

The year was tragic. With open borders, rampant crime nationwide, Soviet style shortages, fentanyl killing almost 50,000 citizens, and rising prices of everything from food & fuel to diapers & plastic, Americans are suffering.

U.S. forces eliminated Ayman Al-Zawahiri with a precision missile strike; he planned the 9/11 attack with Osama Bin Laden. The administration was quick to claim credit for the kill but was silent on the fact that the most wanted terrorist in the world was not hiding in some hard-to-find cave but was found while lounging on his balcony in the capital city of Afghanistan less than a year after the catastrophic withdraw.

Canadian truckers blocked a highway and bridge to protest against COVID restrictions. Justin Trudeau, the tyrannical Prime Minister, [jailed the protestors](#), confiscated their trucks, and seized their bank accounts. The *GoFundMe* website, which, due to its tax-exempt status, is by law prohibited from taking a political position, withheld donations to the truckers while it continued sending funds to Antifa and BLM.

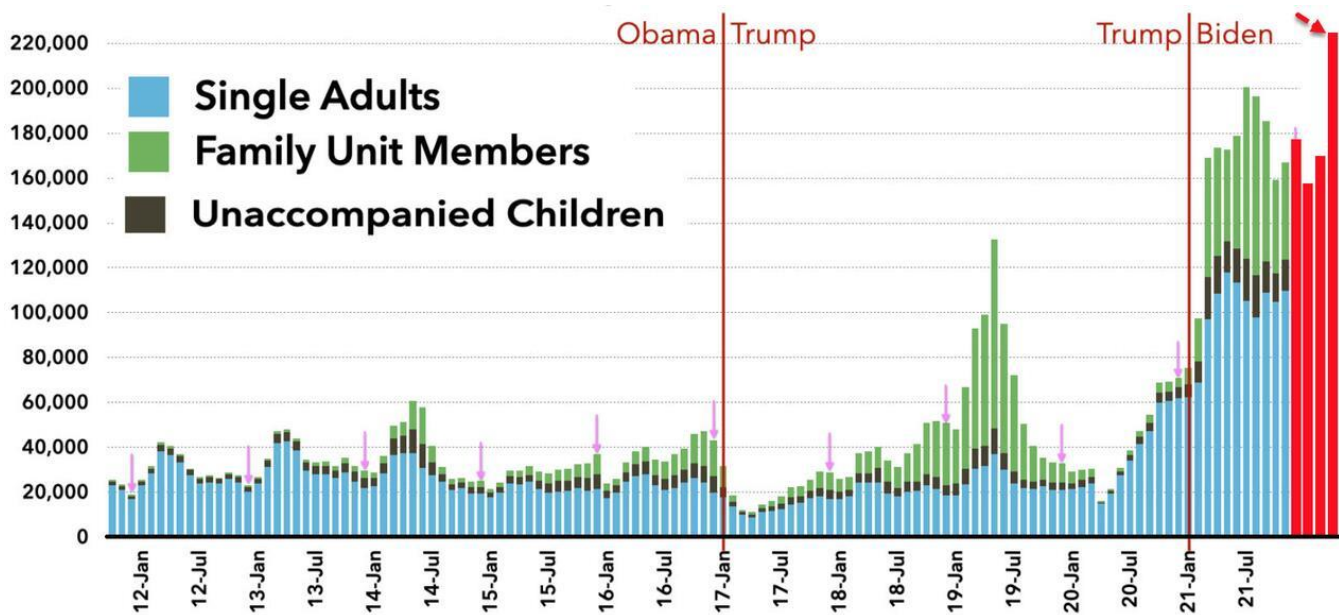
In China, authority's targeted families with COVID and [welded the doors shut on apartment buildings](#), sentencing them in some cases to starve to death and at least in one instance get burned alive when a fire broke out. Some brave Chinese [protested at universities](#) against such draconian measures and for freedom of press to report such atrocities. While [Iranian students protested](#) for human rights, the oppressive, radical Mullahs armed the Russian army with drones to be [used against civilians](#) in Ukraine. The Ukrainians still managed to inflict heavy losses on Russian forces.

