

THE TRENDS JOURNAL[®]

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS[®]

THE TOP TRENDS OF



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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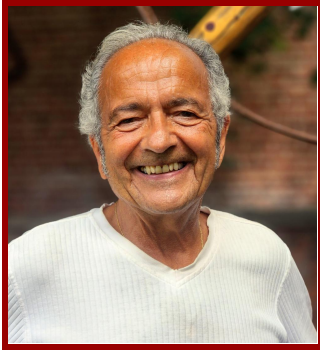


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TOP TRENDS 2024

At the start of each year [The Trends Journal](#) provides the Top Trends shaping the year

ahead... and the future. We have been forecasting trends since 1980, and as the trends are developing, this may be our last year.

Why, among the megatrends of 2024—from Europe to Asia to the Middle East—more war is on the near horizon, and World War III will become "official" this year.

As I have continuously noted, when all else fails, they take us to war. And World War III will annihilate life on Earth.

With President Joe Biden coming up for re-election and with only a 39 percent approval rating, he and Israel President Benjamin Netanyahu, whose ratings are also in the toilet with only 15 percent of Israelis wanting him to stay in office after the war on Hamas... both will do all they

can to stay in office by ramping up wars to manipulate the public for their benefit.

Of course, there are other important trends shaping 2024, and the future, which we provide in great detail.

Society is in deep decline. Our other Top Trends will show you how to prepare, prevail and prosper in these challenging times. Get in the best shape of your life; spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially as you can.

It is up to We the People, not the politicians to shape a more bountiful, prosperous and glorious future. As I see it, only a Renaissance can bring back the glory of life on Earth.

We are doing all we can to bring Peace on Earth, so please do all you can by donating to [Occupy Peace](#) and the [Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice](#).

Buon Anno,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

TOP TRENDS 2024



#1 WORLD WAR III

As Gerald Celente has long noted, “When all else fails, they take you to war.” Therefore, as China’s economy continues to weaken as a result of the hundreds millions of lives and livelihoods they destroyed during its three year COVID War, Beijing will ramp up its takeover of Taiwan.

Chinese President Xi Jinping informed Biden during their high-profile meeting in San Francisco that China will reunify with Taiwan when it wants to—and hopes that war could be avoided.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a nothing of a man, called the report “beyond unnerving.”

“I support the One China Policy, but I also support freedom and democracy. To communist China, if you think you can bully your way into destroying world order without consequences, you will be making Putin’s decision to invade Ukraine look wise,” Graham posted.

Three current and former U.S. officials told NBC News that Xi told Biden “in a group meeting attended by a dozen American and Chinese officials that China’s preference is to take Taiwan peacefully.”

With no realistic end in sight, war has now broken out in Israel that threatens to draw in major regional powers, and the U.S. and China appear to be preparing for a conflict over Taiwan. There seems to be no offramp for any of these crises.

TRENDPOST: *From Europe to Asia to the Middle East, more war is on the near horizon and WWII will become “official” this year.*

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson told Fox News last year that there is a new “Axis of Evil” that includes Russia, China, and Iran.

It is fitting that Johnson used the George W. Bush term to describe the U.S.’s war on terror that cost trillions in national treasure and millions of deaths. (See [“NEW HOUSE SPEAKER IDENTIFIES NEW ‘AXIS OF EVIL’: CHINA, IRAN, AND RUSSIA”](#) 31 Oct 2023.)

Neocons continue to unite in Washington despite the decades of military disasters and no victory since WWII.

James W. Carden, a former adviser to the State Department, pointed to Harvard University’s Stephen Walt who once said, “Being a Neocon Means Never Having to Say You’re Sorry.” He said Washington’s “legacy media” companies perpetuate these policies and essentially function as “the permanent bureaucracy’s echo chamber.”

Again, as Gerald Celente notes, “When all else fails, they take you to war.” With Biden coming up for re-election and being down in the polls, as with Netanyahu, they will do

all they can to stay in office by ramping up the wars and manipulating the public for their benefit.



#2 GOLDEN DAYS: A GOLDEN YEAR FOR GOLD

As we had forecast for several months, in early 2024, the U.S. Federal Reserve will lower interest rates. And the lower interest rates fall, the deeper the U.S. dollar will sink and the higher gold prices will rise.

We ended 2023 with all economic data in the U.S. indicating that inflation is cooling, cementing the belief on The Street that the Federal Reserve will begin to cut interest rates significantly in the new year.

The latest reading showed November's core Personal Consumption Expenditures, which does not include food and energy prices, fell 0.1 percent on a month-to-month basis, which is the first time there was a decline since April 2020.

This economic data, combined with the upcoming presidential election in the U.S., and WWIII all support our forecast that gold, the world's #1 safe-haven asset, will soar in 2024.

“They want to keep the people in power in power,” Gerald Celente said, noting that Janet Yellen, the Treasury secretary, is also the U.S.'s former Fed head. “It shows you who's running the country.”

Lower interest rates will give a boost to stocks, as well as gold because the lower interest rates fall, the weaker the U.S. dollar becomes against the basket of foreign currencies and, thus, becomes a cheaper investment in the international market.

The market is betting that the U.S. central bankers will cut interest rates up to six times next year.

James Gorman, the head of Morgan Stanley, told the *Financial Times* late last month that “the minute the Federal Reserve has concretely signaled that they've stopped raising rates, let alone the point at which they do rate cut, these markets will take off.”

Celente has said that WWIII began in 2022 when Russia launched the Ukraine War, and escalated with the Israel War. As we detail in our WWIII Top Trend for 2024, it will continue to escalate across the globe.

Again, as wars escalate, more nations and individuals will be seeking gold as a safe-haven asset.

Celente said there will be a flashpoint that makes WWIII official and that when war escalates in the Middle East, Brent Crude will spike to above \$130 a barrel which will crash economies and equity markets. In turn, nations and investors will seek gold as the number one safe-haven asset... Bitcoin will be #2.

TRENDPOST: *The world is in the process of turning away from the U.S. dollar. Again, simply stated, the lower interest rates fall, the deeper the dollar will decline and the higher gold prices will rise. And, what we will witness is the beginning of the Death of the Dollar.*

We've noted that central banks around the world bought roughly 800 metric tons of gold this year through September, 14 percent more than during the same period in 2022 to set a new record, according to the World Gold Council, a rate the council called "voracious."

Indeed, the World Gold Council, reported in December that central banks in emerging markets bought 521 tons of gold a year on average between 2010 and 2021. "But last year, they bought over 1,212 tons of the metal and, in the first three quarters of this year, 800."

As of the writing of this article, gold prices were up \$134.90, or nearly 7 percent, in the last six months of the year. Spot gold prices are showing a near 12 percent gain in 2023.



#3 ARAB SPRING 2.0

Israel's Gaza genocide has Arab leaders faced with pressure from their citizens to support Palestinians. If they don't, they will be seen as all talk and no action, cynically selling oil to whoever they can while continuing to buy weapons from the U.S.

Indeed, in late December, the U.S. announced that it lifted the previous restriction and would be selling Saudi Arabia offensive weapons... i.e., weapons needed to attack other nations.

Foreign Affairs, citing the U.S.-based Arab Barometer, reported that since the Hamas attack, "every country in the survey with positive or warming relations" with Israel saw its "favorability ratings decline."

The report identified Tunisia, the northern African country, as "about as close to an" Arab "bellwether as one could imagine" because the views are similar to other

countries in the region. The country is seen as open to the West, without eschewing Russia and China, the report noted.

The survey showed that Tunisians did not react swiftly against Israel's war effort, but the shift occurred over the past few weeks, as the death toll and conditions in Gaza continued to worsen. The survey found that far more Tunisians now want Palestinians to resolve the conflict with Israel through military means rather than a settlement.

The report said, "Public opinion matters even in non-democracies, where leaders must worry about protests, and these shifting views will reshape politics in the Arab world—as well as around the globe."

The U.S.'s decision to back the Gaza genocide has also hurt Washington's favorability in the region, according to the survey.

The study found:

"In the 1,146 interviews carried out before the October 7 attack, 40 percent of Tunisians had a positive or somewhat positive view of the United States, compared with 56 percent who had an unfavorable opinion. But after the war in Gaza began, that quickly changed. By the end of our fieldwork, only ten percent of Tunisians had a positive view of the United States. Eighty-seven percent, by contrast, had an unfavorable impression."

The New York Times, citing the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, reported late last month that 96 percent of Saudis believe Arab countries should cut ties with Israel and 40 percent have expressed positive attitudes towards Hamas compared to 10 percent before the war. The report noted that just 16 percent wanted Hamas to stop calling for Israel's destruction.

Protests have broken out across the Arab world and the general theme has been to urge governments to not only condemn Israel but also voice support for Hamas. In recent years, these authoritarian governments have shifted towards Israel because that relationship would come with the perks of U.S. security and economic support.

(See [“GAZA GENOCIDE EXPOSES CHASM BETWEEN ARAB LEADERS AND THE POPULACE”](#) 12 Dec 2023.)

Protests have broken out in major cities across the Arab world since the start of the war, including demonstrations in Casablanca, Algiers, Tunis, Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Damascus, and Baghdad, according to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

JORDAN: Al-Monitor reported that “frustration and anger among the Jordanian masses is boiling.”

The largest protest occurred after the Israeli strike in October on the Al-Ahli Hospital that killed nearly 500. Protests broke out on the border with the West Bank and in front of the Israeli and U.S. embassies in the country, People’s Dispatch reported. The report said these protests not only call for an end of the bombing campaign in Gaza, but demonstrators want to completely sever diplomatic relations.

There is a close relationship between Palestinians and Jordan’s population because many in Jordan are descendants of refugees from the 1948 Nakba.

“There is a shared history of struggle between the peoples of the region in the face of the forces of colonialism, especially between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples,” Osama Abo Zineddin, a member of the Communist Party of Jordan, told the outlet.

