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#### Post-Covid economic recovery is fragile now- inflation is adding pressure.

Lynch 6-11 [David J. Lynch Washington, D.C. Financial writer covering trade and globalization Washington Post, 6-11-2021, "Rising prices in the U.S. could rattle other countries amid uneven global recovery," <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2021/06/11/inflation-fed-biden-recovery/>] 6/13/2021

U.S. leaders stumbled in their initial pandemic response. But they did flood[ed] the economy with several trillion dollars, powering through the worst of the health scare and quickly resuming growth. Europe provided less direct relief to its citizens and has seen weaker results. By the end of June, U.S. output should be slightly above its pre-pandemic level while the European Union will still be about 4 percent below its starting point, said Sheets. Still, the U.S. rebound has been anything but smooth. Labor market progress has disappointed and an uneven reopening has led to widespread shortages, including of semiconductors, resin, ketchup and lumber. Those supply-chain headaches are going global. An increasing number of countries are suffering supply disruptions, shipping problems and delivery delays, forcing companies to raise prices to compensate, said Robin Brooks, chief economist for the Institute of International Finance, an industry group. “The world has never seen the kind of global supply disruptions we are seeing now,” Brooks wrote this week. The Federal Reserve insists that May’s 5 percent annual inflation reading — the highest since August 2008 — represents a temporary fever. The supply of goods will improve as more companies resume normal operations while consumer demand will ease as government stimulus payments taper off, it says. Fed officials insist they will stay the course even as rising prices draw attacks from Republican lawmakers and high-profile economists such as Lawrence Summers of Harvard University, a former Democratic treasury secretary. In Summers’s view, the Biden administration’s lavish multitrillion-dollar spending plan coupled with the Fed’s near-zero interest rates means “overheating is now the largest risk” to the U.S. economy. Summers took to Twitter this week to warn that if the Fed or financial markets ultimately push rates higher in response to galloping inflation, “there will be enormous risks to an already fragile and over leveraged global economy.” There is no doubt that pricing pressures are increasing.G-III Apparel Group, which distributes clothing under brands such as DKNY, Donna Karan, Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein, told investors this week that it plans “to selectively raise prices to largely offset higher freight costs.” Rising raw material and shipping costs likewise prompted Donaldson Co., a maker of filtration systems, to raise prices this year and to draw up plans to do so again, the company said earlier this month. And home builder Hovnanian Enterprises said it will follow suit. “We plan to continue to raise prices to keep up with rising material and labor costs, align sales pace with our ability to start homes and improve our margins,” CEO Ara Hovnanian said this month. But amid Summers’s alarms, financial markets yawned. The S&P 500 index hit a record high on Thursday while the yield on 10-year Treasury bonds continued a month-long decline, reflecting investor comfort with the outlook. The Fed’s patience has been rewarded. Lumber, one of the suddenly scarce commodities that saw prices spike, has fallen by one-third over the past month with the return of more sawmills to normal operations. Despite talk of a labor shortage, the three-month moving average of median hourly wage growth is lower today than at the start of the year, according to a Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta gauge. That means individuals’ expectations of future inflation are not yet driving demands for higher pay, a key component of an unbridled price rise. Central bankers elsewhere are mimicking the Fed. In Canada, where inflation jumped to 3.4 percent in April, the Bank of Canada on Wednesday opted to leave its benchmark lending rate unchanged. “We expect inflation to stay around 3 percent through the summer and then to ease later in the year as remaining slack in the economy pushes inflation down,” said Tim Lane, deputy governor of the Bank of Canada, in a speech to a group of financial advisers. In Europe, consumer prices in May breached the European Central Bank’s policy goal for the first time since 2018, rising at an annual rate of 2 percent. On Thursday, the ECB said it would continue its bond purchases to support the economy while raising its inflation forecasts for this year and next to 1.9 percent and 1.5 percent, up from 1.5 percent and 1.2 percent. Much of the rise in European inflation is due to developments that are unlikely to be repeated: a doubling in oil prices since October and the reinstatement of a German value-added tax that had been suspended during the pandemic, ECB President Christine Lagarde said. In China, producer prices in May rose 9 percent from one year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Wednesday. Surging global commodity costs — copper is up 80 percent over the past year — were largely to blame for the highest jump since September 2008. Chinese factories so far are largely absorbing the costs. People’s Bank of China Gov. Yi Gang said this week that consumer price growth this year will be below 2 percent, lower than the government’s 3 percent annual goal. Hiring troubles prompt some employers to eye automation and machines History offers support for the Fed’s sanguine stance. Following the 2008 financial crisis, the Bank of England held its fire while the inflation rate more than doubled to 4.5 percent in about a year and a half. Ultimately, the increase fizzled and the authorities were vindicated. Indications that there remains enormous slack in the labor market, even as the unemployment rate has dropped from 14.8 percent in April 2020 to 5.8 percent today, also explains the Fed’s patience. The share of the population age 16 and above that is working or looking for work remains near its lowest point since women entered the workforce in large numbers in the 1970s. Just 61.6 percent of the population is in the labor force today, down from more than 66 percent in 2007. Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell wants to run the economy hot enough, long enough, to lure many of them back to productive work. If that means enduring a year or more of fast-rising prices, it’s a bargain the Fed is willing to take. The Fed says it won’t raise rates for three years. But if it’s forced to act sooner, a sudden rate hike would slow the economy and lead to a stronger dollar. That could trigger destabilizing capital flows from developing nations and make repaying dollar loans more expensive for foreign businesses that earn local currency from their operations.

#### Unions’ demands for higher wages causes an inflationary spiral.

Guida 6-4 Victoria Guida [an economics reporter covering the Federal Reserve, the Treasury Department and the broader economy. She has spent her Washington career writing about bank regulations, monetary policy and trade negotiations.

A Dallas native, she graduated from the University of Missouri with a double major in journalism and political science.] , 6-4-2021, "Biden’s back door to wage hikes," POLITICO, https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/04/bidens-back-door-to-wage-hikes-491911

