S. President Joe Biden said American troops would spring to the defense of the island, but that will not happen. Washington would do all it can to form a Pacific NATO, like it is doing now, and provide Taiwan with more weapons than they have soldiers to fire them.*

*Should war break out between China and Taiwan, we forecast the Taiwanese military will not aggressively fight back, since doing so would result in millions of deaths and mass destruction.*

## **BELGIUM'S PRIME MINISTER ECHOES TRENDS JOURNAL TOP TREND: NEW WORLD DISORDER**



Alexander De Croo, the Prime Minister of Belgium, said in an interview last week that there is a great concern of civil unrest breaking out across Europe due to the dramatic surge in energy prices and their impact on the average European.

And it is only likely to get worse.

De Croo told the *Financial Times* that, unless the EU intervenes on the gas markets, EU member states will likely face a “massive deindustrialization” period and that the “long-term consequences of that might actually be very deep.”

Fatih Birol, the executive director of the International Energy Agency, said last week that European gas storage tanks are about 90 percent full, which is encouraging, but not without risk if this winter is particularly cold or long. He said there's a chance that these countries could be in for "bruises" along the way. The EU's gas supply also seems to be up in the air given that Russia has largely cut off gas supplies to the continent.

“Next year, if Chinese gas imports increase with the Chinese economy coming back, it will be [a] rather difficult few months starting from March to next winter,” he said, according to CNBC. “So this winter is difficult, but next winter may also be very difficult as well.”



**TRENDPOST:** The **Trends Journal** has long noted that Western countries have implemented sanctions on Russia, and had to deal with those consequences. Russia has found willing trade partners in China, India, and South Africa—while becoming self-sufficient—and the West has been scrambling to prevent an energy crisis.

Italians have been told by Rome to turn down their thermostats by one degree, and buildings will have to deal with an extra 15 days with no central heating, the BBC reported. Energy bills have tripled elsewhere on the continent.

We have reported that Germany, which is Europe's largest economy and Russia's former biggest customer, will face an enormous energy crunch.

Robert Habeck, the German economic minister, sent a thinly veiled message to the U.S. that Berlin is not happy with other countries benefiting from soaring natural gas prices.

"Some countries, including friendly ones, sometimes achieve astronomical prices [for their gas]. Of course, that brings with it problems that we have to talk about," he said. He continued, "The United States contacted us when oil prices shot up, and the national oil reserves in Europe were tapped as a result. I think such solidarity would also be good for curbing gas prices."

Russia is hoping that the fragile Western alliance against the war will begin to fracture as people freeze. European countries have gotten into bidding wars for gas to bolster their own stockpiles, which drove up the price of LNG.

The New York Times wrote: "As often happens during crises, E.U. countries are fast falling behind their traditional fault lines: north versus south, richer versus poorer."

Germany rankled some EU members when it announced a \$196 billion aid plan to reduce natural gas and electricity prices, which gives Berlin an advantage over other countries, the report said. Berlin, which faces the biggest risk of deindustrialization, has opposed a price-cap on natural gas.



*French President Emmanuel Macron said it would be idiotic for countries to take a nationalistic approach to the issue.*

*“If every country negotiates for themselves, there is not much left on the market. If we negotiate on the European level, we have clout,” he said.*

**TREND FORECAST:** *The day the Ukraine War began, U.S. President Joe Biden said, “Putin is the aggressor. Putin chose this war and now he and his country will bear the consequences.”*

*“If we don’t move against him [Putin] now with these significant sanctions, he will be in Poland,” he said and declared that Putin “has much larger ambitions than Ukraine. “If we don’t move against him now with these significant sanctions, he will be emboldened.”*

*“We’re going to impair their ability to compete in a high-tech 21st century economy,” he said.*

*“We’ve already seen the impact of our actions on Russia’s currency, the Ruble, which early today hit its weakest level ever—ever in history. And the Russian stock market plunged today. The Russian government’s borrowing rate spiked by over 15 percent,” he said. “In today’s actions, we have now sanctioned Russian banks that together hold around \$1 trillion in assets.”*

