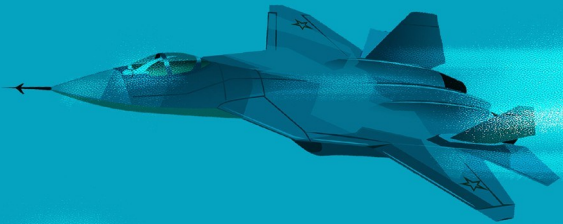


THE TRENDS JOURNAL[®]

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS[®]

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST





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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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PUBLISHER'S

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

If you have any problems, email support@trendsjournal.com.

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#):
"ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST"

There's a part in Ken Kesey's famous book, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," that talks about mental illness and power.

The character Dale Harding says, "Think of it: perhaps the more insane a man is, the more powerful he could become. Hitler an example. Fair makes the old brain reel, doesn't it."

This week's cover by artist Anthony Freda presents the White House for what it is... an insane asylum. For example, it is hard for any sane person to justify how Washington can blindly support Ukraine,

one of the most corrupt countries on Earth, while it ramps up the risk of nuclear annihilation.

And to be fair, the White House has been a Nut House long before Biden moved in.

The primary reason why these maniacs get away with waging war and stealing our money in the name of taxes is because journalism is dead in America. Instead of covering a politician, these Presstitutes (that were once called journalists) want to be embraced by them. Where else are they going to look for their next job when their reporting careers hit a wall?

The media is nothing more than press releases for the government, and the people know it. According to the latest Gallup Poll, just seven percent of Americans have "a great deal" of trust and confidence in the mainstream media... a just cause to [subscribe to The Trends Journal](#)

Crazy Like a Fox

As we have forecast, the belief being sold that Ukraine will be able to defeat Russia on the battlefield is delusional, no matter how many times you read it in the U.S.-state-run media.

The lunatics in the Biden administration have said they want to see Russia weakened and—unfortunately for the world, but luckily for them—they have an administration in Kyiv that is equally insane and willing to die for Washington's goals.

Also, please remember to [tune in](#) tomorrow at 6 PM, EST, for my "Celente & The Judge" podcast with Judge Andrew

Napolitano that provides insights and solutions from a judicial authority that you won't find anywhere else.

Sincerely,

Gerald Celente and The Trends Journal Team

COMMENTS

U.S. WILL GET THE QUILLS FROM UKRAINE “PORCUPINE” POLICY

Joe Biden's Ukrainian strategy: Keep sending more weapons and arms to Ukraine in order to turn Ukraine into a “bristling porcupine” for Putin. However, the likely long term consequences of our mutual belligerence is that its contradictory to our national interests, that is, avoiding a future nuclear war with Russia. Don't think Russia's leadership or President Putin will forget what we are doing anytime soon. Our actions today may directly lead into the dreaded Nuclear War with Russia, but probably not until China is ready to join the action against the U.S.S.A. Then, if we are not ready; “our goose may be cooked.”

Our national leadership knows our dollar will soon be toast around the world so there is no longer a deterrent to further spending in either political party today. In-addition, our national leadership through incompetence (border security) or defense (national security) is actually further weakening the country every day. Thus, its a fair bet we will not be near “ready” when WWII happens. Next time, we won't be able to recover intact either nor fight back (K.O.)

Craig Bradley

MYSTERY OBJECTIVE

Are the politicians in the West so foolish as to risk the annihilation of mankind over a small, underdeveloped country which was part of the former Soviet Union? What is their actual objective? The days of Neocolonialism are over. Some primitive humans may survive who know how to live on very little resources. As Einstein said WW4 will be fought with sticks and stones.

Dan Ford

EURO PROTESTS NOT PART OF PLAN

Looks like the NWO crowd will be heading back to the drawing board!

Bruce Feher

THE RULE OF POWER

What we are now experiencing has been a work-in-progress since the time (1965) we stopped minting coins in silver (90%). In-fact, my late Grandmother made a point of showing me the words on a U.S. Dollar at that time: “Silver Certificate ”. Since then, everything has inflated at rates higher than the official government numbers and everything has been “financialized” as the top 5% continue to fatten their investment portfolios while everybody else is falling further behind. The Middle Class will never wake-up (grow-up ?) nor catch-up and keep falling even farther behind every year. Now, it's become glaringly obvious as interest rates on credit and mortgages keep rising to address double digit annual inflation (official numbers of 8% are bunk, of course).

An old Paul Harvey news broadcast from 1965 stated that when income tax rates of 25% or more exist, then the end of our system of government and our economy

will eventually result. Paul said that we can still continue forward on our momentum for a long while, but eventually, the economy will grind to a halt. He was right in the end. Real economic growth ended some time ago and the rest of annual GDP is largely due to fiscal spending and inflation (higher prices paid), not actual net economic growth. Paul Harvey reminded his listeners that King John was handed a document (Magna Carta) at the point of a sword by his nobles or barons because the King kept raising taxes on them without limitation. There must always be limits to government power or expect tyranny. We have thus come full circle.

So, for many years (sic decades), most of us have been living a lie and the next generation (Millennials) will probably for the first time in generations be worse off

than their parents were. Life spans have already been shown to be lower by a few years, as well. Notice national decline has so many facets. It's ignored because we could not be bothered. We no longer care. Our collapse is picking-up momentum since 2019. Our time as free men and women may indeed be quite limited.

Craig Bradley

THAT'S ONE KIND OF JOB TURNAROUND

From now hiring to, now firing, to not hiring!

Larry Inn

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TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT



ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW

Welcome to the global freak show. What a sick, deadly joke.

Ben Bernanke, the clown boy who played Fed Head prior to, during and following the “Panic of ’08” (the economic collapse forecast by Gerald Celente who took out the domain name in November 2007) was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics last week.

How about a Nobel Piece of Crap Prize for boasting a long losing streak of making wrong economic forecasts and misreading the economic tea leaves?

Bernanke’s win is a reminder of another fraud, President Barack Obama, who won the Nobel Piece of Crap Prize in 2009. Obama, was, of course, the president who is

quoted in the book “Double Down” for bragging that he is “really good at killing people,” for his approval of massive drone strikes overseas that even claimed the lives of American citizens.

This is the arrogant Obama who sold himself as a peace candidate in the 2008 campaign with his slogan, “Hope and Change you Can Believe In.” Once elected, he followed that message by ramping up the Afghan War with his troop surge, and launching and promoting the Libyan, Syrian and Yemen wars.

Obama praised Bernanke’s award and credited the former Fed Head for taking “bold action and out-of-the-box thinking.”

In a CNBC interview, July 29, 2005, Bernanke, the Harvard-graduate, former Princeton Professor of Economics, was asked:

Q. “Tell me, what is the worst-case scenario if we in fact see [real estate] prices actually come down substantially across the country?”

A. “Well I guess I don’t buy your premise. It’s a pretty unlikely possibility; we have never had a decline in house prices on a nationwide basis.”

Speaking before Congress 18 months later (28 February 2007), as the subprime mortgage fiasco deepened, Bernanke said: “There is not much indication at this point that subprime mortgage issues have spread into the broader mortgage market which still seems to be healthy.”

Gregory Mannarino wrote in *The Trends Journal*: Bernanke said then that the issue with subprime mortgage meltdown was also “contained.” Bernanke’s “contained” played out to be totally false and led to a global financial meltdown—and public bailout of the banks.

Regardless of how many new egregious failures the governmental and bureaucratic nobility add to their old egregious failures, rarely are they held accountable. Instead, they are awarded trophies for their drastic draconian deadly demonic failures.

An Equity Con Game

We note this Nobel ignobility to illustrate the high levels of fraud and fraudsters running the socioeconomic and geopolitical con game. Facts don't matter, fraud is all that counts.

Since the COVID War was launched by the maniacs-in-charge in January 2020, Chinese Lunar New Year, the "Year of the Rat," we warned of the dire consequences and have written and detailed them. Among them, we had forecast that the equity markets and economies that had been artificially propped up with countless trillions of phony money and record low interest rates would spike inflation.

Yet, again as we detailed, governments and the Banksters denied the facts and instead said inflation was only "temporary" and then "transitory."

The artificial economic boom pushed equities to new highs while billions of lives and livelihoods were devastated across the globe as politicians locked down the world to fight the COVID War.

But now, finally, the reality of how bad it is and what to expect has hit Main Street.

On the economic front, over the past few days, the headlines from the mainstream media are finally warning what we had forecast several months ago: "US recession forecast hit 100%"—*Bloomberg*.

They go on that, according to their economic model, the American economy is certain to dive into recession in the next 12 months.

Here is this front page headline from yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*: "Risks of A Deeper Global Slump Escalate," that warns of a steep worldwide economic slump. On the second page, the top story is, "Recession Now Seen as More Likely."

The paper goes on to note that their survey of economists predict that "The U.S. is forecast to enter a recession in the coming 12 months as the Federal Reserve battles

to bring down persistent high inflation, the economy contracts and employers cut jobs in response.”

Yet, despite inflation in the U.S. spiking higher than The Street had forecast, coming in at 8.2 percent in September, equity markets keep spiking higher... while gold prices continue to slump. (See [“YESTERDAY: STOCKS SEE BIG GAINS, BUT WORRIES REMAIN,”](#) in this issue.)

Clearly, the reality of what the COVID War has done to Main Street and the economic fallout is of no concern to The Street. Again, it is a complete con game. As Gregory Mannarino notes, “If central banks do not find another mechanism to continue to inflate, IMMEDIATELY, the entire global financial system will melt down.”

Therefore, expect the central banksters to come up with another scheme to artificially prop up the equity markets so the big gamblers—equity funds, private equity firms and the bankster bandits—can keep cashing in.

TREND FORECAST: Remember, the 8 November U.S. midterm elections are just three weeks away, and the maniacs in power of the crime syndicate—that adult children call political parties—will do anything they can to stay in power. Even though inflation hit 8.2 percent in September and the yearly gain for core was the highest since August 1982, as the saying goes, “It’s the economy, stupid.”

Indeed, The New York Times/Siena College poll noted in the Times front page story that “The poll’s findings reinforce the idea that for many Americans, this year’s midterm elections will be largely defined by rising inflation and other economic woes...”

Therefore, when the Fed announces their next rate hike on 2 November, just 6 days before Election Day, we forecast that to help the party in power, they may only raise interest rates between .25 or .50 basis points rather than the .75 basis points The Street forecasts.

LAST WEEK: EQUITIES RIDE THE ROLLERCOASTER

On Friday, 14 October, the Dow Jones Industrial Average marked another first: it was the first time on record that the Dow fell at least 500 points and rose at least 800 points in a single trading session, according to Dow Jones Market Data.

On the day, the Dow closed up 827 points, or 2.8 percent, its best one-day percentage leap since November 2020. The NASDAQ added 232 points, about 2.2 percent, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index grew by almost 93 points, roughly 2.6 percent, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Share prices sank early in the day on news that inflation had failed to moderate last month. The Dow fell almost 2 percent, the NASDAQ lost more than 3 percent, and the S&P shrank by more than 2 percent.

The S&P closed up 95 points, or 2.6 percent, on Monday.

All 11 S&P sectors dove, led by materials and consumer-discretionary companies. The KBW NASDAQ Bank Index shrugged off 1.4 percent.

Buyers then stepped in when “they decided that fresh evidence of high inflation wasn’t as bad as it initially appeared,” the *WSJ* said.

Friday made a dismal week less bleak.

Stocks marked their sixth straight losing day on Wednesday, with the S&P ending the day at its lowest closing level since November 2020.

For the week, the Dow added 1.2 percent, the NASDAQ gave up 3.1 percent, and the S&P contracted by 1.6 percent.

Falling bond prices lifted yields on the benchmark 10-year treasury note from 3.952 percent Thursday to 4.005 percent Friday, their second-highest close this year, the *WSJ* noted. Yields rise as bond prices fall.

Gold moved down 1.3 percent through the week, ending Friday at \$1,642, according to BullionVault.com.

The price of Brent crude oil for December delivery drifted down through the week, ending 5.5 percent lower at \$91.61 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT. West Texas crude, which benchmarks U.S. oil prices, fell back below \$90 and settled at \$85.63, down about 6.7 percent lower.

Bitcoin opened the week at \$19,043, plunged below \$18,500 briefly on Thursday before jumping up almost to \$19,900, then settled to \$19,297 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on Friday for a weekly gain of about 1.3 percent.

Abroad, Europe's Stoxx 600 squeezed out a weekly rise of 0.8 percent. The Nikkei went down 0.6 percent and the South Korean KOSPI lost 1.8 percent.

The Hong Kong Hang Seng was off 1.9 percent, China's SSE Composite added 1.5 percent and the CSI Composite tacked on 1 percent.

TRENDPOST: *The quote that “Buyers then stepped in when “they decided that fresh evidence of high inflation wasn’t as bad as it initially appeared,” is contrary to the facts. Read the headline of last Friday’s WSJ: “Core Inflation Revs to New High.”*

That the equities soared as U.S. consumer inflation—excluding food and energy—spiked to a new forty year high last month proving that price pressures persist... proves inflation is “as bad as it initially appeared.” Yet, the equity con-game persists.

The NASDAQ Bear

On 11 October, the NASDAQ slipped into its second bear market this year after Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey announced that the bank's purchase of British government bonds would end as planned at the end of last week.

A bear market is defined as a decline of 20 percent from a recent high.

The bank had been expected to continue buying bonds to rescue pension funds endangered by sweeping tax cuts the new U.K. government of prime minister Liz Truss announced last month.

The purpose of the purchases was to give pension funds the chance to sell assets in an orderly way.

However, last week the government indicated it would scale back the cuts, leading the bank to curtail its rescue operation.

“You’ve got three days left,” Bailey told the markets in a public statement. “You’ve got to get this done.”

The British turmoil hit U.S. stocks because U.K. pension funds are now expected to continue selling assets to raise cash to meet their payment obligations as interest rates rise.

The sales are expected to be big enough to drive down prices.

“No one wants to hold a position overnight if they think it’s going to open weaker the next day,” Mohit Bajaj, director of ETF trading at WallachBeth Capital, said to the *WSJ*.

YESTERDAY: STOCKS SEE BIG GAINS, BUT WORRIES REMAIN

The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased by 550.99 points, or 1.9 percent, to 30,185.82 and the benchmark S&P 500 was also up 94.88 points, or 2.6 percent, to 3,677.95. The Nasdaq Composite increased by 354.41 points, or 3.4 percent, to 10,675.80.

Investors (gamblers) on The Street are cautiously optimistic about upcoming earnings reports and some believe that the market is generally oversold due to months of pessimism about inflation and interest rates.

In Europe, the FTSE was up 1 percent to 6,921.81 on Monday and the STOXX 600 was also 1.8 percent higher to 398.48. In Asia, South Korea's benchmark Kospi increased 7.16 points, or 0.32 percent, to 2,219.71. China's Shanghai Composite gained 0.42 percent to 3,084.94 and its Shenzhen Component increased by 0.365 percent to 11,162.26. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 25.21, or 0.15 percent to close at 16,612.90. Japan's Nikkei 225 was down 314.97, or 1.16 percent, to 26,775.79.

Traders were dealing with news out of China that the government will continue to pursue a "zero-COVID" policy. The country's National Bureau of Statistics also took an unusual step and announced that it will not release its economic data that was set to come out on Tuesday.

"I've not come across before a situation where a whole raft of statistical reporting has just been postponed, in nearly half a century of monitoring data releases—not even in times of pestilence and conflict," George Magnus, a former chief economist of UBS who is now an associate at the China Center at Oxford University, told *The New York Times*.

TRENDPOST: *This comes as no surprise to Trends Journal subscribers. We have long forecast that China's zero-COVID policies of locking down hundreds of millions of people and businesses would bring their economy down, while also hurting revenue of retail importers. China has incentive to hide the data while Xi Jinping clinches another five years leading the country.*

Xi said his COVID policy "protected people's lives and health to the greatest extent possible." And other than Trends Journal subscribers, most of the world does not know Xi used COVID-19 lockdowns to snuff out protests in Hong Kong and tighten his grip over all facets of the economy, a move imitated by the West. In May of 2020 we wrote: "It should be noted that prior to the Chinese Lunar New Year coronavirus outbreak this past January, China could not stop the demonstrations, which increasingly were turning violent.

In the absence of another virus, man-made or natural, which again will be used to lock down the city, we forecast Beijing will use military/police force to quell dissent.

OIL: Oil prices were little changed on Monday with Brent Crude rising 14 cents per barrel, to \$91.75 and West Texas Intermediate down 5 cents, or 0.06 percent, to \$85.56 per barrel.

Oil traders have been trying to piece together what the global economy is going to look like with OPEC+ cutting back output and Chinese President Xi Jinping's vow to continue the country's drive to "zero-COVID."

These traders are concerned that the Federal Reserve, in its effort to tame inflation, will increase the risk of a global recession, thus destroying demand.

"Lower prices are no longer a positive," Martin Tillier wrote on Nasdaq.com. "They indicate a belief that the world is heading for economic trouble that no amount of supply manipulation can overcome so, as weird as it seems after years of doing the opposite, they should be rooting for oil to hold above \$80 and even nudge back up towards \$100 a barrel."

David Turk, Washington's deputy energy secretary, said last week the administration can tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in coming weeks and months to stabilize oil for Americans already dealing with high inflation.

GOLD: The precious metal benefited Monday from a decline in both the U.S. dollar and Treasury yields and was up 1 percent. Some gold investors said the precious metal has been given another look by potential investors due to the increased risk of a global recession.

Gold is a non-yielding asset so investors can be lured away from the precious metal when Treasury yields are high. CNBC noted that the yield on a 2-year Treasury reached a 15-year high on Thursday, but came down slightly on Monday to 4.54 percent.

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente said the price of gold should be much higher than it is currently trading due to economic turmoil and uncertainties. However, as U.S. interest rates rise and the dollar gets stronger, non-yielding bullion prices will continue to weaken.*

BITCOIN: The world's most popular cryptocurrency flirted with \$20,000 during trading on Monday as stocks rocketed. Bitcoin usually does well when the Nasdaq is in positive territory. After hanging around the \$19,500 mark for the past few months, bitcoin's price increase prompted some bears to sell, according to *The Coin Telegraph*.

TRENDPOST: *Bitcoin will not have any break-out days as long there are so many question marks about the future of the global economy and the next moves by the U.S. Federal Reserve. We've said that the higher the value of the U.S. dollar, along with elevated Treasury bond yields, means more headwinds for bitcoin. However, considering where the coin began, and where it is, there have been very strong profits for long-term buyers.*

TODAY: HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN?

The Dow Jones Industrial Average had a bumpy ride but ended the day closing up 337.98 points, or 1.12 percent, to 30,523.80, while the benchmark S&P 500 also gained 42.03, or 1.14 percent, to close the day at 3,719.98.

The Nasdaq Composite closed up 96.60, or 0.90 percent, to 10,772.40.

Lockheed Martin, the major weapons manufacturer, surged \$35.65, or 8.72 percent, to \$431.84 in today's trading.

War is an enormous money maker for the military industrial complex. A reporter for Politico tweeted that Jim Taiclet, the CEO, confirmed that the company has met with its long-lead supply chain to increase HIMARS production to 96 units annually.

"We advanced funded ahead of contract, \$65 million to shorten the manufacturing lead time and that was without a contract," he said.

Netflix's stock jumped \$35.04, or 14.51 percent, in after-hours trading to \$275.71 per share after reporting that it added 2.41 million subscribers.

Stocks seemed to brush off recessionary fears for the second-straight day, despite Fitch Ratings warning of a mild recession by the spring. CNN reported that Fitch said the U.S. GDP is now expected to grow by just 0.5 percent next year, down from 1.5 percent in the firm's June forecast.

The 10-year Treasury yield was trading nearly unchanged at 4.015 percent and the 30-year Treasury was up slightly to 4.035 percent. High Treasury yields makes non-yielding assets like gold less attractive to investors. *The Wall Street Journal* noted that utilities that offer yields in the 3.3-percent range, are also facing competition with Treasuries.

"The 10-year is repricing everything. I've got something that's even safer and yields even more," Kevin Barry, chief investment officer at Summit Financial, told the paper.

Elsewhere, the FTSE was up 16.50 points, or 0.24 percent, to 6,936.74 and the STOXX 600 was also up 1.36, or 0.34 percent, to 399.84.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei was up 380.35, or 1.42 percent, to 27,156.14 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng 301.68, or 1.82 percent, to 16,914.58. South Korea's Kospi was up 30.24, or 1.36 percent, to 2,249.95. In China, the Shanghai Composite was down 3.98, or 0.13 percent, to 2,080.96 and the Shenzhen Component was up 25.44 points, or 0.23 percent, to 11,187.70.

TRENDPOST: *Deutsche bank said this week that markets are underpricing the risk of 1970s-style stagflation and "neglecting the fact that we are increasingly at risk of returning to prolonged 1970s-style stagflationary dynamics, which would require an even larger interest rate response."*

The facts are in the data which we have greatly detailed: Dragflation!

Yet, despite our sending several thousand "Dragflation" press releases to the mainstream media, they refuse to acknowledge them, and keep peddling the "stagflation" bullshit. No, economies will not stagnate, they will decline...drag down as inflation continues to rise.

OIL: Brent crude was trading down \$1.36 today to \$90.29 per barrel and West Texas Intermediate was also down \$2.26, to \$83.15.

OilPrice.com reported that the last time WTI was this low was days before OPEC+ meeting when the cartel announced it would cut 2 million barrels per day from its production targets next month.

The report noted that recession fears and the Biden administration's willingness to tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserves were dragging down the price. The administration has been dipping into the reserves in an effort to offset prices, but in the process, has reduced levels to those not seen since 1984. There are currently 405 million barrels remaining, compared to 593 million at the start of the year.

TRENDPOST: *The message from Washington is: "Don't worry, we've got this under control." But, as we have seen with the Federal Reserve downplaying inflation as "transitory," politicians wait until a problem is unavoidable and then look to someone/something to blame.*

The Biden administration has made a sport out of using Russia as a scapegoat for its failed planning and failed strategy when it comes to energy. Saudi Arabia has also faced scorn from the White House. But the fact remains that the U.S. faces an energy crunch. Wholesale diesel prices in the spot market of New York harbor hit \$200 per barrel and electricity prices along the East Coast of the U.S. is expected to jump 50-60 percent year-on-year.

