

World News

For the second year in a row, the US life expectancy for 2021 has fallen [1]. The new life expectancy at birth fell to 76.1 years, the lowest it has been in the US since 1996 [2].

Meanwhile, California provides insight to problems the future brings. For example, the State Government voted to ban new gas vehicles starting in 2035 [3]. However, they currently have a power grid unable to meet current electricity needs [4].

There are those suggesting the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cannot be trusted [5]. Moreover, following the FBI raid on former President Trump's home, people are now actively questioning how much the federal agency has been politicalized [6]. With this backdrop, it is worth looking at past FBI work. Consider, in 1993, 4 terrorists bombed the World Trade Center (WTC) killing 6 people [7]. Then on July 17, 1996, TWA 800 exploded after takeoff from New York's JFK airport; the official US Government conclusion was the explosion was caused by a spark in the fuel tank [8]. That year (1996) President Clinton was running for re-election against Republican Bob Dole. The challenger (Dole) was calling President Clinton weak on foreign relations [9]. The lead in question is how would President Clinton been re-elected had the cause been concluded to be an act of terrorism instead of an accident? Especially following the previous WTC bombing. There were many aspects that don't add up. For instance, both PETN and RDX plastic explosive traces were detected in the wreckage [10]. The FBI announced that 6 weeks prior to the explosion, the aircraft was used for a bomb detecting drill and this is where the explosive residue came from [11]. A question here is wouldn't there be a policy change preventing any commercial aircraft from such drill as it would permanently contaminate the aircraft? Another anomaly, why did the FAA not ground all 747's if there was a risk of fuel air explosions? Had the FBI declared the crash an act of terrorism, this likely would have altered the 1996 presidential election.

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Ukraine War

Back in 2018, then President Trump warned Germany against a gas and oil deal with Russia [1]. Now that the war in the Ukraine is entering its seventh month, the consequences of Germany's past decision are being realized throughout the European Union (EU). Russia is essentially burning off natural gas instead of sending it to the EU [2]. For instance, the Russian oil supplier Gazprom will suspend gas

supplies to French industries [3]. Another consequence is some EU natural gas prices are over 1,000% higher than this time last year [4]. In contrast, Russia is reportedly near an agreement to sell gas, oil, and wheat to Afghanistan [5]. A reported Ukrainian counter offensive is leading Russia to conclude US equipment, intelligence, and personnel are actively involved in the attack [6]. The

Ukrainian president has indicated that 6,000 square miles have been recaptured from the Russians [7]. There is a risk that Russia will go nuclear without using nuclear weapons. Instead, they could attack the spent nuclear fuel rods effectively making a nuclear dirty bomb [8].

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(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

Special points of interest:

- August Year-to-Year 8.3% CPI
- Unemployment 3.75%
- Stock Indexes Fall

Ukraine War

(Continued from page 1)

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2. Newsweek/Reuters, *Russia Burns Gas Into the Atmosphere While Cutting Supplies to EU*, August 26, 2022.
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World News

(Continued from page 1)

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4. Kasler, Dale, Sacramento Bee, *California grid officials ready to ask for conservation as extreme heat wave approaches*, August 30, 2022.
5. McCaughey, Betsy, New York Post, *We can't trust the FBI after its long history of political meddling*, August 10, 2022.
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8. Hadad, Chuck, CNN, *5 things you didn't know about the crash of TWA Flight 800*, July 15, 2014.
9. Hosler, Karen, Baltimore Sun, *Dole flays Clinton on foreign relations He calls U.S. policies weak, vacillating*, June 26, 1996.
10. CNN, *Source: Traces of 2nd explosive found in TWA debris*, August 30, 1996.
11. CNN, *FBI: TWA jet used in bomb-detection drill before crash*, September 20, 1996.

