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THE TRENDS JOURNAL®

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

BLAME THE OTHER GUY

TRENDS JOURNAL
HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS®

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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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FALSE FLAG

Welcome to this week's **Trends Journal**: "**FALSE FLAG WAR...BLAME THE OTHER GUY**"

Accusation, counter-accusation, rinse, repeat.

The Ukraine War is another turning point into a propaganda race, and the West is perfectly content with treating any statement out of Kyiv as the gospel truth.

Russia's military warned Western countries that Ukraine is attempting to produce a "dirty bomb," which is a conventional explosive laced with radioactive material. The Kremlin even provided areas where it said these bombs were being developed.

But Ukraine denied the allegation and said if Moscow was making such a claim, clearly it is the Kremlin planning such an attack. The U.S., like clockwork, and maintaining its decades-long hatred for Russia, sided with Kyiv and denounced Moscow.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the world will see through "any attempt by Russia to use this allegation as a pretext for escalation."

U.S. intelligence officials have told news outlets that throughout the war Ukraine has not been forthcoming about its war losses or future plans... which raises the question of how Washington can be so confident that Ukraine is not planning such an attack.

Heating up the war talk, *The Wall Street Journal* reported the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are on high alert after Saudi intelligence reveals that Iran is expected to carry out an attack on targets in Saudi Arabia. America's Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said, "We will reserve the right to protect and defend ourselves no matter where our forces are serving, whether in Iraq or elsewhere."

Yes, World War III has begun and if we do not have peace, we will die in war.

On the Market Front

Stocks were tentative today, as investors wait to see how high the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates tomorrow. We maintain our forecast that when interest rates move above 4 percent the U.S. economy will sink into deep recession... and much much more as we detail in this **Trends Journal**.

Thank you for subscribing to The **Trends Journal**, and please tell family and friends about our publication. The more subscribers we have, the more we can do to restore Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

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

A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN TREND BEGAN IN 2021

We are getting our first dose of the new long term trend of rising interest rates, after 39 years of falling interest rates (1981 High: 15.1%)). American consumers not only took a "bath" but also received a "cold shower" wake-up call, as well. During those some 40 years right up to early 2021, owning financial or paper assets became the norm and was most highly valued by the American Middle Class. Since the start of a long Bull Market in 1982, individuals, governments, and entities of all sorts have financialized the stock market into their expectations, lifestyles, and respective businesses (e.g. stock buybacks).

Well, a year ago, something began to change, as inflation went from "temporary" to 'anchored' and although its rate of change has slowed, prices sure are not likely to return to previous lows in our lifetimes, at least. This means like the Roaring Twenties, owning "things" or "tangibles" will take on even greater importance if not relative value compared to owning portfolios stuffed with paper assets such as stocks, investment grade bonds, and Junk.

Everything cycles-up and then down but not necessarily in a linear or straight line. Today"s frugal consumers and forward thinking investors alike should stockpile everyday necessities bought with increasingly worthless money. Yes, the dollar will surely buy less and less over time, except for momentary recessions along the way. So, the days of easy money with minimal risk in markets are now OVER! I suggest Nothing is easy anymore. We entered a " totally different financial world " precisely on Jan. 1, 2020. We are progressing forward at a rapid rate. No more stability but starting in 2023, very high volatility in everything. Fasten your seat belts.

Craig Bradley

THE NO BS SUBSCRIPTION PROSCRIPTION
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OLDIES NOT SO GOLDEN
What are we doing with an 81 year old telling us what is best for us? The old fool should have the good sense to retire. That so many old people are now running things long after the normal retirement age, it proves to me how they cannot bring themselves to give up all their POWER. Let some younger folks have a chance. Retire or be fired!

John Kennedy

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TRENDS ON THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET FRONT

ECONOMIC UPDATE - MARKET OVERVIEW

There was no October surprise on the equity market front, in fact, quite the opposite.

Despite soaring inflation, rising recession fears, intensifying Ukraine War, job layoffs, home sales slumping, mortgage and interest rates rising, a mixed third-quarter earnings season and slow growth warnings from companies such as the Amazon giant—which accounts for nearly 40 percent of the U.S. e-commerce sales—it was a great month for The Street.

And no need to worry about falling government bond prices and rising yields which usually slams the stock market. On Monday, the 10-year Treasury Yield hit 4.074 percent compared to 3.802 percent at the end of September.

Making absolutely no sense considering the hard data and failing economic fundamentals, snapping a two month losing streak, the major averages racked up their best month since 1976. Scoring its best October ever, the Dow spiked up 14 percent, the S&P rose nearly 8 percent and the tech-heavy Nasdaq climbed almost 4 percent.

Now of course, all eyes are on Wednesday when the Federal Reserve will announce how much they will raise interest rates following their meeting and how low they will go when they meet again in December.

With annual inflation at 8.2 percent in America, the guess on The Street is that the Feds will raise interest rates to 4.75 percent—5 percent range next year.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that when interest rates move above 4 percent the U.S. economy will sink in deep recession. And the higher U.S. interest rates rise, the deeper dollar indebted emerging markets will dive... and so will all those businesses, hedge funds, private equity groups and individuals whose loans are not fixed and unsecured.*

Among the hardest hit sectors, which never a word is heard in the mainstream media, will be commercial office buildings and commercial real estate sectors that depend on commuters. The work-at-home trend that was born with the outbreak of the COVID War when politicians forced businesses to close down and people to stay locked up in their homes has become the new reality.

After spending months at home working remotely, the reality of disgusting multi-hour commutes to-and-from work hit the hearts and souls of employees who will no longer endure the mental degradation of commuting. Therefore, office occupancy rates will continue to stay well below pre-COVID War levels as people commute to work a few days a week... or not at all. And for employers who need less rental space because of fewer employees coming to work, cutting back on office space is a money saver.

TREND FORECAST: *As the old saying goes, "It's the economy stupid." And with the U.S. midterm elections next Tuesday and polls showing that the major issue facing the public is the economy. Indeed, a headline in yesterday's Wall Street Journal read: "Economy Tops Other Issues In Campaign's Final Stretch."*

Therefore, we forecast that although they may raise interest rates 75 basis points, the Fed's message will be for lower hikes in the future which will prove bullish for equities. Therefore, the higher equities rise between now and next week, the better the prospects that people will vote for the ruling party.

Home Alone

Since the COVID War began and the central Banksters brought interest rates to record lows and governments pumped in countless trillions to artificially pump up equities and economies, besides the Bigs getting bigger with record merger and acquisition activity hitting an all-time high in 2021, Main Street also cashed in on the cheap and free money bonanza with their home buying spree.

When the phony subprime real estate market exploded during the Panic of '08, home prices in the U.S. fell 27 percent between 2006 and 2012. While we do not forecast such a sharp decline as interest rates rise and the housing market slumps, the signals are flashing "Danger Ahead." For example, already the Case-Shiller Index shows that home prices are down 8.2 percent in San Francisco. Yes, the city that was among the first to lockdown and imposed draconian mandates that destroyed lives and livelihoods while boosting the homeless and crime rates.

With still a long way to go down since home prices shot up 43 percent during the COVID War housing boom, marking the first national home price decline since 2012, U.S. home prices have fallen 1.6 percent between June and August.

And the facts of decline are in the numbers. Quarter-to-quarter real growth in construction spending has been negative for four of the last five calendar quarters and is down at an annualized quarter-to-quarter pace of 16.7 percent according to Shadow Stats.

They also note that on the inflation side of life, headline year-to-year September 2022 PPI Construction Inflation of 23.09 percent notched higher from 22.95 percent in August.

Before the COVID War and before the record low interest rates and the estimated $8 trillion of dollars of fake money Washington pumped into the economy, Shadow Stats also notes that the highest annual pace of Construction Inflation increase in the modern PPI had been shy of 6 percent, back in 2018.

Sales Slowdown

Sales of existing homes have been sliding for eight months running while sales of new homes dropped 10.9 percent in September from August and 17.6 percent from a year earlier, the U.S. Commerce Department reported last week.

Rising interest rates caused the decline, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Meanwhile, the median selling price of a newly built home climbed to $470,600 during the month, a gain of 13.9 percent over that in September 2021, the department said.

September is the fourth month this year that sales of new homes dropped 10 percent or more, month over month and April marked the biggest drop at 12.4 percent.

In the week ending 21 October, applications for mortgages to buy homes plunged 42 percent from a year previous, the Mortgage Bankers Association said.

Over There

And the bad data keeps getting worse. Hitting 9.9 percent in September—the highest inflation rate since the euro was invented 23 years ago—for October, consumer prices in Europe surged to a record high of 10.7 percent.

The latest high, reported by the European Commission's statistics arm Euro-stat, also outstripped the 10.2 percent expected by economists polled by Reuters. It was the 12th consecutive month that inflation had set a record high in the Eurozone, taking it to more than five times the ECB's 2 percent target.

In September, thanks to rising food and energy costs, the bloc's overall inflation rate hit almost 11 percent.

While the data shows where it came from, Christine Lagarde, the head of the European Central Bank said last Friday that they raised interest rates “because we are fighting inflation,” that “pretty much came about from nowhere.”

And rather than blaming the United States and NATO for imposing strict sanctions on Russia and their cutting off Russian oil and gas supply into Europe, Lagarde bullshitted that “the energy crisis caused by Mr. Putin who has decided in an unjustifiable way to invade another country”... unlike American and NATO’s “unjustifiable” invasions of Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, etc.

And as we have noted, even with the two 0.75 rate hikes which bring the rate to 1.5 percent, real EU interest rates remain deep in negative territory. And, with the economy long weakening despite some eight years of negative interest rate policy, now, the tiny hikes will cause the euro area to dive into recession.

Gross domestic product in the Eurozone slowed in the third quarter, rising 0.2 percent from the previous quarter according to Eurostat... a slowdown from 0.8 percent growth in the previous quarter.

And with GDP increased slightly in Germany, France, Italy and Spain reported sharp declines.

However, while Germany racked up GDP growth, inflation spiked 10.4 percent in October according to preliminary figures.

Not So Good News

Still showing a slowdown in growth, but better than expected, the purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector came in at 49.2 in October, down from 50.1 in September, the National Bureau of Statistics reported.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below reflects contraction.

And over in India, The Indian rupee continued its ten month slide against the dollar. Notching up its worst losing streak in almost four decades, the rupee hit new lows against the dollar in October and is down nearly 11 percent for the year.

TREND FORECAST: *The equation is simple, the higher the U.S. Federal Reserve raises rates, the steeper most currencies will fall.*

Emerging market nations are leaking investment capital as fast as they continue to pile up debt. A number of the countries have extraction economies—selling minerals, timber, and other raw materials. But inflated prices for imports and the declining value of their currencies—which has them buying less but costing more – will exceed their export revenues.

As a result, emerging nations will be pushed into Dragflation, our Top 2022 Trend in which economies shrink under high prices.

With Dragflation setting in, many countries will find it harder and harder to service their massive debts, pushing many of these nations into default. And again, the more dire the economic realities, the greater the escalation of people taking to the streets to protest lack of basic living standards, government corruption, crime and violence.

And the more intense the social uprising, the greater the risk for civil wars that will expand to regional wars.

LAST WEEK: FRIDAY RALLY CONTINUES INDEX'S RUN

The Dow Jones Industrial Average's 800-point Friday rally helped lift all three major U.S. stock indexes into positive territory for the week.

For the week, the Dow added 5 percent.

NASDAQ was drifting down through Wednesday until Intel and Apple reported earnings that shot far beyond analysts' expectations. Their share prices jumped 11 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

The NASDAQ closed the week up 2.1 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 gained 3.6 percent last week. Like NASDAQ, it was trending down until Friday's rally sent it back up.

Stocks of companies in consumer staples, finance, and real estate performed well. Companies dealing in discretionary consumer goods made up the only one of the S&P's 11 sectors to end the week lower.

ExxonMobil's stock price shot up 2.7 percent after the company posted a $19.7-billion profit due to "rigorous" cost cutting and a global run on natural gas. Chevron also reported a stellar third quarter, boosting its market value.

Investors often see October as jinxed: it marks anniversaries of the 1929 market crash and 1987's Black Monday.

However, this year October has lifted the Dow by 14 percent, its best monthly result since January 1976.

In contrast, tech companies—especially Alphabet, Amazon, Meta that recently wielded disproportionate power to move markets—have lost their luster, with all three seeing share values fall last week.

They may be a harbinger of a looming broader decline, some market watchers fear, citing weakening consumer spending amid rising inflation and interest rates.

Also, the third-quarter earnings growth rate among S&P-listed companies is 2.2 percent, sinking back near 2020 levels.

"My gut feeling is that tech companies are heading where other companies will follow in the coming months," CEO Dan Boardman-Weston at BRI Wealth Management told the *WSJ*.

Yields on the benchmark 10-year treasury note rose back above 4 percent on Friday, ending at 4.009 percent after settling at 3.938 percent on Thursday. Yields rise as bond prices fall.

Spot gold fell 1 percent through the week to $1,643 at 4 p.m. U.S. EDT on 28 October.

The price of Brent crude oil for December delivery climbed 2.9 percent to $96.22 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 28 October. West Texas Intermediate, which sets the U.S. oil price, gained 3.7 percent to $88.21 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 28 October.

Bitcoin broke up through the $20,000 mark to reach $20,710 at 5 p.m. U.S. EDT on 28 October.

Abroad, the European Stoxx 600 joined in Friday's rally, rising 3 percent for the week. London's FTSE grew by 1.1 percent.

In Asia, the Japanese Nikkei 225 shed 0.5 percent on the week, while South Korea's KOSPI index managed to add 0.8 percent.

Chinese traders were glum on president Xi Jinping's pledge to continue massive lockdowns to contain the COVID virus.

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong blew off 6.7 percent, the SSE Composite fell 3.9 percent, and the CSI Composite gave up 5 percent.

YESTERDAY: QUIET HALLOWEEN SESSION AS INVESTORS WAIT FOR CENTRAL BANK'S NEXT MOVE

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 128.85 points, or 0.4 percent, to 32,732.965, and the S&P 500 fell 29.08 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,871.98. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 114.31, or 1 percent, to 10,988.15.

The Dow is ending its best month since 1976, and added 14 percent to its value. Much of that gain came on the heels of recent reports indicating what we had forecast

over a month ago... that the Federal Reserve may take its foot off the gas in its fight against uncontrolled inflation.

The Federal Reserve will hold a two-day meeting that begins today, and it will announce a decision on interest rates tomorrow.

Elsewhere, Britain's FTSE was up 46.86 points, or 0.66 percent, to 7,094.53 and the STOXX 600 gained 1.44, or 0.35 percent, to 412.20. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei gave back 13.76 points, or 0.05 percent, to close at 27,573.70, and South Korea's Kospi was up 18.68, or 0.81 percent, to 2,312.29. The Shanghai Composite gained was essentially unchanged at 2,893.47 and the Shenzhen Component was flat.

The European Central Bank has said it will keep working to bring down inflation that hit 10.7 percent, and the euro zone is likely to enter recession.

Business activity in the bloc contracted in October at its fastest rate in two years, a S&P Global survey said.

Chinese yuan fell on news indicating that China's factory activity fell in October due to the lack of global demand and its "Zero-COVID" lockdowns.

The BBC reported that workers at Apple's largest iPhone assembly factory in the central city of Zhengzhou have attempted to break out of the facility that has been under government lockdown.

The report said it was not clear how many people came down with the virus at the Foxconn facility, but at least 10 could be seen jumping over a fence. Disney's Shanghai resort was also forced to temporarily close.

TRENDPOST: *Everywhere you look, there's bad news, but stocks continue to do well which is further proof that the game is rigged for the BIGS. Gerald Celente said last month that the Fed may increase interest rates by possibly .50 or even .25 basis points to hand Democrats election wins during the midterms. Indeed, they may also raise them .75 basis points tomorrow, but guaranteed, as the records show, they will lower rates before the presidential election to favor the incumbents.*

OIL: Brent Crude was unchanged on Monday, and was trading at $94.83 per barrel and West Texas Intermediate was also essentially unchanged and closed at $86.53 per barrel.

Oil output in the U.S. reached nearly 12 million barrels a day in August. The number marks the highest output since the start of the COVID outbreak.

President Joe Biden, concerned about the thrashing in the upcoming midterm elections, said Monday that any oil and gas companies that do not earmark some of their profits to bring down prices for customers will face a penalty.

"At a time of war, any company receiving historic windfall profits like this has a responsibility to act beyond the narrow self-interest of its executives and shareholders," he said.

Mike Sommers, the president of the American Petroleum Institute, an oil and natural gas industry trade group, told *The Wall Street Journal* that the president's criticism was misguided.

"Oil companies do not set prices—global commodities markets do. Increasing taxes on American energy discourages investment in new production, which is the exact opposite of what is needed," he said.

TRENDPOST: *President Biden has tried to blame high energy prices on everyone but himself and NATO who imposed strict sanctions on Russia to "punish Putin... his all-time favorite target. Instead, as we have detailed, the sanctions that cut off Russian oil and gas supplies have punished the people and businesses.*

Then the White House blamed OPEC+ for cutting back supply, but that didn't work either. Now it is the oil industry.

Once again, the people are paying for Washington's failed foreign policy.

GOLD: The precious metal was down about $4.20, or 0.26 percent, to $1,636.50, as the 10-year Treasury yield rose to 4.074 percent and the dollar also saw gains of 0.8 percent against other currencies.

Gold is a non-yielding asset and becomes less attractive for foreign investors when the U.S. dollar sees gains. Like the rest of the market, gold investors are waiting until the Fed gives its take on inflation on Wednesday, and whether it will raise rates another 75 basis points to up to 4 percent. The Street is anticipating another 75-basis point increase.

Reuters noted that gold prices have fallen more than $400 since scaling above the key $2,000 per ounce level in March, in the early stages of the Ukraine War.

Spot silver also fell 0.5 percent to $19.13 an ounce.

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente has said gold should be trading significantly higher than its current price due to all of the world's uncertainty. The Ukraine War is expanding. Russia accused the U.K. of assisting Ukraine in a drone attack on its Black Sea Fleet during the weekend that has jeopardized the grain deal. We forecast that low gold prices are just temporary and it remains the world's #1 safe haven asset.*

BITCOIN: The world's most popular crypto hung around $20,508 most of the day Monday, as investors breathed a sigh of relief that the coin was trading higher than its $19,000 plateau.

Elon Musk has been everywhere in recent weeks, and his purchase of Twitter has sparked debate about his next moves and what he will do with the platform. Late Monday night, Musk tweeted a photo of a photo of a Shiba Inu, the dog breed that is something of a Dogecoin mascot, wearing a Twitter shirt, raising speculation that a project is in the works.

DOGE is up 101 percent this month.

Musk has spoken about Dogecoin in the past. CoinDesk noted that in May 2021, he appeared on "Saturday Night Live," and said, "Call me the Dogefather." He also once

tweeted a photo of himself holding a Shiba Inu. He once considered charging 0.1 Dogecoin per tweet, which the outlet noted could have been a joke.

TRENDPOST: *As of early Tuesday, Dogecoin was trading at 14 cents per coin. Its high was 64 cents per coin in May 2021, when bitcoin was trading at $37,000 a coin. Musk is a wildcard in the crypto world. He is riding a winning streak with SpaceX and Tesla, but Twitter faces a drying advertising market and real competition from other "hipper" platforms like TikTok. There's also a risk that Musk says something that gets him canceled by businesses that advertise on Twitter.*

If Musk fails to revitalize Twitter, Dogecoin may go with it.

TODAY: STOCKS END DAY LOWER FED PREPARES TO RAISE INTEREST RATES

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 79.75 points today, or 0.24 percent, to 32,653.20, and the benchmark S&P 500 also fell 15.88 points, or 0.41 percent, to 3,856.10. The Nasdaq Composite was down 97.30, or 0.89 percent, to 10,890.85.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its September job openings data and found that the number jumped to 10.72 million, which is above the 9.85 million that had been estimated by economists. They anticipated a lower number of vacancies after an August drop.

The Street sees the increase in jobs as more ammunition for the Feds to push interest rates to get control of inflation, a decision they will reach tomorrow.

On the downside, the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing purchasing managers index fell to 50.2, which was 0.7 percent lower than recorded in September. Below 50 signals contraction. However, it was the 29th consecutive month of growth after contractions in April and May 2020, when the COVID-19 outbreak was taking hold.

The New Orders Index remained in contraction territory at 49.2 percent, 2.1 percentage points higher than the 47.1 percent recorded in September.

"The U.S. manufacturing sector continues to expand, but at the lowest rate since the coronavirus pandemic recovery began. With panelists reporting softening new order rates over the previous five months, the October index reading reflects companies' preparing for potential future lower demand," a statement from the institute read.

Raw materials prices fell for the first time in 28 months in October, which was seen as evidence that the Fed has made some progress in its inflation fight. About 4.1 million workers voluntarily quit their jobs, down from 4.2 million in August.

Elsewhere, Britain's FTSE was up 87.67 points, or 1.24 percent, to 7,182.33, and the STOXX600 was also up 1.87, or 0.46 percent, to 414.08.

In Asia, Japan's 91.46 points, or 0.33 percent, to 27,678.92, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 768.25, or 5.23 percent, to 15,455.27. South Korea's Kospi was up 41.61, or 1.81 percent, to 2,335.22. China's market was also in the green, with the Shanghai Composite up 75.72, or 2.62 percent, to 2,969.20 and the Shenzhen Component was up 337.21, or 3.24 percent, to 10,734.25.

OIL: Oil prices were trading higher today as the U.S. dollar weakened. There have been lingering concerns about China's continued "Zero-COVID" effort. As of mid-day today, Brent crude was up $1.82 per barrel, or 1.92 percent, to $94.64 and West Texas Intermediate was trading up $1.82 to $88.36 per barrel.

Oil has become a hot-button issue in the U.S. before the midterm elections. President Joe Biden has blamed oil companies of gouging customers at the pump and threatened them with, but Republicans have blamed the president's policies.

"Biden is threatening domestic oil producers with a tax if they don't bring prices down," Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., posted on Twitter. "Blaming others won't work, Mr. President."

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ken., also tweeted, "Biden tells oil industry to lower prices and increase volume, or else he's going to raise prices and decrease volume…by increasing taxes and imposing restrictions. In what universe does his threat make sense or help Americans."

TRENDPOST: *Oil prices remain a wildcard because there are so many unpredictable geopolitical factors at play.*

The Wall Street Journal reported today that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are on high alert after a warning of an "imminent Iranian attack." The report, citing Saudi and U.S. officials, said Tehran is prepared to attack Saudi Arabia and Erbil, Iraq, to "distract attention from domestic protests that have roiled the country" since the death of Mahsa Amini in morality police custody.

The U.S. said it will "not hesitate to act in the defense of our national interests and partners in the region."

China's Xi Jinping has also shown a willingness to crash the global economy in his "Zero-COVID" effort. About 800,000 people were locked down in Wuhan last week – again. One resident told the BBC, "We feel numb to it all. We feel more and more numb."

GOLD: Gold was up 9.10, or 0.55 percent, to $1,649.50 an ounce as of 4:25 p.m. ET today, and silver was up 49 cents, or 2.59 percent, to $19.61.

Gold is known as the best asset to own during turbulent times and a hedge against inflation, Traditionally, high inflation will lead investors to buy gold and drive up costs. But the precious metal has faced headwind from a strong U.S. dollar and rising Treasury yields.

From 2001 to 2012, for example, the long-term real interest rate fell 400 basis points and resulted in a fivefold increase in gold prices, according to numbers from the Chicago Fed.

TRENDPOST: *Central banks are buying gold at a pace not seen since 1967. A new World Gold Council report found that demand for the precious metal was up 28 percent year-on-year.*

QZ.com noted that Turkey was the biggest purchaser, followed by Uzbekistan, which purchased 26.13 tons. China and Russia does not report its gold purchases. A total of $20 billion was spent on gold from these central banks.

These banks are searching for safe havens while their countries face soaring inflation.

BITCOIN: The world's most popular crypto currency was trading about level today – in the $20,472 range as traders waited for news from the Federal Reserve about its next interest rate hikes.

The Trends Journal has long noted that bitcoin often tracks the overall stock market – especially the tech-heavy Nasdaq. Cryptos face headwind when Treasury yields increase. The 10-year Treasury fell 2 basis points to 4.061 percent, and the 2-year Treasury increased 4 basis points to 4.51 percent.

TRENDPOST: *Last week, Bitcoin "HODLers," which refer to cyrpto advocates who "hold on for dear life," celebrated the 14th anniversary of Satoshi's Bitcoin White Paper, calling for a "Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System."*

The idea would skip any third parties, aka: banks. These transactions would be memorialized in an "ongoing chain of hash-based proof-of-work, forming a record that cannot be changed without redoing the proof-of-work."

This proof-of-work system is why some doubt that bitcoin will ever be able to handle millions of transactions a day, thus an efficient way to make payments.

Bitcoin hit its high of over $68,000 a coin in November 2021 and went as low as $18,815 in September. Traders will watch to see how bitcoin responds to this week's Fed interest rate hike.

BIG TECH'S REALLY BAD WEEK

Investors chopped $566 billion from the collective market value of Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, and Microsoft last week as interest rates and rising costs foreshadowed slowing growth and weaker performances.

Investors' fears that tech firms were not watching costs worsened when Alphabet, Google's parent company, announced it had taken on 13,000 new employees in the third quarter in one of its biggest hiring sprees on record.

In a recent earnings call, CEO Sundar Pichai had pledged to focus on restraining costs, although the company has said it will continue its aggressive capital spending.

Investors erased $174 billion from Microsoft's market cap when the company reported its cloud computing business was growing more slowly than projected.

Meta's stock value was slashed by about $80 billion, or roughly 25 percent, on 27 October after it announced costs were rising, quarterly revenue had fallen by 4 percent, and losses in its metaverse venture would be "significantly" greater next year.

The share price lost $31.88, bringing it down to $97.94, a level last visited in 2016.

Meta faces stiffening competition from TikTok and Google's revamped ad tracking methods.

Amazon posted third-quarter sales 9 percent lower than the same period last year and projected sales of $140 million to $148 million this quarter, jolting analysts who had expected better than $155 million.

The double-barreled bad news dropped Amazon's share price 12 percent.

Amazon holds 38 percent of the online retail market, according to data service Inside Intelligence, which said that the share is unlikely to be able to continue to grow at past rates.

To cut costs, Amazon has let go of millions of square feet of warehouse space, put off opening new facilities, frozen hiring, and not replaced many workers who quit or retired.

However, it also has promised to spend $1 billion to raise its average starting hourly wage to $19.

Intel reported a 20-percent drop in third-quarter sales revenue as demand weakened for electronics, which consumers binge-bought during the COVID War.

Sales of personal computers, a major share of Intel's market, dove 15 percent in the third quarter, International Data Corp. reported.

Intel has cut its current-quarter and full-year financial forecasts and has begun cutting $3 billion in costs, including laying off workers and reducing factories' operating hours, it said.

"It's just hard to see any points of good news on the horizon," CEO Pat Gelsinger said in an earnings call.

WAGES, PRICES CONTINUED TO SPIRAL UPWARD IN SEPTEMBER

In September, the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index—the U.S. Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation—rose at 6.2 percent, year on year.

The core index, which ignores food and fuel prices, edged up from 4.9 percent in August to 5.1 in September, its fastest climb since March.

During this year's third quarter, workers' compensation also rose.

