

World News

On January 6, during a pro-Trump protest, the US Capitol building was seized [1]. The last time something similar occurred was in 1954. At that time, four Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in the House of Representatives wounding five lawmakers in the attack [2]. In response, the Democratic controlled House of Representatives impeached President Trump for a second time [3]. Storming of property, looting, destruction, and the like should not be condoned under any circumstance.

Compare this with the riots six months prior. In late May, 2020, there were BLM riots directed against the White House with barricades knocked down and altercations with police [4]. The press reported President Trump was kept in the White House bunker as the riots raged [5]. The press downplayed these riots. For example, one article starts: "Largely peaceful protesters near the White House." [6]. Indeed, Speaker Pelosi Criticized President Trump for using the National Guard to protect the White House [7]. Moreover, the rioters were rewarded by the mayor of D.C. with the renaming of Black Lives Matter Plaza to include large yellow letters, all within proximity of the White House [8]. Now, as a consequence of the Capitol Building seize, there will now be over 20,000 troops guarding the inauguration [9]. The question here is did the encouragement afforded the BLM riots set the stage for the January 6 Capitol siege?

The big tech companies, Google, Amazon, and Apple, all banded together to ban the social media application Parlor because they did not agree with the content exchanges [10]. As a consequence, we can expect that there will be efforts to break up these monopolies much like the AT&T breakup back in 1984 [11]. The market Cap for each of the three tech giants (AAPL, GOOG, and AMZN) exceed one Trillion dollars. In all likelihood, at some point in the future, the actions of the tech monopolies stifling their competition will have future consequences.

Finally, some are now questioning China's purpose in rapidly expanding its nuclear forces [12]. This comes as China expands a naval base in the South China Sea [13].

(Continued on page 2)

Wuhan Coronavirus

In China, a citizen journalist who reported on crowded hospitals in Wuhan was sentenced to four years imprisonment for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" [1]. What's more, China is clamping down on those trying to uncover the source of the Coronavirus [2]. However, the World Health Organization will start a probe in Wuhan to try and determine the source of the virus [3]. Perhaps this is the rea-

son China has eliminated over 300 papers describing their bat virus research [4]. That papers on research into coronaviruses would be scrubbed suggests China has something they do not want exposed. Moreover, the Department of State claims to have evidence of a flu like outbreak at the Wuhan Institute of Virology prior to the general outbreak [5].

In another curiosity, China is vaccinating people under

the age of 59, leaving seniors unprotected [6]. However, a COVID-19 vaccine developed by China's Sino-vac was found to be only 50.4% effective in Brazilian clinical trials [7]. This comes as one report indicates ice cream exported from China was found to be contaminated with the coronavirus [8].

Elsewhere, the Coronavirus continues to exact a toll. For instance, in Japan, a

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

Special points of interest:

- Capitol Occupied During Pro-Trump Protest
- Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P 500 close at new record highs
- Big Tech Monopolies Shut Down Social Media App Parlor

Wuhan Coronavirus

(Continued from page 1)

state of emergency was declared for the capital because of increases in COVID-19 [9].

1. DeMarche, Edmund, Fox News, *Citizen journalist in China who reported on COVID-19 sentenced to 4 years*, December 28, 2020.
2. Kang, Dake, et. al., AP, *China clamps down in hidden hunt for coronavirus origins*, December 30, 2020.
3. AP/Fox News, *WHO experts to arrive in China for virus origins probe*, January 11, 2021.

4. Bucks, Jonathan, Daily Mail, *New cover-up fears as Chinese officials delete critical data about the Wuhan lab with details of 300 studies vanishing - including all those carried out by virologist dubbed Batwoman*, January 11, 2021.
5. U.S. Department of State, *Fact Sheet: Activity at the Wuhan Institute of Virology*, January 15, 2021.
6. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Times*, *China excludes elderly from vaccine rollout*, January 4, 2021.
7. Smith-Schoenwalde, Cecilia, *U.S. News*, *China*

- Coronavirus Vaccine Only 50% Effective, Researchers Say*, January 14, 2021
8. Rambaran, Vandana, *Fox News*, *Ice cream from China contaminated with coronavirus: report*, January 16, 2021
 9. Regan, Helen, and Ogura, Junko, *CNN*, *Japan's Suga declares state of emergency for Tokyo as Covid-19 cases reach highest levels*, January 7, 2021

Fraud really thrives in moments of great social change and transition.

We're in the midst of a technological revolution. That gives con artists huge opportunities. People lose their frame of reference for what can and can't be real.

