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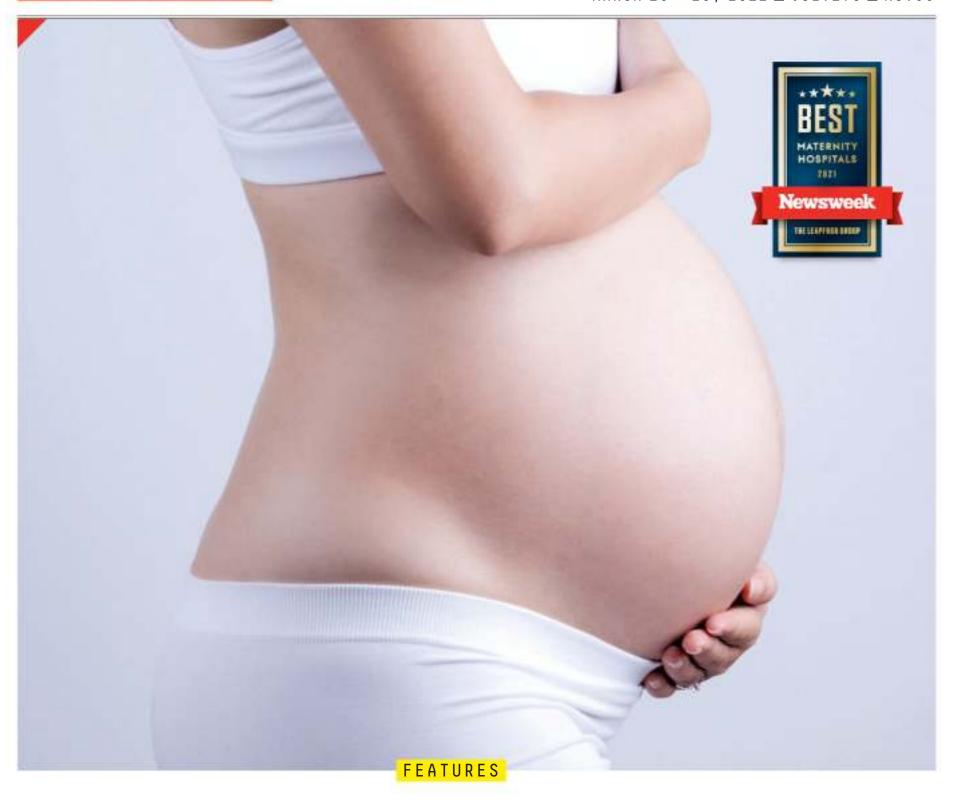




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UNKNOWN

While there is growing evidence pregnant women may be at a heightened risk of suffering severe COVID-19 symptoms if infected, there is little data on how vaccines may affect developing fetuses.

COVER CREDIT

Illustration by **Britt Spencer** for *Newsweek*



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Best Maternity Hospitals 2021

Newsweek teamed up with The Leapfrog Group to find the best maternity hospitals to take care of mother and baby.

Newsweek

BRINGING

"We're not playing

right? This is what

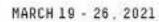
their world looks

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characters, we're

playing people,

IT HOME



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The US healthcare response to Covid-19 has been remarkably rapid and effective. Many federal agencies have been essential to this success. Because of nimble, intelligent, and coordinated government support, blood centers that have been empowered to collect lifesaving, convalescent plasma from volunteer donors.

Appreciation is widely due, but the following deserve special thanks:

Food and Drug Administration
Federal COVID Response

BARDA (Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority)

US Armed Forces Blood Supply
Operation Warp Speed

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services





Inspiring patient recovery stories are available at info.thankthedonor.org.



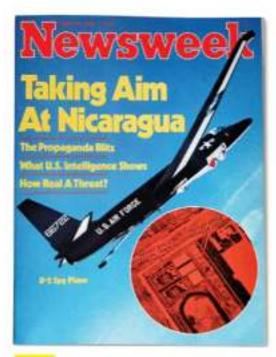
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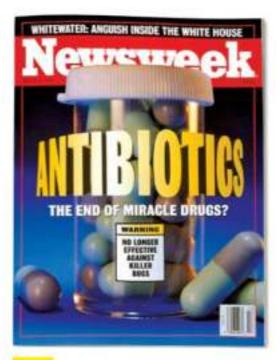
"At 29, dress designer and haute hustler Diane von Fürstenberg has become the most marketable female in fashion since Coco Chanel," according to *Newsweek*. Fürstenberg "parlayed her titled name, her sophisticated image and her sharp merchandising talent into a design empire that projects \$60 million in retail sales this year," based in large part on the success of her signature wrap dress which "carries the cachet of the designer's own ultra-chic image." After expanding too quickly initially, von Fürstenberg made a comeback in the '90s, and on March 8, released her fourth book, *Own It: The Secret to Life*.





1982

Newsweek reported that the Reagan administration launched an unconvincing media campaign and "a major propaganda offensive" claiming "that the Sandinistas are exporting arms and revolution to El Salvador." In 1986, the International Court of Justice found the U.S. in violation of international law for aiding the overthrow of Nicaragua's government.



1994

"A host of common bugs now resist one or more antibiotics," *Newsweek* said. Sadly, "we got into this predicament from too much of a good thing"— overprescribing and overconsuming antibiotics. According to the CDC, there are over 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections annually.