*“Some of the most powerful impacts of our actions will come over time as we squeeze Russia’s access to finance and technology for strategic sectors of its economy and degrade its industrial capacity for years to come,” he said.*

*“It will strike a blow to their ability to continue to modernize their military. It’ll degrade their aerospace industry, including their space program. It will hurt their ability to build ships, reducing their ability to compete economically. And it will be a major hit to Putin’s long-term strategic ambitions,” he said.*

*“Putin chose this war, and now he and his country will bear the consequences,” Biden said. “This is going to impose severe costs on the Russian economy, both immediately and over time.”*

*As a result of these unprecedented sanctions, the ruble almost is immediately reduced to rubble,” President Joe Biden asserted.*

*But since that time, the ruble hit a seven year high.*

### ***Pay the Price***

*As we had reported, the Biden administration said on 28 February: “Our strategy to put it simply is to make sure that the Russian economy goes backward. As long as President Putin decides to go forward with his invasion of Ukraine.”*

*As a result of an ongoing heat wave this past summer and sanctions on Russian gas supplies, electricity prices in Europe hit new records.*

*As the price of gas kept spiking higher, Biden declared that “There will be costs at home as we impose crippling sanctions in response to Putin’s unprovoked war, but Americans can know this: the costs we are imposing on Putin and his cronies are far more devastating than the costs we are facing.”*

### ***Bullshit Has Its Own Sound***

*Yet while gas prices have come down since then, the producer price index registered an annual rate of 8.7 percent and the consumer price index is at 8.3 percent. On Wednesday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will issue its September report on PPI, and they will report the CPI inflation data on Thursday... both of which are expected to be down a bit from August’s numbers.*

*Over in Europe, which relies on some 40 percent of its energy needs from Russian gas and oil which has been sanctioned by NATO, inflation hit 9.1 percent in August and expected to hit 10 percent in September.*

*And, severely punished by the sanctions and its acrimonious stance toward Russia, neighboring Estonia saw its inflation hit an annual rate of nearly 23 percent.*

*We have also detailed how the sanctions have hit rich and poor nations across the globe, while doing nothing to change Russia's course in fighting the Ukraine War. Yet, the monumental sanction failures and high costs are never condemned by the politicians or Presstitutes.*

*Then in June, Biden said Americans have been willing to sacrifice after the Russian invasion and "chose to stand with the people of Ukraine."*

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

## **BIDEN WARNS WORLD THAT RISK OF NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON IS HIGHEST SINCE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**



President Joe Biden was at a Democratic fundraiser in New York on Thursday when he told the audience that the risk of nuclear Armageddon is at its highest point since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The West has been trying to portray Russian President Vladimir Putin as a desperate madman who could approve tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine at any time. There have been several major attacks that seemed to up the ante in the conflict that included the apparent sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines and the apparent bombing of the road and rail bridge that connects Crimea to the Russian mainland.

Biden was introduced by James Murdoch, the son of Rupert, and said he cannot imagine Russia using a tactical nuclear weapon without leading the nuclear Armageddon. He said Vladimir Putin, his Russian counterpart, “is not joking when he talks about the use of tactical nuclear weapons.”

“I don’t think there’s any such thing as the ability to easily (use) a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with Armageddon,” Biden said, according to a pool reporter.

He said his administration is trying to figure out: What is Putin’s off ramp?

“Where does he find a way out? Where does he find himself where he does not only lose face but significant power?” he said.

Biden’s comments came shortly after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for the West to take “preventive action” to stop Moscow from using tactical nukes.