“The ‘shortages’ we are seeing in lower-wage jobs and the accompanying wage pressures are an early sign of success” for the president's agenda, said Julia Coronado, founder of MacroPolicy Perspectives. That success may be short-lived. Higher wages could be among the biggest factors in pressuring the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates if clear signs of an inflation spike appear. They also risk slowing hiring for those who will increasingly seek to return to the workforce as the pandemic subsides, as companies try to keep costs down. That’s why workers’ pay was a major focus for Fed officials in Friday's U.S. employment report for May. They want to see wage gains for the workforce — but what’s behind those raises matters. Wage growth “is positive if it reduces hardship, reduces inequality and is not eaten away or reversed by higher inflation,” said Tim Duy, an economics professor at the University of Oregon and a former U.S. Treasury economist. “But we should be cognizant of the possibility that we’re inducing more inflation.” Income growth has been relatively strong, particularly in the last couple of months, despite disappointing overall job growth. Wages were up about 2 percent in May compared to the year before, and that number likely underestimates the real amount of income growth for technical reasons; lower-wage workers disproportionately lost jobs last year, making the overall average for those who kept their positions look higher then, and the opposite effect is now occurring as Americans return to the labor market. "Anyone looking at the 2.0% increase in yr/yr wages is missing the story," Jason Furman, a Harvard professor and former top economic adviser to President Barack Obama, said in a tweet. "Nominal wages up 1.2% in April/May. That is a 7.4% annual rate. That is huge." The pressure to do more to attract employees could continue to grow in certain public-facing industries. According to the Labor Department‘s jobs report, about 2.5 million people are still being held back from looking for work because of the pandemic. Wages for non-managerial leisure and hospitality workers grew 1.3 percent last month and are up 3.7 percent compared to May 2020. At the heart of the fight for higher pay is a desire for workers to share in a greater portion of the nation's economic rewards after decades of sluggish wage growth — the result of the weakening of labor unions, companies shifting production overseas and increased use of job-displacing automation. This would ideally show up as bigger raises as the economy expands faster. But if higher wages are instead passed along to customers at higher prices, that can create an inflationary cycle, as opposed to the one-time price increases that many experts believe the economy can absorb as people’s behavior, and global supply chains, return to normal. “In the near term, I wouldn’t say this is necessarily a dangerous situation if we’re just raising wages for a group of people who have been traditionally disadvantaged,” Duy said. But the longer there are shortages that make employers feel more comfortable raising prices as well as wages, “that’s where you get into this potential shift in the psychology where the wage gains and the price gains become linked.” Heidi Shierholz, director of policy at the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute and a former chief economist at the Labor Department, said Americans are not seeing the type of widespread shortage-induced wage increases that would be cause for concern. “Things are re-normalizing; it’s not like things are out of whack,” she said, adding that some of the wage increases for leisure and hospitality workers might have come from a return to normal tipping practices as restaurants reopened. “I have longer-run concerns,” she added. “The wages were too low in that sector before Covid hit, so re-normalizing is not exactly where we want to be.” For its part, the Fed is pursuing a state of “full employment,” where wages rise because most people have jobs, and the central bank has said it’s willing to tolerate inflation above its 2 percent target to get there. But the hesitance by some workers to return to the labor force is only creating the illusion of that dynamic, said Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Upwork. “If employers are raising wages right now due to temporary shortages, then that risks slowing job growth when those temporary shortages are gone,” with millions still out of work, Ozimek said. “If we were at full employment, and we were seeing inflationary pressures, that wouldn’t concern me at all,” he added. “You’re getting it because of good and sustainable reasons. That’s not the same thing as inflation due to temporary supply shortages.”

#### That collapses the economy.

Colombo 18 [Jesse Colombo is an economic analyst and Forbes contributor who warns about bubbles and future financial crises], “How Interest Rate Hikes Will Trigger The Next Financial Crisis”, Forbes, 9-27-18, https://www.forbes.com/sites/jessecolombo/2018/09/27/how-interest-rate-hikes-will-trigger-the-next-financial-crisis/?sh=5401bf966717

On Wednesday, the U.S. Federal Reserve hiked its benchmark interest rate by a quarter-percentage point to 2% - 2.25%, which is the highest level since April 2008. As rates continue to climb off their post-Great Recession record lows, market participants and commentators are showing almost no signs of fear as the stock market is hitting records again and complacency abounds. Unfortunately, "soft landings" after rate hike cycles are as rare as unicorns and virtually all modern rate hike cycles have resulted in a recession, financial, or banking crisis. There is no reason to believe that this time will be any different. As I've explained in the past, periods of low interest rates help to create credit and asset booms in the following ways: By encouraging more borrowing by consumers, businesses, and governments By discouraging the holding of cash versus spending and speculating in riskier assets & endeavors Investors can borrow cheaply to speculate in assets (ex: cheap mortgages for property speculation and low margin costs for trading stocks) By making it cheaper to borrow to conduct share buybacks, dividend increases, and mergers & acquisitions By encouraging higher rates of inflation, which helps to support assets like stocks and real estate When central banks set interest rates and hold them at low levels in order to create an economic boom after a recession (as our Federal Reserve does), they interfere with the organic functioning of the economy and financial markets, which has serious consequences including the creation of distortions and imbalances. By holding interest rates at artificially low levels, the Fed creates "false signals" that encourage the undertaking of businesses and other endeavors that would not be profitable or viable in a normal interest rate environment. The businesses or other investments that are made due to artificial credit conditions are known as "malinvestments" and typically fail once interest rates rise to normal levels again. Some examples of malinvestments are dot-com companies in the late-1990s tech bubble, failed housing developments during the mid-2000s U.S. housing bubble, and unfinished skyscrapers in Dubai and other emerging markets after the global financial crisis. Though it can be difficult to tell precisely which investments or businesses are malinvestments in a central bank-distorted economy, a quote by Warren Buffett is extremely applicable: "only when the tide goes out do you learn who's been swimming naked." For the purpose of this discussion, "the tide going out" refers to rising interest rates. The mass failure of malinvestments in an economy as interest rates rise typically results in recessions or banking/financial crises. The chart below shows how recessions or financial crises have occurred after historic interest rate hike cycles: Here is a list of historic recessions, banking, and financial crises that have occurred after interest rate hike cycles (this list corresponds with the chart above): Late-1970s/early-1980s rate hike cycle: 1980 recession: A 6-month recession that concentrated in housing, manufacturing, and the automotive industry. 