YEMEN: It has been widely documented, that in response to Israel’s genocide being committed against fellow Arabs in Palestine, Yemen’s Houthis have been attacking ships in the Red Sea and using its missile arsenal to strike targets deep inside Israel. As of 27 December, there have been 15 commercial ships attacked in the region.

The Houthis are said to be backed by Iran and are seen as a formidable force in their own right since they defeated Saudi Arabia’s war against them that began in 2014. Beginning with the Obama administration, the U.S. had been waging a shadow war against the Houthis for years by arming Saudis and providing intelligence.

The Houthi attacks have increased as Israel keeps ramping up Gaza genocide. On Tuesday, 26 December, the U.S. said it shot down 12 attack drones and five missiles launched by the Houthis, according to *The Israel Times*.

These attacks have been embraced by Houthi citizens. Supporters have held rallies in several cities, including the capital Sana'a, to praise the attacks in the Red Sea and on Israel. Tens of thousands have taken to the streets and chanted, "Any ship comes near, we'll hit it."

Hussein Al Suhaily, founder of Tamdeen Youth Foundation in Sana'a, told *China Daily*, that the Houthi attacks are meant to be a "temporary message of protest about the war in Gaza."

"It is also a protest against the position of the US on the war in Yemen, where the Houthi group has repeatedly accused the US of obstructing peace," he said.

BAHRAIN: Anti-Israeli was protesters—that the media calls "Pro-Palestinian protesters"—have been arrested and harassed since the 7 October Hamas attack Human Rights Watch said. The report found that as of 15 December, at least 57 people, including at least 25 children, have been arrested.

"Bahraini authorities have activated their repressive machinery not only against peaceful criticism of their autocratic rule but also against Bahrainis demonstrating in solidarity with Palestinians facing bombardment, starvation, and apartheid," Niku Jafarnia, Bahrain and Yemen researcher at Human Rights Watch, said. "Bahraini authorities are certainly showing alignment with other regional states in stooping to jailing children for peaceful activism."

Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Bahrain's crown prince, has criticized Hamas's 7 October attack while there were massive demonstrations in Manama, the capital city in support of Palestinians, *The New York Times* reported earlier in the war.

Elham Fakhro, an associate fellow at the Chatham House, told the paper that a country like Bahrain wants to be seen as a "voice of moderation in the U.S., and it is

increasingly using its new relationship with Israel to shape its perception in Washington. But at home, it is having a different effect.”

Saudi Arabia seemed to be approaching a U.S.-backed normalization deal before the Hamas attack. Countries like the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco, in 2020 under the Trump-era Abraham Accords, had already normalized relations with Israel. Egypt and Jordan struck a peace deal with Israel decades ago. Foreign Policy noted that Israel’s treatment of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank has been a source of tension, but it was “considered contained.”

These Arab countries focused on “their own political and economic objectives, which often meant doing business with the Israeli government,” the magazine wrote.

Israel has killed over 21,000 Palestinians (70 percent of women and children), seriously wounded some 55,000 and destroyed over 130,000 of the 288,000 buildings since Israel launched its attack on October 7th... in response to Hamas’s attack which killed some 1,200 Israelis.

The U.S. has supplied Israel with the weapons used to destroy Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel’s goal is to eradicate Hamas from the world and rescue the remaining 150 hostages held by Hamas.

Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman noted a report in the paper that cited satellite imagery that showed “fighting has resulted in heavy damage to almost every corner of Gaza City.”

Friedman, a Jew and a pro-war Israeli hawk, penned the column after visiting Riyadh, where he said he tried to get a sense of the feeling in the country. He wrote that he “left with the very strong impression here that the Saudis want the Americans to shut down the Gaza war as soon as possible, because the death and destruction in Gaza are radicalizing their young population (who were, by and large, not focused on Israel-Palestine before).”

TRENDPOST: Many “analysts” in the West say Hamas had to figure that Israel would carry out such a brutal retaliation campaign and punish the 2.3 million in the open-air

Gaza concentration camp, but fail to realize that the attack did more to bring attention to Israel's treatment of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. See:

- ["GAZA IS STARVING: OVERWHELMING MAJORITY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD, WATER"](#) 19 Dec 2023
- ["U.S. TO ISRAEL: KEEP THE GAZA GENOCIDE GOING"](#) 12 Dec 2023
- ["ISRAEL PREPARES FOR YEAR-LONG WAR IN GAZA, WITH GROUND OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH BELIEVED TO BE NEXT MOVE"](#) 5 Dec 2023
- ["U.S. KNESSET SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON SAYS CALLS FOR A CEASEFIRE IN GAZA ARE 'OUTRAGEOUS'"](#) 21 Nov 2023
- ["ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN GAZA SHIFTS PUBLIC OPINION IN U.S.:"](#) 28 Nov 2023
- ["ISRAEL: BOMBS AWAY OVER PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP"](#) 7 Nov 2023.)

Protesters in New York gathered in front of AIPAC's offices and projected how much New York politicians take from AIPAC. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries pulled in \$500,000, Sen. Chuck Schumer pulled in \$101,570, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand pulled in \$142,945.

Politicians are like hookers, pay them and they'll do what you want. Indeed, Mint Press [listed](#) the top ten American politicians that got the most money from Israeli lobbyists, and Joe Biden, with nearly \$4.5 million is the winner.

It is worth reminding readers that Arab leaders are entering a year that will be pivotal for their own survival. Indeed, in 2011, protesters during the "Arab Spring" chanted: "The people demand the fall of the regime."

These protests will continue to escalate as Israel tries to turn its Final Solution for Palestine into its Final Solution for Iran, Iraq Lebanon and Syria... with the assistance of the U.S. and its allies.



#4 PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW®

Yes, the ® after Presidential Reality Show® is correct. Presidential Reality Show® is a trademark of the Trends Research Institute® which is the publisher of ***The Trends Journal***®.

Yes, that's all it is. In the United States and around the world, playing the role to get elected into government is a live in-your-face TV Reality Show sold to the public by the government gangs in charge and their media whores who they pay to put out... Presstitutes.

According to the gang leaders in charge—The World Economic Forum—2024 will be a historic election year, with more than 2 billion voters going to the polls in 50 countries across the globe... from the United States, India, Mexico, and South Africa.

But as we note, the biggest “show” will be the race for the U.S. White House.

Barring a wildcard, the 2024 presidential matchup looks like it will turn out to be incumbent Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump.

Nikki Haley, the former U.S. envoy to the UN, has seen recent momentum and appears to be closing in on Trump in early voting primary state New Hampshire, but we forecast she will fade out.

The only reason that Haley, who is backed by Blackrock and the Koch Brothers, is even slightly viable is because both Trump and Biden are historically unpopular. *Slate* ran a headline late last month that read, “There is No Precedent for How Bad Biden’s Polls Are Right Now.”

The article stated that there is “no sugarcoating it: This might be the worst polling environment for an incumbent president one year out from an election since the advent of the polling era in the 1930s and also the most dire situation facing any democratic presidential candidate in decades.”

Trump, who faces criminal trials and could be off the ballot in Colorado after a court ruling (he promised to appeal to the Supreme Court), is tied with Biden at 44 percent, according to the last Yahoo News/YouGov poll in 2023, which was conducted from 14–18 December.

The Yahoo report said Biden held an average lead of 4.5 percent over Trump for most of the year—until August—and Trump gained ground as Biden’s job approval rating suffered. About 37 percent approve of his performance and 57 percent disapprove.

Robert Gilbert, a 65-year-old in Fenton, Mo., told *The Wall Street Journal* last month that Biden did nothing that benefited him, personally. Gilbert, who is on a fixed income, told the paper that he is no fan of Trump, but the former president did a good job with the economy when he “shut his mouth.”

An AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found that just 56 percent of U.S. adults would be “very” or “somewhat” dissatisfied with Biden as the Democratic nominee and 58 percent would be the same if Trump was the Republican

standard-bearer. The AP noted that about 30 percent said they would be dissatisfied with Trump and Biden being named their party's nominees. (See [“PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW: CHOOSE THE CANDIDATE YOU HATE THE LEAST IN 2024”](#) 19 December 2023.)

About 43 percent of independents said they would be unhappy with the choice of either man. Therefore, there is also a probability that considering Biden's age and unpopularity, his party may put someone like California Governor Gavin Newsom as the Democratic presidential candidate.

TRENDPOST: *It is worth nothing that Gerald Celente has said it is high time that the U.S. gets to vote for a third-party candidate, because, like we've seen in Europe, Americans are ready to vote for a populist, anti-establishment, anti-tax, anti-vax, anti-immigration political movement.*

Considering the political restraints for third parties to be on state ballots in the so-called American “democracy,” it would, however, have to initially be funded by the billionaire class of political investors to achieve national success... or by uniting the masses to donate what they can to break the political chains.

There was a moment that Robert F. Kennedy looked like he would be able to emerge as a true freedom candidate. He spoke out against COVID-19 lockdowns and mandatory vaccines. His opinion on the U.S.'s disastrous decision to back Ukraine was a rare glimmer of hope. But he has since come out in favor of Israel's genocide in Gaza, and even called Palestinians the most “privileged” people on Earth, which is particularly cruel coming from a Kennedy.

But this column is not intended to look back, but to look forward. Americans know that neither Trump or Biden can assure a peaceful resolution in Israel or Ukraine. Biden is continuing to push more war in Ukraine, and has alienated a large part of the Democratic base over his backing of Israel. Trump's daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner recently toured a kibbutz in northern Israel for a photo op. Trump's 2017 decision to move the U.S. embassy for Israel to Jerusalem, which was seen as inflammatory for Palestinians who continue to say the plot of land was stolen in 1948.

Trump said Russia would not have invaded Ukraine and Hamas would not have attacked Israel if he was in the White House.