And things will only get worse after the midterm elections.

GOLD: The precious metal is trading down \$7.70 an ounce, to \$1,656.20 as of 3 p.m. ET as it continues to face headwinds from a strong U.S. dollar that makes an investment less attractive to foreigners.

BMO Capital Markets told Kitco that it believes gold will make another run to the \$1,700 range by the spring.

“What's interesting here for us is that we're expecting gold prices to remain fundamentally well-supported, even out to 2026. We have our gold price average of \$1,600 an ounce, really not expecting a sharp retracement in prices from where we are today,” Rory Townsend, an associate at the Canadian-based bank and author of the latest gold report, [told the outlet](#). “And that partly is on inflation remaining stickier for longer, that is also partly on slower growth over the outlook period, and it's also on the elevated geopolitical risk remaining.”

TREND FORECAST: *With no sign of the Ukraine War ending amid a global slowdown, gold will continue to be a valuable safe-haven asset to any portfolio. Like any asset up against a strong dollar and higher Treasury yields, the precious metal will not have a clear path to higher value, but it will soar when the Ukraine War expands and officially becomes a world war.*

BITCOIN: The crypto currency continues to face resistance as it tries to hit \$20,000 per coin.

CNBC noted that about 48,000 bitcoins were moved off Coinbase, which the report noted was the biggest outflow since June and the second-largest ever. The report noted that the outflows “suggest investors are withdrawing their crypto from exchanges and shifting from selling mode to accumulating mode.”

Coin Telegraph reported that about 121,000 bitcoins were moved from exchanges in the past month, about \$2.4 billion. The report noted that these moves are usually considered bullish. When there is a jump in inflows, it is usually seen as a bearish trend.

TRENDPOST: *Bitcoin has been on a rollercoaster the past year, but the crypto has proven to have a stable of loyal customers. One took to Twitter today to post, “FUN FACT: 12 years ago today, you could buy 10 #Bitcoin for \$1.”*

Those who are bearish might respond to that fact by saying, “Give it a few months.”

*The **Trends Journal**'s position has been that the cryptocurrency will continue to face headwinds as the U.S. dollar value remains persistently high along with Treasury yields.*

Kanye West, the rapper who has been at the center of a controversy after refusing to go along with the mainstream media, had his bank account at JP Morgan Chase closed over some comments seen as anti-Semitic.

"I put \$140 million into JPMorgan and they treated me like shit," West said in an interview.

He was later photographed wearing a Satoshi Nakamoto hat after he was [de-banked](#) by JPMorgan. Nakamoto is the mysterious name behind bitcoin that could be a person or group of individuals, according to Wikipedia.

West's decision to wear the hat was seen as a message that banks could decide to close your account over your free speech, whereas bitcoin cannot, thus making it a more reliable investment.

HEDGE FUNDS BET ON THE BUCK



The U.S. dollar has gained 18 percent in value this year against six other major currencies, rising with the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate. As a result, the buck is poised to record its biggest annual gain on record.

Now that the Fed is likely to keep jacking its key rate, hedge funds such as Brevan Howard are betting that the dollar has further to climb and have placed more bets that the buck will continue rising against the yen, euro, and Canadian dollar than bets that it will slide.

London-based Aspect Capital remains bullish on the dollar against the yen, euro, British pound, and several other currencies, the \$9-billion firm wrote in a recent letter to clients.

Its' Diversified fund has gained 44 percent so far this year, largely because of the dollar's vigor.

The Fed has boosted its federal funds rate by three-quarters of a point at each of its last three meetings and will do so again when it meets next month, most analysts and speculators now expect.

The rate now stands in a range of 3 to 3.25 percent.

In contrast, the Bank of England's key rate is at 2.25 percent, the European Central Bank's is at 0.75, and the Bank of Japan is the last major central bank still clinging to a negative rate, at -0.25 percent.

Betting on the buck will continue to be profitable until the Fed signals that it plans to halt, or even reverse, the rise in interest rates, an unnamed hedge fund executive predicted to the *Financial Times*.

Capital flows to places where higher interest rates mean higher returns. As a result, the U.S. dollar has sucked investment capital out of many other markets, particularly among emerging nations, which are debt-laden and face an increasingly dark economic future.

Hedge funds use computer algorithms to spot and time trends such as the dollar's direction. Such funds now manage about \$360 billion in assets, according to data service HER.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have long noted, the higher the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, the higher the dollar will rise. And, as we have forecast, the dollar is strong regardless of the \$31 trillion debt burden because other major economies such as China, Japan, Germany, U.K., Italy etc. are very weak.*

The dollar will reverse course when the Feds start lowering interest rates in time for the U.S. 2024 general elections.

CORE INFLATION SETS ANOTHER 40-YEAR RECORD



In September, U.S. core inflation—which excludes the cost of food and energy—rose 6.6 percent, year over year, the sharpest annual jump since August 1982, the U.S. labor department reported.

The news strengthened assumptions that the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise its key interest rate another three-quarters of a point when it meets early next month and that the Fed will not slow the pace of increases any time soon, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

Including food and fuel, the broader Consumer Price Index (CPI) notched an 8.2-percent annual gain last month.

In contrast, U.S. wages and salaries have risen an average of 5.1 percent during the past 12 months.

Last month's drop in gasoline prices was largely negated by higher prices for food, the *WSJ* noted.

Grocery prices added 13.1 percent in September, year on year. The price of eggs shot up 30.5 percent and flour and food mixes added 24.2 percent.

Although core inflation rose, the CPI edged down from 8.3 percent in August and 9.1 percent in July.

The average American family has experienced a loss of roughly \$3,000 in annual purchasing power since inflation began as the COVID War wound down, according to a new analysis by the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Stock prices plunged on the news that inflation has not moderated, but then soared 800 points on Friday as bargain-hunters went shopping.

TRENDPOST: *The fact that core inflation rose while the overall CPI inched down indicates that inflation has spread from volatile food and fuel prices deeper into the broader economy.*

That will make it harder to halt, much less reverse.

Meanwhile, 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 that we detailed in [“Most Americans Living Paycheck to Paycheck”](#) (11 Oct 2022).

Almost half of Canadians are no more than \$200 away from being unable to meet their basic expenses, as we report in “Almost Half of Canadian Households Nearing Insolvency” in this issue.

TREND FORECAST: *Untamed inflation will spur the Fed to continue raising rates and other nations will follow suit to protect the strength of their own currencies and investment markets.*

As a result, more families will be pushed to, or over, the edge financially, sinking the global economy into recession within the next six months.

However, minus a wild card, such as increasing WWII, natural disasters, etc., we forecast inflation will begin to sharply ease in 2023.

RETAIL SALES FALL IN REAL TERMS IN SEPTEMBER



The dollar value of U.S. retail sales remained flat from August through September, according to revised figures from the commerce department that erased an initial estimate of 0.4-percent growth.

Aside from sales of autos and fuel, retail sales rose 3 percent. Excluding gasoline sales, retail sales went up a scant 0.1 percent. Grocery sales grew by 0.4 percent, due to rising food prices.

Auto dealers reported September sales were down 0.4 percent last month. Sales also shrank in appliances, electronics, and furniture, sectors that did especially well during the COVID War.

Sales at clothing stores and restaurants inched up 0.5 percent; department stores took in an additional 1.3 percent.

The commerce department's figures are not adjusted for inflation, which ran at 8.2 percent in September. That means that consumers spent the same amount of dollars last month as in August, but were able to buy 8.2 percent less stuff and services than they could a year ago with the same amount of money.

Consumer spending animates about 70 percent of the U.S. economy.

TRENDPOST: *Because the Commerce Department does not adjust its figures for inflation, reading the numbers can impart a false sense that things are not so bad.*

In fact, they are.

The amount of stuff consumers buy has been falling for months, as we have reported in [“Consumer Spending Slows in February”](#) (5 Apr 2022), [“Consumer Spending and Factory Orders Going Down”](#) (5 Jul 2022) and [“Consumer Spending Flat”](#) (23 Aug 2022), even if the number of dollars they spend remains the same.

As consumers buy less, the economy shrinks and continues to sag toward a full-blown recession. The U.S. economy shrank during the first two quarters of this year, already meeting the definition of a technical recession.

Consumers' steady reduction in spending is one of the clearest signs that a full-fledged recession is approaching.

MORTGAGE RATES RISE TO 20-YEAR HIGHS AS HOME PRICES FALL AT RECORD PACE



The national average interest rate on a fixed-rate, 30-year mortgage nudged up to 6.92 percent on 13 October, climbing from 6.66 percent a week ago to its highest since April 2002, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) announced.

Rates have more than doubled this year, rising from 3.05 percent a year ago. Some lenders are setting rates above 7 percent, *The Wall Street Journal* noted.

Mortgage rates have risen with the U.S. Federal Reserve's key federal funds rate as the central bank hikes rates in an attempt to control inflation.

A buyer earning the median U.S. household income and making a 20-percent down payment could afford a home costing \$339,000 last week, according to Realtor.com.

In January, the same buyer making the same down payment could have afforded a house priced at \$449,000, Realtor.com calculated.

In August, the median sales price of an existing U.S. home was \$389,500, according to Realtor.com, and has fallen to \$379,725 by mid-October, according to online brokerage Redfin.com.

Higher rates are chilling the housing market.

During the four weeks ended 9 October, 7.9% of home listings cut their prices, according to data from Redfin, a record number and almost twice as many as the 4 percent that reduced asking prices during the same period last year.

“The second sharp rate increase this year, together with nerves about inflation and the direction of the economy, is dragging home-sale activity down further than it was over the summer and pushing homebuyer sentiment down near its all-time low,” Redfin’s deputy chief economist Taylor Marr said in comments quoted by *The New York Post*.

“We see a tale of two economies in the data,” Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s chief economist, said in a statement.

“Strong job and wage growth are keeping consumers’ balance sheets positive, while lingering inflation, recession fears, and housing affordability are driving housing demand down precipitously.”

During the first week of October, applications for new mortgages were 39 percent fewer than a year earlier, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported.

The number of pending home sales is 28 percent fewer than a year ago, the steepest annual decline since May 2020 when the COVID War began.

The number of interest rate locks buyers requested has declined 30 percent since June and 60 percent year on year, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

TRENDPOST: *We had forecast for more than a year that the housing market would turn down sharply when the Fed raised its interest rate to or above 1.5 percent. The Fed has now raised its key interest rate to a range of 3 to 3.25 percent, sending mortgage rates in many areas above 7 percent.*

Again, this housing bubble was artificially inflated with record low interest rates and not because the middle class was growing because their wages were rising. Therefore, it is simple math. The higher mortgage rates rise, the deeper home prices will fall.

TREND FORECAST: *With inflation not abating and consumers draining their savings, which we highlighted in [“U.S. Consumers Keep On Spending As Savings Rate Plummets”](#) (31 May 2022) and [“Americans: Spending More, Saving Less”](#) (7 Jun 2022), the U.S. housing market will collapse should mortgage rates hit double digits.*

The hardest hit will be first time home buyers who made up just 27 percent of all transactions, down from 31 percent a year ago and dropping to a 13 year low it hit during the Great Recession.

Again, minus a wild card event, while we do forecast a steady drop in home prices in major markets, we do not forecast a housing market crash. Unlike the Panic of '08, this time, many homes were paid for with cash and mortgage balances are lower now than then. Therefore, there will be no subprime fiasco that artificially drove up home prices like they did back then from people who could not afford to own them.

U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST COST SOARS TO \$580 BILLION THIS YEAR



The U.S. government has borrowed hundreds of billions of dollars since 2019 to fund health care and an array of stimulus and rescue programs during the COVID War.

Now the bill is coming due on the \$31 trillion the government owes, *Washington Post*

columnist Allan Sloan noted in a 13 October analysis.

The government's interest payment for the current fiscal year will balloon to \$580 billion, compared to \$399 billion the previous year, Sloan noted.

The amount of interest due next year would equal 2022's budget for Medicaid, which pays health care costs for roughly 25 percent of Americans.

The government continues to borrow at a time when the U.S. Federal Reserve is aggressively raising interest rates to control inflation. Interest rates have zoomed from 0.25 percent to as high as 3.25 percent this year, a 13-fold increase, and will rise higher when the Fed meets again early next month.

The Congressional Budget Office last projected the government's interest rate expense on 2 May.

Rates have rocketed up since then.

The yield on 30-day treasury notes was 2.5 percent higher in early October than on 2 May. The one-year yield was up 2 percent from that date and the 10-year yield had gained almost a percentage point.

Yields on notes and bonds are the interest rates the government pledges to pay.

For fiscal 2024, the interest bill could total \$719 billion, Sloan figured.

The CBO has not updated its projection and is not scheduled to do so again until January.

“When the next update comes, the interest numbers may well be high enough to knock your socks off,” Sloan warned.

TREND FORECAST: While this is new news to Washington Post readers, it is old news to **Trends Journal** subscribers. Besides the United States paying more for debt as interest rates rise, the fish rots from the head down.

From developed and emerging markets that have borrowed trillions, to real estate developers and those without fixed mortgage rates... the higher interest rates rise, the more they have to pay to cover their debt. And as for emerging markets and nations whose currencies are declining against the U.S. dollar, the deeper their currencies fall, the more money they need to cover their debt. Therefore defaults will escalate as the world sinks into Dragflation.

TOP TREND DRAGFLATION: PRODUCER PRICE INDEX EDGED UP IN SEPTEMBER



The prices suppliers charge factories for raw materials added 0.4 percent last month after falling in July and August, the U.S. labor department reported, a sign that inflation may still have more room to rise.

Higher prices in the food and fuel sectors drove the increase.

Although it rose last month, the trend in the so-called “Producer Price Index” (PPI) continues down.

The index was up 8.5 percent in September, year on year, compared to 8.7 percent in August and 11.3 percent in June, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The core PPI, which screens out costs related to food, energy, and supplier margins, also gained 0.4 percent in September, doubling August’s 0.2-percent bump from July.

The core PPI rose 5.6 percent last month, year over year, matching August’s gain.

The PPI can be an early indicator of future inflation at the retail level as producers eventually pass increases in their costs through to consumers in the form of higher retail prices.

TREND FORECAST: *What we wrote in [“Producer Prices Rise on Higher Energy Costs”](#) (19 Jul 2022) is just as true now: while there has been some easing of supply chain disruptions which have improved supply conditions, across the manufacturing and industrial sectors price pressures remain high.*

These price increases will be passed on in all sectors, consumer products as well. And in the consumer retail sector, “shrinkflation” where people are paying more for less product, is becoming the New ABnormal.

As we have forecast, considering inflation in the U.S. is at a 40 year high, the rate increases by the Fed, while bringing the economy down, will not ease inflation. Thus, Dragflation—declining economy, rising inflation—will persist.

Eat Home or Eat Out?

Over the past 12 months, the price of food eaten at home has risen faster than the menu prices of restaurants and other meals eaten away from home, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

During the period, the bureau’s “food at home” index rose 13.9 percent overall.

The price of cereals and bakery products shot up 16.2 percent, with the family of dairy products climbing 15.9 percent, the bureau’s data shows. Meat, poultry, fish, and egg prices jumped 9 percent collectively, while the rest of grocery items averaged a 15.7-percent gain.

In contrast, the average cost of eating away from home moved up 8.5 percent. Full service meals cost 8 percent more; consumers are paying 7.1 percent more for limited-service fare, the bureau said.

AIRLINE TRAVELERS IGNORE INFLATION, HIGHER TICKET PRICES



The average price of an airline ticket is 43 percent higher than a year ago and 0.8 percent more expensive than in August, but travelers are still taking to the skies in an ongoing post-COVID travel boom.

As a result, airlines have been able to raise fares enough to cover higher costs for fuel and labor without discouraging travelers.

Consumers are spending less on goods and more on experiences, which has insulated airlines from the weaknesses other areas of the economy are seeing, Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said in a *Wall Street Journal* interview last week.

Business travel also is returning.

Delta's corporate sales reached 80 percent of 2019 levels by the end of September, Bastian noted, helped by hybrid work models and the trend of combining business and leisure in the same trips.

Third-quarter business-class ticket sales in North America exceeded those in the same period in 2019 by 16 percent; in Europe, the growth was 13 percent, according to data service Skytra.

So far this quarter, the figures for business class sales are 28 and 26 percent beyond those of three years ago, Skytra said, with many tickets being booked months in advance.

The figures are surprising because, during the COVID War, many businesses had announced permanent cuts to their travel budgets after discovering tele-meetings were just as effective as face time.

"It could be a sign of an increasing number of leisure passengers booking business-class tickets, given that corporate travelers typically don't book more than one month in advance," Skytra CEO Elise Weber told the *WSJ*.

Air travel brought Delta \$12.8 billion in revenue during this year's third quarter, 3 percent more than in the same period in 2019, and delivered \$695 million in profits for the period, even though Delta has yet to resume the full schedule it flew pre-COVID.

Sales this quarter could top those in the same period in 2019 by as much as 9 percent, the airline has said.

International Consolidated Airlines Group, which owns British Airways, has announced its third-quarter earnings will beat analysts' expectations by 50 percent.

American Airlines' sales also will be stronger than predicted, the company said.

The industry is experiencing a sharp reversal of last year's doldrums, when COVID recurrences rattled airlines' fragile recovery from travel lockdowns.

However, economy-class sales volumes in Europe have yet to recover strongly, analysts told the *WSJ*.

TREND FORECAST: Airlines' share prices also remain depressed, with full-service carriers looking at stock values 53 percent below pre-COVID prices, according to FactSet. Budget airlines' market values are down an average of 40 percent.

We forecast that as the economy sinks deeper into recession there will be less air travel and as noted, business class travel seats are being occupied by travelers who are upgrading rather than professionals flying to do business with clients. Therefore as noted by the WSJ, Investors are still avoiding companies that depend on consumers' discretionary spending, which might shrink as inflation continues unabated.

TREND FORECAST: Early in the COVID War, we correctly forecast that business travel, the airlines' most profitable sector, would decline even after unrestricted air travel resumed.

Since then, many businesses have permanently reduced their budget for business travel, a trend we noted in articles such as [“Europe's Banks Permanently Slash Business Travel”](#) (4 May 2021) and [“HSBC Endorses Remote Work Model, Slashes Travel Budget”](#) (14 Sep 2021).

That trend will deepen as interest rates and inflation rise.

As noted, we believe that leisure travelers account for the surge in business class bookings. As coach class has become more cramped and more rowdy, travelers

looking for a good time will be willing to pay a bit more to avoid the cheap seats and the annoyances that accompany them.

The Global Business Travel Association, which has a more detailed view of the market, has predicted that business travel worldwide will not return to pre-COVID strength until 2026.

As we noted in ["Business Travel Bust"](#) (13 Sep 2022), we disagree with the association's assessment.

It will never return.

Inflation and higher interest rates are squeezing companies' margins; businesses will do what they can to save money.

Having become comfortable, if not entirely happy, with Zooming and teleconferencing during the COVID War, bosses now see their positive impact on the bottom line and will make remote contact, not travel, the new normal.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *U.S. airlines received at least \$25 billion in federal rescue money during the COVID War, some as loans and some as outright gifts. As they become profitable, carriers should not only pay back their loans, but also return the gifts back to taxpayers.*

ANOTHER FED BANKSTER BANDIT CAUGHT VIOLATING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE RULES



Raphael Bostic, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, has amended his most recent financial disclosure report after revealing he had failed to list transactions that violated a Fed rule limiting trades ahead of the central bank's rate-setting meetings.

He also failed to report trades he made during the height of the Fed's flurry of policy changes in 2020 as it sought to keep the economy functioning as the COVID lockdowns spread, he admitted.

In addition, Bostic owned more treasury securities than Fed rules allow.

Many of the trades occurred after the U.S. Federal Reserve's governing board sent a letter to regional banks' ethics officers directing them to ensure that bank officials halt unnecessary trades while the Fed was actively intervening in markets.

The trades and other investment decisions were not made by him but by investment managers without his involvement, Bostic said in a press statement.

"At no time did I authorize or complete a financial transaction based on nonpublic information or with any attempt to conceal or sidestep my obligations of transparent and accountable reporting," Bostic added.

The Atlanta Fed's board said it accepted Bostic's explanation. However, the Fed's in-house investigator will review the details, the central bank announced.

"Bostic's failure to correctly report activity in his portfolio underscored how lax Fed oversight of its officials' financial habits has historically been," *The New York Times* noted.

The annual disclosure forms filed by Fed bank presidents have not been routinely posted online and guidelines about making them public vary among the banks.

Bostic's revelations follow a scandal that broke last September when it was revealed that Robert Kaplan, president of the Dallas Fed, had not disclosed a series of stock trades he made in 2020 while the central bank was busy in the markets.

At the same time, Eric Rosengren, president of the Boston Fed, was found to have carried out financial transactions of questionable timing.

We detailed the scandals in [“Bankster Bandits Get Richer Playing the Inside Track”](#) (14 Sep 2021).

The trades by Kaplan and Rosengren were not reported, violated no laws, and complied with federal regulations, the *NYT* said, but the transactions raised questions about the officials' judgment and the Fed's ethical standards, which seem to allow the possibility or appearance that senior Fed officers could profit from inside information.

Both officials insisted they did nothing illegal; both resigned their positions soon after.

The twin embarrassments prompted the Fed's board to ask the central bank's inspector general to investigate the trades and also those of Fed vice chair Richard Clarida. The inquiry also looked into financial dealings by a Powell family trust.

The inspector's office found no evidence that Clarida or Powell “violated laws, rules, regulations, or policies related to trading activities” by Fed officials, it said in an 11 July memorandum to Senator Elizabeth Warren, which we reported in [“Warren Rebukes Fed Chair Powell”](#) (16 Aug 2022).

Last week, Warren expressed renewed indignance over Bostic's missteps.

“This is an alarming failure by president Bostic and further evidence of the depth of the ethics problem at the Fed,” she said in a statement.

Powell has asked the Fed's inspector general to "initiate an independent review of President Bostic's financial disclosures," the bank said in a public statement. "We will take appropriate actions based on [the] findings."