1981 - 1982 recession: A 16-month recession in which 2.9 million jobs were lost. U.S. savings and loans crisis: 1,043 out of the 3,234 savings and loan associations failed as the interest rate at which they could borrow rose above the fixed interest rates on the loans that they had issued. In addition, savings and loan institutions were limited by interest rate ceilings, which caused them to lose deposits to higher-earning commercial bank accounts. U.S. housing market bust: Mortgage rates surged as high as 18%, which caused housing affordability to sink. As a result, existing-home sales fell by 50% from 1978 to 1981, affecting the whole industry - including mortgage lenders, real estate agents, construction workers, etc. Automotive industry crisis: Similar to the situation in housing, higher interest rates made automobile financing much more expensive. As a result, automobile sales plunged, causing 310,000 jobs (or one-third) in the industry to be cut. Latin American debt crisis: Rising interest rates made it harder for heavily-indebted Latin American countries to pay back their debts. Mid-1980s rate hike cycle: Continental Illinois bank failure: In 1984, Continental Illinois became the largest bank failure in U.S. history (until Washington Mutual's failure in 2008). Rising interest rates and bad loans to Texas and Oklahoma oil & gas producers strongly contributed to the bank's demise. Late-1980s rate hike cycle: Early-1990s recession: An 8-month recession in which 1.623 million jobs were lost. U.S. savings and loans crisis: Higher interest rates and the U.S. real estate downturn caused a continuation of the savings and loans crisis that began in the early-1980s. U.S. real estate downturn: Rising interest rates caused a downturn in both commercial and residential real estate. Mid-1990s rate hike cycle: Emerging markets crisis/Mexican peso crisis: Low U.S. interest rates in the early-1990s made higher-yielding emerging markets assets more attractive to investors. As U.S. interest rates rose, Mexico and other emerging economies experienced painful readjustments and currency devaluations. Orange County, California bankruptcy: Bad bets on highly leveraged interest rate derivatives bankrupted the county as interest rates rose. Early-2000s rate hike cycle: Early-2000s recession: An 8-month recession in which 1.59 million jobs were lost after the tech bubble burst. Tech bubble bust: Higher interest rates helped burst the late-1990s tech bubble that was centered around internet-related companies, dot-coms, the telecom industry, etc. Mid-2000s rate hike cycle: Great Recession: An 18-month recession in which 8.8 million jobs were lost after the U.S. housing and credit bubble burst. U.S. housing bubble bust/credit crunch: Low interest rates after the early-2000s tech bust led to the formation of a bubble in housing and credit. When interest rates rose again in the mid-2000s, housing prices and mortgage-backed securities plunged. The Current Rate Hike Cycle Won't End Any Differently All of the modern interest rate hike cycles we have examined resulted in recessions or financial crisis, and the current one will be no different. This time around, it will be the "Everything Bubble" that bursts. "Everything Bubble” is a term that I’ve coined to describe a dangerous bubble that has been inflating in a wide variety of countries, industries, and assets – please visit my website to learn more. After nearly a decade of ultra-low interest rates, the U.S. and global economy are saturated with bubbles and other distortions that will only be revealed by rising interest rates. Because of our record debt burden, interest rates do not have to rise nearly as high as in prior cycles to cause a recession or financial crisis this time around. Here are some examples of interest rate-sensitive sectors that I believe are experiencing bubbles that will burst as interest rates rise: Emerging markets: Ultra-low interest rates and quantitative easing in the U.S. and Europe after the Great Recession caused trillions of dollars worth of "hot money" to flow into emerging economies, which led to the development of credit and asset bubbles in those countries. Emerging market debt nearly tripled to $60 trillion in the past decade. Turkey, South Africa, and many other emerging markets are being roiled as U.S. interest rates and the dollar rise. U.S. corporate debt bubble: The low interest rate[s] environment after the Great Recession has encouraged public corporations to borrow heavily in the bond market. Total outstanding non-financial corporate debt has increased by over $2.5 trillion or 40% since its 2008 high. U.S. corporate debt is now at an all-time high of over 45% of GDP (see chart below), which is even worse than the levels reached during the dot-com bubble and U.S. housing and credit bubble. Read my corporate debt bubble warning on Forbes to learn more. U.S. shale energy boom/energy junk bonds: This boom/bubble is closely related to the corporate debt bubble discussed above. Extracting oil and gas from shale via fracking is extremely capital-intensive and would not be feasible in a normal interest rate environment. Thanks to the artificially low interest rate environment since the Great Recession, the shale energy industry’s net debt surged to $200 billion in 2015 - a 300% increase from 2005. Rising interest rates and the bursting of the corporate debt/junk bond bubble will cause a major bust in the shale energy industry. U.S. auto loans: Low interest rates after the Great Recession made financing and leasing automobiles much cheaper, which has resulted in an automobile sales boom. Total outstanding auto loans increased 36% to $1.118 trillion in the past decade. Rising interest rates will cause monthly auto loan payments to be more expensive, which will result in lower sales and a bust in the automotive industry. U.S. commercial real estate: Commercial real estate is a very interest rate-sensitive arena that has levitated due to low interest rates after the Great Recession. According to Green Street Advisors, U.S. commercial real estate prices have more than doubled since 2009. U.S. residential real estate: As I've recently explained in Forbes, U.S. housing prices now exceed their housing bubble peak and are up 50% from their low point in 2012 thanks to ultra-low mortgage rates. Mortgage rates did not reach such low levels on their own, but due to intervention by the Fed in the form of quantitative easing. The Fed is now reversing its quantitative easing program by $40 billion per month and, unsurprisingly, mortgage rates just hit a seven-year high and the housing market is decelerating. U.S. stock market investors are dangerously exposed to coming busts in interest rate-sensitive sectors, which will spill over into the highly-inflated stock market. Please read my U.S. stock market bubble report in Forbes for more information. The S&P 500 has risen over 300% since March 2009 due to the Federal Reserve's market manipulation: Many valuation measures show that the U.S. stock market is more overvalued than it was at major generational market peaks, which means that another sharp bear market is inevitable. According to the U.S. stock market capitalization-to-GDP ratio (also known as Warren Buffett’s "favorite indicator"), the market is more overvalued than it was during even the dot-com bubble: The current interest rate hike cycle won't end any differently than the others discussed in this piece - if anything, it will likely end in an even worse manner because interest rates were held at record low levels for a record period of time. The coming recession, crisis, and bear market will be proportionate to the unprecedented imbalances and distortions that have built up in our economy.

