

DECEMBER 2020 (LATE ISSUE)

le **POLITICIAN** politicien

COVID-19
DEFEATED

CANADIAN
ECONOMY 2020

LESSONS
DRAWN
FROM BREXIT

COVID-19
ATTACKED

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Life is not an easy path, it has gardens but rocky mountains too. COVID-19 proved it right. World experienced an invisible tiny substance that could kill anyone within few hours. When it was happening in Wuhan, China, world never believed that it would travel with humans and infect them in less than a second. But, human strength and will to fight anything once again triggered and in few months the scientists came up with the effective vaccine to fight the deadly.

Doubtlessly, COVID-19 destroyed the economy, ruined the businesses, bankrupted many, shook the governments and even killed thousands but reunited millions. People are showing more humbleness towards each other. Examples from all over the world are countless.

A mother who did not hear from her daughter for over eight years received a call and reunited. Two brothers who had decided not to see each other forever, they set aside their anger and reunited. A separated couple accidentally met in the mall and next day ate dinner together in an open-air restaurant, and their lives showered with the happiness once again.

Uncertainty prevailed in 2020 but it passed, yes painfully but, 2021 as soon as everyone gets vaccinated would be glorious and the world would emerge with new hopes, new targets and new energies.

To keep the faith alive, there is a wonderful saying, "This too shall pass".

Wish you all an incredibly happy and prosperous New Year

COVID-19

defeated

By: Amir S. Ali

For the first time in history global economic calamity was triggered due to a virus. All flights were shut down, the entire world was put into lockdown in one way or another and all human-to-human contact, including handshakes, were prohibited. **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)** originated in **Wuhan, China**. Then the deadly virus travelled around the world through infected humans called virus carriers. However, within one year, *the world came out of a vaccine to defeat the virus.*





ROBORN REP3000 ROBOT

China, where the virus started, is now a success story. They contained the virus and although the total number in infectants was close to ninety thousand, the total deaths recorded were 4,635. Another success story is Pakistan, with a population of 212.2 million, contained the virus and kept businesses open. Pakistan recorded 460 thousand cases with little over nine thousand deaths.

Time to time humans are made aware of how much is unknown to them and to their developed but un-just world. Challenges come in the shape of diseases like, Antonine plague, Cyprian plague, Justinian plague, Smallpox, the Great plague of London (that killed nearly 20% of the city's population), First Cholera pandemic, The

Third plague, Measles, Russian Flu, Spanish Flu, Asian Flu, Aids, MERS, SARS and now COVID-19.

Common symptoms of Coronavirus remain a fever, a dry cough that develops after 2-7 days, mild breathing difficulties at the outset, gastrointestinal issues, diarrhea, general body aches and sever symptoms jump to high fever, pneumonia, and kidney failure. Transmission takes place through coughs or sneezes from infected person or touching contaminated objects.

Developed nations, intoxicated with the "Power to Destroy", throw super deadly ammunition like Cluster and Daisy Cutters without knowing that the nature would react and will take revenge from those whosoever collaborated. The price would be fierce. Today, the world has lost quadrillions of dollars plus close to two million lives (reported and unreported), men, women, and children. Every life is equal.

The global number of infections of the coronavirus disease, Covid-19, is contin-

uing to rise. While it took three months for the first million individuals to be infected, by December 21, 2020, 78 million cases and 1.7 million deaths had been reported. The US was hit the largest, 19 million infected, and 330 thousand deaths, some 3,000 a day sometimes. If the administration of the vaccine delays it might double by the end of 2021. Brazil, India and Mexico were the 2nd worst losing over hundred thousand each. France, Russia, Italy, Spain and UK got over 2 million infections and over sixty thousand deaths each.

Apart from vaccines the new products and equipment went on manufacturing and still emerging to help reduce the affect of the virus. Disinfectants, medical masks, regular masks, fashion masks, fashion mufflers and scarfs, face shields, medical masks, medical dresses, hand gloves, protected counter shields, ICUs and ventilators to name a few.



Masks & Shields

Hong Kong's smart robot, REP3000 is controlled and operated using Roborn's 5G AIR PEP system with thermal imaging lens.



Ventilators used in acute Coronavirus cases

Given the agility in deployment, PEP3000 can identify the target (i.e., people with abnormal temperature) at any key location and any specific time. Once a target is identified, the robot will then instantly alert the control centre and capture images of the target and the close contacts nearby using a 4K camera for convenient tracking to accomplish the epidemic prevention mission.