TREND FORECAST: *When powerful agencies are allowed to set their own rules and police themselves, bad things happen, as the Fed's recent serial financial misbehaviors prove once again.*

The Fed's internal oversight will remain lax until Congress authorizes clear, strict regulations governing Fed officials' financial behavior and demands regular reports and accountability... which we forecast will never happen from the crime-syndicate-in-charge.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT

The world is headed into Dragflation: Declining economic growth and rising inflation. This combination of rising prices and rising interest rates whereby people pay more to buy less has resulted in companies in many sectors to lay off employees. To illustrate the employment trends and the socioeconomic implications, for the past 13 weeks we have listed job losses.

Crunchbase estimates 44,000 workers have lost their jobs in the tech industry this year and we are seeing unemployment claims at an 8 year high.

46 percent of CEOs globally are considering downsizing their workforce over the next 6 months according to a report by KPMG.

- Gannet has laid off 400 workers, closed 400 open positions, paused hiring 401k matching, and is seeking volunteers for buyouts

- SoundCloud is shrinking 20 percent of its workforce
- Byju's cut 2,500 staff
- Clear Capital laid off 25 percent of its workforce, approximately 400 people
- Family Health Center of Worcester has undergone cuts
- Angel Oak Home Loans fired 57 employees
- Angel Oak Mortgage Solutions cut 75 jobs
- Lower.com shrunk 6 percent
- BioMarin is expecting 120 layoffs worldwide
- Oracle cut 200 staff members
- Finnair axed 1,200 workers to increase profitability
- FrontRow is laying off 120 people
- HarperCollins announced an unknown amount of cuts
- Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. is eliminating 65 positions
- NYDIG cut a third of its workforce this month
- HelloFresh fired 600 warehouse workers
- Momentive Global shrunk 11 percent
- WEX Inc. fired 150 workers
- Beyond Meat lost another 200 staff
- Salesforce San Francisco cut 90 jobs
- NOOM fires 500 workers
- Brex loses 136 jobs
- Rev.com cut 85 in Austin
- VistaPharm Inc. lost 36 staff
- Summit Funding laid off 75 staff
- Amneal telegraphs fired 89 workers
- Tyson Foods cut 500 jobs
- Walmart cut 1,500 at fulfillment center in Atlanta
- ExtraHops Network Inc. cut a small amount of its staff
- University Hospitals cut 443 positions, 326 were open
- UK Mail is seeking 10,000 job cuts, blaming industrial action for losses
- Comcast's G4 is shutting down
- Flipboard cut 21 workers

TOP TREND, NEW WORLD DISORDER: IMF, WORLD BANK WARN OF INSTABILITY AMID FINANCIAL CRISES



“The world is in a dangerous place,” Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Indonesia’s finance minister, said in her closing remarks to the joint meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), held in Washington, DC, 10 through 16 October.

The meeting was “one of the bleakest” since the Great Recession, the *Financial Times* reported, “full of talk of geopolitical disagreements, negative economic spillovers from one country to another, and the unintended side-effects flowing from the IMF’s message that countries should ‘stay the course’ on fighting inflation by raising borrowing costs fast.”

“We have to really work on changing our mindset to be much more precautionary and be prepared for much more uncertainty,” IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva told the assemblage of finance ministers and central bank officials from around the world.

Citing “shock upon shock upon shock,” Georgieva urged her audience not just to identify problems but also to “muster the will to solve them.”

Participants agreed with the IMF’s warning that worse economic times are ahead, the *FT* said, with many believing that the fund’s 2.7-percent global growth forecast for next year was too rosy, the *FT* said.

The world will enter a recession soon, most conference attendees think, and inflation will remain stubborn into next year, prodding central banks to keep hiking interest rates aggressively, the *FT* said.

“We’re seeing developments and challenges that are either entirely new or unlike anything that’s been around at least for decades,” Nathan Sheets, Citi’s chief economist, said in comments quoted by the *FT*.

“It is creating stresses and difficulties for policymakers as they devise approaches to achieve financial stability,” he noted.

A key stress, the attendees seemed to agree, is the U.S. Federal Reserve’s relentless campaign of stiff interest rate increases.

As U.S. interest rates rise, the dollar strengthens, drawing investment away from other nations and currencies.

Attendees at the meeting expect the Fed to add another three-quarters of a point to its key interest rate at its meeting early next month and also that the central bank will see a need to crimp growth for longer than earlier thought.

Attendees’ general view was that banks need to prioritize the battle with inflation, even if it means risking recession.

Policymakers will need “a lot of hope and heart” as they try to balance the inflation fight with the need to keep economies growing “because you really don’t know what is going to work,” Sheets said.

TREND FORECAST: Again this is old news to ***Trend Journal*** subscribers.

A year before the COVID War was launched in January 2020 the world was descending into the [New World Disorder](#).

Back in 2019, protests raged from South America to Africa, from the Middle East to Asia to Europe, with millions taking to the streets in numbers never seen before fighting against government control, corruption, income inequality, poverty, violence, and crime.

And politicians across the globe were fighting against angry mobs who wanted to overthrow them. Then, suddenly, when the COVID War broke out on the Chinese Lunar New Year 2020, governments locked down their nations and locked down the protests.

In 2021, the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War were still repressed with draconian COVID lockdown mandates. And, the tighter the lockdowns, billions of people sunk deeper into economic despair.

We had forecast the protests would escalate into civil wars and civil wars will spread to regional wars, as citizens by the millions flee their nations for neighboring safe havens.

TRENDPOST: *The strong dollar also is worsening financial crises in developing nations as they face rising prices for food staples, deal with food shortages, and find it harder to acquire enough dollars to pay their dollar-denominated debts, including bills for imported oil, as we have reported in [“Strong Dollar Batters Emerging Nations’ Currencies”](#) (5 Jul 2022) and [“Strong Dollar Weakens Other Currencies, Forces Higher Rates”](#) (2 Aug 2022), among other articles.*

The world is facing three crises simultaneously: the debt crisis, the climate crisis, and the crisis of human freedom.

Financial institutions that focus only on balance sheets and accounting statements will be unable to contribute to effective solutions of any of the three.

The World Bank, the IMF, and national development agencies must adopt new cultures encompassing a more holistic view of the globe’s problems if they are to be a meaningful force in resolving any of them.

U.S., GERMANY CALL FOR “FUNDAMENTAL REFORM” OF WORLD BANK



At the World Bank’s annual meeting last week, Germany and the U.S. presented a proposal calling for “a fundamental reform” of the institution.

The World Bank, to which the U.S. is the largest contributor, was formed in 1944 to make loans and grants to rebuild Europe

after World War Two. nations.

Its mission has since morphed. Now the bank is “working for a world free of poverty” by financing infrastructure and other development projects in developing nations.

The bank now has 189 member nations.

The reform proposal calls on the bank to lend to emerging nations on gentler terms and to factor climate change and protection of biodiversity into its decisions about project financing.

The plan is supported by 10 countries, including Canada, France, Italy, Japan, and the U.K., German development minister Svenja Schulze told a press briefing.

“The World Bank’s current model.... is no longer appropriate in this time of global crises,” Schulze said. “Challenges and investment needs are so great that the model needs to be adjusted.”

The proposed reforms include “climate lending on better terms” and “targeted budget support for governments which want to pursue policy reforms to make their economies climate neutral,” Schulze added.

Emerging nations have warned that they need to be able to afford to pay their debts while making the transition to clean energy economies, two needs they currently find unable to balance, many of them have said.

More than 60 percent of low-income countries are in, or on the brink of, debt distress, according to the International Monetary Fund.

“Debt distress” is defined as a country’s growing inability to pay its debts, a sort of pre-default status.

Global development banks, including the World Bank, must “evolve” to incorporate challenges such as climate change into their operating models, U.S. treasury secretary Janet Yellin said in comments at a 6 October Center for Global Development forum.

The banks should help low- and middle-income countries shift from coal to less polluting fuels, she added.

The banks also could help underwrite regional projects such as green city initiatives, set higher targets for environmentally friendly development, and create new means to bring private-sector money into their projects, the proposal suggested.

“There needs to be an upscale in financing as a matter of urgency,” said Jean-Paul Adam, the UN Economic Commission for Africa’s climate change chief. “The World Bank is certainly one of the foremost institutions that should be leading the way.”

TREND FORECAST: Any proposal this sweeping will engender wrangling among the bank’s member nations. Eventually, a modified version of the proposal will be adopted. The bank then will need years to effectively revamp its lending standards and practices, rendering the outcome far too late to avoid the worst effects of the crises already under way.

ALMOST HALF OF CANADIAN HOUSEHOLDS NEARING INSOLVENCY



Forty-six percent of Canadian households report approaching “insolvency,” defined as no more than \$200 away from being unable to meet their routine basic financial obligations, according to the quarterly Consumer Debt Index compiled by MNP, a Canadian bankruptcy and insolvency counseling firm.

The figure has fallen from 52 percent in the previous survey.

However, inflation means that Canadians now have an average of \$37 less purchasing power each month than they did at the end of June, the survey found.

“Canadians are putting more of their paychecks toward paying for basic necessities as the cost of living rises, which, in turn, is leaving less of a financial buffer to manage the impacts of current and potential interest rate hikes,” MNP president Grant Bazien said in a statement announcing the survey results.

The Bank of Canada has boosted its key interest rate by three full percentage points since March, lifting it from 0.25 percent to 3.25 now, a 13-fold increase in seven months.

Fifty-two percent of survey respondents said it was becoming harder to afford to feed their families, five percentage points higher than in December. Forty-five percent are having a harder time meeting the costs of transportation, nine points more than 10 months ago, and 45 percent report being less able to afford new clothes, an increase of five percentage points.

Forty-nine percent are less able to save money, compared to 44 percent last December.

Although Canada's inflation rate eased to 7 percent in August, grocery prices rose 10.8 percent for the month, the sharpest increase in 41 years.

Among Canadians earning less than \$40,000 annually, 44 percent said higher interest rates are pushing them toward bankruptcy. Twenty-nine percent of Canadians earning \$100,000 or more see a greater likelihood of personal bankruptcy, MNP's poll found.

Sixty percent of Canadians have set stricter rules for their spending and have cut spending overall, according to a recent Yahoo/Maru Public Opinion poll.

TREND FORECAST: *The worst is yet to come. As interest rates rise, the nation's people will fall deeper into debt, spending less as the economy goes down. Also curtailing spending, Canadian economist David Rosenberg estimates there will be a protracted housing slump: "It's not going to be 10% or 15%," he said Tuesday on BNN Bloomberg Television. "More like 30% down."*

TRUSS SACKS FINANCE CHIEF, BACKTRACKS ON MASSIVE TAX CUTS



After barely five weeks on the job, U.K. finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng got the boot from prime minister Liz Truss last Friday and was replaced by Jeremy Hunt, a veteran Conservative party politician and former foreign minister who immediately set about righting his predecessor's wrongs.

On becoming prime minister on 6 September, Truss announced a sweeping array of tax cuts, the most drastic since 1972, but neglected to show any offsetting reductions in government spending.

At the same time, she pledged subsidies averaging more than £1,000 to each British household for two years to help cover the cost of soaring utility bills.

She proposed to borrow an initial £72 billion to pay for the subsidies.

Truss's announcement threw the bond market into a panic, crashed the U.K. stock market, and sank the pound to a record low against the dollar of \$1.0350.

The pound has lost about 17 percent of its value against the dollar this year.

The Bank of England (BoE) then suspended its plan—announced just a week earlier—to begin to sell off its bond portfolio and said it now would buy as much as £65 billion more in bonds to stabilize bond prices and yields.

The bank's move was necessary to rescue pension funds, many of which were trying to sell bonds to cover their payment obligations amid double-digit inflation.

On assuming his new role, Hunt said in a press briefing “it was wrong to fly blind and to announce those plans without reassuring people...that we actually can afford to pay for them.”

“We have to show the world we have a plan that adds up financially,” he added.

Hunt also warned that some taxes could increase, “some taxes will not be cut as quickly as people want,” and “spending will not rise by as much as people would like and all government departments are going to have to find more efficiencies than they were planning to.”

On Monday, 17 October, Hunt announced the government was abandoning “almost all” of Truss's proposed tax cuts, a move that will return £32 billion to the treasury.

The planned cut to basic income tax rates has been “postponed indefinitely...until economic conditions allow for it to be cut,” reducing red ink by another £6 billion a year.

Truss's plans to slash taxes on dividends and introduce a new tax-free shopping program for foreign tourists also have been dumped, as has a move to abolish a special tax on workers making more than £145,000 a year.

Household energy subsidies will continue for six months to get Brits through the winter; beyond that, Hunt made no commitment.

Truss and Hunt “have agreed that it would be irresponsible for the government to continue exposing the public finances to unlimited volatility in international gas prices,” the treasury office said in a statement.

Treasury officials will mull options for aiding households with energy costs after the current subsidies expire, the department said.

“No government can control markets, but every government can give certainty about the sustainability of public finances,” Hunt said. “The United Kingdom will always pay its way.”

The sudden, dramatic policy reversals calmed British markets on Monday. The FTSE 100 stock index stabilized. Prices of government bonds rose and the pound edged up to close at \$1.14 on Monday.

The yield on a 30-year U.K. bond flipped to 4.37 percent after surpassing 5 percent earlier this month. Yields on 10-year bonds dropped below 4 percent. Yields fall as bond prices rise.

With Hunt’s appointment, the BoE issued a statement saying it would not need to extend its emergency bond purchases past Friday.

The bank will have bought about £20 billion worth of bonds, not the £65 billion it was bracing for.

Despite being publicly humiliated by having her flagship financial program torn to shreds, Truss dismissed growing pressure from the public and within her own Conservative Party for her to resign.

“I am absolutely determined to see through what I have promised,” Truss said in a public statement.

TREND FORECAST: *Practicality has wrenched Britain back from a disaster created by an ideology untethered to reality.*

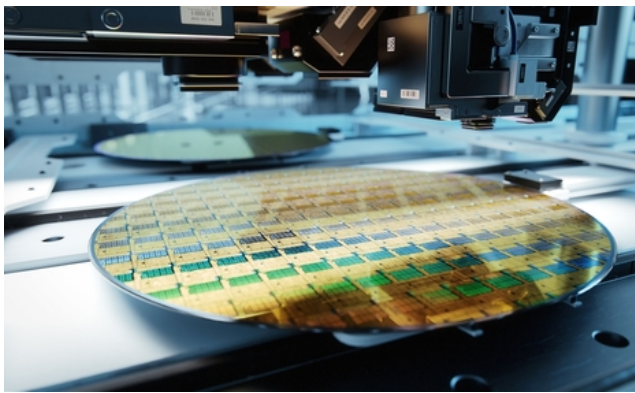
However, Liz Truss, the chief cheerleader for a disastrous economic debacle, while she is still in office and vows not to resign, the door at 10 Downing Street will soon be closing behind her.

As long as she remains prime minister, investors will be unwilling to place full faith in the future of the pound or British bonds and equities.

The lack of ability to trust Truss's judgment will continue to hamper the U.K. economy.

As a result, business and Conservative Party interests will combine to ensure Truss does not last long at 10 Downing Street.

“BREATH TAKING” DROP IN DEMAND SHOCKS CHIP COMPANIES



Earlier this month, leading computer chip makers Samsung Electronics and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) reported earnings that fell far short of expectations, which many analysts interpreted as a sign that a lasting economic rebound is further away than previously thought, Bloomberg reported.

Samsung, the world's largest maker of memory chips, posted a 32-percent decrease in operating income. AMD's number will come in about \$1 billion short of its earlier estimate, the company said.

Micron Technologies and Kioxia Holdings are cutting spending and production to stabilize plunging chip prices. The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company has lopped 10 percent from its capital expenditure budget.

Share prices fell not only for AMD and Samsung, but also for makers Nvidia and Intel. ASML Holding, Advantest, and Screen Holdings, which supply chip-making equipment, saw their stock prices sink. Disco Corp, which puts finishing touches on chips, lost more of its market capitalization on 7 October than in the previous two years.

“It seems end demand [for chips] has likely deteriorated markedly in recent weeks, and end customers appear to be aggressively draining inventory,” analyst Stacy Rasgon at Bernstein Private Wealth Management told Bloomberg.

AMD’s loss of revenue “is admittedly a bit breathtaking,” she added.

Consumers spent lavishly on all things electronic during the COVID War but now demand has dropped sharply, especially as interest rates and prices for consumer goods continue rising.

Also, the electronics industry has been crimped by U.S. restrictions on exports of advanced technology to China.

“If AMD and Nvidia can’t sell their chips in China, memory makers’ earnings will deteriorate further,” Heo Pil-Seok, CEO of Midas International Asset Management in South Korea said to Bloomberg.

“We would continue to stay away from PC-centric names, which include AMD, Intel, and Nvidia, due to a likely prolonged PC downturn into next year and continued weakness in consumer gaming,” analysts at Robert W. Baird & Co. wrote in a note to clients earlier this month.

Personal computers are steadily losing ground to tablets and smartphones, leaving some chip makers that have focused on PCs scurrying to catch up with changes in the market.

The market for memory chips will be soft through 2023, Kyung Kyehyun, chief of Samsung’s chip business, said last month at an employee event.

The company now has cut its April forecast for chip sales in the second half of this year by 32 percent, he noted.

TREND FORECAST: *When the COVID War began in January 2020, the companies that profited the most were hi-tech. Indeed, they were the first to tell their employees to work remotely, which meant more need for more high-tech. And with schools closed and children learning remotely—and locked up and forbidden to go out and play—they heavily emerged into the Metaverse world of hi-tech interaction, games and entertainment... all of which heavily boosted the bottom line of the tech world.*

Those days have ended and so have the high sales for high tech.

YEN SINKS TO LOWEST VALUE IN 32 YEARS



The Bank of Japan's insistence on holding its key interest rate at -0.25 percent has driven the yen down still further, sinking it to ¥146.95 to the dollar on 12 October, the lowest since 1998, and driving it down to ¥148.90 on 17 October, its weakest since 1990.

The yen has lost almost 25 percent of its value to the dollar so far this year. Adjusted for inflation, the yen has not been worth so little since the 1970s.

In the previous week, the yen's worth fell to ¥145.90, spurring the government to spend \$20 billion to prop up the nation's currency, a move we reported in [“Bank of Japan Intervenes to Prop Up Yen”](#) (27 Sep 2022).

The intervention slowed the yen's fall for only a day.

Such interventions will have little value while the gap between Japan's negative interest rate and the U.S.'s rising rates continues to widen, analysts cited by the *Financial Times* said.

Fumio Kishida, Japan's prime minister, endorsed the bank's low rate in an *FT* interview last week, saying that monetary policy should be loose until wages begin rising.

"In the near term, we need to watch out for the Japanese authorities conducting another intervention before the dollar reaches ¥150," Nomura analysts wrote in a note to clients.

Analysts at ING are "not making the argument that there is a clear line in the sand at ¥150 for Japanese authorities," they said in a client note. However, if the yen sinks beyond ¥150, that "may well trigger an acceleration of the yen sell-off, which is exactly what Japan is trying to avoid".

Kishida said he will "work closely" with bank governor Haruhiko Kuroda to stabilize the currency, effectively ending speculation that Kishida plans to sack the governor.

The dollar continued to gain strength last week on a recent U.S. employment report and expectations for September's inflation announcement.

TRENDPOST: As we noted in "[Bank of Japan Intervenes to Prop Up Yen](#)" (27 Sep 2022), Japan's central bank is walking a thin line. The country's population is among the world's oldest, leaving millions of citizens on fixed incomes vulnerable to rising interest rates. However, inflation creates an equal vulnerability: Japan imports most of its raw materials, including fossil fuels, which must be paid for in dollars.

As prices rise and Japan must spend more yen to buy dollars to pay its bills, the yen's value will continue to sink.

The Bank of Japan will leave its interest rate at or near zero as long as possible to coddle the domestic economy and wait for inflation to be brought down with hopes the hostilities in Ukraine end and consumers solve inflation by slashing spending.

However, with inflation soaring in Europe and the U.S. and with more central banks raising interest rates, we forecast that the BOJ will be forced to raise interest rates despite the bank's current policy.

CHINA HALTS SALES OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TO EUROPE



China will no longer ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe to help ease the continent's energy crisis, the government has told gas exporters, Bloomberg reported.

Shipments to Asia also were ordered stopped.

The nation foresees a slight shortfall in its own gas supplies during the cold months ahead and needs to ensure its own fuel supplies, the National Development and Reform Commission explained to CNOOC, PetroChina, and Sinopec and CNOOC, according to Bloomberg.

Beijing's zero-tolerance anti-COVID policy slashed factory output, cutting demand for gas. Fuel companies were selling their sudden surpluses to customers in Europe and elsewhere in Asia.

In August, China sold more than four million tons of LNG to Europe, which remains in the throes of an energy crisis after Russia shut down the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which supplied more than 30 percent of Europe's natural gas, according to news service NikkeiAsia.

The August shipments were equivalent to about 7 percent of Europe's gas imports during the first half of the year, NikkeiAsia said.

TRENDPOST: After Russia invaded Ukraine and NATO imposed sanctions on a range of Russian exports, China was able to buy Russian oil and gas at steep discounts, at one point as much as 50 percent on LNG from Russia's Sakhalin 2 LNG terminal.

The shipments from China enabled Germany and other Eurozone countries to come close to meeting their winter gas storage volumes, easing demand somewhat and sending prices down from August's record high of €336 per megawatt hour to about €136 on the Dutch futures market on 17 October.

Also, LNG shipping costs have been pushed to record levels by strong demand, trimming profit margins on resales even more.

European nations have pledged to halt imports of Russia oil by January and are still scouring the world for replacement sources, including natural gas that can be substituted for oil in several applications. However, we forecast that demand will be greater than supply pushing up prices for both natural gas and oil.

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GETTING BIGGER



M&As FALL BY MORE THAN A THIRD THIS YEAR

The value of mergers and acquisitions that companies announced during the first nine months of this year is 34 percent below those making the news during the same period in 2021, data service Refinitiv

reported.

The value of deals by sellers in the Americas is off 40 percent to \$1.3 trillion and down by 24 percent in Europe, sinking to \$712.2 billion.

That makes this year's plunge the second deepest on record, behind only the 42-percent drop-off in 2009 in the pit of the Great Recession.

The tailspin this year comes after 2021 entered the books as a record year for M&As. Interest rates were still at rock bottom and companies limping out of the COVID era were ripe for picking, often at bargain prices.