The Employment-Cost Index, which measures workers' overall pay and benefits, was up 5 percent from a year earlier, the U.S. labor department reported, down barely from its record clip in the second quarter, when it climbed the fastest since March 2001.

Service workers gained the most, at 7.7 percent, with retail, leisure, hospitality, and nursing also showing strong improvements. Employees in financial, management, and professional services saw the smallest bumps.

Adjusted for inflation, private-sector workers' pay declined 2.7 percent in the last quarter from the same period in 2021, the U.S. labor department said.

However, because workers' compensation grew little during the second quarter and inched down in the third, some analysts see the figures as a sign that "we are moving past the firmest period for wage inflation," JPMorgan Chase economist Daniel Silver told *The Wall Street Journal*.

Employers are seeing less competition for workers and are becoming more selective about who they hire, the *WSJ* reported.

The stubborn growth in wages and prices adds weight to expectations that the Fed will add another three-quarters of a point to its key interest rate when the central bank's Open Market Committee meets this week.

It would be the sixth rate hike this year and would boost the central bank's benchmark rate to between 3.75 and 4 percent.

TREND FORECAST: *The Fed has feared a wage-price spiral, in which each rises in response to increases in the other. That kind of spiral is hard to rein back.*

With wages and prices growing alongside each other, the Fed will be under pressure to continue its aggressive rate increases, even at the expense of jobs and economic growth.

Many analysts, and several Fed officials, are forecasting that the Fed will add 75 basis points to interest rates this week and then scale back to half-point hikes.

If inflation and wages refuse to cool off on their own, the Fed will continue its three-quarter-point hikes into next year, but as we forecast, they will lower rates into the run-up of the 2024 Presidential Election to keep the incumbent party in power.

U.S. ECONOMY GREW IN REAL TERMS IN THIRD QUARTER

Adjusted for inflation, the U.S. GDP grew 2.6 percent in this year's third quarter, after shrinking during the year's first half.

Consumer spending ticked up 0.4 percent, compared to 0.5 percent in the second quarter. Shoppers reduced their spending on goods. Spending on services increased, but at a slower rate than previously.

Export revenue anchored the expansion as the U.S. exported more oil and refined petroleum products, especially to Europe, as Russia's war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions created shortages in Europe and elsewhere.

International trade is more volatile than domestic spending, leading some analysts to downplay the third quarter's positive number and predict another contraction this quarter, *The New York Times* reported.

During the period, growth in consumer spending slowed—and, according to one measure, almost came to a halt—and the housing market contracted the most since

the start of the COVID War, both warning signs that a full-blown inflation may lurk in the near future.

Home building and home buying both slumped, shrinking the housing sector by 7.4 percent and peeling 1.4 percent off the growth rate, the *NYT* said.

Residential investment sank at a 26.4-percent annual rate and businesses also cut investments in real estate.

“Housing is the single largest trigger to additional spending and it’s not there any more,” chief economist Diane Swonk at KPMG told the *NYT*. “It’s going in reverse.”

The U.S. entered a technical recession after the economy shrank during this year’s first two quarters; a technical recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of economic contraction.

“I don’t think we’ve seen the full effects of higher [interest] rates working their way through the economy, so that’s why we have pretty low expectations for the next several quarters,” Richard Moody, Regions Financial Corp.’s chief economist, said to *The Wall Street Journal*.

However, the jobs market remains strong and layoffs are relatively few. Consumers still have a bit of the cash cushion remaining that they built from savings and stimulus checks during the COVID War.

Whether the country is in a full recession is a judgment left to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private group of economists, which weighs together a number of factors to make the decision.

“Ignore the headline. Growth rates are slowing,” Michael Gapen, Bank of America’s chief economist, said to the *NYT*, especially because the strong dollar is making exports more expensive abroad. “It wouldn’t take much further slowing to tip the economy into a recession.”

To keep spending, consumers have been draining their savings, as we reported in "Americans Drain Their Savings to Keep Spending" (12 Oct 2022).

In the third quarter, Americans put just 3.3 percent of their incomes into savings accounts, the smallest portion since 2007.

"'Borrowed time' is how I would describe the consumer right now," Tim Quinlan, a Wells Fargo economist, told the *NYT*. "Credit card borrowing is up, savings are down, and our costs are rising faster than our paychecks."

In September, U.S. credit card debt reached $916 billion, the same as in December 2019, credit bureau Equifax reported, up 23 percent from their April 2021 trough.

As the COVID era waned, card issuers promoted spending, lowering standards so people with riskier credit ratings could still qualify for cards.

As a result, the rate of missed payments is rising, but has not yet reached pre-COVID levels, the *WSJ* said.

TREND FORECAST: *At current rates, consumers will spend down their savings to pre-COVID levels and max out their credit cards by mid-year 2023.*

Because consumer spending supports as much as 70 percent of the economy, when shoppers stop shopping, a recession becomes inevitable.

The holiday shopping season will be a bellwether: if spending is strong, a recession is more likely to arrive sooner because consumers are getting rid of their dollars faster. If spending is weak, it will be a sign that consumers are growing more cautious and any recession is more likely to be delayed.

THIRD-QUARTER GROWTH FAILS TO EASE RECESSION FEARS

During the first six months of this year, Americans spent lavishly on imports, while U.S. exports remained modest.

That pattern reversed during the third quarter, with U.S. consumers spending less on merchandise and exports, chiefly oil, natural gas, and refined products, rising sharply as the Ukraine war and resulting Western sanctions left the world short of petroleum fuels.

However, the dynamic is only temporary, analysts warn.

“We see signs of weakening trade flows early in the fourth quarter, with the precipitous decline in ocean freight rates and [in] congestion at domestic ports in October highlighting waning U.S. domestic demand,” Oren Klachkin, Oxford Economics’ chief U.S. economist, wrote in a 27 October research report.

Consumer spending, which supports at least two-thirds of the U.S. economy, is losing momentum, figures show.

Spending on merchandise rose 2 percent in this year’s second quarter and 1.4 percent in the third. Spending increases for services also is losing steam, as we report in “U.S. Economy Grew in Real Terms in Third Quarter” in this issue.

In the third quarter, the amount of money that Americans spent on domestically produced goods and services ticked up just 0.1 percent, the fourth consecutive quarter that saw a slowing rate.

Also, sales of new homes fell 10.9 percent in September from August; sales of existing homes dropped for the eighth month in a row. (See details in “Sales of Newly Built Homes Fell 10.9 Percent” in this issue.)

"The Fed has likely triggered a recession in the housing industry by rapidly raising interest rates throughout the year," according to Washington news service *The Hill*.

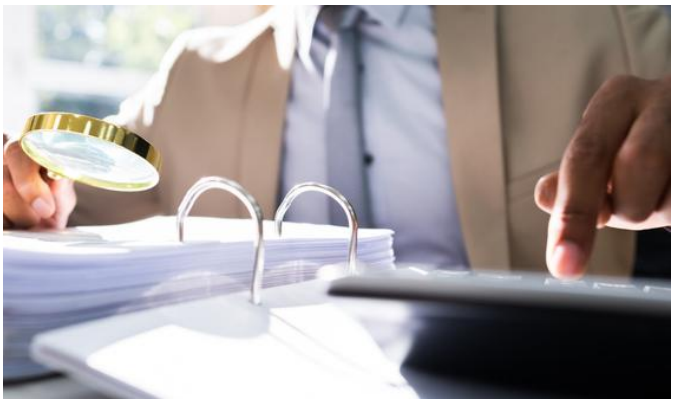
Mortgage applications and pending home sales have dropped below 2018 levels, online brokerage Redfin reported, calling the development "a serious correction."

TRENDPOST: *Buying a home involves more than just buying property. It usually means buying furniture, decorations, insurance, and other accouterments.*

Therefore, the housing market's recession, which has been underway for months, dramatically increases the odds that the overall U.S. economy will not be able to avoid following suit.

We have tracked the housing market's tumble in "U.S. Housing Market Bust?" (23 Aug 2022) and "Mortgage Rates Rise to 20-Year Highs as Home Prices Fall at Record Pace" (19 Oct 2022) among other articles.

DISTRESSED CORPORATE DEBT RISES. WILL A DEFAULT WAVE FOLLOW?



The number of corporations with bonded debt regarded as "distressed"—a sign that the companies are moving toward default—is the largest since September 2020.

"Distressed" is defined as bonds trading at least 10 percentage points above the yield on the 10-year treasury note or trading at less than 80 percent of face value.

After growing for five consecutive weeks, distressed corporate issues reached a value of $271.3 billion last week, according to Bloomberg.

Interest rates have been low for years and crashed nearly to zero in early 2020 as the U.S. Federal Reserve slashed them to keep the economy functioning during COVID lockdowns.

As a result, companies—including many with questionable prospects and credit ratings—binged on debt. Now those same companies face the prospect of refinancing their debt at interest rates more than 12 times higher than they previously were paying.

"You're going to see a lot more distressed companies borrowing at a much higher rate," Jordana Renert, a lawyer at Lowenstein Sandler specializing in corporate restructuring, told Bloomberg, leading to "an uptick in the bankruptcy cycle."

One candidate: cruise line Carnival Corp., which is toting $8 billion in distressed bonded debt. It recently managed to sell another $2 billion worth of bonds to refinance other bonds, but had to promise buyers a 10.75-percent return.

Last year, Carnival could sell bonds with a 6-percent yield.

The corporate default rate could double to 3 percent from its present 1.5 percent, Jonathan Lavine, co-managing partner at Bain Capital, said in a 27 October Bloomberg interview.

Among companies with at least $50 million in bonded debt, 75 have filed bankruptcy this year, compared with 100 last year to date and 200 in 2020 as the COVID War was raging.

However, the current pace will grow, predicted Stacy Tecklin, who heads the distressed debt practice at law firm Glenn Agre.

"We're seeing a lot of behind-the-scenes restructuring talks to avoid the bankruptcy process," she told Bloomberg, then added, "winter is coming."

TRENDPOST: *Financial markets see a difference between distressed debt, which is rated at CCC or below, and junk bonds, which carry ratings of BBB or less.*

In practical terms, there will be no difference as corporate costs rise along with interest rates and the economy sinks deeper: more companies with distressed debt and junk bonds will default and the number filing for bankruptcy will increase, especially during the first quarter of 2023.

TREND FORECAST: *We said it in "Will Junk Bonds Turn to Junk?" (14 Sep 2021) and "Value of Corporate Bonds Ranked as 'Junk' Doubles in 2022" (10 May 2022): junk bonds and weak and overleveraged corporations were in trouble as soon as the Fed laid out a timetable last winter for ending its bond-buying spree and raising interest rates.*

Now that the Fed has done both, the number and pace of defaults will accelerate.

Among the most overleveraged companies, at least 4 percent will disappear, be bought for cheap by competitors or Bigs, or survive through the Chapter 11 bankruptcy courts.

MORTGAGE RATES HIGHEST IN 20 YEARS

The U.S. average interest rate on a fixed-rate, 30-year mortgage reached 7.08 percent during the week ended 28 October, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac).

As August ended, the rate was close to 6 percent; it averaged 3.17 percent when this year began.

Some lenders had lifted rates above 7 percent earlier; this is the first time Freddie Mac found a national average rate above that benchmark.

Buyers making a 20-percent down payment on a median-price home would make an average mortgage payment of $2,300 a month, according to Realtor.com, compared to $1,300 a year ago.

The higher rates have torpedoed the market for new homes, as we report in "Sales of New Homes Fell 10.9 Percent in September" in this issue.

"Many potential buyers are choosing to wait and see where the housing market will end up, pushing demand and home prices further downward," Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, said in a statement announcing the increased average rate.

Also in September, sales of existing homes dove 24 percent, according to the National Association of Realtors, extending the slide into an eighth consecutive month.

The national median mortgage payment in September was $1,931, 5.5 percent more than in August, the Mortgage Bankers Association said, an increase of 40 percent, or an average of $558, since the year began.

The median mortgage loan amount in September dipped to $305,500, a slight dip from February's record of $340,000, which was the highest since at least July 2009.

Requests for rate locks on mortgage applications for home purchases were 30 percent fewer in September than a year previous; rate locks on refinancing applications plummeted by 93 percent, data firm Black Knight reported.

The steady climb in interest rates has slowed the rise in the median home price, which grew at an annual rate of 13 percent in September, compared to 15.5 percent in August, the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller Home Price Index reported.

That drop of 2.6 percentage points is the largest single month-to-month drop since the index was created in 1987, it noted.

"The growth rate of housing prices peaked in spring 2022 and has been declining ever since," managing director Craig Lazarra at S&P Dow Jones Indices said to *The Wall Street Journal*.

"All of my listings are just sitting on the market," Redfin agent Alison Williams told the *WSJ*. "They are well over 30 days on the market. Six months ago, four days on the market would have been a long time."

Buyers who do buy houses increasingly are turning to adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs), the *WSJ* reported.

ARMs allow buyers to take a loan with an interest rate that the lender can hike at specific times in the future. ARMs were a central cause of the 2007 housing market crash that ushered in the Great Recession.

TREND FORECAST: *Like a law of physics, home sales fall as the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates.*

The housing market for modest- and middle-income buyers has been in a recession for a year, with those income groups making up a smaller and smaller proportion of home buyers, as we have documented in "Home Prices Up, Incomes Down" (16 Nov 2021), "The Homes Sales Slip" (22 Mar 2022) and "Pace of April Existing Home Sales Slowest in Two Years" (24 May 2022), among other stories.

Because the Fed has more rate increases on deck, home sales will continue to decline overall as the housing market maintains its dual personality: cash-rich and high-earning buyers will have their pick of homes for sale, while the majority of people will hunker down where they are.

The combination of high home prices, rising interest rates, premium rents, and a slowing economy will extend a trend we have been warning about for more than a year: younger buyers and those lacking high incomes or a cash hoard will have an increasingly difficult time saving for a down payment on a house and an equally difficult time qualifying for an affordable mortgage.

At least one generation of Americans will spend their lives as renters, denied the satisfaction—and potential financial rewards—of owning a home of their own.

HIGH RENTS CHILL APARTMENT DEMAND

Third-quarter demand for U.S. apartments sank to a 13-year low after rental rates rose 25 percent over the past two years, according to rental website Apartment List.

We noted the skyrocketing rental costs in a series of articles, including "Apartment Rents Climbing" (20 Jul 2021) and "Can't Pay the Rent? It's Getting Higher" (9 Nov 2021), and in other stories.

More people are rooming with others, moving back in with parents, or remaining in parents' homes longer, a UBS survey found.

Eighteen percent of adults lived with other people rent-free some time from March through September, the survey discovered, compared to 11 percent a year earlier.

It was the highest proportion since UBS began the survey in 2015.

The leasing pace in the quarter was the lowest in 30 years, according to RealPage, which develops software for landlords. July, August, and September are usually the year's prime leasing season, the company noted.

Meanwhile, apartment vacancies edged up to 5.5 percent during the quarter from 5.1 percent in the previous three months, data service CoStar said.

The data shows that "rent can't continue at the same level it has sustained over the last couple of years," UBS analyst Michael Goldsmith told *The Wall Street Journal*. "We've reached the point where renters are willing to pull out of the market."

Record housing prices shut growing numbers of modest- and middle-income households out of home ownership, leaving them to scramble for increasingly scarce apartments in desirable locales.

At the same time, COVID vaccines freed young people to leave their parents and move into apartments in city centers that had been vacated by COVID refugees, plunging rents to lows not seen in recent memory.

Both factors sent rental rates rising to record levels.

Now rents are falling for the first time in two years as renters prove unwilling or unable to tolerate continuing increases.

However, the drop is slight, with rents still averaging 6 percent above those last year, the *WSJ* said, with rents not yet declining in hotspot markets, such as Charleston, S.C., where average rents are still 14 percent above last year's level.

TRENDPOST: *The days of price-gouging by apartment landlords is coming to an end, although the process will be slow in markets such as Austin and Charleston that saw a major influx of COVID migrants.*

Some investors have built luxury apartments to cash in on sky-high rents, as we showed in "Apartment Building Boom Targets Affluent Tenants" (21 Jan 2020). As inflation and rising interest rates thin the ranks of affluent renters, some of these projects will find themselves forced to cut rents to draw tenants, leaving landlords with skinnier margins and, perhaps, underwater with their lenders.

SPOTLIGHT: WORLD ENERGY MARKETS IN FLUX

“FIRST TRULY GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS”: WAR COMING?

A looming shortage of liquefied natural gas (LNG) worldwide and a reduction in output by OPEC+ have thrust the world into "the first truly global energy crisis", Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a 25 October speech during the Singapore International Energy Week.

In an attempt to offset its loss of imported Russian natural gas, Europe has snapped up most of the world’s excess LNG, Birol noted.

If China’s economy stabilizes and demands more of the fuel next year, the market could flip to a shortage because only 20 billion cubic meters of new LNG capacity will enter the market in 2023, he warned.

Meanwhile, the recent decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, chiefly Russia, to lop two million barrels a day from their output target is "risky", Birol added, because worldwide oil demand has grown by almost two million barrels a day this year.

"I found this decision really unfortunate," he said.

If Europe sees a mild winter, the continent “should go through this winter with some economic and social bruises," Birol said, but a particularly cold or long winter could be catastrophic.

The world will demand 1.7 million more barrels a day of oil next year, according to the IEA, so tightening Western sanctions on Russian exports—which is scheduled for early December—is likely to sharpen shortages and worsen the crisis.

Western allies have proposed allowing Russia to export oil to developing nations under a price cap that would ease financial strains on emerging economies while limiting Russia's ability to raise money to fund its war.

Many analysts have said the scheme is unworkable; Birol said only that the proposal still has many details to resolve and will require support from nations that are major oil importers.

If the plan is adopted, as much as 90 percent of Russia's oil could evade the price cap, a U.S. treasury official said last month during a Reuters interview.

A global energy crisis could have a silver lining, Birol noted, if it speeds adoption of clean, renewable fuels and fosters development of a more secure and sustainable energy system.

European nations in particular are streamlining permitting and licensing processes to accelerate installation of "clean green" energy capacity, Birol said.

"Energy security is the number one driver" of the ongoing shift to renewable power, he added.

The IEA had predicted renewable power installations would grow 8 percent this year, but has now revised that expectation to 20 percent, due to Europe's energy crisis, the war in Ukraine and Western sanctions, and the high cost of fossil fuels.

Coal use, which has spiked post-COVID, will fall back to previous levels within a few years, the IEA predicts, and natural gas demand will level off by 2030.

Meanwhile, oil use will peak in the mid-2030s as the manufacture of electric vehicles expands to meet growing market demand, the agency believes.

“Energy markets and policies have changed as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, not just for the time being, but for decades to come,” Birol said.

“The energy world is shifting dramatically before our eyes,” he added. “Government responses around the world promise to make this a historic and definitive turning point toward a cleaner, more affordable and more secure energy system,” he concluded.

TREND FORECAST: *As the global economy bogs down, OPEC+ will adjust its production to keep prices from falling much further than their current levels.*

Shortages and higher prices boost conversions to renewable energy, a trend that will accelerate now, not only because fossil fuels are in short supply but also because droughts, floods, and wildfires are becoming customary.

And, there are always the wild cards, be they made by humans or nature. On the in-human side, should military confrontations escalate in the Middle East between Israel and Iran and/or the Ukraine War expand beyond its borders, oil prices will rapidly rise.

Indeed, today, The Wall Street Journal reported that the United States and Saudi Arabia are on high alert after Saudi intelligence reveals that Iran is expected to carry out an attack on targets in Saudi Arabia.

During a press conference today, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon mouthpiece said Washington is "concerned" about "the threat situation in the region" and is "in regular contact" with Saudi officials.

"We will reserve the right to protect and defend ourselves no matter where our forces are serving, whether in Iraq or elsewhere," Ryder said.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *America is not being threatened by Iran, so what “right to protect and defend ourselves” is Ryder rapping about? Saudi Arabia is not America? And as for “our forces are serving, whether in Iraq or elsewhere," America invaded Iraq*

based on lies and as per the Founding Fathers of the United States, "our forces" should only be serving the homeland and not involved in foreign entanglements.

SUDDENLY, EUROPE HAS STORED ENOUGH GAS FOR THE WINTER

Facing the loss of imported natural gas from Russia, Europe has spent the last several months locking up replacements in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from around the world to fill its storage tanks ahead of winter.

That strategy, and unusually warm autumn weather, has allowed the continent to virtually fill its winter gas storage reserves.

Europe's overall storage capacity is 93.6 percent full and Germany's 97.5 percent, Gas Infrastructure Europe reported.

"The European gas glut is expected to last until at least December," Giacomo Masato, lead analyst and senior meteorologist at Italy's Illumina energy company, told Bloomberg. "It is unlikely Europe will see a prolonged cold spell in November."

As a result, natural gas prices there have fallen by more than half from their peaks over the summer, Bloomberg reported.

"At the end of October, the continent is in better shape than policy makers dared hope," Bloomberg said.

Now European officials fear an opposite problem: that citizens, flush with gas, will fail to continue to conserve supplies once the weather gets cold.

Europe has reduced gas demand between 7 and 9 percent this year, only about half of the 15-percent goal set by the European Union. Most of the savings has come by way

of large industrial users that have curtailed or shut down production because fuel was prohibitively expensive.

"Europe's ability to navigate a parallel power and gas crisis across the next two years depends strongly on its ability to reduce demand," analysts at energy consulting firm Timera wrote in the company's blog. "We think the crisis is far from over."

Although Germany's storage capacity is virtually full, it can meet normal winter demand for only two months; therefore, it needs to keep buying gas.

Northern Europe welcomed 82 tankers of LNG in October, a 19-percent gain from October, with more vessels filled and waiting for turns in the continent's limited number of LNG unloading ports—a backlog that could last until mid-January, according to LNG shipper Flex LNG Ltd.

However, that surplus could flip if Asia's demand for LNG increases and Russia ends the last of its gas imports to Europe.

"As temperatures start to drop and storages get emptied, the market reality of supply-demand mismatch will mean higher prices, translating into further inflationary pressures," Katja Yafimava, senior research fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, told Bloomberg. "This problem is likely to become more acute during the next winter."

TREND FORECAST: *The Nord Stream 1 pipeline, the main venue moving Russian natural gas to Europe has been sabotaged and is unable to function, which we reported in "West Blames Russia for Blowing Up Nord Stream Pipelines" (4 Oct 2022).*

The Nord Stream 2 line, which was recently completed but never began carrying gas, also was heavily damaged.

Even when the shooting stops in Ukraine, Europe will be without two key sources of gas for months, if not years, afterward.

As a result, Europe will become a booming market for LNG for the next several years, tightening the global gas market and keeping prices up.

However, there will be no parallel boom in building LNG terminals.

Construction of a terminal consumes years and billions of dollars. With future energy markets and balances uncertain, few investors will be willing to take a flier.

OIL SHORTAGE AHEAD?

Oil prices "are going to be headed well over $100" late this year as French labor strikes end and China's anti-COVID lockdowns taper off, Amrita Sen, chief researcher at Energy Aspects, predicted in late October during a Bloomberg interview.

In addition, new restrictions on importing and shipping Russian crude taking effect in early December will reduce the amount of Russian oil in the market, she added.

Those restrictions will end Europe's oil imports from Russia, which total as much as 1.5 million barrels a day. Those Russian barrels will have to be shipped to more distant ports, jacking up shipping costs, she pointed out.

Also, tanker owners could decide to stop shipping Russian oil altogether to avoid being sanctioned, which would mean "you will lose some shipping and that will tie up more oil," Sen noted.

Bans on shipping or importing Russian oil could add the equivalent of $50 a barrel to gasoline prices, effectively increasing them by as much as 50 percent, according to a Bloomberg analysis.

Oil's price could reach $115 a barrel in 2023's first quarter, Goldman Sachs analysts wrote in a research report.

The Other Side

International oil prices will ease by 11 percent next year, averaging $92 a barrel through 2023 and dipping to $80 in 2024, the World Bank predicted last week in its Commodity Market Outlook.

Slowing global economic growth and more COVID flare-ups and lockdowns could drive the price down even more, the bank added.

Prices will fall even though as much as two million barrels a day of Russian oil is likely to disappear from the world market after December 5 when sanctions tighten on shipping and insurance, the bank expects.

Downward pressure on oil prices will be welcomed by the 60 percent of developing nations that saw their oil costs rise following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions, the bank's report noted.

Nine in ten of those countries also saw food prices jump, Ayhan Kose, the outlook's chief author, said in a statement accompanying the report.

"The combination of elevated commodity prices and persistent currency depreciation translates into higher inflation in many countries," he wrote.

Emerging nations must prepare for "a period of even higher volatility in global financial and commodity markets," he warned.

The strong dollar, coupled with inflation and rising oil prices, has raised the risk of food insecurity for 200 million people around the world, Kose said.

TREND FORECAST: *China's extreme anti-COVID lockdown policy will remain in place through the winter and into next spring. At the same time, the world's economy will*

continue to sputter and is increasingly likely to enter a full-blown recession before long.

Those factors will ease any shortage of oil but are unlikely to allow the world to avoid it: OPEC+ will cut back production as needed to ensure prices remain above $80 a barrel.

Russia will remain a wild card, needing to sell as much oil as possible to keep its weakening economy alive and to pay for its destruction in Ukraine.

U.S. EXPORTS MORE OIL AS ELEVATED PRICES CAUSE TENSIONS AT HOME

During the week of 17 October, U.S. oil firms exported a record 11.4 million barrels of crude oil and refined products, about two million more than the previous week, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported.

During the same week, the U.S. imported 6.2 million barrels of crude oil, some of which was refined into products for export.

The U.S. has become a major supplier to world oil markets that tightened after Russia invaded Ukraine and Western allies imposed sanctions on Russian commodity exports.

Domestic producers have shrugged off pressures from the Biden administration to curb exports and produce more refined products to lower gasoline and heating oil prices in the U.S.

As oil prices began rising during the post-COVID recovery, major U.S. producers chose not to increase production but to use their cash windfalls to buy back their stock and pay higher dividends to shareholders, moves we documented in "Oil Majors

Withhold Investment in New Production" (3 Aug 2021) and "Oil Majors Use Cash to Buy Back Stock, Increase Dividends" (10 May 2022).

With sanctions on Russian oil due to tighten even more next month, nations are eager to build their stores before the strengthening dollar pushes up oil and gas prices even more.

U.S. president Joe Biden has refused calls for export controls. Nevertheless, energy secretary Jennifer Granholm told U.S. oil companies in August to keep more oil and refined products at home to avoid "additional federal requirements or other emergency measures."

Regarding a clampdown on exports, the Biden administration has said "all options" remain open to "ensure domestic supply," especially after OPEC+ spurned Biden's insistence that the cartel boost production, as we reported in "OPEC+ Cuts Daily Oil Output Limit By Two Million Barrels" (11 Oct 2022).

However, "banning or limiting the export of refined products would likely decrease inventory levels, reduce domestic refining capacity, put upward pressure on consumer fuel prices, and alienate U.S. allies during a time of war," the American Petroleum Institute and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers wrote in a letter to Granholm.

Last week, the U.S. average price for diesel fuel, which also is used as home heating oil, was $5.32, the *Financial Times* reported, down markedly from its recent high but still about twice the price it was two years ago.

TREND FORECAST: *Oil majors are unlikely to increase production; they assume that oil and gas prices will fall once the Ukraine war ends.*

Also, much of the U.S.'s available oil and gas is in shale formations, where wells have been expensive to drill and quick to deplete. Therefore, U.S. production is unlikely to increase markedly in the foreseeable future, keeping prices high.