The **Trends Journal** has made it clear that we are completely opposed to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, but the fact remains that Moscow has a far superior military to that of Kyiv, and with each day that passes, a major escalation can happen.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Dave DeCamp wrote in AntiWar.com that John F. Kennedy, the president during the Cuban Missile Crisis, managed to cut a deal with Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, to remove the U.S. Jupiter nuclear-armed missiles from Turkey and vowing that the U.S. would not invade Cuba. He said there is no indication that the U.S. is engaging Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.*

*We have noted that there are times that Biden appears to make comments that are out of step with the White House policy. Biden has said the U.S. will defend Taiwan four times this past year only to have his administration clarify its policy of strategic ambiguity. (See [“PRODUCING ENEMIES FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER.”](#) 9 Aug 2022.)*

*Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, danced questions about Biden’s comment about nuclear Armageddon, and said, “If the Cuban missile crisis has taught us anything, it is the value of reducing nuclear risk and not brandishing it.”*

*A senior administration official told the Associated Press that Biden has been trying to warn Americans about the dangerous possibility of Putin using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the news outlet that there is concern in Washington that Moscow believes it can use these weapons in a way that will result in only a limited reaction from the U.S.*

*Jean-Pierre assured reporters that Washington has “not seen any reason to adjust our own strategic nuclear posture nor do we have indications that Russia is preparing to imminently use nuclear weapons,” the AP reported.*

### **No Evidence of Change in Nuclear Posture By Russia: U.S.**

Despite Biden’s comment, U.S. intelligence told news outlets that there is no new information that would suggest Putin is any closer to using nuclear weapons since the beginning of the war.

Russia is believed to have about 2,000 tactical weapons that are kept in about 34 bunkers across the country. These delivery systems would be sent to bases, and Western officials said there has been no movement of these weapons, *The Guardian* reported.

John Kirby, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, told ABC’s *This Week* that Biden’s comments were not based on any kind of new intelligence and said, “Quite frankly, we don’t have any indication that he has made that kind of decision.”

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council and the former Russian president, has been critical of NATO’s nearly unlimited support for Ukraine’s war effort. He said it is inevitable that the “military campaign” in Ukraine will move to another level if the support continues.

He said the West is intent on weakening Russia by proxy and won’t be able to sit it out.



“Everything will catch fire around them as well,” Ukrayinska Pravda translated. “Their people will be devastated. Their earth will literally burn, and concrete will melt. We too will suffer a lot. It will be very bad for everyone. After all, it is said: ‘By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulphur coming out of their mouths’ (Rev. 9:18).”

**TRENDPOST:** *Ever since our 22 February issue, The **Trends Journal** has said the world is going to go from the COVID War, to the Ukraine War, to WWII. Totally absent is any discussion of a peaceful settlement, and shortsighted politicians in the U.S. are pushing for more conflict with the hopes of damaging Russia so it is no longer a threat. (See [“EU HEADS PROMISE TO KEEP UKRAINE WAR GOING”](#) 21 Jun 2022, [“RUSSIA WINNING UKRAINE WAR, STILL NO TALK OF PEACE FROM ZELENSKY”](#) 9 Aug 2022 and [“LAVROV: U.S. IS ‘ON BRINK’ OF BEING INVOLVED IN UKRAINE CONFLICT”](#) 27 Sep 2022.)*

*We have noted that the longer the war in Ukraine drags on the more people will die, the more infrastructure will be badly damaged, and the closer the world inches to fighting WWII.*

*Ukraine's position has been that they will make no concessions and they will take back every inch of ground taken over by Russian forces. Any mention of concessions has been swiftly rebuffed by Kyiv.*

## ISRAEL KILLS 4 PALESTINIAN TEENS



Israeli forces continue to carry out raids in the occupied West Bank with deadly consequences, including one this weekend that resulted in the deaths of four Palestinian teenagers.

Two of the teens, both 17, were shot in the head and neck, according to Palestinian



officials. Another 11 were injured, including a father and daughter who were hit by a military vehicle, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

The paper said the target of the raid was a 25-year-old believed to be behind shooting attacks on IDF troops in the West Bank. Last week, we reported on another raid that resulted in the deaths of another five. (See [“4 KILLED, DOZENS WOUNDED IN ISRAELI WEST BANK RAID”](#) (4 Oct 2022).