Last year, corporations around the world raked in \$12.1 trillion in cash by issuing stock, selling bonds, and private borrowing, as we reported in [“Corporations Pocket \\$12.1 Trillion in Cash in 2021”](#) (11 Jan 2022), funding a record buying spree.

This year's slowdown will continue, analysts predicted to *The Wall Street Journal*.

“All signs are pointing to this resetting stage, where companies have taken a pause on what their M&A playbook might look like,” Matt Toole, Refinitiv's director of M&A research told the *WSJ*.

To the extent that M&As continue this year, the trend may be for U.S.-based buyers to take advantage of the strong dollar's buying power and snatch companies based abroad.

So far this year, cross-border deals have fallen by 38 percent to \$938.1 billion, according to Refinitiv.

TREND FORECAST: As we noted in [“M&A Activity Plunging”](#) (9 Aug 2022), while M&A activity will continue to slow as interest rates move higher, the deeper the economy falls and the lower asset prices fall, the more companies the “Bigs” will buy up... at cheaper prices.

KROGER WILL BUY ALBERTSON'S FOR \$24.6 BILLION



Kroger Co., the U.S.'s second-largest supermarket chain behind Walmart, has agreed to pay \$24.6 billion to take over Albertsons Companies, the number-four chain, according to CNBC.

Kroger will pay \$34.10 a share for its rival. Albertsons' share price closed at \$28.63 on 13 October, up 13 percent on the news.

Kroger's stock moved up 1.2 percent, but the cost to insure Kroger's debt against default jumped the most in three years.

The deal was approved by both companies' boards of directors, CNBC said.

The two companies together employ more than 700,000 workers, operate about 5,000 stores in the U.S. under a variety of names such as Ralph's, Safeway, and Vons, and reported revenues of about \$209 billion last year.

Kroger held 9.9 percent of the U.S. grocery market in the year ending 30 June, with Albertsons capturing 5.7 percent, according to data service Numerator.

Market leader Walmart accounted for 20.9 percent of U.S. grocery purchases during the period.

The new, combined entity will be better able to withstand competition from Walmart and Costco, which now has a 7-percent market share.

"Albertsons brings a complementary footprint and operates in several parts of the country with very few or no Kroger stores," Kroger CEO Rodney McMullen said in a statement announcing the marriage.

However, the two companies compete directly in southern California, Colorado, Seattle, and areas of Texas and the Midwest. There is little overlap in the Northeast or Southeast.

The mega-merger comes amid hard times in the grocery business.

Shopping habits have shifted, with more consumers buying food on-line from Amazon and other e-retailers and at warehouse outlets such as Aldi's. Inflation is driving many to economize by forsaking national brands for discount versions.

Food stores have made major investments in automation and diversified supplies into organic and ethnic foods. Interest rates are rising and food prices have jumped 11.2 percent over the past 12 months, squeezing companies' margins, which tend to be less than 2 percent during the best of times.

The deal is likely to land on a stony regulatory landscape, analysts said.

"This is the type of transaction that really looks good on paper, but the actual practicality of achieving regulatory approval by the FTC could be difficult," Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Jennifer Bartashus, told the news service.

"If you think about the store bases of the two respective entities, there is a lot of overlap in very competitive markets," she noted.

The combined chains would control 70 percent of the grocery market in 167 U.S. cities and as much as 90 percent in some towns, including Durango, Colo., and Salina, Kans., according to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren decried the merger, calling it an "absolute disaster" that will raise grocery prices for consumers.

The merger will result in "higher prices, employee layoffs, and weaker supply chains," Warren warned.

The new entity could be able to negotiate lower prices from suppliers, who then would have to make up the difference by charging more to smaller chains and independent stores, some analysts pointed out to the *WSJ*.

“Consumer advocates who have been following this kind of work for a long time understand that this type of merger will entrench the power of the grocery industry,” analyst Rebecca Wolf at the nonprofit Food and Water Watch told the *WSJ*.

However, the two companies pledged that their combination would allow them to return as much as \$500 million to consumers through streamlined operating costs.

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC UNDERGOES OWNERSHIP SHAKE-UP



Westinghouse Electric, which makes the technology used by more than 200 nuclear power plants around the world, is being sold for \$7.9 billion.

The buyers are Cameco, a Canadian company making uranium fuel for reactors, and Brookfield Renewable Partners (BRP), a division of private equity firm Brookfield Asset Management (BAM).

Westinghouse, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2018, has been owned by another division of BAM, which is now transferring ownership to the firm’s renewable energy operation.

BRP will pay \$2.3 billion for 51 percent of Westinghouse. Cameco will put up \$2.2 billion for the remaining 49 percent. Westinghouse’s \$2.4 billion in debt was transferred as part of the deal.

“We’re witnessing some of the best fundamentals we’ve ever seen in the nuclear energy sector,” Cameco CEO Tim Gitzel, told the *Financial Times*. Nuclear power “is

becoming increasingly important in a world that prioritizes electrification, decarbonization, and energy security.”

The use of nuclear power needs to double by 2050 if the world is to meet its goal of carbon neutrality, the International Energy Agency has said.

Europe’s energy crisis, brought on by Russia’s cutoff of its natural gas exports to the continent, also has directed attention back to nuclear power.

Renewed interest in nukes comes as a new generation of smaller, cheaper, and supposedly safer nuclear reactors is emerging. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently approved the design of NuScale’s next-generation reactor, which we noted in [“A New Generation of Nuclear Power Plants Is Here”](#) (22 Aug 2022).

BIGGEST U.S. COAL PRODUCER IN MERGER TALKS WITH AUSTRALIAN RIVAL



Peabody Energy, the U.S.’s largest coal mining company, is talking with Coronado Global Resources, which has coal operations in Australia and the U.S., about combining into a single business that would be worth about \$6 billion, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Coal prices have surged in the wake of Russia’s war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions, making once-lackluster companies attractive takeover targets again.

In 2020, Peabody was teetering on the edge of a second bankruptcy.

Now the war in Europe has spurred coal prices to record highs as European countries scour the globe for alternatives to now-lost Russian natural gas imports.

As a result, for this year's second quarter Peabody reported its highest pre-tax profit in a decade, elevating the company's value to an estimated \$3.8 billion, the *WSJ* said.

"For the first time as a public company, our cash exceeds our debt balance," CEO James Crech said in a July statement.

News of the talks with Peabody boosted Coronado's share price 8 percent, giving the company a market value of about \$2.2 billion.

PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM PAYS \$4.6 BILLION FOR CYBERSECURITY COMPANY



Vista Equity Partners has agreed to pay \$24.90 in cash, or about \$4.6 billion, to acquire KnowBe4, a Florida firm providing cybersecurity training and simulations.

KnowBe4's 50,000 clients are concentrated among banks and credit unions, the company said.

Last month, the security company said Vista had made a non-binding cash offer of \$24 a share for the firm, a 40-percent premium to the closing share price the day before the offer was made.

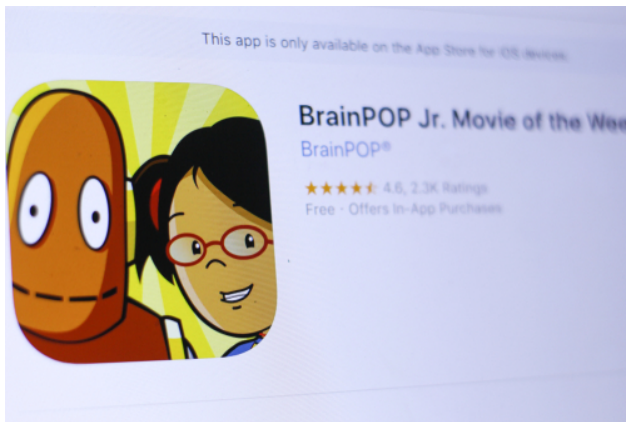
The deal is a leveraged buyout, meaning that Vista will borrow heavily to finance the purchase.

Leveraged buyouts are increasingly rare as interest rates rise, stock markets struggle, and the economy has become more chaotic and the outlook gloomier.

However, Vista seems undaunted.

In August, it borrowed to buy tax-software company Avalara for \$8.6 billion after partnering with Elliott Management Corp. last January to leverage a \$16.5-billion takeover of cloud computing company Citrix Systems in one of this year's biggest M&A deals.

LEGO OWNER BUYS EDUCATIONAL VIDEO PRODUCER



Danish company Kirkbi AS, which owns Lego, is buying BrainPop, a business making short animations used in schools to teach a range of subjects, for \$875 million.

The purchase is part of a plan by the world's largest toy maker by revenue to broaden its presence in education, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Kirkbi owns 75 percent of Lego AS, which makes the ubiquitous collection of colored snap blocks. Another division, Lego Education, makes block sets to be used in classrooms.

In 2019, the company was part of a group that bought Legoland theme parks. (The purchase included Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.) Earlier this year, Lego picked up a minority interest in Epic Games, which makes the popular "Fortnite" video game, to launch a child-focused metaverse.

Lego has made 15 minority investments in education-related companies since 2017, the *WSJ* said.

In September, Lego reported double-digit revenue growth during the first six months of this year, topping rivals Hasbro and Mattel.

Lego has pledged that its ownership of BrainPop will not result in Lego videos being shown in classrooms.

SPECIAL UKRAINE WAR REPORT



UKRAINE'S FOREIGN MINISTER ADMITS BOMBING CRIMEA BRIDGE

Dmitry Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign minister who has been one of the most outspoken advocates of more weapons and war, was caught in a prank Zoom video admitting to being behind attacks on civilian infrastructure in Crimea and Belgorod.

Reports said Kuleba was evidently under the impression that he was talking to a former American ambassador to Moscow Michael McFaul, who himself has been a major supporter of U.S. intervention.

"Well, if you were to ask me who blows up things in Crimea or Belgorod, then speaking privately, as much privacy we can have in a Zoom call, I'd tell you, yes, that was us," [Kuleba said](#).

Kuleba was caught by the same Russian pranksters who got George W. Bush, the former president, to believe he was on a Zoom chat with Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky. (See [“VIDEO SHOWS KILLER GEORGE BUSH TELLING ‘ZELENSKY’ HIS JOB IS MASS MURDER.”](#))

The **Trends Journal** reported extensively last week on the bombing of the bridge and how the White House gave Ukraine a wink and a nod before the incident. (See [“WHITE HOUSE GAVE PUBLIC GREEN LIGHT TO UKRAINE TO BOMB CRIMEA BRIDGE, DID BRITIAN PLOT ATTACK?”](#))

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.

Russia immediately blamed Ukraine for the explosion. The video seemed to have been recorded sometime in September, weeks before the bridge attack. Maria Zakharova, the Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman, said Kuleba essentially admitted to state-sponsored terrorism.

Ukraine sees Crimea and the bridge as legitimate targets because Russia uses these areas to store ammo and other military equipment.

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has long said that we are led by mentally deranged people who want war with Russia. And they get away with it because our media has been neutered. Presstitutes don't seek truth, they get paid to put out by their government whore masters and corporate pimps... they screw for those in power. That's why the damning G.W. Bush prank that exemplifies what a complete, arrogant, moronic little Georgie Bush is was never picked up [in the mainstream media](#).*

Agree or disagree with Vladimir Putin's statements, in the Western media there is just one side to the Ukraine War: Russia aggression.

*Totally ignored are the United States and NATO actions that were, to Russia, moves of aggression that we have greatly detailed in the **Trends Journal**, as well as the U.S. led coup of Ukraine's ruling president in 2014. (See: [“VICTORIA “FUCK THE EU” NULAND WHO SPEARHEADED OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE IN 2014, STILL IN POWER.”](#))*

TRENDPOST: Long forgotten was the U.S. and NATO'S pledge not to expand into Eastern Europe following the deal made during the 1990 negotiations between the West and the Soviet Union over German unification.

Therefore, in the view of Russia, it is taking self-defense actions to protect itself from NATO's eastward march.

As detailed in *The Los Angeles Times* back in May of 2016, while the U.S. and NATO deny that no such agreement was struck, "...hundreds of memos, meeting minutes and transcripts from U.S. archives indicate otherwise."

[The article states:](#)

"According to transcripts of meetings in Moscow on Feb. 9, then-Secretary of State James Baker suggested that in exchange for cooperation with Germany, the U.S. could make 'iron-clad guarantees' that NATO would not expand 'one inch eastward.' Less than a week later, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to begin reunification talks.

"No formal deal was struck, but from all the evidence, the quid pro quo was clear: Gorbachev acceded to Germany's western alignment and the U.S. would limit NATO's expansion."

TRENDPOST: In 1997, when President Bill Clinton was expanding NATO's borders eastward, fifty American foreign policy leaders sent him a letter saying that it would be a policy error of historic proportions.

"We believe that NATO expansion will decrease allied security and unsettle European stability," and "NATO expansion, which continues to be opposed across the entire political spectrum, will strengthen the nondemocratic opposition, undercut those who favor reform and cooperation with the West, bring the Russians to question the entire post-Cold War settlement."

NOT A “PROXY WAR”: WEST IN FULL-OUT WAR WITH RUSSIA



One of NATO's top priorities is to supply Ukraine with anti-missile systems after Russia's attacks last week showed a willingness by the Kremlin to target civilian targets deep in major cities.

“What Ukraine is asking for and what we think can be provided is an integrated air-missile-defense system,” Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. “That doesn't control all the airspace over Ukraine, but they're designed to control priority targets that Ukraine needs to protect.”

Russia's retaliatory strikes last week that were in response to the Crimea bridge bombing were seen as an escalation and Western countries said justified these new weapons. (See [“NO, RUSSIA DID NOT INVADE CRIMEA.”](#) [“WHITE HOUSE GAVE PUBLIC GREEN LIGHT TO UKRAINE TO BOMB BRIDGE”](#) and [“PUTIN: UKRAINE'S CRIMEA BRIDGE ATTACK AN ‘ACT OF TERROR.’”](#))

The U.S. Defense Department said these strikes were against international laws of war because they targeted civilian infrastructure. Russia fired hundreds of rockets at these cities.

Milley made the comment after last week's Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting in Brussels where anti-missile capabilities were discussed. France announced that it will provide some air defense batteries that Paris said would be able to be deployed in two months. About a dozen other countries agreed to assist Ukraine with these defense systems, including Germany. The name of the initiative is called “European Sky Shield.”

German Air Force Lt. Gen. Ingo Gerhartz told *The Jerusalem Post* that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for an air defense system. Some work against close-range

fire, while more-complicated systems, like the Arrow 3 or Hetz 3 is an exoatmospheric hypersonic, anti-ballistic missile that was funded by the U.S. and Israel.

These interceptors may come in handy after reports emerged last week that Iran is set to provide Russia with ballistic missiles and drones.

Nachman Shai, Israel's minister of diaspora affairs, said Iran's assistance to Russia means the time has come for Israel to provide Ukraine with military aid and not just humanitarian aid.

Stoltenberg Says Quiet Part Out Loud

Jens Stoltenberg, the head of NATO, said last week that if Russia emerges victorious in Ukraine, it would mean a defeat for the alliance—which was seen by top Russian officials as further proof of a wider war. (See [“NATO’S JENS ‘NUTS’ STOLTENBERG WANTS TO KEEP UKRAINE WAR GOING.”](#) 21 Jun 2022).

Dmitry Medvedev, the 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, saying Stoltenberg's comment was an open confirmation of the alliance's “participation in the war.”

He called Stoltenberg's comments an “unwise, but pure-hearted remark. The honest Norwegian fellow has finally admitted it.”

Stoltenberg said Ukraine is in need of advanced weaponry and said NATO countries understand that ‘we have a moral, political and security interest in ensuring that Ukraine wins the war against President Putin.’

TRENDPOST: French President Emmanuel Macron once called NATO braindead and it seems as though his diagnosis was spot on. Stoltenberg said in June that it is likely that the Ukraine War could drag on for years and that Western countries should prepare for the long haul.

Stoltenberg made the comment during an interview with the German newspaper Bild. He said we must “not let up” in supporting Ukraine.

“We must prepare for the fact that it could take years,” he said. “We must not let up in supporting Ukraine. Even if the costs are high, not only for military support, [but] also because of rising energy and food prices.”

Abraham Maslow, an American psychologist, famously wrote about the law of the instrument, and said, “I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.”

TRENDPOST: *The western media is awash with the headline that Iranian drones were used by Russians to strike Kyiv on Monday, but they never publish headlines that U.S. NATO Weapons are used by Ukraine to kill citizens of the separatist Donbas region or against Russian troops.*

EU’S BORRELL SAYS RUSSIAN ARMY WOULD BE ‘ANNIHILATED’ IF PUTIN USES NUKES IN UKRAINE



Josep Borrell, the European Union’s foreign policy head, said at an event in Belgium on Thursday that Russia’s military would be annihilated by overwhelming force if Moscow used nuclear weapons during its war with Ukraine.

Borrell was speaking at a European Diplomatic Academy event in Bruges and said Russian President Vladimir Putin has assured the world that he is not bluffing when he threatens nuclear weapons.

"It has to be clear that the people supporting Ukraine and the European Union and the member states, and the United States and NATO are not bluffing either," he said. "And any nuclear attack against Ukraine will create an answer—not a nuclear answer but

such a powerful answer from the military side—that the Russian army will be annihilated, and Putin should not be bluffing."

EuroNews reported that it contacted a European Commission spokesman about Borrell's comments and was told that a nuclear strike in Ukraine would be a "total game-changer."

Borrell made the comment after Lloyd Austin, the U.S. defense secretary, told a NATO meeting that the alliance will "not be dragged into Russia's war of choice but we will stand by Ukraine as it fights to defend itself."

Retired Gen. David Petraeus, the former CIA director, also discussed how NATO could respond if Russia decided to use tactical nukes in Ukraine. He said in an interview that there would be a collective effort to take out all of Russia's conventional forces that can be identified on the battlefield and "every ship in the Black Sea."

He noted at the time that Ukraine is not protected under NATO's Article 5, which would mean a united response, but the impact of a nuclear explosion would likely affect NATO countries and trigger the response.

'Nuclear Saber-Rattling'

Austin accused Putin of "nuclear saber-rattling," but did not commit to how the U.S. would respond if Russia used the weapon. Austin addressed the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in Brussels where 50 Western countries promised to provide Kyiv with more weapons to counter Russia's invasion.

Emmanuel Macron, the French president who ruled out using nuclear weapons to respond to a Russian nuclear attack in Ukraine, announced that France would provide Kyiv with air defense systems after a missile barrage from Russia after the Crimea bridge bombing. Germany announced that it would give Kyiv heat-seeking missiles so state-of-the-art that Germans have not even used them.

The New York Times noted that Spain and the Netherlands also said they would provide anti-missile systems. The paper also noted that the U.S. is sending two types of missile launchers that have been used to defend Washington.

Jens Stoltenberg, secretary general of the NATO, said at the same conference, “We will stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes, we will step up our support, and in particular, we will provide more air defense systems to Ukraine.”

TRENDPOST: *Austin, who we have long noted sat on the board of the U.S. second largest defense contractor Raytheon before his “service,” blamed Russia for conducting the war with “malice and cruelty.” This is purely hypocritical coming from the man who served from September 2003 until August 2005 as the commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), as Commander, Combined Joint Task Force 180, during the murderous Afghan War.*

Austin also led the U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq while Barack Obama was president and disagreed with Obama’s call to withdraw from the country in 2011. AL.com noted that Austin was involved in the war from Operation Shock and Awe to the final days.

Austin made headlines earlier in the war when he admitted that the U.S. main objective in the Ukraine War is not peace or the preservation of lives, buildings, homes and communities in Ukraine. Instead, the supplying of weapons of death is to see Russia “weakened.”

“One of our goals has been to limit Russia's ability to do something like this again,” he said. “That's why we are arming the Ukrainians with weapons and equipment to defend themselves from Russian attacks, and it's why we are using sanctions and export controls that are directly targeted at Russia's defense industry to undercut Russia's economic and military power to threaten and attack its neighbors.”

Scott Ritter, an ex-weapons inspector for the UN, told Gerald Celente in an interview last week that it is becoming apparent that NATO and the U.S. is perfectly willing to fight against Russia until the last capable Ukrainian is [either killed or captured](#).

PUTIN GIVES UPDATE ON UKRAINE WAR, KYIV'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE, RECENT BOMBINGS



Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Moscow continues to seek peace negotiations, does not want to destroy Ukraine, and believes that Germany is making a strategic mistake in trying to appease NATO instead of its own domestic interests.

He mentioned Russia's decision to bomb cities across Ukraine and noted that he does not see the need to conduct "massive strikes."

"For now, there are other tasks, because, I believe, out of 29 targets, [only] seven were not hit as the Ministry of Defense planned, but they are getting to them gradually. There is no need for massive strikes, in any case, not for now," he said during a meeting in Kazakhstan. "We do not set ourselves the task of destroying Ukraine. No, of course not."

He seemed to refer to a decree signed earlier this month by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that ruled out any possibility of peace negotiations with him. Putin said India and China want dialogues for peace and he respects their position. But he noted that Kyiv has "made an official decision that prohibits negotiations."

Putin said he believes Germany, Europe's largest economy, is making a strategic mistake by strengthening its relationship with NATO at the expense of its own people. He said the German people are paying for that mistake.

"Very few people take into account its interests, otherwise, Nord Stream 1 and 2 would not have been undermined," he said. "But although one branch remains, as I said, in working order, a decision has not been made and is unlikely to be made. But this is no longer our business, this is the business of our partners." (See

["DRAGFLATION: GERMANY'S FACTORY OUTPUT SLUMPS AS ENERGY CRISIS](#)

[TAKES HOLD.” “GERMANY ON HIGH ALERT: NORD STREAM PIPELINE AND NOW RAILWAY SABOTAGE?” “GERMANY ROLLS OUT €200 BILLION IN ENERGY SUBSIDIES”](#) and [“GERMANY RETURNS TO COAL AS NATURAL GAS PRICES SOAR.”](#))

Putin went on to say that the country’s mobilization effort to bolster forces will be paused after drafting about 220,000 men. He said he did not see any need to call up more troops. There was a shooting at a Russian military firing range in Belgorod on Saturday that resulted in 11 deaths before the two gunmen were also killed in the volley.