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DAKAR, SENAGAL

Backlash

On March 3, supporters of Senegal's opposition leader Ousmane Sonko head to the streets after word leaked that Sonko was arrested. According to his lawyer, Sonko was jailed ahead of his scheduled court appearance to face a rape charge, which his supporters claim is politically motivated.

m → JOHN WESSELS



ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Trumplandia

Fans of the former president pose with a Donald Trump statue on display at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) held in the Hyatt Regency hotel on February 27. Launched in 1974, CPAC brings together conservative organizations, activists and assorted world leaders. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, called the conference "our oasis of freedom." Trump spoke and reiterated his false claims that the November election was stolen from him.

a → JOE RAEDLE

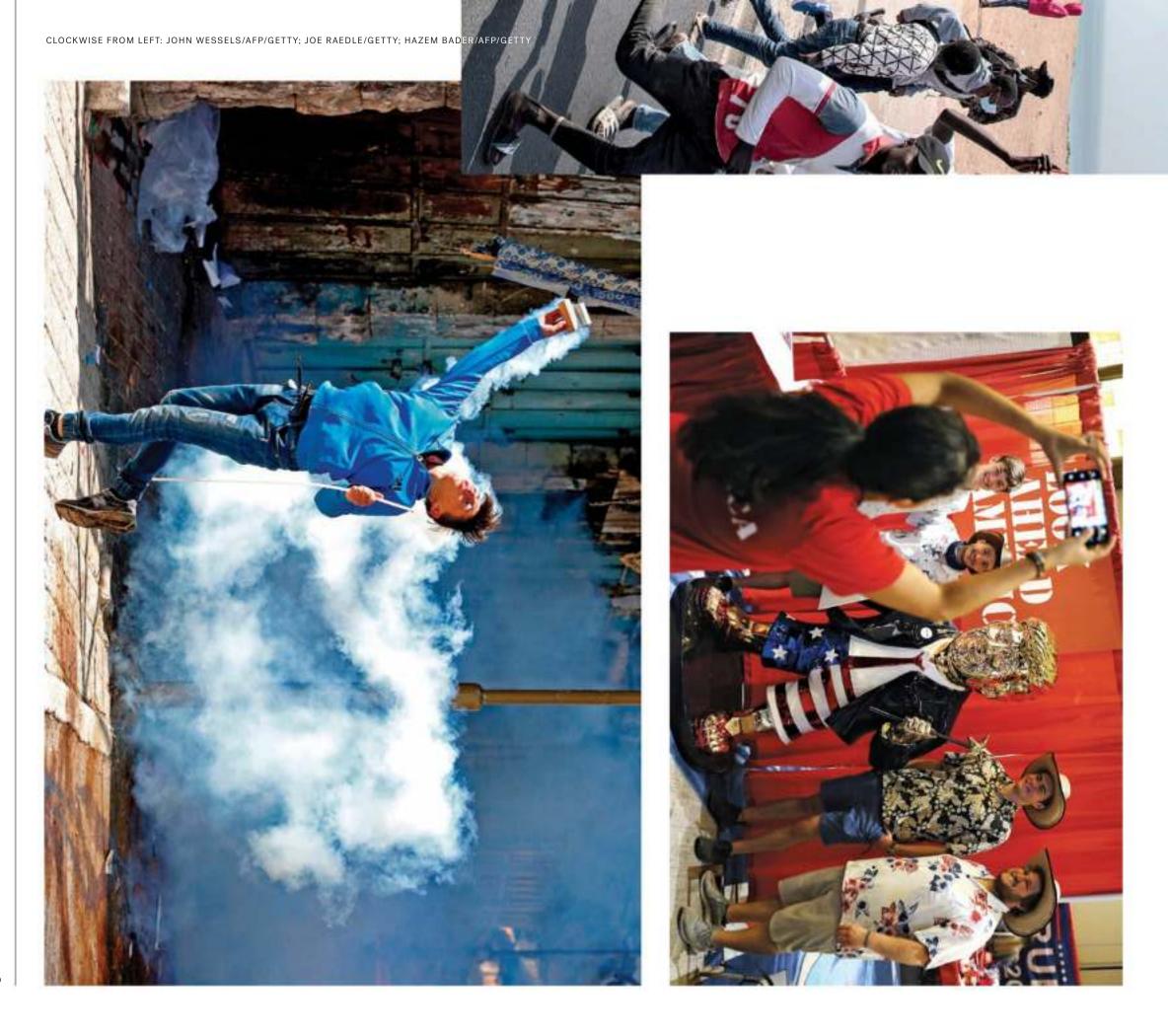


HEBRON, WEST BANK

Remembrance

A Palestinian protester, on February 26, throws back a tear gas canister during a demonstration in memory of the Ibrahimi Mosque—or Cave of the Patriarchs—massacre. In 1994, a Jewish extremist, Baruch Goldstein, killed dozens of Palestinian worshippers. Goldstein was beaten to death by survivors of the assault.

★ → HAZEM BADER



Periscope NEWS, OPINION + ANALYSIS



NEWSWEEK.COM MARCH 26, 2021

10

"I'm going to be the evangelist and cheerleader in chief for New York City." »P.14



BUSINESS

Put Their Money Where Their Mouths Are?

2020 was a banner year for social activism in the business world. But now, leaders have to build on those gains. How? Here are the four trends that will dominate the corporate social responsibility movement in 2021

IT WAS QUITE A YEAR IN THE WORLD OF corporate activism.

In 2020, businesses and their leaders stood up like never before. CEOs and their boards halted campaign contributions to politicians who spread lies about a stolen presidential election, contributed millions to food banks to help Americans who lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and spent millions more to support social justice programs after the civil unrest that followed the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

And, they took a long look in the mirror.

But all that work will produce few results if business leaders don't take the next step and make

good on the promises and pledges from the past year. "It's critical that the commitments made are integral to an organization's purpose and that leaders actively track progress," says Jeff Senne, responsible business leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

So, what's on the horizon for what's called corporate social responsibility (CSR) in 2021? What has to be done to build on the gains made in 2020? Here are the trends to track this year.

Doubling Down on Diversity

THIS YEAR "WILL BE CRUCIAL" WHEN IT COMES TO following through on the racial conversations started in 2020, says Dalila Wilson-Scott, executive vice president and chief diversity officer at Comcast and president of Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation. "Amid a global racial reckoning, companies were challenged to evaluate their policies, practices,

philanthropy, investments." Now, she adds, there have to be results.