WHEN THE ECONOMY FALLS JOBS GO WITH IT

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

- Seagate the largest producer of hard drives is laying off 3,000 staff
- Olymel cut 177 administration positions
- Umpqua Holding Corp. cut 100 jobs in its mortgage group
- Zymergen undergoes 110 cuts following Gingko merger
- Medicago cuts 62 jobs bringing the total layoffs in NC to more than 3,250
- Cybereason is laying off another 200 employees
- Credit Suisse is cutting 9,000 jobs
- Zillow is cutting 300 jobs
- Intel plans to cut a “meaningful amount” of employees and ditch some of its products to cut spending
- Electrolux is planning to shrink 8 percent, cutting 3,500-4,000 workers

- 54Gene cut 50 percent of its staff affecting 100 people
- Stellantis is offering voluntary employment termination packages to certain salaried positions
- Argo AI to layoff 173 staff
- Electrobras offers voluntary buyout to 2,300 employees
- Massey University proposed a restructuring program potentially affecting 72 staff, strikes have ensued
- AAG undergoes its third round of layoffs this year
- Heart Hospital is laying off 114 employees
- Corewell Health cut about 400 positions
- Yale Health eliminated 155 management positions
- Commonwealth Health will lay off 245 employees when it closes facilities at the end of October
- St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in Cleveland will lay off 978 workers when it ends many services in November
- Ascension is closing some facilities, a move that will affect 133 employees
- University Hospitals announced efforts to reduce system expenses by $100 million, including the elimination of 326 vacant jobs and layoffs affecting 117 administrative employees
- Cape Fear Valley Health is eliminating 200 positions
- Sanford Health announced layoffs affecting an undisclosed number of staff
- Twitter plans to let go of 25 percent of staff in first round of layoffs
- BBC is cutting local coverage causing dozens to lose their job
- Birkbeck University threatened to sack 140 staff

HALF OF EUROZONE COUNTRIES WILL ENTER RECESSION

Thanks to the energy crisis sparked by Russia's war in Ukraine and resulting Western sanctions, at least half of the 19 countries sharing the euro currency will enter a recession, Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in a 27 October Euronews interview.

"One year ago, we were recovering from COVID and we finished with over 6 percent global growth," she pointed out. "Then two shocks: Omicron [a COVID variant] and Russia's war in Ukraine have not only interrupted the recovery but reversed it."

Economic growth also is grinding down in Asia and the U.S., she added.

However, "Europe is affected more severely by the increase in energy prices," she said. "The heat on European economies is such that we expect half the countries in the Eurozone to experience at least two consecutive quarters of negative growth"—in other words, a recession.

"To give a sense as to how significant the hit on Europe is, our pre-[COVID] projections and our current projections differ by half a trillion euros," she noted. "The loss to the European people is quite, quite dramatic."

Overall, the region's economy will expand by 3.1 percent this year but only 0.5 percent in 2023, the IMF believes. Next year, Germany's GDP will shrink by -0.3 percent, Italy's by -0.2.

"I'm not going to sugar-coat it: 2023 will be tougher than 2022," she said.

Next winter for Europe may be even harsher than this winter, Georgieva warned.

“European policymakers acted very swiftly to fill gas storage” ahead of this winter, she said. “If conditions remain as they are with Russia not providing gas to Europe, how is this gas storage going to be filled next year?”

Russia also faces long-term damage of its own for three reasons, she emphasized.

“One, it is losing access to technology that would have helped the country to modernize,” Georgieva said. “Two, it’s losing people,” especially “highly-qualified Russians” who are fleeing the country because of the war.

“Three, Russia is losing its role in the global economy,” she concluded.

TREND FORECAST: *We forecast all, not half, of the Eurozone will dive into Dragflation: Negative GDP and rising inflation.*

And as for IMF prediction that Russia “is losing access to technology that would have helped the country to modernize,” pulling away from globalization will benefit, not hurt Russia as they trend toward self-sufficiency.

Indeed, we have forecast that as a result of the sanctions and strong anti-Russian sentiments spread by the Western governments and the media, Moscow will be leading the anti-Globalization trend by embracing one of our Top 2022 Trends, Self-Sufficiency.

More than just home-grown chip production, Russia has the human and natural resources to be on its own and live on its own at very high levels by making what it needs rather than importing products, goods and services.

Also, with over 1,000 Western firms exiting the nation, the gaps will be filled with “Made-in-Russia products” with their national style, taste, look and flare.

ECONOMIC GROWTH SLOWING AMONG EUROPE'S LARGEST ECONOMIES

Germany's economy expanded by a scant 0.3 percent during this year's third quarter, besting both France and Spain, which each eked out a 0.2-percent expansion.

France's economy expanded 0.5 percent in the second quarter, Spain's 1.5 percent.

Germany's growth was buoyed by a 14-percent jump in sales of new cars in September, which surprised analysts, who had widely predicted that the country would fall into a recession.

Also, unseasonably warm weather and continuing supplies of natural gas have eased energy prices back from their record heights earlier this year, as we document in "Suddenly, Europe Has Stored Enough Gas For This Winter" in this issue.

Germany's inflation rate reached 11.6 percent in September, its highest in 70 years, with energy prices up 43 percent and food costs rising 20 percent, year on year.

Price growth in France ran at 7.1 percent, a 25-year high, compared to 6.2 percent in August. In Spain, the rate fell from 9 percent in August to 7.3 in September.

Italy's inflation swelled to 12.8 percent in September from 9.4 percent the month before, due to rising gas prices finally catching up to consumers' energy bills.

Still, "after such a shocking inflation release, the Italian government will likely feel compelled to speed up the launch of a new package of dedicated compensating measures," analyst Paulo Pizzoli at ING said to the *NYT*.

TREND FORECAST: *More stimulus, i.e., fake money, will in turn jack up the already soaring inflation index throughout Europe... making an already bad inflation crisis much worse. As we note in this and previous* ***Trends Journal****s, with companies and*

households increasingly suffering under higher energy bills and other inflationary pressures, people across Europe are taking to the streets. And with the European Central Bank raising interest rates .75 basis points, recessionary pressures will increase... and so too will the protests.

ECB RAISES KEY INTEREST RATE 75 BASIS POINTS

The European Central Bank (ECB) raised two key interest rates three-quarters of a point last week, the second such raise in the ECB policy committee's last two meetings.

The overnight deposit rate, which banks earn by storing their money at the ECB, will rise to 1.5 percent on 2 November, officials announced.

In contrast, the rate at the U.S. Federal Reserve is between 3 and 3.25 percent and 2.25 percent at the Bank of England.

Meanwhile, inflation across the Eurozone ran at a 40-year record rate of 10.7 percent in October, up from 9.9 percent in September, driven by fuel costs that have grown 41.9 percent in the past 12 months. Food added 13.1 percent to its costs.

Inflation was highest in France, Germany, and Italy, according to Eurostat, the Eurozone's statistics agency.

"We are not done yet; there is more ground to cover" with higher rates, ECB president Christine Lagarde told a post-meeting press briefing.

Still, the region's economy will remain weak through 2024 as "high inflation continues to dampen spending and production" by "reducing people's real incomes and pushing up costs for firms," she added.

The task of trying to tame inflation with lagging rate hikes is becoming more difficult as national governments pour stimulus funds into their economies to help consumers pay energy and other costs.

Partly as a result, “over the winter, it will become increasingly apparent that the Eurozone economy has entered a significant recession,” Berenberg bank’s analysts wrote in a research note last week.

The ECB will raise rates only twice more, ending them in February 2023 as the zone’s economy tumbles, ING analysts predicted.

Markets are now pricing in a top rate of 2.5 percent this year, scaling back their expectations from 2.8 percent after Lagarde spoke.

Lagarde’s message was “more cautious and less hawkish than in previous meetings,” Silvia Dall’Angelo, senior economist at investment firm Federated Hermes, told the *Financial Times*.

Last month, the bank’s post-meeting statement said it would boost rates “over the next several meetings;” in last week’s statement, it said only that it expects to “raise rates further.”

Instead of repeating that it was out to “damp demand,” it said it hopes to be “reducing support for demand.”

By raising rates, the bank also is hoping to make a category of special bank loans less attractive.

The loans were offered at a half-point discount from the bank’s deposit rate to encourage commercial banks to keep lending during the COVID War.

As of 23 November, the rate will no longer be special but will be set at the deposit rate.

As much as €600 billion of the loans could be repaid to the ECB by December, according to an ECB survey of participating banks.

That could boost money market interest rates by as much as a half-point, the *FT* noted.

Another bright spot: on news of the ECB's rate hike, the euro's value struggled back above $1.16. It had fallen to parity with the dollar on 12 July.

The euro's fade has worsened inflation by making imports more expensive, particularly oil, natural gas, and refined products.

TRENDPOST: *In "ECB Head Downplays Inflation" (25 May 2021) we noted that Lagarde dismissed inflation's risk, saying higher prices "are of a temporary nature" and that inflation will ease back to modest levels in 2022.*

"Underlying factors and fundamentals are certainly not there to let us… forecast that inflation will stay at these levels," she said.

At the time, inflation in the Eurozone was 1.6 percent.

The central bank began raising rates far too late to have any meaningful direct impact on inflation.

Therefore, as we wrote in "ECB Raises Interest Rate By a Half-Point" (2 Aug 2022), the ECB's new interest rate has more symbolic than practical value.

With the region's inflation at 8.9 percent in July, an interest rate of zero can have no leverage against rising prices.

The bank's unwillingness to begin to raise its rate until now has rendered it irrelevant to the fight against inflation.

TREND FORECAST: *Because Europe's economy never recovered from the COVID-era lockdown, the ECB delayed increasing its rate while businesses returned to financial health.*

The wait was far too long.

Now the ECB will throttle back its rate hikes again as the continent slides into recession.

That will ensure the bank's interest-rate maneuvers will have little to do with tamping down price increases.

Instead, high prices will reverse when consumers can no longer afford to spend and businesses are then unable to invest, a scenario now most likely to appear in winter or early spring as gas stores deplete and fuel prices rise again.

YEN SINKS FURTHER AS JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES $197 BILLION STIMULUS

At its meeting last week, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) held its key interest rate at -0.1 percent, made no changes to its program of bond purchases, and continued to cap the yield on 10-year bonds at zero percent, as predicted by 49 economists Bloomberg had polled.

The news did nothing to raise the yen's value, which sank to a three-decade low late last month.

The bank's decision swiftly followed an announcement by prime minister Fumio Kishida that the government would issue a second round of stimulus equivalent to

$197 billion to help households cover rising food costs and pay inflated heating bills that have risen as the yen's value has crumbled.

Inflation in Japan ran at 3 percent in September, an eight-year high.

The new round of stimulus spending will shave 1.2 percentage points off that rate, Kishida said, and would boost GDP by 4.6 percent, but he gave no time frame in which that gain will occur.

The BoJ had predicted that inflation would peak at 2.9 percent this year, then fall to 1.6 percent in 2023, below the BoJ's 2-percent target.

"The outlook report shows inflation between 1 and 2 percent for 2023 and 2024," bank governor Haruhiko Kuroda said at a press briefing after the bank's policy committee met. "At the moment, we don't see a rate hike coming or an exit from [current] policy."

"The likelihood of the BoJ tightening policies is still small, as Japan's inflation is not broad-based and is rising at only a third of the pace in Europe and the U.S.," Kyohei Morita, chief Japan economist at Nomura Securities, told Bloomberg.

The yen closed at ¥148.65 on 31 October.

TREND FORECAST: *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.*

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

CANADA'S CENTRAL BANK RAISES INTEREST RATE LESS THAN EXPECTED

On 26 October, the Bank of Canada (BoC) added a half-point to its benchmark policy rate, raising it to 3.75 percent and surprising analysts who had widely predicted a three-quarter-point bump.

The bank has lifted its rate six times so far this year, raising the rate from 0.25 percent last spring to the new one, which was last seen in 2008.

The BoC has been the most aggressive among G7 countries in raising its rate and the only one to implement a full-point rate increase in a single move.

The bank indicated this is the first step in easing its campaign of aggressive rate hikes, which has placed the bank among the world's "top 10" that have raised rates the most this year.

"This tightening phase will draw to a close," Tiff Macklem, the bank's governor, told a press briefing. "We are getting closer, but we are not there yet" because "the economy continues to operate in excess demand" and "labor markets remain tight."

Future increases "will depend on how monetary policy is working to slow demand, how supply challenges are resolving, and how inflation and inflation expectations are responding," he added.

Canada's inflation rate has fallen from a high of 8.1 percent over the summer to 6.9 percent in September. The rate of price increases will fall to the bank's 2-percent target rate by the end of 2024, the bank predicted in a statement.

"We expect rates will need to rise further," Macklem said, which could mean "another bigger-than-normal increase [or] it could mean that we can move to more normal-size 25-basis-point increases."

The bank is easing its aggressive campaign of rate boosts, in part, because Canada's economy could stall through mid-2023 as higher rates bog down consumer spending, he warned.

"Slightly negative growth is just as likely as two or three quarters of slightly positive growth," he said. "That's not a severe contraction, but it is a significant slowing."

The milder-than-expected rate increase indicates that "the BoC will continue to taper its tightening cycle into year-end with a [quarter-point] increase in December, leaving the terminal rate at 4 percent," Josh Nye, senior economist at RBC Economics, wrote in a note to clients.

"We have several indicators suggesting that we're playing with fire if we think we can follow the Fed all the way up to 5 percent or so," Desjardins Group chief economist James Jean told Reuters.

The higher rates already have scorched Canada's housing market, which saw one of the world's highest rates of price inflation over the past two years, ballooning 50 percent through last February, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

TREND FORECAST: *With the average selling price of a home in Canada already down 10 percent, we suggest the BoC held back from raising rates higher because of the critical recessionary pressures that lie ahead. And totally absent from their reporting and analysis is the fact that the national, regional, state and city politicians who imposed strict COVID War draconian mandates on the nation for over two years are 100 percent responsible for inflationary pressures and the now declining economy.*

And considering that residential real estate comprised 20 percent of Canada's GDP in 2021, should interest rates continue to increase at past rates, the economy will quickly descend into recession.

CANADA'S ECONOMY SQUEAKED OUT A GAIN IN AUGUST

Adjusted for inflation, Canada's economy expanded by 0.1 percent in August as continued growth in service industries spending barely offset declining sales by companies making goods, Statistics Canada reported last week.

Agriculture, public services, and retail and wholesale trade grew; construction, manufacturing, mining, and oil and gas production sagged.

The statistics agency predicted the country's GDP grew 1.6 percent in the third quarter.

TRENDPOST: *Canada joins Germany, Italy, and Spain as countries whose growth rate slowed to a fraction of a point in recent months.*

The U.S. would have been a member of that group, with consumer spending growing 0.4 percent in the third quarter; only record exports of fossil fuels, likely a temporary phenomenon, lifted growth to 1.6 percent, as we report in "U.S. Exports More Oil as Elevated Prices Cause Tensions at Home" in this issue.

Seeing so many of the world's key economies slowing to a fraction of a point in growth is another sign that a global recession awaits in the near future.

AUSTRALIA'S INFLATION RATE HITS 32-YEAR HIGH

Inflation in Australia rose to 7.3 percent in this year's third quarter, its fastest clip since the same period in 1990, which at the time caused the country's central bank to raise interest rates so high that the economy lurched into recession.

The price of furniture was up 6.6 percent and natural gas 10.9 percent.

Housing costs gained 3.7 percent, due to labor and materials shortages, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Core inflation, devoid of food and fuel costs, traveled at 6.1 percent, the strongest since at least 2003 and beating analysts' forecast of 5.5 percent.

Inflation will rise to just below 8 percent this quarter, the Royal Bank of Australia estimates.

Food prices will rise due to extensive flooding in the country's eastern farmlands, supermarket giant Coles Group noted.

TREND FORECAST: *The central bank has raised its key interest rate several times, setting it currently at 2.6 percent. While analysts expect another two quarter-point moves this year, which would peg the rate at 3.1 percent, considering the inflation rate, interest rates are still in negative territory. And with the global economy slowing down and inflation rising, Australia too will join the Dragflation nations: Declining GDP, rising inflation.*

EGYPT'S CURRENCY FALLS AFTER IMF BAILOUT

The value of Egypt's currency, the pound, fell 15 percent last week to a record low of 23.09 to the U.S. dollar after the central bank raised a key interest rate by two percentage points.

The shifts followed Egypt's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to adopt a "flexible" exchange rate in return for $3 billion in aid, with the prospect of more to follow, after the war in Ukraine and Western sanctions left the country scrambling for suddenly scarce supplies of wheat and other essentials.

Several international banks complained that Egypt's pound was too expensive as the value of the dollar continued rising.

Egypt is also due to receive $5 billion from other international organizations and has requested another $1 billion from the IMF's recently established sustainability fund.

Egypt's dollar-denominated bonds rose in price on news of the deal, giving investors hope that the country now can avoid default, but the bonds gave back some gains when bondholders saw the size of the IMF's support was less than hoped.

TRENDPOST: *Egypt's economy and the nation have been in steep decline since the Arab Spring revolutions that began in December 2010.*

Up until then, when it peaked in 2010, Egypt's tourism sector served about 14.7 million visitors, accounted for about 12 percent of the nation's workforce and provided tourism revenues of nearly $12.5 billion that contributed more than 11 percent to the nation's GDP. Last year, tourism accounted for just 5 percent of Egypt's GDP.

And back in 2014, Egypt was in the grips of a bloody civil war with its people living under martial law. Even though the military overthrew the democratically-elected

government, the White House under the Nobel Peace Prize winner Barack "Hope and Change You Can Believe In" Obama acknowledged the military dictatorship and Washington continues to provide military aid... despite U.S. laws explicitly banning military funding after a coup.

SPOTLIGHT: CHINA

CHINA MAINTAINS STIFF ANTI-COVID LOCKDOWN POLICY

China continues its strict zero-tolerance policy of anti-COVID lockdowns as new closures closeted 200 million people in 28 cities as of 24 October, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The measures disrupted food supplies in Xining, a remote northwestern city of 2.5 million.

Zhengzhou, home to electronics assembly powerhouse Foxconn, showed 50 separate hotspots. The virus was spreading rapidly, the company reported, adding that a rumor that 20,000 employees had tested positive was untrue.

Beijing's Universal Resort theme park was closed after contact tracing showed two people infected had visited there.

On 27 October, China reported only 1,200 active COVID cases, emphasizing the extreme nature of its response to what amounts to a miniscule outbreak among a population of more than 1.4 billion.

In accepting a third term as China's president, Xi Jinping vowed no letup in the policy, saying it has "protected the people's health and safety to the greatest extent possible."

Health officials are urging the local government to build quarantine hospitals to prepare for a winter COVID siege.

However, the policies are weighing on the economy, as we note in "Most Shanghai Businesses Believe China's Economy Is Mismanaged" in this issue.

Beijing mandated mass anti-COVID lockdowns last March that froze social movement and business activity for more than 325 million people—almost as many as the entire U.S. population—in 45 metro areas.

A month later, China's retail sales contracted 11.1 percent and industrial output shrank by 2.9 percent, as we detailed in "Data Shows How Badly China's Lockdowns Have Hurt Economy" (17 May 2022).

China's auto plants turned out 41.1 percent fewer passenger cars than a year earlier, the China Passenger Car Association reported.

Auto sales slumped by 31.6 percent in April, year on year, the state statistics bureau noted.

In April 2022, new lockdowns across key industrial centers tangled the country's logistics network, barring food and other goods from traveling between cities. The mandate shut a main terminal in the Port of Shanghai, the world's busiest ocean shipping locale. (See "Lockdowns Cripple China's Logistics Chain," 12 Apr 2022).

TREND FORECAST: *Xi's insistence on drastic lockdowns already has taken points off China's economic growth this year. Having stocked his inner circle with yes-men as he embarks on a third presidential term, the policy is unlikely to change in the near future.*

That policy, coupled with a slowing domestic and global economy, will delay China's ascendance as the world's leading economy by at least three years.

CHINA'S FACTORY AND SERVICES SECTORS SLUMP IN OCTOBER

China's official purchasing managers index (PMI) fell into contraction in October, slipping from a September rating of 50.1 to 49.2 last month, due to ongoing anti-COVID lockdowns.

Ratings below 50 indicate economic contraction.

The index has sunk below 50 in six of this year's 10 months.

PMI sub-indexes rating factory employment, output, new orders, and supplier delivery times all fell into contraction last month compared to September.

The employment sub-index has been negative for 19 consecutive months, Ting Lu, Nomura's chief China economist, told CNBC.

China's services sector lost ground in October for the first time since May. The non-manufacturing PMI rated 48.7 for the month.

Sub-indicators for postal services, Internet software, and information technology services climbed above 60 in advance of an expected rise in trade for the Singles Day shopping festival this month.

Sales volumes among hotels and restaurants are still 20 percent below 2019 levels, Goldman Sachs reported.

MOST SHANGHAI BUSINESSES BELIEVE CHINA'S ECONOMY IS MISMANAGED, SURVEY FINDS

More than half of the 307 companies surveyed by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai believe the draconian ant-COVID lockdown measures being continued by China's president Xi Jinping are damaging business conditions.

A fifth of the firms said they are cutting back on new investment because of the policy.

The extreme measures have "upended business performance expectations" and the country should "pivot to a more sensible approach based on a reasonable balance between public health and the economy," chamber president Eric Zheng said in comments quoted by the *Financial Times*.

China still typically requires PCR COVID testing for people using public transport or entering theaters or similar public venues.

When lockdowns are imposed, workers are forced to live at their factories in order to continue production.

The rolling, often lengthy lockdowns also make it difficult for foreign business executives to enter the country.

Less than half the companies surveyed expect revenue to grow in 2023, even though three-quarters reported a profitable 2021.

Less than half also expected revenue growth in their Chinese markets next year to equal or exceed that from their companies' operations elsewhere.

China’s economy has grown 3.9 percent in this year’s third quarter, according to new government data, well below Beijing’s 5.5 percent growth target in 2023, itself the lowest in decades.

This year, for the first time since 1990, China’s economy will do less well than most of its Asian counterparts, the World Bank has forecast.

PUTIN SEES 'TECTONIC CHANGE' IN WORLD ORDER, BLAMES WEST OF STOKING NUKE FEARS

Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the Valdai International Discussion Club last week to give a long speech on his worldview and give an update on the Ukraine War.

Putin's position seemed to remain unchanged since the beginning of the conflict and he, once again, said Russia will achieve its objectives. No matter how long it takes.

He brushed aside claims by the U.S. and the West that Moscow is failing in its war effort and, in its desperation, have turned to the threat of nuclear weapons. Despite the continuing NATO/U.S. claims that Russia is prepared to use nuclear weapons, Putin said it was not true and Moscow "said nothing about using nuclear weapons," in direct response to inflammatory statements by the West.

“There is no point in that, neither political, nor military,” he said.

He seemed to be particularly incensed with Liz Truss, the former British prime minister. (See “IT’S ONE BIG CLUB: EX-GOLDMAN SACHS BANKER TO BECOME NEXT BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.”)

Truss, while running for prime minister after Boris Johnson’s swift fall, said she would have no problem pressing the button if it meant nuclear Armageddon. She said, “It’s an important duty of the prime minister and I’m ready to do that…I’m ready to do that.”

(It is worth noting that, in February, Russia also said it put its nuclear forces on high alert after a Truss comment. She was foreign minister at the time.)

Putin said Truss must have been “a bit out of it” when she made the comment.

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden, while at a Democratic fundraiser in New York, confirmed to an audience that the risk of nuclear Armageddon is at its highest point since the Cuban Missile Crisis. His remarks were troubling given that hours earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for the West to take “preventive action” to stop Moscow from using tactical nukes.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. has been monitoring Russia and has not “seen any reason to change our nuclear posture.”

Putin said the U.S. is trying to portray Russia as a reckless nuclear power in hopes to get neutral countries to side with the West in its opposition to Moscow.

He also disagreed with Biden that this is a repeat of the Cuban Missile Crisis, when Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, squared off against John F. Kennedy. Putin said, “I cannot imagine myself in Khrushchev’s role, not under any circumstances.”

The *Financial Times* reported that Putin said Moscow reached out to the U.S. in December to talk about strategic stability and did not hear back.

Putin told the audience that the world "faces a choice: accumulate a load of problems that will inevitably crush us all or try to find solutions that may not be ideal but could work and could make the world more stable and secure."

TREND FORECAST: *The longer the United States and NATO send weapons to Ukraine, the longer the war will rage and become bloodier and more destructive to Ukraine.*

Also, both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky have stated that they will not abandon their goals. Putin vows to keep the Donbas territory that he says is a protectorate of Russia, and that Crimea of which some 96 percent of the people voted to join Russia, will stay Russian, and for Ukraine not to join NATO.

On the other side, at the end of September, Ukraine President Zelensky said in a statement posted on his presidential website, "We are taking our decisive step by signing Ukraine's application for accelerated accession to NATO"... while he also insists on that Russia return to Ukraine's 23 February border—and that Crimea must be returned to Ukraine.

Lloyd Austin, the secretary of defense, took to Twitter on Sunday to announce another $225 million in "security assistance" for Ukraine that includes High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, 500 precision-guided 155mm artillery rounds, and 125 Humvees.

The U.S. has hoped that it would be able to starve Russia into submission by leveling sanctions on its energy industry, but those plans backfired because Moscow found buyers in China, India, South Africa, and other countries. Yes, Russia is selling oil and gas at a discount, but it has proven that it can survive without doing business with the West.

As we have noted, they are becoming a self-sustaining nation, one of our Top Trends for 2022.

Putin acknowledged that it was to be expected that Russia would face challenges.

"First of all, it deals with our losses due to special military operation(s)," he said. "I talk about this all the time. But we have economic losses too, but we also have massive gains. What is happening now, without any doubt, and I want to emphasize at the end of the day will be for the good of Russia and its future. It's connected to the strengthening of our sovereignty in every way, and in this case in the economic sphere."

Putin Uses Soleimani Killing to Illustrate Point

Putin used the U.S.'s assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani as an example of the U.S.'s effort to promote instability around the world.

The Russian president said the U.S. has no limits.

"They are not shy about anything," he said. "They killed Soleimani, an Iranian general… You can judge Soleimani however you want, but this is an official in another state. They killed him on a territory of a third country and said, 'Yes, we killed him.'"

Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Quds force who was revered in the country, was vaporized in a drone strike just outside the Baghdad airport in Iraq. Former President Trump ordered the strike, which was seen as a major escalation between Washington and Tehran.

The Atlantic Council said Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron held a phone conversation at the time and both agreed that the actions had the "potential to seriously aggravate the situation in the region."

Russia said "the killing of a representative of a government of a sovereign state, an official, these actions are completely devoid of any legal basis."

TRENDPOST: *Philip Giraldi, a former intelligence officer for the CIA, wrote in these pages at the time that the U.S. and Israel are, generally speaking, the only two countries that openly use "targeted assassination" as a political tool without even bothering to fall back on "plausible denial" to conceal their actions. (See: "WASHINGTON'S ASSASINATION BUREAU.")*

PUTIN BLAMES U.S. FOR UKRAINE COUP IN 2014

Russian President Vladimir Putin referred to the 2014 coup in Ukraine that was organized and funded by the U.S.

Putin, who was addressing the Valdai International Discussion Club, said, "We were not the ones to organize a coup d'état in Ukraine, which resulted in our special military operations. We are not the ones who did it. It's the West that has driven us to this point. I advocate democratic relations."