—Maria Konnikova

(Continued from page 1)

1. Aspegren, Elinor, and Hjelmgard, Kim, *USA Today*, *'A direct attack on democracy': World leaders react with shock, sadness after Trump supporters riot at US Capitol*, January 7, 2021.
2. Genzlinger, V, *New York Times*, *Rafael Cancel Miranda, Gunman in '54 Attack on Congress, Dies at 89*, March 3, 2020 ,
3. Reuters, *Factbox: Ten Republicans back Trump impeachment after storming of U.S. Capitol*, January 13, 2021
4. Pitofsky, Marina, *The Hill*, *Protesters knock down White House security barricades as tensions mount over Floyd's death*, May 30, 2020.
5. Lemire, Jonathan, and Miller, Zeke, *AP*, *Trump took shelter in White House*

- bunker as protests raged*, May 31, 2020.
6. *US News/Reuters*, *Tear Gas Fired on Protesters Near White House as Trump Speaks*, June 1, 2020.
 7. *NPR*, *Nancy Pelosi Discusses The Government's Response To The Protests Around The U.S.*, June 2, 2020
 8. Wu, Nicholas, *USA Today*, *'Black Lives Matter' painted in 50-foot yellow letters near White House to honor George Floyd protesters*, June 5, 2020.
 9. Zaiets, Karina, et. al., *USA Today*, *Over 20,000 National Guard troops to provide security against inauguration threats in Washington*, January 15, 2021.
 10. Shalvey, Kevin, *Business Insider*, *Parler's CEO John Matze responded angrily*

- after Jack Dorsey endorsed Apple's removal of the social network favored by conservatives*, January 10, 2021.
11. Naylor, Brian, *NPR*, *Could The Old AT&T Break-Up Offer Lessons For Big Tech Today?*, June 26, 2019.
 12. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Times*, *U.S. officials press China over growing nuclear arsenal*, January 4, 2021.
 13. Jennings, Ralph, *VOA*, *Expansion of Naval Base Seen Giving China More Power in Disputed Asian Sea*, January 15, 2021.

Terrorism

Breitbart, *Cameroon: Boko Haram Female Suicide Bomber Kills 13 in Jihadist Attack*, January 13, 2021.

What began as terrorist attacks in Yemen has escalated into a regional conflict. Case in point, at least 22 people were killed at the Aden airport after a plane landed with members of the newly formed Government [1].

In Pakistan, the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for killing 11 miners [2]. In Cameroon, a female Boko Haram suicide bomber killed at least 13 people in the predominantly Christian village of Mozogo located in the Far North Region [3].

1. Mukhashaf, Mohammed, Reuters, *Twenty-two killed in attack on Aden airport after new Yemen cabinet lands*, December 30, 2020.
2. NBC/Reuters, *Islamic State claims responsibility for attack that killed 11 in Pakistan*, January 3, 2021.
3. Williams, Thomas D.,

The interval between the decay of the old and the formation and establishment of the new constitutes a period of transition which must always necessarily be one of uncertainty, confusion, error, and wild and fierce fanaticism.—John C. Calhoun

Economy

The economy as measured by unemployment claims remained dismal. For the week ending December 26, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Department of Labor was 787,000 [1]. For the week ending January 2, the number reported was 787,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending January 9, the number reported was 965,000 [3].

On January 6, while rioters seized the Capitol Building, the Dow Jones Industrial Average still closed at a new record high [3]. On January 7, the Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P 500 indexes closed at record highs [4]. The three indexes continued record closes on January 8 [5].

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has helped China's international trade. Overall, China is winning the trade war with a \$535 billion sur-

plus for 2020 (up 27% from 2019) [6]. What's more, for December, pandemic medical products increased exports by 18.1% [7].

1. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, December 31, 2020.
2. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 7, 2021.
3. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 14, 2020.
4. DeCambre, Mark, MarketWatch, *Dow to add to record climb as Biden's election win confirmed after Capitol chaos*, January 7, 2021.
5. Imbert, Fred, and Fitzgerald, Maggie, CNBC, *Stocks rally to record highs, Nasdaq closes above 13,000* for the first time, January 7, 2021.
6. DeCambre, Mark, MarketWatch, *U.S. stocks close at all-time highs after Biden promise of more aid offsets worst jobs report since April*, January 8, 2021.
7. He, Laura, CNN Business, *China is winning the trade war and its exports have never been higher*, January 14, 2021.
8. Hale, Thomas, Financial Times, *China trade surplus breaks record monthly level*, January 14, 2021.

*History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.—
Martin Luther King, Jr.*