In the midst of the pandemic, the government gave unemployment [benefits to the incarcerated](#), the [imaginary](#), and the dead. It sent money to "[farms](#)" that turned out to be front yards. It paid people who were on the government's "[Do Not Pay List](#)". It gave loans to 342 people who said their name was "[N/A](#)". And, some creepy guy named [Sam Bankman-Fried](#) was arrested for a Ponzi-scheme at his \$40M villa in the Bahamas when his crypto-currency company collapsed; \$7B of investors' funds evaporated overnight.

During his first official visit to Asia, Joe Biden [threatened war against China](#) if it were to invade Taiwan. The significant threat was an extremely risky departure from the carefully crafted historical policy with regard to Taiwan known as "strategic ambiguity". He also publicly advocated to remove Vladimir Putin from power. While these types of discussions are typical at state levels, they're [always](#) held behind closed doors before nations announce their formal policy to a civilized world. With international tensions higher now than at any time in the past 30 years, and to be brutally honest, Joe is a demented fool who risks stumbling into a nuclear war.

Over [4 million illegal immigrants](#) have been encouraged to cross the southern border. Since Biden took office the border patrol has been reduced to a government agency relegated to processing paper and letting virtually anybody in the world into our country. At this rate, by the end of President Bidens term there will be at least 8 million new illegal immigrants in the U.S. for a total of almost [23 million](#).





**Southern Border Crossings: 2012 - 2021**

Elon Musk bought Twitter with the promise to not silence speech be it liberal or conservative; the thought of open debate on the platform sent the media and political left into a tizzy. Then Twitter released hundreds of documents that showed the FBI worked directly with executives at the company to actively silence conservative speech over the past few years. The company was instrumental in [hiding the Hunter Biden laptop story](#) that ran in the New York Post and clearly showed a pattern of corruption in the Biden family leading directly to Joe. This one instance shows how big-tech tilted the 2020 presidential election. The document's revealed that federal agents had almost daily contact with Twitter and [paid the company \\$3.4M for its "assistance"](#). It is just as unconstitutional for the government to pay a corporation to restrict free speech as it is for the government to do so directly. This kind of Orwellian, Soviet style police state should petrify every American regardless of political affiliation. The only remedy is to setup a type of [Church Committee](#) to dismantle the FBI from top-to-bottom.

Baby formula was absent on supermarket shelves across the country while warehouses at the southern border were stocked for illegal immigrants. When the story broke, the White House invited the nations baby formula producers to an emergency meeting. Conveniently omitted was the largest supplier in the U.S., Abbott. The reason? It was the federal government who wrongly shutdown Abbott's production and caused the shortage in the first place.