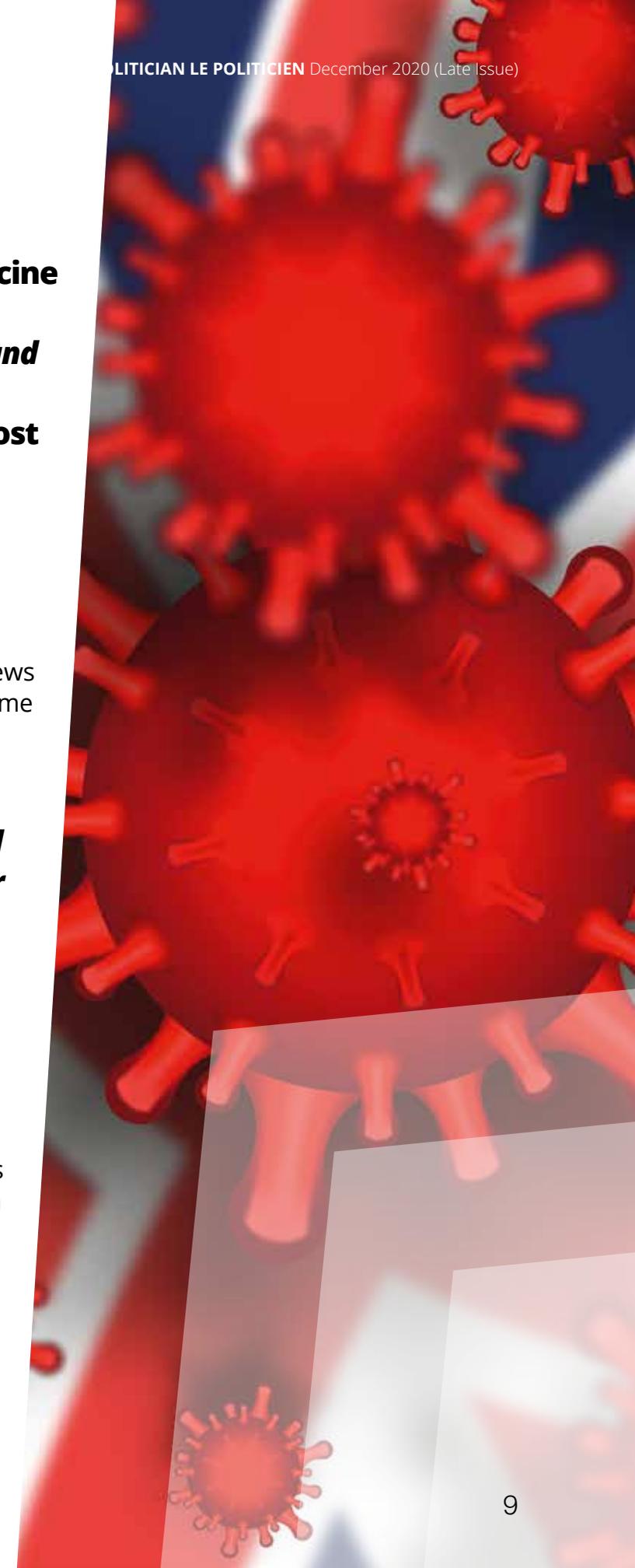
Name	Size	Doses	Temp.	Eff.	General
Pfizer/ BioNTech	44K	2	-70C	95%	Phase 3 clinical data done. Plans to make 50m doses by the end of 2020 and 1.3 billion in 2021
Moderna	30K	2	2-8C	95%	Moderna and Pfizer with new approach involving messenger RNA. Expects 100 million doses, 20 million for US only.
AstraZeneca/ Oxford	65K	2	2-8C	70%	Good for elderly people. 3 billion doses by the end of first quarter of 2021. 1.47 billion people will get it.
Novavax	45K	2	2-8C	70%	A success story. Never made a product, gets 1.6 billion from US and 399 million from Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness. Novavax shares increased by 3,000%.
Johnson & Johnson	70K	1	2-8C	NA	Best for just one dose. A 2 dose trial is done too.
Sinovac Bio- tech	26K	2	2-8C	NA	Triggers an immune response using the COVID-19 chemically inactivated virus itself
Gamaleya	40K	2	2-8C	91%	Russian vaccine known as Sputnik V. Could be stored in refrigerator.
CanSino Bio- logics	40K	1	2-8C	NA	It uses a harmless cold virus to deliver its genetic payload. Administered in Chinese military on a large scale.
Sinopharm	50K	2	2-8C	86%	Administered on a large scale.

Governments around the world poured money to develop a vaccine to contain the deadly virus. Pharmaceutical companies around the world went in competition and made various vaccines. Most scientists anticipate that, like most other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines will not be 100% effective.

Based on manufacturer's disclosure, news reports and government data here are some interesting findings on the vaccine.

On Monday December 21, 2020, a mutated Coronavirus emerged in Britain with about 70% higher transmission ability. It is not yet out of control and can be contained using existing measures, World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed.

The irony is that all the rich countries have reserved the entire production and poorer countries will get perhaps nothing in 2021. Canada has ordered 56 million Moderna doses out of which 168,000 will arrive by the end of December 2020 to be administered on the most vulnerable persons such as frontline hospital workers.



Canadian ECONOMY 2020

By Tomas Ahlstrom

Canadian economy, the world's best, is **not immune to concurrent shocks** other economies are encountering. With most of the sectors in the negative, there are few sectors in the positive. With the relaxation of constraints that had been imposed on economic activities to curtail the pandemic early in the year, the *Canadian economy* rose sharply in the third quarter. Despite strong growth in the quarter, real **GDP** was well below that *in the fourth quarter of 2019*. Economists in the middle are projecting a fabulous *2nd half of year 2021 which is the good news*.



According to Statistics Canada, Real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 8.9% in the third quarter 2020, following an 11.3% drop in the second quarter and a 1.9% decline in the first. Despite strong growth in the third quarter—the steepest since quarterly data were first recorded in 1961—real GDP was down 5.3% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

Final domestic demand rose 10.8%, after an 11.4% decline in the second quarter and a 1.6% drop in the first quarter.