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has long said that the longer the Ukraine War drags on, the closer the world gets to a nuclear confrontation. On 22 February, two days before Russia invaded Ukraine, the cover of our issue featured a mushroom cloud from a nuclear bomb explosion with the title, “COVID War, Ukraine War, World War.”*



Western countries used the Russian shelling as a call to justify providing Ukraine with even more weapons of death to ensure that the war continues. Lloyd Austin, the U.S. defense secretary, tweeted on Saturday that his department authorized another drawdown of \$725 million in “security assistance,” including high-speed anti-radiation missiles, or HARMs.

Jens Stoltenberg, the head of NATO, said the alliance would provide Kyiv with weapons for as long as it takes.

The New York Times noted that it’s one thing to give an army weapons, it’s another thing completely to make sure that troops know how to fire them. Countries like the

U.S. and Poland have been searching for the Soviet-era weapons that Ukrainian forces are trained on and Finland has been able to provide some of the weaponry.

The U.S. has been working overtime to get countries that have been on the fence with getting involved in the conflict to start contributing to the effort. Antony Blinken, the U.S. secretary of state, has visited countries like Mexico and Colombia in recent weeks.

Last week, we noted 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 WWII.

Putin gave a press conference in Astana, the Kazakh capital, and said any direct confrontation with NATO forces and his troops would be a “global catastrophe,” another thinly veiled nuclear threat.

DW.com noted that the Russian leader said he sees “no need” to hold talks with U.S. President Joe Biden and did not commit to attending the G20 summit in Bali in November.

UKRAINE'S ACCEPTANCE IN NATO WOULD ASSURE WWII AND BE 'CATASTROPHIC' FOR MANKIND



A top Russian security official said last week that a decision by NATO to take Ukraine into the alliance would mean World War III.

There is no indication that Ukraine is any closer to being embraced by the alliance. When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reapplied for membership, Jake

Sullivan, President Biden's national security adviser, told reporters that it was not the right time.

Alexander Venediktov, the deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, called Ukraine's membership would guarantee a world war. (See ["UKRAINE: ZELENSKY TRIES TO JOIN NATO AGAIN AND MAKE WWII OFFICIAL."](#) ["NATO WILL NOT INTERVENE IF RUSSIA USES NUKES: MEDVEDEV"](#) and ["MEDVEDEV WARNS OF ARMAGEDDON AS U.S. AND NATO RAMP UP UKRAINE WAR."](#))

"Kyiv is well aware that such a step would mean a guaranteed escalation to a World War III," he said. He continued, "We must remember: a nuclear conflict will affect absolutely the whole world, and not only Russia and the collective West, but in general, any country on this planet. Its consequences will be catastrophic for all mankind."

Last week, we reported that President Joe Biden said the world was closer to nuclear Armageddon than at any time since the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis. (See ["BIDEN WARNS WORLD THAT RISK OF NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON IS HIGHEST SINCE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS."](#))

Biden made the comment during a Democratic fundraiser. He said he cannot imagine Russia using a tactical nuclear weapon without leading to 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.

TREND FORECAST: *NATO announced last week that it will conduct a nuclear exercise called “Steadfast Noon” this week that will include up to 60 aircraft. The jets will fly over Belgium and the North Sea and will practice deploying U.S. nuclear bombs in Europe. Reuters noted that these drills—which do not include live weapons—will coincide with Russia’s own nuclear drills called “Grom.”*

NATO insisted that the drill was not prompted by any world event, but will include bombers flown in that day from North Dakota and the most advanced fighters in the world.

Jens Stoltenberg, the head of NATO, said it would send a "very wrong signal" to cancel the event.

CNN, citing several U.S. officials, said in a report Sunday that the Pentagon is watching for any “unexpected or unusual movements of Moscow’s nuclear weapons during Russia’s exercise.”

This is pure insanity. There is no “deterrence” to a nuclear war. Life on Earth will be eliminated.

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

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

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

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

Some Key Findings

- *Nuclear firestorms would release soot and smoke into the upper atmosphere that would block out the Sun resulting in crop failure around the world. In the first month following nuclear detonation, average global temperatures would plunge by about 13 degrees Fahrenheit, a larger temperature change than in the last Ice Age.*
- *The sudden drop in light and ocean temperatures, especially from the Arctic to the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans, would kill the marine algae, which is the foundation of the marine food web, essentially creating a famine in the ocean. This would halt most fishing and aquaculture.*
- *When the cooling event ends, Arctic sea ice is left in a new state, a sort of “Nuclear Little Ice Age.” Marine ecosystems would be highly disrupted by both the initial perturbation and the resulting new ocean state, resulting in impacts to ecosystem services worldwide, lasting for decades.*

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

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

U.S. DRAWS LINE IN THE SAND FOR MEXICO: WITH US OR NOT



Mexico, which has spoken out against the Ukraine War but has not chided Russia over its invasion, is feeling increased pressure from the U.S. to take a more assertive role as the war drags on.

“There is no neutrality when we are speaking about annexations,” Antony

Blinken, the U.S. secretary of state, said. “What’s important is to ask oneself if the U.N.’s values are reflected in Mexico’s position.”

Blinken’s comments came after a meeting in D.C. with top Mexican officials, WSWS.org reported. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has said Mexico City’s position is that of neutrality.

“Sending weapons to countries where there are conflicts and interfering in the international affairs of other countries...They already bombed a bridge. They already sabotaged the pipeline. There was already a statement that we are about to press the button,” the Mexican president said.

The critical comments from the Mexican president shows the challenges that Washington has in gathering support for its effort in Ukraine from anywhere outside western Europe. Countries like Mexico and countries in Central America and South America no longer need to appease the U.S. because of China’s growing influence.

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on how the Biden administration has used bullying tactics to get smaller countries to sign up to support its effort against Russia and China. (See [“BLINKEN VOWS TO RAMP UP UKRAINE WAR,” “BLINKEN GOES TO AFRICA TO PEDDLE ‘DEMOCRACY’ IN EFFORT TO BLOCK CHINA AND RUSSIA’S INROADS ON CONTINENT”](#) and [“IS BLINKEN AFRAID? HE WON’T MEET WITH RUSSIAN COUNTERPART.”](#))

López Obrador has been consistent in his opinion about the Ukraine War. Mexico voted in the UN to condemn the invasion, but has called NATO's policy "immoral."

"How easy it is to say, 'Here, I'll send you this much money for weapons'," he said in July, according to The Associated Press. "Couldn't the war in Ukraine have been avoided? Of course it could."

TRENDPOST: While the U.S. only thinks about more weapons for Ukraine, López Obrador submitted a proposal to end the conflict last month that did not get much attention in the Pressittitue media that only sells war.

He wanted to form a mediation committee that would include Pope Francis, India's Narendra Modi, and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The plan called for immediate peace talks between and a "truce of at least five years."

FEATURED GUEST ARTICLES



SIMPLE NASAL WASH REDUCES RISK OF COVID HOSPITALIZATION

by [Dr. Joseph Mercola](#)

Story at-a-glance

- *Rinsing your nasal passages with a saline solution within 24 hours of a COVID-19 diagnosis could reduce your chances of being hospitalized by 8.5-fold*
- *Among people with COVID-19 who used nasal irrigation twice daily, 80 percent had zero or one mild symptom, compared to 42 percent of those who irrigated less often*
- *Only 13 percent of those who used nasal irrigation still had symptoms at day 28, compared to nearly 50 percent of those in another study*
- *Other research also supports the use of nasal irrigation as a “useful add-on to first-line interventions for COVID-19”*

- *Nebulized hydrogen peroxide diluted with saline, with or without iodine, can also be safely used by most people for prevention of respiratory infections—and in cases of active infection*

Rinsing your nasal passages with a saline solution within 24 hours of a COVID-19 diagnosis could reduce your chances of being hospitalized by 8.5-fold.(1) Why hasn't your doctor told you about this? And why haven't public health agencies shared the good news with the public that they can significantly reduce their risk of severe COVID-19 with a simple nasal wash?

The practically free solution is just too inexpensive. Unlike Pfizer's Paxlovid, which was granted emergency use authorization to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in December 2021 (2)—and is slated to make the company \$22 billion in profits in 2022 (3)—there's little money to be made by promoting the ancient practice of nasal lavage.

Further, if its benefits are confirmed, widespread usage could have drastically altered the course of the pandemic, rendering the entire pandemic response completely unnecessary.(4)

Simple Way to Reduce Your Risk of COVID Hospitalization

Nasal irrigation, sometimes referred to as nasal lavage, is a relatively popular method for relieving cold symptoms, often via the use of a neti pot. The practice is an ancient technique with roots in the traditional Indian health care system, however.

Irrigating the nasal passages with saline is used in traditional yoga practice, where it's known as jala-neti.(5) It involves the use of a saline solution in a teapot-like device, used to flush out the nose and sinus cavities. After inserting the end of the pot in one side of your nose, the solution moves through your sinuses and out the other nostril. A bulb syringe or squeeze bottle can also be used.

In the U.S., nasal irrigation continues to be an adjunctive therapy for upper respiratory conditions and is currently prescribed after nasal and sinus surgeries.(6) The featured study, which was published in the *Ear, Nose & Throat Journal* in August 2022, involved 79 participants 55 and older who were diagnosed with COVID-19.(7)

They were randomly selected to use either one-half teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate (alkalinization) with an isotonic normal saline (0.9 percent saline) rinse twice a day for 14 days or to include 2.5 milliliters (roughly a half-teaspoon) of povidone-iodine (PVP-I) 10 percent solution (antimicrobial) for the same period. The researchers then followed up with each group 14 days after their final intervention.

Those who used nasal irrigation were more than 8.5 times less likely to be hospitalized compared to the national rate, the study found. A dose-response relationship was also found. Among those who irrigated twice daily, 80 percent had zero or one mild symptom, compared to 42 percent of those who irrigated less often.

Further, only 13 percent of those who used nasal irrigation still had symptoms at day 28, compared to nearly 50 percent of those in another study, who had continued symptoms for 21 days or more.(8) According to the researchers:(9)

"Our results support that pressurized nasal irrigation reduces the likelihood of hospitalization in high-risk COVID-19 + outpatients, suggesting a safe and over the counter measure with potentially vital public health impact.

The reduction from 11 to 1.3% as of November 2021 would have corresponded in absolute terms to over 1,000,000 fewer older Americans requiring admission. If confirmed in other studies, the potential reduction in morbidity and mortality worldwide could be profound. "

Senior study author Dr. Richard Schwartz noted, "We found an 8.5-fold reduction in hospitalizations and no fatalities compared to our controls. Both of those are pretty significant endpoints."(10) In addition to the featured study, other research also supports the use of nasal irrigation as a "useful add-on to first-line interventions for COVID-19."(11)

Nasal Wash Findings Render COVID Response Useless

Dr. Amy Baxter, featured study author and emergency medicine physician at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, said she got inspiration for the

study from visits to Southeast Asia, where nasal irrigation is used daily as part of personal hygiene. She explained:(12)

"What we say in the emergency room and surgery is the solution to pollution is dilution ... If you have a contaminant, the more you flush it out, the better you are able to get rid of dirt, viruses, and anything else ... One of our thoughts was: If we can rinse out some of the virus within 24 hours of them testing positive, then maybe we can lower the severity of that whole trajectory."

That indeed turned out to be the case, a finding that should not come entirely as a surprise. In 2019, researchers with Khon Kaen University in Thailand similarly found that nasal irrigation was an effective treatment for nasal disease, helping to clear nasal secretion, improve nasal congestion and improve sinus pain, headache, taste and smell, and even sleep quality.(13)

Steve Kirsch, executive director of the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, took it a step further, explaining that the impressive effectiveness of nasal irrigation for reducing COVID-19 hospitalizations renders the pandemic response "unnecessary and harmful":(14)

"All the pandemic mitigations were unnecessary. Simply telling newly infected people to rinse their nose with a saline rinse if they got sick would have reduced the hospitalization rates to levels comparable to the flu. The CDC is still not telling people to do this today even though there is no risk to anyone ...

This would apply to any other virus or bacteria as well, based on the mechanism of action. It's also extremely safe ... This treatment is still being ignored by every mainstream medical institution ... Universities should mandate students do nasal washes after getting COVID instead of taking vaccines."

Mouth and Nose Spray Shields Against COVID-19

Nasal irrigation is just one tool to help protect against COVID-19. A simple mouth and nose spray containing povidone iodine (PVP-I), a microbicidal agent with a virucidal

efficacy of 99.99 percent,(15) could also act as an effective shield to protect against COVID-19.

A study in the *Indian Journal of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery*, recommended the PVP-I oro-nasal spray for health care workers and anyone else to help prevent COVID-19,(16) echoing a number of other studies that have also found benefits to gargling, nasal irrigation and nebulization of PVP-I and other compounds, including Lugol's iodine, saline and hydrogen peroxide.(17)

In this case, the spray formulation was particularly effective because it allowed the active ingredient to diffuse further and reach deeper into the nose and nasopharynx, which is the upper part of the throat behind the nose. The oro-nasal spray acts as a protective layer, coating the nasal and oral mucosa.

Typically, if you're exposed to SARS-CoV-2, it will enter your body through your nose and mouth, remaining there for a time before binding with ACE2 receptors and entering cells. Once inside your cells, the virus has an opportunity to multiply.

By creating a protective shield, oro-nasal spray helps prevent SARS-CoV-2 from binding with ACE2 receptors and gaining entry into your cells. In a clinical trial that has not yet been published,(18) researchers got positive results using 0.6 percent PVP-I oro-nasal spray in 189 patients with COVID-19. The 0.6 percent solution had an efficacy rate of about 81.5 percent, which was greater than that of other concentrations (0.4 percent and 0.5 percent) and produced "almost no mucosal irritation."(19)

Nebulized Hydrogen Peroxide for Respiratory Infections

It was impressive to see that the simple normal saline nasal irrigations had such a dramatic impact on reducing COVID hospitalizations. My favorite intervention for COVID involves nebulizing normal saline but adding a very small amount of hydrogen peroxide. Most over-the-counter peroxide has a concentration of 3 percent, but I recommend diluting it 30-fold to 0.1 percent.

Remember, the study above shows simple saline nebulization is useful. You don't need much peroxide to enhance the effect of the saline. [This video](#) goes into great detail on how to prepare and implement the hydrogen peroxide solution and how to use the nebulizer.

The KEY here is to have the nebulizer and peroxide solution locked and loaded. You need to have it in your home BEFORE you get sick. Waiting several days to obtain it, if you even can, could radically reduce its effectiveness.

I recommend using nebulized peroxide for any suspected respiratory infection, and the earlier you start, the better. There is no danger in doing it every day if you're frequently exposed, and there may even be additional beneficial effects, such as a rapid rise in your blood oxygen level and optimization of your microbiome.

Since early treatment is vital, ideally on day one, you want to have the nebulizer and materials already in your house ready to go. I would avoid using a battery powered hand held nebulizer and rather opt for a unit you plug into the wall.

I've embraced nebulized peroxide since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and have received many anecdotal reports from people who have successfully used it, even at more advanced stages. Dr. David Brownstein also successfully treated hundreds of COVID-19 patients using immune-boosting strategies such as intravenous or nebulized hydrogen peroxide, iodine, oral vitamins A, C and D, and intramuscular ozone.

In a case report of 107 confirmed COVID-19 patients that he treated, 91 (85 percent) used nebulized peroxide diluted with normal saline, plus Lugol's iodine.(20) Based on Brownstein's experience, I also recommend adding iodine when nebulizing, as it appears to make it even more effective.

Tips for Effective Nasal Irrigation

Traditionally, slightly warm saline water—a solution of 2.5 grams of salt in 500 milliliters of water—is recommended for nasal irrigation.(21) For additional

antimicrobial action, povidone iodine (0.5 percent to 1 percent) can be added to the saline solution.

A study published in the *Indian Journal of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery* advised that using saline and PVP-I "as irrigation solution can combine and enhance the protection against COVID-19 and this can be an important armor in the fight against COVID-19."(22)

If you want to try nasal irrigation with a neti pot or other device, and you're thinking of making your own saline solution, it's important to remember to use only distilled, sterile or cooled, boiled water. Tap water can contain bacteria and protozoa that can be harmful if they receive access to your nasal passages,(23) so unboiled tap water should not be used for this purpose.

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

TRENDS IN THE MARKETS



EXPECT A NEW DEBT EXPANSION CYCLE TO BEGIN

by *Gregory Mannarino* TradersChoice.net

If central banks do not find another mechanism to continue to inflate, IMMEDIATELY, the entire global financial system will melt down.

The current central bank-run financial system is 100 percent debt based.

What this means is a debt based financial/economic system can only function if more debt is constantly added/borrowed into existence—and *the moment this stops, the financial system in its entirety implodes.*

War, expanding wars, Congressional acts/policies, disease processes, warp speed vaccines, drugs, engineered crisis after crisis, etc. are all mechanisms pushed upon an unsuspecting public to pull debt relentlessly **and exponentially** into the system.

Not only does the system demand that more debt be created, and henceforth pulled into existence, but it must also do so on an ever-increasing basis just to sustain the current environment.

The borrowing of debt into existence, which at its core demands that the currency expand/inflate, is MASSIVELY inflationary.

Currently the world is being sold a lie, which is inflation is running rampant because rates are too low. The fact here is simple: **raising rates is meant to KILL demand, not lower inflation.**

To lower inflation, all the Federal Reserve or any central bank must do is contract the money supply. If in fact the Federal Reserve really wanted to lower inflation, they would increase the capital reserve requirement of the banks, *which currently sits at zero*, this would contract the money supply.

The last thing that ANY central bank, especially the Federal Reserve wants to do in this environment is to contract the money supply, in fact, they want to expand it/inflate it.

The power of any central bank resides in ONE THING, its ability to inflate... PERIOD.

How do you kill a central bank? Simple, prevent them from issuing A SINGLE DOLLAR OF MORE DEBT.

Central banks will NEVER give up their ability to inflate, it would take a full-on revolution of the people against central banking to make that happen. As it stands, central banks are the most powerful organizations on the planet, none more so than the Federal Reserve which has the FULL backing of the U.S. Armed Forces, which includes its nuclear arsenal— *henceforth the petrodollar.*

What we can fully expect moving forward is yet again some other kind of mechanism which will allow the Federal Reserve to continue to inflate.

Another disease process possibly... Expanding war... Some new Congressional act/policy... ANOTHER CRISIS... Some new way to borrow/buy debt.

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



by *Joe Doran*

YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY—PART ONE

Citizens are becoming digital serfs on SAAS (Software as a Service) plantations, with AI drivers ensuring no thought or dissident vision steps out of line.

What began with algorithmic censorship on social media platforms is now moving to practically every piece of software.

AI surveillance and control, embedded into SaaS, is systematically destroying political and creative freedom of users.

As a result, those wishing to create images or write stories or blog articles, are finding that their software will not permit certain things to be visually created, or talked about.

The programs are also often biased to permit and promote certain topics and viewpoints, which align with the objectives of the service providers, while skewing others.

With SaaS becoming a defacto standard for how software is accessed and used, there are fewer and fewer alternatives to these digital gulags.

How did it happen? What are some of the ways freedom of expression is being censored and controlled?

Understanding and countering the transformation of productivity and communication software to serve corporate and government masters, is crucial, if core human freedoms are to persevere in the AI-driven so-called “fourth industrial revolution.”

From Disks To Cloud: The SaaS Takeover

The shift from software being accessed by installing programs on local hard drives, to being accessed as cloud services via web browser portals and app stores, accelerated in the early 2000s.

Google, more than any other company, spurred the shift. Users were enticed to sign up not only for web-based email, but a “Google Apps” suite including a basic word processor, spreadsheet program, calendar, and even cloud storage.

Email and social media, along with commerce platforms, became the gateways for SaaS. But since 2010, practically every kind of productivity software has moved to an SaaS model.

Businesses and home users gained, via ease of access and upkeep, with quick rollouts of new features and security updates.

Software companies gained even more, via a lucrative “subscription” model, which guaranteed income streams, and made software distribution and updates more cost-effective.

From Subscription To Suppression

A Pew Research study released on 6 October purportedly found that 61 percent of all U.S. adults prefer that tech companies restrict offensive content and “false” information on social media platforms, even if it limits freedom of information.

The study focused with an ominous tenor on the growth of alternative social media platforms including Parlor, Bitchute, Truth Social, Gab, Rumble and others, suggesting that these sites and services were breeding grounds for extremist opinions.

The study grudgingly acknowledged that sites in question adhere to U.S. laws, allowing the exact same free speech rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

The study also admitted that a primary reason Americans seeking out alternative social platforms are doing so is to exercise their Constitutional free speech rights.

According to Pew:

“When users of alternative social media sites were asked to describe, in their own words, the first thing that comes to their mind in connection with these sites, 22% mentioned something related to the concept of freedom of speech, anti-censorship and an alternative to more established social media – far more common than any other type of response.”

Meanwhile, The Associated Press, in a 13 October [piece](#), touted a poll they conducted that found people believe “misinformation” is spurring extremism, racism and hate.

What sorts of things did the AP identify as rife with misinformation? Why of course, information contradicting government and big pharma COVID policies and treatments, views contradicting government Russia-Ukraine narratives, and the massive January 6th protest against 2020 election manipulation and fraud:

“Whether it’s lies about the 2020 election or the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, COVID-19 conspiracy theories or disinformation about Russia’s invasion

of Ukraine, online misinformation has been blamed for increased political polarization, distrust of institutions and even real-world violence.”

Even the AP had to admit that while people appeared to lament “misinformation,” most respondents believed that others, and not they themselves, were the culpable ones:

“[L]ess than half said they are that worried that they were responsible for spreading it. That’s consistent with previous polls that have found people are more likely to blame others than accept responsibility for the spread of misinformation.”

Sort of like the AP and MSM not admitting the propaganda 24/7 beam in their own eye (“MATTHEW 7:5 KJV “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to out the mote out of thy brother's eye”).

The MSM is predictably churning out support for the Biden administration’s “misinformation” war.

And as conservatives censored on elite controlled tech platforms have finally made efforts to build alternatives, the liberal line regarding censorship is shifting.

Not long ago, liberals were defending tech giants for censoring and banning (mostly conservative) users, because they were exercising their own rights as private entities.

Now they’re advocating that upstart platforms be prevented from allowing legally protected speech.

From the beginning, the Biden administration has led the attack, by attempting to redefine any unwanted or damaging speech or information as “dangerous” and therefore not protected by the First Amendment.