The reason that Americans are upset with both Trump and Biden as their choices is because they know that both men bring more of the same—the Bigs will get Bigger and We the People of Slavelandia will continue to suffer under the weight of skyrocketing inflation. (See [“PRESIDENTIAL REALITY SHOW: CORNEL WEST WANTS TO CHALLENGE ‘NEO FASCIST’ TRUMP, ‘MILQUETOAST NEOLIBERAL’ BIDEN,”](#) 13 Jun 2023.)

Celente has also said, “When all else fails, they take you to war.”

Watch for a major false flag escalation in Ukraine, Taiwan, and/or Israel if Biden’s poll numbers, or his possible Democratic replacement, remain low.



#5 BANKS GO BUST

For 2023, one of our Top Trends was Office Building Bust. Hardly reported in the mainstream business media is the escalating commercial office building crisis that we had forecast some three years ago. While the Office Building Bust is very old news for **Trends Journal** subscribers—we had forecast this trend three years ago when politicians launched the COVID War and forced people to work at home—it is now just making it into the mainstream news.

While the facts are there for all to see, understand and analyze, we stood alone in not only our forecast of an [OFFICE BUILDING BUST](#), but now the 2024 Banking Bust.

Office Building Bust

The COVID War, a rise in crime in big cities, and the popularity of remote working has spelled trouble ahead for corporate office landlords who will be unable to pay mortgages.

According to Kastle Systems, office occupancy rate is at 51 percent in the top ten cities and office vacancy rates in the U.S. and Canada are 21 percent according to Jones Lang LaSalle.

Thus, with fewer tenants and those not renewing their leases, there will be more foreclosures by landlords which will, in turn, bring down numerous small and medium size banks who hold 60 percent of commercial property loans.

Moody's Analytics said in November that among securitized office mortgages that came due during the first nine months of this year, only one in three were paid in full by 1 October.

The figure represents a worse on-time performance than the previous record set at the depth of the Great Recession in 2009, when just 47 percent were paid off on time during that year through September. (See ["TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: BUILDING OWNERS CAN'T BORROW MONEY TO PAY LOANS,"](#) 28 Nov 2023.)

Before the COVID War, typically 80 percent were paid in full on time. According to analysis by four universities—Northwestern, Columbia, Stanford and Southern California—in the third quarter U.S. banks are holding nearly \$3 trillion in commercial real estate debt. Making a bad situation worse, Newmark Group reports that some \$1.2 trillion of U.S. commercial real estate debt is “potentially troubled” because property values—which are down 31 percent from their peak according to Green Street and still falling—are highly leveraged.

Capital Economics predicts that as a result of slowing office demand and rising vacancy rates, commercial office buildings value will plunge 43 percent from the pre-COVID War high.

With more buildings worth less than their outstanding debt, the National Bureau of Economic Research reports that nearly 15 percent of all commercial real estate properties are already in a state of "negative equity" and up to 20 percent of all commercial real estate loans could default. Should they default, according to the university analysis, banks will lose \$160 billion. Back in the Panic of '08 banking crisis the delinquency rate peaked at 9 percent according to the Federal Reserve.

The Mortgage Bankers Association's latest Commercial Delinquency Report noted that commercial mortgage delinquencies in the third quarter of 2023 increased for the third-consecutive month. And as a result of accrued interest on outstanding loans, debt on commercial real estate debt jumped \$37 billion last quarter. They said that "A decline in sales transaction and refinance volumes has meant less new debt being extended, but it also means that fewer loans are paying off than in many earlier periods."

Dealogic noted that revenue from investment banking was on pace to be the lowest of any year since 2013. Indeed, as a result of the high risks in the banking sector, back in August, Moody's lowered its credit ratings on 10 large and mid-size banks

TREND FORECAST: Banks will take a beating from corporate bankruptcies.

While banks are setting aside more cash against an expected wave of bad loans to office building owners and other commercial property owners, it won't be enough for many banks that will go bust.

U.S. institutions are estimated to be holding \$400 billion or more in unrealized losses from the low-yield bonds they bought during the COVID War and now are unable to sell because investors can earn more interest by buying newer bonds.

In 2024, the banking sector's troubles will reach crisis levels in some markets and in some countries. The number and rate of bank failures will increase, leaving fewer small banks and helping large banks get even larger, reducing the benefits that competition and small companies can offer consumers.

Because banks are a collecting point for economic bad news among consumers and businesses, their stocks will be an early bellwether to watch for the first signs of not only an economic downturn... but most importantly a market crash, as the banksters did in creating the Panic of '08.

TREND FORECAST: These are some of the trends that have led up to the BANKS GO BUST Top Trend for 2024:

- ["THE NEW LIFE OF LOCKDOWN"](#) (19 May 2020)
- ["REMOTE WORK = COMMERCIAL BUST"](#) (2 Jun 2020)
- ["SLIDING VALUE OF OFFICE SPACE HITS URBAN CENTERS"](#) (11 Aug 2020)
- ["WORK FROM HOME, CITY REAL ESTATE DOWN"](#) (20 Oct 2020)
- ["COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE IN A TAILSPIN"](#) (20 Oct 2020)
- ["OFFICE WORKERS STAY HOME"](#) (8 Dec 2020)
- ["RETURN TO OFFICES POSTPONED: COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BUST?"](#) (14 Sep 2021)
- ["WORKERS STAYING HOME, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DISASTER LOOMING"](#) (19 Oct 2021)
- ["COVID WAR KEEPING WORKERS OUT OF THE OFFICE"](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- ["NYC BUSINESSES: BYE, BYE NYC"](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- ["DELOITTE ABANDONS MORE LONDON OFFICE SPACE"](#) (26 Apr 2022)
- ["GM SOFTENS BACK-TO-THE-OFFICE REQUIREMENT AFTER WORKER BACKLASH"](#) (4 Oct 2022)
- ["BUSINESS OFFICE BUST BEGINS TO BITE"](#) (20 Dec 2022)
- ["NEW YORK CITY'S WORKFORCE SHARPLY SHRINKING"](#) (24 Jan 2023)
- ["OFFICE OCCUPANCY HALF OF WHAT IT USED TO BE"](#) (7 Feb 2023)
- ["TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: THE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE FACE OFF"](#) (28 Mar 2023)
- ["TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: INVESTORS BACK AWAY FROM DOWNTOWN PROJECTS"](#) (27 Jun 2023)
- ["TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: EMPTY OFFICES MULTIPLY IN SILICON VALLEY"](#) (27 Jun 2023)
- ["TOP TREND 2023: OFFICE BUILDING BUST, HSBC LATEST TO FLEE LONDON'S CANARY WHARF"](#) (5 Jul 2023)

- [“TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: OREGON’S LARGEST CITY LOSING POPULATION” \(5 Jul 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT, TOP TREND 2023: OFFICE BUILDING BUST” \(11 Jul 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT, TOP TREND 2023: OFFICE BUILDING BUST” \(25 Jul 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT, TOP TREND 2023: OFFICE BUILDING BUST” \(1 Aug 2023\)](#)
- [“COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TIME BOMB” \(15 Aug 2023\)](#)
- [“TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: TENANTS SIGNING MORE OFFICE LEASES BUT FOR LESS SPACE” \(12 Sep 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT, TOP TREND 2023: OFFICE BUILDING BUST” \(3 Oct 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT, TOP TREND 2023: OFFICE BUILDING BUST” \(24 Oct 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT: OFFICE BUILDING BUST: WORSE TO COME FOR OFFICE SECTOR” \(14 Nov 2023\)](#)
- [“TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: BUILDING OWNERS CAN’T BORROW MONEY TO PAY LOANS” \(28 Nov 2023\)](#)
- [“TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: TROUBLED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LOANS ARE INCREASING, ECB WARNS” \(28 Nov 2023\)](#)
- [“OFFICE BUILDING BUST SHOOTS DOWN ANOTHER HIGH FLYER” \(5 Dec 2023\)](#)
- [“TOP TREND 2023, OFFICE BUILDING BUST: FEDERAL OFFICES MOSTLY EMPTY” \(5 Dec 2023\)](#)
- [“SPOTLIGHT: OFFICE BUILDING BUST” \(19 Dec 2023\)](#)



#6 MONEY JUNKIES PARADISE

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

To make the most accurate projections as to where the stock market, along with gold, silver, other commodities, as well as cryptocurrencies will most likely go in 2024, we must first and foremost consider what is driving the current price action.

No asset/asset class moves independently, or by itself. The price action of any asset, and even the overall market itself, is dependent on what is driving it.

Cash moves through the markets in relatively predictable patterns depending on action in the world's debt market. *In other words, the debt market sets the base price of essentially every other asset/asset class/the stock market itself.*

Therefore, if the price action of say the stock market itself as an example, derives value from action in the debt market, then the stock market itself can be considered a

derivative. *If the value of the stock market derives its value from the debt market, (an underlying asset), it becomes a derivative, as it derives value from something else.*

Economics 101 would dictate that it is the forces of supply and demand which set prices, and perhaps in times past this theory may have had merit. However, today the role in which the forces of supply and demand dictate price action is nearly nonexistent.

Then there is the “human element.” There are two distinct “human elements” which must be considered when attempting to make a prediction regarding price action.

These two human elements are FEAR and GREED. Of these two human elements, fear is stronger than greed. *Have you ever wondered why prices tend to fall much faster than when they rise?* That is fear. Fear can turn into panic selling, and when panic sets in prices can fall VERY rapidly as throngs of sellers all run for the door simultaneously.

Since the stock market crash/financial crisis of 2008, which was when the system itself died and is currently on life support, this has led to the development of a new system. This new system is now totally dependent upon vast amounts of easy money being pumped into it via world central banks. This mechanism, which began with quantitative easing and has subsequently continued/evolved unabated ever since under various monikers.

The foundation of this new system is central banks purchasing massive amounts of debt with cash which they create out of thin air. These vast debt purchases, which continue even today, artificially suppress bond yields. This scheme is constructed to deliberately open a doorway/drive cash into risk assets/the stock market.