The number increased to five after a 12-year-old boy, who was shot in the stomach, succumbed to his wounds two weeks after the incident. The Palestine chapter of Defense for Children International said Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed 25 Palestinians below the age 18 in 2022.

**TRENDPOST:** *The **Trends Journal** has documented the increased tension in the region that has resulted in the deaths of more than 114 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.) The number of deaths is the highest in seven years.*

Al Jazeera noted that these raids have become a daily occurrence in the northern West Bank cities of Jenin and Nablus because they are seen to be increasing their level of resistance to Israeli forces, and are becoming more organized. The report noted that a female Israeli soldier was killed in a drive-by shooting at another refugee camp in East Jerusalem called Shufat, which has been under siege by Israeli troops.

**TRENDPOST:** *The Palestinian Authority accused Israel of waging an all-out war “that did not stop for a single moment,” and appealed to Washington to get Israel to make good on its promise to end “all unilateral measures and to exert serious pressure on Israel to stop its comprehensive war against our Palestinian people before it is too late.”*

*The Associated Press noted that Israel usually identifies those killed in these raids as criminals, not victims. But as we have noted, killings included an Al Jazeera journalist,*

*and a lawyer who evidently “drove unwittingly into a battle zone. Local youths who took to the streets in response to the invasion of their neighborhoods have also been killed.”*

***TRENDPOST:*** *When Ukrainians fight for their homeland, they are called heroes; when Palestinians fight for their homeland, they are called militants in the U.S. media.*

*Again, as we note, Israel keeps stealing Palestinian land and no action is taken against them.*

*Israel took control of the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 war. Since then, in addition to destroying Palestinian houses and buildings on the land they seized, they have been, and continue, to build massive “settlements.”*

*As reported by Bloomberg in January 2020:*

*“Almost a tenth of Israel’s Jews live in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, outside their country’s recognized borders. The population of Jewish settlers in the West Bank has grown four times faster than Israel’s itself since 1995. Settlers regard themselves as inhabiting land that is rightfully theirs.*

*“A different view is held by the International Court of Justice, a branch of the United Nations, which Israel regards as biased against it. The court concluded in a 2004 opinion that Jewish settlements in what it calls occupied Palestinian territory are illegal.”*

*Under international law, Israeli settlements are illegal. 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 U.N. Security Council, the U.N. 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.*

*As for Israel's "settlement" intentions, they were made clear by one of the nation's respected leaders:*

*"We must define our position and lay down basic principles for a settlement. Our demands should be moderate and balanced, and appear to be reasonable. But in fact they must involve such conditions as to ensure that the enemy rejects them. Then we should manoeuvre and allow him to define his own position, and reject a settlement on the basis of a compromise solution. We should then publish his demands as embodying unreasonable extremism."*

*— Chief of Intelligence General Yehoshafat Harkabi, Ma'ariv, 2 November 1973*

## TRENDS-EYE VIEW



### **TOP TREND, “NEW WORLD DISORDER”: NEW YORK CITY DECLARES MIGRANT CRISIS STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Eric Adams, the mayor of New York City, declared a state of emergency last week as the city tries to respond to the influx of migrants that have been bused in from the southern border.

He told reporters that the city has more than 61,000 migrants and homeless individuals, which includes 20,000 children. Adams said there’s a chance that the city’s shelter system, which is already operating at near capacity, may be forced to house 100,000 next year and spend up to \$1 billion to accommodate these individuals.

In the meantime, he said about 42 hotels are being used as emergency shelters, CNN reported.

“Once we finalize how we’re going to continue to live up to our legal and moral obligation, we’re going to announce it. Until then, we’re just letting people know what we’re thinking of and how we’re going to find creative ways to solve this man-made humanitarian crisis,” Adams said, according to the outlet.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the dire economic realities in many of these countries that has led to the jump in border crossings. (See [“AS FORECAST: ARRESTS AT U.S. BORDER HIT RECORD HIGH. IT WILL GET WORSE”](#) [“U.S. BORDER PATROL: CHILD BORDER CROSSINGS SPIKING”](#) and [“IMMIGRANT CHILDREN CRISIS AT U.S. BORDER.”](#))

The migrant crisis in New York is not limited to states busing these individuals. NBC 4 New York reported that hours after Adams announced a state of emergency, two planes carrying unaccompanied minors arrived at Orange County Airport at 6 p.m. The report said the transportation was paid for by the federal government. These children were put on buses headed to Kingston (home of **Trends Journal**), Poughkeepsie, and New York City.