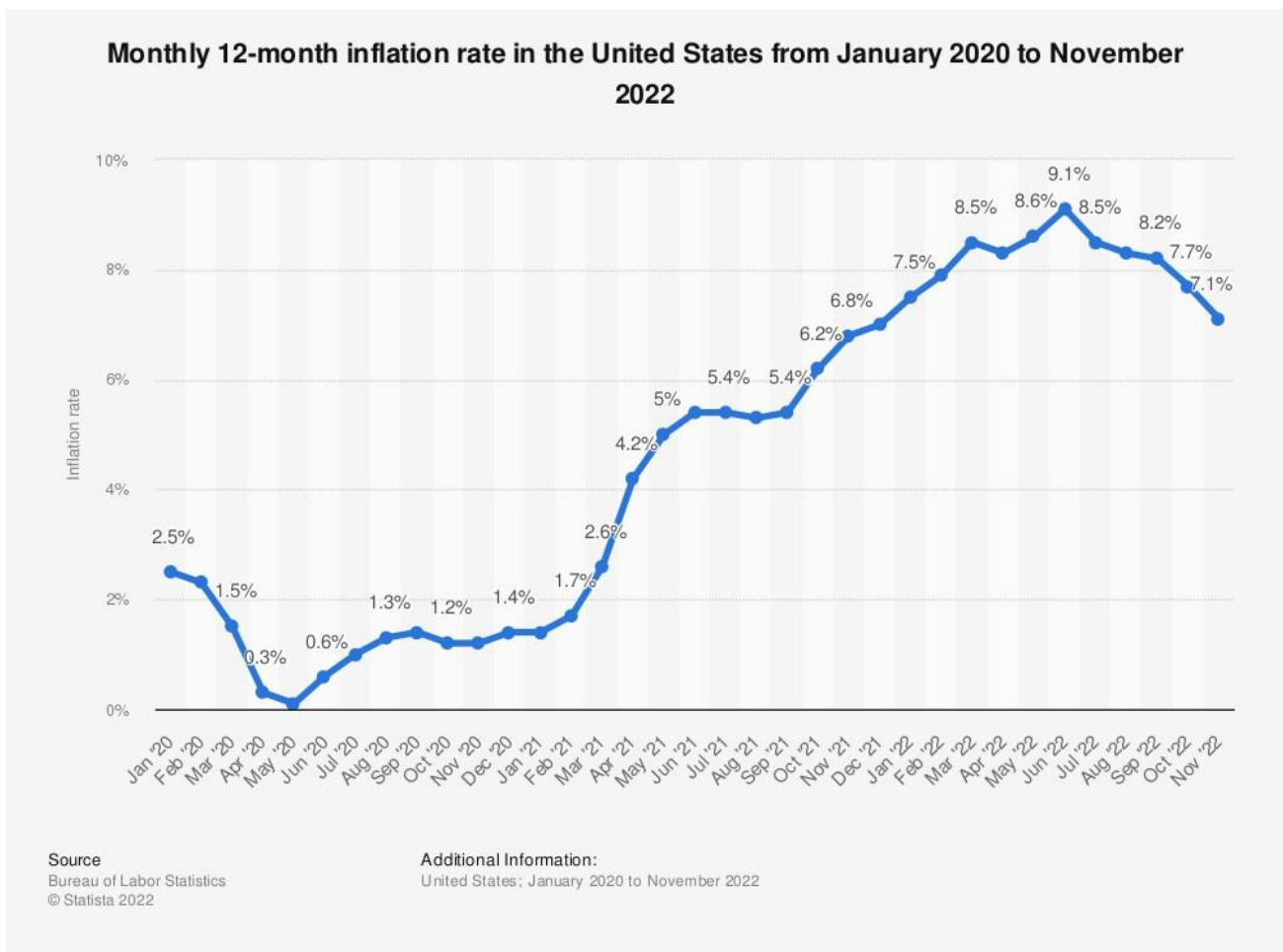


Joe Biden also held a meeting with electric car manufacturers at the White House where he invited American auto companies. Only, he excluded Tesla which sells more electric cars than every company on the planet combined. Leftist billionaires, the Washington elite, and federal bureaucrats hate Elon Musk, the independent, libertarian.

The Supreme Court issued several rulings in this year: A West Virginia case severely limited the authority of unelected bureaucrats at the EPA to arbitrarily impose regulations. A New York statute that banned carrying concealed weapons by law abiding citizens for the purpose of self-defense was found unconstitutional. And, Roe v. Wade was determined to be a state issue and left it up to the states to implement. In response, thousands of protestors swarmed the homes of supreme court judges and threatened their families. Even though protesting at a federal judge's house is explicitly illegal, Biden's Department of Justice refused to prosecute anyone. Meanwhile, Nancy Pelosi blocked a bill from coming to a vote that would protect supreme court justices. The reason is that to pass such a bill or arrest protestors would not only protect the conservative judges, which she's opposed to, but would acknowledge that it is the left and the democratic base who are violent, intolerant, and radical. Case in point: A California man traveled to Justice Kavanaugh's house with a gun, ammunition, a knife, pepper spray, and zip ties. He planned to [assassinate the judge](#) but was arrested before he could act.