*For every complex problem
there is an answer that is
clear, simple, and wrong.–
H. L. Mencken*

Terrorism

Domestic terrorism continues to be a problem in the US. For instance, at least two people were killed in an Oregon Safeway shooting [1]. In Phoenix, a gunman armed with a semi-automatic rifle and incendiary devices, opened fire near local businesses, killing at least 2 people [2]. In Houston, a man set fire to several apartment homes and shot people as they left the building; at least 3 people were killed [3]. In Memphis, a 19-year old gunman killed at least 4 people while recording some of his actions on social media application, Facebook [4].

Some argue that making guns illegal is the answer to violent crime. However, guns are not the only mechanism terrorist can use. Case in point, in Canada, at least 10 people were killed by two people using knives [5].

In the US, there were many events to remember the 9/11 attacks [6]. However, the Al Qaeda terrorist group responsible for the 9/11 attacks are still active. For instance, in Yemen, Al Qaeda militants

killed some 20 security force members [7].

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Of all men's miseries the bitterest is this: to know so much and to have control over nothing—Herodotus

Economy

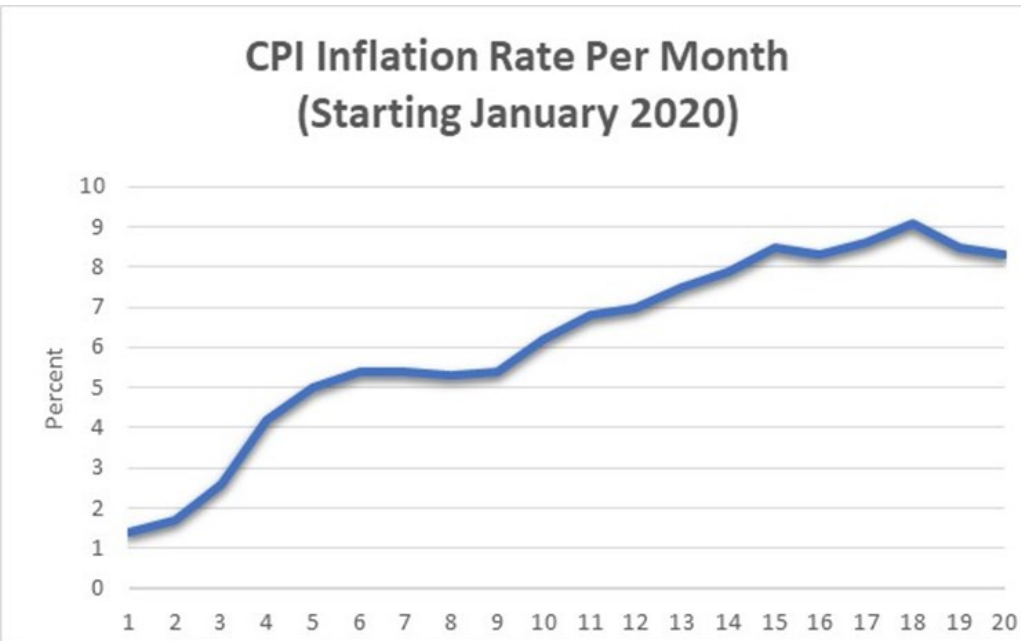
The economy continued deeper into the recession. Case in point, the unemployment rate increased from 3.5% to 3.7% [1].

Meanwhile, even with significant decreases in the price of gasoline, inflation is still problematic. For example, the consumer price index was 8.3% in August [2]. Following the inflation report, the stock indexes fell sharply with the Dow down 3.9%, S&P down 4.3%, and the NASDAQ down 5.1% [3]. For the week ending September 16, the Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 4.7%, the S&P 500 was 3.8% lower, and the Nasdaq Composite down 6.2% [4].

The inflation rate will likely

cause the Fed to continue its rate hikes. The consequences so far include mortgage rates above 6% for the first time since 2008 and fewer mortgage applications, at a level last seen in 1999 [5].

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Only the educated are free.

—Epictetus