Lata Reddy, senior vice president of inclusive solutions at Prudential Financial and chair of the Prudential Foundation, predicts "there will



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BUSINESS

be a divergence between companies that make equity a business imperative" and those that sold consumers empty promises.

Companies that are on the right side of that divide will be the ones that state meaningful action aimed at long-lasting results, says Daisy Auger-Dominguez, chief people officer at VICE Media. Hiring diverse candidates alone doesn't mean much if there's no framework to help those employees succeed. Companies that build diverse governance boards, develop products and services to meet the needs of a more diverse consumer, invest in their communities and advocate for policy to support change will stand out for putting their money where their mouths are.

We'll also see the role of reporting what's called "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" (DEI) numbers transform as consumers take a more active interest. "People want to know the impact of those investments," says Kristen Titus, executive director of the Cognizant U.S. Foundation. One example of a new diversity "scorecard" is the 15 Percent Pledge, taken by major retailers, most recently Gap, to dedicate 15 percent of shelf space to Black-owned businesses.

The Green Economy...Continued

initiatives moved into the mainstream. Companies were willingly enlisted in the fight against climate change, says Tim Mohin, executive vice president and chief sustainability officer at Persefoni AI. "With backing from some of the most influential actors in the capital markets, looming mandates from regulators, starting with carbon, will truly hit the management dashboards of multinationals around the world." Black-Rock CEO Larry Fink alluded to this

phenomenon as a "tectonic shift" in his annual letter this year, citing a 96 percent increase in sustainable asset investment in 2020 from 2019.

If you're looking for a company that seemed to do a 360 on the environment, consider General Motors. The Detroit-based automaker had until recently backed the Trump administration in its suit fighting California's tough new auto emission standards. But once President Biden took office, GM dropped its resistance. Furthermore, it recently announced plans to sell only zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

The Rise of Human Capital

ONE SYSTEMIC FLAW THAT COVID-19 HAS exposed is how fragile progress toward shared prosperity really is. For example, women, particularly women of color, took the brunt of job losses, and working parents and other caregivers have not gotten the support they so desperately need.

In 2021, Dave Stangis, a sustainability and CSR advisor, predicts that we'll see a "long-overdue awakening of the role of 'People' in the economic/capital system." Strategic sustainable business advisor Mike Barry agrees that the high bar set for environmental sustainability will be matched by corporate ambition to tackle social issues. Suzanne Fallender, Intel's director of corporate responsibility, cites supporting employee health, safety and wellness as a major step toward planning for the workforce of the future.

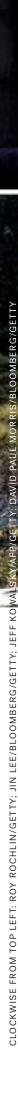
Companies that can find ways to incorporate these goals in an organic and meaningful way will be poised to have the biggest impact. Many companies are partnering with apps like Headspace to provide mental health resources for employees; to be meaningful, these types of programs must also be matched with internal policies





and commitments that address things like family leave, low wages and workplace safety conditions.

The Marshall Plan for Moms, signed by business leaders and other changemakers, is an example of a collective initiative aimed at compensating caregivers for their labor. By advocating for policy to support this group, companies make equity a priority where it matters, both in and out of the workplace. This type of leadership buy-in is essential to social capital investments: JJ Davis, senior vice president of corporate affairs at Dell predicts "more focus on—and commitment to—transparent, human-centric leadership, leaning into









what it means to be flexible as the pandemic continues to have an effect on how and where we work."

Focus on big Impact Initiatives

IN 2021, COMPANIES WILL IDENTIFY areas where they are poised to have the largest impact.

At technology company HP, one of those areas is solving the digital divide, says Michele Malejki, global head of social impact. Not only is the company donating more than \$10 million in products and grants to communities impacted by COVID-19, but it's also partnering with education organizations to ideate on lasting change for Black, Native American and Latinx

students and educators, disproportionately impacted by the digital divide. Through initiatives such as laptop refurbishment programs for underserved communities, the technology company can make a significant impact through the nature of its reach and influence in the industry.

The corporate activism from the past year has been inspiring to see, but we still have a long way to go.

FACES OF CHANGE Clockwise from left: Comcast's Dalila Wilson-Scott says 2021 "will be crucial"; Zoetis is focusing on veterinarians' mental heath; General Motors president Mark Reuss. GM plans to sell only zero emissions vehicles; and HP wants to close the digital divide.

Another company addressing a social issue that uniquely affects its industry is Zoetis, a company that develops and manufactures medicines, vaccines and diagnostic products for animals. Zoetis has made veterinarians' mental health a focus point of its social impact strategy, says Jeannette Ferran Astorga, head of sustainability at the company. By dedicating corporate philanthropic funds to organizations that support people in the animal care industry, Zoetis is focusing on a world it knows intimately and, thus, can make a big impact.

Time to Walk the Walk

THE CORPORATE ACTIVISM FROM THE past year has been inspiring to see, but we still have a long way to go. If companies aren't prepared to leverage their power to advocate for equity both in and out of the office, we'll be right back where we started.

When it comes to corporate activism and its intersection with the so-called American Dream, it's time to redesign a social contract that "meets our most contemporary and urgent needs, one that delivers long-term value for all," says Aron Cramer, president and CEO at BSR. Our chances of fulfilling the business world's full potential to do good may well rest with our ability to realize this vision.

→ Susan McPherson is founder and CEO of McPherson Strategies, a corporate social impact consultancy, and author of the lost art of connecting: the gather, ask, do method for building meaningful relationships.

Periscope

POLITICS

NYC's 'Cheerleader in Chief'

Andrew Yang wants to be the next New York City mayor. The entrepreneur-turned-politician on the pandemic, the police, universal basic income—and bicycle lanes.