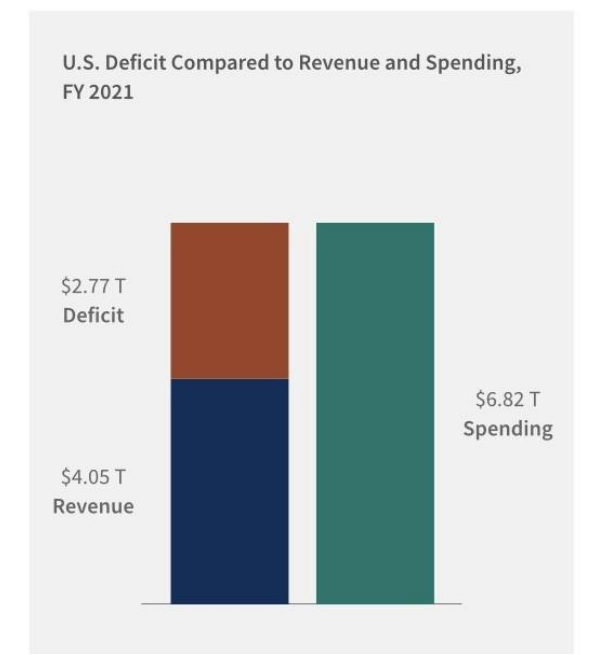
The FBI raided Donald Trump's personal residence on sketchy legal grounds over what seems to be a disagreement between the National Archive's and the former president. That a sitting president would allow his top law enforcement agency to storm the home of a political opponent for nefarious reasons sets an alarming precedent. Given there's substantial, material evidence of the entire Biden family taking [\\$31M from the Chinese](#) alone, we've never had a more corrupt president in history. Joe and his family have to be concerned about what an ethical, lawful Justice Department would do to them.

Inflation remained persistent at an average rate of 8% over the year (11% for food). It seems that the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, and his predecessor, Janet Yellen, are the worst bankers in U.S. history. Their initial denial and then late response to inflation led to the fastest interest rate hikes in history and have driven down property values, throttled business expansion, and led to layoffs: so far 11,000 at Facebook, 10,000 at Amazon, 6,700 at UBER, and 3,700 at Twitter. Signs point to the U.S. entering a relatively deep recession in 2023.





Meanwhile, congress continues reckless spending with pork-laden 4,000-page bills that literally nobody has read. A \$1.7T bill passed just a week ago included funding to secure the borders of Jordan and Egypt yet it explicitly outlawed any funds to secure the U.S. southern border. The federal budget is now \$7T while only \$4.8T is collected in taxes. The result of such unrestrained spending is clear: Obama started his term with \$9T in national debt; now its **\$31 trillion** (that's *\$248,000 per taxpayer*). At today's rates, the payment on the interest alone is \$484B/year. When interest rates rise by just 2% in 2023 the annual debt payment will grow to about \$1.3T/year which is more than the entire budget for the U.S. military.



<https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov>

The middle class has seen a sudden erosion of everything they once took for granted and are now faced with supply-chain shortages, smash-and-grabs, car-jackings, train robbery's, periodic brownouts, dysfunctional air travel, and constant racially motivated hate crimes.

Meanwhile, retirement accounts have lost a third of their value in a year. The middle class now receives only 1-2% in interest on their eroding savings accounts, but pay 7% for mortgages, while inflation eats away their value of their purchasing power. As part of the current cultural bewilderment, voters are baffled that the southern border is open while the administration hires 87,000 new IRS agents. Given the 3<sup>rd</sup> world problems America is saddled with Democrats were giddy they weren't wiped out during the mid-term elections.