And now the battle being most visibly fought on social media platforms is spreading to AI-enhanced SaaS productivity software.

The same AI algorithms that cut their teeth flagging dissident political and “offensive” content on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook are being embedded into creative imaging and writing software.

Authoritarian AI Writing and Art Creation Assistants

OpenAI, originally a non-profit AI development project co-founded by Elon Musk in 2015, has evolved into a for-profit, Microsoft backed leader in AI-powered productivity software for creative content producers.

Via Jasper.ai, a writing assistant platform, and DALL-E, which leverages AI to create stunning visual art and images from natural language inputs, are two flagship SaaS services of OpenAI.

Just don’t ask Jasper for help with writing certain politically verboten content. And don’t ask DALL-E to produce images that transgress woke ideology.

Any attempts to write or visualize forbidden content is flagged by the AI in real time, blocked and reported.

As might be expected, Jasper, DALL-E, and competing SaaS products (some which depend on OpenAI’s GPT-3 AI natural language generators), have their own political and sometimes painfully absurd biases.

These biases ban some kinds of offensive content, while allowing other kinds, often based on pretty predictable political and “woke” ideology preferences.

In the next section, some examples gleaned from testing different SaaS AI productivity services will be presented. The examples aren’t a scientifically rigorous analysis, just an end-user sampling.

But the programs cry out for rigorous research into their biases, and the ways they are attempting to control and direct the very process of human creativity.

And that's the greatest danger of the new digital productivity gulags being wielded by OpenAI, Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Amazon—and the government authorities behind them.

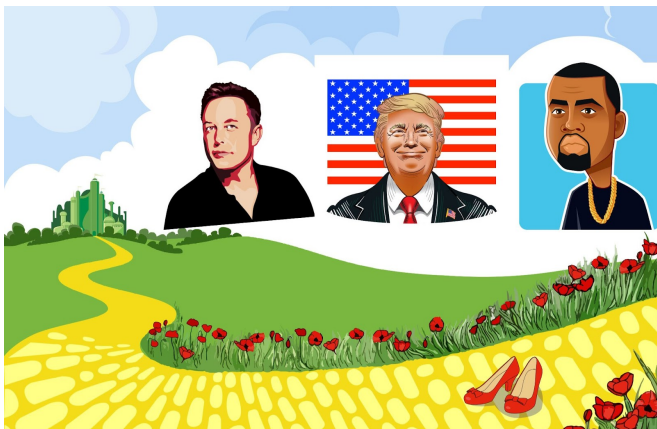
By establishing a paradigm where users utilize software residing on remote, corporate-controlled servers, and leveraging AI to sift and surveil content creation in real-time, technocratic elites are fast gaining control over what creative content can be produced, and what is forbidden.

In 1984, George Orwell had the insight that by controlling language and literally reducing available words and language, authorities could literally make it impossible for dissidents to express opposition to their power and control.

With AI-driven “protections” from “offensive” and political content, productivity SaaS is 2022's latest innovation in “Newspeak.”

Next Week: *“YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY—PART TWO” will report samples that demonstrate some of the biases and restrictions of AI-powered SaaS productivity software.*

ELON, YEEZY, TRUTH SOCIAL, OH MY!



A trio of stories this week highlighted the trend of censored Americans becoming increasingly proactive in fighting for social media platform access.

Elon Musk re-committed his intentions to buy Twitter, a leading social messaging platform that infamously censored then-President Donald Trump during the 2020 election campaign.

Truth Social, meanwhile, a Trump backed alternate social media platform, which recently was approved for inclusion in the Google Play store, shot to number one as the most downloaded app on android phones and devices.

And just yesterday, rapper and social icon Kanye West—who now simply wants to be known as Ye—struck back at being banned from Twitter and Instagram by announcing a deal to purchase the Parler alternative social media platform.

"In a world where conservative opinions are considered to be controversial we have to make sure we have the right to freely express ourselves," says Ye.

Ye's social media ban followed comments he made that were termed anti-semitic by mainstream media and commentators.

One of Ye's comments, [according](#) to ABC11.com, read:

"The funny thing is I actually can't be Anti Semitic because black people are actually Jew also You guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda."

Legacy media outlets reacted with predictable pearl-clutching headlines regarding Ye's Parler media play:

"Kanye West Is Buying Right-Wing Social Media Platform Parler"—Forbes

"Kanye West Will Acquire Parler, the Right-Wing Social Media Platform"—Observer

"Ye to Buy Controversial Social Networking App Parler"—Bloomberg

"Kanye West Buys MAGA Cesspit Parler After Getting Kicked Off Instagram and Twitter"—The Daily Beast

Bans Fostering Alternative Ecosystem

The Parler platform itself was taken offline following the January 6 Washington protests over election fraud, meddling and manipulation that MSM and tech companies actively abetted.

It was delisted from app stores, and its services, which relied on Amazon cloud, were suspended.

The **Trends Journal** has detailed those manipulations in many articles, including:

- [“ZUCKERBERG BOUGHT 2020 ELECTION WITH HALF A BILLION”](#) (19 Oct 2021)
- [“FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES”](#) (27 Oct 2020)
- [“NAILED: THE GROWING ANIMUS AMERICANS FEEL TOWARD UNCONSTITUTIONAL ABUSES”](#) (13 Jul 2021)
- [“INSURRECTIONISTS FAKE, COLLABORATIONISTS REAL”](#) (11 Jan 2022)
- [“‘HERD’ MEDIA FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGES PART OF HUNTER BIDEN LAPTOP STORY”](#) (22 Mar 2022)

Censorship, shadow banning, outright bans and demonetization of mostly conservative and liberty-minded viewpoints on platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and elsewhere, accelerated in 2020.

The actions of tech corporations, sometimes colluding with government partisans, constituted illegal election meddling, and a form of in-kind contributions to the Democrat Party, many believe.

Those platforms receive special protections in federal law (so-called section 230) that shield them, as supposedly neutral information conduits, from legal liability regarding posted third party content.

The **Trends Journal** has predicted and chronicled the growing movement of political dissidents to establish more resilient communications, social networking and other services, in the face of tech company and corporate censorship.

For more on that, see:

- [“THERE IS A WAY TO “VOTE TWICE” LEGALLY—JUST UTILIZE 2ND VOTE”](#) “13 Sep 2022)
- [“WAKING UP TO FREEDOM-MINDED BUSINESSES”](#) (5 Jul 2022)
- [“CENSORSHIP RESISTANT TECHNOLOGIES BLOCKCHAIN OFFERS RIGHT NOW”](#) (2 Aug 2022)
- [“RUMBLE VIDEO PLATFORM GETS SOCIAL WITH LOCALS BUY”](#) (26 Oct 2021)
- [“GAB ADS WILL OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO GOOGLE ADSENSE”](#) (10 Aug 2021)
- [“GAINING FREEDOM FROM THE TECHNOCRACY”](#) (20 Jul 2021)
- [“ARE AMERICANS HEADING TOWARD A SILENT SECESSION?”](#) 4 May 2021)

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



BIDEN WIDENS DOMESTIC SNOOPING UNDER THE COVER OF PROTECTING “CIVIL RIGHTS”

A new Biden Executive Order is authorizing U.S. Intelligence agencies to collect private communications and data of American citizens.

The order is another violation of 4th Amendment and other Constitutional rights of Americans to privacy and free speech, from an administration that has systematically assaulted those rights via dictates and federal agency policy initiatives.

The [EO](#), issued on 7 October, permits intelligence gathering of American citizen communications and data for:

“understanding or assessing transnational threats that impact global security, including climate and other ecological change, public health risks, humanitarian threats, political instability, and geographic rivalry.”

If the wording sounds like a blanket authority to sift through and surveil practically any communication of citizens, it's because it amounts to exactly that.

Biden administration officials have managed to frame practically any speech that threatens government objectives or narratives as a danger to “public health,” for example.

But the new directive appears to put special focus on geopolitical communications and speech, likely in an attempt to surveil and suppress dissident opinions regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Aspects of Biden's strategy for isolating Russia have been backfiring, and only edging the world closer to a wider and more dangerous war.

One of the latest missteps was attempting to impose a price cap on Russian oil imported by Western European countries facing an energy crisis with winter looming.

Biden tried to strong-arm Saudi Arabia into increasing oil production, and when that failed, he reportedly entreated the Saudi's to at least not cut production until after the American midterm elections.

Skyrocketing energy prices have been a front-and-center issue with voters.

Some contend that Biden's Saudi negotiation represented a political quid-pro-quo that sought a temporary political benefit for Biden's political prospects, in exchange for an after-midterm accommodation of the Saudi's desire to cut production.

LifeSiteNews noted that a government factsheet said the EO was meant to help “implement the U.S. commitments under the European Union-U.S. Data Privacy Framework (EU-U.S. DPF)” in an effort to “restore trust and stability” to transatlantic data flows.

But the attempt to allay civil liberties concerns by prohibiting signals intelligence collection for the purposes of “suppressing or burdening criticism or dissent,” is effectively nullified by other language in the EO, according to LifeSite’s reporting, which can be viewed [here](#).

The **Trends Journal** has extensively chronicled the Biden Administration’s attempts to undermine Constitutionally guaranteed free speech and privacy rights of Americans in many 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



META VIRTUAL WORLD NOT WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

One might think Horizon Worlds is a perfect simulation of an elitist paradise.

There are no hordes of unwashed masses uselessly consuming, and everyone taking part is wearing cutting-edge rose-colored glasses.

But of course, Horizon Worlds, the metaverse creation of Facebook (now Meta), wasn't supposed to be a digital ghost town. Mark Zuckerberg and company envisioned that by the end of this year, 500 thousand active users—well, actively shadow playing in their bedrooms with clunky headsets on—would be interacting in Horizon's virtual reality.

As reported by theblock.co and *The Wall Street Journal*, Meta is now lowering expectations for their flagship metaverse gambit. The new hope is that 280 thousand users might dip their virtual toes in Horizon Worlds by the start of 2023.

It's another indicator that the hype surrounding metaverse technologies, at least so far, is failing to translate to a youth trend.

That's not to say it might not happen eventually. But Meta may not be the company to make it happen.

Meta has long struggled to entice a younger demographic onto its Facebook platform. They had to buy Instagram in 2012, and spend years battling a little independent app Snapchat, to finally build market share there.

In regard to the metaverse, it's been clear that Zuckerberg did not want to again have to play catch up to some sudden craze on an upstart virtual platform. So Facebook took the lead in 2021, changed its name to Meta, invested heavily in tech to build out its virtual world visions, and plastered media with commercials about how one day soon, we would all be infinitely enriched by virtually teleporting to ancient Rome and watching senators argue over whether to off Ceasar, or something like that.

Blockchain, Crypto, and Meta's Mess

According to internal memos and papers obtained by the *WSJ*, user activity in Horizon Worlds has dropped off since the spring. Many users quit after just one month.

Of those that stay, few visit the bulk of virtual locations available in Meta's virtual world. "Busier" locales tally about 50 visitors, while many spots see no activity at all.

The consoles and Quest VR headsets required to access Horizon Worlds, which are priced in the 400 dollar range, have seen decreased usage for virtual gaming experiences over the past three years, according to theblock.co.

It's another sign that unlike TikTok, a video app built to appeal to short attention spans and quickie creative videos by kids that mostly build off snippets of pop culture, the metaverse is failing to attract young users.

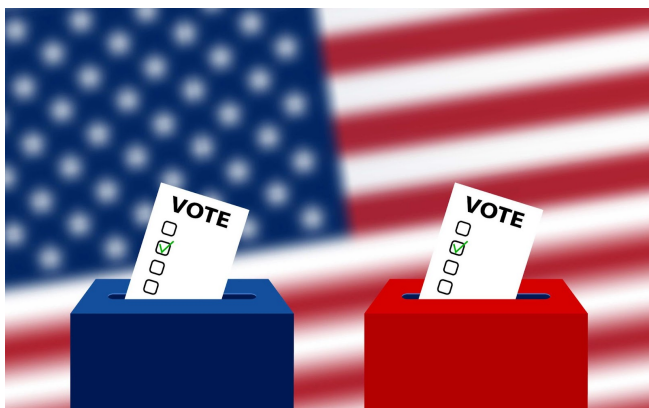
Perhaps the problem is in the kinds of experiences being built. Surprise, surprise: kids who just spent several years trapped in their rooms “virtually schooling” because of disastrously misguided COVID policies, aren’t excited at the idea of virtual lecture halls.

Yes, touting the excitement of virtual lecture halls is literally one of Meta’s metaverse commercials.

For related reading, see:

- [“MICKEY MOVE OVER: THERE’S A NEW M-WORD AT DISNEY”](#) (27 Sep 2022)
- [“SELLING THE SYNTHETIC UNREAL”](#) (12 Apr 2022)
- [“ZUCKERBERG: AI WILL PLAY GOD IN YOUR METAWORLD”](#) (1 Mar 2022)
- Top Trend: [“METAWORLD”](#) (30 Nov 2021)

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



WOULD REPUBLICAN CONGRESS SPUR A CRYPTO RESURGENCE?

A 4 October *Roll Call* article outlined how a Republican takeover of Congress might lead to more crypto regulatory clarity, and perhaps a decision to forgo a

consumer-facing (i.e. retail) CBDC.

Republicans appear to be coming to agreement that stablecoins, backed via regulation requirements to hold dollars in reserve, are the best path forward for integrating digital currency technologies with the U.S. fiat system.

The **Trends Journal** has covered the prospects for this line of development in [“COULD STABLECOINS SAVE THE DOLLAR?”](#) (9 Aug 2022) and [“UPDATE: CAN STABLECOINS SAVE THE DOLLAR?”](#) (16 Aug 2022).

Led by Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), there’s a definite caucus among Republicans that has taken a positive view of crypto innovations, and worked on legislation designed to allow the sector to develop.

Some Democrats, notably Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) have also sought legislation that would ensure guardrails and protections for consumers and investors, while allowing crypto adoption.

But other powerful Democrats, including Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and the Biden regime itself, have been more transparently in favor of suppressing cryptos, while at the same time appropriating crypto innovations into government systems including the FedNow payments service and possibly a U.S. CBDC.

Republican Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN) has perhaps gone the furthest in opposing a CBDC. He sponsored a bill in January that would prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital dollar without a Congressional law specifically authorizing it, as the Roll Call [article](#) noted.

Those opposing a retail CBDC argue that it would inevitably be a surveillance and control tool of the government, would alienate not only domestic users, but international usage, and that the government is a poor innovator compared to the private sector.

Of course, some also point out that the government in the modern era has thoroughly corrupted money, from 1913 (creation of the fiat Federal Reserve system) to 1935 (FDR gold confiscation) to 1971 (Nixon complete depeg of gold in favor of a “petro-dollar) to 2007-08 (Bush-Obama quantitative easing)...

...right up to the current “Dragflation” crisis, as Gerald Celente has aptly named it.

Since 2009 and the introduction of Bitcoin, cryptos have risen as a sort of historical wildcard in that ongoing tale.

Clearly, entrenched powers and beneficiaries of the legacy financial system are still figuring out what to do about cryptos, and especially its fintech innovations.

Could Politicians Do Any Worse?

It would be hard to do worse with the economy in general, than the Biden administration has done so far, together with a Democrat-held Congress.

Democrats and then candidate Biden led the way in 2020, backing the most draconian COVID lockdown policies, and fueled further paralysis in 2021 with vaccine passports and vax mandates.

Biden torpedoed the Keystone pipeline long before he promised to take down Nord Stream. Democrats have conducted a war against oil and gas production, via onerous leasing restrictions, and a mega boondoggle “Inflation Reduction Act” that penalizes the oil and gas industry while heavily subsidizing “not ready for prime time” alternate technologies.

Oh, and courtesy of NATO and geopolitical meddling on Russia’s door steppes, Biden since February has been flirting with WWII.

Inflation remains out of control, along with U.S. drug-ridden borders, as 70 billion in military fuel on the fire has been pipelined to the Eurozone dumpster fire in Ukraine.

So: could a Republican takeover of Congress in November hasten a thaw in the crypto winter?

The answer probably has far more to do with greater macro economic and geopolitical factors than crypto regulations, per se.

But the Phil Connors *Groundhog Day* short answer is: at this point, any change is probably good.

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



WEEKS AFTER BIDEN DECLARES COVID “PANDEMIC OVER”, WHITE HOUSE EXTENDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

If you want to control the public, keep them living under a constant state of emergency.

One month ago, the U.S. President declared “The pandemic is over,” Biden said in a “60 Minutes” interview. “We still have a problem with Covid. We’re still doing a lot of work on it. But the pandemic is over.”

Doing a 180, the Biden administration announced last week that it renewed the COVID-19 public health emergency status for another 90 days. Under the new guidelines, the public health emergency will be extended through 11 January. Former President Donald Trump imposed a national State of Emergency on Black Friday, 13 March 2020 to fight the COVID War.

The health emergency enables the U.S. to keep certain health measures in place, such as pharmacists having the ability to administer vaccine shots and updates to Medicaid recipients who are not required to renew their eligibility. *The Wall Street Journal* noted that the Biden administration asked Congress for \$22.4 billion in new funding. (See [“COVID WAR RAMIFICATIONS CONTINUE TO PLAY OUT”](#) 6 Oct 2022, [“CANADA ENDS COVID-19 BORDER RESTRICTIONS WITH THE U.S.”](#) and [“LATEST COVID SHOTS SOLD AS GENETIC SOFTWARE UPDATE.”](#))

New Variant Watch

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Friday that a new variant called BQ.1 and a descendant called BQ.1.1 now make up about 11 percent of the cases in the U.S., which is close to being the second most prevalent strain in the country. The BQ.1.1 is particularly common in New York. Fortune magazine noted that cases have also jumped in Germany, likely due to Oktoberfest celebrations.

Dr. Eric Topol, a professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research and founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, tweeted that the variant will likely be “the principal driver of the next U.S. wave in the weeks ahead” because of its extreme immune evasiveness. He said it will take some time to see if the new variant puts a “dent” in the vaccine efficacy.

Fauci Tries to Distance Himself From School Closures

The **Trends Journal** has long noted that the negative impact of closing businesses and schools to limit the spread of COVID-19 is still unclear and will likely have a disastrous impact on an entire generation. (See [“TEST-TO-STAY IN SCHOOL, THE NEW COVID RULE”](#) 21 Dec 2021, [“SCHOOL DAYS= COVID RULE DAYS.”](#) [“BACK TO SCHOOL: NEW CDC STUDY SHOWS COVID SPREAD LOW”](#) 2 Feb 2021 and [“COVID CASES DROP, SCHOOLS STILL IN PANIC”](#) 15 Sep 2020.)

Fauci announced that he will be retiring from his post at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in December and told ABC News that he played no role in closing schools. He was asked if it was a mistake for states and localities to

close schools. He said he thought it was unfair to call it a “mistake,” and said a lot of what he says gets taken out of context.

The reporter said, “Could there be too high a price” for closing down schools.

Fauci said that the idea that children are not impacted by the virus is not true, and said about 1,500 children died from the virus. Fauci said he pushed for school districts to keep schools open for as long as possible.

“They always say, ‘Fauci was responsible for closing schools.’ I had nothing to do [with it]. I mean, let’s get down to the facts.”

Twitter reminded Fauci of all the times he came out publicly in favor of closing schools. In March 2020, he said when there’s community spread, “the schools should be closed.”

One month later, he criticized Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor, who said he wanted schools in the Sunshine State to open as soon as possible. Fauci said, “If you have a situation where you don’t have a real good control over an outbreak and you allow children together, they will likely get infected.”

Fauci once also questioned why the entire U.S. is not under a stay-at-home order. (See [“COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS DID IRREPARABLE DAMAGE FOR GENERATION OF STUDENTS, AS THE TRENDS JOURNAL FORECAST”](#).)

TRENDPOST: *Teachers unions own politicians. Long after it was proven that COVID-19 was not spread among students in classrooms, two of the largest national teachers’ unions still refused to support the reopening of schools due to safety conditions.*

The Biden White House started to feel pressure from parents who were tired of being stuck home with their children. Ron Klain, his chief of staff, tried a balancing act so as to not rile up parents while defending these teachers’ concerns.

When asked why these powerful unions were ignoring the data showing kids are not spreading COVID, Mr. Klain dodged the facts and defended their decision: “I don’t think teacher’ unions are overruling studies. I think that what you’re seeing is that schools haven’t made the investments to keep students safe.”

Fauci defended his response and handling of the COVID War, criticizing claims that he was in any way political.

“I think the misconception is that I was misleading people to say that I, who have been adviser to seven presidents and have never, ever veered one way or the other from an ideological standpoint for somebody to say that, you know, I’m political - yeah, political. I mean, that’s completely crazy,” he said.

Since the beginning of summer 2020, political leaders in the U.S., backed by their health experts and amplified by a mainstream media glad to accommodate, have been putting forth the notion that schools are “super-spreader” environments requiring the need to be extremely cautious about reopening.

On 14 December 2021, when most students in the U.S. were returning to in-person classes, we published an article titled, [“SCHOOLS: THE NEW ‘Abnormal.’”](#)

We noted that schools around the U.S. reported experiencing increases in unruly behaviors such as talking in class, treating adults and one another disrespectfully and strewing trash about, to more serious issues.

Peter Faustino, on the board of the National Association of School Psychologists, says that a normal full academic year’s worth of mental health and behavioral incidents have occurred in just the first three months of the current school year; “I think the pandemic was like an earthquake and I think we are seeing that tidal wave hit shore,” he said.

EU PROSECUTOR OPENS INVESTIGATION INTO PFIZER COVID “VACCINE” mRNA TREATMENT PURCHASE



Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla this past week was a no-show at an EU Parliament Covid Committee hearing investigating issues and claims surrounding the Pfizer mRNA gene level treatments deceptively called vaccines.

Now the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) has launched an investigation into the EU's huge purchase from the pharmaceutical company, Politico has reported.

The EPPO is a free-standing EU agency in charge of looking into and prosecuting financial offenses such as fraud, money laundering, and corruption.

Under Bourla's tenure, Pfizer has been found liable in multiple past legal actions, some involving fraud, false claims for products, and harms done by products.

The EPPO didn't identify the subject of the investigation or the vaccine contracts in question in its announcement on Friday. But some posited that the investigation would likely focus on EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's involvement in the case.

