**Socio-demographics & Governance - Impacts and transitions ... underway** (11JUN23)

**Public Protecting Personal Privacy.** Some people don't give a damn or are just ambivalent about protecting their privacy.  The ambivalence helps fuel the enormous global market for personal data and complicates the role of public regulators who care more than most about protecting your personal records. In the search market and social media space, regulators have been late to the game and rather inept. NOW, Meta European Union regulators have fined META a record-breaking €1.2 billion ($1.3 billion) for violating EU privacy laws by transferring the personal data of Facebook users to servers in the United States.[**HERE**](https://abc7.com/meta-facebook-privacy-fined/13282992/)

**Urbanization Reversing.** The global demographic trend of moving from rural to urban spaces is not just slowing down, it may be reversing: workers are not returning - vacant office towers and work from home, urban crime is on the rise including retail theft, homelessness fallout is growing, costs including housing, taxes and municipal debt make urban living uncompetitive; and traffic congestion and poor air quality round out are also of concern. [**HERE**](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/15/opinion/post-pandemic-cities-suburbs-future.html)  Sinking compounds the threat to coastal cities.[**HERE**](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/sinking-cities-that-could-disappear-by-2100/photostory/97133581.cms)

**Is ChatGPT Creative?** AI are apps are getting very creative. [**HERE**](https://intelligence.weforum.org/topics/a1Gb0000002V7TyEAK/publications/423a19bb836543229e389acc47fa4a96)The courts are now to decide whether generative AI applications such as ChatGPT can be held accountable for content and libel to defamation claims. The decision is expected to rest on whether the content can be considered "creative or not", and if so then legislative protections would not apply.[**HERE**](https://www.fillmoreriley.com/publication/copyright-and-generative-ai-creative-infringement-or-timeless-innovation)

**Investment Exiting China.** U.S. and European export and investment controls on China are important "decoupling" policies as are friend-shoring incentives. But much of the impetus for decoupling foreign investment in China is coming from two other sources: Chinese policy and the rational calculations of multinational companies themselves.[**HERE**](https://open.substack.com/pub/noahpinion/p/decoupling-is-just-going-to-happen?r=41b8w&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email)Some doubt as to whether others will follow. [**HERE**](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/05/23/asia-pacific/politics-diplomacy-asia-pacific/kishore-mahbubani-china-us-g7-global-south/)The Canada-China relationship is complicated and confused.[**HERE**](https://troymedia.com/business/a-new-world-order-is-well-underway-and-china-is-ascendent/)

**Embracing Iconoclasm.** The toppling and defacing of statues, removing of symbols, burning churches, hostility towards references to slavery, colonization or racism, whitewashing history and eliminating social studies from curriculum, reflect an increasing clash of cultures. The challenge to established norms and values is transforming institutions and signifies an excessive manifestation of neoliberalism and concerning advancement of political thought control.  [**HERE**](https://financialpost.com/opinion/jack-mintz-erase-our-history-erase-ourselves)

**Gender Divide Triggering Depopulation.** The male-female divide portends a very dystopian future, in which only the elderly population grows, while children and families become rarer and more stressed. This is not a feminist paradise, but a dysfunctional society, where men and women are increasingly indifferent towards, or at odds with, each other.[**HERE**](https://joelkotkin.com/women-have-won-the-war-between-the-sexes-but-at-what-cost/)

**Political Chaos Continuing.** US politics have rarely been so divisive with the possible exceptions of significant turmoil in 1960s and early 1970s due to issues such as the Vietnam War, civil rights, and the Watergate scandal. The 1850s also saw deep divisions over slavery that ultimately led to the Civil War. Today left/right disagreements continue over issues such as healthcare, immigration, climate change, gun control, the role of government, among others. This polarization has been exacerbated by changing media landscapes, creating ideological echo chambers and deepen divisions.  The selection of Presidential candidates and the next election may further exacerbate the tensions.[**HERE**](https://original.antiwar.com/?p=2012348679)