

Wuhan Coronavirus

As of December 22, there were 810,045 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the US [1]. Stated another way, more Americans have died from COVID-19 under President Biden than did under President Trump. On the 24-hour period before December 24, the number of deaths due to COVID-19 reached 3,354, in spite of 62.38% (204,740,321) Americans vaccinated [2]. Moreover, the number of new COVID-19 cases detected has reached a record high [3,4]. Then on January 3, the US set a one day record of 1,082,549 confirmed new cases [5]. The new record was reached in spite of insufficient COVID-19 testing [6].

As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden promised that if elected, he would shut down the virus (COVID-19) [7]. After nearly a year in office, President Biden agrees there is no federal solution to shutting down the virus [8]. We can infer that the COVID-19 virus, along with variants, will be problematic for some time to come.

The real unknown is how many US deaths are tied to infected illegal immigrants. For instance, illegals crossing the southern border are not required to take a COVID test for entry into the US [9]. In turn this has resulted in significant numbers of infections at border detention centers [10]. To reduce the negative optics of detention, one report indicates tens of thousands of infected illegals were released into US cities [11]. So, the question is why would the President champion an open southern border. Traditionally, Hispanic voters have tended to vote for the Democrat candidates [12]. Perhaps this is the reason for the President's policy.

Recently, reports indicated the National Institute of Health (NIH) funded gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology [13]. Nevertheless, on his last day as NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins, described the Wuhan lab-leak theory as a huge [\(Continued on page 2\)](#)

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World News

The new year started with renewed military action in the Middle East. For example, Israel launched airstrikes against targets in the Gaza Strip [1]. Concurrently, the conflict in Yemen continues. Yemen's government forces retook areas located in a southern province from Iran-backed Houthi rebels [2]. Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition has indicated that Houthi's are operating two ports as military bases and are therefore legitimate targets [3].

Back in 2015, China's Pres-

ident Xi promised the artificial islands his country was constructing would not become military bases [4]. This came shortly after CNN reported a US surveillance aircraft was warned off as it neared one of the islands [5]. Since then, satellite imagery shows the artificial islands have indeed been turned into military base [6]. So, we take comments from China with a grain of salt. For instance, China's government claims there is no expansion of its nuclear arsenal, only modernization [7].

1. CBS News, *Israel hits Gaza with airstrikes*, January 1, 2020.
2. Magdy, Samy, *Stars and Stripes, Yemen conflict escalates, government forces advance in south*, January 5, 2022.
3. Ehab, Yomna, and Tolba, Ahmed, *Reuters, Saudi-Led Coalition Says Houthi Actions Turn Yemen Ports Into Legitimate Targets*, January 8, 2022.
4. Brunnstrom, David, and Martina, Michael,

[\(Continued on page 2\)](#)

Special points of interest:

- More COVID-19 US Deaths Under President Biden Than Under President Trump
- One Day Record of Over 1 million New COVID Infections
- Unemployment Rate Falls to 3.9%

World News

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- Reuters, *Xi denies China turning artificial islands into military bases*, September 25, 2015.
5. Sciutto, Jim, CNN, *Exclusive: China warns U.S. surveillance plane*, September 15, 2015.
 6. New Zealand Herald, *South China Sea: Satellite images show China building 'full-blown military bases' on artificial islands*, February 20, 2021.
 7. Moore, Mark, New York Post, *China denies expand-*

ing nuclear arsenal, instead claims modernization, January 4, 2022.

Low and stable inflation in many countries is an important accomplishment that will continue to bring significant benefits.—Ben Bernanke

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distraction [14].

1. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on December 22, 2021*.
2. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on December 24, 2021*.
3. DeBarros, Anthony, et al., *Wall Street Journal, U.S. Hit With Record Number of New Covid-19 Cases*, December 29, 2021.
4. Chen, Nancy, *CBS News, U.S. hits record high with nearly 500,000 COVID-19 cases in a single day*, December 30, 2021.
5. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on January 4, 2022*.
6. Liptak, Kevin, et al., *CNN, Biden is dogged by a testing shortage he had vowed to fix*, December 28, 2021.
7. Lahut, Jake, *Business Insider, Biden says he would 'shut down the virus, not the country' during the final presidential debate*, October 22, 2020.
8. Olson, Tyler, *Fox News, Biden says he agrees with GOP governors: There's 'no federal solution' to pandemic*, December 27, 2021.
9. Patteson, Callie, *NY Post, WH defends not requiring negative COVID test from illegal migrants*, September 20, 2021.
10. Moore, Mark, *NY Post, COVID cases reportedly surging in illegal immigrant detention centers*, July 6, 2021.
11. Bedard, Paul, *Washington Examiner, DHS dropped 40,000 COVID-19-positive migrants in US cities: Ex-border chief*, August 12, 2021.
12. Grunwald, Michael, and Caputo, Marc, *Politico Magazine, The Democrats' Hispanic Problem*, Decem-

ber 4, 2018.

13. Crane, Emily, *New York Post, NIH admits US funded gain-of-function in Wuhan – despite Fauci's denials*, October 21, 2021.
14. Halon, Yael, *Fox News, Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan coronavirus lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office*, December 20, 2021.

Terrorism

International terrorism continues to be a global problem. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a militant group linked to the Islamic State (IS), claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing of Christians that killed at least 6 people [1].

The influence of religious beliefs cannot be discounted in actions. Case in point, two Afghan refugees living in Germany are accused of killing their sister because she embraced Western values [2].

The consequences from the fall of Afghanistan continue. Case in point, since the Taliban victory in Afghanistan, terrorist attack tied to the

victory have increased in Pakistan [3]. For example, in the past month, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) conducted approximately 40 attacks, killing over 20 Pakistani soldiers [4].

1. BBC News, *Deadly bombing at restaurant packed for Christmas*, December 25, 2021.
2. ABC News/AP, *Germany: 2 men charged in killing of their sister*, December 28, 2021.
3. The Times of India, *After Taliban took power in Kabul, terror attacks in Pakistan Surged*, January 5, 2022.
4. IANS, *Rift between Paki-*

stan's Army generals and Taliban leadership now wide open. January 8, 2022.

*The first panacea for a
mismanaged nation is
inflation of the currency;
the second is war. Both
bring a temporary
prosperity; both bring a
permanent ruin. But both
are the refuge of political
and economic
opportunists.—Ernest
Hemingway*

Economy

According to the Labor Department, 199,000 jobs were added in the US during December and the unemployment rate fell from 4.2% to 3.9% [1]. Meanwhile, on December 27, the S&P 500 stock index closed at a new record high [2]. The new year started with fresh record highs. On January 3, the DJIA and S&P 500 indexes closed at record highs; on January 4, the DJIA set a new record [3]. Meanwhile, the US Trade Deficit for November grew by 17.5% to a record \$97.8 billion [4]. In contrast, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported a \$80.2 billion deficit [5].

The economy as viewed from unemployment claims remained optimistic. For the week ending December 18, the number reported was 205,000 [6]. For the week ending December 25, the number reported was 198,000

[7]. Finally, for the week ending January 1, the number reported was 207,000 [8].

1. Bartash, Jeffrey, MarketWatch, *U.S. gains small 199,000 jobs in December and unemployment rate falls to 3.9%*, January 7, 2022.
2. Ma, Jason, Business Insider, *S&P 500 surges to 69th record close of 2021 as Santa rally powers US stocks*, December 27, 2021.
3. Denton, Jack, and Sonenshine, Jacob, Barron's, *The Dow Closed at a New High, Tech Tumbled—and What Else Happened in the Stock Market Today*, January 4, 2022.
4. CNBC/Reuters, *U.S. goods trade deficit hits a record in November*, December 29, 2021.
5. Cunningham, Doug, UPI, *U.S. trade deficit jumped to \$80.2 billion in*

November, January 6, 2022.

6. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, December 23, 2021.
7. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, December 30, 2021.
8. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 6, 2022.

In the absence of the gold standard, there is no way to protect savings from confiscation through inflation. There is no safe store of value.—Alan Greenspan