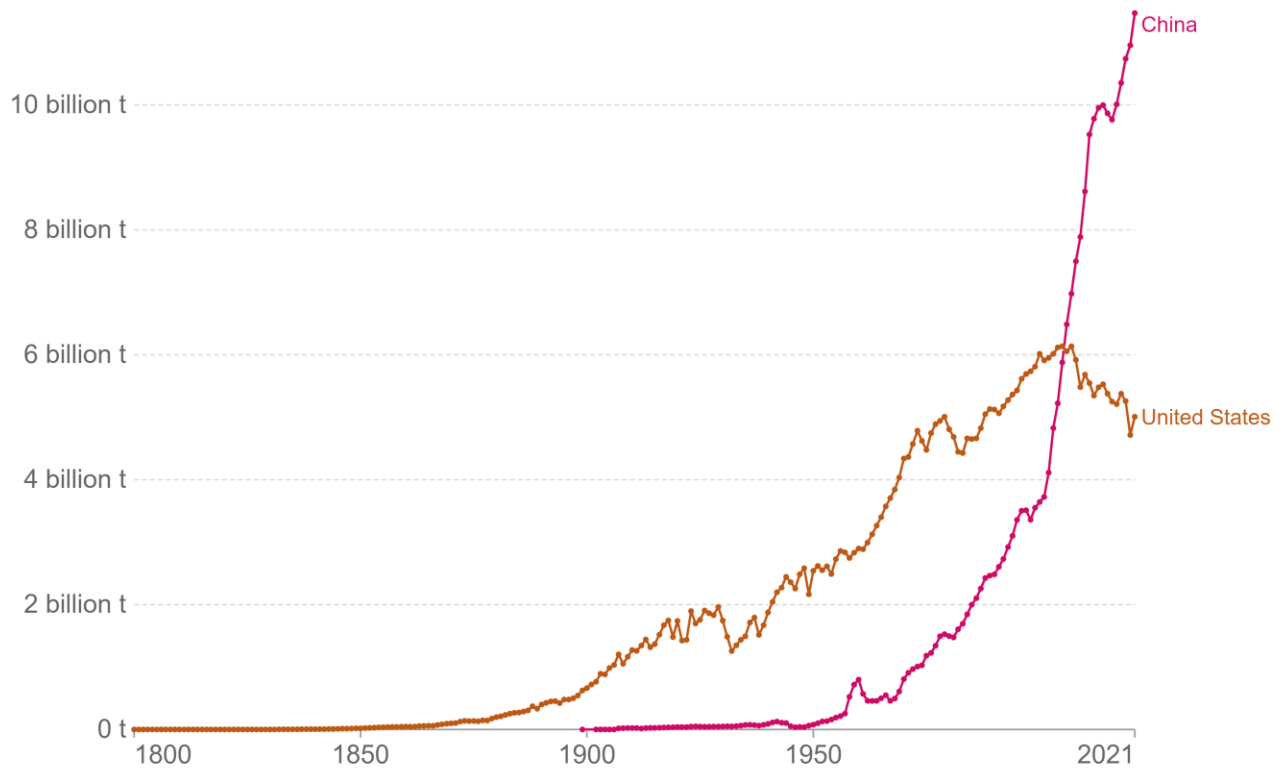
Education Secretary Miguel Cardona quietly requested the National School Boards Association submit a letter to the federal government that considered taxpayers who opposed critical race theory, sexually grooming young children in the classroom, and omnipotent teachers' unions determined to eliminate parents influence on their children as **domestic terrorists**. With the letter in hand the White House directed the DOJ and **FBI to investigate**, threaten, and imprison parents almost at will.

Democratic politicians are destroying the American economy with a relentless push for legislation to address climate change that has nothing to do with the environment simply because there are no consequences for the worlds' largest polluter, China. Instead, these power-hungry politicians are bent on controlling citizens through ubiquitous regulation under the guise of protecting the environment.

As a matter of fact, while those pushing green and renewable energy solutions can deny it all they want, the truth is that fossil fuels remain the giver and protector of human life and civilization. Eliminating fossil fuels in a decade or two is tantamount to signing a **death warrant for millions of people** the world over.

# Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels and industry<sup>1</sup>. Land use change is not included.



Source: Our World in Data based on the Global Carbon Project (2022) [OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions/](https://www.ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions/) • CC BY

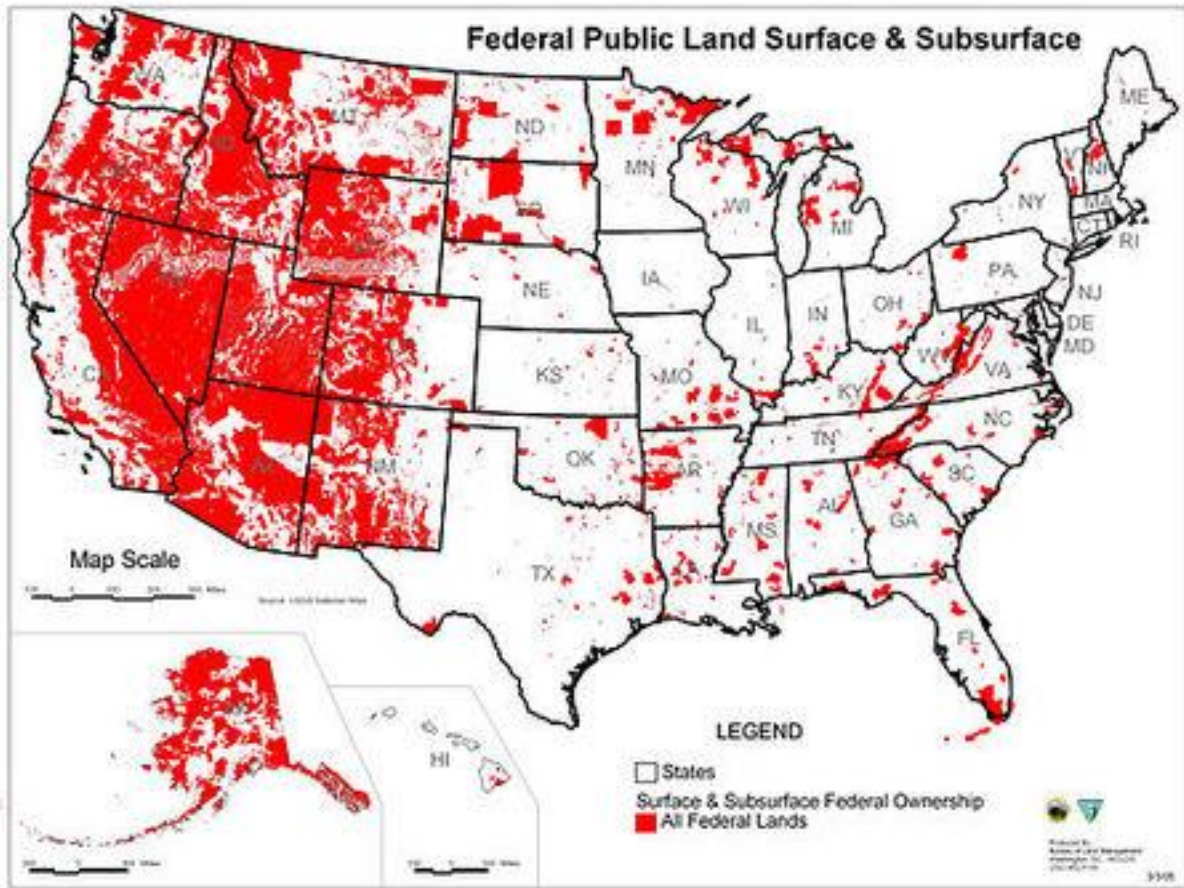
**1. Fossil emissions:** Fossil emissions measure the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, and directly from industrial processes such as cement and steel production. Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> includes emissions from coal, oil, gas, flaring, cement, steel, and other industrial processes. Fossil emissions do not include land use change, deforestation, soils, or vegetation.