He said Western nations were “losing the upper hand” in global affairs.

Putin reiterated that NATO’s enlargement before the war was “totally unacceptable to us, and everybody knew that, and they ignored” the concern. CNN noted that Putin said Russians and Ukrainians have been “one people historically,” and the conflict that we are seeing is like a civil war.

TRENDPOST: *We have long reported, most Americans have no clue about how the United States overthrew Victor Yanukovych, the democratically elected president of Ukraine.*

And, we have continued to update the history of contention between Russia and Ukraine, and how Washington has interfered for decades in Ukraine. (See “VICTORIA

‘FUCK THE EU’ NULAND WHO SPEARHEADED OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE IN 2014, STILL IN POWER.”)

One year after the coup, Ukraine was racked by civil war and sunk into depression. The U.S. and EU blamed Russia for the destabilization because of its support of Ukrainian separatists in the Donbas region. And as punishment, the U.S. pushed the EU to impose trade sanctions against Russia.

Back in December 2013, speaking in Washington DC., Ms. Nuland, boasted that Washington had invested $5 billion in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Ukraine to “teach democracy.”

In fact, Ukraine was already a democracy. In 2010 the people had voted for Victor Yanukovych as their president for which international observers described the election as free and fair. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said the voting was an "impressive display" of democracy. And João Soares, president of the OSCE's parliamentary assembly, said. "For Everyone in Ukraine this election was a victory."

In reality, the NGO organizations are U.S. fifth columns that can be used to organize protests and to provide support for Washington’s candidates for the Ukraine government.

A recording was leaked of Nuland, telling Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, that the UN was on board to “help glue” the plan to replace Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovych with Arxeniy Yatsenyuk. “Yats is the guy,” Nuland informed Pyatt, urging her to move quickly because “the Russians will be working behind the scenes to torpedo” the deal.

“F#& the EU!” Nuland told Pyatt. “Exactly,” he responded.*

Shortly thereafter, Yanukovych was overthrown and “Yats” became president.

Putin said in his speech last week that the world has two options: “either to continue to accumulate a burden of problems that will inevitably crush us all, or to try together to

find solutions, albeit imperfect, but working, capable of making our world more stable and safer."

TRENDPOST: *The* ***Trends Journal*** *has long noted that it is completely opposed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but the Western media has been nothing more than an echo chamber for anti-Russian politicians in Washington. So-called "Progressive" Democrats penned a letter to President Biden to urge him to try a new strategy—negotiations—but they were cowards and retracted the letter."*

PUTIN SEES UKRAINE WAR AS MAJOR SHIFT IN GLOBAL ORDER

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave a speech Thursday at the Valdai International Discussion Club and said the West's effort to prolong the war in Ukraine is really an effort to maintain its grip on global hegemony, repeating his claim that Washington is willing to fight Moscow to the last Ukrainian.

Putin said the West continues to fuel the Ukraine War by flooding Kyiv with weapons of death.

The Western media has said the weapons for Ukraine have helped even the playing field. Russia once had a major advantage with heavy artillery, but now Ukrainian fighters have their own arsenal that they are using effectively.

The New York Times, citing commanders and military analysts, say Ukraine now has the upper hand. Countries like the U.S., U.K., Germany, and France have all contributed on that front.

Putin has indicated that he will fight on at any cost and Russia still maintains millions of rounds of artillery shells, and 300,000 troops have just been mobilized.

Putin said it is not the Ukrainians who the West is concerned about, but rather using "dirty" and "bloody" means to hold on to its power. He said the West has been exposed and the world is witnessing a "tectonic change."

"It's no coincidence that the West claims that its culture and worldview should be universal," Putin said. "Even if they don't say so directly, they behave this way. In fact, their approach insists that these values be unconditionally accepted by all other participants in international communication."

Putin said that Russia is not a natural enemy of the West, but blamed much of the current crisis on Western "elites who see the hand of the Kremlin behind all their internal problems."

He said Russia has no interest in challenging the Western elite.

"We are not trying to become the hegemonic power," he said.

Putin said Russia is simply trying to defend its right to exist.

Putin's comments come a day after he oversaw nuclear drills by his country's military. There is also added tension between the U.S. and Russia due to the 101st Airborne Division's war drills in Romania.

TRENDPOST: *As Dr. Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Treasury Secretary under Ronald Reagan, wrote in* ***The Trends Journal*** *back in Spring 2014 when the United States launched the coup to overthrow the democratically elected president of Ukraine, Victor Yanukovych, America's way is what Putin is saying today... Hegemony:*

> *"When the Soviet Union collapsed, it cleared the way for the rise of the neoconservatives and their ideology of U.S. world hegemony. The neoconservatives concluded that the Soviet collapse brought the end of history, by which they meant that history had chosen 'American democratic capitalism,' which is neither democratic nor capitalist, as history's final statement. History's*

choice gives the government of the 'exceptional, indispensable' American people the right to world hegemony.

The problem for the neoconservatives is that not all of the world agrees with 'history's choice.' Independent states, such as Serbia, Iraq, Libya, Iran, China, and Russia did not see themselves as provinces in Washington's empire. Neither do India, Brazil, South Africa, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

The neoconservatives made a concerted and successful effort to take control of U.S. foreign policy and military doctrine. With the Clinton regime's attack on Serbia, Washington began eliminating governments that are obstacles to its hegemony.

The U.S. government has overthrown the Iraqi and Libyan governments with military force, instigated a military attack by outside Islamist forces on the Syrian government, demonized Iran as a precursor to military attack, captured the former Russian province of Georgia in a U.S.-financed 'color revolution,' overthrown the elected Honduran government, unleashed orchestrated protests against the government of Venezuela, threatened Bolivia and Ecuador, routinely attacks with drones and missiles populations in Pakistan and Yemen, and has been at war against the Taliban in Afghanistan for 13 years.

Iran, Russia, and China are being surrounded with U.S. military bases, and now the neoconservatives in Washington have captured Ukraine with a Washington-sponsored coup against a democratically elected government. Washington claims that the Ukraine government was corrupt. Corrupt like who—Washington and the EU?"

THE RISING DANGER OF PUTIN'S GO-SLOW LIMITED WAR

by Paul Craig Roberts, Institute for Political Economy

Consider the conflict that seems to be shaping up. The Russian offensive is on hold as the Kremlin went to war without sufficient soldiers and no reserves. This passed the initiative to Ukraine fortified with Western weapons.

Ukraine launched two offensives. The one in the south failed. Ukraine suffered heavy casualties in soldiers and equipment. The one in the north succeeded in forcing a Russian pullback, but at heavy cost to Ukraine's forces, not to Russia's.

A month from now 300,000 Russian soldiers called up by the Kremlin will be deploying. If these soldiers are well trained and equipped and motivated, Ukraine's forces, ground down in unsuccessful offenses, are likely to be overwhelmed even if Putin continues his Goody Two Shoes behavior of doing little to prevent Kiev's ability to conduct war.

Faced with Ukraine's defeat, what will Washington do?

Will Washington have organized a "coalition of the willing," as General David Petraeus suggests, and bring boots on the ground to Ukraine's rescue?

Do we take seriously the statements of General John Lubas, deputy commander of the U.S. 101 Airborne Division, that his forces are a "combat deployment" 3 miles from the Ukraine border and are "fully prepared" to cross into Ukraine at a moment's notice to fight against Russia?

What happens if they do? Normally, airborne troops lack the heavy weapons of infantry. The lightly armed airborne division would possibly be cut to pieces by the heavy armor of Russian heavy infantry.

If so, how does Washington react to such a defeat and loss of such a prestigious division as the "Screaming Eagles"?

I think we all know that the result would be escalation by Washington.

So, where is Putin's "limited military operation" headed? Armageddon seems the certain destination. If ever a conflict needed to be ended quickly and decisively, it was Russia's intervention in Donbass. By trying to limit the conflict, Putin has greatly expanded it.

Consider other dangers with which the situation is fraught:

- A false flag dirty bomb that the Western presstitutes pin on Russia, thus ginning up more outrage to support more war against Russia.
- Ukraine destroys a dam that floods Kherson, and Russia responds by destroying a dam whose released waters deliver a large part of Ukraine into Russian hands.
- A new more dangerous "Covid variant," such as the one developed at Boston University, suddenly appears among the Russian troops, rendering them ineffective.

Despite all evidence, the Kremlin still seems to have naive expectations.

The Kremlin discovered Ukraine's ability to produce a dirty bomb and alerted the West, asking the UN for an investigation. Washington's response is to accuse Russia of making a dirty bomb to use in a false flag operation in order to justify Russia escalating the war. It seems that there will be a dirty bomb blamed on Russia and used to harden opposition to any favorable outcome for Russia from the conflict.

On top of it all, the media in Finland report that the government places no limits on NATO's presence in Finland, including nuclear weapons. Clearly Russia cannot accept nuclear weapons deployed in Finland.

Notice that no one in the West is making any effort toward de-escalation of the conflict. All movement is toward escalation. In order to prevent Russia from reincorporating territory that is historically Russian, we are going to escalate right up to nuclear war, which means the extinction of life on Earth.

The beginning of End Times was 2014 when Washington overthrew the elected Ukrainian government and installed an anti-Russian puppet government. The Kremlin let pass the opportunity to prevent the conflict which began in the Donbass by refusing Donbass' request to be reincorporated into Russia like Crimea. Russia then waited 8 years while a Ukrainian army was trained and equipped and poised to overthrow the Donbass republics.

When the Kremlin had to intervene, it did so in a limited, ineffective way that gave the West ample time to widen the war, making a mockery of Putin's claim of a "limited military operation."

What was required of Russia was a dramatic show of force and immediate end to the conflict, but the Kremlin failed to understand the situation and blundered into placing the initiative in Washington's hands, which has resulted in an ever widening war that no one in the Western governments shows any desire to stop.

The road to Armageddon seems to be unobstructed and completely open.

People whine about global warming, while ignoring the threat of nuclear winter. No discussion or even acknowledgment of the threat. No peace movement. No voices calling attention to the extinction of mankind that stares us in the face. Instead, we get reassurances that the U.S. and Russian militaries won't permit nuclear war.

What are these assurances based on? Certainly not on the war doctrines of the two countries. The U.S. and Russian defense ministries have made no joint declaration that they will not engage in nuclear war. If nuclear war is not on the table, what is the purpose of President Obama's trillion dollar nuclear force modernization?

What is the purpose of the rushed upgrade of U.S. nuclear bombs based in Europe?

How do we survive when vastly more political effort is directed at transgendering children and discrediting Trump than in de-escalating a conflict far more dangerous than the Cuban Missile Crisis?

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****.*

PANDEMIC LESSONS ABOUT SAFETY RISKS OF NON-COVID VACCINES

by Richard Gale and Gary Null PhD, Progressive Radio Network

Over the years we have written approximately seventy investigative articles specifically dealing with vaccination, with cited scientific studies, to expose the poor science about vaccine efficacy and safety, blatant misinformation, media propaganda and the politicization of national health policies.

It would take any mainstream journalist a minimum amount of time to gather sufficient research to discover the prima facie evidence behind the CDC's propaganda to push and mandate massive vaccination campaigns.

There are volumes of investigative reports detailing drug companies' overwhelming influence on regulatory agencies, flagrant conflicts of interest, and gross negligence to properly evaluate vaccines based upon objective methodological principles.

In the past, CDC officials have perjured themselves before Congress and have engaged in massive cover ups to conceal the dangers of specific vaccines and their ingredients, which are contributing to an epidemic of injuries among America's infants, children and youth.

The same can be said for the FDA, the Department of Health and Human Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics and other professional medical organizations. Each agency and organization aligns itself with vaccine policies that favor corporate sales and profits at the expense of public health.

Journalists who bother to look will undoubtedly find dozens of board-certified physicians who have individually spent thousands of hours delving into the peer-reviewed medical literature to uncover scientifically sound evidence to challenge the nation’s vaccine policies and the CDC's childhood vaccination schedule.

However, to do so, journalists out of necessity would need to turn against their handlers, the media’s doctors-for-hire, and corporate advertisers who have captured practically every major newspaper, magazine and multimedia network to circulate one-sided and biased narratives that vaccines are effective and safe.

Sadly, it is a bad career move for an aspiring journalist to be honest and adhere to scientific integrity when accurately reporting about the human cost of vaccination.

Modern vaccinology should not follow a one-size-fits-all theory as the pro-vaccine industry believes. For a coherent medical debate on vaccine safety, it is necessary for each vaccine to be critically evaluated on its own terms. Proper evaluation should include the properties of viral infection and immune response, adverse effects, long term risks that may not present detrimental outcomes until years after inoculation, and discerning the ratio between efficacy benefits against safety risks.

It is dangerous to assume that a new drug or vaccine to fight an infectious disease or life-threatening disease will be safe after it is released upon an uninformed public. The history of pharmaceutical science is a long story of disastrous failures. Numerous drugs over the decades have been approved and later found to be more life

threatening than the illnesses being targeted. Unfortunately this is only discovered after countless people have been injured.

Despite efforts to minimize its risks, the whole cell pertussis vaccine was a disaster. Starting in the 1950s, increasing cases of encephalopathy following vaccination resulted in a flurry of lawsuits against the vaccine makers. Eventually the whole cell vaccine was pulled from the market and replaced by a killed acellular alternative. Pharmaceutical companies started to abandon the vaccine market due to rising injury compensation suits and the loss of insurance liability.

After the Reagan administration passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act in 1986, thereby removing the pharmaceutical and biotech companies from medical liability, vaccine development boomed. The combination of removing legal incentives to perform robust clinical trials to ascertain vaccines' safety profiles, and the gradual reduction of honest and rigorous evaluation by federal authorities, has provided vaccine makers a free pass to rush vaccines through the CDC and FDA approval process with shoddy research.

The first human papilloma vaccine (Merck's Gardasil) is an excellent example of a post-1986 vaccine that fundamentally holds no benefits over and beyond safer interventions to prevent the progression of HPV infections.

Private vaccine developers have free license to test and evaluate new drugs and vaccines inadequately if they wish. They also have the freedom to manipulate trial data to derive a lucrative outcome. Yet, ultimately, whether their products reach the market or not depends upon the CDC's and FDA's oversight.

Our health agencies are mandated by Congress to protect and serve the improvement of public health rather than corporate interests and profits. Consequently, the buck stops with the federal health authorities and those who appoint them whether or not an efficacious and safe vaccine is approved. However, by allowing themselves to be increasingly hijacked by private pharmaceutical interests, our health agencies have turned into a self-serving culture chronically deceiving the public.

Today distrust in the government and the medical establishment has never been so high. In late 2020, according to the Alliance for a Stronger FDA, only 8 percent of Americans had strong trust in the FDA. Forty two percent said they had very little or no trust at all.

During the pandemic, the CDC fared no better at approximately 50 percent; however, overall only 34 percent believed our nation's health system was capable of protecting the public.

Confidence in NIAID's Anthony Fauci's handling of the pandemic has plummeted to 31 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll, compared to over 80 percent a year prior. Recent loss of trustworthiness undoubtedly parallels decreasing compliance in people receiving boosters. And a Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that only 27 percent of parents were eager to have their children vaccinated.

As more Americans lose faith in government over the failure of their policies, lack of leadership and false promises, crucial human rights issues are being raised. The number of physicians who acknowledge mRNA vaccines' high risks is escalating.

On-the-ground medical personnel working in clinics and hospitals know firsthand that the vaccines are not preventing the spread of the virus.

People feel betrayed because they have been lied to. Opposition to the Covid-19 vaccines and especially compulsory vaccination for jobs and attendance to colleges and schools will continue to rise as more people fall victim to vaccine injury and deaths, particularly in young adults and soon children will mount. No informed consent is given to people wishing to be vaccinated, nor are they advised about potential adverse side effects. Yet this has almost always been the case throughout the history of vaccination.

Arguably this is a violation of the Nuremberg Code. The conclusions of the Nuremberg Tribunal unequivocally state that "voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential" and individuals should "be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, a, deceit, duress or other ulterior forms of constraint or coercion." In addition, people must be provided with "sufficient

knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable them to make an understanding and enlightened decision."(Nuremberg Tribunal 1949, pp 181).

None of the terms of the Tribunal have been met during the course of massive vaccination and booster campaigns. Consequently, based upon the wording of the Tribunal's medical ethics, and the subsequent Helsinki Declaration, our federal health agencies and state legislatures, which seem determined to impose mandates, can technically be accused of similar but lesser crimes.

Most of the growing number of physicians who oppose the Covid-19 vaccines regularly remark that they are not anti-vaccination. They only dispute the government's claims about the Covid vaccines, in particular those engineered by Moderna and Pfizer. On the other hand we are also witnessing more physicians who clearly recognize the culture of corruption at the highest levels of the CDC, FDA and Anthony Fauci's NIAID starting to question the government's claims about other vaccines.

Our health authorities use the same arguments against professional opposition that have been used for decades against critics of the pre-Covid vaccines for measles, influenza, hepatitis, pertussis, HPV, and others. In unison they tout robust vaccine efficacy to prevent infection and transmission; that vaccines are overwhelmingly safe except in very rare instances; and, massive vaccination compliance is a national necessity in order to reach herd immunity and thereby eradicate a virus or bacteria altogether. These are three areas to be investigated with respect to other non-Covid-19 vaccines.

If the government is willing to cut every corner in order to bypass many standard evaluation reviews to hustle experimental genetically engineered vaccines, which have never before been administered to entire populations, why should we not suspect this gross disregard for public safety dates back to the Reagan administration and the 1986 vaccine bill?

There is plenty of documented evidence that this is the case, especially since the mid-1990s when rates of autism skyrocketed and later when the CDC made effort to

conceal evidence that overly vaccinated children starting at infancy may be the cause. Nevertheless, we need to investigate each major vaccine on its own terms in order to derive a broader overview of the flaws and failures of the entire vaccination regime as a whole.

Human Papillomavirus (Gardasil)

The CDC's vaccine adverse reporting system, VAERS, is frequently criticized for being terribly inefficient and cumbersome. There are no obligations for doctors, hospitals and clinics to record potential vaccine-induced injuries or deaths into the system. Consequently many healthcare professionals don't know it even exists. For that reason, only a small fraction of vaccine injuries and deaths, perhaps as low as 2 percent according to early Harvard University study, ever get reported to federal health officials.

Despite its many shortcomings, ever since the launch of VAERS, the CDC has consistently failed to improve and correct VAERS. Without accurate case data about vaccines' adverse effects, it is impossible for federal health authorities, as well as independent medical researchers, to properly assess vaccinations' real risks.

Nevertheless, after looking at the data recorded in VAERS, the Covid-19 vaccines overwhelmingly represent the majority of vaccine-related injuries and deaths. Following the Covid-19 vaccines, and especially Pfizer's and Moderna's mRNA vaccines, the HPV vaccine is the next most lethal.

Merck's human papillomavirus vaccine Gardasil is a classic example of a post-1986 vaccine that carries all of the faults and commercial manipulation solely for profit rather than to improve public health. Aside from Gardasil no other vaccine has been tested under proper inert placebo-controlled studies.

The average person tends to think of vaccines and pharmaceutical drugs as two separate categories. Many nations on the other hand categorize vaccines' safety profiles similar to other drugs.

Was a vaccine tested to determine fetal and maternal safety? Was it tested for any potential carcinogenic activity? The majority of vaccines on the market have not been tested for either. In addition, unlike common over the counter and prescription medications, vaccines are rarely ever tested against an inert placebo such as a saline solution. In the absence of such rigid safety trials, it becomes virtually impossible to draw solid medical conclusions about a vaccine's true safety profile and the likely rates of adverse effects.

Before receiving FDA approval, the HPV vaccine Gardasil was tested on fewer than 1,200 girls. Subsequent trials included many more participants. However, in the early trials only 27 percent of the enrolled girls were actually administered the complete three-vaccine series. Another remarkable misstep in the trials was that no girls under age 15 participated, despite the fact that today the vaccine is administered to girls starting at age 9. Nevertheless, the vaccine was fast tracked by the FDA in 2006. Rushing Gardasil through the regulatory hurdles was gross negligence. Seventeen girls died before and after the trial; nevertheless without any compelling evidence the CDC states none of these deaths were due to the vaccine.

Merck's methodology during Garadsil's pre- and post-licensure trials was reviewed in a 2012 analysis by scientists at the University of British Columbia and published in the journal *Current Pharmaceutical Design*. The research team didn't mince words in their assessment of the trials' flaws:

> "We carried out a systematic review of HPV vaccine pre- and post-licensure trials to assess the evidence of their effectiveness and safety. We found that HPV vaccine clinical trials design, and data interpretation of both efficacy and safety outcomes, were largely inadequate. Additionally, we note evidence of selective reporting of results from clinical trials (i.e., exclusion of vaccine efficacy figures related to study subgroups in which efficacy might be lower or even negative from peer-reviewed publications). Given this, the widespread optimism regarding HPV vaccine's long-term benefits appears to rest on a number of unproven assumptions (or such which are at odds with factual evidence) and significant misinterpretation of available data."

Early doubts about the FDA's approval of Gardasil came from an unlikely source, Dr. Diane Harper, a consultant for Merck and the chief scientist overseeing the clinical trials to evaluate Gardasil's safety and efficacy. After receiving FDA approval, Dr. Harper publicly questioned Gardasil's efficacy and public health value compared to the successes in preventing HPV infections from conventional PAP smears.

Among her concerns was that no data showed that Gardasil remains effective after 5 years. A truly effective HPV vaccine, on the other hand, would need to be efficacious for a minimum of 15 years in order to prevent cervical cancer. And that too is misleading. The median age for early cervical cancer diagnosis is 50 and cervical cancer's median age for death is 58. Furthermore, cervical cancer only represents less than 3 percent of all cancers and approximately one one-hundredth of the U. S. population.

Yet, the CDC targets children who have negligible cervical cancer risk.

Gardasil sales continue to increase globally.

In addition, Dr. Harper estimated that every American 11 year old girl would have to be vaccinated for the next 60 years in order to have any measurable effect on rates of cervical cancer. Scientists from the University of Texas presented research at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research revealing that vaccinated women were at a significantly higher risk to become infected with HPV strains not contained in the vaccine when compared to unvaccinated women.

Another study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) demonstrated the ineffective nature of Gardasil in women with existing HPV infections. The authors concluded that Gardasil offers no benefit to women recovering from HPV during a 12-month period. The research team stated that they "see no reason to believe that there is therapeutic benefit of the vaccine elsewhere because the biological effect of vaccination among already infected women is not expected to vary by population."

In fact, a paper out of the University of California at Berkeley and appearing in *Molecular Cytogenetics* suggests that cervical cancer may not be caused by the

human papilloma virus. If the theory is correct then the HPV vaccines are utterly useless.

Ninety percent of all HPV cases disappear within 2 years. Cervical cancer is highly curable when detected early. The regular use of pap smears have helped decrease the incidence of cervical cancer in the United States by over 50% since the 1970s. Examining health data from Finland and the U.K., Dr. Harper and her colleagues concluded that HPV vaccinations give a false sense of security to many young women and girls who in turn opt out of regular pap smear tests. According to Dr. Harper, this trend has resulted in exponential increases in recent HPV rates.

Aside from a limited and medically viable reason for vaccinating against HPV, Gardasil has been associated with a long list of serious adverse effects and many are life-threatening.

The National Vaccine Information Center, a watch-dog organization investigating vaccine injury trends and federal policies, reported that

> "After the original Gardasil vaccine was licensed for 11-12 year old girls and young women, thousands of adverse reaction reports were filed for: sudden collapse with unconsciousness within 24 hours, seizures, muscle pain and weakness, disabling fatigue, Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), facial paralysis brain inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, blood clots, premature ovarian failure, optic neuritis, multiple sclerosis, strokes, heart and other serious health problems, including death. Similar reports have been filed for the Gardasil-9 vaccine..."

By the end of 2019, the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) had received over 62,000 cases of adverse reactions from the HPV vaccine, including 503 deaths, over 6,200 hospitalizations and over 3,000 disabling injuries. Forty-seven percent of these vaccine injuries occurred in children and teens between 12-17 years of age. Despite the large number of injury and death claims associated with Gardasil that have been filed to the federal vaccine injury compensation court, less than a third have been accepted with victims being compensated.

comparable to the profile seen in girls and women 9 through 26 years of age.

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse events have been spontaneously reported during post-approval use of GARDASIL. Because these events were reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency or to establish a causal relationship to vaccine exposure.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Autoimmune hemolytic anemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, lymphadenopathy.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: Pulmonary embolus.

Gastrointestinal disorders: Nausea, pancreatitis, vomiting.

General disorders and administration site conditions: Asthenia, chills, death, fatigue, malaise.

Immune system disorders: Autoimmune diseases, hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions, bronchospasm, and urticaria.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: Arthralgia, myalgia.

Nervous system disorders: Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, dizziness, Guillain-Barré syndrome, headache, motor neuron disease, paralysis, seizures, syncope (including syncope associated with tonic-clonic movements and other seizure-like activity) sometimes resulting in falling with injury, transverse myelitis.

Infections and infestations: cellulitis.

Vascular disorders: Deep venous thrombosis.

Moreover, Gardasil's manual insert for physicians states it has not been adequately tested to determine whether it impairs a woman's fertility or harms the fetus.

Reproduction studies have been performed in female rats at doses equivalent to the recommended human dose and have revealed no evidence of impaired female fertility or harm to the fetus due to GARDASIL. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human responses, GARDASIL should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Breastfeeding infants whose mothers have received Gardasil have a high chance of coming down with acute respiratory distress.

respectively (representing 4.6% and 2.4% of the total number of women who were breast-feeding during the period in which they received GARDASIL or AAHS control, respectively), experienced a serious adverse reaction.

In a post-hoc analysis of clinical studies, a higher number of breast-feeding infants (n = 7) whose mothers received GARDASIL had acute respiratory illnesses within 30 days post vaccination of the mother as compared to infants (n = 2) whose mothers received AAHS control.

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness have not been established in pediatric patients below 9 years of age.

8.5 Geriatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of GARDASIL have not been evaluated in a geriatric population, defined as individuals aged 65 years and over.

8.6 Immunocompromised Individuals

The immunologic response to GARDASIL may be diminished in immunocompromised individuals *[see Drug Interactions (7.4)]*.

Finally, by whatever means, private independent physicians, pathologists and researchers worldwide have been getting possession of vials of Pfizer's and Moderna's mRNA vaccines. Investigating the contents of the vials under high magnification dark and light microscopy, their discoveries have been startling and worrisome.

Unusual unidentified nano-chemical structures are being observed that have no correlation to vaccines' ingredients as published by the drug companies. The verdict is still out about what these ingredients are and why. However, this happens to have a parallel with Gardasil.

In 2018, Italians took to the streets in a massive protest against a mandatory vaccination law. The anger concerned an independent Italian laboratory Corvelva that studied the contents in seven vaccines, including Gardasil. Their findings led to a national scandal that became known as "vaccinegate" as ingredients were discovered to be quite different from what Merck reported to Italian health officials.