Two other watchdog organizations have previously called attention to a specific deal involving high-level interactions between von der Leyen and Pfizer's management, according to Politico.

Multi-Billion Agreement...via “Lost” Text Messages

Part of the controversy involves highly irregular text messages between von der Leyen and top Pfizer executives negotiating a 30-billion-plus COVID treatment contract, and the subsequent disappearance of those messages, in apparent violation of laws requiring transparency.

Scrutiny ramped up in September, when the European Court of Auditors announced in a report that the Commission had declined to provide any information on von der Leyen's private involvement in the negotiations for the Pfizer contract.

Against that backdrop, Bourla decided not to appear at an EU parliament COVID committee hearing this past week.

The hearings nevertheless made news headlines when a Pfizer rep, Janine Small, who did appear, [admitted](#) that Pfizer conducted no research on whether its COVID “vaccines” prevented or reduced transmission of the COVID virus prior to the release of the vaccines to the public.

“No,” Small said, when asked if Pfizer tested for vaccine efficacy in preventing transmission. “We really had to move at the speed of science to really understand what is taking place in the market.”

A wide number of government COVID vaccine promotion campaigns, public figures, as well as many MSM outlets falsely claimed that the Pfizer product prevented the possibility of COVID transmission.

MEP Cristian Terhes (Romania) commented in a [press conference](#) on the revelations:

“Many of us voted for (vaccine passports) because they believed what this company has said: that if you get vaccinated, you will not be infected, and you will not spread the virus. They ran a campaign that said, ‘get vaccinated in order to keep your grandmother and your parents healthy. Now we find out, now, after more than a year, that when they requested the special marketing authorization, they [hadn’t] tested the vaccine to see if it’s stopping the spread of the virus. So we’re asking again, what are they [trying] to hide?”

In the U.S., the CDC’s current website COVID [page](#) on “How To Protect Yourself And Others” admits that the so-called vaccines do not prevent transmission:

“Although vaccinated people sometimes get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines significantly lowers the risk of getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19.” (17 Oct 2022)

For related reading, see:

- [“BOURLA DOES DAVOS, SELLS MICROCHIPS IN PILLS”](#) (24 May 2022)
- [“PFIZER: DRUG DEALERS ON PARADE”](#) (5 Apr 2022)
- [“PFIZER DATA RELEASE CONFIRMS VACCINE DECEPTIONS”](#) (8 Mar 2022)
- [“HUNDREDS OF NEWS ORGS TOOK GOV’T CASH TO SHILL COVID PROPAGANDA”](#) (8 Mar 2022)

DANGEROUS COVID VARIANTS BEING CREATED IN BOSTON BIOLAB



Paging Rand Paul on the bat phone.

For anyone who supposed that gain-of-function and chimeric virus experiments were no longer happening, after U.S. authorities admitted a Wuhan biolab might’ve leaked the deadly COVID

virus...think again.

Boston University researchers announced the creation of a COVID variant that killed 80 percent of mice infected, *The Epoch Times* has reported.

The variant was created using CRISPR gene technology. And though some are condemning the Boston announcement, there still is little being done at the federal level to bar such experiments.

The Boston University researchers detailed their efforts to create a highly lethal “Omicron S” variant that did not evolve in the wild:

“In K18-hACE2 mice, while Omicron causes mild, non-fatal infection, the Omicron S-carrying virus inflicts severe disease with a mortality rate of 80 percent. This indicates that while the vaccine escape of Omicron is defined by mutations in S, major determinants of viral pathogenicity reside outside of (Omicron) S...”

“We generated chimeric recombinant SARS-CoV-2 encoding the S gene of Omicron in the backbone of an ancestral SARS-CoV-2 isolate and compared this virus with the naturally circulating Omicron variant,” the researchers said. “The Omicron S-bearing virus robustly escapes vaccine-induced humoral immunity, mainly due to mutations in the receptor binding motif (RBM), yet unlike naturally occurring Omicron, efficiently replicates in cell lines and primary-like distal lung cells.”

The researchers claim that the artificially created variant would unlikely to be as deadly to humans as to mice.

“This should be totally forbidden, it's playing with fire,” Professor Shmuel Shapira, a top scientist in the Israeli Government, [commented](#) on the development, according to the *Times of India*.

Dr. Richard Ebright of Rutgers University, one of the first to draw attention to U.S. funding of dangerous virus experimentation at a Wuhan China biolab, said about the Boston University experimentation, “The research is a clear example of gain of function research.”

And journalist and commentator Ezra Levant noted according to the *Times*, “The government says law-abiding citizens can’t have a rifle or shotgun. They’re just too dangerous. Meanwhile, they’re literally engineering deadly viruses.”

The **Trends Journal** has predicted that the U.S. government’s refusal to adequately investigate and prevent gain-of-function experimentation would put the world at needless risk of a man-made biological disaster.

That risk just reared its ugly chimeric head in Boston.

The **Trends Journal** was onto Fauci's controversies regarding "gain of function" funding earlier than most, thanks to tweets from Richard Ebright, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Rutgers University, and other sources.

We first highlighted the story in a February 2021 story involving Bill Gates and Fauci (see ["GATES LONG ON FAKE MEAT, SHORT ON CRYPTO"](#)), where we noted:

"Gate's awkward comment came as the origin of the COVID-19 virus is still very much in dispute. There is growing evidence it escaped from a Wuhan China virology lab that was funded in part by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. With Fauci's approval, the NIAID gave a total of \$7.4 million to the lab. Gates and Fauci have worked closely together on the COVID vaccine development and roll-out, and both have financial interests in the vaccines."

Late Update:

Boston University researchers responded Tuesday, trying to cast criticisms of its experiments as "sensationalized."

In [reportage](#) by masslive.com which appeared to minimize the controversy, Ronald Corley, BU Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine chair of microbiology said:

"They've sensationalized the message, they misrepresent the study and its goals in its entirety."

In full CYA mode, BU [disparaged](#) reporting by *The Daily Mail* and *Fox News* as "false and inaccurate," and pointed to ethical approval of its research:

"The University also noted that the research was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which consists of scientists as well as local community members, and that the Boston Public Health Commission had approved the research."

But even the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which helped fund the research, was critical.

According to masslive.com, Emily Erbelding, Director of NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases revealed that there was no specific mention of their exact work in the grant application.

If so, that would be shocking on several levels. How could a grant be given without being informed as to the details of research to be done?

"I think we're going to have conversations over upcoming days," Erbelding reportedly commented on the controversy.

For related reading, see:

- ["FAUCI THE FAKE: THE ROOT OF ALL PANDEMIC LIES"](#) (2 Mar 2021)
- ["BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI"](#) (18 May 2021)
- ["NO EVIDENCE FOR NATURAL ORIGIN OF COVID VIRUS, SAYS FORMER STATE DEPT OFFICIAL"](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- ["GOVERNMENT COVER-UP OF FAUCI'S WUHAN LAB FUNDING SPREADS"](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- ["NIH "MINISTRY OF TRUTH" ALTERS GAIN OF FUNCTION DEFINITION IN DESPERATE BID TO PROTECT FAUCI"](#) (26 Oct 2021)
- ["RAND PAUL HOLDS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON DANGEROUS "GAIN-OF-FUNCTION" VIRUS EXPERIMENTS"](#) (9 Aug 2022)
- ["A COVID CHAPTER CLOSES: FAUCI TO RESIGN"](#) (23 Aug 2022)

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



U.S. LAYS OUT ROADMAP TO MAINTAIN WORLD DOMINATION WITH ‘MODERNIZED’ MILITARY EQUIPPED FOR ‘STRATEGIC COMPETITION’

The Biden administration released its National Security Strategy last week that took a long look at how the U.S. can remain the world’s dominant country, and—as is tradition in Washington—it focused on peerless military.

President Joe Biden has made it clear that he sees China as the U.S.’s chief competitor in the next decade. But the Ukraine War is raging, the global economy is on the brink of recession, and the U.S. sees the risk of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan rising. (See [“U.S. LAUNCHES COLD WAR 2.0: CHINA LAMBASTS ‘COLD-WAR MENTALITY.’”](#))

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser who was just another carryover from the Obama administration, said in a speech at Georgetown University that the world is at an "inflection point," and in the early years of a decisive decade. (See ["BIDEN PRESIDENCY= OBAMA 2021."](#))

"The terms of our competition with the People's Republic of China will be set. The window of opportunity to deal with shared challenges like climate change will narrow drastically, even as the intensity of those challenges grows. So, we need to grasp our moment, just as Truman did his," Sullivan said.

He told the audience that the U.S. would pursue the same kind of post-war strategy that President Harry S. Truman did after WWII. He said the U.S. will look to its global partners to ensure its position in the world.

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has long noted that the business of China is business, and the business of the U.S. is war and violence. In 2021, The **Trends Journal** said the next century will belong to China. (See ["CHINA 2021: THE CHINESE CENTURY."](#))*

We reported that the U.S. provided China with the tools to overtake it when Beijing was granted permission to enter the World Trade Organization in 2001, European and American manufacturers gave the third-world nation at the time the most advanced industrial production and hi-technology processes, so they could manufacture in China using cheap labor and sell it abroad at marked-up prices to make greater profit margins.

Now, over 20 years later, having been given the keys to the manufacturing and hi-tech vaults, China has what it needs to excel in those areas without foreign nation input.

*Indeed, the **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the Biden administration's effort to hold an edge over China for the next decade and how they announced a special task force to make sure it happens. (See our 16 February article, ["CHINA TASK FORCE: U.S. APPROACH TO BEIJING."](#))*

Plans Focus on Biden's Idea of International Order

Sullivan told the audience that the U.S.'s strategy includes Biden's vision of a "free, open, prosperous and secure international order"—just as long as the U.S. remains the richest and most powerful country.

Sullivan mentioned the importance of alliances, but many of these partnerships are why the world is on the brink of war. China has lashed out at the U.S.'s partnership with Australia, the U.K., and Japan and the ongoing effort to create a NATO-like structure to counter China's growth. Ukraine is a warzone, in part, due to NATO's expansion in eastern Europe.

Sullivan said the U.S. is in a unique position to rise and meet these challenges to "help set the rules, shore up the norms, and advance the values that will define the world we want to live in."

In March, Biden gave a speech at the Business Roundtable's quarterly meeting and warned about the looming new world order.

"There's going to be a new world order out there, and we've got to lead it. And we've got to unite the rest of the free world in doing it," he said.

His speech occurred during the early days of the Ukraine War and he told the executives that his mother had a saying that out of everything terrible, "something good will come if you look hard enough for it."

He said the war gives us "significant opportunities to make some real changes."

"You know, we are at an inflection point, I believe, in the world economy—not just the world economy, in the world. It occurs every three or four generations," he said. "As one of—as one of the top military people said to me in a secure meeting the other day, 60...60 million people died between 1900 and 1946. And since then, we've established a liberal world order, and that hadn't happened in a long while. A lot of people dying, but nowhere near the chaos. And now is a time when things are shifting.

We're going to—there's going to be a new world order out there, and we've got to lead it. And we've got to unite the rest of the free world in doing it.”

TREND FORECAST: *The Ukraine War has exposed that while the U.S. is still powerful with its NATO and other allies, its influence is diminishing around the globe. Besides Russia completely brushing off the U.S.'s vague threat of “consequences” if it invaded Ukraine, the Saudis just embarrassed Washington by agreeing to cut back its oil output, and then release a statement claiming that the Biden administration asked OPEC+ to hold back its decision in an act of desperation before the midterms.*

Unfortunately, when the U.S. doesn't get its way, it resorts to bullying. Earlier this month, Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., said the Saudis are a third-rate power over the decision and need to be dealt with “harshly.” He said the U.S. should cut off the Kingdom from being able to purchase Boeing and Raytheon parts.

Countries like Saudi Arabia do not want to be bullied by Washington on the world stage, and Russia has proved that countries can survive without the U.S. by increasing trade with China, India, and others.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the U.S. is desperate to keep its “hegemony,” which is why it is using Ukrainians as “cannon fodder.”

“The situation in Ukraine shows that the United States is trying to drag the conflict out, and it acts in exactly the same way trying to fuel conflicts in Asia, Africa and Latin America,” he said.

PRO-PUTIN SPEAKER IS ELECTED IN ITALY JUST WEEKS AFTER MELONI ELECTION WIN



Last month's election of Giorgia Meloni for prime minister in Italy was seen as the first sign that the country could change its pro-EU posture and its nearly unlimited support of sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Meloni has spoken out against the EU but, at least up until now, has shown a willingness to continue Mario Draghi's position on Ukrainian support. But Meloni's government is fragile and there are significant voices that have not only expressed dismay over the sanctions, but have outwardly supported Russia.

Lorenzo Fontana's election as the country's new speaker was seen as a shot across the bow for the country's support for Ukraine. He has also called Britain's Brexit the beginning of a new era in Europe. And he once said Putin's Russia should be looked at as a "cultural and political model."

"It's a very nasty signal," Francesco Galletti, the founder of a Rome-based political risk consultancy. "For all of Meloni's effort to position herself as a staunch Atlanticist, she is not fully in control."

The Financial Times noted that Fontana is a close ally of Matteo Salvini and his League party. Salvini has spoken out about the economic strain that sanctions have inflicted on Italy. Reuters noted that Fontana is known in Italy for his pro-life and anti-gay views. He has been an outspoken critic of what he sees as an immigrant "invasion" in Italy.

At one point during a parliamentary meeting, members of the opposition held up a banner that read, "No to a homophobic and pro-Putin speaker."

Last month, The **Trends Journal** reported on Meloni's largely expected win for prime minister, which was seen as a signal that the country could lurch away from the EU's orbit on issues pertaining to Ukraine and trade. (See ["ITALY'S MELONI WINS BIG IN ELECTIONS, EU ISSUES WARNING."](#))

Meloni, 45, has been described in the Italian media as a firebrand with sympathies for Mussolini. Her party is considered controversial and "far-right," and the only major party in the country that has "never fully renounced its fascist background."

Fontana secured the seat with 222 votes. Just days later, Ignazio La Russa, who France 24 said is known for collecting memorabilia from Mussolini, was tapped to be speaker of the Senate.

Meloni must form a government by forming a coalition with what has been called a factitious alliance that includes Silvio Berlusconi, the former premier, and Salvini. Berlusconi's Forza Italia boycotted the vote for La Russa in hopes to rattle Meloni.

France 24, citing an Italian newspaper, reported that Berlusconi's effort left him wounded, but it could go either way. He may be "readying for a defeated peace, or for a war that would shake the right."

The Associated Press noted that Berlusconi took a piece of stationery and wrote that Meloni was "presumptuous, bossy, arrogant, offensive, and ridiculous." He positioned the paper where photographers could easily capture the message.

Meloni told local media that Berlusconi was missing another key point in his list: that she cannot be blackmailed.

Salvini attempted to play mediator in the growing rift between Berlusconi and Meloni and issued a statement saying that he was sure "harmony" between the two will return. One of the underlying issues between the two is that Berlusconi is an advocate for the EU.

TRENDPOST: *The election of Meloni's alliance that includes the Five Star Movement and Forza Italia could present the first major European government form breaking with the rest of the EU vis-à-vis Russia.*

Meloni has been firm in her opposition to the Russian invasion and Italy's decision to sanction the Kremlin. Salvini said last month that while Ukraine must be defended, the sanctions that have been imposed do more harm than good.

"If we get into government will we change alliances? No," he said last month. "We remain deeply, proudly and firmly rooted in a free and democratic West that opposes war and aggression," Salvini said. "But if we adopt an instrument to hurt the aggressor and after seven months of war it has not been hurt, at least considering a change seems legitimate to me."

Italy's Democratic Party warned voters before last month's elections that choosing Meloni and her alliance would make Putin the "happiest person."

Berlusconi said Putin was "pushed" into the Ukraine War. The BBC reported last month that Berlusconi said Russian troops were supposed to enter the country, replace the government with "decent people" and then leave.

He said the Russian media pressed the issue and said Russian speakers in Eastern Ukraine were being slaughtered by Kyiv and Putin was pushed by the Russian population to intervene.

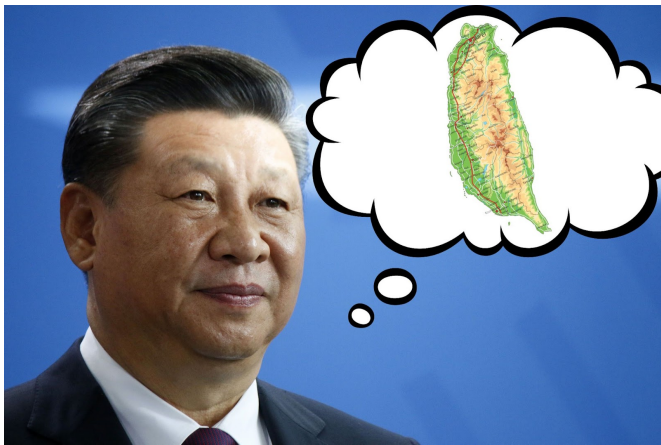
"The troops were supposed to enter, reach Kyiv in a week, replace the Zelensky government with decent people and a week later come back," he said. "Instead they found an unexpected resistance, which was then fed by arms of all kinds from the West."

TREND FORECAST: *Draghi symbolized the destruction of the anti-euro, anti-eurozone, anti-immigration populist movements when their leaders voted Draghi into office. Italy, the first western nation to launch the COVID War in 2020 and the first to impose draconian lockdown mandates on its population, is once again leading the*

way when it comes to stripping freedoms from its people with its “No Jab, No Job” Green Passport declaration.

We said at the time that there will be growing anti-vax, anti-establishment, anti-immigration, anti-Eurozone movements spreading throughout Europe. This trend will greatly accelerate as economies decline, civil unrest grows and the refugee crisis worsens.

CHINA’S XI HINTS THAT HE WILL NOT LET UP ON COUNTRY’S ZERO-COVID POLICY...WILL WEST FOLLOW AGAIN?



Xi Jinping, the Chinese president, indicated Sunday at the 20th Party Congress that Beijing will not let up on its “zero-COVID” policy despite growing unrest in the country.

He said his government’s tough approach to the virus “protected people’s lives and health” from the virus. CNN noted that the country of 1.402 billion recorded 1,200 infections, including 14 in Beijing. (See [“CHINA CONTINUES ITS ‘ZERO-COVID STRATEGY,’ LOCKS DOWN MUCH OF WUHAN AGAIN”](#) 2 Aug 2022, [“GLOBAL ECONOMY IMPACTED BY CHINA’S SLOWDOWN DUE TO ‘ZERO-COVID’ POLICY”](#) 24 May 2022 and [“CHINA RAMPS UP ZERO-COVID POLICY: STAY HOME, DON’T TRAVEL.”](#))

The Trends Journal has long noted that these lockdowns, sometimes impacting entire cities of over 20 million people, have dramatically impacted the Chinese economy. Beijing’s economy was expected to grow by 5.5 percent in 2022 – while the world emerged from the virus—but it is now expected to grow by 3.3 percent this year. [Project-Syndicate](#) noted that the 2.2 percent disparity will likely cost the economy \$384 billion in GDP.

The report, using estimates by comparing the COVID death toll in the U.S., said China's decision to save 1,05,300 lives that may have died if these restrictions were eased cost the country about \$365,262 per life.

China canceled the announcement of third-quarter economic growth figures due on Tuesday, The Associated Press reported.

Still, protests broke out in Beijing on Thursday to voice opposition to the zero-COVID policy.

One banner that was unfurled read, "Say no to Covid test, yes to food. No to lockdown, yes to freedom. No to lies, yes to dignity. No to cultural revolution, yes to reform. No to great leader, yes to vote. Don't be a slave, be a citizen."

CNN reported that another banner read, "'Go on strike, remove dictator and national traitor Xi Jinping.'"

Xi Wants to Focus on Building up Military

In a thinly veiled threat to the U.S., Xi also used the conference to send a stern warning to the U.S. about Taiwan and Beijing's future effort to develop its military.

He said that Taiwan will eventually be reunified with the mainland, and vowed that China would stop at nothing to see that the goal is accomplished.

"We will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and the utmost effort," he said. "But, we will never promise to renounce the use of force. And we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary."

His mention of Taiwan received the loudest ovation of the day.

TRENDPOST: *Xi did not mention the U.S. by name, but said his comments were "directed solely at interference by outside forces and a few separatists seeking Taiwan independence."* (See ["U.S. AIMS TO FLOOD TAIWAN WITH WEAPONS TO TURN ISLAND INTO A 'PORCUPINE' IF CHINA INVADES."](#) ["MORE U.S. POLITICIANS GO](#)

[TO TAIWAN, RAMPING UP FIGHT WITH CHINA.” “WHAT CELENTE HAS SAID IS NOW PROOF: POLL SHOWS MOST AMERICANS CAN’T FIND UKRAINE OR TAIWAN ON A MAP.”](#)

Xi will almost certainly be named China’s paramount leader this week. Politico noted that Xi, who was once a political outcast, “harnessed a masterful combination of strategic planning and an uncanny aptitude to lead allies and enemies alike to underestimate his ambition to pave a path to becoming the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong.”

TRENDPOST: *The U.S. policy vis-à-vis Taiwan and China is presented as opaque but can be distilled to mean Washington supports Taipei but does not guarantee that it will directly engage China if it invades. The philosophy is called strategic ambiguity.*

*The **Trends Journal** has said the U.S. will not go to war with China over Taiwan and Beijing will easily overtake the island when it is ready despite President Joe Biden vowing that the U.S. would fight for the island.*

Wang Wenbin, a foreign ministry spokesman in China, has said, “No one should underestimate the firm resolve, staunch will, and strong ability of the Chinese people in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

IRANIAN OIL WORKERS JOIN STRIKE AFTER DEATH OF 22-YEAR-OLD WOMAN IN POLICE CUSTODY



Oil workers in Iran have joined the protests sweeping the country after the death of a 22-year-old woman in the custody of the morality police last month who allegedly violated the Islamic dress code.

The Wall Street Journal noted that a protest broke out at the Abadan refinery, which is

symbolic because four decades ago, workers there protested and helped bring down Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah at the time.

Last month, The **Trends Journal** reported on the widespread protests that broke out in the country after Masha Amini's death. The "crime" she committed was that she was not properly wearing her hijab in public.