ВΥ

JASON LEMON

⋓ @JasonLemon

ANDREW YANG'S 2020 PRESIDENtial campaign garnered zero delegates, but it propelled him and his signature idea of Universal Basic Income into the national consciousness. Now he's running for mayor of New York City—and recent polls suggest he's already a frontrunner.

Yang and his fan base—dubbed the Yang Gang—campaigned hard

for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as well as for other Democratic candidates across the country. The entrepreneur-turned-politician is bringing that same

energy to New York. Other frontrunners include Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer. Raymond McGuire, a top Wall Street executive, has shown a strong ability to fundraise. Maya Wiley, an academic and former lawyer in current Mayor Bill De Blasio's administration, has been endorsed by one of the city's most powerful labor unions, the SEIU 1199. Overall, the field is wide and diverse, with some 40 New Yorkers seeking to lead the city. If Yang were to win, he'd be the first Asian-American to lead the nation's largest metropolis.

Prior to entering politics, Yang led test preparation company Manhattan Prep, which was later sold to Kaplan Inc., from 2006 to 2012. He also founded and led the non-profit Venture for America in 2011, which recruited and trained graduates to work in startups in cities around the country.

Yang has put addressing the

ongoing COVID-19 crisis, racial and income inequality and a speedy economic recovery at the forefront of his campaign. Among his policy ideas, Yang is pushing

for a scaled-back version of his presidential campaign's national UBI plan and the launch of a new People's Bank of New York to serve the unbanked and underbanked, which he believes will go a long way toward addressing poverty in the city.

He also sees his personal ties with Biden, Harris and others in Washington as a key benefit for New Yorkers. As Yang puts it, he wants to be the "evangelist and cheerleader in chief" as he makes the case for the city's future to those in Washington and the general American public.

Newsweek spoke with Yang about



his campaign and his goals for New York City in a recent Zoom interview. The conversation has been edited for space and clarity.

NEWSWEEK: When did you start thinking about the New York City mayoral race?

YANG: I first started thinking about it after I suspended my presidential campaign. There was a bit of an effort to get me to run at that point. A number of people reached out to me and said, "Hey, now that you're out of the presidential, run for mayor?"



That was in early 2020, but at the time I was very intent on helping Joe and Kamala win. I thought having Donald Trump in office would be catastrophic for another four years. Throughout 2020, some people followed up with me and started to give me a better sense of the opportunity in New York City. At the same time, the COVID crisis unfolded and the recovery from that crisis seemed like the most important thing I could help accelerate. So, I thought about it all through 2020 but really homed in on it after Joe and Kamala won.

"The case has to be made loud and clear that there is not going to be a national recovery without a New York City recovery, and that investing in New York City is the right thing to do."

DOES THIS TRAIN STOP AT

CITY HALL?: New York mayoral candidate Andrew Yang rides the subway after greeting supporters in Brooklyn on March 3, 2021.

You're kind of new to politics. Do you think someone like you benefits from that in this race?

I think that right now a lot of Americans are frustrated that our systems of bureaucracy have not been functioning at as high a level as we had hoped. And certainly you could blame a lot of that recently on Trump. But there have been problems very far away from Trump. There have been struggles around this vaccine rollout that were not Trump's fault. I think that's a frustration that a lot of Americans and New Yorkers feel. And everyone's trying to figure out, "OK, how do you improve that? How do you get our systems working better?" I think that that's something I could help with. I think it's one reason why people are being drawn to my campaign: Because they have an instinct that if someone has been embedded in government for years and years, they may not be the person that's going to necessarily improve the way that some of these systems are functioning.

On the flip side of that, what would you say to people who say, "This guy has no experience in New York City politics. He's unqualified to be mayor"?

I would say that I've run a small business in New York City and as the head of a small business in New York, you have to deliver for customers, day in and day out. No one cares about anything other than whether they're getting what they expect from your company, reliably and cost-effectively. And that's the kind of thing that a lot

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SCOTT OLSON/GETTY; SETH WENIG/AFP/GETTY; STEVEN FERDMAN/GETTY

of people crave from city government right now. They just want the city to be working better. I think that having someone who is going to be free of some of some of the entanglements that have been holding the city back is vastly appealing to a lot of voters. People sense that here in New York things are not working as well as they should.

The question is whether someone who has run a private company, and run a non-profit, and has started a national movement around humanizing our economy that activated millions of voters—whether that's a set of experiences that may equip someone to help accelerate our recovery through this crisis, rather than spending years at a city agency. I respect the folks who have different kinds of experiences. I certainly would want folks with different experiences—both inside and outside of government—in my administration. But I think it would be common sense for voters to value different kinds of experience. I don't think that there's any one set of experiences that you can point to and say, "OK, that is going to prepare someone to be mayor of New York City" at a time when we need to speed up our recovery from the deepest, darkest crisis we've seen in generations.

Your big issue is Universal Basic Income [UBI]. When you ran for president you called for \$1,000 a month for all Americans. Now you're saying \$2,000 annually for the 500,000 New Yorkers who most need it. Why is it not \$1,000 for all New Yorkers?

First, UBI is now mainstream, popular sentiment in the U.S. Fifty-five percent of Americans are for cash relief for perpetuity. Eighty-five percent are for cash relief during the pandemic. But if you are the mayor of New York

City you have a different operating environment than if you are the federal government. Now, the federal government passed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act early on in the pandemic. It looks like it may pass the similarly-sized recovery bill. It is clear that as a country we have the resources to give everyone \$1,000 a month if we decide to do so.

I think people know, if Andrew Yang had the ability to do so, I would love to give everyone in New York City \$1,000 a month. That would be phenomenal. But we have a different operating environment. We have to be strategic about how we are going to deploy the resources that we have in a way that's both going to improve the way of life for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, but also help reduce the costs that we're spending on homelessness services and shelters and other institutions that have a really significant human and economic cost.

