

World News

When he was a Presidential candidate, Joe Biden promised to shut down the virus (COVID-19) [1]. However, according to the John Hopkins database, over 1,043,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 [2]. Moreover, President Biden became infected with the virus [3]. Then First Lady Jill Biden, tested positive for a COVID-19 infection [4]. Expectedly, the CDC admits its COVID-19 response has been poor [5]. Moreover, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee received testimony; the Wuhan Institute of Virology had conducted gain-of-function research on the Nipah virus (considered a bioterrorism agent) [6].

Meanwhile, China continues efforts to disrupt the US. For example, there were warnings that the social media app, TikTok, had ties to China [7]. Former President Trump tried to ban TickTok but President Biden reversed the policy [8]. Now we are seeing consequences. Case in point, a TickTok challenge with instructions on how to steal Kia and Hyundai cars is believed to be the reason for a 767% increase in Chicago car thefts [9]. China is also supplying fentanyl to Mexico's drug cartels [10]. In turn, the cartels are getting the drugs into the US [11]. This comes as China suspended cooperation with the United States in combat narcotics trafficking [12]. All this is possible because of the current open Southern border policy that is allowing drugs to freely flow into the US [13]. For instance, on August 24, nearly 200 pounds of fentanyl were seized by the US Border Patrol in Arizona [14].

China also continues work on advanced weapons. One focus area is in hypersonic technology [15]. This includes work on hypersonic bullets. For instance, China tested such bullets on sedated pigs and determined that steel balls impacting at 4,000 meters per second, created a large crater at the point of impact [16]. Finally, China's influence in the Solomon Islands is cited as the reason a US Coast Guard cutter was denied port access [17].

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Special points of interest:

- July Year-to-Year 8.5% CPI

Ukraine War

There were concerns that if the Ukraine attacked the Crimea, Russia might resort to using nuclear weapons [1]. Then the Russia's Saki air base located in the Crimea, was attacked [2]. Described as an act of sabotage, an ammunition depot located in Russian-occupied Crimea, was destroyed [3]. One report indicates the US has green-lighted Ukrainian attacks in the Crimea [4]. This comes as a study suggests a nuclear

war between the US and Russia would result in 5 billion deaths due to global starvation [5].

In any case, after 6 months of fighting, it appears Russia is preparing for a long war. For instance, Russia is calling for an additional 100,000 troops [6].

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Ukraine War

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*The first step in
community organization is
community
disorganization.—Saul
Alinsky*

Terrorism

It has been one year since the Taliban took over control of Afghanistan. Yet, terrorism continues. For instance, on August 17, an explosion erupted in a mosque in Kabul [1]. At least 21 people died in the attack [2]. Elsewhere in Kabul, an Afghan cleric was killed during a suicide bombing [3]. Finally, the Taliban have declared they have yet to find the body of al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri allegedly killed during a US drone strike [4].

Iran and its supporters are back in the news. The author of the Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie, was stabbed during a public speech [5]. The attacker, Hadi Matar, has social media posts indicating support for Iran [6]. The US Justice Department announced criminal charges against Shahrar Poursafi, a 45-year-old Iranian national, allegedly for offering payment for assassinating John Bolton and Mike Pompeo [7].

In Somalia, gunmen attacked a hotel in Mogadishu, killing at least 15 people [8]. Somalia's President blamed al-

Qaida-affiliated militant group al-Shabab for the attack [9].

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Just the minute the FBI begins making recommendations on what should be done with its information, it becomes a Gestapo.—J. Edgar Hoover

Economy

The Consumer Price Index (CPI for July was 8.5% [1]. Meanwhile, at the Jackson Hole Economic Symposium, on August 26, Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell warned the central bank is committed to a more restrictive policy to rein in inflation [2]. The prospect of additional interest rate hikes sent the stock market indexes significantly lower [3].

One consequence of the recession is the lower demand for gasoline. As a consequence, gasoline prices have fallen significantly [4]. However, while gasoline prices are falling, natural gas remains high [5]. Case in point, natural gas prices hit a 14-year high [6].

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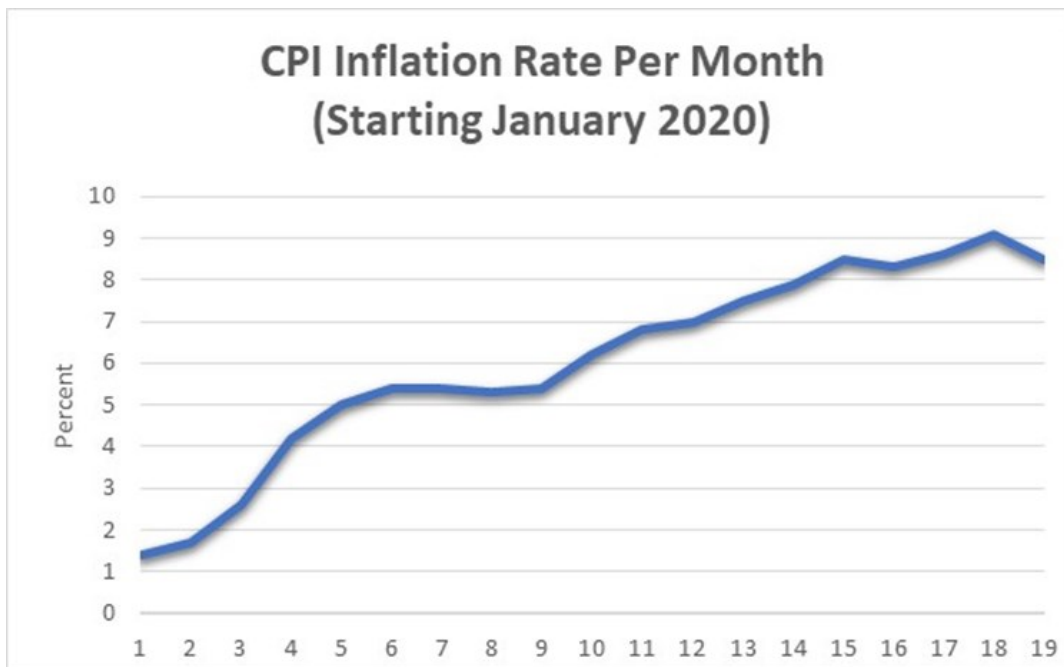
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No science is immune to the infection of politics and the corruption of power.—Jacob Bronowski
