

### Afghanistan

On July 2, 2021, the US abandoned the Bagram Air Base [1]. By August 15, the Taliban had captured the Air Base, including a base prison that held 5,000 prisoners [2]. Shortly thereafter, the Taliban released all prisoners, including terrorists [3]. As the US was evacuating Kabul, a suicide bomber killed at least 13 American servicemen [4]. We have since learned, the suicide bomber was one of the prisoners freed from the Bagram Air Base prison days earlier [5]. President Biden claims the military is responsible for abandoning Bagram Air Base, the military leaders claim the President gave them little choice [6].

First, there was a report of an explosion of a mosque in central Kabul that killed a number of people [7]. Separately, a suicide bomber killed at least 50 people at the Said Abad mosque, used by the minority Shia Muslim community [8]. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack [9]. Then on October 15, another bombing of a Shiite mosque in southern Afghanistan killed at least 7 people [10]. Once again, ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack that at last count left 47 dead [11]. In another sign of continued terrorism, the Taliban publicly displayed three bodies of alleged criminals in the Obe district in northeast Herat [12].

On the other side, there is good news for the Taliban as they solidify their victory. The US has agreed to provide Afghanistan with humanitarian aid [13]. This comes after the Taliban rejected US support in its war against ISIS [14].

1. Reuters, *Era ends, uncertainty looms as U.S. forces quit main Afghanistan base*, July 2, 2021.
2. Economic Times/AP, *Afghan forces surrender Bagram air base to Taliban*, August 15, 2021.
3. Walsh, Nick Paton, and Sidhu, Sandi, CNN, *Bagram: Al Qaeda and*

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### World News

On October 2, the attack submarine USS Connecticut, suffered an underwater collision with an unknown object, while it was operating in the South China Sea [1]. It has yet to be disclosed what the sub impacted.

Meanwhile, China continued its bullying of Taiwan. For instance, over a two-day period, the communist giant sent over 80 aircraft into Taiwan's air defense zone [2]. China also claims it conducted military beach landings across from Taiwan [3]. In contrast, Tai-

wan's President Tsai Ing-wen has stated that her government would not bow to pressure from Beijing [4]. Concurrently, China continues to prepare for war with Taiwan. For instance, satellite imagery indicates China is upgrading its air bases closest to Taiwan [5]. Elsewhere, Islamic terrorism is taking its toll in the West. In Norway, a 37-year-old Danish convert to Islam, killed at least 5 people with a bow and arrow [6]. On October 15, conservative British member of Parliament, David Amess, died

after being stabbed multiple times during a terrorist attack [7]. UK police are investigating the attacker's motivation as linked to Islamist extremism [8].

1. Chamberlain, Samuel, New York Post, *Sailors hurt after Navy submarine collides with object in South China Sea*, October 8, 2021.
2. Tomlinson, Lucas Y., and Shaw, Adam, Fox News, *China sends more aircraft toward Taiwan, one day after largest ever*

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#### Special points of interest:

- US reaches 700,000 COVID-19 Deaths
- Labor Force Participation Rate fell to 61.6%

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We the people are the  
rightful masters of both  
Congress and the courts,  
not to overthrow the  
Constitution but to  
overthrow the men who  
pervert the Constitution.—  
Abraham Lincoln

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- incursion, October 2, 2021.
3. CNN/Reuters, *China says it held beach landing drills in province opposite Taiwan*, October 11, 2021.
4. Uria, Daniel, UPI, *Taiwan will not 'bow to pressure' from China after 'reunification' calls*, October 10, 2021.
5. Chan, Minnie, South

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- Taliban members among thousands of prisoners left under Afghan control in jail next to deserted US air base*, July 6, 2021.
4. Crane, Emily, and Lapin, Tamar, New York Post, *At least 13 US service members killed, 18 injured in ISIS blasts outside Kabul airport*, August 26, 2021.
5. Singman, Brooke, and Griffin, Jennifer, Fox News, *ISIS-K suicide bomber was prisoner released from Bagram Air Base, sources say*, October 6, 2021.
6. The Editorial Board, Wall Street Journal, *Who Abandoned Bagram Air Base?*, August 27, 2021.
7. Ward, Clarissa, et. al., CNN, *Blast targeting Kabul mosque leaves 'a number of civilians dead,' Taliban say*, October 3, 2021.
8. BBC News, *Afghanistan: Deadly attack hits Kunduz mosque during Friday prayers*, October 8, 2021.
9. Reuters, *Islamic State claims responsibility for*

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- China Morning Post, *Upgrades for Chinese military airbases facing Taiwan hint at war plans*, October 15, 2021.
6. Deutsche Welle, Norway: *Authorities say bow and arrow attack appears to be act of terror*, October 14, 2021.
7. Lenthang, Marlene, ABC News, *UK MP David Amess dies after being stabbed multiple times in*

*terrorist attack*, October 15, 2021.