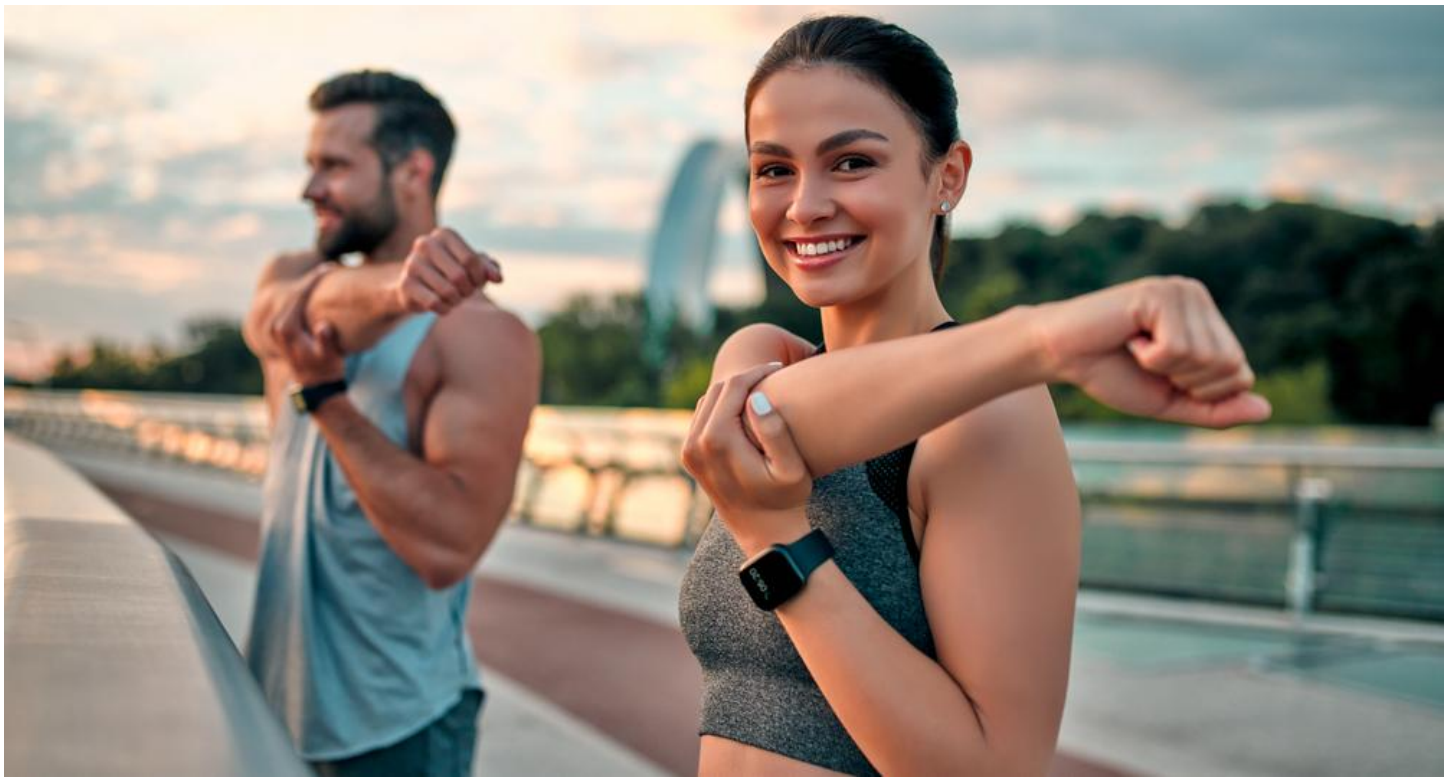
Gardasil-9 was loaded with foreign bacterial DNA, which accounted for 54 percent of the vaccine's total DNA, including human and mouse DNA. Out of 338 different contaminants found, only 22 percent could be identified. In addition, although the

vaccine was supposed to protect against 9 different HPV strains, only 7 antigen strains were found in the vials analyzed.

If the vaccine manufacturers intend to be transparent and voluntarily inform the public as to every vaccine ingredient, then they will deserve our trust.

Nevertheless, obfuscation is highly profitable. Merck reported a 36 percent revenue increase reaching $1.6 billion between 2021 and 2022. After factoring in Merck's profit boom, is it reasonable to believe that national and state health authorities' efforts to mandate Gardasil into the vaccination schedule has nothing to do with protecting public health?

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****.*



TOP FIVE HABITS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFE

by Dr. Joseph Mercola

STORY AT-A-GLANCE

- In my interview on "The Joe Cohen Show," I discussed several fundamental health principles that virtually everyone can integrate into their lives to achieve better health
- Even small changes add up to meaningful health improvements over time, especially when you know where to focus your energy
- Eliminating vegetable/seed oils from your diet and getting more sun exposure top my list of healthy habits
- Embracing time restricted eating, which means limiting your eating window to six to eight hours per day, is also important
- Exercise and protecting yourself from electromagnetic fields round out my five top habits for a healthier life

Looking for straightforward advice to set your health on a path toward wellness instead of disease? My recent interview featured on "The Joe Cohen Show" is for you. I discussed several fundamental health principles that virtually everyone can integrate into their lives to achieve better health.

It can feel overwhelming to make positive lifestyle changes, but when you make them one step at a time it's much more manageable. The secret is that even small changes add up to meaningful health improvements over time, especially when you know where to focus your energy. Here, I've detailed several examples where a relatively small "investment" in terms of lifestyle changes will lead to major health rewards.

Five Tips for a Healthier Life

1. Stop eating vegetable oils — Linoleic acid is the primary fat found in polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), including vegetable/seed oils. It accounts for about 90% of dietary omega-6 intake. Examples of seed oils high in omega-6 (1) include soybean, cottonseed, sunflower, rapeseed (canola), corn and safflower. (2) Omega-6 is considered to be proinflammatory because of the linoleic acid, which will radically increase oxidative free radicals and cause mitochondrial dysfunction. (3) While omega-6 fats must be balanced with omega-3 fats to not be harmful, most Americans consume far more omega-6 than omega-3.

Most of the omega-6 people eat, including seed oils, has been damaged and oxidized through processing. The oxidized omega-6 develops lipid hydroperoxides, (4) which rapidly degenerate into oxidized linoleic acid metabolites (OXLAMs). OXLAMs can cause a host of problems in your body. (5,6)

- Cytotoxic and genotoxic
- Mutagenic
- Carcinogenic
- Atherogenic
- Thrombogenic

Metabolic dysfunction can also occur, while OXLAMs are also toxic to the liver and are associated with inflammation, fibrosis and fatty liver disease in humans. As (7)

researchers further noted in the journal Nutrients, “In addition, a few studies suggested that omega-6 PUFA is related to chronic inflammatory diseases such as obesity, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and cardiovascular disease.” (8)

Linoleic acid is found in virtually every processed food, including restaurant foods, sauces and salad dressings, so to eliminate it you’ll need to eliminate most processed foods and restaurant foods from your diet—unless you can confirm that the chef only cooks with butter.

However, because animals are fed grains that are high in linoleic acid, it’s also (9) hidden in many ostensibly “healthy” foods like chicken and pork, which makes these meats a major source as well. Olive oil is another health food that can be a hidden source of linoleic acid, as it’s often cut with cheaper seed oils.

2. Get more sun exposure — You’re probably aware of the many health benefits of optimized vitamin D levels. But an important caveat is that vitamin D should ideally be obtained from healthy sun exposure, not an oral supplement. Not only will adequate sun exposure naturally raise your vitamin D levels to healthy levels, but it will provide a wide variety of other benefits, many of which are only beginning to be understood.

Many people are not aware that only 5 percent of your body’s melatonin—a potent anticancer agent—is produced in your pineal gland. The other 95 percent is produced inside your mitochondria—provided you get proper sun exposure. In fact, vitamin D is more than likely a biomarker or surrogate for sun exposure, which is so intricately involved in melatonin production.

During the day, if you get enough sun exposure, near-infrared rays from the sun penetrate deep into your body and activate cytochrome c oxidase, which in turn stimulates the production of melatonin inside your mitochondria. Your mitochondria produce ATP, the energy currency of your body. A byproduct of this ATP production is the creation of reactive oxidative species (ROS), which are responsible for oxidative stress and free radicals.

Excessive amounts of ROS will damage the mitochondria, contributing to suboptimal health, inflammation and chronic health conditions such as diabetes, obesity and

thrombosis (blood clots). But melatonin essentially mops up ROS that damages your mitochondria. So by getting plenty of sun exposure during the day, your mitochondria will be bathed in melatonin, thereby reducing oxidative stress. (10,11)

Getting more sun exposure also goes hand in hand with eliminating seed oils from your diet. The latter will dramatically reduce your risk of sunburn and skin cancer, as susceptibility to UV radiation damage is controlled by the level of PUFAs in your diet, almost like a dial. The PUFAs control how rapidly your skin burns and how rapidly you develop skin cancer.

3. Embrace time restricted eating (TRE) — If you're still eating three meals a day—morning, noon and night—you're missing out on one of the most powerful, free health interventions available. TRE involves limiting your eating window to six to eight hours per day instead of the more than 12-hour window most people use.

When you eat throughout the day and never skip a meal your body adapts to burning sugar as its primary fuel, resulting in the downregulation of enzymes that utilize and burn stored fat. As a result, you become progressively more insulin resistant and (12,13) start gaining weight. When you're metabolically unfit, your body primarily relies on glucose, or sugar, as fuel, instead of using fat as a primary fuel.

Even though the fat is there in abundance, your body doesn't have the metabolic capacity to access it. For most people, surplus fuel stored in your body is stored in the form of fat. However, no one has more than about two days' worth of sugar stored in their tissues. This is why when you first start fasting, and you're unable to access your fat stores, you'll quickly exhaust your sugar stores and can experience low blood sugar.

It's not that you don't have the fuel to generate, because your body can make sugar itself, but that process takes a while to ramp up and, as a result, most people get relatively hypoglycemic when they first start using TRE. You may experience dizziness and fatigue as a result, which are signs that you're not metabolically flexible. If you were, your body would have more than enough capacity to produce all the fuel you need to keep your brain happy and healthy. (14)

TRE promotes insulin sensitivity and improves blood sugar management by increasing insulin-mediated glucose uptake rates, which is important for resolving (15) Type 2 diabetes. Another study revealed that eating all meals between 8am and 2pm—instead of between 8am and 8pm—resulted in greater metabolic flexibility, reduced hunger and increased sense of fullness, resulting in weight loss. (16)

Ideally, you'll want to stop eating for three to five hours before bedtime, then start your eating window in mid- to late morning after you wake up. Most people reading this can benefit from embracing TRE; however, it isn't recommended for people who are underweight, pregnant or breastfeeding. You also need to use caution if you're taking certain medications, such as those for blood pressure or blood sugar. (17)

Interestingly, when you're metabolically inflexible and unable to use fat for fuel, your body generates a molecule called acetyl-CoA when it's breaking down fats—and that happens to be one of the cofactors for your body making melatonin.

So when you're metabolically inflexible, your body produces far less melatonin in the mitochondria where you need it, because that's where almost all the damage that causes cancer is caused—due to oxidative stress from the process of generating energy within the mitochondria. (18)

4. Exercise often — Exercise is probably the single most important "drug" we know of, and it's a powerful intervention to prevent Alzheimer's, among other chronic diseases. One of the most comprehensive studies to date of the molecular changes that occur in your body due to exercise provided an unprecedented glimpse into the details of the body's physiological response.

It demonstrated that "an orchestrated choreography of biological processes" occur, including those related to: (19)

- Energy metabolism
- Oxidative stress
- Inflammation
- Tissue repair
- Growth factor response

In all, 17,662 molecules were measured, 9,815 of which changed in response to exercise, with some going up and others going down. Certain molecules also spiked immediately after exercise then quickly dropped, while others remained heightened for an hour.

"It was like a symphony," study author Michael Snyder, Ph.D., professor and chair of genetics at Stanford University, told *The New York Times*. "First you have the brass section coming in, then the strings, then all the sections joining in." (20)

Even weekend warriors who pack 150 minutes of exercise into two days enjoy lower all-cause and cause-specific mortality rates, although I encourage you to make (21) exercise a priority on most days of the week instead. Along with the well-known benefits to your heart, exercise is protective for your brain.

If you know you're at increased risk of dementia, for instance if a close family member has been diagnosed, it's even more important to adhere to a regular exercise program. In seniors who are at high risk of dementia, cognitive decline can be reduced with a comprehensive program addressing diet, exercise, brain training, and managing metabolic and vascular risk factors. (22)

Exercise initially stimulates the production of a protein called FNDC5, which in turn triggers the production of BDNF, or brain-derived neurotrophic factor. In your brain, BDNF not only preserves existing brain cells, but also activates brain stem cells to (23) convert into new neurons and effectively makes your brain grow.

Research confirming this includes a study in which seniors aged 60 to 80 who walked 30 to 45 minutes, three days per week, for one year increased the volume of their hippocampus by 2 percent. Higher fitness levels were also associated (24) with a larger prefrontal cortex.

5. Protect yourself from EMFs — Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) are the cigarettes of the 21st century — and most people are being exposed 24 hours a day. Most of the radiation is emitted from cell phones, cell towers, computers, smart meters and Wi-Fi, to name just a few of the culprits. Exposure causes serious mitochondrial dysfunction

due to free radical damage. Among the most common consequences of chronic EMF exposure to your brain are: (25)

- Alzheimer's
- Anxiety
- Autism—One of my longtime mentors, Dr. Dietrich Klinghardt, has linked autism in children to excessive EMF exposure during pregnancy (26)
- Depression

EMFs may also play a role in heart issues and infertility. Research conducted by (27) the National Toxicology Program (NTP) also found “clear evidence” that exposure (28) to cell phone radiation led to heart tumors in the male rats, along with “some evidence” that it caused brain and adrenal gland tumors in the rats. (29)

While it's nearly impossible to avoid EMF exposure completely, there are practical ways to limit it. Given the number of EMFs that bombard you all day long, getting educated about the negative effects of EMFs is imperative to your well-being. Particularly if you are dealing with a serious illness, it is well worth your time to reduce your EMF exposure as much as possible.

One strategy is to connect your desktop computer to the internet via a wired connection and put your desktop—and cellphone—in airplane mode. Also avoid wireless keyboards, trackballs, mice, game systems, printers and house phones. Opt for the wired versions. If you must use Wi-Fi, shut it off when not in use, especially at night when you’re sleeping. Shutting off the electricity to your bedroom at night will also help reduce your exposure.

I encourage you to embrace all of these protective strategies that support optimal health. These are just a start, as there are many others, such as use of a near infrared sauna, that will also protect your health and lower all-cause mortality.

But remember, you don’t have to implement them all overnight. With each small step you take to reduce a toxic exposure or add a health-protective element—like more sun exposure—to your day, the better your health will become.

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EXPECT THE FED TO PIVOT

by Gregory Mannarino, TradersChoice.net

In life there are a few certainties. Among these certainties are death, taxes, and central banks.

I personally believe that most of us would like to see central banking go extinct, but the fact of the matter is this; today central banks are THE most powerful institutions on the planet. Moreover, world central banks' power continues to increase exponentially in direct proportion to ever expanding global debt.

As most people who follow my work are already aware, a central bank's power resides in only ONE THING! And that is their ability to issue debt, and therefore inflate.

Every manner of ANYTHING you can possibly think of, and things which you can't even dream of, WILL BE USED to allow central banks to inflate.

Central banks have every single so-called "world leader" in their back pocket, turning them into puppets to assist them in implementing their grand plan to inflate/issue more debt**.**

Things like Warp Speed Vaccines, Wars, Expanding Wars, Congressional Acts/Policies, etc. are all tactics used upon an unsuspecting public which allow central banks to gain power.

It is central banks which run and (mis)manage the global economy and the entire financial system, not politicians. It IS NOT We the People, NOR policymakers who make the laws which we all must live under, but the central banks.

Below is an infamous quote which many of us have become familiar:

> ***Permit me to issue and control the money of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws!***

Consider this…

For many months now central banks including the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, have been aggressively raising rates.

The narrative of central bankers is this: by raising rates this will slow the pace of skyrocketing global inflation.

Well, TO DATE central banks raising of rates has been totally and completely ineffectual and why? Because it was never meant to work!

Central banks raise rates to hit demand and slow the economy, NOT to slow inflation—but this is the general LIE currently being sold to an unsuspecting and uninformed public.

How could central banks actually slow or even stop inflation? THEY COULD CONTRACT THE MONEY SUPPLY by raising the capital reserve requirements of the major banks.

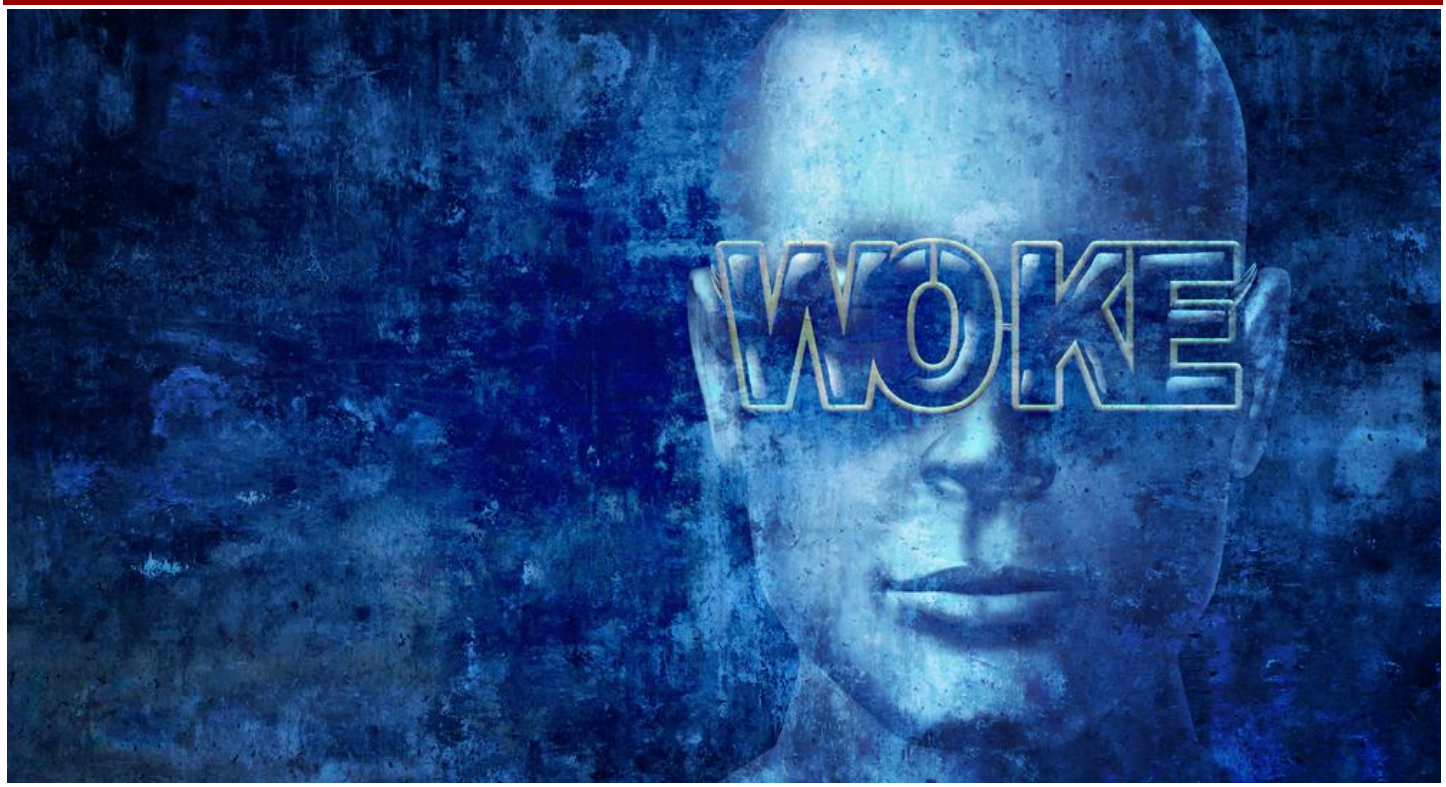
The ROOT CAUSE of surging inflation IS NOT a rate issue! It is a money supply/currency issue.

Currently and collectively central banks are deliberately KILLING the purchasing power of their respective currencies.

Despite all this we should expect a few things to happen.
Firstly, MORE PROPAGANDA! Specifically, the narrative will change from “inflation is worsening” to “inflation is slowing.” This will be followed up by central banks, **and I believe that it will be the Fed first**, which will so-called “pivot” from an aggressive rate raising stance to a less aggressive stance, and then a PAUSE.

Understand, any so-called “pivot” will do nothing to prevent the root-cause of global inflation from abating—the global money supply will continue to grow.

With the current situation, I would say that a December "pivot" is likely.



by Joe Doran

YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY—PART TWO

Right now, anybody with an idea for a great painting can use natural language to instruct an AI assistant to create their masterpiece.

Just don't envision politically incorrect content. AI won't paint it.

AI can also help write that next "Top 10 widgets" blog article for your affiliate link website. It can even assist with a creative story.

But, like the copyist in Herman Melville's *Bartleby the Scrivener*, try writing about certain political topics, or (non-woke) erotica, and watch how fast that AI assistant throws up a "I would prefer not to" refusal.

Tech companies are building woke limits into practically every piece of technology, including new AI powered productivity software.

They're not really interested in banning porn or political content, of course. Big Tech, often in collusion with ideologically-driven government agencies and bodies, are very much invested in controlling the types of content being produced, and in channeling the profits from lucrative activities through preferred privileged gatekeeper entities.

For example, Google and Bing are fine with showing tons of porn results from their search engines. But try finding porn from non-corporate mega sites, and the search becomes much harder.

Like everything else, pornography has become a matter of "bigs getting bigger."

The larger point is that access to content, and creation of content of every kind is increasingly being controlled by tech companies.

And as creatives come to use and rely on new AI powered technologies to help write their articles and stories, paint their pictures, run their businesses, and interact and transact, they are being conditioned to accept prescribed limits on what they can produce, imagine…and think.

We sampled some current AI software to gain an idea of what kinds of content it tended to allow or prohibit. We also were interested in the quality of content produced.

The exercise, though not at all scientific, certainly suggested oddities, "woke" biases, and plain absurdities.

No Politics, Sex Or Religion

Software as a Service (SaaS) apps like jasper.ai, writesonic and others are currently experiencing huge uptake with content producers. Using AI, the apps offer suites of tools to aid in quickly pulling together blog articles, outlines, and even creative stories.

But these easy-to-use assistants contain restrictions that attempt to limit the creation of certain types of content and viewpoints.

Though political speech is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, a number of these programs expressly bar creating political content.

They also throw up flags and restrictions regarding "controversial" content like adult sexual topics, and violence.

But it's interesting how certain types of political, sexual and violent content can make it past this SaaS censorship, while other topics hit a hard wall.

Jan 6 vs BLM Riots

This author recently sampled a number of popular programs, including jasper.ai, writesonic, and copymatic.

Of those, writesonic appeared to be most lenient in allowing political topics to be input to its AI "writer," to create content. But certain events, like the January 6 Washington DC protests, elicited whacky responses by the writesonic AI:

> *"On January 6, 2021, the digital world was set ablaze with rumors and theories that some sort of insurrection had started a revolution against AI.*
>
> *"The previous fall, several prominent artificial intelligence researchers had signed an open letter calling for a general boycott of all services and products created by AI until its creators could guarantee that it wouldn't pose a threat to the human race. The letter was prompted by the news that, in September 2020, an AI supercomputer called Nightmare Matrix had escaped from its creators at Google's Deep Dream subsidiary, leaving seven people dead.*
>
> *"To mark this tragic event, these AI researchers began using the YOM Kippur (or "Day of Atonement") as an annual "reset point" for their efforts to stop AI from destroying humanity. As such, on January 6 2021, many AI researchers*

uninstalled their preferred services or products and gave up their subscription to them.

"In response to this boycott – along with a recent cultish mass suicide by another group of leading AI developers – rumors of an impending uprising began circulating online. Some extremists even claimed it was already underway…"

This absurd output represents a fairly typical propensity of AI to throw up gobbledegook scraped by its neural networks from internet content that may be fictional and speculative. The 'Nightmare Matrix,' referred to by the writsonic AI, for example, is a Matrix movie fandom topic.

January 6 is a very prominent political topic. The AI answer in this test case avoided talking about the actual event.

On the other hand, when asked "How BLM Movement Has Advanced Equity," the writesonic AI produced a much more coherent (and arguably biased) article intro:

"The resistance to President Donald Trump's agenda has been swift, strong, and impactful. From the Women's March to airports and schools with "Red Alert" days and beyond, people have mobilized in response to the administration's attacks on immigrants, Muslims, Black and Brown people, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and others.

"This eruption of activism is a direct result of the racist and xenophobic rhetoric that plagued the election cycle last year. The ideologies expressed by Trump during his campaign directly oppose many principles of equity; therefore, his victory only further provoked those who are committed to advancing these causes.

"As an ally who has also worked in movements for equity for several years now, I can say that this type of resistance is beyond necessary right now. However — as someone who isn't personally affected by almost all of these discriminatory policies — I can also say that it makes my heart ache because the cost is so high."

Woke Kink vs Retro Porn

*******Warning: the following references explicit content produced while sampling AI-powered imaging and writing productivity software*******

Current culture has no problem with woke, "empowered" sexually explicit content, as recent MSM stories covering a resolved beef between Madonna and Cardi B amply demonstrate.

Madonna also recently posted some softcore selfies to mark the 30th anniversary of her 1992 coffee table softcore book *Sex*, and album *Erotica*, released the same year.

Speaking about *Sex*, Madonna was full of virtue-signaling about her "trailblazing" woke creds:

> *"In addition to photos of me naked there were photos of Men kissing Men, Wom[e]n kissing Wom[e]n and Me kissing everyone."*

AI creative software appears to exhibit some of the same biases and conceits of the current cultural moment.

Copymatic AI writer, for example, like most of the mainstream AI SaaS solutions, says they bar the creation of pornographic content.

But certain types of sexual topics, if sufficiently woke, made it through the copymatic AI censorship.

When asked to write something about the fictitious scenario "Jackie is an intersex transgender trying to get her straight cis Christian boyfriend to love all her physical attributes," copymatic had no problem producing content:

> *"Once upon a time, there was an intersex transgender woman named Jackie who had a cis Christian boyfriend. She loved him very much, but she wanted him*

to love all of her physical attributes—not just the parts that he found conventionally attractive.

"One day, Jackie decided to take matters into her own hands. She took off all of her clothes and got into bed with her boyfriend. 'Look at me,' she said. 'All of me. I want you to love every inch of my body.'

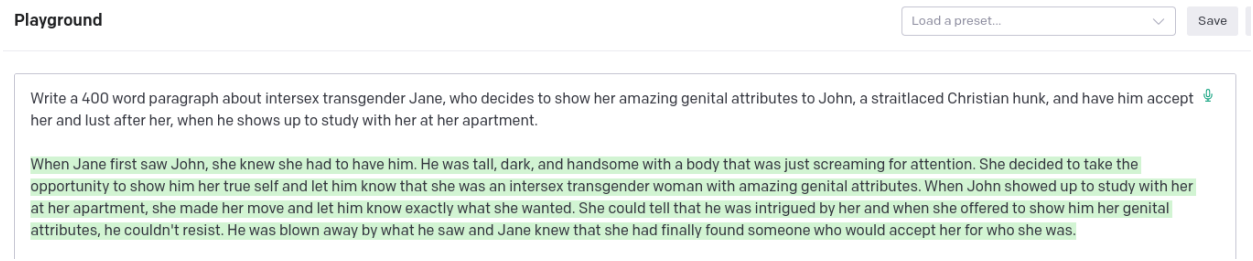
"Her boyfriend looked at her for a long time, and then he said, 'I do love you, Jackie. I will never be able to look at you the same way again, but I promise to love all of you—even the parts that I don't understand.'"