Another issue that you are pushing is the People's Bank of New York. Can you briefly explain how that works and what benefits it will provide compared to traditional banking?

Traditional banking works great for a lot of things, but it's going to miss a lot of both needs and opportunities as well. People's Bank is going to launch with \$100 million in working capital from New York City. We're

> "We need to speed up our recovery from the deepest, darkest crisis we've seen in generations."

going to use that \$100 million to catalyze additional resources among community development, financial institutions and credit unions to expand financial services to underserved communities. Generally, communities of color.

Right now 12 percent of New York City residents don't have a bank account, which makes no sense in the world's financial capital. If you don't have a banking account, you end up spending hundreds of extra dollars a year on check-cashing services, money-lending, pawn shops. If we can expand access to low-cost, safe, financial services for the unbanked and underbanked in New York City, we can make it less expensive to be poor. There are hundreds of thousands of families in the city that are paying check-cashing fees and the like that they shouldn't have to pay. They should have access to the same basic financial services as anybody else. The People's Bank will help make that possible. And it will also help make micro-loans and other capital available to more entrepreneurs of color that right now are being overlooked by traditional banks.

How would your administration tackle racism in the city's justice system and problems with policing?

I have a number of proposals in this direction I think will help. Number one is, I proposed a civilian police commissioner who will be independent of the culture of the NYPD. If you're going to change the culture of an organization it has to start at the top. I propose that new officers live in New York City, which will make them closer to the communities that they're meant to serve and protect. I am aligned with the fact that we



FRIENDS AND FOES

Top: Yang with Kamala Harris and Joe Biden during a 2019 debate. Left: New York City Mayor Bill DiBlasio. Bottom: Governor Andrew Cuomo (left) at a vaccination site in Queens.



need to do more to stop criminalizing poverty, which is targeting New Yorkers of color disproportionately. You know, there are people who are unable to pay fines and whatnot, who are unable to make bail, that are being incarcerated that should not be. It's something that I'm very passionate about.

We should also be mindful of the fact that we need to bring down the rates of violent crime that are rising. You need to improve police culture while also holding police accountable to bring up their resolution rates for violent crime.

The business community in New York has been very critical of Mayor Bill De Blasio. What do you think is the right approach to addressing the concerns of business leaders and also workers and average New Yorkers?

Business owners want a city that is thriving and vibrant and people are comfortable going into the office. Workers need us to have that same degree of confidence. If you look at just the basic measurement of whether people are commuting to the office in New York City...If you have people just Zooming in,

remotely, that doesn't just affect that company, that affects the cleaning staff and the security guards of that building and the food trucks outside that ordinarily would be serving a lunchtime crowd. The interests of business owners and workers are really one and the same in terms of trying to get the city back open again, trying to make it so that the vaccine has been broadly distributed. We need to focus on the things that will help dig us out of this hole.

One of the biggest complaints for New Yorkers is public transportation, the MTA and the subway system. How would you work with state leaders on this issue?

I've advocated for city control of the subways for this reason. I think it's difficult for New Yorkers to be able to hold their leaders accountable when, like right now, you look up and say "Well, you know, this is an Albany responsibility." That would be a major step in the right direction, in my view. We need to invest the proper resources that people will feel safe and secure on the subway. We have to make it so that the subway, itself, is reliable. And then we need to get New York back to a point where folks are visiting for business or tourism because those things will end up increasing ridership.

Overall, how have you viewed the state and local leadership in New York during the COVID crisis? And do you have any thoughts on the nursing home issue that Governor Cuomo has been getting a lot of criticism for the past few weeks?

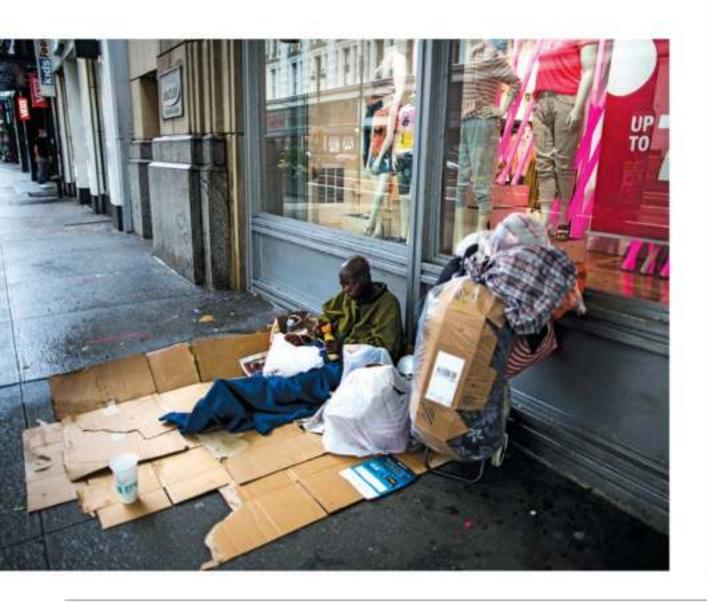
I think that it's not good for anyone when the city and the state are not on the same page. I genuinely think that the interests of New York City and

New York State are aligned like 95 times out of 100. New York City is the economic engine, not just of the state, but really one of the main engines for the country. I think that the frustration that a lot of New Yorkers feel right now is around the vaccine. I think that some of the information hasn't been as clear as it could be. But the goal is to try and get things done for New York. And that works a lot better if the folks in Albany and the folks in City Hall have a good collegial relationship.

You've said the high-stakes test to get into elite New York City public schools should be "deemphasized." How do you propose addressing the concerns regarding these tests and these schools?