8. Kearney, Jo, and Lawless, Jill, AP, *Authorities call fatal stabbing of UK lawmaker terrorist act*, October 16, 2021.

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*mosque attack in northeastern Afghanistan*, October 8, 2021.

10. Fox News/AP, *Explosion in Shiite mosque in Afghanistan kills at least 7*, October 15, 2021.
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12. Garger, Kenneth, Fox News, *Taliban hang bodies of dead 'criminals' in gruesome public display*, October 5, 2021.
13. Gannon, Kathy, AP, *Taliban says US will provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan*, October 10, 2021.
14. Landen, Xander, Newsweek, *Taliban Rule Out Cooperation With U.S. to Contain Islamic State*, October 10, 2021.

## COVID-19

The number of COVID-19 deaths in the US surpassed 700,000 [1]. With so many people previously infected and the number of those vaccinated; why are we not in herd immunity? Whereas there may be many reasons, we explore the role of illegal immigrants.

In early March, the infection rate amongst illegal immigrants was under 6% [2]. In contrast, now the head of the Department of Homeland Security Secretary (DHS), Alejandro Mayorkas, estimates 20% of illegal aliens now arrive sick [3]. Another report indicates 18% (20% for unaccompanied minors) of those released from Border Patrol custody tested positive for COVID-19 [4].

Another report indicates that hundreds of children contracted COVID in the overcrowded at the Department Health and Human Services (HHS) migrant shelter in Fort Bliss, Texas [5]. Meanwhile, in Del Rio, Texas, there were reports the Haitian migrants were given a ticket and released into the community [6]. The DHS Secretary estimates 12,000 of the Del Rio migrants were released into the US [7]. Indications are these immigrants were not tested for COVID-19 before being released into the US [8]. So, if we use the 20% estimate for infections, that works out to be 2,400 COVID infected people were released into the US. Another report indicates since March at least 160,000 illegal aliens were released into the US with little oversight [9].

So, the next question is where are these migrants now? One piece indicates the local Governments are not told where and when migrants are released [10]. Interesting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web page has extensive guidance on contact tracing. So one of the established disease controls is bypassed by the open border policies now in place. In contrast, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, claims immigrants are not driving the spread of COVID-19 in the US [11].

Meanwhile, China continues to obstruct any meaningful investigation of the virus origin. Case in point, China denied World Health Organization (WHO) access to bat caves and wildlife farming areas [12].

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4. Ainsley, Julia, NBC News, *18 percent of migrant families leaving Border Patrol custody tested positive for Covid, document says*, August 7, 2021.
5. Ainsley, Julia, NBC News, *Whistleblowers say they were told to downplay Covid outbreak among migrant kids at shelter*, July 28, 2021.
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8. Shaw, Adam, Fox News, *Mayorkas says Haitian migrants under Del Rio bridge were not tested for COVID-19*, September 25, 2021.
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10. Gingrich, Newt, Washington Times, *Where are the illegal immigrants going?*, August 9, 2021.
11. Vlamis, Kelsey, Fox News, *Fauci said people blaming immigrants for the spread of COVID-19 in the US need to 'face reality'*, October 3, 2021.
12. Crane, Emily, New York Post, *China denies WHO access to bat caves in search for COVID origins*, October 11, 2021.

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*The only difference  
between death and taxes is  
that death doesn't get  
worse every time Congress  
meets.—Will Rogers*

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## Economy

The good news is the unemployment rate for September fell to 4.8% [1]. The bad news is the labor force participation rate fell to 61.6% [2]. That is, of the total population of potential workers, only 61.6% are looking for work. So, of the 61.6% looking for work, only 4.8% were unemployed. Conversely, we could say that for September, 43.2% of eligible workers were not working.

Another area of concern is the massive debt the US Government continues to build. The US Senate approved raising the debt ceiling through early December [3]. This is coupled with a rapid increase in inflation. Case in point, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security benefit receipts will increase by 5.9 percent; the highest in 40 years [4].

For the week ending September 25, the number of first-time unemployment claims reported by the Department of Labor was 362,000 [5]. For the week ending October 2, the number reported was 326,000 [6]. Finally, for the week ending October 9, the number reported was 293,000 [7].

All is not well in China. One of the largest developers, Ever-

grande, is missing bond payments [8]. Then Chinese developer Sinic Holdings was at risk of missing bond payments [9].

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2. Wiseman, Paul, AP, *Explainer: 5 key takeaways from the September jobs report*, October 8, 2021.
3. Zanova, Melanie, et. al., CNN, *McConnell's shift on debt ceiling fight puts GOP in a bind*, October 7, 2021.
4. Patteson, Callie, New York Post, *Social Security issues biggest benefit bump in 40 years, hikes taxable base to pay for it*, October 13, 2021.
5. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, September 30, 2021.
6. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, October 7, 2021.
7. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, October 14, 2021.
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*The problem... is that most members of Congress don't pay attention to what's going on.—John McCain*

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