There is concern that many of these migrants are being dumped at locations without any guidance. Residents on Staten Island said many of these migrants are not prepared for the cold weather and have inconsistent food supplies.

Andrew Wilkes, a computer programmer who also lives near hotels on Staten Island, told the *New York Post* on Saturday that he has received multiple knocks on his door.

“I’ve had it happen three times. The fourth time was today, and [a woman] handed me a paper” identifying herself as a migrant, he said. “They were dressed for 100-degree weather,” he said.

***TREND FORECAST:*** *As economic conditions continue to deteriorate, the border crisis in the United States and across the globe will escalate. We maintain our forecast for the growth of anti-immigration, anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-establishment political parties.*

*These border crossings will continue to worsen as these countries face more economic hardships due to soaring inflation.*

*Food prices will remain high even after the Ukraine war is settled.*

*Ukraine's productive capacity has been damaged for years to come; sanctions against Russia are likely to remain in place for some time after the shooting stops. Neither country will be able to restore exports to the larger world market for an indefinite period.*

*At the same time, extreme weather in the Americas is becoming the norm, making commodity crops such as wheat and soybeans unreliable. It will take years for the world's food market to reshape itself to meet the demands of emerging nations for enough food at affordable prices.*

*Meanwhile, more countries will default on, or demand to restructure, their debts at a time when developed nations have less money to bankroll bailouts by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.*

*The result will be not only hunger in much of the troubled regions, but increasing political and social foment and instability.*

*As Gerald Celente has often said, "When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it."*

*Our 2020 Top Trend ["The New World Disorder 2.0"](#) predicted millions to take to the streets in numbers never seen before in their fight against government control, corruption, income inequality, poverty, violence, and crime.*



## WHO NEEDS COLLEGE? UNIVERSITIES STRUGGLE WITH ENROLLMENT AFTER COVID LOCKDOWNS, AS WE FORECAST



Enrollment in both public and private colleges was down 4.1 percent year over year in 2022, or down 16.2 million students, The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center said in a recent report.

Researchers said the trend had been headed downward before the COVID outbreak. The number of students enrolled in college is down 9.4 percent compared to just two years ago, CNBC reported.

Hafeez Lakhani, the president of Lakhani Coaching in New York City, told the outlet that he is concerned that the trend will continue “because nobody is doing anything to improve affordability, and universities are going to continue to suffer.”

The report went on to note smaller regional schools that have closed at the end of the spring semester, including Lincoln College in Illinois. David Gerlach, the school’s former president, noted that the school was around for more than 157 years and its closure is an immense loss for the school’s alumni community.

The predominantly black school said it could not overcome the financial challenges sparked by COVID-19. There was a drop in enrollment and a ransomware attack. The school reportedly needed \$50 million to stay open, but was unable to raise the funding.

Jeff Maggioncalda, the CEO of online learning platform Coursera, told Yahoo Finance that students have also been exposed to more flexible and affordable tools for learning that have emerged during the COVID outbreak. He also noted that while college is down in the U.S., enrollment is up in countries like India and those in Latin America.

Bay View Analytics, the research company, told *The New York Times* that prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns, about 1/3 of higher education was done entirely online. The outbreak and subsequent lockdowns spurred growth in the field as universities turned to online classes. Researchers said they are still trying to determine what worked and what didn't during the time.