#### Causes global nuclear war

Tønnesson 15, Dr. Stein Tønnesson is a Norwegian peace researcher and historian. International Area Studies Review, 18(3), “Deterrence, interdependence and Sino–US peace.” <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2233865915596660> you know how to access it | ahsBC

Mutual economic dependence between China and the US within an integrated global economic system including Japan, South Korea and the ASEAN countries is probably the most cited reason for expecting East Asia to remain peaceful. The cost of conflict is assumed to be prohibitive. So although East Asia does not derive its peace from strategic trust, institutional integration or shared values, peace may still be preserved because national leaders give priority to their economic development, realize how costly a conflict would be, and expect to make further gains from open trade. Lampton (2014: 3, 7, 122, 136) holds that peace is enhanced by ‘the idea of global interdependence’, and puts forward an ‘interdependence theory’: institutional and economic interdependence dampens impulses toward conflict. While it does not make conflict impossible, and makes war even more destructive should it occur, it provides ‘incentives to keep conflict with major partners manageable’. There is now a ‘struggle for the soul of Chinese foreign policy between the realities of interdependence and the impulses of assertive nationalism’. Lampton does not go into detail about the question of when interdependence precludes war and when it does not. Christensen (2015: 41–46), however, is more specific as to why global interdependence today is of a different kind than in the past, and more likely to hinder war: trans-national production chains make it necessary for an aggressor state to ‘persuade a diverse set of foreign investors, suppliers of key components, and logistics companies to continue doing business’ after it has invaded a territory, and it is easy to see how difficult this may be.1 Thus it is less tempting than in the past to go to war: ‘While transnational production and interdependence is certainly no guarantee against war’, says Christensen, ‘it is still a major force for peace’ (Christenen, 2015: 46). The Russian invasions of Georgia and the Crimea, and the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq prove Christensen’s point about how difficult and costly it is to reconstitute a functioning economy after invading a territory, but show also that some governments disregard the costs when they see weighty geopolitical reasons for resorting to force against an inferior country with no nuclear arms. While conceding that interdependence restrains ambition and rivalry, White (2012: 50–52, 55, 116) doubts that restraints will prove stronger than pressures going the other way. He points at a psychological factor: ‘…most often people see it as shameful to put economic concerns first when issues of power and status are engaged’. When a choice has to be made in the glare of an international crisis, ‘it is very hard to put economics first’. And if both sides think the costs will be worse for their adversary than for themselves, they may wait for the other to blink. Since there is now just ‘one big global economy’ no major power can slam economic sanctions on another without hurting itself severely, but the momentum of rivalry could build up ‘before leaders or public wake up to the economic consequences’. Escalating rivalry could ‘begin to erode economic interdependence, rather than interdependence curbing escalation’, White adds. This must mean that interdependence actually does prevent or delay open conflict; only after governments have taken action to reduce their dependence are they willing to risk war. Steve Chan’s Enduring Rivalries in the Asia-Pacific (2013) is very optimistic: the general trend in East Asia, he says, is toward abatement rather than exacerbation of rivalries. Territorial disputes are less likely to escalate today than during the Cold War since East Asian states have shifted to policies emphasizing economic development. This has created a ‘synergistic effect that restrains interstate tension and rivalry’. Ties have been multilateralized, with many third parties gaining a vested stake in interstate stability. While China has increased its military capabilities it has also acquired an interest in preserving regional stability. On its side, the US faces resource constraints that make it wary of providing too strong support to its allies. This should work against bipolarization of regional relations. Chan’s optimism is not derived from recent events but from an assumption that underlying long-range forces create interests securing the peace: ‘Economic interdependence and political pluralism promote stakeholders that have a vested interest in stabilizing and expanding foreign ties, and these stakeholders are, in turn, self-motivated to lobby their government to undertake policies that abate rivalry’ (Chan, 2013: 20). Chan finds that the normal mechanism behind the outbreak and escalation of large wars is that a smaller state in an asymmetrical relationship chooses a confrontational behaviour in the hope of gaining support from a major patron; those with little or no hope of receiving foreign support and those with a great deal of confidence in their ally’s commitment ‘are less likely to initiate such confrontation than those that are in an intermediate position’ (Chan, 2013: 108, 114, 186). Given the nature of Sino–US relations, no provocation by a smaller state in East Asia is likely to escalate. North Korea cannot count on Chinese support against South Korea. South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines are subjected to US ‘escalation control’. From the perspective of power balance theory, says Chan, greater power parity between China and the US should have ‘a stabilizing rather than a destabilizing effect’. This defies Mearsheimer’s reasoning but conforms to Yan’s analysis. Chan thinks China’s rise should stabilize regional relations by ‘curtailing any US tendency toward assertive unilateralism … the last thing Beijing wants to do is to trigger a costly arms race or precipitate forces that will pressure its neighbors to choose between it and Washington’ (2013: 82, 102, 104). While this seems reasonable, China’s behaviour in the last few years does not quite confirm Chan’s argument. The ways and the conditions under which cost concerns enter into Beijing’s decision-making need to be gauged. Who calls for caution? At which stage in a crisis? According to Chan the people and governments of East Asia have turned away from being garrison states to a model of political economy emphasizing economic growth. This presents ‘the most powerful firebreak against conflict contagion’. The region-wide transition to ‘economy first’ policies has been successful, and ‘successful policies are likely to be continued … emulated and replicated’. But can they continue to be successful if Western markets are no longer able to absorb huge quantities of Asian goods? Chan qualifies his argument: ‘…when states expect future economic relations to be disrupted or curtailed, they are likely to stop cooperating and might even lash out in war’ (2013: 135, 140, 147, 149). This same argument forms the nucleus of Dale Copeland’s ‘trade expectation theory’ (Copeland, 2015), which builds on his ‘dynamic differentials theory’ (Copeland, 2000). Copeland does not include nuclear deterrence as a part of his theory (he treats nuclear as no different from conventional deterrence), and has not studied Sino–US relations in particular. What he has done is to develop a comprehensive theory of major war, based on defensive realism while including liberal elements, and paying particular emphasis to the security–economy nexus. His findings, which are based on a number of historical case studies, are of considerable interest in the context of this paper. Copeland includes three kinds of power in his theory: military; economic; and ‘potential’. The latter includes several elements, such as size, age and education of the population, access to natural resources, and economic growth prospects. In Copeland’s most recent books he focuses more narrowly on just the economic aspect of potential power, namely ‘trade expectations’. His The Origins of Major War (2000) and Economic Interdependence and War (2015) include a number of elements and findings from which interesting implications for Sino–US relations today may be seen. As in the Thucydides trap (see below), third parties can play a significant role in provoking wars between major powers (Copeland, 2015: 443–444). Hence the need to cautiously manage the disputes between the two Korean states, China and Taiwan, China and Japan, and China and the Philippines has lost none of its importance. National leaders act on the basis of their beliefs about phenomena not necessarily on accurate knowledge (Copeland, 2000: 31–32; Copeland, 2015: 17). Beliefs about likely future trends are particularly salient, and the future cannot of course be accurately known. In bipolar systems a state believing itself to be in decline is much more likely than a rising power to initiate conflict: ‘rising states should want to avoid war while they are still rising, since by waiting they can fight later with more power’ (Copeland, 2000: 2–3, 14, 20). Hence China and the US have a mutual interest in preventing each other from fearing decline. Strong military powers who believe themselves to be in decline (have negative trade expectations) are particularly dangerous (Copeland, 2000: 5, 13, 22, 237, 241, 244; Copeland, 2015: 429). Thus Beijing must be weary of tying itself up too closely with a declining Russia and even more weary of American fears of decline. Dynamic relational factors such as ‘potential power’ or ‘trade expectations’ are more important in determining choice between war and peace than static factors, such as the actual level of trade, or a state’s form of governance on the ‘unit level’ (Copeland, 2000: 235–236, 238, 245; Copeland, 2015: 12, 14, 27–50, 435–436). To the extent that unit level differences count, the character of the target state is more important than that of the aggressor; while the liberal assumption that some kinds of regimes are more likely to initiate war than others is wrong, it is true that some kinds of regimes are more likely to be targetted than others.2 To avoid becoming a target it may help to be seen as predictable, transparent, respectful of international law, and open to trade and investments. In the conclusion to his exhaustive examination of how trade expectations have influenced various decisions for war in the period 1790–1991, Copeland is optimistic about today’s prospects: ‘there are strong reasons to believe that China will stay peacefully engaged in the system over the long term, at least as long as the United States proves willing to maintain an open and free-flowing global economic system’; ‘the reasons for optimistic economic expectations in both China and the United States should outweigh the reasons for pessimism for at least a couple more decades’ (Copeland, 2015: 432, 444). Chan’s and Copeland’s optimism depends on the continued success of globalization. If trade expectations falter on any or both sides of the Pacific the unit-level economy-first policies may lose their pacifying effect. Chan confirms that the dampening effect of economic inter-dependence on conflict behaviour depends on policies of economic openness and integration. Hence there is need to understand global financial politics, global trends and economic expectations in Beijing, Washington, Tokyo and other East Asian capitals before assessing the likelihood that economic interdependence will continue to ensure peace among major nuclear powers.

## 2

#### Tech can solve infrastructure concerns but needs to be integrated – operators are key.

Jacobs 5/31 [Lionel; Senior Security Architect in the Palo Alto Networks ICS and SCADA solutions team. Coming from the asset-owner side , Lionel has spent more than 20 years working in the IT/OT environment, with a focus on ICS systems design, controls, and implementation. He was a pioneer in bridging the IT-OT security gap and implementing next-generation security into performance and safety critical process control areas. During his tenure, he successfully deployed a large scale ICS/SCADA security architecture composed of over 100 next-generation firewalls, hundreds of advanced endpoint protection clients and SIEM, distributed over dozens of remote plants and a centralized core, all based on a "Zero Trust" philosophy. Lionel graduated from Houston Baptist University with a double degree in Physics and Mathematics and has held certifications as a MCSE, CCA, CCNP, CCIP, CCNA, CSSA, and GICSP; “Critical Infrastructure Protection: Physical and Cyber Security Both Matter,” eSecurity Planet; 5/31/21; <https://www.esecurityplanet.com/networks/critical-infrastructure-protection-physical-cybersecurity/>] Justin

Segmentation based on business criteria

Segmentation is not just breaking apart the network based on the IP-Address space. True segmentation requires identifying and grouping devices into Zones or Enclaves based on meaningful business criteria to protect better vulnerable devices found within the address space. Access to devices in the zone needs to be restricted by users, groups, protocols, networks, and devices. In some instances, you may even consider restricting access by time of day.