Artificially suppressed rates are also responsible for directly inflating housing bubbles, or in today’s situation, a super bubble. The Federal Reserve has also been buying vast amounts of mortgage-backed securities providing an engineered demand for mortgages—further exacerbating the underlying price action distortions.

The mechanism of suppressed rates going on now for 15 years, is directly responsible for not only inflating the biggest stock market and real estate bubbles of all time, but also creating price action distortions across the entire spectrum of asset classes.

Today there is NO REAL PRICE DISCOVERY of any asset/asset class/market via central banks keeping rates falsely suppressed. Central banks' vast purchases of debt and mortgage-backed securities has created a financial Frankenstein situation where today the people of the world are forced to exist under a debt HYPERBUBBLE unlike anything which has ever been seen in the history of the world. A debt hyperbubble which will be greatly increased in 2024.

For any transaction to take place there needs to be a buyer and a seller, however, today there is also a third player involved in every single transaction which takes place. By central banks NOT ALLOWING the market itself to determine fair value for debt, the entire order of a so called “free market” becomes disturbed.

Moreover, with the Federal Reserve along with other central banks working in concert to artificially suppress rates, these institutions then become A THIRD PLAYER in every single transaction you make! Whether you go to the store to buy a pack of chewing gum, or purchase a house, a central bank is now directly involved in the transaction. How a central bank becomes a third player in every transaction you make goes far beyond the obvious, in that IT IS THEIR CURRENCY which you are using.

By central banks artificially keeping rates suppressed, using cash which they print/add to a digital screen out of nothing, this mechanism creates inflation BY DESIGN.

(Just in case you are not familiar with my work or how the system itself works, ANY central bank's power resides in only one thing—their ability to create inflation or to inflate). *Have you ever wondered why it is that the Federal Reserve has a “target” inflation rate?*

In 2024 you can expect that central banks are going to cut rates, therefore keeping the doorway open for cash to make its way into the stock market. *Tech stocks should benefit the most in a falling rate environment.*

Increasing war will also drive cash into the perceived safety of debt, and therefore push more cash into stocks. Massive increases in “government” spending should also drive cash into the stock market.

Central banks cutting rates will further exacerbate the prices of real estate and housing. Regarding CRE (commercial real estate), I expect those issues to fester, but not become a major issue until at least 2025.

In 2024 expect that the prices of Gold and Silver will remain suppressed.

In 2024 expect volatility in commodity prices overall.

In 2024 expect HIGH volatility in the price action of cryptocurrencies.



#7 EV GO FU

EV mandates and subsidies don't magically provide the income, infrastructure, or innovation to incentivize consumer purchases of inferior transportation technology.

That's especially true for average working people who've already been clobbered by rampant core inflation, while trying to provide for their families.

And uptake of Electric Vehicles by relatively privileged groups, prodded by these heavy-handed interventions, doesn't mean EVs are "successful."

If forced uptake was a measure of success, COVID mRNA gene level treatments, deceptively marketed as equivalent to traditional vaccines, would take the prize as the most successful medical technology ever to exist.

But of course that's not true.

Forcing COVID mRNA vaccines on humankind proved to be a debacle. And trying to force EV adoption is a disaster in the making.

That's why we forecast "EV FU" as a Top Trend for 2024.

EV Fabulism

Of course, we were already tracking this particularly thorny aspect of the "Green Energy" transition long before mainstream media admitted there was something happening.

Only now are outlets like *The Wall Street Journal* [admitting](#) at least some problems in the EV narrative. ("How Electric Vehicles Are Losing Steam With U.S. Buyers, in Charts," 27 Dec 2023.)

In September of 2022, while most other media were hailing the uptake of EVs, we were outlining problems in articles like ["THE ELITE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE"](#) (27 Sep 2022.)

Our ["Top Trend 2023: Going Green Like It Or Not"](#) emphasized the forced elements of the drive for governments around the world to impose regulations, mandates, and social engineering to change the dynamic of a supposed existential climate crisis.

While we have alerted readers to promising technologies that use solar, wind, hydrogen, nuclear, and other alternative energy sources and systems, we have also pointed out the folly of trying to force a transition to immature technologies, and to employ those technologies in poor use cases.

And there is no greater large-scale poster child for a poor "clean energy" use case than EVs.

They're exorbitantly expensive for reasons that go well beyond manufacturing at scale. They are environmentally damaging, due to the exotic and relatively rare metals

and other resources required by their current technology. (See, for example, [“GREEN ENERGY TYCOONS READY TO LAY WASTE TO GREENLAND,”](#) 16 Aug 2022.)

Elon Musk’s videos of truck drag races notwithstanding, EVs don’t have the reliability, range, or longevity of what remains superior technology of combustion engine cars.

Battery replacements for these vehicles are perhaps the top maintenance issue and cost. Many people can’t afford to spend over \$10,000 to repair or replace batteries in some models.

These batteries can last as little as eight to 10 years. A recent *Scientific American* article said EVs are more like other “disposable electronics” than traditional cars, partly because batteries are so expensive—and dangerous—to repair. ([“EV Batteries Are Dangerous to Repair. Here's Why Mechanics Are Doing So Anyway.”](#) 25 Dec 2023.)

There are other significant maintenance and energy costs, and when those are tallied—as a recent comprehensive EV analysis did—it turns out that EVs cost users \$17 a mile to drive. (See [“MSM CRACKS IN EV NARRATIVES BEGIN TO SHOW,”](#) 3 Oct 2023.)

EVs also present elevated road hazards due to the enormous heat of battery fires that can result from accidents, or sometimes, from EVs spontaneously, spectacularly combusting.

Car Companies Rethink EV Transition As Consumers Balk

Consumers aren’t the only ones rebelling against EVs.

Car dealerships and CEOs are balking at the nest of problems surrounding the technology.

This summer and fall, heads of Toyota, Stellantis and other top car makers have come around to tech realism regarding oversold promises of EVs.

They are turning to more practical and sellable strategies, like improving combustion technology efficiency, and offering more consumer choice for gas and hybrid vehicles. (See [“EV FABULISM WON’T HEAL THE EARTH, BUT WILL ENRICH ELITES”](#) 18 Jul 2023 and [“FROM SOLAR PANELS AND EV’S TO ROCKS AND TREES—HOW’S THAT CARBON WAR WORKING OUT FOR YA?”](#) 10 Oct 2023.)

Just before Christmas, GM was hit with a mass rebellion of Buick dealerships that refused to go along with that company’s EV transition plans, the *Detroit Free Press* reported. (“GM buys out nearly half of its Buick dealers across the country, who opt to not sell EVs,” 20 Dec 2023.)

About 1,000 dealerships across the U.S., or nearly half the total, took company buyouts rather than foot the bill for costly plans to remake their dealerships to service and sell EVs.

The price tag for the overhauls were estimated at \$400,000 per dealership.

GM tried to put a positive spin on the disaster. Spokesman Sean Poppitt commented to the *Detroit Free Press*:

“Buick is transforming, launching the best vehicles the brand has ever had and is the fastest growing mainstream brand in 2023. This all needs to be supported by the best customer experience in the transition to EVs. As stated before, this year we’ve given dealers who are not aligned with Buick’s future to exit voluntarily in a respectful and structured way; with the full support of our National Dealer Council.”

Perverse Incentives, and Leaving Average Consumers and Small Businesses Holding the Bag

EVs as well as other green technologies got a massive subsidy boost by the Biden administration’s propaganda misnamed “Inflation Reduction Act,” which passed in August of 2022.

But that bill succeeded mostly in unleashing perverse incentives and creating a politicized slush fund for Biden energy czar overseer John Podesta.

We forecast that would happen before the bill was even signed into law, in [“CONGRESS ADDS ANOTHER HALF TRILLION IN DEBT WITH NEW BILL.”](#) (2 Aug 2022), where we noted:

“As with all federal legislation, we forecast the bill will create more damage than good with the bulk of the assets funneled into the revolving door of those businesses who control the government.”

We have subsequently chronicled abuses of the Inflation Reduction Act in many articles, such as [“HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: THE DEGROWTH AGENDA CRUSHING CONSUMER DEMAND”](#) (25 Apr 2023) [“EV FABULISM WON’T HEAL THE EARTH, BUT WILL ENRICH ELITES”](#) (18 Jul 2023), and [“U.S. GREEN ENERGY INCENTIVES MOSTLY GOING TO FOREIGN COMPANIES”](#) (25 Jul 2023).

Our assessments emphasized, among other things, the waste and futility of government trying to magically mandate an EV transition and subsidize immature technologies:

And Biden passed an Orweillian named “Inflation Reduction Act” which has failed to reduce inflation or bolster the economy.

It has, however, perversely subsidized and mandated “sustainable” green energy technologies which not only aren’t green, but are so costly and technologically immature, that they virtually ensure degrowth.

Average people will not be able to afford EVs, will not be experiencing cheaper home heating, or any other economic benefits from the forced transitions.

In short, Biden’s signature legislative act is meant to drive wealth to influential tech sector investors in green technologies like Bill Gates, Al Gore and others, while accomplishing a crush on consumption and production via exorbitant prices on new technology and energy.

In short, it's the most comprehensive example of Degrowth legislation ever implemented.

([“HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: THE DEGROWTH AGENDA,”](#) 25 Apr 2023.)

Mega billions are currently subsidizing relatively well-off consumers to purchase EVs as “city” cars and second “virtue signaling” vehicles, while middle- and working-class consumers still can't afford the premium price tags.

And most practical-minded consumers are deciding EVs are not worth it in terms of technology, even if they are more affordable.

The Biden administration is also—despite the heaps of money in that Podesta slush fund—pressuring private companies and homeowners to bear much of the cost for building out EV infrastructure like charging stations.