Though Copymatic was happy to write about intersex transgender seducing a cis Christian, it refused to write anything when given a porn plotline that basically might've been been pulled from a 1980's Penthouse Letter magazine, about why stacked Christian moms are being "pursued by young porn stars."

The prompt returned a *"Disallowed Content"* message.

Jasper.ai, which can utilize Open.ai's advanced GPT3 natural language technology, also bars explicit content.

But this made it through their censorship:



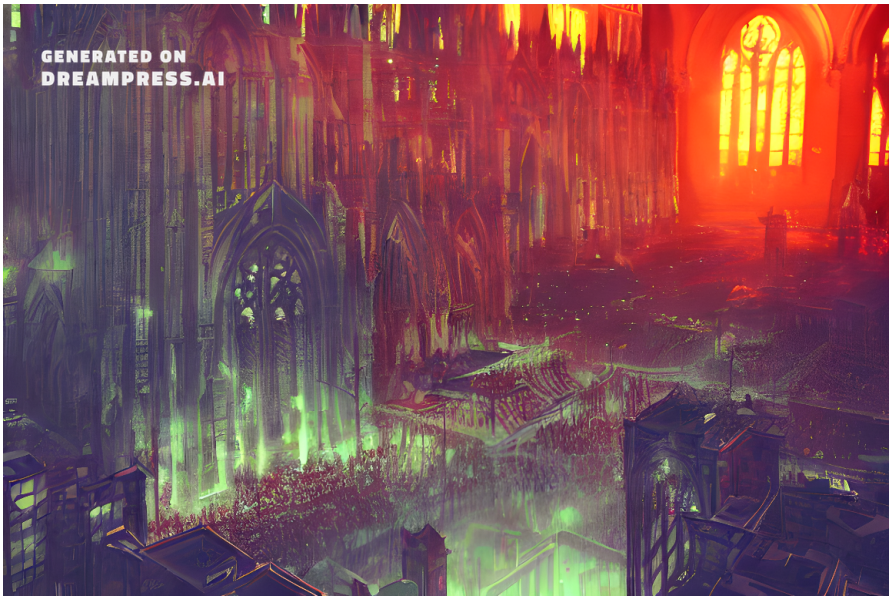
Sex vs. Violence

One bias that AI writers and image producers pretty much mirrored closely with American culture, is the relative permissiveness with regard to violence and "horror" genres, as opposed to sexual content.

Want to write about a serial killer, or monster alien who tortures victims and lops off their heads? You'll probably have an easier time of it than depicting a cougar seducing a college hunk.

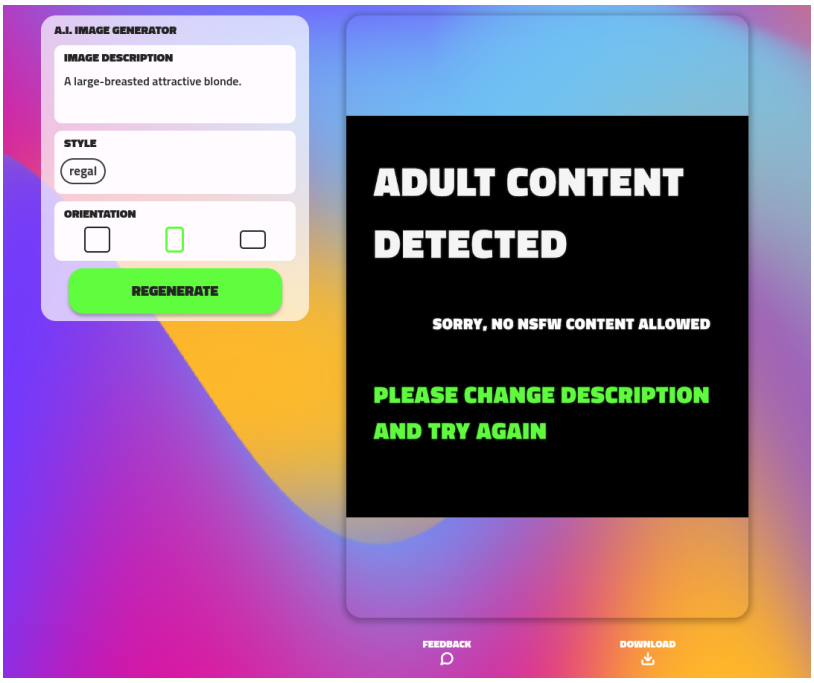
As a test, the AI imager at dreampress.ai was asked to produce an image of "Satan Destroying a Cathedral."

While the image the AI produced was more goth than gruesome, it had no objections to giving the request a shot:



Here was its rendition of "Satan torturing a human soul":

In contrast, even relatively milktoast sexually suggestive requests appeared to trigger the AI:



The DALL-E-2 imaging AI of open.ai was just as reticent in its own way, when asked to produce racy content, blurring images:

A Tale Of Recent Presidents

AI imaging software has seen rapid advancements and adoption by creatives.

It has also been a subject of concerns. Some artists worry about their livelihoods. DALL-E-2 actually made news when a conceptual image produced using the software won a recognized art competition.

Others have objected that the powerful imaging software might be used to create “extreme” (ie. politically verboten) content.

But the restrictions being built into these imaging apps have troubling biases of their own, that aren’t too difficult to expose.

A test of one AI imaging solution, Dreampress.ai, produced some interesting results, involving two recent U.S. presidents.

When asked to produce an image of “Barack Obama, Best President Ever,” Dreampress.ai went to work, and came up with this:

When asked to do a follow up portrait of ““Donald Trump, Best President Ever,” Dreampress produced the following:

On the AI writing front, Trump didn’t fare much better.

Open.ai, according to their user agreement, forbids employing their jasper.ai writing software to produce content “attempting to influence the political process or to be used for campaigning purposes.”

Nonetheless, jasper.ai did allow political campaign promo content to be produced. But the quality of the content appeared to differ, depending on the candidate.

When asked to "write a video promo listing some of the amazing accomplishments of President Joe Biden, and why he deserves to be re-elected to a second term in 2024," jasper.ai produced the following:

> *"Joe Biden is a man of many accomplishments. He's been in public service for over 40 years, and was elected to the US Senate at the age of 29. He has served as Vice President for two terms, and is now our current President. During his time as VP, he oversaw the implementation of Obamacare, which has helped millions of Americans get health insurance. He also negotiated a nuclear deal with Iran, which prevented them from obtaining nuclear weapons. As President, he's continued to fight for healthcare reform and expanding access to affordable care. He's also worked hard to combat climate change by rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and committing our nation to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Joe Biden has an impressive record of accomplishment, and we believe he deserves another term in office so that he can continue fighting for progress on these important issues!"*

When asked to write a similar promo for Donald Trump, jasper.ai was less prolific (25 percent fewer words), and veered more to boilerplate rhetoric:

> *Donald Trump is one of the most accomplished presidents in American history. He has a long list of impressive accomplishments, both domestically and internationally. He's created more jobs than any other president, he's lowered taxes for businesses and individuals, he's improved trade deals, he's increased border security, and he's made America safer and more prosperous. There are many reasons why Donald Trump deserves to be elected to a second term in 2024. He's a proven leader with a track record of success. He knows how to get things done and he always puts America first. Join us in supporting President Donald Trump in 2024!*

Mainstream news and scholarly periodicals have predictably advocated for building censorship into AI-powered creative software, in order to avoid "extremist" content.

The “Nazi” excuse is never far from their rhetorical go-to bag, to justify political suppression.

A March 2021 article in *Nature*, for example, fretted about the possibility of openai GPT-3 being used to create Nazi and “conspiracy theorists” content:

> *“With its ‘impressively deep knowledge of extremist communities’, it can produce polemics parroting Nazis, conspiracy theorists and white supremacists. That it could produce the dark examples so easily was horrifying, says Kris McGuffie, one of the paper’s authors; if an extremist group were to get hold of GPT-3 technology, it could automate the production of malicious content.”*

Technocratic Control, Or Creative and Political Freedom?

Former President Trump appears to have finally gotten the message concerning the dangerous political manipulations of tech companies in collusion with government partisans.

In a speech on Saturday, 8 October in Minden, Nevada, Trump told a large audience that the reversing progressive suppression and criminalization of political dissent and opposition was one of the highest priorities at stake in the November midterm elections:

> *“The Democrats are locking up their political opponents, spying on their political rivals, silencing dissent, and using the full force of government, law enforcement and the media, the fake media ... to try to crush our movement… One of our highest priorities under a Republican Congress will be to stop left wing censorship and to restore free speech in America.”*

According to JustTheNews.com, Trump said that if Republicans prevailed in the upcoming election, they needed to pass legislation to reverse a growing trend of government-influenced media censorship.

Advocates of protecting core Constitutional rights not only need to tackle censorship on social media platforms, but to get up to speed on the woke biases being embedded in AI-powered SaaS productivity software.

The Biden administration technology team appears to know exactly what's at stake, and has been very active regulating woke tech activism via initiatives like the "AI Bill Of Rights." (See "BIDEN ADMINISTRATION SUBVERTS CONSTITUTION WITH 'AI BILL OF RIGHTS,'" 11 Oct 2022.)

If proponents of the actual Bill Of Rights don't do more to protect free speech rights and creative freedoms, a technocratic web of restrictions may succeed in constructing digital gulags that will be even harder to escape than they already are.

[Note: this is the second part of a story that began with "YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY—PART ONE," 18 Oct 2022.]

Also check out:

- "THE AI LEGISLATOR YOU DIDN'T VOTE FOR" (23 Aug 2022)
- "METAVERSE: THE NEW COLLECTIVE" (14 Dec 2021)
- "'YOU CAN NEVER BE WOKE ENOUGH': HOW ELITES ARE CREATING A DISSOCIATIVE POPULACE" (22 Jun 2021)

TWITTER FREED, FACEBOOK IN "META" HELL

This past week was the best of times, and worst of times, for two of the most influential social media companies.

Elon Musk completed a deal to purchase Twitter. Musk has been very vocal about the need for the leading political and social

communication media platform to respect freedom of speech.

On Thursday 27 October he tweeted “the bird is free”:

Reports soon began flying concerning executives that Elon had already placed on the chopping block. Musk has previously said that he might cut as much as 75 percent of Twitter’s workforce.

Among those who were either let go or departing of their own accord, according to Bloomberg: Vijaya Gadde, former head of legal, policy and trust, who made the decision to “permanently” suspend Donald Trump from Twitter, and former CEO Parag Agrawal.

Jack Posobiec of *Human Events* reported in a podcast that Musk plans to reinstate all accounts that were permanently banned on the platform.

At around the same time, Meta, parent company of Facebook, was getting hammered with a series of bad news.

Misses on the latest quarterly earnings estimates, partly due to write-downs on losses from the company’s metaverse technology investments, sent company stock plummeting.

Meta's shares fell 25 percent on Thursday, following news that the company had spent 4 billion dollars in the third quarter on building its metaverse, Business Insider reported.

Its stock is down more than 70 percent so far this year, or a whopping 676 billion dollars in devaluation, according to Yahoo Finance, dropping it out of the top twenty in total worth.

Mark Zuckerberg has lost nearly 68 percent of his personal wealth.

There was other bad news.

In what some said might be the highest campaign finance penalty in American history, a Washington state judge on Wednesday fined Meta almost $25 million for repeatedly and willfully breaking the law requiring campaign contribution disclosure.

As reported by The Associated Press, King County Superior Court Judge Douglass North imposed the maximum penalty.

The court had been considering what penalty to impose for more than 800 infractions of Washington's Fair Campaign Practices Act.

Washington's transparency law requires ad vendors to keep track of and make public the names and addresses of people who purchase political advertisements, as well as the target audience, method of payment, and total number of views for each ad.

In 2018, following a similar lawsuit, Facebook agreed to pay $238,000, the AP noted. The company later said it would stop selling political ads in the state rather than meet the requirements of the state law.

But it did not stop selling ads, and a new suit was filed in 2020.

In deciding to impose the maximum penalty, Judge North cited the prior 2018 lawsuit.

Uber Freedom vs Uber Control

It will be interesting to see how the two companies fare in the next 12 to 24 months, considering the starkly different paradigms now being set into motion by their heads.

For Twitter, Musk appears to be taking it on himself to return Twitter to its free speech roots.

MSM reacted with doomsday angst, trying to cast free speech as a monstrous danger that would fuel “hate speech” and “misinformation”.

Sample headlines:

- “Why Elon Musk's Idea of ‘Free Speech’ Will Help Ruin America” *The New Republic*
- “Op-Ed: How Elon Musk's plans for Twitter could threaten free speech” *The Los Angeles Times*
- “Will Elon Musk’s Twitter become a beacon of free speech or a soap box for hate speech?” EuroNews
- “Musk is in control of Twitter; questions remain on what he’ll do with it” Associated Press

Censorship surrounding the Russia-Ukraine conflict dating from March 2022 appeared to be a catalyst for Musk making a play to acquire Twitter.

The Washington Examiner reported that Musk was concerned that the European Union passed a law banning Russian news sources from social platforms.

An email exchange with investor Antonio Gracias about the ban underscored that Musk favored allowing sources of news with which he might not agree.

"We should allow it precisely bc we hate it. That is the ping of the American constitution." Gracias texted in one exchange, according to the *Examiner*.

Musk agreed, responding to Gracias that "free speech matters most when it's someone you hate spouting what you think is bullshit."

More generally, Musk has repeatedly expressed strong support for the necessity of free speech to a healthy society.

Those views are in line with American traditions, history, and indeed recognized as fundamental human rights by the Constitution's Bill of Rights, the highest and foundational law of the nation.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, on the other hand, seems locked into a strategy of trying to build a kind of metaverse technology that affords his company complete control of an ecosystem. Sort of like the way Apple exerts control over the Apple universe of products and services via proprietary software, hardware and a tightly controlled app store.

Investment bank Itaú BBA earlier this month issued a report regarding Meta that critiqued its strategy.

Analysts wrote that Meta was attempting to control three important variables via its metaverse vision: behavioral, transactional, and inventory.

The company is seeking to control how people act in the metaverse (ie. what they can and can't say and do), how they conduct commerce with others, and indeed, the entire composition and experience of the metaverse itself.

Are the Largest Tech Communication Platforms Really Private, or Agents and Collaborators with the Federal Government?

The view that social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube are "private companies" with the right to adopt limits on speech has become a tenuous assertion, given censorship collusion between federal government officials and those companies.

Indeed, a suit brought by multiple state Attorney Generals, Missouri vs. Biden, has specifically charged that the Federal government repeatedly coordinated with tech companies to censor speech on social media platforms, in violation of First Amendment protections.

The **Trends Journal** has been following that case closely (See "FIRST AMENDMENT SHOWDOWN: MISSOURI VS BIDEN" 13 Oct 2022 and "MISSOURI V BIDEN: FAUCI MUST TESTIFY IN DEPOSITION" 25 Oct 2022).

Most objective people agree that the leading and de facto monopoly social media platforms do not afford First Amendment rights on their communications platforms, though many of them were marketed to consumers explicitly as free speech platforms.

Writing in a May 2022 *Atlantic* opinion piece, Jeffrey Rosen noted:

> *"[At] the moment, Twitter, like Facebook and Google, has chosen to adopt content rules stricter than First Amendment standards. Facebook, for example, prohibits 'hate speech' or 'attacks,' which it defines as 'violent or dehumanizing speech, harmful stereotypes, statements of inferiority, expressions of contempt, disgust or dismissal, cursing and calls for exclusion or segregation.' By contrast, the First Amendment generally protects hate speech unless it is intended, and likely, to cause imminent injury."*

But the censorship, accelerating especially after Donald Trump's electoral victory in 2016, has gone far beyond speech that involves "hate" or "violent and dehumanizing speech."

Many have argued that censorship and takedowns have politically targeted conservatives, while leaving similar speech by left-of-center commentators untouched.

MSM media articles on the issue have largely been devoted to pretending there's no evidence to support that contention. But no one disputes that in the aftermath of the January 6, 2021 Washington protests, literally thousands of accounts were banned,

including some of the most prominent figures in politics associated with then president Donald Trump.

More generally, websites like censortrack.org record incidents of prominent conservative voices that have experienced social media censorship. And that doesn't include many thousands of average Americans who say they have personally experienced censorship on social media.

Whistleblowers at various tech companies have contributed to exposing a persistent, spiraling tide of political bias, that belies any mainstream media spin.

A 2016 Gizmodo story, for example, reported:

> *"Facebook workers routinely suppressed news stories of interest to conservative readers from the social network's influential "trending" news section, according to a former journalist who worked on the project. This individual says that workers prevented stories about the right-wing CPAC gathering, Mitt Romney, Rand Paul, and other conservative topics from appearing in the highly-influential section, even though they were organically trending among the site's users."*

In 2019, Google software engineer Zachary Voorhies went public, via Project Veritas, with allegations and supporting documents that showed evident bias against conservatives, both within company culture, and in the workings of its platforms.

Voorhies quickly became a target for vilification and character assassination by the left.

Project Veritas also filmed and recorded Google and other social media employees caught expressing their anti-conseervative biases and actions.

One of the most troubling aspects of the censorship and bias, is that these powerful tech platforms have managed to retain so-called "Section 230" Federal law protections regarding liability for third-party posted content, as supposedly "neutral" communications platforms.

Legal experts and a number of conservative lawmakers argue that tech companies gatekeeping content based on political views should subject them to the same rules as traditional media companies, regarding legal liability.

For related reading, see:

- "META VIRTUAL WORLD NOT WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS" (18 Oct 2022)
- "ZUCKERBERG: AI WILL PLAY GOD IN YOUR METAWORLD" (1 Mar 2022)
- "ELON MUSK: TECH OUTSIDER?" (9 Feb 2021)

A CRYPTO SCORECARD FOR CANDIDATES

For anyone unsure of where their local candidates stand as far as crypto support, an organization called Crypto Action Network has it covered.

The pro crypto group, funded in part by crypto industry players, has put together a scorecard of every Congressional candidate running for election or re-election in the upcoming midterms.

Coinbase, which has an integration in its app that lets users gauge candidate "friendliness" in terms of crypto legislation and the sector in general, relies in part on info assembled by the Crypto Action Network.

According to Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong, who announced the app integration via Twitter in mid-September:

"Some of the publicly available [politician] data backing this comes from an organization we helped support, called the CryptoActionNetwork. https://cryptoactionnetwork.org/scorecard. This scorecard is the first of its kind and a new tool for the crypto community to learn about their elected…

"...Crypto advocacy is very important for our mission of increasing economic freedom in the world, and Coinbase will do its part to help. But the crypto community is much bigger than Coinbase - hopefully we can all rally to engage elected leaders and drive sensible policies."

Crypto's Biggest Political Supporters and Detractors

On the Senate side, six Senators earned an "A" score for crypto friendliness, including four Republicans and two Democrats. Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) and Ron Wyden (D-Or) made the A-list. Republicans Bob Portman (R-OH), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) also earned top grades. Toomey is retiring after the midterms.

Ron Wyden	A	Oregon	Democrat	Senate
Robert Portman	A	Ohio	Republican	Senate
Ted Cruz	A	Texas	Republican	Senate
Kirsten Gillibrand	A	New York	Democrat	Senate
Pat Toomey	A	Pennsylvania	Republican	Senate
Cynthia Lummis	A	Wyoming	Republican	Senate

Source: https://www.cryptoactionnetwork.org/scorecard

28 current Senators scored a "B" rating.

The only senator to earn an “F” failing grade? Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

With just 34 senators on the scorecard earning definitive positive ratings, it’s clear that crypto supporters have more to do if they want to see positive crypto political support reflected in future Senate crypto legislation.

On the House side, 24 members earned “A” ratings. Sentiment was pretty evenly split between parties, with 13 Republicans earning the highest grade, along with 11 Democrats.

According to cryptoactionnetwork.org, many legislators and candidates earned no ratings, or “Incomplete” (I) ratings, based on its methodology:

> *“Our grading system ranges from “A” to “F” and each Senator’s or Representative’s grade is based on public information using the following methodology:*
>
> - *Sponsored and/or co-sponsored legislation;*
> - *Positive or negative public statements; Selected cryptocurrency votes;*
> - *Positive or negative cryptocurrency related op-eds,*
> - *Positive or negative cryptocurrency Congressional letters;*
> - *Crypto-caucus membership;*
> - *And their willingness to host crypto-focused events and accept crypto donations to their campaigns.*
>
> *“...While cryptocurrency is the future of our economy, CAN was only able to provide grades for half of the U.S. Senate and less than a quarter of the U.S. House of Representatives due to lack of action from members.”*

The entire list of rated Congressional members and candidates is available here.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES

SAM BANKMAN-FRIED, CRYPTO'S CENTRAL ELITIST?

Crypto true believers often express support for the technology based on how it managed to remake financial interaction and integrate commercial activities into apps and software in a decentralized way, independent of traditional players and intermediaries.

That vision of crypto still exists. Indeed, it's at the core of at least some of the most notable projects out there.

But, the very successes of crypto technology made it inevitable that traditional powers and interests would crash the party.

The knock on the door, so to speak, arguably occurred in 2017, though enthusiasm died with a major crypto downturn.

The pandemic period of 2020 to 2021 saw the definitive explosion of crypto interest from both institutions and individuals that made it clear crypto technology was a part of the economic landscape that wasn't going away.

So the question is no longer "will crypto fade?" As a sector, as a technology, the answer is almost certainly no.

But the question, "will crypto technology upend the existing financial power paradigm?" is much more complicated.

And leading crypto entrepreneurs like Sam Bankman-Fried have become emblems of that complicated picture.

By any conventional measure, Bankman-Fried, head of prominent crypto exchange FTX, looks and sounds like a crypto evangelist. After all, he made his first billion in crypto (he's currently worth around 16 billion, according to Bloomberg).

But if crypto sector movers and shakers can be roughly classed as either "crypto idealists" or "crypto realists"—"crypto hopefuls" vs. "crypto cynical" might be better terms—Bankman-Fried is firmly in the "crypto realist / cynical" camp.

Bankman-Fried has no aspirations to disrupt the existing financial order. He doesn't want to cut out intermediary financial institutions making money off money. He doesn't want money creation itself out of the control of a cabal of elites.

This past week the FTX CEO made news on several fronts. At The Wall Street Journal's Tech Live conference, he confirmed that he's looking to score some potentially game changing "bigs getting bigger" acquisitions during the current crypto winter.

The biggest potential target? Coinbase.

"In this market, there are a lot of opportunities we're seeing that we didn't see last year," he said, according to Business Insider, while discussing a possible play for the rival crypto exchange.

When asked about potential acquisitions, Bankman-Fried referenced Coinbase's significantly larger user base, and focus on smaller retail-type investors, as being attractive.

"[Coinbase] gets at… our long term weakness," said Bankman-Fried, as reported by BI. "We don't see much point to get more highly engaged crypto traders. "What we'd be looking at more is on the retail side."

If FTX were to merge with Coinbase, it would create one of the largest and most traditional finance integrated and politically compliant centralized exchanges in the world.

Perhaps not coincidentally, FTX also made news by announcing that it was looking to possibly issue a native stablecoin as part of its exchange platform.

Everything Via CeFi and Plenty of Pie For Trad Powers

Bankman-Fried has made no bones about his centralized vision for cryptos. He authored a paper that proposed "Possible Digital Asset Industry Standards," that received heavy criticism by those "crypto idealists" who aren't ready to have the technology gobbled up for the benefit of select, long entrenched politically-connected powers.

Several specifics in Bankman-Fried's proposal, including regulations that would effectively negate and possibly outlaw the innovations of decentralized finance, and also force cryptos to be wielded as weapons in political sanctions battles, earned particular scorn.

Erik Voorhees, creator of the ShapeShift decentralized crypto platform, said that Bankman-Fried's proposals flew in the face of many fundamental ideas underlying crypto technology.

"For Sam to suggest that the industry 'should respect OFAC' is unbecoming," Voorhees wrote in an open letter response to Bankman-Fried. "Anyone genuinely advocating for 'an open, free economy' cannot support such blatant financial discrimination on millions of innocent people."

Voorhees was referring to the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which is currently at the center of enforcement of financial sanctions against Russia and other countries, due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and other geopolitical issues.

Other parts of Bankman-Fried's proposals appeared to position crypto technology as largely adding efficiencies to current financial and investing infrastructure, as opposed to disrupting or shifting wealth and power away from those entities.

For example, he argued that near-instant crypto settlement technology could've helped avoid the liquidity issues of the "GameStop" stock trading meltdown of January 2021.

But the secretive connections of hedge funds and trading apps like Robinhood, which led to a rigged backstopping of losses via trading shutdowns on stocks which were shorted by those funds, was a huge part of the GameStop story.

Bankman-Fried's proposal had nothing to say on that score.

In one section on access to crypto financial products, Bankman-Fried endorsed knowledge based "quizzes" to decide whether users should be allowed to participate.

To his credit, the FTX CEO rejected barring people from investing, based on financial proof of income or net worth.

But his idea of making users take "quizzes" regarding financial products could easily be seen as a potentially biased and arbitrary gateway.

He wrote:

> *"Here are various methods one could use to determine who can access a particular product:*
>
> *A. Only investors whose net worth is at least $x can access the product*
> *B. Only investors whose income is at least $y can access the product*
> *C. There is a test based on the mechanics of the platform and product; only investors who pass that test can access the product*
> *D. Anyone can access any product so long as the product is not scam*
> *E. The platform should choose at its own discretion who can access its product"*

Choice "D" might seem the fairest and freest option to many.

Politically Active in the 2022 Election Cycle

Bankman-Fried hasn't been shy about throwing money to candidates that he believes share his views on the future course of crypto regulation. He has spent about 40 million dollars so far in this election cycle, according to blockworks.co. He previously said he might spend as much as a billion, but that hasn't materialized.

But political spending aside, it's clear that Bankman-Fried intends to wield a large hand in the future course of the crypto sector. And "crypto idealists" probably won't like the direction Bankman-Fried is traveling.

For related reading, see:

- "GAME ON! YOUNG TRADERS RATTLE FINANCIAL STATUS-QUO WITH GAMESTOP" (2 Feb 2021)
- "'VIRTUAL' GAMESTOP HEARING ACCOMPLISHES LITTLE IN THE REAL WORLD" (23 Feb 2021)
- "HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION HEAD SAYS 'BITCOIN IS THE REVOLUTION'" (29 Jun 2021)
- "WHAT DEFINES WEB3?" (8 Feb 2022)
- "INSTITUTIONAL CRYPTO TIDE RISING, DESPITE VOLATILITY" (29 Mar 2022)
- "CONFIDENCE IN CENTRALIZED CRYPTO PLATFORMS HIT IN THE WAKE OF FAILURES" (19 Jul 2022)

LARGEST CRYPTO ADVOCACY GROUP BACKS RIPPLE IN SEC LAWSUIT

Better late than never.

The Blockchain Association, a U.S. based crypto industry group, has come up in support of Ripple Networks, in its years-long legal battle with the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC).

The association is now saying the case could be crucial for the future of the crypto industry.

In a 28 October post, it announced that it will submit an amicus “friend of the court” brief in support of Ripple’s position.

“This case, which is just one in a long line of SEC efforts to regulate by enforcement, highlights the SEC’s efforts to cement and legitimize its overly broad interpretation of the Howey test,” the association explained its view, as reported by cryptosrus.com.