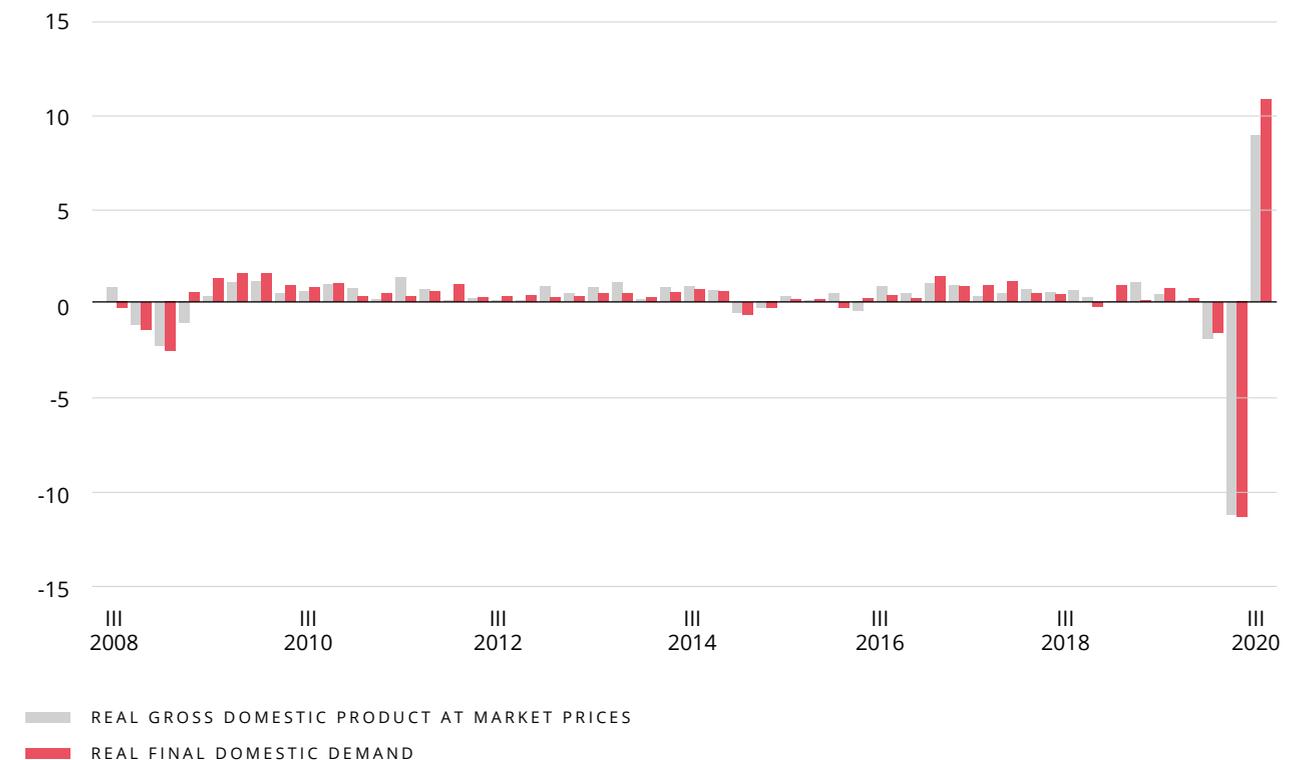
The increase in GDP in the third quarter reflected reopening of the economy,

with substantial upturns in housing investment, household spending on durable goods, and exports. These upturns were influenced by favourable mortgage rates, governments' continued support to households and businesses affected by the pandemic, and growth in major trading partners' economies in the third quarter.

Businesses drew down \$33.1 billion of inventories; consequently, the economy-wide stock-to-sales ratio fell from 0.987 in the second quarter to 0.845 in the third quarter—the lowest since the fourth quarter of 2018.

Gross domestic product and final domestic demand

QUARTERLY % CHANGE, CHAINED (2012) DOLLARS



Household spending rebounds

Household spending rebounded 13.0%, after a 13.6% drop in the second quarter and a 2.6% decline in the first. Nevertheless, household spending was down 5.0% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

Outlays for durable goods rose 38.0%, the steepest on record. Increases in spending on durable goods were driven by purchases of new trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles (+73.8%), used motor vehicles (+50.5%), and new passenger cars (+59.8%), reflecting pent-up demand. Spending on durable goods was up 7.7% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

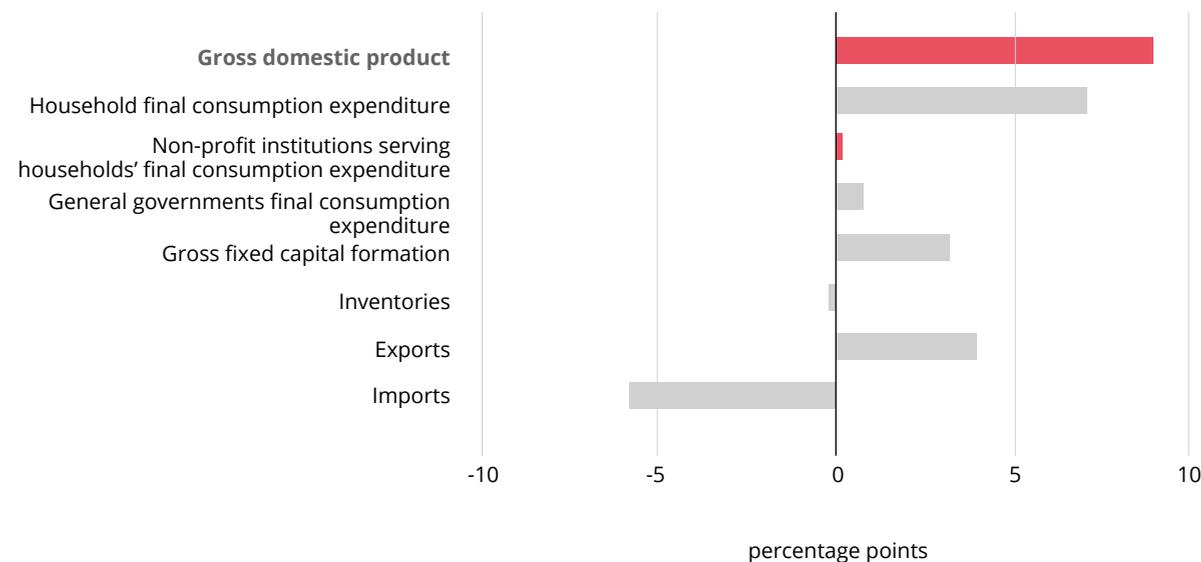
Outlays for non-durable goods rose 4.4%, after falling 3.9% in the second quarter. The rise in outlays for services (+9.6%) was led by food and beverage services (+52.4%), aided by the popularity of outdoor patios. Despite growth in the quarter, household spending on services was 12.4% lower, compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

