

Climate Change

This year, the United Nations climate change conference (a.k.a. COP21) concluded. By one estimate, the cost to implement the global pledges would be \$5 Trillion per year for 30 years [1]. Nevertheless, the expectation is the US will lead the effort [2]. However, the reality is different with many nations polluting the planet.

For example, India is experiencing significant air pollution [3]. In the Indian capital, the smog is so bad that officials are calling for a lockdown [4]. Then there is China with its peaking levels of pollution causing roads to be closed [5]. Moreover, China is now at a record level for burning coal [6]. And, China made it clear it will not back away from coal burning anytime soon [7]. To summarize, China and India account for approximately 2/3 of the world's coal consumption with little indication of weaning away from the fuel source [8]. Air pollution is not limited to China and India. For example, Pakistan's Lahore became world's 3rd most polluted city [9]. Then the Pakistani city briefly gained the title as the world's most polluted city [10].

However, if the climate is really such an issue, then why not invest in nuclear power? To be sure, there have been a number of nuclear accidents that necessitate safety [11]. Yet, there are a number of US nuclear power plants that reliably generate electricity [12]. Consider the alternatives. Solar panels last 20 - 30 years and disposal remain problematic [13]. Moreover, these devices are dependent of sunshine. At night and during sunlight reflection (such as dust clouds) electric generation is problematic. As for wind power, the reliability of such power as seen in Europe should be a wakeup call [14]. Additionally, wind turbines kill a number of birds [15]. Then we should not forget the frozen wind turbines in Texas at a time when energy was needed most [16]. Perhaps the cleanest form of energy come from hydroelectric. However, as the California water shortage illustrates,

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It would seem the FBI was the victim of a cyber-attack. A hacker compromised an FBI email server and sent out 100,000 bogus messages [1].

Elsewhere in government, spokesman Dr. Antony Fauci is on record claiming immigrants are not responsible for spreading COVID-19 [2]. However, the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 has raised concerns [3]. In response, the US is restricting flights from a number of African countries including South Africa [4]. Why then would

the US Southern border not be of equal concern? Case in point, in the Rio Grande Valley sector, during one day, over 2,000 unauthorized crossings were encountered with hundreds getting through [5]. For 2021, it is estimated there will be 2 million illegal entries into the US [6]. Yet, the DHS estimates 1 in 5 of the illegal immigrants has COVID-19 [7]. This comes as, more Americans died of the virus this year than did in all 2020 [8]. Overseas, the exit from Afghanistan left a signifi-

cant number of US military equipment behind. For instance, the Taliban hosted a parade that includes considerable abandoned US military equipment [9]. Meanwhile, we are learning more about the Chinese Hypersonic tests. Apparently, it also deployed a missile while in flight [10].

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Special points of interest:

- DJIA, S&P 500, and Nasdaq record highs
- Open Border COVID Consequence
- Nuclear Energy

Remember that a civilized nation cannot just have one party; if there were only one party, this would merely be a dictatorship. Politics could not advance.

—Sun Yat-sen

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Terrorism

Overseas, terrorism continues to be problematic. In Yemen, Iran-backed Houthi forces seized the former embassy compound and detained a number of U.S. Embassy staff [1]. In Mogadishu, Somalia, the terrorist group al-Shabab, set off an explosion outside a school that killed at least 8 children [2].

Terrorism is also impacting Western nations. In Liverpool, a car bombing outside a women's hospital left at least one person dead [3].

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Passivity is fatal to us.

*Our goal is to make the
enemy passive.—Mao
Zedong*

Economy

The Stock market index continued into record territory. On November 8, the DJIA, S&P 500, and Nasdaq Composite closed at record highs [1]. However, on Black Friday (November 26) the three indexes each fell over 2% [2].

Bad news on the inflation front. Consumer prices rose 8.6% from a year earlier [3]. For the week ending November 6, the number of first-time unemployment claims reported by the Department of Labor was 267,000 [4]. For the week ending November 13, the number reported was 268,000 [5]. Finally, for the week ending November 20, the number of claims was 199,000 [6].

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*I just want to retire before
I go senile because if I
don't retire before I go
senile, then I'll do more
damage than good at that
point.—Elon Musk*