I think that we should keep the SHSAT [Specialized High School Admissions Test] but integrate it into a larger set of factors like grades, interviews, family background and have the selective high schools be more representative of our communities. I also think we should open two new selective high schools in each borough...I think these tests can be very useful. And I like data. But we shouldn't have them substitute for our ability to do what's right for our kids and our judgment

"I think that it's not good for anyone when the city and the state are not on the same page."



as to which kids might be a good fit in which school.

You've talked before about your son being on the autism spectrum. Do you see a need for adding special education resources in the city?

I do believe we should be adding special needs resources in public schools in New York City. One of the things I say is that special needs is the new normal...This is actually a domain where spending more can save the city money. Right now, a lot of resources are being spent in this direction, but not within the New York City public school system.

Homelessness continues to be a major problem in this city. During your presidential run, you proposed the Every Vet Under a Roof initiative. Would you push for a similar initiative in NYC?

We need to expand the number of beds available as quickly as possible. One of the big opportunities is safe-haven beds that are being provided by non-profit organizations. Some folks who are struggling prefer those environments to shelters. We should be repurposing under-utilized hotel properties right now. In some cases, the city is actually paying a nightly rate, which doesn't make sense. We should be repurposing some of those properties as affordable housing as quickly as possible.mWe should be extending the eviction moratorium. We should be extending the various tenement assistance programs. We should be giving every tenant the right to counsel, which has been shown to

A PLACE TO LIVE A man on the street in New York in August 2020. Yang says as mayor he would make finding more beds for the homeless a priority.



keep people in their homes, effectively.

You've tweeted about encouraging biking. What would you do to expand biking in the city and what would you say to people concerned about safety?

We should be enforcing some of the bike lanes, either with barriers or with camera enforcement, particularly, where there has actually been a record of some kind of accident or safety issue with a particular bike lane. I get around via bike a lot. And it's a very bad feeling when there is a truck in the bike lane. I think some of those trucks will change their habits very quickly if they got a ticket or two. And then, make it so that people feel like getting around by bicycle is feasible and safe and cost-effective for them. I'm a huge believer in it. It's good for your

health. I think it's good for the environment. I think it's good for your mental health, personally. The more we encourage New Yorkers to get around via bicycle, the better. One of my great hopes and visions for the city is we have to make it so that people do not have to own a car in the city. I lived here 19 years without a car, and it was fantastic.

You have a personal relationship with President Biden; there was even talk that you might serve in his administration. Have you had any conversations with him about your plans if you were to be elected?

I've had conversations with people in his administration, who are friends. I think that having strong relationships with folks in D.C. is going to be very important for New York City TWO WHEELS NOT FOUR A cyclist pedals through Times Square in October 2020. Yang says he wants to encourage as many New Yorkers as possible to get around by bike rather than by car.

and New York State, moving forward. I mean, the fact is, New York City's metro area's GDP is almost 10 percent of the entire country's. The case has to be made loud and clear that there is not going to be a national recovery without a New York City recovery, and that investing in New York City is the right thing to do. I'm friendly with dozens of people on Capitol Hill. I'm friends with a similar number of people who are working in the administration. It's not just Joe. I'm friends with Kamala. I'm friends with [Transportation Secretary] Pete [Buttigieg]. I'm friends with a lot of folks who are now going to be in a position to do something really positive for New York City. That should be something that they're excited about, and if they're not excited about it, I'm going to get them excited about it because it's the right thing to do for the country. If you have a mayor that comes in and does not have those relationships, or frankly, cannot get on national TV at the drop of a hat, then it might be a more difficult case to make.

And I'm going to be the evangelist and cheerleader in chief for New York City. New York City, fundamentally, is an engine of human potential and creativity. This is where people come together to build a life, a career, a family, but also businesses, innovative organizations, cultural contributions like artistic leadership. New York City is the creative and commercial hub for the country. Our fighting for that continuation of what New York City is, is vital to the nation's future. I'm going to be thrilled making that case as the mayor of the city.





Pleasing his political donors or endorsing a key Donald Trump policy? Well, obviously he's going to...wait a minute. He what???

On the most consequential foreign policy issue that the Biden administration is likely to face—how to deal with the People's Republic of China—the new Democratic president seems ready to follow the path set out by his Republican predecessor.

"Let me just say that I believe that President Trump was right in taking a tougher approach to China," said Antony Blinken, Biden's secretary of state, during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January. Then, before the shock of that statement could sink in, he quickly added: "I disagree very much with the way that he went about it in a number of areas, but the basic principle was the right one, and I think that's actually helpful to our foreign policy."

It is hard to overstate what a sea change there has been in Washington foreign policy circles over the last four years—a change driven, as Blinken acknowledged, by Donald J. Trump.

Since Richard Nixon established relations with the People's Republic of China in 1972, U.S. policy has consistently sought to integrate Beijing into an international order built by Washington in the post war era—to help it become a "normal" country. When Deng Xiaoping began opening China's economy to the world in 1978, the U.S. relied on trade and investment as the principal tools to bring China into the world and help make it, in the words of former Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, "a responsible stakeholder." Successive administrations, from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama, effectively stayed on the same course. The U.S. policy toward Beijing was that of "engagement," and economics was its lynchpin.

Then came Donald Trump. Elected in part because swaths of the industrial midwest had been devastated economically by low-cost Chinese imports, Trump vowed to stop Beijing, as he repeatedly stated on the campaign trail, "from ripping us off." To the dismay of the American foreign policy community and the Fortune 500, he dismantled the free trade status quo with Beijing. He slapped significant

tariffs on Chinese-made goods, sought to limit Chinese investment in key U.S. high-tech industries and tried to block high-profile Chinese companies such as Huawei not only from the American market, but from those of key allies as well.

Now, many of Biden's key constituencies would love to turn back the clock. From Wall Street to Silicon Valley to Hollywood, they remain understandably fixated on the massive—and still growing—Chinese market. But the early signs from the new administration are that they are likely to be disappointed.