**TRENDPOST:** *The mental health of students, teachers and school staff has been one of the unintended casualties of the COVID War that we had long forecast... proving once again that the cure can be worse than the disease; see:*

- ["SCHOOL LOCKDOWNS KILLING STUDENTS"](#) (2 Feb 2021)
- ["SCHOOL SHUTDOWNS = CHILDREN SUFFERING"](#) (17 Nov 2020)
- ["LOCK KIDS DOWN, SCREW THEM UP: SHOOTINGS SHUT DOWN 20 MICHIGAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS"](#) (7 Dec 2021)
- ["PITY THE COVID-WEARY TEACHERS"](#) (16 Nov 2021)

*And all these stresses have been imposed on the segments of society at the very least risk from COVID-19; see ["VAX KIDS? THE COVID RISK IS 'TINY'"](#) (13 Jul 2021) and ["MORE EVIDENCE KIDS DON'T SPREAD COVID TO ADULTS"](#) (17 Nov 2020).*

**TREND FORECAST:** *Not just in America but around the world (with certain notable exceptions, like Sweden, which didn't lock down schools, didn't require masks, and recorded no COVID child deaths), we may be seeing the first signs of a new "lost generation": young people whose emotional growth, social skills and self-control have been permanently stunted.*

*It's a condition not easily remedied, and one from which some—and society at large—may never fully recover (because these damaged children will pass their emotional shortcomings to their own children).*

*Again, as we note in this and other **Trends Journals**, there are prolific [OnTrendpreneur®](#) strategic opportunities to create new sounds, styles, products and services to lift their spirits.*

## BIDEN SOLVES “WHAT IS A WOMAN” QUESTION



It appears the Biden administration has solved the perplexing (well, perplexing to the woke) question, “What is a woman?”

Facing mounting [problems](#) meeting recruitment goals, the administration has issued rules regarding the military draft that would treat trans-women as men, for the

purposes of requiring registering for Selective Service.

As reported by the Post Millennial, a newly updated guidance stipulates that "Almost all male US citizens and male immigrants, who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service," and that includes males who identify as transgender.

According to the regulations:

*"US citizens or immigrants who are born male and changed their gender to female are still required to register. Individuals who are born female and changed their gender to male are not required to register."*

The regulations appear to conflict with other Biden administration moves to class people who “self-identify” as women, as women, stipulating that they be allowed to compete in women’s sports, use restrooms designated for women, be counted as women in affirmative action and census tallies, etc.

Fox News [reported](#) in April that a number of Biden administration officials were unable to plainly answer or define “What is a woman,” even as applicable to their own uses of “woman” in women’s health and other areas of their responsibility.

Political pundit Matt Walsh also focused on the subject of transgenderism and its incoherencies in his [documentary](#) *What Is A Woman?*

Of course, virtually all cultures and civilizations throughout recorded history have made distinctions, including linguistic differentiations, of which humans are capable, as a class, of gestating children, and which are not.

In English, those who can gestate children have been termed women. Those not capable of gestating children have been termed men.

## **Woke Military Failing To Attract Recruits**

The Army only recruited 75 percent of its target for the fiscal year that ended on 30 September, according to NewsMax, coming 15,000 soldiers shy of the 60,000 goal.

Some have pointed to vaccine mandates and institutional bias against those with traditional non-woke values, as contributing to a spiraling problem for the Armed Forces under Biden's tenure.

Meanwhile, in June, Biden [signed](#) an executive order entrenching government support for transgender treatments and surgeries, though many argue that the procedures provide no objective medical benefit, and often do physiological damage by removing healthy functioning body parts.

But when it comes to filling dwindling military ranks as the nation edges closer to conflagrations, radical redefinitions that upend rational distinctions, and surgeries "transitioning" men to women may at last have found their limits with otherwise woke ideologues in the Biden administration.

# TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



by *Ben Daviss*

## NEW WAYS TO CURB PLASTIC TRASH

### NEW FORM OF PLASTIC FEEDS MARINE LIFE

The world is literally swimming in plastics, with an estimated 5.25 trillion bits of it in our seas and about 46,000 pieces per square mile of ocean, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

About 17 billion pounds of the stuff, roughly 8 billion kilograms, find their way into the world's oceans each year.