IoT/IIoT is beginning to take hold in the energy industry, which means there are going to be more devices attached to these networks gathering information and possibly running on a vendor’s proprietary software and hardware, which more than likely will not be managed or patchable by the operator of the system. So O&G needs to have a definite plan on how they will address this growing trend, and a zero trust-based strategy offers the best means of doing this integration in a safe, secure, and, most important, reversible manner.

Camera and sensor security

Segmentation will also include the zoning of radio frequency (RF) technologies like Wi-Fi, Microwave, satellite, and cellular. ICS and SCADA systems operators must remain mindful of the possibility of an upstream attack by threat actors who have managed to compromise their RF facilities. Remote facilities and devices often have cameras and sensors to alert when a door has been opened. Still, because they are remote, attackers have time to enter the facilities and plant a device that can go completely unnoticed.

Another option physical access affords them is the opportunity to compromise the runtime operating systems and/or OS of the devices they find. The only way you will find these would be to do a physical search of the facility or cabinet and run an audit of the OS to ensure nothing has been tainted.

Zoning limits damage

So the reason why the zone trust segmentation (zoning) is so important is if you don’t have the time to perform these acts to confirm that the site is not compromised. With proper zoning enforcement, you can limit and isolate the damage to a region or just that location.

Zones in a Zero Trust network also serve as an inspection point for traffic entering and exiting the enclave. The enabling of IPS, IDS, and virtual sandboxing technology can be applied on a per-zone basis, allowing for customized protection for the vulnerable devices contained within. Implementing these security measures is a best practice even on zones where devices can receive updates and have some form of endpoint protection.

With proper design and device consideration, zoning with the different inspection technologies enabled can also be a remediating factor for those devices in your network that cannot be patched, updated, and even those that are end-of-life. In short, zoning with inspection technology enabled helps to ensure IT and OT network systems’ safe operations. In even the most secure environments, it is never safe to assume that data traffic transversing the network is free of a potential threat.

#### Increased strikes send a clear signal to terrorists that critical US infrastructure is vulnerable by weakening organizations.

Davies 6 [Ross; George Mason University - Antonin Scalia Law School, Faculty, The Green Bag; “Strike Season: Protecting Labor-Management Conflict in the Age of Terror,” SSRN; 4/12/06; <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=896185>] Justin

Strikes (and, to a lesser extent, lockouts) are painful but necessary parts of private-sector American labor-management relations. Even if they weren't - even if sound public policy called for their eradication - we couldn't stop them. They are an inevitable byproduct of the conflicting interests and limited resources of organized workers and their employers. History shows that this is true even in times of warfare overseas or crisis at home: labor-management strife lessens at the beginning of a conflict and then bounces back. Now, however, we are confronted with warfare at home, a phenomenon that the United States has not had to deal with since the Civil War - before the rise of today's unprecedentedly large, complex, and interdependent economy and government.

And history is repeating itself again. After a lull at the beginning of the war with terrorists, work stoppages have returned to their pre-war levels. The overall rate of strike activity is substantially lower than it was during previous wars (it has been slowly declining, along with overall union membership in the private sector, for decades). Today's war, however, is being fought in part on American soil, and against enemies who operate worldwide, but whose attacks tend to be small and local, seeking advantage from the unpredictability and brutality of the damage they inflict rather than from its scale. Thus, even small, localized, and occasional work stoppages - not just the large-scale strikes that arguably affected the military-industrial complex and thus the war efforts in the past - have the potential to increase risks to critical infrastructure and public safety during the war on terror. In other words, persistent strike activity at current levels poses risks of public harm, albeit risks that are difficult to anticipate with specificity in the absence of much experience or available data. This justifies taking some reasonable precautions, including the proposal made in this Article.

By its very nature, a labor strike increases the vulnerability of that employer's operations to a terrorist attack. A strike is an act specifically designed to disrupt and weaken an employer's operations, for the (usually) perfectly lawful purpose of pressing for resolution of a dispute with management. A weakened organization or other entity is, of course, less capable of resisting and surviving exogenous shocks, whether they be commercial competition or terrorist attacks. In the United States, with its fully extended and endlessly interconnected critical infrastructure that touches everything from food processing to energy distribution to water quality, a strike in the wrong place at the wrong time that disrupts and weakens some part of that infrastructure could be decisive in the success or failure of a terrorist attack of the small, local sort described above, on such a weakened link in some infrastructural chain. Of course, none of this is to suggest that any union or its members (or any employer or its managers) would knowingly expose their fellow citizens or their property to a terrorist attack. To the contrary, experience to date suggests that union members are at least as patriotic and conscientious as Americans in general. In fact, the effectiveness of the proposal made in this Article is predicated in part on the assumption that neither workers nor their employers will knowingly contribute to the incidence or effectiveness of terrorist attacks. The concern addressed here is, rather, that innocent instigators or perpetuators of a work stoppage might unwittingly facilitate a successful terrorist attack or aggravate its effects.

#### Attacks on critical infrastructure collapses the economy through multiple avenues.

FAS 6 [DCSINT Handbook No. 1.02; Info directly from US army and Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence; “Critical Infrastructure Threats and Terrorism,” DCSINT/FAS; 8/10/6; <https://fas.org/irp/threat/terrorism/sup2.pdf>] Justin

Agriculture

In 1984, a cult group poisoned salad bars at several Oregon restaurants with Salmonella bacteria as the first recorded event of bioterrorism in the United States. This resulted in 750 people becoming sick.24 A review of the agriculture infrastructure results in vulnerable areas such as the high concentration of the livestock industry and the centralized nature of the food processing industry. The farm-to table chain contains various points into which an attack could be launched. The threat of attack would seriously damage consumer confidence and undermine export markets. Understanding the goal of the threat points to the area most likely attacked. If the intent was economic disruption the target would be livestock and crops, but if the intent was mass casualties the point of attack would be contamination of finished food products. Damage to livestock could be very swift, the USDA calculated that foot-and mouth disease could spread to 25 states in 5 days.25 CDC is presently tracking and developing scenarios for the arrival of Avian Flu.