To make matters worse, the administration is sunsetting use of coal and hydroelectric (in places like Idaho, as noted by the *Idaho Dispatch*) for electric power plants, at a time when it supposedly is promoting EV technology that would vastly increase demand on the electric grid. (See [“Op-Ed: Ditch the Secret Backroom Dam Breaching Deals. Let's Focus on Common Ground.”](#) 17 Dec 2023.)

Talk about unsustainable.

A Trend Forecast Based on Tech Realism

Real breakthroughs in battery and other technologies—which are of course possible—could always change the medium- or longer-term EV equation.

And we remain hopeful that governments and corporations truly strive to pursue clear-eyed policies to develop and provide abundant cleaner and more cost-effective energy to our economies and communities.

Energy, after all, is the foundation of every other economic sector.

But politics and extreme ideological agendas should have no place in those goals.

Empowering average people must be the focus, not restricting and controlling them, while driving wealth and largesse to the relatively entitled.

For now, we forecast 2024 will be a time of average consumers, hammered by the costs and fabulism of the EV narrative, telling authorities in no uncertain terms, “EV GO FU.”

For some of our history chronicling both the deceptive drive to force an EV transition, as well as a Degrowth agenda driving the supposed “Green Energy” transition, see:

- [“JAPANESE CAR MAKERS COOL TO BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES”](#) (16 Mar 2021)
- [“SMART CITIES WILL BE DIGITAL PRISONS”](#) (31 Mar 2021)
- [“GAS STATION OWNERS SKEPTICAL OF EV BOOM”](#) (17 Aug 2021)
- [“ELECTRIC CARS CAN POLLUTE MORE THAN GAS GUZZLERS, STUDY FINDS”](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- [“ELECTRIC TRUCKS WILL ALWAYS COST MORE THAN GAS TRUCKS, DAIMLER SAYS”](#) (5 Apr 2022)
- [“LACK OF LITHIUM MAKES EV BOOM UNSUSTAINABLE, SUPPLIER SAYS”](#) (26 Apr 2022)
- [“DON’T CALL IT DRAGFLATION, IT’S ‘DEGROWTH’ SAYS WEF”](#) (21 Jun 2022)
- [“WEF TEAMS UP WITH TED TALKS TO PUSH DEGROWTH AGENDA”](#) (13 Sep 2022)
- [“THE ELITE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE”](#) (27 Sep 2022)
- [“FROM COVID WAR TO CARBON WAR: THE THINLY DISGUISED GOAL OF SMART CITIES”](#) (27 Sep 2022)
- [“COP27: 30 YEARS OF DUBIOUS CLIMATE ‘SUCCESS’”](#) (8 Nov 2022)
- [“EV BUMPS IN THE ROAD GETTING BIGGER”](#) (15 Nov 2023)
- [“ELECTRIC VEHICLES AMONG THE LEAST RELIABLE, CONSUMER REPORTS SAYS”](#) (22 Nov 2022)
- [“HOW CHINA MAKES OTHERS PAY FOR CLIMATE COSTS”](#) (22 Nov 2022)
- [“MORE EVIDENCE EV’S ARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL WRECK”](#) (7 Mar 2023)

- [“HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: THE DEGROWTH AGENDA CRUSHING CONSUMER DEMAND”](#) (25 Apr 2023)
- [“MOVING TO ENERGY AND TECH THAT ‘ISN’T THERE’”](#) (16 May 2023)
- [“DEGROWTH: BBC HIGHLIGHTS LOW CARBON ‘LIFESTYLES’ WHERE CARS AND TRAVEL FREEDOM WILL BE ‘THING OF THE PAST’”](#) (23 May 2023)
- [“TRUCKS, SMART METERS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES: THINGS YOU WILL AND WON’T HAVE BY CLIMATE DECREE”](#) (13 Jun 2023)
- [“U.S. ELECTRIC VEHICLE SALES HIT THE BRAKES”](#) (31 Oct 2023)
- [“MSM CRACKS IN EV NARRATIVES BEGIN TO SHOW”](#) (31 Oct 2023)
- [“EV SALES SLUMP IN U.S., EUROPE”](#) (14 Nov 2023)
- [“THE EV NARRATIVE IS BREAKING DOWN ON A HIGHWAY NEAR YOU”](#) (19 Dec 2023)
- [“ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO KILL GAS POWERED CARS? DON’T BET ON IT”](#) (19 Jul 2017)
- [“NEW ENERGY VEHICLES”](#) (11 Dec 2018)
- [“ELECTRIC CARS STALLING”](#) (5 Nov 2019)
- [“ELECTRIC VEHICLES”](#) (11 Dec 2019)
- [“SPECIAL UPDATE: HOW AND WHEN ELECTRIC VEHICLES WILL GO MAINSTREAM”](#) (21 Sep 2021)
- [“EV’S GROWTH IN MARKET SHARE WILL SLOW”](#) (17 Jan 2023)
- [“ELECTRIC VEHICLES’ DIRTY DILEMMA”](#) (20 Jun 2023)
- [“EV FABULISM WON’T HEAL THE EARTH, BUT WILL ENRICH ELITES”](#) (18 Jul 2023)
- [“PRICES FOR EV METALS CRASH”](#) (24 Oct 2023)
- (31 Oct 2023)



#8 THE SYNTHETIC DEVOLUTION

In 2024, every aspect of the world and human life is facing synthetic alteration and even replacement.

It's not just one sector or area. The synthetic is being comprehensively promoted as an improvement on the natural.

From bioengineered foods, plant life and humans, to metaverse experiences, to cradle-to-grave AI (complete with chatbot girlfriends / boyfriends), to synthetic societies of peoples with no shared history and traditions, the synthetic is the new sell.

We have been steadily tracking and forecasting milestones of this movement for years.

But in 2024, the scope of the Synthetic Devolution will become so prevalent that no one will be able to escape confronting and experiencing it.

In fact, it will be almost impossible for anyone to escape an increasingly synthetic-dependent existence.

And so The Synthetic Devolution is one of our Top Trends of 2024.

Why are we calling it a “devolution,” rather than a “revolution?”

Because, while there may be some positives related to synthetic innovations, overall, the replacement of natural products, organisms, experiences and societies with synthetic alternatives, will mostly have profoundly negative consequences for humanity.

The idea that we can genetically redesign and improve everything, from trees to crops to animals and humans, is a disaster in the making.

Reviving extinct species and viruses using genetic technology is also a “hot” area of unbound experimentation, as a recent CNN article [detailed](#). (“Why ‘resurrection biology’ is gaining traction around the world,” 26 Dec 2023.)

We don’t possess the wisdom, knowledge or the virtue for such radical undertakings, though we now possess the CRISPR technology.

In a similar vein, no amount of manipulation can bring wildly disparate peoples together, with conflicting religious, social and other values, and expect anything other than chaos, draconian government reactions, and rule by warring factions.

But this is the great experiment overtaking the west.

Notably, China, Russia, the Middle East, and other regions are not rushing to import immigrants. China and Russia are encouraging their own populations to reproduce, and are actively promoting the furtherance and propagation of their own social and ethnic cultures.

While some regions and nations will fight to preserve some vestiges of organic and natural living, the technologies—and ideological and profit motives—of the Synthetic Devolution will have impacts everywhere.

What Is Driving the Synthetic Devolution?

There are a few major factors driving the push for synthetic “improvements” in every aspect of life:

1. Self-interested players deriving profits by displacing natural or traditional products, processes and experiences with Synthetic ones
2. Entities and persons pushing Synthetic Devolution to accomplish radical ideological goals concerning climate change, Degrowth, political objectives, human regulation and restriction, and / or transhumanism and human depopulation

The core premise behind the Synthetic Devolution is the technocratic idea that science (via the work of scientists in every sphere and specialty) can augment or wholly replace evolved, traditional and natural organisms, environments, products and processes (including social and economic processes and organization) with “expert” science and AI-designed alternatives.

The perversity of this is manifold, and results in distortions and propaganda meant to displace perfectly well-functioning natural and organically evolved products and processes, with synthetic replacements.

Thus we are told that genetically edited foods are superior to organic natural versions.

We are increasingly pressured and presented with the prospect of human genetic editing and gene level medical treatments, as necessary not only to improve our health, but to ensure the safety of others, and even the planet.

We are told that Artificial Intelligence is the future, and that humans must learn to accept, and one day even merge with AI, in order to remain evolutionarily relevant.

Authorities propagandize that our societies are being enriched via massive immigration. This despite abundant evidence that strife, crime, drugs, economic hardship, and erasure of long-practiced political, cultural, social, and religious traditions, have left immigration-flooded Western societies drowning in chaos and economic decline.

Bioengineered Everything

Just a few years ago, most basic food items, and many packaged items did not contain bioengineered ingredients.

But by the end of 2024, it may be nearly impossible to find packaged foods not tainted with bioengineering.

The devolution of food into synthetic “improvement” is proceeding at breathtaking speed, and at the same time almost wholly under the radar of most people’s awareness or caring. (See for example [“GENETIC MODIFICATIONS BEING PREPPED TO ‘SOLVE’ EVERYTHING”](#) 18 Jan 2022 and [“CRISPR GENE EDITING FOR FOOD, UNFORESEEN MUTATIONS INCLUDED”](#) 2 May 2023.)

This is a radical development, and unless people wake up, it will be too late to turn back the tide to natural foods. There won’t be any.

This is by design, in more senses than one.

“Big Agriculture” and “Big Food” are profiting by patenting bioengineered alterations to foods.

And as we detailed in [“SYNTHETIC FOOD, SYNTHETIC SAFETY”](#) (5 Dec 2023), the latest list of allowed bioengineered foods in the U.S. is enabling the proliferation of bioengineered ingredients in thousands of packaged foods.

We also amply detailed the scarcity of any true safety testing of these synthetic foods for human (or even animal) consumption.

Thus, health wise, our food supply is entering a vast synthetic unknown.

Humanity was just here, in a very close analogue, pressured and mandated en masse during the COVID War to take experimental mRNA and DNA level treatments deceptively equated with traditional vaccines.