Eating plastics has been the documented cause of death in everything from whales to turtles to seabirds, as we reported in [“Our Polluted Oceans”](#) (21 Nov 2018).

Now that diet may change.



Researchers at the University of California San Diego have invented a new polyurethane foam made from algae that not only biodegrades harmlessly in onshore compost bins but also does the same in seawater after a few weeks.

In tests near the shore at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the scientists found that various water-dwelling bacteria and fungi move onto the foam and help it decompose back to its individual compounds, which the critters then eat.

The researchers said the foam became “something like a microbial reef.”

The tiny creatures doing the work are common throughout the world’s oceans, the researchers reported.

The developers have created Blueview, a start-up that makes a shoe from the plastic. The shoe degrades in ocean water in about 11 weeks, they said.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Scientists are working on many fronts to replace plastics made from fossil fuels with versions that are benign in the environment after they’re discarded.*

*By 2030, petroleum-based plastics will be relegated to specialized applications and will be replaced in consumer products with non-fossil versions that perform as well but don’t pose dangers to human health and the natural world.*

*However, then as now, the primary concern will be to reduce the use of plastics in the first place.*



## A BETTER WAY TO MAKE BIOPLASTICS



Scientists at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center and Washington University have devised a smoother production process to turn waste carbon dioxide—CO<sup>2</sup>—into biodegradable plastics.

CO<sup>2</sup> already is used to make biodegradable plastics but the process can be costly and

cumbersome.

The new process uses an electric current to convert CO<sup>2</sup> into ethanol and other molecules made up to two carbon atoms.

Bacteria then eat the carbon and ethanol and excrete a usable form of biodegradable plastic, which won't linger for centuries in landfills or break down into toxic microparticles.

The process is faster than others that have been tried and also uses less energy.

In addition to making bioplastic, the process could be used to capture waste carbon gas and redirect it as a feedstock into the manufacture of a range of other products.

***TRENDPOST:*** *The new technology makes converting CO<sup>2</sup> into plastic cheaper and easier, bringing the concept closer to practical use.*

*Recycling waste carbon back into industrial processes and products not only keeps that carbon gas out of the atmosphere but also closes another loop in the circular economy that turns one process's trash into another's feedstock, potentially reducing costs as well as pollution and waste.*

## A BETTER WAY TO TURN STUBBORN PLASTICS INTO FUEL



Mixed or hard-to-recycle plastics could be turned into fuel by heating them in an oxygen-free chamber. However, the process—called “pyrolysis”—can only handle certain kinds of plastic and several of the tests are struggling to operate at commercial scale.

To overcome the barrier, chemical engineers at Pennsylvania State University tested a variety of catalysts that could help low-density polyethylene (LDPE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), two of the most common plastics used in food packaging, to break down into their component chemicals more easily and at a lower temperature.

They found one.

PET and LDPE are tough to recycle because normal pyrolysis can’t cleanly separate the different chemicals involved.

The group began by subjecting each plastic to pyrolysis separately, then observed how the two interacted when they were heated together.

After analyzing the results, they selected three potential catalysts that might spark the reactions they were hoping for.

One showed the ability to break down the plastics together in a way that made the resulting products good candidates for turning into gasoline.

***TRENDPOST:*** *Converting waste plastic into gasoline still puts waste carbon gas back into the atmosphere.*

*However, it could solve an equally dangerous threat: a recent study found that 79 percent of plastic waste sits in landfills, is dumped in the ocean, or strewn across the landscape. Only 9 percent is recycled.*

*Plastic that isn't recycled breaks down into microparticles that we inhale and that infiltrate the food chain. Plastic's breakdown products also poison soils and waterways and play havoc with the biology of fish, birds, and other wildlife.*

*We detailed those dangers in [“What Microplastics Do Inside Your Body”](#) (7 Jun 2022).*

*Keeping plastics inside the circular economy would eliminate one of the largest environmental crises that still remains to be tackled.*