Record rise in housing investment

Housing investment rose 30.2%, after declining 15.0% in the second quarter. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2019, housing investment was up 10.3%.

Contributions to percentage change in real gross domestic product, third quarter of 2020

QUARTERLY % CHANGE, CHAINED (2012) DOLLARS



Business investment grows

Business investments in non-residential buildings, machinery and equipment and intellectual property products all rebounded, but remained below pre-pandemic levels. Investments in engineering structures (-4.8%) continued to decline.

Export and import volumes rebound

Export volumes rose 14.5%, after falling 18.9% in the second quarter; however,

export volumes were down 8.7% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019. The rise in exports reflected higher domestic production and increased international demand as the economies of major trading partners—notably, the United States (+7.4%), the United Kingdom (+15.5%), Germany (+8.2%), Italy (+16.1%) and France (+18.2%)—grew. Exports of motor vehicles and parts rose sharply (+162.3%), reflecting a resurgence in demand.

A substantial increase in import volumes (+20.9%) was led by motor vehicles and parts (+192.1%), communication, and audio and video equipment (+58.5%), industrial

Household final consumption of durable goods and non-durable goods

QUARTERLY % CHANGE, CHAINED (2012) DOLLARS



Housing investment

QUARTERLY % CHANGE, CHAINED (2012) DOLLARS



machinery and equipment (+18.7%) and cleaning products, appliances, and miscellaneous goods and supplies (+33.1%). Despite these increases, import volumes were down 9.2% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

The ratio of the price of exports to the price of imports—the terms-of-trade—rose 6.2% in the third quarter of 2020, primarily

because of a 99.6% increase in prices of exported crude oil and crude bitumen.

Nominal GDP rises

The GDP implicit price index, which reflects the overall price of domestically produced goods and services, rose 2.6% in the third quarter. Consequently, growth in nominal

Exports and imports

QUARTERLY % CHANGE, CHAINED (2012) DOLLARS



GDP (+11.6%) was higher than that of real GDP. However, nominal GDP was down 4.6% compared with the fourth quarter of 2019.

Compensation of employees increased 7.9%, after declining 8.7% in the second

quarter. Government wage support programs represented 5.5% of compensation of employees in the third quarter, compared with 10.4% in the second quarter. These programs include the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Temporary

Wage Subsidy; the latter ended in June 2020, but the former continues. The gross operating surplus for non-financial (+15.7%) and financial (+3.0%) corporations rose. These gains stemmed largely from re-opening of businesses such as malls, restaurants, and hair salons.