Banking

Prior to the destruction of the Twin Towers, physical attacks against the banking industry, such as the destruction of facilities, were rare. Unfortunately, evidence indicates that may change, in March 2005 three British al-Qa’ida operatives were indicted by a U.S. federal court on charges of conducting detailed reconnaissance of financial targets in lower Manhattan, Newark, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. In addition to video taping the Citigroup Center and the New York Stock Exchange in New York City, the Prudential Financial building in Newark, and the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington D.C., the men amassed more than 500 photographs of the sites.26 The Banking infrastructures primary weakness is along its cyber axis of attack. Through phishing and banking Trojan targeting specific financial institutions, attackers reduce confidence among consumers. Recently American Express posted an alert online, including a screenshot of a pop-up that appeared when users log in to its secure site.27

The attack not only attempts to obtain personal information that can be used for various operations, but also launches a virus into the user’s computer. CitiBank, and Chase Manhattan Bank have both been victim during 2005 and 2006 to phishing schemes misrepresenting their services to their clients.

Energy

Recently the oil industry occupied the headlines, and the criticality of this infrastructure is not lost on terrorists. In mid-December 2004, Arab television aired an alleged audiotape message by Usama bin Laden in which he called upon his followers to wreak havoc on the U.S. and world economy by disrupting oil supplies from the Persian Gulf to the United States.28 The U.S. uses over 20.7 million barrels a day of crude oil and products and imports 58.4% of that requirement.29 On 19 January 2006 al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden announced in a video release that, “The war against America and its allies will not be confined to Iraq…..”, and since June of 2003 there have been 298 recorded attacks against Iraqi oil facilities.30 Terrorists conduct research as to the easiest point to damage the flow of oil or to the point where the most damage can be done. Scenarios involving the oil fields themselves, a jetliner crashing into the Ras Tanura facility in Saudi Arabia could remove 10 percent of the world’s energy imports in one act.31 Maritime attacks are also option for terrorists; on October 6, 2002 a French tanker carrying 397,000 barrels of crude oil from Iran to Malaysia was rammed by an explosive laden boat off of the port of Ash Shihr, 353 miles east of Aden. The double-hulled tanker was breached, and maritime insurers tripled the rates.32 Energy most travel often long distances from the site where it is obtained to the point where it is converted into energy for use, a catastrophic event at any of the sites or along its route can adversely impact the energy infrastructure and cause ripples in other infrastructures. The security of the pipeline in Alaska increases in importance as efforts are made to make America more independent on energy use.

Economy

The U.S. economy is the end-state target of several terrorist groups as identified in the introduction quote. The means by which terrorists and other threats attempt to impact the economic infrastructure is through it’s linkage to the other infrastructures. Attacks are launched at other infrastructures, such as energy or the Defense Industrial Base in an effort to achieve a “cascading” result that impacts the economy. Cyber attacks on Banking and Finance are another effort to indirectly impact the economy. The short term impacts of the 9/11 attacks on Lower Manhattan resulted in the loss of 30% of office space and a number of businesses simply ceased to exist. Close to 200,000 jobs were destroyed or relocated out of New York City. The destruction of physical assets was estimated in the national accounts to amount to $14 billion for private businesses, $1.5 billion for state and local government enterprises and $0.7 billion for federal enterprises. Rescue, cleanup and related costs are estimated to at least $11 billion for a total direct cost of $27.2 billion.33 The medium and long term effects cannot be accurately estimated but demonstrate the idea of cascading effects. The five main areas affected over a longer period were Insurance, Airlines, Tourism and other Service Industries, Shipping and Security and military spending. At various times terrorist rhetoric has mentioned attacks against Wall Street proper, but the more realistic damage to the economy will come through the indirect approach of cascading effects.

Transportation

The attack on commuter trains in Madrid in March of 2004 and the London bombings in July of 2005, which together killed 243 people, clearly indicated the threat to the transportation infrastructure. Statistics provided by the Brookings Institute in Washington DC show that between 1991 and 2001 42% of worldwide terrorist attacks were directed against mass transit. Transportation is viewed by terrorists as a “soft target” and one that will impact the people of a country. Mass Service Transportation (MST) is the likely target of a terrorist attack.

MST caters to large volumes of people, crammed into narrow confined spaces

MST is designed to move large numbers of people quickly and efficiently, which is often counter to protective measure

MST assets are enclosed, serving to amplify explosions

MST attacks can result in “cascading effects” because communications and power conduits are usually collocated in proximity to their routes

The Department of Homeland Security sent a “public sector notice” in May of 2006 based on two incidents of “suspicious videotaping” of European mass-transit systems.34 The individual had several tapes besides the one in his camera, none of which showed any tourist sites. The tapes focused on the insides of subway cars, the inside and outside of several stations and exit routes from the stations. In June of 2003 the FBI arrested Iyman Faris, a 34 year old naturalized American citizen who had been in contact with Al Qaeda conducting research and reconnaissance in an effort to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge.35 Mr. Faris had traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2000, meeting with Osama bin Laden, he returned to the U.S. and began gathering information concerning the Brooklyn Bridge and communicating via coded messages with Al Qaeda leaders. An attack on the bridge would have not only damaged the transportation infrastructure, but also a known American landmark. On 24 May 2006, a Pakistani immigrant was convicted on charges of plotting to blow up one of Manhattan’s busiest subway stations in retaliation for the U.S. actions at the Abu Ghraib prison.36

Terrorist threats to the transportation infrastructure extend beyond land to the sea. Vice Admiral Jonathan Greenert, commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, said “one of my nightmares would be a maritime terrorism attack in the Strait of Malacca”.37 “There is a strain of al-Qaida in Southeast Asia, called Jemaah Islamiya. They are actively pursuing a maritime terrorism capability that includes diving and mining training.”38 As how this might impact on the economy, $220 billion in trade comes through the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility and 98% of the commerce is moved by sea. Just as ports can be viewed a SPOF within the maritime transport system, there are certain waterway chokepoints or heavily trafficked areas that can be viewed as a high payoff target to a terrorist or result in catastrophic damage from a natural disaster.

#### Extinction.

Liu '18 [Qian; 11/13/18; Managing Director of Greater China for The Economist Group, previously director of the global economics unit and director of Access China for the Economist Intelligence Unit, PhD in economics from Uppsala University; "The next economic crisis could cause a global conflict. Here's why," <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/11/the-next-economic-crisis-could-cause-a-global-conflict-heres-why/>] // Re-Cut Justin