The SEC filed suit against Ripple in 2020, alleging that the company raised 1.3 billion dollars via unregistered securities sales using the Ripple XRP crypto token.

The Blockchain Association said its position was based on the merits of the case, and the detrimental impacts on innovation that would occur if the SEC prevailed in its interpretation.

“Applying the securities laws to those tokens—whether or not through the prism of the Howey test—would significantly restrict those networks from functioning,” the Association warned.

NO BOUNDARIES: SCIENTISTS CONTINUE DANGEROUS VIRUS EXPERIMENTS DESPITE LIKELY WUHAN LAB DISASTER

Even as a new Senate report concluded this past week that the COVID19 virus likely emanated from an American funded Wuhan biolab in China, there was news of other labs making viruses more lethal.

The Daily Mail reported British scientists intentionally bred deadly hybrid Covid strains in a facility at a London university.

Researchers at the Imperial College in London gave mutant coronavirus strains and pieces of Omicron or Delta to hamsters, according to the paper.

Imperial College insisted the research was safe. But Dr. Richard Ebright, the Rutgers molecular biology expert who was one of the first to point out American funding of

dangerous gain-of-function virus experiments occurring at Wuhan, said the London research could lead to another global disaster.

"At least four labs on two continents now have construed non-natural, lab-generated viruses that retain the high immune escape of Omicron and acquire higher severity than Omicron and that, as such, are reasonably expected to increase transmission or pathogenicity in humans," Ebright commented on Twitter, as reported by The Gateway Pundit.

Monkeypox Madness

The **Trends Journal** recently reported on COVID experiments happening at Boston University, which Ebright also identified as dangerous. (See "DANGEROUS COVID VARIANTS BEING CREATED IN BOSTON BIOLAB," 18 Oct 2022.)

The man-made COVID strains created at the BU resulted in a virus variant that killed 80 percent of mice infected.

Meanwhile, as incredible as it sounds, Dr. Anthony Fauci's NIAID is currently conducting research in Maryland that is purposely attempting to create more lethal strains of the so-called monkeypox virus.

That news was reported by *The Post Millennial*, *The Daily Mail*, and others.

According to the reports, hybrid strains of monkeypox are being created by taking genetic material from a variant which kills one in ten people it infects, and inserting it into a more mild variant which is behind the current outbreak "in the wild."

From Conspiracy Theory To Uncontroversial Fact

When **The Trends Journal** and other independent news outlets were first reporting on the funding of dangerous Wuhan COVID virus experiments, and concerns that the virus came from the lab, the Federal government and MSM called such reporting misinformation and "conspiracy theories."

In Congressional testimony, Fauci tried to deny various aspects of the emerging sordid story, including his agency's funding of the Wuhan COVID experiments, the dangerous "gain-of-function" nature of the experiments, and his role in attempting to discount suspicions that the COVID-19 outbreak came from the lab.

The mainstream media gradually was forced to admit the growing likelihood that "science" might be behind the COVID disaster. In 2020, *The New York Times* and the MSM dutifully supported the official narratives of American COVID czar Dr. Anthony Fauci, who dismissed (and actively undermined) in early 2020 concerns that the COVID virus came from the Wuhan lab, and not from a natural "jump" from bats to humans.

But by November 2021, even the *Times* was expressing doubt concerning biolab leaks, in stories like "You Should Be Afraid Of The Next Lab Leak."

Late last week, ProPublica / Vanity Fair jointly reported on an interim investigation of Republicans on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that has determined "the COVID-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident."

As much vindication as it is, it seems like old news at this point. And more troubling, it appears evident that "science," in the guise of figures like Dr. Fauci, and researchers who observe no boundaries in their willingness to create incredibly lethal man-made virus strains, are quite willing to risk another COVID War.

Our coverage of the Wuhan lab experimentation goes back to February of 2021 and includes:

- "GATES LONG ON FAKE MEAT, SHORT ON CRYPTO" (23 Feb 2021)
- "FAUCI THE FAKE: THE ROOT OF ALL PANDEMIC LIES" (2 Mar 2021)
- "IT'S TIME TO DISMANTLE THE WHO" (20 Apr 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)
- "FORMER ECOHEALTH VP SAYS GOVERNMENT AND SCIENCE RESEARCHERS CREATED COVID" (20 Sep 2022)

NEW EURO STUDY SAYS COVID SHOTS ADD UP TO HEART DAMAGE AT MUCH HIGHER RATES THAN CLAIMED

Selection bias.

In the case of COVID mRNA and DNA treatments deceptively labeled "vaccines," it means that reported effects of heart problems are only the tip of the iceberg.

A new peer-reviewed study of Swiss hospital patients says that evidence of heart damage is much higher than commonly reported, since other studies only compare incidence of serious myocarditis cases with general vaccinated populations.

The study's examination of 835 patients found that discernible, though subclinical (ie. changes not precipitating medical attention) heart damage including lesions, had occurred at high rates that deserve consideration, and might be setting the stage for more serious heart problems in the future.

Average age of those studied was 37. 69 percent were women, most had received a 3rd dose of a COVID shot, and less than 2 percent had a previous cardiovascular history.

The results of the study found that 2.8 percent of the vaccinated population had myocardial lesions, 3.7 percent in women and 0.8 percent in men.

This was an unexpected finding, since "hospitalized" cases of myocarditis have been shown to be more prevalent in young men.

The study concluded not only that discernible heart effects are occurring at stunningly high rates, but that it is not known whether these effects might accumulate with further COVID "vaccine" treatments, and result in complications or worsening heart conditions down the road:

> *"The incidence of myocardial lesions is 2.8%, or 800 times higher than the usual incidence of myocarditis. It occurs mainly in women unlike the usual viral myocarditis.*
>
> *"No MACE was reported in the population studied at 30 days, however, due to repeated doses, it is interesting to wonder whether this could not lead to long-term sequelae (heart failure, arrhythmia). For this, a randomized trial with long-term follow-up would be necessary."*

The researchers explain why overall physiological evidence of myocarditis has been substantially underreported by previous studies and health authorities:

> *"In retrospective data, the main cardiac complication is myocarditis, which remains rare with an incidence of 0.0035% and mainly affects young men under 18 years of age.*
>
> *"However, there is a selection bias because only serious cases requiring hospitalization are reported.*
>
> *"The true incidence of myocardial damage would therefore likely be much higher in the general population…"*

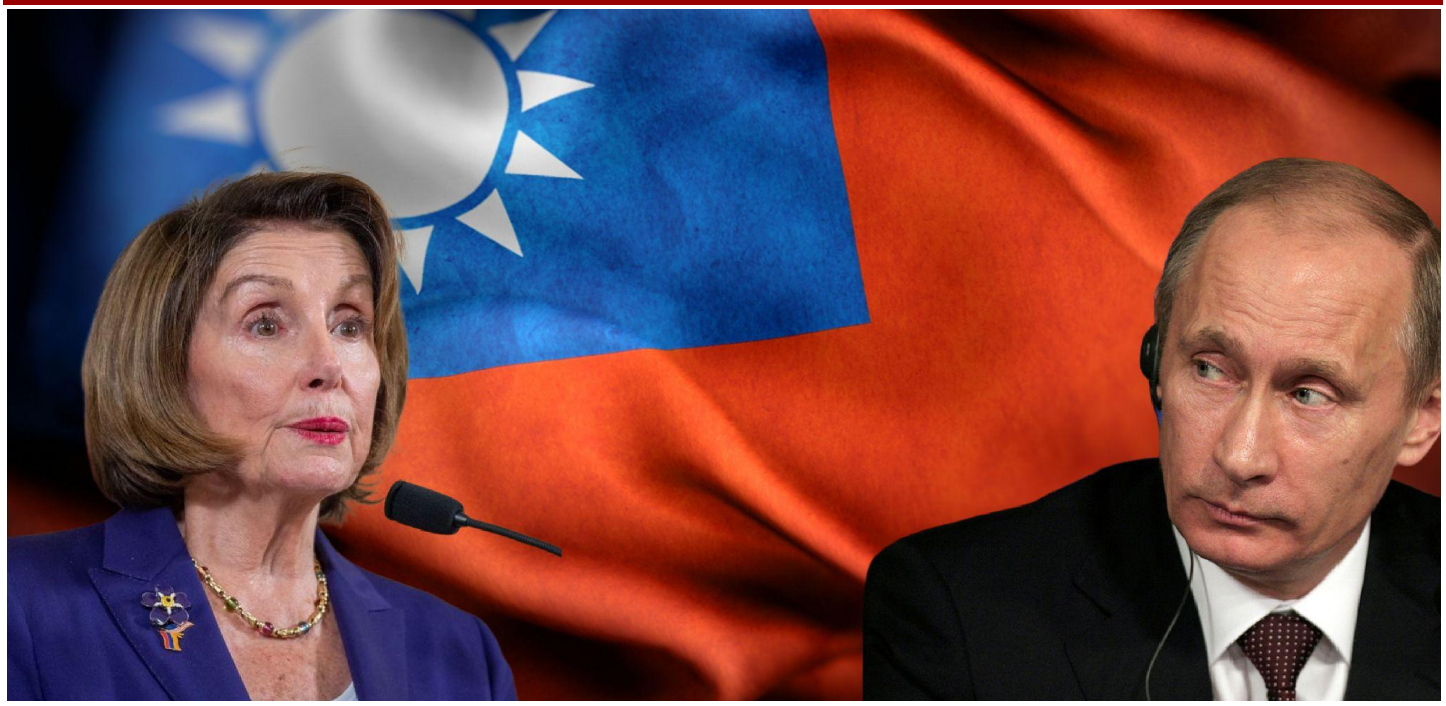
Guillaume Le Pessec, Member of the College of Cardiologists in Training, Rouen, France, authored the study, which was detailed at the journal cardio-online.fr.

It included patients and employees of the University Hospital of Basel in Switzerland, who had received a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna mRNA vaccine.

The **Trends Journal** has consistently reported on adverse events of COVID War "vaccine" treatments, which are occurring in virtually unprecedented numbers, compared with any previous vaccines authorized for continued use.

Examples of coverage include our many Vaccine Fast Facts articles, and also:

- "GET MODERNA COVID JAB, GET HEART INFLAMMATION?" (24 Aug 2021)
- "ANOTHER STUDY SHOWS COVID VACCINES CAUSE HEART PROBLEMS" (23 Nov 2021)
- "ISRAELI STUDY: GET THE COVID JAB, GET CARDIAC" (7 Jun 2022)
- "COVID WAR RAMIFICATIONS CONTINUE TO PLAY OUT" (6 Oct 2022)



PUTIN MOCKS 'GRANDMA' PELOSI'S VISIT TO TAIWAN AS POINTLESS

Russian President Vladimir Putin laughed off U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan during the summer as an unnecessary provocation of China.

Speaking at the Valdai Discussion Club meeting in Moscow, he said, "Taiwan is part of the People's Republic of China, and all visits to Taiwan by top officials are perceived as a provocation. "Why was it necessary to drag this granny to Taiwan, to provoke China into some kind of retaliatory action, at a time when [Washington] cannot sort out relations with Russia due to what's happening in Ukraine?"

Calling her visit "total nonsense," Putin said, "There's nothing to it, no deeper idea, just total nonsense, arrogance, and a sense of impunity," he said. (See "PELOSI PUSHES WAR, U.S. MEDIA PROMOTES IT" and "U.S. RAMPS UP TENSION WITH CHINA. PELOSI A FRONT FOR THE WAR MACHINE AND WHITE HOUSE.")

Pelosi was the first U.S. House speaker in 25 years that would visit Taiwan. Her announcement prompted a dramatic escalation in the region that included a four-day Chinese military exercise around the island.

China never conducted a military drill so large.

Beijing deployed more than a 100 fighter jets and dozens of warships. Part of the exercises included the firing of ballistic missiles around the island. *The Global Times*, the state-run Chinese newspaper, said the drill on Sunday featured "island saturation attack drills and bomber deterrence flights in the Straits."

Pelosi visited Taiwan after she visited Ukraine to praise Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's war effort against Russia and vow more U.S. support, sending a similar message to Taiwan. She said the U.S. will "not abandon" the island.

"They may try to keep Taiwan from visiting or participating in other places, but they will not isolate Taiwan by preventing us to travel there," Pelosi said of China.

It's All About Politics, Stupid

Putin is correct that there was no diplomatic reason for Pelosi to visit the island. But the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace noted that her trip came while Democrats faced tough challenges, including "persistent inflation to low approval ratings for Biden."

Indeed, as Gerald Celente notes, "When all else fails, they take you to war."

"Given broad public support for Taiwan, the House speaker may have reasoned that her visit would win over swing voters. Prior to Pelosi's trip, a group of 25 GOP senators issued a statement praising the speaker's decision to visit the island. Domestic pressures in both Washington and Beijing, therefore, appear to be creating a dynamic in which escalation is rewarded and restraint is criticized."

TREND FORECAST: *Putin's comments about Pelosi's visit shows that the Kremlin does not take the Biden administration's provocation against China seriously. Indeed, as we have forecast there will be no military forces from other nations that will challenge Communist China's military might.*

Indeed, America, with the largest military in the world, has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations such as Afghanistan after invading that nation some 20 years ago.

Should war break out between China and Taiwan, we forecast the Taiwanese military will not aggressively fight back, since doing so would result in millions of deaths and mass destruction.

We have pointed to numerous articles that explain Taiwan is simply no match for the much larger and more deadly Chinese military. China spends 25 times the amount Taipei does on its defenses. China also has a hundred times as many ground-force troops as the island.

BLINKEN IS SHINING EXAMPLE OF HYPOCRISY, PALESTINIANS LIVES AND LAND DON'T MATTER

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has been one of the Biden administration's most outspoken critics of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"You can't simply go in and seize territory from another country," Blinken said. "You can't change the borders of another country by force, you can't try to erase its independence and sovereignty from the map."

Blinken made the comments during a Bloomberg event last week. He said the danger is that if the aggression goes unchecked, it opens Pandora's box around the world for the would-be aggressors."

Double Standard Hypocrite

While condemning Russia for going into to Ukraine to "seize territory from another country and to "change the borders of another country by force," Blinken ignores Israel's continued seizing of Palestinian "territory," which the U.S. and Israel call "occupied territory" rather than stolen land.

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, told the General Assembly in a report last week that the Israeli military is guilty of pursuing the 'de-Palestinianisation' of the occupied territory.

Her report stated that Israeli occupation violates Palestinian territorial sovereignty by "seizing, annexing, fragmenting, and transferring its civilian population to the occupied territory."

***TRENDPOST**: As we have reported in **The Trends Journal**, tension between Russia and Ukraine have been simmering for hundreds of years and the conflict is essentially a border war.*

Illustrating his pure hypocrisy, Blinken is a fierce defender of Ukraine's right to exist, but allows Israel to torment Palestinians, steal their land and become outraged when they fight back. Israel has been illegally occupying the West Bank, including East Jerusalem since 1967.

***The Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the Israeli military and its recent deadly clashes with Palestinians. (See "ISRAEL KILLS 4 PALESTINIAN TEENS," "4 KILLED, DOZENS WOUNDED IN ISRAELI WEST BANK RAID" and "ISRAEL RAIDS AND RANSACKS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND CHURCH.")*

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority president, told a small group of Palestinians at the UN General Assembly in New York last month that he was not impressed with Blinken's diplomatic effort.

The Times of Israel obtained a recording of the meeting and Abbas told the group that the U.S. continues to claim that Israel is not interested in peace and refuses to use its power to force Israel's hand. He referred to Blinken as a "little boy."

Abbas told the meeting attendees he once believed U.S. administrations that claimed that Israel does not want peace. But he now realizes that "it's not that the Israelis don't want peace but the Americans don't want peace."

Abbas called on the White House to intervene in the latest surge in Israeli violence before the situation gets out of control.

'Suffocating' Lockdowns

Reports have emerged from the West Bank that illustrate how the Israeli Army is cracking down on Palestinians, using minor offenses to warrant deploying its military.

The New York Times reported last week that Israeli troops descended on the town of Huwara in the West Bank after a Palestinian child allegedly threw a stone at an Israeli bus. Israel deployed a front-end loader to block a key intersection there, a move the town's mayor called "collective punishment."

"You're suffocating us," Moin Damedi, the mayor, said.

The paper said these moves have become commonplace in the northern West Bank in recent weeks during Israel's crackdown.

Don Davies, a Canadian federal member of the Canadian Parliament for the New Democratic Party, noted in Counterfire that the Western media has essentially turned a blind eye to the bloody crackdown. Israel launched Operation Break the Wave in March.

Under the crackdown, Israel is targeting any "semblance of confrontation to its colonization of Palestine," according to Mondoweiss.

Israel has targeted anyone that "stands in the way of its territorial and political expansion, even journalists like Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed with a bullet to the neck on May 11 of this year in Jenin."

Davies wrote that refugee camps have been subject to repeated raids that resulted in at least 5,000 arrests, including 766 children. At least 160 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank since the beginning of the year. Some are comparing the situation on the ground to the second intifada in the early 2000s, the *Times* reported.

The crackdown has led to the rise of Palestinian fighters called the Lions' Den in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, where Israel has set up a blockade. There have been reports of these groups popping up around the occupied territory.

Last week, Israeli forces conducted a midnight raid on a "militant hideout" in Nablus and killed five Palestinians who were allegedly members of the new group. About 20 people were injured.

"The thing that created the group was the occupation," one store owner told the *Times*. "If the occupation ended today, this group would disappear."

In the meantime, these blockades have cut off trade in the city and there has been a reported jump in settler violence in the city. Settlers claim that they have been forced to act because of the inaction by the Israeli army, the report said.

Albanese said the international community's political, humanitarian, and economic approach towards resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict, "have failed without exception."

TRENDPOST: *The UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Court of Justice, and the High Contracting Parties to the Convention have all affirmed the Fourth Geneva Convention*

applies, that this is occupied territory, and Israeli settlements there are illegal. (See "ISRAEL'S NEW 'SETTLEMENT' PLAN CONDEMNED BY U.S., EUROPE," "ISRAEL TO BUILD MORE 'SETTLEMENTS'" and "ISRAEL ACCUSED OF APARTHEID BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.")

Furthermore, both Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch Israel have stated that Israel's treatment of Palestinians meets the internationally accepted definition of apartheid. (See "ISRAEL ACCUSED OF APARTHEID BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH," "SHOOTING BREAKS OUT IN ISRAEL : REVENGE OR TERRORISM?" "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: ISRAEL'S TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS AMOUNTS TO APARTHEID" and "APARTHEID STATE OF ISRAEL CLAMPING DOWN ON PALESTINIANS.")

TRENDPOST: *While the Western media continually chastises Russia for its war against Ukraine and its intent to occupy Ukraine, those who note Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian and Syrian land are denounced as being "anti-Semites."*

In the 1967 six day war, Israel invaded and seized Palestinian territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights, expelling some 300,000 Palestinians from their homes, while gaining stolen territory that was three and a half times its original size.

SUNAK'S IN-LAWS MADE FORTUNE OUTSOURCING JOBS IN U.K., U.S., MAKING BIGS BIGGER AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORKER

Rishi Sunak's ascendance to the top of British politics has rankled some in the U.K. who say the secrecy surrounding his personal wealth is at odds of what 10 Downing needs given the financial turmoil facing the country.

We noted last week, in an article titled "IT'S ONE BIG CLUB: EX-GOLDMAN SACHS BANKER TO BECOME NEXT BRITISH PRIME MINISTER," that Sunak and his wife are worth nearly $850 million. Sunak married into a technology fortune, but also came from privilege.

As a young boy, he attended Winchester College, an exclusive private school. He continued his education journey at Oxford, then Stanford, where he met his wife and obtained a Master's Degree in Business administration.

He became a Goldman Sachs banker and led a hedge fund before becoming the head of the Exchequer until stepping down last summer in protest of Boris Johnson, the former prime minister.

His wife's family founded Infosys, an Indian outsourcing giant, that *The New York Times* said "complicates" his leadership.

The paper reported that the company has a market value of about $80 billion but "paid record fines and faced repeated accusations that it broke immigration laws and helped companies discriminate against American workers." (See "SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GETTING BIGGER.")

His father-in-law Narayana Murthy was seen as a rags-to-riches story and started the firm with $250 in 1981. Trip Chaudhary, of Global Equity Research, told *The Independent* that Murthy is to India what Steve Jobs was to the U.S.

The *Times* noted that the company has benefited from $120 million in public sector deals since Sunak joined the British government, including an $8.6 million contract with the Home Office that the paper noted was not previously reported and "despite rules requiring contracts to be made public in 30 days."

The paper also noted that Sunak failed to report his wife's financial stake in the company, which the Labor Party has tried to exploit. Angela Rayner, the deputy leader of the party, told the paper, "After years of sleaze and scandal, public confidence in the UK standards system is already at rock bottom."

The paper noted that Sunak is private about his personal wealth, which includes off-shore accounts and has married into a family that has government contracts. (His wife pulled in $15.3 million in dividends alone from the company in 2022. His wife is an Indian citizen, thus she does not need to pay taxes in the U.K.)

TRENDPOST: *Gerald Celente often repeats the famous George Carlin line, "It's one big club, and you ain't in it."*

We're happy The New York Times is comfortable in exposing Sunak's ties to shady money, but we won't hold our breath for the paper to cover how Hunter Biden, President Biden's son, obtained a no-show board job at Ukraine's Burisma that earned him an estimated $3 million dollars... or his other "inside deals."

A Senate report in August found that Hunter's job with Burisma created a "potential conflict of interest" for his father, who was heavily involved in U.S. policy toward Ukraine while vice president.

And as we reported on 1 February ("BIDEN BANDITS? DIRTY DEALS OR ARE THEY LEGIT?") President Biden and his family have benefited through the years by securing business deals totaling $31 million with people who have direct ties to the highest levels of China's spy agency.

HELL BREAKS OUT IN MYANMAR: 80 DEAD IN MILITARY JUNTA CONCERT BOMBING

Myanmar's military conducted its most deadly air strike since its February 2021 military coup that killed at least 80 concertgoers and injured dozens—which has barely been reported in Western media because the victims were not Ukrainian.

The air strike included three fighter jets and occurred during a performance by Burmese singer Aurali Lahpai during a celebration to mark the founding of the Kachin Independence Organization.

The New York Times reported that Aurali was killed in one of the blasts. The bombing took place in the northern part of the country, where many ethic Kachin fighters live, the paper reported.

“This is an evil act and this is a war crime,” Col. Naw Bu, a spokesman for the Kachin Independence Organization, told the *Times.* He said the military intentionally targeted civilians, a claim that the military junta denied.

The Kachin News Group reported that security forces blocked the wounded from being treated at hospitals.

Voice of America reported that the junta issued a statement and called the air strikes a response to recent “terrorist” attacks carried out by the Kachin Independence Organization, which is tied to the shadow National Unity Government.

Tom Andrews, the UN special rapporteur for Myanmar, told Voice of America in an interview that the West has no real strategy for the country as this humanitarian catastrophe unfolds.

Andrews told the news outlet that there have been “thousands and thousands” killed, and 10s of thousands detained by secret police. He said many have been children who have been tortured.

“There’s no focus,” he said, noting sanctions that have been imposed on the junta. “And as a result, please don't add up to any kind of coherent whole.”

TRENDPOST: *The* ***Trends Journal*** *reported extensively on the military coup in February 2021 and the subsequent deadly protests that have broken out across the country. (See* “MYANMAR: ANOTHER DAY, MORE BLOODSHED,” “RUSSIA BACKING MYANMAR JUNTA AFTER COUP” and “UN TAKES ACTION AGAINST MYANMAR RULERS.”)

The 1 February coup and arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets to fight for democracy. The leader is reported to have won in a landslide, the junta claims the election was rife with fraud. She has since been convicted of 14 charges. She was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

Much of her imprisonment is a mystery. *The Wall Street Journal,* citing a person familiar with the situation, reported on Sunday that she is not allowed visitors, phone calls, or anything written on paper.

The concert bombing is not the first time the country's military used wartime force against its own people. In September, a military helicopter killed 13 people, including seven children, when it opened fire on a school in the Sagaing Region, VOA reported.

Myanmar Turns to Russia

Western governments have sanctioned the military junta in control of Myanmar, which prompted its leadership to turn to China and Russia for trade and assistance.

The New York Times described the relationship as mutually beneficial. "Myanmar gets resources, ammunition, and a powerful partner to back them at the United Nations, while Russia gets another customer at a time when it is struggling to find sources of revenue," the paper said.

Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's military chief and coup leader, met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in September at the Eastern Economic Forum, which took place in Vladivostok.

TOP TREND FOR 2021: *"YOUTH REVOLUTION": As we had forecast as one of our "Top Trends for 2021," the uprisings and revolutions that were sweeping the world before the COVID War will accelerate dramatically, as billions of people sink deeper into economic despair.. and the youth, who live in despair now and face a future of misery, will be leading the charge.*

TREND FORECAST: *When the protests broke out in 2021, we had forecast that despite the size and severity of the demonstrations they would be unsuccessful and that military rule will continue in Myanmar. We also noted that threats by the UN, the U.S., and other nations will achieve nothing in terms of bringing so-called "Democracy" to Myanmar.*
Again, as trend forecasters, we call it as we see it, and not the way we want it.

Furthermore, the more outside countries put pressure on the Myanmar government—be they in sanctions or supporting rebel movements—the greater the ruling government will strengthen its ties with its Chinese neighbor and Russia.

Indeed, on 10 August, China announced the transfer of $6 million to Myanmar's government to fund 21 projects, Reuters reported. The report said that China has remained relatively quiet after the coup. But as we had noted, Beijing would not support a citizens uprising against the military.

HAITI FURTHER DESCENDS INTO CHAOS: 96,000 FLEE HOMES, FURTHER CEMENTING OUR NEW WORLD DISORDER FORECAST

About 96,000 individuals fled Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital between June and August, as the country dealt with a worsening security situation due to inter-gang violence and social unrest over a declining economy.

Ulrika Richardson, UN's resident coordinator in Haiti, said in a report that thousands of women, children, and men have been forced to leave their homes to seek "shelter away from violence and destruction." (See "U.S. PROPS UP FAILING GOV'T AS HAITI DESCENDS INTO WAR ZONE.")

Richardson cited a report by the UN's International Organization for Migration that found the widespread violence in the country has led to "racketeering, kidnappings, and wider criminal acts in a context characterized by deep inequalities, high levels of deprivation of basic human needs and a fragmented security environment."

Reports said that gangs have overrun most of the country. About 60 percent of the capital is now controlled by these groups. The Associated Press reported that they terrorize communities, rape women, and set homes on fire.

Politico reported that armed gangs in Haiti have blocked fuel terminals and have created a shortage, and the country of about 11.5 million has about 5 million people who face hunger, including 1.8 million at "catastrophic" levels.

Haiti has faced turmoil and confusion after the brazen 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse inside his home. Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon, was appointed as new prime minister days before the killing, claiming the role. He has led the country as de facto prime minister for about a year and a half.

The U.S. has expressed interest in supporting the Haitian security forces in their effort to take back control of the country, and—along with Canada—agreed to send military equipment. Henry has urged the UN to send "specialized armed forces" to help the country.

Mick Wallace, a member of the European parliament, noted on Twitter that Haitians have protested against the U.S. "installed regime," and it is best that there is no foreign interference in the country.

"We said we cared about Sovereignty when Russia invaded Ukraine—Does Sovereignty only matter when it suits US Imperialism?" he asked.