Household savings rate remains elevated

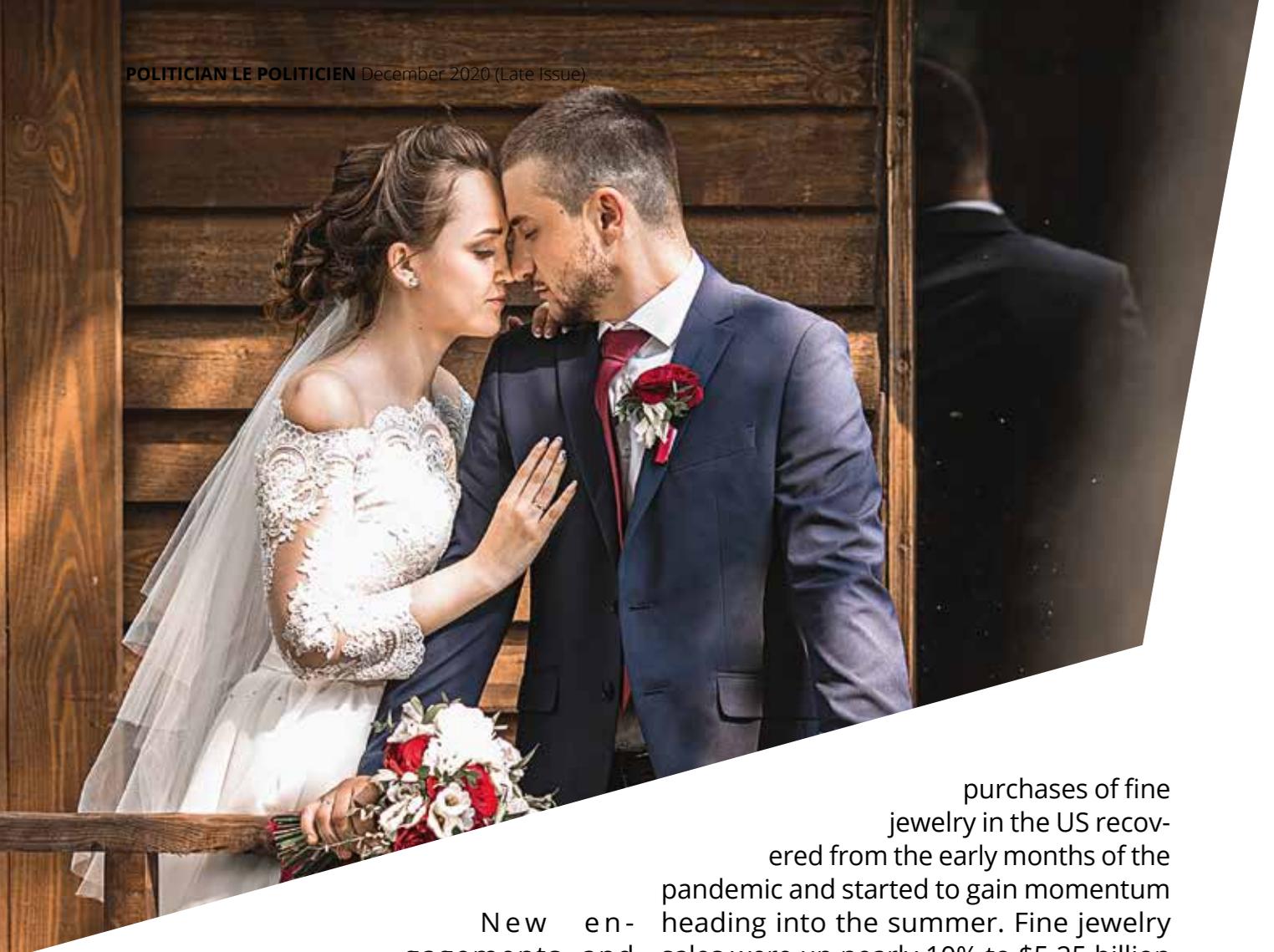
Household disposable income dropped 3.1%, mainly owing to a 24.3% decline in other benefits in the third quarter. Canadians relied less on income support programs, as many resumed employments. Government transfers in the form of employment insurance benefits fell by nearly 50%, reflecting the decline in the unemployment rate over the quarter. The increase in compensation, coupled with still-elevated government transfers, helped offset a rebound in consumption as Canadians recorded another quarter of strong saving. The savings rate stood at 14.6%, down from a record 27.5% in the second quarter, but significantly higher than the fourth quarter of 2019, at 2.0%.

Finally, without the support of the Canadian Government and their enforced COVID 19 measures, such a bright picture would not be possible. To alleviate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have implemented several programs, including Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Response Benefit (now Canada Recovery Benefit).

Marriages Strengthened in 2020

By: Karen Leone

The law of unintended consequences ruled during the current year. Experts, lawyers, and psychiatrists were forecasting that there would be more divorces *during the year 2020* due to lockdown and difficult economic conditions, but the opposite happened. *Divorce rates were decreased by 20%* and more families *who were previously separated* were reunited.



New engagements and marriages also boomed and more undecided made their decision to choose a life together. Weddings are symbolic of new beginnings. During a cataclysmic event such as this pandemic, celebrating love between two people and the union of families take on an even deeper meaning—hope, a fresh start. 82% of the diamond clients during lockdown were selecting engagement rings, compared with 61% last year. Seamus Fahy, founder of Voltaire Diamonds, said couples were able to select the perfect rings through private appointments or video conferencing.

According to Edahn Golan, founder of Edahn Golan Diamond Research & Data,

purchases of fine jewelry in the US recovered from the early months of the pandemic and started to gain momentum heading into the summer. Fine jewelry sales were up nearly 10% to \$5.25 billion in August from the same month last year, according to the latest data available.

Make no mistake there is another side of the coin. There are couples who are separating due to close quartering during lockdowns. Craigslist shows more wedding rings on sale than ever. The resale market for the diamond engagement rings is booming too, The Boston Globe reports.

Olivia Landau, the founder and CEO of The Clear Cut, tells Brides. "If there's something positive that we can take away from the pandemic, it's spending time with those close to us and cherishing our loved ones.

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Every time a Clear Cut couple gets engaged, I feel so hopeful that we can get through this tough time!"

In the United States, The National Retail Federation expects overall holiday period (Nov 1-Dec 31, 2020) sales this year to increase between 3.6% and 5.2% (from 2019) to between \$755.3 million and \$766.7 million, despite record unemployment. Splurging at luxury chains like Neiman Marcus Group Inc. and Saks Fifth Avenue to Macy's Inc. and Signet Jewelers Ltd. is one trend that retailers note.



***Pandemic is accelerating relationships* and acting as a catalyst for engagements. Danish jewellery company reported strong sales, but *revenue was declined* compared with the last year due to discounts offered to new clients.**

Lockdown and quarantine due to COVID-19 forced the people think that the virus could hit them and in few days, they could be on the other side. That forced them cash whatever they could and engagements were one of things they wanted to indulge by asking, is this the person I'm going to spend all my time with?