The next economic crisis is closer than you think. But what you should really worry about is what comes after: in the current social, political, and technological landscape, a prolonged economic crisis, combined with rising income inequality, could well escalate into a major global military conflict. The 2008-09 global financial crisis almost bankrupted governments and caused systemic collapse. Policymakers managed to pull the global economy back from the brink, using massive monetary stimulus, including quantitative easing and near-zero (or even negative) interest rates. But monetary stimulus is like an adrenaline shot to jump-start an arrested heart; it can revive the patient, but it does nothing to cure the disease. Treating a sick economy requires structural reforms, which can cover everything from financial and labor markets to tax systems, fertility patterns, and education policies. Policymakers have utterly failed to pursue such reforms, despite promising to do so. Instead, they have remained preoccupied with politics. From Italy to Germany, forming and sustaining governments now seems to take more time than actual governing. And Greece, for example, has relied on money from international creditors to keep its head (barely) above water, rather than genuinely reforming its pension system or improving its business environment. The lack of structural reform has meant that the unprecedented excess liquidity that central banks injected into their economies was not allocated to its most efficient uses. Instead, it raised global asset prices to levels even higher than those prevailing before 2008. In the United States, housing prices are now 8% higher than they were at the peak of the property bubble in 2006, according to the property website Zillow. The price-to-earnings (CAPE) ratio, which measures whether stock-market prices are within a reasonable range, is now higher than it was both in 2008 and at the start of the Great Depression in 1929. As monetary tightening reveals the vulnerabilities in the real economy, the collapse of asset-price bubbles will trigger another economic crisis – one that could be even more severe than the last, because we have built up a tolerance to our strongest macroeconomic medications. A decade of regular adrenaline shots, in the form of ultra-low interest rates and unconventional monetary policies, has severely depleted their power to stabilize and stimulate the economy. If history is any guide, the consequences of this mistake could extend far beyond the economy. According to Harvard’s Benjamin Friedman, prolonged periods of economic distress have been characterized also by public antipathy toward minority groups or foreign countries – attitudes that can help to fuel unrest, terrorism, or even war. For example, during the Great Depression, US President Herbert Hoover signed the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, intended to protect American workers and farmers from foreign competition. In the subsequent five years, global trade shrank by two-thirds. Within a decade, World War II had begun. To be sure, WWII, like World War I, was caused by a multitude of factors; there is no standard path to war. But there is reason to believe that high levels of inequality can play a significant role in stoking conflict. According to research by the economist Thomas Piketty, a spike in income inequality is often followed by a great crisis. Income inequality then declines for a while, before rising again, until a new peak – and a new disaster. Though causality has yet to be proven, given the limited number of data points, this correlation should not be taken lightly, especially with wealth and income inequality at historically high levels. This is all the more worrying in view of the numerous other factors stoking social unrest and diplomatic tension, including technological disruption, a record-breaking migration crisis, anxiety over globalization, political polarization, and rising nationalism. All are symptoms of failed policies that could turn out to be trigger points for a future crisis. Voters have good reason to be frustrated, but the emotionally appealing populists to whom they are increasingly giving their support are offering ill-advised solutions that will only make matters worse. For example, despite the world’s unprecedented interconnectedness, multilateralism is increasingly being eschewed, as countries – most notably, Donald Trump’s US – pursue unilateral, isolationist policies. Meanwhile, proxy wars are raging in Syria and Yemen. Against this background, we must take seriously the possibility that the next economic crisis could lead to a large-scale military confrontation. By the logic of the political scientist Samuel Huntington , considering such a scenario could help us avoid it, because it would force us to take action. In this case, the key will be for policymakers to pursue the structural reforms that they have long promised, while replacing finger-pointing and antagonism with a sensible and respectful global dialogue. The alternative may well be global conflagration.

## Case

#### Squo solves – the AFF’s I/Ls are dependent on strike protections that the NLRA already grants

SHRM n.d. (SHRM – Society for Human Resource Management citing the National Labor Relations Act, “Are All Types of Labor Strikes Protected Under The National Labor Relations Act?”, https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/tools-and-samples/hr-qa/pages/cms\_021003.aspx, EmmieeM)

An employee's right to strike is a critical component of the right to organize but is not without limitations. Certain strikes qualify as protected activity under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), but not all strikes are protected. The main types of strikes covered by the NLRA are:

Unfair labor practice strikes, which protest employers' illegal activities.

Economic strikes, which may occur when there are disputes over wages or benefits.

Recognition strikes, which are intended to force employers to recognize unions.

Jurisdictional strikes, which are concerted refusals to work to affirm members' right to particular job assignments and to protest the assignment of work to another union or to unorganized employees.

A unionized employee's right to reinstatement after a strike ends varies based on the type of strike and the underlying reason for the strike. Employers are allowed to hire replacement workers during unfair labor practice strikes and economic strikes.

Economic strikers who are striking as a result of the employer's failure to reach an agreement over wages or other working conditions may be permanently replaced but cannot be terminated. Strikers who are striking as a result of an unfair labor practice cannot be permanently replaced or terminated.

At the end of a strike, unfair labor practice strikers are entitled to be reinstated to their former positions (even if that means the employer has to terminate replacement workers) as long as they have not participated in any misconduct. Economic strikers who offer to return to work after the employer has hired permanent replacement workers are not entitled to reinstatement. However, if they can't find equivalent employment elsewhere, they are entitled to be recalled as job openings become available.

#### You get zero access to this Case – Opino Juris which is the internal link to everything they’ve saive requires explicit citing of ILO as justification – the Plan doesn’t do that – it just “aligns” but doesn’t explicitly recognize an obligation – that distinction matters.

LII No Date "opinio juris (international law)" <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/opinio_juris_(international_law)> (Legal Information Institute)//Elmer

Definition **Opinio juris** is a **shortened form of** the Latin phrase opinio juris sive **necessitatis**, which **means "an opinion of law or necessity."** Overview In customary international law, opinio juris is the second element necessary to establish a legally binding custom. Opinio juris **denotes a subjective obligation**, **a sense on behalf of a state that it is bound to the law in question**. The International Court of Justice reflects this standard in ICJ Statute, Article 38(1)(b) by reflecting that the custom to be applied must be "accepted as law".

#### US violations of International Labor Standards are inevitable and multiple Alt Causes other than the Right to Strike.

Rosenberg 20 Eli Rosenberg 10-7-2020 "U.S. accused of violating international labor laws, forced-labor protections in new complaint" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/10/08/international-complaint-worker-protections/> (University of California at Los Angeles, BA in American literature and Latin American studies)//Elmer

**Leaders** representing a large number of U.S. trade unions **filed** a **complaint** **with** the **U**nited **N**ations’ **labor** **agency** Wednesday, **arguing** that the country under President **Trump** has **violated** **international labor standards during the coronavirus pandemic.** The complaint was **filed by** the Service Employees International Union and the AFL-CIO at the Geneva headquarters of the International Labour Organization, a more than 100-year-old institution run by the U.N. that works to upholds human rights on work-related issues like safety and collective bargaining. The complaint details numerous ways U.S. labor law and enforcement are failing workers, and spotlights their further weakening under Trump. And it **charges** the **U**nited **S**tates **with** **violating workers’ rights** in terms not typically associated with well-off countries, at one point saying the bind many essential workers have been placed in during the pandemic — **forced to risk infection or lose their jobs** and potentially unemployment benefits **— amounts to a system of forced** **labor**. The complaint is another sign of the frustration over the treatment of workers under the Trump administration, and it places the United States in the realm of potential wrongdoing typically occupied by less-developed and less-democratic countries. “Covid has laid bare what we already knew,” Richard Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO said in an interview. “It has demonstrated that not only is the U.S. violating workers’ rights, but those violations are resulting in people dying. It became so outrageous that we wanted to file a complaint.” The Labor Department and Occupational Safety and Health Administration did not respond to a request for comment. The National Labor Relations Board declined to comment. The complaint points to two main avenues of failure for U.S. labor law and policy: the country’s antiquated labor laws, such as the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, which leaves farmers, gig workers, contractors and other classes of workers without protection; and the softening of workers’ protections by the Trump administration that has continued into the pandemic. Some of the complaint’s harshest words were reserved for the Trump administration’s orders declaring industries such as meatpacking essential, compelling them to stay open even amid potential novel coronavirus outbreaks, while federal agencies, including OSHA, declined to issue enforceable safety regulations. “These executive orders gave a green light for employers to force workers to report for work and risk their lives or lose their jobs,” said the complaint, signed by Trumka and SEIU President Mary Kay Henry. “This is tantamount to forced labor.” The complaint highlighted the racial implications of these orders too, arguing one executive order was inherently discriminatory because the vast majority of meatpacking workers who contracted the coronavirus were Black or Hispanic. The complaint also took aim at other ways Trump’s labor agencies rolled back protections for workers. During the pandemic’s early weeks, the NLRB, which oversees union elections, suspended them, giving companies more time to maneuver against them, the complaint charged. The NLRB also issued a memo in March that the union presidents said signaled employers could avoid bargaining about proposed layoffs because of the pandemic. And in two cases in August, the NLRB said companies were in the clear for dismissing workers who expressed concern about safety issues during the pandemic, even though workers have protections from the National Labor Relations Act from being fired in many cases for raising safety concerns at work. “Each of these decisions disarms workers and their unions in the face of management actions to violate their collective bargaining rights in the Covid-19 crisis,” the complaint said. “Since these memoranda also serve as instructions to NLRB regional authorities on how to handle similar cases, they have a cascading effect that will undermine workers’ rights in weeks and months ahead as the pandemic continues to ravage American workplaces.”