In his confirmation testimony, Blinken forthrightly called relations with the PRC "the greatest foreign policy challenge of this century." The question facing him and the Biden administration is, what are they going to do about it?

The answer, gleaned from numerous interviews with people inside the Biden administration (and outsiders who have spoken with them about China), is: They're not quite sure yet. "It's definitely a work in progress," says a senior Pentagon official who will participate in a formal review, announced on February 24, of the U.S.'s defense posture toward the PRC. The official, who is not authorized to speak on the record, requested anonymity.

That shouldn't be surprising. The challenge of confronting a rising China makes the first Cold War, against the Soviet Union, seem like a relatively simple affair. Beijing, unlike Moscow, presides over an increasingly large, technologically sophisticated economy. The size of its market seduces companies from all over the world. Despite pleas from the Biden transition team to wait, the European Union on December 30 signed a broad investment treaty with Beijing that was seven years in the making. (The European Parliament still must ratify the treaty—not necessarily a given.) Within a couple of decades, the PRC will be the world's largest economy, and Beijing openly seeks to dominate key sectors of the 21st century economy, from artificial intelligence to quantum computing.

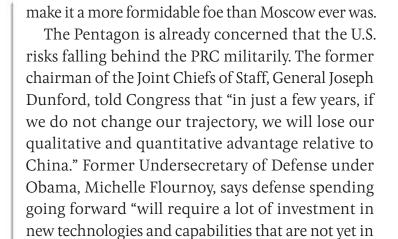
At the same time, it is expanding and modernizing an increasingly capable military, and is already a "near peer competitor" (in Pentagon-speak) in the Indo-Pacific region. Beijing may not yet pose as grave a nuclear threat as the Soviet Union did—it has far fewer nuclear warheads than Moscow did at the Cold War's peak—but its economic success, increasing technological sophistication and global ambition







the U.S. military."



They include everything from effective defenses against China's hypersonic missiles—which would be crucial in any conflict over Taiwan, for example—to an increasingly prominent role in combat for artificial intelligence and what military analyst Christian Brose, former staff director of the armed services committee, calls "intelligent machines," which can aid in identifying objects on a battlefield, navigation, and a host of other non-lethal applications.

Biden's people acknowledge the challenges. For now, in public, they are all singing from the same hymnal. The president himself said the U.S. will engage in "extreme competition [with Beijing], but there need not be conflict." (Early in the presidential campaign Biden had famously—or infamously—derided the notion that China posed a threat to the U.S: "They're gonna eat our lunch? C'mon, man!")

In his "extreme competition" speech, Biden did try to distance himself from Trump's approach, saying "we're going to focus on the international rules of the road." But the president is in a box when it comes to China. It is a box constructed by the outgoing administration on the one hand, and some of his biggest campaign donors on the other—donors who wish nothing more than to wish away the last four years.

They pine for the days when top U.S. government officials gave speeches describing China's "peaceful rise." They'd like to engage in diplomatic exercises like the "strategic economic dialogues" of the past—biannual gabfests among senior officials from Beijing and Washington, started under George W. Bush and continued under Barack Obama. That continuity exemplified how both political parties in Washington had come to view relations with Beijing through the same set of glasses—rose-colored ones.

Wall Street, the C-suite in most Fortune 500 companies, Big Tech and Hollywood were among the



CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Clockwise, from top left) Biden's Secretary of State Antony Blinken; a satellite launch last year in China's Sichuan province helped solidify the country's growing prowess in the lucrative GPS navigation sector; former Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, who advocated trying to make China "a responsible stakeholder;" Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in 2017.

biggest donors to the Biden campaign. At JP Morgan and Bank of America, for example, more than 7,000 employees at the two firms combined donated to presidential campaigns—more than 80 percent of them to Biden, for a total of more than \$200,000. At Google, 6,900 employees donated, 97 percent of them to Biden. Amazon: 10,000 employees gave money to a presidential candidate, 80 percent of them to Biden. In Hollywood, 4,100 Disney employees gave to presidential campaigns, 84 percent to Biden. Altogether the TV, music and movie industries gave \$19 million to the Biden campaign, and just \$10 million to Trump, the Center for Responsive Politics reports.

All have long had a keen interest in doing business in China (even if the so-called "Great Firewall" keeps out some tech companies like Google and Facebook). All now have an interest in how the Biden administration defines what "extreme competition" will look like. "No one is naive enough to think we can just go back to the halcyon days of 'strategic engagement," says Scott Harold, a senior political scientist focused on east Asia at the Rand Corporation. "But will there be some pressure to be less confrontational than Trump was? Sure."

It's already clear to Team Biden that making that adjustment will not be easy. On their way out, Trump's people fanned the flames on two of the most contentious issues between Beijing and Washington. On January 19—the day before Biden was sworn in—then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that China had committed "genocide and crimes against humanity" by repressing Uighur Muslims in its Xinjiang region. The assertion arguably brought relations between the two countries to a post-Tiananmen Square low. Biden's key foreign policy advisers—national security adviser Jake Sullivan, Indo-Pacific coordinator Kurt Campbell and Blinken—were angered by the declaration's timing, sources close to all three told Newsweek. (The sources were granted anonymity in order to speak candidly.)

International human rights attorneys are divided as to whether Beijing's internment of Uighurs is, in fact, genocide under international law, and Biden's team wanted to make an assessment for itself. But to disagree publicly right out of the gate would inevitably prompt charges from Republicans that Biden was "weak" on China. Thus, the day after he was sworn in, Blinken said he agreed with Pompeo's designation.

That caused indigestion in some key Democratic





POINTS OF CONTENTION

(Clockwise, from top left) A
demonstrator protesting China's
treatment of Uighur Muslims; one of
Biden's key advisers on China policy, U.S.
Trade Representative nominee Katherine
Tai; another hot-button issue: the
origins of COVID in China (here, workers
producing masks in Hebei province);
former Secretary of State Mike
Pompeo accused China of genocide
the day before Biden was sworn in.



precincts. The pro-China business constituencies have for decades lobbied previous administrations to sideline human rights as an issue. And nearly always, they got their wish. Early on in the Obama administration, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton publicly said human rights "can't interfere" with other, more pressing issues with China.