Lessons *Drawn from* BREXIT

By Amanda Baker



On December 24, 2020, EU President, Ursula von der Leyen announced and tweeted that the agreement is finally found and that the **European Union** and *United Kingdom* will stand shoulder to shoulder to deliver on the common goals. That puts the seal on the 2016 *British referendum decision to leave EU*. Although the time will tell whether the exit decision was good or bad but the agreement brings certainty.

Tweeter account of French President Emmanuel Macron did not remain silent, it said, "Europe is moving forward and can look to the future, united, sovereign and strong". German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the deal with the UK is of historic importance. The deal will end the free flow of workers. However, goods will continue to trade free of tariffs but with restrictions. There would be new trading rules.

Referendum on BREXIT divided the nation on this issue. 51.9% said yes and 48.1% said no. A 3% margin was not that impressive and that is why it took years to reach an agreement with EU. Independent observers believe that none of the parties are beneficiary of the event. It will create EU opposition to Britain who would list them as a European entity against the cause of stronger Europe with stronger Euro against dollar.

On From January 01, 2021, a new immigration system will apply, that means, EU nationals arriving in the UK after this date will need a visa to live and work in the UK. Those who have been granted status under the Settlement Scheme will continue to be governed by the rules of that scheme. The government has urged employers to develop their own UK-based staff and look to the "economically inactive" to fill the gaps created once their access to low-skilled EU labour is cut off.

Restrictions hurdles would not be in place only on the workforce and goods provisions but funding on research projects would also not be as easy as it used to be.

UK government is in negotiations with the EU to participate in the next generation of European research and innovation programmes starting in 2021. Funding for most Horizon 2020 projects will continue for the project's lifetime – even for projects that finish after 31 December 2020.

Britain was the 2nd best funded country in Europe for Horizon 2020 SME Instrument. Between 2007 and 2013, Britain contributed nearly € 5.4 billion to EU research projects and received approximately € 8.8 billion back. Britain has invested money into EU funding and has helped propel multinational projects include the Human Brain Project (involving Cambridge, Oxford, King's College London, Edinburgh and Manchester), PhenoMeNal (Imperial) ADIPOA-2 (Cambridge), to name a few.

New transportation laws will kick-in on January 01, 2021. All UK drivers will still need a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) to work. Drivers would need to carry their Driver CPC qualification card while driving in the EU. EU operators will be able to undertake unlimited journeys to, from and through the UK, with up to 2 cabotage movements in the UK, provided they are performed following a journey from the EU, and within 7 days of unloading in the UK.

About workforce, the main reason why BREXIT triggered, if one is not a British or Irish citizen but a citizen of another EU or EEA country or Switzerland, and you don't have permanent residency document from

the UK government, then you would be required to EU Settlement Scheme to stay in the UK. You will get settled or pre-settled status if you are successful.

Finally, Canada has a free-trade agreement with EU but, it would no longer be applicable on UK. Canadian export a lot to UK, about 30 billion. After January 01, 2021, there would be a tariff imposed by UK on Canadian goods, however, some items would be exempted. Canada has negotiated a new treaty with UK that is subject to be approved by the parliament.



The Rot AT THE CORE of the Grand ol' Party

By Brian Crombie

*The **GOP** was founded in 1854* by an anti-slavery movement and I believe it ended in *2021 by a "Trump-ist" conspiracy theory cult*. The rot has really festered for four plus years since before the election of *President Trump* and the onslaught of the alt-right fake news media and it finally engulfed the entirety of the republican party when armed terrorists stormed the *American Capital* building. The *GOP*, as we knew it, is dead. His son-in-law called it a hostile take-over of the *Republican Party* but it was really a coup where the founding philosophies were destroyed.

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Hollywood could not have concocted a more far-fetched, dystopic fiction than the reality of the events that transpired due to the Trumpist cult. From Trump sounding more mafia than Sammy the Bull and telling republican officials in Georgia to “find me more votes”, to playing footsie with foreign dictators, to claiming that “there are very good people on both sides” of a neo-nazi rally, to armed white-nationalists attempting to detain the Governor of Michigan, to defending white supremacists to ... the list could go on. All the while, GOP elected officials elected across the country stood-by, defended, aided and promoted the cult. Condemnation was the exception and not the rule. Culminating in Trump supporters storming the Capital building in an attempted armed insurgent attack against American Democracy. The



America I grew up with would condemn this version of America and call for its democracy tittering on the edge of oblivion, it would also label this version of the Republican party a fascist insurgency and place economic sanctions on their leaders. It seems the America I remember, and the GOP I remember are dead.

I keep shaking my head and wondering, how is this happening in the United States of America, the country I thought was “exceptional”, a “shining beacon on the hill” for democracy, the best example of democracy with its consti-

tution, Bill of rights, balance of power and more importantly its democratic ideals that I thought all adhered to. Admit it, if this attempted “coup” was happening anywhere else in the world, US politicians would be clamoring for protests, election observers and that the opposition be given government. And it only appears to be getting worse with supposedly smart, experienced Republican Senators and Representatives stating they will vote against the election results (but just for president, not against those same ballots that elected them!).

How did it get to this? The US, a failed democracy?