She was arrested on 13 September and reports indicate that she was badly beaten while in custody. She fell into a coma and died three days later. Some photos circulated online purporting to show Amini in the hospital with serious bruises to her face. Iran said she died of a heart attack and that her death was from natural causes. (See ["IRAN: PROTESTS ESCALATE."](#))

Iran has taken a heavy-handed approach to dealing with the protests and videos that emerged online that purported to show women being thrown in police vans and [protesters pummeled](#). One video claimed to show a female protester being [molested](#) by police.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, has been tight-lipped about the protests but came out last week to accuse the U.S. and Israel of supporting them. *The New York Times* said he praised his security forces.

The paper noted that a video emerged last week that showed workers at the Abadan and Kangan oil refineries and a petrochemical plant striking and chanting, "Death to the dictator!" At least 11 workers there have been arrested, the report said.

If these protests at oil refineries take hold, it could directly threaten Khamenei's rule because it could have a deleterious impact on the economy.

TREND FORECAST: *While the protests have focused on Amini's death, this was a spark that ignited pent up aggravations of lack of basic living standards, dissatisfaction with government rule and a faltering economy. (See ["NEW STUDY CEMENTS TRENDS JOURNAL FORECAST: THE NEW WORLD DISORDER."](#)) Indeed, what is happening in Iran is, and will continue to escalate worldwide as people take to the streets in protest of the lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence.*

We've already seen protesters in Iran calling for the removal of the Islamic Republic leadership. These protesters have been seen in social media in violent clashes with police and human rights groups said last week that at least 185 people have been killed. The New York Times noted that at least 28 have been children. The paper said Tehran claims that 24 of its security forces have been killed and 2,000 have been injured.

Obama 'Sorry' He Didn't Support Green Movement in 2009

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Barack Obama, who had no issue with invading Libya to remove Muammar Qaddafi, said in an interview last week that he thinks it was a “mistake” not to support Iran’s Green Movement in 2009.

“In retrospect, I think that was a mistake. Every time we see a flash, a glimmer of hope, of people longing for freedom, I think we have to point it out. We have to shine a spotlight on it. We have to express some solidarity about it,” he said.

He said there was debate within the White House at the time and the theory was if he spoke out in favor of the protests, the activists would be “accused of being tools of the West.”

He said there was a risk that a statement would potentially undermine “their street cred.”

Prison Riot

At least four prisoners died and dozens were injured when a fire broke out on Saturday at Evin prison in Tehran, which is notorious for holding political prisoners and “troublesome” journalists.

There have been many memoirs published in recent years about the horrors committed there, including beatings and solitary confinement. In the 1980s, it was the location where more than 3,000 political prisoners were executed in secret. One

former inmate wrote, “We noticed that our food rations began to increase. It became obvious to us that the number of those who needed to eat was shrinking.”

A fire reportedly broke out during what Iranian officials said was an escape attempt. Billowing smoke was seen in the city. Order was restored as of Sunday. But *The Wall Street Journal* noted that “the unrest marked another indication that the country’s Islamic leadership is facing one of the gravest tests in its 43-year existence.”

MASSIVE PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN PARIS OVER SOARING PRICES



Thousands took to the streets of Paris on Sunday to express outrage over soaring prices—adding new pressure to Paris after earlier strikes at oil refineries and nuclear power plants.

France 24 reported that unions have called on their members to strike on Tuesday while the country is already dealing with fuel shortages. The report noted that Paris has ordered some of these workers back to work, but they have voted to extend their strike. They are calling for higher salaries and the government takeover of these installations.

Tuesday’s strikes are expected to impact nearly every industry in the country, ranging from trains to public sector jobs.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, the head of the France Unbowed (LFI) party who organized the protest on Sunday, said, “We’re going to have a week the likes of which we don’t see very often.” He called it a march “against the high cost of living and climate inaction.”

“Everything is coming together,” he said. “We are starting it with this march, which is an immense success.”

Authorities in Paris said they were anticipating about 30,000 people to join the protest on Sunday, but about 140,000 people ended up showing.

Reports noted that some of the protesters wore the yellow fluorescent vests that were reminiscent of the protests that broke out in the country in 2018.

French President Emmanuel Macron survived those protests, but lost his majority in parliamentary elections in June, which leaves him in a more vulnerable position. Melenchon told protesters that Macron is “fried” and the country is descending into chaos.

One man who was holding a microphone in a small truck said, “We want to fight against government policies—they only ever take away money from the poorest,” according to DW.com.

"Yes!" the crowd responded.

France Vows More Weapons for Ukraine

Sébastien Lecornu, the French defense minister, announced Monday that Paris will send Ukraine advanced Crotale air defense missile batteries and will absorb up to 2,000 Ukrainian troops that will be embedded with its own military for training.

Lecornu told a local newspaper that the war “will last” and a “new generation of soldiers must also be trained, to last the distance.”

Besides the anti-missile system, France will provide Ukraine with a fund of \$97 million for Kyiv to go on a weapon shopping spree, as long as the maker is French.

TREND FORECAST: *We have been forecasting the “[New World Disorder](#)” trend for more than two years. We noted that politicians across the globe are fighting for survival against angry citizens who are taking to the streets in protest of lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence. (See “[NEW WORLD DISORDER TOP TREND: NATIONS SINKING DEEPER, PEOPLE SCREAMING LOUDER.](#)”)*

Also, the deeper emerging market economies sink, the greater the refugee crisis will surge as people will do all they can to escape to safe haven nations. In turn, anti-immigration populist movements will gain power in those nations that want to restrict more refugees.

Unlike in the past, the industrial and post-industrial world will have fewer resources with which to bail them out. As we have greatly detailed, as with the United States, European countries are led by political freaks willing to ruin their own economy for a chance to drain Moscow in a long war in Ukraine.

Gerald Celente has long said that we are led by mad men and mad women who, once in office, get drunk on power and lose sight of the people who got them there. A good example is Boris Johnson, the former British prime minister.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



UNIONIZATION, TOP TREND 2022: OKLAHOMA APPLE STORE VOTES TO UNIONIZE

Employees at an Apple store in Oklahoma voted to unionize and be represented by the Communications Workers of America—becoming the computer giant’s second store in the U.S. to vote in favor of union representation.

Apple, which has expressed its opposition to the union, issued a statement saying that it believes in open, direct and collaborative relationships it has with our valued team members is “the best way to provide an excellent experience for our customers, and for our teams.”

Apple, like other companies like Starbucks and Amazon, was accused of union-busting by employees. The Verge, a tech news website, reported that workers at the location claimed they were interrogated and surveilled by the company—even when the new iPhone 14 Plus was launched. They were told that if they unionized,

they would miss out on some of the perks that employees at other stores benefited from.

Bloomberg News reported that Apple told the only other unionized store in Towson, Maryland, that its staff would miss out on tuition prepayment and other benefits, saying that these employees would have to negotiate with the company through the union. MacRumors reported that Apple's head of retail warned in May that these kinds of issues could arise after joining a union.

"We have a relationship that is based on an open and collaborative and direct engagement," she said at the time, according to the report. "Which I feel could fundamentally change if a store is represented by a union under a collective bargaining agreement."

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the seismic shift occurring across the U.S. involving service-industry workers turning to unions to help them achieve a certain level of dignity at their jobs. (See ["FIRST TRADER JOE'S VOTES TO UNIONIZE."](#) ["TOP 2022 UNIONIZATION TREND UPDATE."](#) ["TOP 2022 TREND, 'UNIONIZATION,' ON THE RISE"](#) and ["TOP TREND UNIONIZATION, HEATING UP: TOP GERMAN UNION PUSHING FOR HIGHER WAGES."](#))

The Cupertino, Calif.-based company also noted that it has increased starting wages at stores by 45 percent since 2018, according to CNBC.

The employees in Oklahoma City voted 56 to 32 in favor of unionization, according to the National Labor Relations Board. Some of the issues that employees noted was a general lack of clarity about how to advance in the company, and vague work assignments.

"Some people have been in their current roles for years trying to get promoted and are not really getting anywhere, but whenever they get feedback on an interview for a promotion, what they get is very subjective goals," one organizer said.

TREND FORECAST: *Unionization will continue to be a Top Trend and, as inflation continues to rise faster than wages, corporations that wish to incentivize their*

workforce to do and give the best they can, will raise the pay scale to levels higher than inflation rates.

There have been several factors why workers across the U.S. have turned to unions. These factors included the surge in profits that CEOs and owners saw during the outbreak that critics say they refused to share. These employees also see no chance of career growth and have complained about safety issues during the outbreak.

Hypocrisy is also worth noting when companies that position themselves to be progressive in the public have no qualms with cracking down the hardest against union formations. Workers at Starbucks, REI, Apple, Amazon have accused them of trying to bust these unionization efforts through intimidation. (See [“TOP 2022 UNIONIZATION TREND UPDATE.”](#) [“TOP 2022 TREND, ‘UNIONIZATION,’ ON THE RISE”](#) and [“TOP TREND UNIONIZATION, HEATING UP: TOP GERMAN UNION PUSHING FOR HIGHER WAGES.”](#))

TOO FAT TO FIGHT: U.S. ARMY TO CANCEL WEIGHT LIMITS FOR TROOPS AS RECRUITMENT NUMBERS PLUNGE



The U.S. Army will reportedly end its weight requirement for troops after it fell 25 percent short of its recruiting goal in 2022 and will instead focus on an overall fitness score.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston noted the potential change at the Association of the U.S. Army conference in

Washington, D.C., *Task and Purpose* reported.

The standard chart allows a woman who is 5'5 and up to 27 years old to weigh a maximum of 152 pounds.

Men who are 6 feet tall and up to 20 years old cannot weigh more than 190 pounds. The soldiers are screened every six months, the report said.

Some soldiers say the fitness test is more physically demanding and their additional muscle has impacted them by traditional standards. (See [“BERKSHIRE BILLIONAIRE WHO MADE FORTUNE INVESTING IN COMPANIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO U.S. OBESITY EPIDEMIC ‘APPALLED’ BY THOSE WHO REFUSE COVID JAB.”](#) [“OBESITY GROWS IN STATES WHERE AT LEAST 35 PERCENT ARE CONSIDERED OBESE”](#) and [“LOCKDOWNS CREATING CHILD OBESITY CRISIS.”](#))

The Army Times reported that the Army is likely understrength by about 10,000 soldiers, and considered the U.S. in a “major recruiting crisis.” To accommodate would-be recruits, a pre-basic training course for applicants with too much body fat to join—about six percent—will be offered. They will receive standard pay during the course, and then move to basic training.

RT.com, the Russian state-controlled news outlet, noted that the U.S. Army came up short of its recruitment goals by about 25 percent in 2022. One of the theories that the recruitment drive fell short was because about 42 percent of the U.S. adult population are obese, so the pool is relatively narrow.

The Physical Activity Alliance noted in July that only two in five young adults are both weight-eligible and adequately physically active for recruitment, *Club Industry* reported.

"This is a complex problem that has a deep impact on national security by limiting the number of available recruits, decreasing reenlistment candidacy, and potentially reducing mission readiness," Sara Police, PhD, Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, told the outlet. "Additional, relevant issues include the changing demographics of the military and food insecurity among military families."

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: As stated by General Hawley, “In the civilian world, unfit or overweight employees can impact the bottom line.”

Unquestionably, as evidenced by military and civilian studies, addiction to processed, low quality junk food and lack of proper exercise have significant health consequences.

RADICAL ~~SOUTH AFRICA~~ NETHERLANDS LAND GRAB SET TO ROCK FOOD SUPPLY AND DESTROY LAND RIGHTS



The communist land grab without compensation in South Africa may look like small potatoes by the time the EU gets through shafting farmers.

The radical “Green Energy Tycoon” agenda set in motion by self-interested elites is piling on with another crisis in Europe,

setting a precedent with a plan that would confiscate more than 600 Dutch farms branded as the worst “nitrogen emitters.”

In response, Dutch farmers’ organizations have vowed more protests.

Farmers in France, Italy and elsewhere have also been galvanized to protest in recent months over the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 environmental policies purportedly meant to combat “climate change” by enforcing carbon emission reductions.

The latest escalation in another war Europe doesn’t need was touched off when Johan Remkes, chief mediator between farmers and the government in the ongoing dispute over nitrogen emissions, laid out a plan to seize farms and forcibly relocate farmers, according to Breitbart.

Some mediation.

Farmers Defence Force leader Mark Van den Oever responded by announcing that Dutch farmers will again take to the streets in protest to the unprecedented land seizure.

Some of the planet's most vulnerable third world populations are currently facing serious food shortages as a result of government and world body policy disasters involving COVID, and more recently, the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In a trend spotted by The **Trends Journal** long before it became headline news, we noted energy prices and other factors were creating a dangerous fertilizer shortage. (See [“THE PRICE OF UREA IN CHINA,”](#) 12 Oct 2021).

We also recently reported on a UN food supply expert official's concern that global food supplies might be reduced by as much as 40 percent due to Russia-Ukraine, and Carbon War policies affecting energy and fertilizer production. (See [“FERTILIZER CRISIS MAY SLASH WORLD FOOD OUTPUT BY 40 PERCENT, SAYS UN FOOD OFFICIAL,”](#) 13 Sep 2022.)

But that human suffering hasn't stopped the march toward a “green technology” timetable that appears to mostly serve the financial and ideological interests of elites who have controlled and instigated the UN Agenda 2030 climate goals.

Remkes, a former deputy prime minister in the Netherlands, defended his proposal to seize farms, saying, “the Netherlands will be locked up because it will be legally almost impossible to issue permits. Not for houses, not for farms, not for roads.”

“I write this with a heavy heart, but I see no other way,” he added, according to Breitbart. “I don't expect the agricultural sector will be happy with this report.”

Van den Oever confirmed that, to say the least. The Farmers Defence Force leader said that the government of Prime Minister Mark Rutte was doing the bidding of elite globalist interests, and not average Dutch working people.

Another spokesperson, Sieta van Keimpema, described the radical confiscation proposal as a “red line” for farmers, according to Breitbart.

The **Trends Journal** has reported and predicted that as the Carbon War ratchets up with more radical DeGrowth policies, chaos continues to escalate, benefiting a few while destroying the lives of many. Some recent articles include:

- [“ENERGY INFLATION AND GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS”](#) (17 May 2022)
- [“DON’T CALL IT DRAGFLATION, IT’S ‘DEGROWTH’ SAYS WEF”](#) (21 Jun 2022)
- [“DUTCH FARMERS DEMONSTRATE TO SHOW CLIMATE AGENDA IS A LOAD OF CRAP”](#) (5 Jul 2022)
- [“THE FARMERS SHRUG: EURO PROTESTS SPREAD”](#) (12 Jul 2022)
- [“SPANISH FARMERS JOIN THE RALLY”](#) (19 Jul 2022)
- [“GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS UPDATE: INVESTIGATING THE “CLIMATE CARTEL”](#) (19 Jul 2022)
- [“‘SUSTAINABLE’ DEVELOPMENT IS ANYTHING BUT”](#) (2 Aug 2022)
- [“GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS READY TO LAY WASTE TO GREENLAND”](#) (16 Aug 2022)
- [“BILL GATES, BIDEN ADMIN PUPPET MASTER”](#) (23 Aug 2022)
- [“WEF TEAMS UP WITH TED TALKS TO PUSH DEGROWTH AGENDA”](#) (13 Sep 2022)
- [“FROM COVID WAR TO CARBON WAR: THE THINLY DISGUISED GOAL OF SMART CITIES”](#) (27 Sep 2022)

NEW ENGLAND WILL LIKELY SEE PUNISHING NATURAL GAS PRICES THIS WINTER



Magical thinking has now led to an impending crisis in New England which relies more heavily on natural gas for home energy and heating than anywhere else in the country.

Resistance to building new gas pipelines in the liberal Northeast, along with the failure

of so-called “green” technologies to provide any substantial increase in energy, has helped create the crisis.

As [reported](#) by grid.news, since 2000, New England has been aggressively moving away from oil and coal. In that time, use and reliance on natural gas has increased three-fold.

Energy from wind and solar and hydro, meanwhile, has resulted in just a four percent uptick in energy, from 8 to 12 percent.

Those policies are now colliding with a Russian-Ukraine conflict exacerbated by the Biden Administration’s hardline stance rejecting negotiations.

“If you have a very cold day, or if you have any extended cold stretch of days, you have an issue of not having enough fuel to meet combined heating and electricity needs of the region,” Caitlin Marquis, a director at Advanced Energy Economy, commented about the looming problems, according to grid.news. “There is limited infrastructure, and [there hasn’t] been much investment in supply infrastructure for a while.”

And what has NY Governor Kath Hochul been doing regarding natural gas supply and infrastructure in the region?

Kill it.

A June 2022 [story](#) at naturalgasintel.com reported how Hochul, in her first state of the state speech, announced plans to stop installing fossil fuel hookups in new construction across the state within five years, including natural gas hookups.

She promised legislation meant to phase out natural gas usage in New York, though the U.S. has one of the most plentiful supplies in the world.

Needless to say, Hochul has not been drawing up any plans to increase natural gas infrastructure or production.

But New England can blame itself as well. And with a general economic “dragflation” malaise also hitting consumers, it’s a perfect storm that may leave the region shuddering, sneezing and paying through the nose to try to keep warm.

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



by *Ben Daviss*

A FIRST: SCIENTISTS REVERSE BENCHMARK SYMPTOMS OF AGING IN HUMANS

Two things happen to each of us as we age.

First, the telomeres—the “end caps” on our DNA strands that protect our chromosomes—shorten.

Second, our bodies build up a growing number of senescent cells—elderly cells that malfunction and secrete noxious compounds that cause inflammation (a root cause of many illnesses) and make it harder for other cells to reproduce.

Both contribute to the overall deterioration associated with old age.

Now scientists at Tel Aviv University and Shamir Medical Center, for the first time, have not just slowed the advance of those two conditions but actually reversed them.

In an experiment, 63 healthy older adults underwent 60 sessions of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) over three months.

In HBOT, a person is enclosed in a chamber flooded with 100-percent oxygen at higher-than-normal atmospheric pressure. The amount of oxygen in the blood increases significantly and the pressure pushes the oxygen molecules quickly into the body, where it's absorbed by body fluids, organs, and tissues.

At the end of the 90-day experiment, people who received HBOT increased their telomere length by more than 20 percent; the number of senescent cells decreased by an average of 37 percent.

TRENDPOST: *This is the first experiment to show in a clinical setting that aging is indeed a reversible condition.*

However, few of us can afford to buy our own HBOT chambers, which usually cost from \$10,000 up, or take a daily treatment at a cost of \$300 or more.

The results of the trial will spur researchers to develop affordable ways to make oxygen treatments available to more people.

Until then, most of us will have to be content with less elaborate options that have been shown to slow the aging process: eating fewer calories, drinking beetroot juice, engaging in endurance exercises such as swimming and cycling, and taking Coenzyme Q10 supplements.

DID SCIENTISTS GET THE CAUSE OF ALZHEIMER'S WRONG?



Conventional scientific wisdom says that Alzheimer's Disease is caused by a protein called amyloid-beta gathering in clots among brain cells, preventing them from communicating properly.

However, researchers have always been bothered by an inconvenient fact: most older people have amyloid clots or "plaques" in their brains, but most don't contract Alzheimer's.

Why not?

At the University of Cincinnati, a research team noticed that drugs meant to decrease amyloid in the brain actually worsened Alzheimer's symptoms.

Based on those results, the group reasoned that perhaps the root cause of the disease isn't the plaques themselves but a deficiency of the crucial amyloid protein.

Studying medical records of elders with and without Alzheimer's symptoms, the team found that persons with water-soluble amyloid-beta in their brains at levels of 270 picograms per milliliter of fluid or more kept their marbles.

"It's only logical, if you detach from the biases that we've created for too long, that a neurodegenerative process is caused by something we lose— amyloid-beta—rather than something we gain [which would be] amyloid plaques," physician Alberto Espay, a leader of the research group, said in a statement.

"Degeneration is a process of loss, and what we lose turns out to be much more important," he added.

Lecanemab, an anti-Alzheimer's drug that showed promise in recent trials, is different from other drugs, most of which have failed: lecanemab does not reduce the amount of amyloid-beta in the brain.

The data have led the research team to hypothesize that other neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's and the extremely rare Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, may be caused by a protein deficiency instead of an oversupply or some other problem as is now assumed.

TRENDPOST: *Research into the new idea will continue and be tested against other brain diseases as well.*

In addition, the scientists are going deeper to learn what might cause amyloid levels to decline—a genetic instruction, a virus, an environmental toxin, or some other interference.

The research eventually will produce a treatment protocol to be tested to see if boosting amyloid in the brain can prevent or even reverse Alzheimer's Disease.

BRAIN CELLS IN A LAB DISH LEARN TO PLAY A VIDEO GAME



Biologists and computer scientists at Australia's Monash University have taught a cluster of brain cells living in a lab dish to play Pong, the rudimentary ping-pong video game from the 1970s.

The set-up, which the researchers have dubbed "DishBrain," includes about 800,000 human and mouse neurons in a nutrient medium and mounted on micro-electrodes that prod them with electrical pulses and read their activity.

Electrodes on either side of the cell cluster fire to indicate where the virtual ping-pong ball is at any given moment. The neurons have to identify the ball's location and then fire specific neurons at specific spots along the array to bat the ball away.

The tiny glob of brain cells learned by responding to a basic version of reward and punishment.

Cells read the energy in their surroundings and respond best to predictable patterns of energy around them.

If the cells failed to hit the ball, the electrodes would jolt them with a chaotic pattern of energy for four seconds. If the cells succeeded, they received a brief pulse. Preferring the brief pulses, the cells learned to do what made that happen.

The research team said that the cells in DishBrain exhibited “sentience,” or consciousness, but were quick to add that the cells were not self-aware and had no capacity to make independent decisions.

Next, the scientists plan to introduce DishBrain to various substances such as sugar, alcohol, and various drugs to see how each affects performance at a cellular level.

TRENDPOST: *DishBrain gives neuroscientists a remarkable new tool to study brain function down to the level of cells.*

While this rudimentary system poses no concerns about “lab creatures” taking matters into their own virtual hands, future versions could eventually create self-aware clusters. That would raise ethical and moral questions that we have no idea as yet how to answer.