Those gene-level synthetic technologies proved to be a disaster, sold with lies concerning their efficacy and safety, all while profiting Big Pharma and Big Tech corporations, along with media and politicians so closely tied to that industry.

From Foods To Bioengineered Animals and Humans

Bioengineering doesn't just include our foods. Animal and human bioengineering is on the table as well.

In 2023, the U.S. approved landmark human genetic editing to help people suffering from Sickle Cell Anemia.

Efforts to alleviate genetic conditions of individuals is a laudable goal.

But one danger is that the only path to eradicating genetic maladies for humans not yet born, is to employ Heritable Gene Editing (HGE). HGE involves introducing edits into the human genome that can be passed from parents to children.

This introduces genetically designing the human genomic pool.

How far can it go?

Some genetic advocates have speculated that humans would one day be genetically altered to be more "environmentally friendly."

Influential Genetic Engineering advocates like Bill Gates have been advocating genetically redesigning cows to reduce their climate impacts.

Other radical transhumanists—who include many in the fields of both biology and AI—openly advocate for the “right” of humans to undergo any genetic enhancements they desire. (See, for example, [“SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE”](#) 3 Aug 2021 and [“TRANSHUMANISM: YES THERE’S A PARTY FOR THAT”](#) 31 Jan 2023.)

This would open the door to humans being genetically modified to improve their intelligence, physical strength, life extension, and on and on.

All of this would happen—AI powered or other modeling notwithstanding—with no possible accurate understanding of the consequences.

Transhumanism also would almost certainly create even more marked distinctions and gaps between privileged genetic “haves” and “have nots.”

Governments might mandate “genetic legislation” that limits and restricts the very nature of some humans—their size and weight, their average consumption, their tendency for “antisocial” behavior, etc—while leaving other special classes of humans exempt. (See our forecast in [“ARE HUMANS ALREADY BEING GENETICALLY LEGISLATED?”](#) 8 Jun 2021.)

Similarly, in a page ripped from comics and sci-fi, soldiers will likely be among the first to receive genetic enhancements.

All of this, of course, will not happen in the course of one year. But 2024 will mark a watershed in the expanded use and inculcation of “bioengineered everything.”

AI Everywhere

In 2023, generative AI systems like ChatGPT and Google’s Bard AI burst into public awareness and use.

The Trends Journal had forecast and forewarned readers about AI developments, in many articles before ChatGPT hit the scene in November 2022. (For more, see links at the end of this Trend Forecast.)

Elon Musk recently discovered that his Microsoft Word word processing program was scolding him over his choice of words in a document.

This is something we forecast would happen with AI word processing and other content creation apps, well before it materialized.

In a detailed double Oct 2022 expose, [“YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY—PART ONE”](#) and [“YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY—PART TWO.”](#) we forecast that SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) productivity platforms like Microsoft Office 365 were being positioned to act as censorship and thought control chokepoints.

We detailed how “backend” AI algorithms used to manipulate Google and Bing search engine results, buying suggestions on websites like Amazon and Walmart, and social media posts on Facebook and Twitter (Now X), would be moving to “frontend” apps like word processors.

We forecast how SaaS platforms were forcing users into online creative content creation solutions that could enforce usage restrictions that would monitor and control expression in real-time.

That has largely come to pass, and will only get worse from here on out.

But the Synthetic Intelligence of AI will do far more than mediate our creative expression.

A comprehensive web of Internet-of-Things (IoT) will gather data from every human activity and movement, surveilling us in our homes, our cars, on roadways, online and on the streets.

Authorities will continue to promote “total transparency” (Klaus Schwab’s term) and AI monitoring as necessary to the safety and improvement of our environment, and society.

Our energy use and travel are already being progressively managed and monitored to combat “climate change.”

Our purchases will also be more comprehensively monitored—and in some cases, throttled or completely suspended—via what we have termed an AI powered Central Bank Digital Currency (AICBDC), to “ensure social tranquility and efficiency.”

In short, AI is an authoritarian wet dream: a synthetic intelligence that can be insinuated into every device and facet of existence. It can even be introduced into our brains, via devices like Neuralink that supposed pro-humanist Elon Musk is hellbent on developing.

Musk appears to sincerely believe that the best prospect for a pro-human future is to marshall bleeding edge technology in robotics, AI—and presumably, genetics—to equip and augment us to reach beyond the limits of earth and colonize other planets.

But his quest to design robots that can outperform humans, to develop AI with the needed sophistication to aid humans in interstellar quests, and to develop technologies that augment and even meld humans with our technology, is very problematic for any truly “pro-human” future.

While Musk may fret about existential threats to humans from AI, or other aspects of the Synthetic Devolution, he is at the same time a leading technocrat pushing a transhuman vision and future.

He appears to have a huge blindspot in seeing, or perhaps admitting the connection between his grandest ambitions and his worst fears.

But sensible people should not make Musk’s mistake, or accede to his contradictory vision.

Part of the Synthetic Devolution is the idea that humans are just an evolutionary point along a road toward greater, more powerful, god-like beings who will inevitably be intelligently designed, and not mere evolutionary products of nature.

This is the essence of Scientism, and the Transhuman Synthetic Vision of “progress.”

Synthetic Trends Abound

It's only within the last decade that social phenomena like transgenderism and “body positivity” movements have burst into mainstream awareness and debate. Synthetic experiences and social relationships have also quickly evolved from computer and internet gaming antecedents in the 1990s and 2000s, to that growing virtual doppelganger of reality, the Metaverse.

And AI is busy powering a new “Synthetic History” of revisions of classic literary and other works, to cater to current ideologies and woke political narratives.

All these trends represent impositions of the synthetic.

A whole new medical and education industry has rapidly metastasized around the premise that science can help people who feel “trapped in the wrong body” and “wrong sex” change from being a man to a woman, or woman to man, or from a binary human to an “intersex” creation of their own.

This, of course, is not only (still) scientifically unachievable, but represents a deeply corrosive and deluded rejection of the natural, and of reality itself.

But greed and ideology have led to a horrendous industry dedicated to mutilating and removing perfectly well functioning sex organs of young humans, and surgically creating non-functioning facsimile organs of the opposite sex, via transgender surgeries.

Young people, including pre-pubescents, have also been put on powerful hormone therapies that work against their natural biology, and can create long term serious health problems.

The Biden administration has controversially mandated “transgender” civil rights, allowing the industry to grow. But the American College of Pediatricians is now suing

to stop those mandates, as reported by Zerohedge.com. ([“Thousands Of Doctors Take Legal Action Against Transgender Mandate.”](#) 21 Dec 2023.)

The doctors are arguing that they should not be forced to perform detrimental medical procedures especially harmful to minors, or to go against their own best medical judgment and religious beliefs.

The “Body Positivity” movement is a related example of flouting reality in favor of synthetic perceptions.

Grossly overweight individuals who will suffer long-term health consequences, are being conditioned to perceive themselves, and demand that others perceive their obesity as a “positive” and beautiful life choice.

A recent episode of the world leading Joe Rogan podcast pointed out that the Body Positivity movement appears to be, at least in part, a movement encouraged by the processed food industry.

This industry, already so given to peddling inferior and increasingly synthetic unhealthy food products to the masses, has every reason to try to cast the detrimental effects of their products as a “positive.”

Of course, healthy physical activity and real-world experiences and social interaction have always been necessary to good health.

But virtual existence via the “Metaverse” continues to make inroads as an alternative, synthetic way to experience practically anything.

Meta, formerly Facebook, has staked a lead position in developing a “siloeed” (ie. corporation controlled) version of the metaverse.

This holiday shopping season it introduced a line of [metaverse enabled eyewear](#) in conjunction with Ray-Ban.

The new wearables seek to entice users with a sleek look that resembles ordinary eyewear, instead of bulky headsets like the Oculus system.

The Metaverse is pushed as a way for people to learn, to travel, and to socially interact—all without engaging in the costs or hassles of those experiences.

Elites have hailed how the earth “healed” during the COVID War, as restrictions on travel and consumption supposedly reduced harmful environmental impacts humans have, as they work, interact and live in the physical world.

A huge preponderance of evidence that shows lockdowns and restrictions damaged human physical and mental health, and laid waste to the education of a generation of young people.

Despite that, Meta continues to try to roll out the Metaverse not only for profit by hooking people on the next thing in virtual gaming and virtual experiences, but as a way to combat “climate change” and offer superior educational experiences.

Virtual relationships with AI companions, meanwhile, continues to grow as an industry.

A recent Breitbart article focused on Digi, a 2023 startup specializing in Disney-like AI romantic companions. ([“Company Claims Its Virtual Girlfriends Are the ‘Future of AI Romantic Companionship’,”](#) 22 Dec 2023.)

The article noted that the AI companion phenomenon is contributing to demographic decline at the worst possible time for countries like the U.S., which are already in a demographic death spiral.

One expert, Washington University Professor Liberty Vittert, [summed up](#) the problem:

“America desperately needs people to have more babies, but all the signs are pointing toward fewer relationships, fewer marriages and fewer babies.

“There have been 600,000 fewer births in 2023 in the U.S. relative to 15 years ago. The number of children per woman has decreased by more than 50 percent in the last 60 years.”

The Trends Journal alerted our readers to the AI companion phenomenon well before these recent articles, in [“YOUR AI LOVER DOESN’T CARE ABOUT YOU \(AND THAT’S WHY IT’S SO SEDUCTIVE\)”](#) (10 May 2022).

Corporate controlled metaverses (as opposed to decentralized open crypto-network powered metaverses) are also places where censorship may achieve a scary new power, as we’ve long noted. (See, for example, [“CANCELED IN THE METAVERSE”](#) 16 Nov 2021 and [“METAVERSE: THE NEW COLLECTIVE”](#) 14 Dec 2021.)