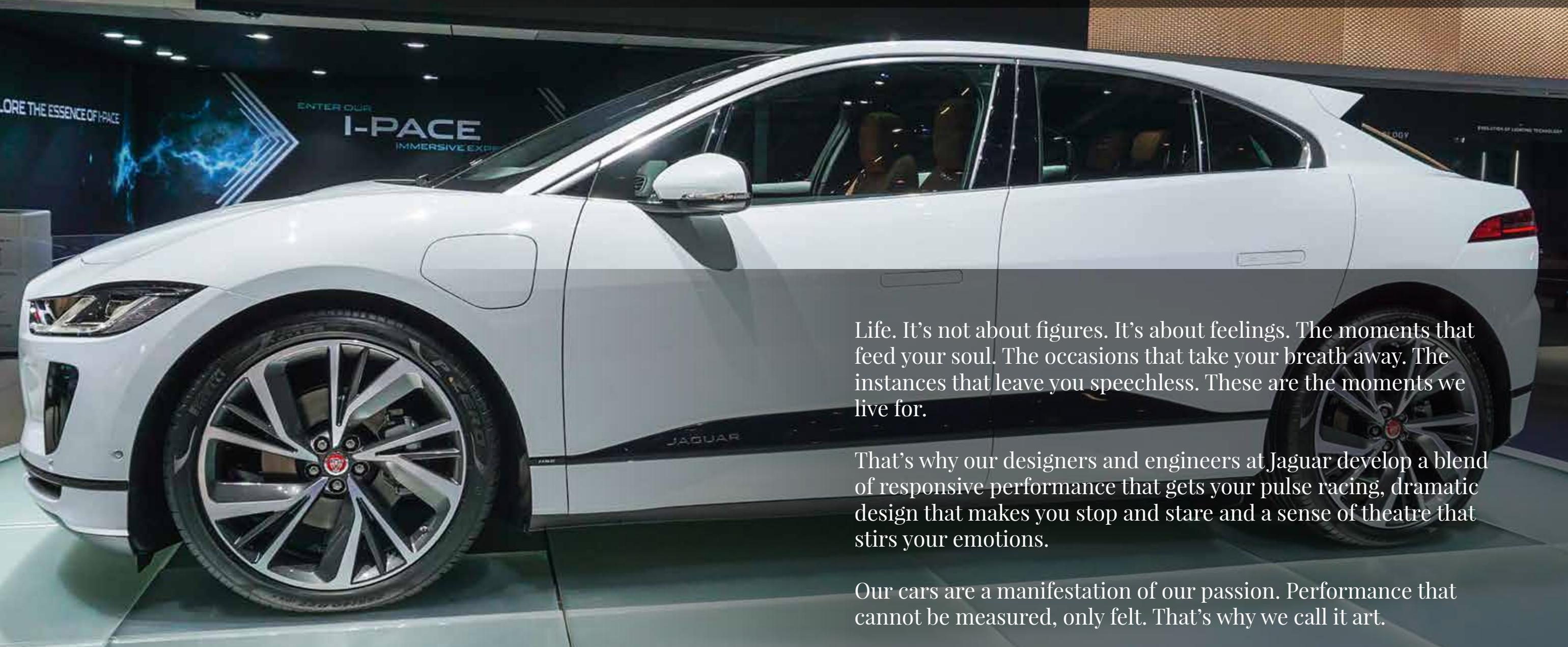
I have been a political and news junkie my whole life, following like many of you, US and Canadian politics almost as closely as each other. I dreamed of going to University in the States and was lucky to spend two of the best years of my life at Harvard, followed by two years working in the US. I got to experience everything great about the US, but also see why I wanted to move back and raise my family in Canada. Crime, Health Care, Racism, Guns, Capital Punishment, individual rights that trumped (no pun intended) the common good. I worry what has taken the US to this nadir is an incredible excessive focus on individual rights and the loss of what originally made American great, the community.

President Donald Trump is the most extreme example of a self-centered individual with a narcissistic attitude. His belief that



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he is the “greatest” at seemingly everything, (“smarter than the Generals”), that only he can save the country, the economy, the party, that he has the right to do almost anything without consequence, (“it was a perfect phone call”, “grab them by the”, “I could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue...”) and that he won the election, even when every major network, Secretary of State, court and governmental institution says otherwise.

But any leader is only a leader if he has followers. And I have been shocked at how many people have been willing to follow him. From the 74 MM votes he received, to the Trump convoys and protesters flooding the streets, to the Media outlets that are spouting his lies, to the Congressmen and Senators that are voting against certification of the election. That someone such as Senator Ted Cruz who ran against him and called him accurately a “pathological liar” and now lead the Supreme Court challenge and the certification challenge, and after Trump insulted him, his father and his wife, is shocking. So few Republican other than maybe Mitt Romney, Liz Cheney and a few others are willing to actually say “the emperor has no clothes”, is incredible.

But extreme partisanship, power at all costs, excessive individual rights where mask wearing becomes more than just political but almost an infringement on fundamental individual rights, where armed militia try to kidnap a Governor because she didn't open up the economy

fast enough, dualling cable TV networks that are reporting if not living alternative realities, has created a situation where people live in an echo-chamber of their own beliefs and worse, truly believe “Alternative Facts.”

Any sense of the greater good, the community, Common Purpose, the “United” States, seems lost. It seems all for one, me, Period. At first, I thought Trump's reluctance to accept reality was him being just a “sore loser”, then I came to believe he had phycological issues with being a “Loser”, which for him seems to be the worst possible name anyone could call you, but now I think it's just that he honestly, in a deranged sort of way, actually believes he won, because he just can't believe there is anyone in the world possibly better than him. And he is being enabled in this delusion by so so many.