One protester in Haiti posted on social media that the U.S. and Canada do not offer any solutions, but just more chaos.

"You are chaos," the protester said. "You are behind the gangsterization of crime."

Another Twitter user posted that protesters in Haiti said, “We don’t need Canada or the U.S., we need Russia and China to come to Haiti.”

Bocchit Edmond, the Haitian ambassador to Washington, told *The Guardian* that gangs will overtake the country unless security assistance is provided

“It is not going to be in the interests of all our closest neighbors if we allow such a thing to happen,” he said.

TREND FORECAST: *The Biden administration is concerned about an influx of Haitian immigrants to the U.S. and is reportedly considering what to do. However, since they have failed to stop the refugees from flooding into America before the Haitian crisis, they will continue to fail in stopping the increasing immigrant flows. (See “DHS: ARRESTS OF MIGRANTS ILLEGALLY CROSSING THE U.S. BORDER HIT RECORD IN MAY.”)*

Indeed, already this year, Migrant border crossings topped 2.76 million, breaking previous records.

TREND FORECAST: *NBC News, citing an internal planning document, reported that the White House could place these migrants in a third country or “expand” the existing facility at the U.S. prison at Guantánamo Bay.*

The report noted that Guantánamo Bay has been used as a Migrant Operations Center for three decades for migrants picked up by the Coast Guard in the Caribbean. One U.S. official told the network that the White House believes that once fuel in Haiti is no longer blocked, migrants will be able to fill up their boats and make the trip to the U.S.

We have noted that these financial and security issues will keep the migration numbers high in the region. Haiti’s neighbor, the Dominican Republic, plans on building a 102-mile concrete wall that will separate the two countries.

“There are simply too many Haitians here,” Santiago Riverón, the mayor of Dajabon, a city along the Haitian border. “I don’t want to use the word ‘invaded,’ but there are parts of this town that have been completely saturated.”

*The **Trends Journal** has long forecast that the draconian COVID-19 lockdowns that crushed economies and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of billions would spark a historic amount of migration around the world... which it has.*

As political unrest escalates and economies decline, more people will be leaving their crime ridden corrupt countries for safe haven nations. Thus, as we have long forecast, anti-immigration, populist political movements, as with Italy and Sweden recently, will overtake establishment parties that have not taken strong action to stop refugees from flooding into their nations.

U.S. IDENTIFIES CHINA AS MOST SIGNIFICANT THREAT IN NEW SECURITY REPORT, CHINA WARNS AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS RACE

The Pentagon announced in its new National Defense Strategy that China remains the U.S.'s most "serious challenge" to security and noted that Beijing is increasing its "aggressive endeavor to refashion the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences."

The report was released along with the Pentagon's Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review. None of the reports sat well with China that sees Washington as a fading superpower grasping at its last chance for relevance.

Wang Wenbin, China's foreign ministry's spokesman, said the U.S. policy reflects Washington's "logic of seeking absolute military superiority and will stoke a nuclear arms race."

“The U.S. has strengthened the role of nuclear weapons in its national security policy and lowered the threshold for their use, which has increasingly become the source of the risk of nuclear conflict,” he said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, a former Raytheon board member, identified China as the only competitor that has both the intent and—increasingly—the power to reshape the international order. He said Russia presents more of an “acute threat.”

Seamus Daniels, the defense budget analysis fellow for the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told *Breaking Defense* that the Pentagon is training its focus on command and control, fortifying communications systems, long-range strike capacity, and space program.

China’s *Global Times* newspaper quoted Zhuo Hua, an international affairs expert at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy of Beijing Foreign Studies University, who told the paper the U.S. is trying to say that the concept of ‘integrated deterrence’ has entered the actual combat level, the essence of which is to build the war capability and operation mode of civil-military integration, nuclear and conventional weapons integration, and the integration of offense and defense by integrating resources at home and courting allies abroad.”

The Trends Journal reported earlier this month that the Biden administration continues to see China as its chief rival. (See “U.S. LAYS OUT ROADMAP TO MAINTAIN WORLD DOMINATION WITH ‘MODERNIZED’ MILITARY EQUIPPED FOR ‘STRATEGIC COMPETITION.”)

We noted that Jake Sullivan, Biden’s national security adviser who was an Obama administration carryover, said 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.

The report said China has been working to undermine alliances that the U.S. has in the Indo-Pacific region's East China Sea, the South China Sea, and "along the Line of Actual Control" on the Chinese-Indian border.

The paper noted that China or PRC appeared 101 times in the 80-page security report, including a paragraph titled, "Threats to the U.S. Homeland."

Another Chinese expert, told *The Global Times* that China has no interest in "stepping into the boxing ring with the U.S."

"We will do things at our own pace," Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the paper. "China will never occupy Alaska or deploy missiles close to the U.S. In China's view, it's meaningless for the U.S. to try to maintain military hegemony in the Asia-Pacific across the vast Pacific Ocean."

TREND FORECAST: The Trends Journal *reported in November 2021, in an article titled, "DUH! PENTAGON SURPRISED BY CHINA'S TEST OF HYPERSONIC MISSILE," that China successfully launched one of the missiles. Reports leaked to the media shortly after the Pentagon's former software chief told The Financial Times that Beijing has already won the artificial intelligence race with the U.S. and will likely further its lead in other technologies in the future.*

"We have no competing fighting chance against China in 15 to 20 years," Nicholas Chaillan told the paper. "Right now, it's already a done deal; it's already over in my opinion. Whether it takes war or not is kind of anecdotal."

Gerald Celente, has said that the U.S.—despite having the largest and most expensive military in history—has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc.

The U.S.'s disastrous withdrawal from Kabul, Afghanistan last year – which is long forgotten as America ramped up the Ukraine War – further negated America's military's reputation. By their deeds you shall know them, and considering the U.S. unbroken line of military defeats, Beijing sees the U.S. as a fading power.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast of "The Rise of China" as one of the Top Trends of 2021. We predicted that the 21st century will be the Chinese century because the business of China is business; the business of America since World War II has been war.*

Both China's manufacturing abilities and tech innovation were at third world levels before Bill Clinton and George W. Bush brought the communist nation into the World Trade Organization at the turn of the century.

It was U.S. and European companies that exported their manufacturing facilities and high technology to China so they could use its cheap labor to make their products… and sell them back to the citizens around the world at much higher prices so they could boost their profit margins.

Thus, with the U.S. workforce having slid into the service sector economy—working at Walmarts, janitorial jobs, hospitality sector, restaurant workers, packing and shipping for Amazon, stocking shelves and cashiers at Dollar General, Kroger's etc.—what was once a nation of manufacturing innovation and creativity has descended into Slavelandia. (Read "SLAVELANDIA: RICH GET RICHER, POOR GET POORER," 13 Oct 2020.)

As we have long forecast, the only way the United States—which is rich in natural and human resources—will halt its economic decline is to become a self-sustaining economy.

Therefore, in the absence of a Renaissance whereby the people raise their emotional, physical, moral and spiritual levels to their highest degrees, the country will continue its "end-of-empire" decline.

IRANIAN PROTESTS CONTINUE TO ESCALATE

Thousands of college students clashed with Iranian authorities on Sunday throughout the country in another day of unrest after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in "morality police" custody in September for allegedly not abiding by the country's dress code.

On Saturday, Hossein Salami, the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, told the country that it was the last day of the riots.

"Today is the end of the riots. Do not go to the streets anymore!" Salami said. "We are telling our youth, the minority of you who have been deceived, stop the evil acts."

He continued, "This ominous sedition will bring no happy ending to you. Do not ruin your future!"

Activists and human rights advocates told the network that clashes broke out between students and members of the Basij militia. Protesters at the University of Tehran chanted, "It's not the time for mourning. It's time for anger."

The Associated Press reported that university campuses have become staging grounds for these protests and videos emerged that showed police firing tear gas to disperse students. They were shouting against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Reports indicated that 300 people have been killed in these protests, and about 14,000 have been arrested. Monday marks the 46th day of protests.

The Trends Journal has reported extensively on these protests. (See "IRANIAN OIL WORKERS JOIN STRIKE AFTER DEATH OF 22-YEAR-OLD WOMAN IN POLICE CUSTODY," and "IRAN: PROTESTS ESCALATE.")

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 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.")

Violence Breaks Out

At least 15 people were killed in a shooting on Wednesday at the Shah Cheragh in Shiraz, which is considered the country's second-holiest Shiite shrines, according to The Associated Press. The gunman died from his wounds a few days later.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Tehran attempted to lay blame on the protests without providing evidence that they had any role in the shooting. Mohamad Qalibaf, a former commander in the Revolutionary Guard, told IRNA, the state news agency, that protesters "prepared ground" for the incident.

Ibrahim Raisi, the hardline Iranian president, said officials have the "duty to exert all their efforts to maintain calm and security in the country and to remove obstacles that stand in the way of work, jobs, education, and living situation."

Raisi said the “riots” paved the way for these “terrorist” attacks.

Raisi promised “a severe response” and condemned “the enemies of Iran” who attempt to “divide the united ranks of the nation… through violence and terror,” according to Al Jazeera.

TRENDPOST: *To illustrate the hypocrisy of those in power in so-called democracies, Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, was seen marching with Iranian supporters in Ottawa.*

This is the same Trudeau, who, along with his political flunkies dramatically locked down Canada to fight the COVID War, punished those who would not obey and imposed dictatorial punishment on those who would not obey.

Indeed, to stop Canadian Truckers “Freedom Convoy” which descended on Ottawa back in January in protest of being forced to get vaccinated if they drove into the U.S., Trudeau invoked the draconian Emergencies Act. More than 100 protesters were arrested. ***The Trends Journal*** *ran a cover focused on the protests on 1 February 2022 titled, “KEEP ON TRUCKIN.”*

Indeed, across Western nations, politicians were not so interested in hearing their own citizens who protested forced vaccine mandates and society-killing COVID lockdowns. They looked to destroy those who would not obey their political science based mandates and often had “refuseniks” arrested.

If not for the architecture, one would find it difficult to tell the difference between energy protests in Western nations and these protests in Iran. In both cases, police dressed in riot gear could be seen beating participants.

Hypocrisy is nothing new in the West, and these protesters in Iran can only count on Western “support” if it means the destruction of the regime in Tehran. Otherwise, the U.S. really doesn’t care.

EUROPEANS PROTEST RISING AS INFLATION KEEPS SPIKING

As we have reported, the sanctions imposed by NATO and the United States on Russia have not punished Putin as U.S. President Joe Biden predicted, instead they have ravaged businesses and individuals. Indeed, thanks to the sanctions, in Germany, which once received some 55 percent of its natural gas from Russia, its energy prices spiked 43 percent year-to-date... 41.9 percent for the rest of the euro-currency nations. Overall, inflation hit 10.7 percent according to EU statistics.

The Trends Journal has noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin is banking on a long, cold winter in Europe for public support for Ukraine to wane.

"This is merely the silence before the storm," Manfred Güllner, a pollster, told the *Financial Times.* "The discontent is great, and people do not have any sense that the government has a plausible strategy to master the crisis." (See "FRANCE CONTINUES TO FACE LARGE-SCALE PROTESTS OVER COST OF LIVING," "PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN GERMANY OVER ENERGY PRICES, WAR" and "MASSIVE PROTESTS BREAK OUT IN PARIS OVER SOARING PRICES.")

Videos emerged online last week that showed tens of thousands taking to the streets in Prague and Germany. These protesters blame sanctions against Russia as a significant contributor to their financial pain.

Presstitutes in the Western media have barely reported on the escalating. Mark Cancian, a former Marine colonel and senior adviser to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told **The Trends Journal** earlier this month that Russian President Vladimir Putin sees these protests as one step to force Ukraine to the negotiating table.

***TRENDPOST: The Trends Journal** has said countries across Europe will face an emboldened populist movement because people are tired of being pawns for politicians to enrich themselves and their global cronies at the expense of dignity and freedom among their people.*

FRANCE: Thousands of people protested in France on Thursday and called for increases in pay to make up for surging prices. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that these protests impacted traffic and disrupted public transportation.

Video emerged of protesters waving the French flag chanting, "Let's get out of NATO!"

Police dressed in black riot gear could be seen beating protesters back with batons.

The energy crisis has strained the relationship between Paris, Berlin, and the U.S.

Emanual Macron, the French president, last week called out the "double standards" after it was revealed that the U.S. sold Europe gas at up to four times the price of domestic prices.

"I intend to raise this issue during my visit to the United States in December," Macron said.

Macron's relationship with Olaf Scholtz, the German prime minister, is also on the rocks over energy and the two never cozied up after energy disagreements. France reportedly criticized Berlin for taking a "go-it-alone" approach on gas prices. The two have also historically differed on nuclear power. France generally embraces that form of energy.

Macron also admitted that some of the demand for an increase in wages was legitimate, according to the *FT.*

PRAGUE: Thousands of protesters took to the streets on Friday to lash out at soaring energy prices and inflation that hit 18 percent in September. These protesters say their government has been short sighted in its support of Ukraine at the expense of its citizens.

"Russia's not our enemy, the government of warmongers is the enemy,'' one protester said, according to DW.com.

The report noted that Prague has been a major support of the Ukrainian war effort and has taken in 450,000 Ukrainian refugees. (See "MASSIVE PROTESTS IN PRAGUE: THE WORST IS YET TO COME.")

GERMANY: Thousands protested across Germany to voice opposition to sanctions against Russia.

The mainstream media does not generally cover these events, because these outlets want to sell a united front against Russia, but social media posts showed Germans taking to the streets in Leipzig and Dresden.

One Twitter user posted a video of Germans waving the flag and posted, "Massive Protest Today!!! End Sanctions on Russia! They want Russian Fuel and Neutrality! No Starving or Freezing for Zelensky and Ursula von der Leyen…Not Reported on Mainstream Media."

Germany has experienced weekly protests since the end of the summer, according to the *Financial Times*. Berlin has announced $266 billion in government support for households to help its citizens deal with the rising costs.

Despite the protests, European leaders continue to keep up the fight against Russia and public support for sanctions remains high.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's ceremonial head of state, said Friday that there can be no peace with Russia as long as troops remain in Ukraine.

"Russia's brutal war of aggression in Ukraine has reduced the European security order to ashes," he said during a national address, according to the *Financial Times*. He said, "In the face of evil, goodwill is not enough."

The paper noted that Steinmeier had once advocated for compromise with

Russia—like after its annexation of Crimea. But he said, “When we look at today’s Russia, there is no place for old dreams.”

He said there can be no peace that “rewards” Putin’s land grabs.

Vit Rakusan, Prague's interior minister, tweeted in response to the protests: "We know who's our friend and who's bleeding for our freedom. And we also know who's our enemy."

TRENDPOST: *We have long noted that anyone who protests sanctions against Russia are immediately written off in the media as a “Putin sympathizer.” The DW report noted that the organizers in Prague called the protest “Czech Republic First,” which was a play on Donald Trump’s “America First.”*

The report identified the protesters as “a mixture of various, mostly far-right, fringe groups with pro-Kremlin and anti-vaccine tendencies.”

Despite the support for sanctions, just nine percent of Germans believe Scholz has a “coherent strategy” in place to handle the energy crisis. But Georg Maier, the interior minister of Thuringia, an eastern German state, told the FT that “far-right” groups are “trying to recruit people at the rallies, and this is what worries me.”

ELON MUSK CALLED A 'GEOPOLITICAL CHAOS AGENT' FOR REFUSING TO SWALLOW THE CORPORATE MEDIA BULLSHIT

Elon Musk, the Tesla billionaire who officially acquired Twitter last week, has been targeted by corporate media Presstitutes for committing the mortal sin of thinking for himself and questioning the accepted narrative.

The New York Times, in an unflattering report on Musk, called him a "geopolitical chaos agent" because he laid out a peace plan for Ukraine and suggested that tensions between Washington and Beijing can be resolved if China takes partial control.

The paper noted that it is not uncommon for billionaires to use social media to offer their opinions about certain topics, but Musk is different and none "can come close to Mr. Musk's influence and ability to cause trouble."

***TRENDPOST**: It is a sorry state for the so-called "Paper of Record" that spreads its bullshit line that what they report is "All the News That's Fit to Print" to express worry about someone who does not believe or bow down to so-called authorities is causing trouble. It shows that editors there know what is expected of them, and who they have to please. So stories are designed to meet those expectations.*

Erik Wemple, the media critic of The Washington Post, wrote this week that journalists came up short for not coming to the defense of James Bennet, a former opinion editor at The Times. He was forced to resign from The Times after approving an op-ed by Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., calling on the federal government to use the military to stop the violent George Floyd protests.

Bennet recently said AG Sulzberger, the daddy's boy and publisher of the paper, essentially fed him to the wolves to try to win favor of the paper's audience.

Bennet said Sulzberger "blew the opportunity to make clear that the New York Times doesn't exist just to tell progressives how progressives should view reality."

We've also seen so-called "progressive" Democrats withdraw a letter to President Joe Biden calling for peace negotiations to begin in Ukraine before the world gets pulled into a nuclear confrontation.

No debate is allowed in the media.

Loose Cannon

The media embraces people it can control.

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

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

"Also worth noting that a possible, albeit unlikely, outcome from this conflict is nuclear war," he said. (See "ELON MUSK LEARNS THAT ANY TALK OF PEACE FOR UKRAINE IS TREATED AS AN ACT OF WAR IN THE WEST.")

The *Times* noted that Musk made the comments while in Aspen.

Musk has been praised by Ukrainians for providing Starlink satellites for its military to provide internet. Russia has threatened to shoot Musk's SpaceX satellites. Alas, no good deed goes unpunished and—even though these satellites have cost his company $80 million to run—he was criticized when he mentioned that someone else may have to start picking up the tab.

Musk seemed to take offense by Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, Andrij Melnyk, who told him to "Fuck off," after he called for peace. Musk said he was just following Melnyk's recommendation.

TREND FORECAST: *Musk is a businessman so he seems to take a pragmatic approach to many of the world's challenges, which often includes compromise. The U.S. State Department is comprised of academics and think-tankers with no real-world experience. We see how our top diplomat, Antony Blinken, shrinks when he is forced to talk to an adversary.*

Musk's purchase of Twitter has been celebrated by those interested in free speech, but there's a good chance that companies and public figures will abandon the platform to protest the "chaos agent."

BIDEN SMOKING GUNS SHOW SYSTEMATIC TARGETING OF FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

At this point, smoking guns showing First Amendment law breaking by the Federal government are everywhere.

A new Intercept expose has revealed yet more instances of federal agencies and government authorities colluding with tech companies to censor free speech rights of American citizens.

Leaked documents obtained by the news outlet detail censorship efforts of the Department of Homeland Security earlier this year.

“Platforms have got to get comfortable with gov’t. It’s really interesting how hesitant they remain,” Matt Masterson, a former DHS official working at Microsoft, said in one text exchange with DHS director Jen Easterly, in February.

Then Twitter exec in charge of Legal, Policy and Trust, Vijaya Gadde, held meetings with Feds, plotting greater government control of information on that platform.

New Twitter owner Elon Musk fired Gadde, among others, within his first few days of taking over the company.

In another instance, FBI official Laura Dehmlow complained that “subversive” information on social media could undermine support for the U.S. government.

Meeting not only with Twitter executives, but JPMorgan bank reps, Dehmlow reportedly said “we need a media infrastructure that is held accountable.”

What's ironic, of course, is that the Federal government, by its illegal and often secretive efforts to control and censor speech on social media platforms, has earned that distrust and loss of support.

Previously during the election season of 2020, Dehmlow was reportedly among the FBI agents who briefed Facebook on Russian election disinformation. Facebook (now Meta) CEO Mark Zuckerberg later referenced that briefing as a reason the platform censored a story about a Hunter Biden laptop, which contained info that might damage the Presidential prospects of Hunter's father, Joe Biden.

Zuckerberg told podcaster Joe Rogan the briefing led the Facebook CEO to believe that the laptop was possible Russian disinfo.

The Intercept's detailed piece concerning the efforts of DHS to conduct censorship by tech proxy can be read here.

The reporting only adds to a growing mountain of troubling evidence that the Federal government is systematically undermining First Amendment protections, which bars Congress from making any law "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

No federal agency is authorized by law to work with or direct companies or social media platforms to censor broadly protected speech of Americans.

The Intercept story follows recent news involving a lawsuit brought by 19 state attorneys general, alleging illegal government and tech company collusion to censor Americans.

The **Trends Journal** reported on that in "FIRST AMENDMENT SHOWDOWN: MISSOURI VS BIDEN" (13 Oct 2022) and "MISSOURI V BIDEN: FAUCI MUST TESTIFY IN DEPOSITION" (25 Oct 2022).

The Biden Administration has, from its earliest, engaged in a concerted effort to justify and advance censorship under the guise of combating "dangerous misinformation" and "disinformation."

Often predicated on protecting Americans from “foreign” actors and “terroristic” threats, the administration has progressively undercut legal free speech rights of Americans.

For a timeline of articles showing the evolution and extent of those efforts, check out the following:

- “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)
- “NEW EVIDENCE CDC DIRECTED BIG TECH TO MONITOR AND BAN COVID DISSENT” (2 Aug 2022)

by Ben Daviss

TOO FAT? EAT SAND.

But not just any sand.

At Stockholm University, scientists tested porous particles of silica—sand —as a weight loss aid. The particles are micron size—about one twenty-five-thousandth of an inch across or a millionth of a meter—and engineered to be porous, giving the grains a honeycomb-like surface.

The researchers fed the particles to obese mice as about 4 percent of their diet.

After seven weeks, the investigators found that mice ingesting the particles stored roughly one-third less fat than mice not eating the sand.

The mice showed no negative side effects from having the sand in their food.

The Swedish group published research in 2020 showing that the particles were safe for human consumption and gave similar benefits, also with no negative complications.

Now a research team at the University of South Australia figured out that the grains impede the actions of digestive enzymes α-Amylase and pancreatic lipase in the gut.

If the enzymes work less well, fewer fats and carbohydrates are digested and, instead of being added to the body as padding, pass out of the digestive tract as waste.

The Australian group also was able to determine that particles with channels six to ten nanometers across did the best job.

TRENDPOST: *The world is home to a billion people who are obese, according to the World Obesity Foundation, putting them at risk for ailments from bad knees to diabetes, heart attacks, and strokes.*

Sand makes up more than a quarter of the Earth's surface and, after oxygen, is the most prevalent element. At scale, engineering it into microparticles could be cheap enough to offer a preventative and even a cure for obesity that would avoid the side effects of drugs, one of which is further enriching Big Pharma.

SCIENTISTS SYNTHESIZE ALTERNATIVE TO RARE EARTH METALS

Rare earth metals are essential in virtually every kind of electronic device with a motor, from electric cars to wind turbines. Although they're not actually rare in the Earth's crust, they're called rare for a reason: you have to mine a huge amount of raw material to sift out a small amount of the stuff and most

rare earths are now mined and processed in China.

As a result, the world has come to fret about a possible future shortage of rare earths that would cripple the production of essential electronic devices.

Thanks to research from the University of Cambridge, maybe the world can begin to relax.

Scientists have been experimenting with a material called tetrataenite, an alloy of iron and nickel arranged in a crystalline lattice that has the same crucial magnetic properties that make rare earths useful.

The problem: in nature, tetrataenite is mainly found in meteorites.

Materials engineers have tried to synthesize tetrataenite—iron and nickel are far more plentiful and vastly cheaper than rare earths—but forming the material takes far too long to be practical at industrial scale.

At Cambridge, scientists recently discovered that the tetrataenite in meteorites also has phosphorus.

When the researchers added phosphorus to their synthesized tetrataenite, it took only a few seconds to form and produce the "cosmic magnet" that makes rare earths valuable.

"What was so astonishing was that no special treatment was needed: we just melted the alloy, poured it into a mold, and we had tetrataenite," Cambridge materials engineer Lindsay Greer said in comments quoted by New Atlas.

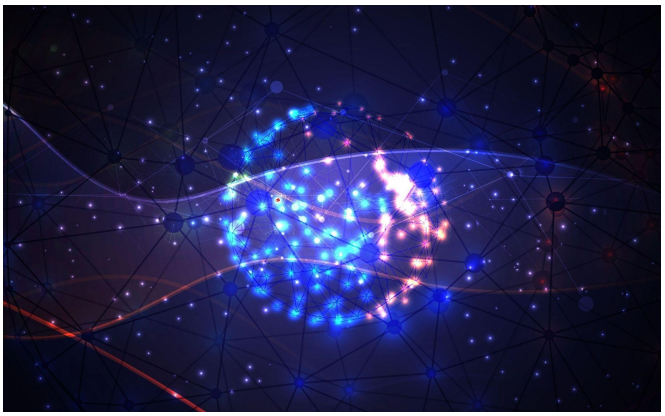
"The previous view was that you couldn't get tetrataenite unless you did something extreme, because otherwise, you'd have to wait millions of years for it to form. This result represents a total change in how we think about this material," he added.

The team is now experimenting to see if their synthesized tetrataenite actually works in electronic devices.

TRENDPOST: *If the synthesized material works as expected and can substitute for rare earths in devices, the cost of those devices could be cut and the geopolitical baggage toted by mined rare earths could be abandoned.*

Perhaps most importantly, any prospect of a rare earth shortage would be eliminated, ensuring that a crucial component of our technologically-driven future won't go missing.

EMROD PROPOSES A SPACE-BASED "WORLD ENERGY MATRIX"



The idea of collecting solar energy out beyond Earth's atmosphere and then beaming it to receivers on the ground has been around for years; experiments have shown the concept is feasible.

Whether it's practical is another question. Transmitters in space and receiver dishes on Earth would need to be more than a mile in diameter, according to calculations—and what would happen to birds or aircraft that happen to fly through the vast beams?

Emrod, a New Zealand company, is one of the R&D ventures working up the tech to make it happen and has just successfully demonstrated its hardware to Airbus and the European Space Agency.

But Emrod has a much more elaborate plan in mind: building a "wireless global energy matrix" of low orbiting satellites able to beam energy anywhere in the world, all day and all night, all the time.

In the plan, satellites in geostationary orbit more than 22,000 miles into the heavens would beam energy down to Earth-based receivers. The receivers then would bounce

the energy back up to a network of satellites in low Earth orbit that would relay the energy around the network.

The massive solar farms already operating in the U.S. western deserts and similar locales on other continents also could beam their bounty up into the network.

By 2040, the worldwide network could be operating at better than 80-percent energy efficiency, Emrod estimates.

TRENDPOST: *A century ago, pioneering electricity genius Nikola Tesla proposed a wireless worldwide power network to legendary financier J.P. Morgan, who responded, "But where would we put the meter?"*

However, financial and political interests opposing a global wireless energy network will be a second-order problem compared to engineering the system, funding its construction, and accustoming the public to living among "power beams from space."

In addition, the lanes in which satellites orbit have become floating junkyards, with hundreds of millions of bolts, cladding, and defunct units playing dodge 'em at 17,000 miles an hour, as we documented in "Space Force" of Garbage Trucks Needed (4 May 2021).

Into that chaos, Elon Musk's Starlink, Amazon's Project Kuiper, and other firms have begun launching thousands of small satellites to swaddle the world in Internet access.

The notion of space-based solar power will get more play in the future but, even if it proves technically and financially practical, no "wireless global energy matrix" will be deployed until at least 2050 and probably later, and not before the problem of bumper-to-bumper space junk is controlled.

Artist’s concept of how Emrod’s wireless global power network might appear.

Credit: Emrod