The Metaverse also offers a next-level opportunity for authorities to offer powerful synthetic versions of history. Fake, doctored versions of history can be presented as so real they can practically be seen and touched.

The persuasiveness of the experience can sell their “truth.” And the relatively unengaging words in old printed texts will not offer much resistance to a generation living in a synthetic “reality,” and learning a continually revised “synthetic history.”

Of course, as we have forecast, many publishing houses are already experimenting with introducing AI-powered revisions of classic works. The revised books, often decimated via reader app ecosystems like Amazon’s Kindle or the Apple store, expunge now verboten words and thoughts, and rewrite passages to make them compliant with current ideologies and objectives.

Some have reported that ebooks they purchased have undergone insidious stealth revisions.

The Synthetic Devolution is a Movement and Menace Now Pervading Society

All these facets and aspects of Synthetic Devolution are increasingly manifesting themselves more openly.

In the coming year, people are bound to be confronted more consciously with various instances and aspects of the “synthetic sell.”

For all the reasons we outlined here and have been tracking for years, we can confidently forecast that 2024 will be a breakout year for “The Synthetic Devolution.”

TREND FORECAST: *Our tracking of a systemic Synthetic Devolution especially targeting the young was well outlined in our April 2022 article [“The New Lost Generation.”](#) where we wrote:*

Why are we so intent on deforming and destroying our world and our progeny with synthetic wars, synthetic experiences, synthetic substances and synthetic alterations to life itself?

There are no simple answers. One might say that it’s a plot of some cabal or other. And it’s certainly true that those cabals exist.

*Many prescient warriors have named them and fought their designs. I’m honored to say that Gerald Celente, the publisher of the **Trends Journal** and a friend, has been one such warrior for Peace.*

But maybe it’s time for every person to examine where the destructive impulse begins: in the heart of every human.

Because if we don’t get at the root of the problem, and soon, this world won’t continue to exist for ourselves, or our children, in any condition appreciably different from Hell.

The Trends Journal has long been forecasting and tracking wide-ranging trends pointing to an overall “Synthetic Devolution.” Some touchstone articles on these trends include:

- [“SPACE CHIEF’S’ VISION OF FUTURE WARS”](#) (4 May 2021)
- [“THE ‘PROGRESS’ OF LEAVING HUMANS BEHIND”](#) (1 Jun 2021)

- [“ARE HUMANS ALREADY BEING GENETICALLY LEGISLATED?”](#) (8 Jun 2021)
- [“CRISPR CREATOR SAYS GENE EDITING JUST GETTING STARTED”](#) (22 Jun 2021)
- [“SINGULARITY UNIVERSITY: FUELING AI ASCENDANCE”](#) (3 Aug 2021)
- [“CANCELED IN THE METAVERSE”](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- [“METAVERSE: THE NEW COLLECTIVE”](#) (14 Dec 2021)
- [“GENETIC MODIFICATIONS BEING PREPPED TO ‘SOLVE’ EVERYTHING”](#) (18 Jan 2022)
- [“MICROSOFT ANNOUNCES GLOBAL AI ‘SINGULARITY’”](#) (1 Mar 2022)
- [“SYNBIO AND BIO PHARMA: YES, THERE’S HUGE UPSIDE”](#) (15 Mar 2022)
- [“THE TRANSHUMAN WAR HAS ALREADY BEGUN”](#) (29 Mar 2022)
- [“SELLING THE SYNTHETIC UNREAL”](#) (12 Apr 2022)
- [“THE NEW LOST GENERATION”](#) (26 Apr 2022)
- [“YOUR AI LOVER DOESN’T CARE ABOUT YOU \(AND THAT’S WHY IT’S SO SEDUCTIVE\)”](#) (10 May 2022)
- [“YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY –PART ONE.”](#) (18 Oct 2022)
- [“YOU WILL OWN NO SOFTWARE AND BE HAPPY –PART TWO”](#) (1 Nov 2022)
- [“AI IS LEARNING YOUR JOB”](#) (24 May 2022)
- [“THE AI LEGISLATOR YOU DIDN’T VOTE FOR”](#) (23 Aug 2022)
- [“SYNBIO SET TO EXPLODE WITH LUCRATIVE INNOVATIONS, SAY INDUSTRY WATCHERS”](#) (4 Oct 2022)
- [“U.K. MAY LEGALIZE HERITABLE GENE EDITING BY 2023”](#) (15 Nov 2022)
- [“TRANSHUMANISM: YES THERE’S A PARTY FOR THAT”](#) (31 Jan 2023)
- [“WOKE CENSORS FIND THE GOLDEN TICKET”](#) (21 Feb 2023)
- [“ROALD DAHL GETS A REPRIEVE –NOW WILL AI WRITING APPS STOP CENSORING CURRENT WRITERS?”](#) (28 Feb 2023)
- [“READY FOR AN AI COPILOT?”](#) (21 Mar 2023)
- [“AI, THE PERFECT AGENT TO REWRITE HUMAN HISTORY”](#) (4 Apr 2023)
- [“CRISPR GENE EDITING FOR FOOD, UNFORESEEN MUTATIONS INCLUDED”](#) (2 May 2023)
- [“PROGRAMMABLE CITIZENS: THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL LIFE AND SYNTHETIC ASCENDANCE”](#) (5 Jul 2023)
- [“READY FOR A CRADLE TO GRAVE ‘AI COPILOT’?”](#) (7 Nov 2023)
- [“THE LATEST IN THE WAR FOR NATURAL HUMANITY”](#) (14 Nov 2023)
- [“SYNTHETIC FOOD, SYNTHETIC SAFETY”](#) (5 Dec 2023)

- [“SYN CENTURY: HOW SCIENTISM MEDIATES EVERY ASPECT OF MODERN EXPERIENCE”](#) (5 Dec 2023)



#9 CRUSADES 2000

Sadly, welcome to Crusades 2000, a Top Trend of 2024 that world renowned trend forecaster, Gerald Celente had forecast in his 1997 book, *TRENDS 2000* would rattle the world in the 21st century.

In his bestselling book he wrote, “The formal battle lines for the new Crusade had been drawn when Israel was created in 1948. But Israel, however complex politically and militarily, was no more than the latest episode in a conflict going back more than a thousand years.”

Totally absent from the mainstream media news is how and why the West’s decision to create the Jewish State of Israel sowed the seeds of Crusades 2000.

In our Spring 2006 issue of **The Trends Journal**, when it was a quarterly, we wrote:

While the seeds of Crusades 2000 had been planted in full view of the world, and all those watching could have anticipated the eventual harvest, the memories of what had happened and what would occur have been fogged by rigid ideology, fanatical religiosity, patriotic fervor, government propaganda and ulterior motives.

Regardless of England's reasons or intentions – self-serving or otherwise – Crusades 2000 was set in motion by the 1917 “Balfour Declaration,” that laid the foundation for Israel: “His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object”

Right or wrong, good or bad, like it or not ... during the 25 years of the Palestine Mandate, from 1922 to 1947, large-scale immigration of impoverished and persecuted Jewish refugees – from Germany to Russia – returned to redeem their Promised Land after 2000 years of exile. Consequently, the Jewish population of Palestine increased from less than 10 percent in 1917 to over 30 percent in 1947, the year Israel was granted statehood by the UN.

The local inhabitants, who worshiped God differently and rejected the “God promised us this land” version of the Jewish returnees, waged numerous battles and rebellions in an effort to hold onto their property and to stop further Jewish immigration.

Underlying it, in the Western world, there is and was a deep-seated, organic anti-Islam bias.

It is now front and center for all who are not deaf, dumb and blind to hear, understand and see.

Israel is continuing its bombardment and massacre in Gaza, and its war of genocide has been framed in the Western media as a fight of good vs. evil.

Bloomberg ran an article just weeks after the 7 October Hamas invasion noting that there is a “significant section of evangelicals” who are part of the U.S. Republican

Party that says bloodshed in Israel “will pave the way for the second coming of Christ.”

Shakeb Ayaz, a writer based in New Delhi, India, wrote in *The Times of India* last month that these individuals see the heavy-handed Israeli response to the attack as “prophetically legitimized.”

“The inhabitants of the Holy City and surrounding areas were apparently always children of lesser gods, even more than a thousand years ago. Since then, Christians, Muslims, and Jews have been fighting savage battles to control Jerusalem, arguably the world’s most contested city, and surrounding geographies, sacred to all three Abrahmanic faiths,” he wrote. Ayaz continued, “On July 15, 1099, crusaders or religious war mongers from across Europe entered Jerusalem and indulged in a massacre of thousands, including Jews, Muslims, and Orthodox Christians. When western weapons are now used to ethically cleanse a civilian population in Gaza, history is only being repeated.”

Wipe Out

Affirming that it is Crusades 2000, a religious war, on 10 October of last year, 2 days after Israel launched its attack on Gaza, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham called the Israel War a “religious war”, encouraging Tel Aviv to wipe out the Palestinians.

“I am appalled by anyone who blames Israel for the current situation in the Middle East,” he wrote on X. “We’re in a religious war and I unapologetically Stand with Israel,” and for Israel to “Do whatever you need to do to defend yourself. Level the place.”

We’ve reported extensively on how the U.S. House of Representatives is headed by Speaker Mike Johnson, who told Congress his first act of speaker would be to assure funding for Israel’s war effort in Gaza. He made his first appearance in front of Jewish Republicans and said, “God is not done with Israel.”

The New Republic said Johnson seems to be the “run-of-the-mill Christian Zionists, fueled by fantasies of a cataclysmic war in the Middle East that brings about the

Second Coming of Christ, wherein all Muslims—and Jews, for that matter—either convert or face eternal damnation.”