#### Strikes inhibit democratization and aren’t enough to induce transition – your evidence is overly optimistic.

Ahlquist 17 [John; School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California San Diego; “Labor Unions, Political Representation, and Economic Inequality,” 3/9/17; AnnualReviews; https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051215-023225] Justin

But strikes and union alliances are almost never sufficient to induce a regime transition on their own. Unions, even if successful at mobilizing workers under authoritarian systems or as voters, are not always prodemocratic elements (Valenzuela 1989, Levitsky & Mainwaring 2006). Unions deeply incorporated into populist or Marxist parties can end up inhibiting democratization, even when independent labor organizations are pushing in the opposite direction (Levitsky 2001). Union leaders, when insulated from rank-and-file pressure, can become co-opted by parties or even criminal elements. Whether unions are part of pro- or antidemocratic coalitions can vary across cases and across unions within a country, depending on the instrumental benefits offered to union leaders and members as well as the expected outcomes under different regime types.

#### Covid has supercharged tech innovation but sustained development is key to ensure further development.

Neuwahl Tannen 8/18 Neuwahl Tannen, Janette. “Pandemic Spurs a Burst of Technology Innovation.” University of Miami News and Events, 18 Aug. 2020, news.miami.edu/stories/2020/08/pandemic-spurs-a-burst-of-technology-innovation.html. SJEP

Since the novel coronavirus put its grip on the United States, daily life has changed in countless ways. Those who can, work from home. Those who rarely cooked now have little choice. And the days of enjoying sports events or concerts among a throng of people seem like distant memories. But COVID-19 has been a boon for technology and, according to University of Miami experts, these innovations are destined to transform how we do business and almost every other facet of life—from how we communicate, educate, recreate, and entertain to how we seek medical care, design new homes, and perhaps even choose who we live with. “Tech companies are enabling digital productivity,” said Ernie Fernandez, vice president of information technology and the University’s chief information officer. “And this is not just a temporary COVID-19 response—these companies will continue to provide value in a world where digital technology is going to persist.” Geoff Sutcliffe, a computer science professor, added that amid the unfortunate misery and death, the pandemic has some silver linings. “We are privileged to be living through an industrial revolution, with computing at the core of it,” he said. “Suddenly, this is how we do life and it will change our economic lives completely.” Health care. The health care sector is one area undergoing massive technological growth. Not only are several companies developing contact tracing applications for COVID-19, but the pandemic has dramatically increased the acceptance of telehealth visits. Not long ago, insurance companies refused to reimburse doctors for remote exams conducted over a computer screen, yet COVID-19 has given them no choice, said Sara Rushinek, professor of business technology and health informatics in the Miami Herbert Business School. Beginning with its football team and other student-athletes, the University is the first in the nation to use Tyto Care kits to diagnose or monitor patients who may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who are recovering from the disease. The handheld devices allow health care providers to remotely peer down a person’s throat, inspect their ears, listen to their lungs, and heart, even measure the oxygen in their blood. Rushinek expects the number of such devices that relay patient data to physicians will flourish with time. Nicholas Tsinoremas, who directs the University’s [Institute for Data Science and Computing](https://idsc.miami.edu/) (IDSC), and Yelena Yesha, distinguished visiting professor of computer science, who is serving as IDSC’s chief innovation officer, also see the opportunity for technology to improve health care. “We may still go to the hospital, but there will be a lot of digital therapeutic devices to manage the patient outside of the doctor’s office,” Tsinoremas said. Scientists are also harnessing artificial intelligence to uncover patterns among those infected with COVID-19 and to determine why some people are asymptomatic, why others die, and how the virus interacts with other ailments—such as liver disease—to affect a person’s immune response, Yesha said. Kenneth Goodman, professor of medicine and director of the Miller School of Medicine’s Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy, said the pandemic is fostering an accelerated digitalization of patient health histories and stimulating the creation of tools to allow these records to be shared more easily for both public health and clinical care. “Health system computers need to talk to each other better,” said Goodman, who also co-directs the University’s Ethics Programs and IDSC’s Data Ethics and Society Center. “Systems must become more interoperable; so that patients who move or are transferred can share their records seamlessly and securely.” Education and Business When offices and classrooms shuttered almost overnight, workplaces and school districts were forced to adopt collaborative platforms like Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate, or Microsoft Teams. Once used occasionally, such tools are now almost essential for everyday survival, and they are being updated constantly, experts said. “We are learning that some of the things we were doing are not the best way to have an impact,” Tsinoremas said. “Why get on an airplane, when you can just have a virtual meeting?” Sutcliffe, who has been able to attend several digital conferences this summer and is planning one of his own in October, sees the change as an advantage for students and faculty alike. “They can now attend high-end conferences with experts in their field at a very low cost or sometimes for free,” he said. The growing presence of 5G networking amid the pandemic also could spur an explosion of technological innovation, Tsinoremas said. With more advanced computing and quicker video streaming, co-workers may forgo Zoom and simply meet with 3D avatars of themselves. “It sounds like science fiction, but with a crisis like COVID, this may come much sooner than we all think,” Tsinoremas said. “We can have a virtual meeting, or you could have your own 3-D model there.” In science classes, virtual labs will likely be more interactive, with instructors sharing multiple screens with the students—one with directions and another demonstrating experiments, Tsinoremas pointed out. Many companies and research centers are also improving decision-support software to help humans make more accurate, efficient, and sometimes safer decisions, Goodman said. An example is shown among the features now offered in cars to alert drivers of potential safety hazards. But the software—driven increasingly by machine-learning algorithms—is already improving some physicians’ diagnostic accuracy and might reduce error. “The future will bring an expanded use of computer decision support, which raises difficult ethical issues about whether to—and who should—use those tools,” Goodman said. “Indeed, such software is already transforming science, commerce, and transportation. For instance, autonomous cars are rolling decision-support systems.” Yesha envisions a day when block chain technology, which enables the creation of secure and permanent records of transactions, will protect the nation’s supply chains, many of which were paralyzed at the onset of the pandemic.