Source: [www.ourworldindata.org](https://www.ourworldindata.org)

It turns out that for all his dementia, corruption, and plain lack of intelligence, Biden (along with his team of faceless bureaucrats working behind the curtain) is remarkably effective in achieving radical change and destruction to our prosperity, nation, and way of life.

Consider his achievements in less than two years:

- Cancelled keystone pipeline (loss of 800,000 bbl/oil per day)
- Effectively eliminated all new oil exploration on federal lands
- Cancelled Title IX provisions that protected women in sports
- Reversed executive orders that prevent government discrimination
- Withdrew from Afghanistan giving terrorists American weapons, \$\$, and bases to operate from
- Added \$10 Trillion to the national debt
- Led an administration responsible for the highest inflation in 40 years
- Used the strategic petroleum reserve to relieve fuel prices and game the mid-term election
- Promoted Critical Race Theory and sexualization of children in public schools
- Declared war on the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment by convicting hundreds of protestors of “parading” on the capitol
- Declared war on the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment by going after guns when the real issue is mental health
- Used federal regulations and the bureaucracy to attack states trying to secure their borders



While asserting powers he doesn't have, he's brazenly ignored his obligation to enforce the immigration laws. The Supreme Court has on a few occasions sought to rein Biden in, but he fires back calling the court illegitimate. In the meantime, [www.antifa.com](http://www.antifa.com), the organization committed to the destruction of our Constitutional Republic, still takes you directly to [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).





The holy grail of energy production, [nuclear fusion](#), was achieved at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in the Bay Area. 2 megajoules of energy was shot into a small pellet of relatively average fuel, in return 3 megajoules of energy was produced with no nuclear waste as a byproduct. The technology won't be commercialized anytime soon but it is the first real indication that clean, limitless energy will be had by all mankind in a few decades.

The [James Webb telescope](#) reached its orbit, started taking pictures at a higher resolution than Hubble, and captured the first ever image of a planet outside our solar system. Until now, we've only inferred the ~5,000 planets we know of outside the solar system are there because of the way they tug on and dim the stars they orbit. Now we have visible evidence of what we've known for a few decades.

The next generation Apollo mission, Artemis (named after the Greek Goddess and twin sister of Apollo), launched from Cape Canaveral, [orbited the moon](#), and return to splashdown in the Pacific on a 25-day mission with only a "crash test dummy" at the helm. The next Artemis flight, scheduled for 2024, will be a [crewed mission to orbit the moon](#). In 2025, Artemis flight #3 will include landing a woman on the moon (the last time a man set foot on the moon was 1972). To date, the only human beings to ever walk on the moon have been Americans.



A NASA missile, the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), impacted a benign asteroid, Dimorphos. It changed the orbit of the asteroid and proved that Americans could redirect a planet killing asteroid if it threatened Earth.

A close friend and business partner of ours passed away last year: Eric Olof. I knew him for most of my life; he had an impact on me and on virtually everyone who knew him. He was dedicated to what he put his mind to. He was intelligent, clever, honest, and sincere. He built his businesses by himself, simply by learning a discipline, taking a chance, and committing to it.

As for us, we continue to live and work in the Silicon Valley. With home prices at a peak and a recession looming, somewhat impulsively we sold our house. We're currently renting in the same neighborhood we've known for 20 years and taking our time to figure out where to make our next home base. Andrew is still in Sacramento though he changed jobs and now works for Samsung; he was accepted to Rice University where he's pursuing a Masters' Degree in Computer Science. Liam is attending California State University at Sonoma where he's pursuing a degree in Computer Science; he's got an internship lined up for next Summer. Both Monica & I stayed primarily on the West Coast throughout the year though we planned a trip to Portugal for next year.

We always appreciate hearing from our family and friends; please keep in touch.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
from the Cottrell Family*

When you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing  
When you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors  
When you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you  
When you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice  
You may know that your society is doomed.

- Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged



[www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)