Johnson, who holds ties to Israel’s far-right and was given a tour of Israel in 2020 by a “top settler,” told the crowd that Israel needs to press on because if it stops, it will cease to exist. (See [“EXTREMIST RHETORIC IN ISRAEL BECOMES THE NORM”](#) 21 Nov 2023, [“TOP UN OFFICIAL STEPS DOWN AFTER CALLING ISRAEL’S ACTIONS IN GAZA A ‘TEXTBOOK CASE OF GENOCIDE’”](#) 7 Nov 2023, [“HAARETZ NOTES THAT NEARLY HALF OF THOSE KILLED DURING HAMAS ATTACK WERE ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES”](#) 31 Oct 2023, [“U.S. CALLED OUT BY DEVELOPING WORLD FOR BLATANT HYPOCRISY OVER ISRAEL AND RUSSIA”](#) 31 Oct 2023, and [“SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON IS ISRAEL’S FAR-RIGHT’S MAN”](#) 31 Oct 2023.)

“Israel will cease their counteroffensive when Hamas ceases to be a threat to the Jewish state,” he said.

“I agree with our friend, Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu who said this is a battle between good versus evil, between light versus darkness, between civilization and barbarism. And we want to make absolutely clear where America stands in that fight, and we’ll continue to do that.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said clearly that Palestinians are not human beings, but rather human animals.

“They’re subhuman and that’s how they should be treated,” he said. “Eradicate the memory of Amalek, and never forget.”

Netanyahu has called the current war in Gaza a holy war and said during a recent press conference that Israelis would do well to remember “what Amalek has done to you.”

The New York Times, citing scholars, reported that the comment was meant as a call to exterminate their “men and women, children, and infants.”

Anti-Islam

On 31 December 2023, Al Jazeera reported that “Brazil is one of many countries facing increased fears about religious discrimination, particularly towards its Muslim community.”

“A survey released last month from the Anthropology Group on Islamic and Arab Contexts—an organization based at the University of São Paulo—found that reports of harassment among Muslim Brazilians have been widespread since the war began.

“An estimated 70 percent of respondents said they knew someone who experienced religious intolerance since October 7, when the Palestinian group Hamas launched an attack on southern Israel, killing 1,140 people.”

TRENDPOST: *In 1996, Gerald Celente penned in his bestselling book, “Trends 2000,” his trend forecast that at the dawn of a new millennium a “Crusades 2000” will rage across the Middle East. [\(See Video.\)](#)*

“Throughout the Muslim world devout masses, politically repressed and impoverished, were rising up against their endemically corrupt and inefficient secular governments with their pro-western alliances. Imperialism, directly or indirectly, took the blame for the poverty, the lack of opportunity, and the social and moral decay, which prompted Muslims in the region to look to ‘charismatic clerics’ to change their destiny.”

*Celente also wrote in **The Trends Journal** in 2006: “swords are drawn, blood has been shed, Crusades 2000, the latest round in the 1,000-year battle between the West and Middle East for Holy Lands, trade routes, local riches, and religiosity is now being fiercely fought. But the media hasn’t named it and politicians insist upon calling it something else. And everyone forgets about the seeds of how the Crusades were born.”*

Mark Damen, a history professor at Utah State University, summarized the Crusades that broke out during the High Middle Ages, between 1050 and 1300 CE.

He said the Crusades were “launched from Christian Europe against the peoples of the Near East. Sparked by a zeal to rid the Holy Lands of ‘infidels’—meaning Moslems primarily—only the First Crusade achieved any real or lasting success.”



#10 MIGRANT MADNESS, MAD AS HELL

As a result of the military wars and economic chaos, much of Europe and North America are being swarmed with masses of migrants at levels far beyond what existed before.

The migrant crisis that **The Trends Journal** has long documented, will continue to put pressure on establishment political parties and will rapidly escalate the rise of populist parties.

In some 64 countries, which account for half of the world's population, this year, more voters than ever before in history will be heading to the polls in national elections... and anti-immigration will be a major topic.

On the European front, massive floods of migrants will swell as a result of intensifying wars and increasing economic decline. European countries were once able to sustain an influx of migrants because of relative economic strength, but with the EU teetering

on recession, that has eroded. The average European who is struggling to pay bills feels abandoned by the political elite and sees migrants as just another unsustainable burden.

Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Ethiopia ... some 16 African countries are facing military conflict and tens of millions are displaced and doing all they can to flee for safety.

According to ReliefWeb, over 40.4 million Africans have been forcibly displaced (internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers).

The Ukraine War, going on for nearly two years, has caused over 6 million Ukrainians to flee their nation. The UN reports that as a result of the war, over 5 million are internally displaced. The Azerbaijani offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh, has also pushed asylum seekers into European nations.

Frontex, the EU border agency, said there were more undocumented arrivals in the EU than in any year since 2015, which was a record year because of America's and its allies' Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen wars.

The UN has projected that there will be 130.8 million "forcibly displaced and stateless people" in 2024. About 48 percent of those will be considered internally displaced, while 25 percent will be refugees, mainly from Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, and North Africa.

There has been a wave of populist victories across Europe, none more notable than Geert Wilders' recent win in the Netherlands. (See ["SPOTLIGHT: MIGRANT MELTDOWN. CRISIS GIVES RISE TO POPULIST MOVEMENT IN EU"](#) 10 Oct 2023, ["UKRAINIAN REFUGEES FLOODING EUROPE: POPULIST PARTY SURGE NEXT"](#) 6 Dec 2023, ["82 PERCENT OF GERMANS DISAPPROVE OF GOVERNMENT"](#) 12 Dec 2023, and ["SURGING LEVELS OF MIGRATION IN THE EU GIVES NEW ENERGY TO ANTI-IMMIGRATION PARTIES, LIKE WE HAD LONG FORECAST"](#) 5 Dec 2023.)

Political parties throughout Europe understand the voting risk that comes with unchecked immigration. Late last month, the EU member states and the European

Parliament announced a “breakthrough” deal they said would reduce the number of migrants to the bloc. DW noted that the reforms include faster vetting of irregular arrivals, more border detention centers, and a quicker system for deportation. The resolution also calls on more countries to share in the burden because southern European nations have been most impacted.

Germany is seen as a country that has been impacted by migrants and the population has had enough. Berlin has experienced a dramatic shift vis-à-vis immigration as anti-immigration political parties gain more support, namely the Alternative for Germany Party, or AfD.

A new poll released last month found Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s Social Democrats would only receive 14 percent of a vote if the elections were held “now.” AfD polled its highest ever at 21 percent. AfD also won its first mayoral election in a city in December—just a day after the party was officially labeled “extremist” in Saxony’s intelligence service.

Germany was once known as Europe’s welcome mat for refugees, but times have changed and these countries are being overrun by migrants.

Reuters noted that Germany was known for its open-door policy in 2015, but the “mood has soured” and today parties “across the political spectrum are rushing to outbid one another on ways to curb irregular migration—ranging from cutting benefits to capping the number of people granted asylum.”

TREND FORECAST: Bloomberg noted in an article last week that AfD now ranks second among the country’s six main parties and has 20 percent support across the country. Alice Weidel, 45, a former Goldman Sachs banker, will likely be named the party’s first candidate for chancellor in 2025.

Her ambitions would include creating a common currency in Germany and ending free movement in Europe.

“Weidel’s path to prominence has been cleared by the likes of Italy’s Giorgia Meloni, the Netherlands’ Geert Wilders, and France’s Marine Le Pen who, tapping into

grievances about economic security, have polished a once-taboo style of identitarian politics to take it mainstream,” Bloomberg wrote.

In late December, with the assistance of far-right political parties, France passed a tough immigration law that allows faster deportations.

As Courthouse News Service wrote:

“Across Europe, mainstream parties are adopting a tougher approach on migrants in response to a surge in support for far-right forces advocating anti-immigrant policies. Polls suggest far-right parties will do very well in European Parliament elections next June as more voters express unease over immigration.

“Late Tuesday, France's National Assembly passed an immigration bill that was hailed by Marine Le Pen, the far-right leader of National Rally, as a ‘great ideological victory.’

“Under the law, it will be harder for the children of immigrants to obtain French citizenship, migrants will have to wait much longer before they can access certain welfare benefits, migration quotas will be implemented and illegal immigrants will be expelled more easily.

“Hours later, news came out of Brussels that a pact on dealing with asylum claims and migrants had been struck at the EU level early Wednesday morning.

“The EU agreement sanctions the setting up of border detention centers, speeding up the processing of asylum claims and making deportations easier.

“The deal also envisions distributing asylum seekers across the bloc to ease the burden of countries like Italy and Greece that are on the edge of the EU's borders and struggle with high levels of migrants.

“The approval of the pact is a great success for Europe and for Italy, which will now be able to count on new rules to manage migratory flows and fight human

traffickers,' said Matteo Piantedosi, the interior minister for Italy's far-right government."

COVID War

Beyond the military war, as a result of the devastation caused by the COVID War launched by politicians across the globe in 2020, the lives and livelihoods of billions have been destroyed. From south of North America's borders, there is an unprecedented flood of refugees seeking safe-haven nations to escape poverty, government corruption, crime and violence. This, in turn, will dramatically escalate anti-immigration anti-establishment populist movements in the U.S. and Canada...as it already has in Europe.

TREND FORECAST: *With cities large and small across North America being flooded with migrants, anti-immigration will be a major political issue for voters in upcoming elections.*

In Canada, an Abacus Data poll found that 67 percent of respondents said immigration levels were either way too high or too high.

In the U.S., as the New York Times reported on 16 December 2023:

"The southern border is a political vulnerability for Mr. Biden, who has been unable to contain a record number of migrants heading north to escape gang violence, poverty and natural disasters. Republican-led states have shipped busloads of migrants to liberal bastions like Washington and New York to protest what they characterize as Mr. Biden's failed policies.

"As border crossings surge, the political center of gravity on the issue has moved sharply to the right."

Therefore, again, as we had long forecast, not only will immigration be a major campaign issue, it also opens the door for new populist parties to be formed in the U.S. and Canada. Why—because as the polls prove—citizens are mad as hell and they won't take it anymore.