I believe that because of Trump, the lack of any election concession, the afront to the constitution and democracy, and more importantly that so many Republicans, media and people have gone along, supported, enabled and actively assisted him in his quest, his “attempted coup”, American democracy may never be the same, may never again be the “Shining beacon on the Hill”. American's have now given up their position as the democracy everyone looked up to and wanted to emulate. Who would want to emulate the US today?

Recently I watched an episode of “The Crown” where a Fog blankets London kill-



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ing 12,000 and overruns the hospitals while the old man Churchill does nothing. However, his own party rebels, calls on the Queen to unseat him, and it is received with serious consideration. Churchill saves himself, goes to the hospital, sees the suffering particularly when a favorite supporter dies, and changes his mind, focuses on public health and the greater good. The parallels to this pandemic and Trump and Churchill's original reactions are telling, but then the differences are also stark, when the Tory Party was willing to take action, the Queen seemingly also willing to do something I wish Republicans in Congress, Pence or Trumps cabinet would have considered and then Churchill actually figuring out what was right, which Trump never did, and never will.

What's the solution? I think Dr. Seuss had it right when he said, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. Its not." The only way forward if for all Americans to become disgusted with what has happened and pledge to never allow one person to so take over a party, a cabinet, a government, a media, a sector of society, again. We need to again believe in something greater than just our own self-interest.

When *Peace* is Given a *Chance*

By Ali Al Ahmar

2020 has been relatively year of peace and ending of some bleeding conflicts. However, in India some were given a new life. In *Afghanistan*, peace accord was signed with *Taliban*. Peace-light was also given to Iran with some warnings. In 2011, something **extraordinary happened**, thanks to *Netanyahu* who thought that peace must be given a chance to end an ever-ending war between *Israelis* and *Palestinians*. He green lighted the construction project, *Razabi* in the *West Bank*.

Time cures many wounds, but some keep bleeding when the conditions are not changed. Since 1948, according to United Nations Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), some 27,000 Palestinians, 60% under the age of 25, still live in 19 refugee camps in conditions like slums in India. President Trump added to the pain by cutting \$ 300 million aid to UNRWA.

Everyone has a heart, but every heart reacts differently. Some enjoy being criminals and some enjoy being donors. President Trump pardoned 4 criminals associated with Black Water defence contractor who were responsible for a 2007 shooting rampage in Baghdad that killed dozens of Iraqis, including women and children. Perhaps the President does not know that his actions must have reopened healed wounds. Perhaps they would have recalled how their children without milk because the Nestle milk processing factory was blown up by the allied bombing during the Desert Storm 1.

Out of all this an angel, a optimist rose named, Bashar Al-Masri who worked endlessly to convince Israel and US governments that the peace can be achieved if Palestinians are given some hope. This time the hope should not be just false promises but something solid, a city of real bricks and mortar, City of Rawabi. Finally, all the stakeholders convinced and gave him green light.

Rawabi was a billion-dollar project and the billion-dollar question was, where the money would come from? Qatar stood up and both a Qatari Real Estate company and Bashar

Al-Masri formed a joint venture with over a billion-dollar funds. Other investors later emerged.

On December 08, 2009 Rawabi's master plan was approve and on ***January 04, 2010, Al-Masri*** started construction of Rawabi, a city of hope, on the hills in ***West Bank, Palestine. Rawabi*** formed its own municipality and the new council sworn in on ***June 30, 2013. Rawabi*** was not easy to build that could house over **35,000 people** with shopping mall, schools, and offices but in less than **5 years** the city started accepting occupants.

Al-Masri also funded Harvard Kennedy School, United States, for the creation of a fellowship program for current and emerging leaders from Palestine. The merit-based, competitive fellowships will be awarded to qualified, admitted students from Palestine, with preference for those with demonstrated financial need. Upon graduation from the Kennedy School, Rawabi Fellows will be encouraged to use their newly acquired knowledge, networks, and expertise to improve opportunities for the people of Pal-

estine. Bashar Al-Masri is a member of Harvard School's Dean's Council since 2014.

At the heart of Rawabi, Q Center combines the best of all worlds in a hip new urban core. A perfectly balanced blend of upscale residential housing, office space, shops, restaurants, cultural attractions and entertainment, Q Center offers the amenities of modern city living in a walker's paradise; a one-of-a-kind business and leisure destination for all Palestinians that still reflects the soul of the traditional Palestinian "old city".

A decade ago, a project like Rawabi was unthinkable when homemade rockets were falling on Israelis and Israeli bombers were targeting Palestinian territories. Children living in that part of the earth deserved peace and finally they got it. Miracles happen whenever peace is given a chance.



COVID-19

Coronavirus Symptoms

12 November 2020

SERIOUS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE

- If you develop any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider or health facility and seek medical care immediately.
- This is not an exhaustive list. These are the most common symptoms of serious illness, but you could get very sick with other symptoms – if you have any questions, call for help immediately.



Shortness of
breath/Difficulty
breathing



Loss of speech
or mobility or
confusion



Chest pain

MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS



Fever



Cough



Tiredness



Loss of taste
or smell

LESS COMMON SYMPTOMS



Sore throat



Headache



Aches
and pains



Diarrhea



A rash on the skin
or discoloration
of fingers or toes



Red or
irritated eyes

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you live in an area where malaria, dengue or other infections are common and you have any of above symptoms, seek immediate medical care according to the local health authorities.
- Stay in touch with your primary care provider to ensure you continue to receive the routine care you need, such as medication refills, follow-ups and other routine consultations.