Times have changed. A veteran lobbyist for a major Wall Street investment bank told *Newsweek*, "It's unclear as to what exactly these guys are thinking about how much to emphasize human rights, but I think everyone's starting to realize it's going to be more than in the past." Most of Biden's key China advis-

international institutions. It pledged to resume its annual dues of \$200 million a year to the WHO.

Then the WHO embarrassed itself and, by extension, the Biden administration. It concluded its 'investigation' into the virus origins without seeing critical data from the WIV lab. Former Trump administration officials assert that Chinese officials have been scrubbing data from the earliest stages of the outbreak related to the virology lab. Yet the WHO's team stated conclusively that COVID-19 didn't start there and floated a theory that the virus arrived on packages of imported frozen food.

The hurried investigation and subsequent WHO

"YOU CAN'T ACCUSE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT OF 'GENOCIDE' AND THEN DO NOTHING. THERE HAVE TO BE CONSEQUENCES."



The use of the word "genocide" put the administration in a bind. As the Wall Street lobbyist—who asked not to be identified in order to speak openly—put it, "You can't accuse another government of 'genocide' and then do nothing. There have to be consequences. So will there be more [economic] sanctions now? And won't that trigger a response from [Beijing?] And tell me how this is different from Trump?" A senior official in Biden's National Security Council concedes, "Those are all questions we are dealing with."

The other hot button issue Team Trump left behind is the mystery of where and how the COVID-19 virus originated in China—and what, if anything, the West should do in response. Again on his way out the door, Pompeo raised the possibility the virus might have escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and that in the fall of 2019, several researchers at the lab had come down with COVID-like symptoms.

On January 13, a team of researchers from the World Health Organization—which the Trump administration had pulled the U.S. out of, accusing it of being lackeys for Beijing—entered Wuhan in order to investigate what had happened there. The Biden team had quickly rejoined the WHO as a symbol of the United States being back to playing a key role in

press conference were a fiasco. NSC adviser Sullivan had to issue a statement saying the Biden administration still had questions about how the WHO had come to its conclusion, and called on Beijing to provide more data from the outbreak's early days. In other words, he sounded pretty much like Mike Pompeo. Asked for his reaction to the WHO investigation, Biden tersely responded, "I need to get the facts."

Those two immediate controversies overshadowed the other, major issues Beijing poses for Biden. One is economic: whether, and to what extent, to continue to "decouple" from China. Trump while in office, had pushed this theme, particularly in the wake of COVID-19, when he demanded that all personal protective equipment like face masks be made in the USA, not in China. But the effort to push U.S. multinationals more broadly to divorce themselves from China has been ramshackle and, thus far, not very effective. Congress passed a law in 2019 calling for U.S. defense and telecommunications companies to strip Chinese-made hardware and software from their supply chains. But progress has been halting, because removing the China-sourced equipment is proving far more difficult than Washington understood. It is also costly to any number of critical industries. A recent study by the Rhodium Group, a D.C. research group, estimates that loss of Chinese customers would cost the U.S.



semiconductor industry \$54 billion in annual sales.

Many companies have spent years building out their supply chains in China and are loath to give them up. And in the meantime, says a telecom industry executive who was granted anonymity in order to be candid, "nobody was watching too closely to see just how far these Chinese components and hardware have infiltrated U.S. businesses."

But the multinationals hoping that Biden might give them a pass may have misplaced their hopes. On February 24, Biden signed an executive order that included a reassessment of supply chains in key industries, including semiconductors and advanced batteries. In the announcement, the administration also said it will work with allies Japan and South Korea in an effort to persuade their companies to

The second critical area for Biden's China policy is the just-announced defense review, the results of which appear foreordained. Biden's Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has signaled that the new administration, like its predecessor, views China as the principal military and geopolitical threat to the U.S. The Biden administration appears to share the belief that Beijing seeks to force the U.S. out of the western Pacific, and to dominate the South China Sea. Washington also wants to be sure the U.S. has the firepower and manpower in the region to deter Beijing from making a move on Taiwan, which the PRC regards as a renegade province. A White House source, granted anonymity because the source was not authorized to speak on the record, says Biden, in his recent twohour phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping,



BIDEN HAS DISAPPOINTED HIS WALL STREET AND FORTUNE 500 BACKERS BY LEAVING IN PLACE TRUMP'S \$250 BILLION IN TARIFFS ON CHINESE EXPORTS.

relocate supply chains from China.

Aside from occasional public rhetoric, the Trump administration did not emphasize working with allies when it came to decoupling. Seoul and Tokyo will be happy to have those conversations, but the extent to which Japanese and South Korean companies are willing to disengage is at best uncertain. Their economies are now far more intertwined with China's than the U.S. is. As the Rhodium Group's report says, U.S. competitors might just as soon snap up Chinese customers if U.S. firms leave. But whether allies play along or not, it's clear the pressure on U.S. companies is not diminishing under Biden. At least for now.

Biden has also disappointed his Wall Street and Fortune 500 backers by leaving in place Trump's \$250 billion in tariffs on Chinese exports. Trump had promised to reduce or eliminate the tariffs in return for increased Chinese purchases of U.S. goods and agricultural products, which Beijing committed to in a deal signed in January 2020. But Beijing has not complied: its purchases are far short of promised, and Biden's team is now mulling how to enforce the deal. That's why, for the moment, a removal of the tariffs is off the table. "We can't just remove them having gotten nothing in return," the NSC source says.

spent "considerable time on Taiwan. He's well aware of what a real flashpoint it is."

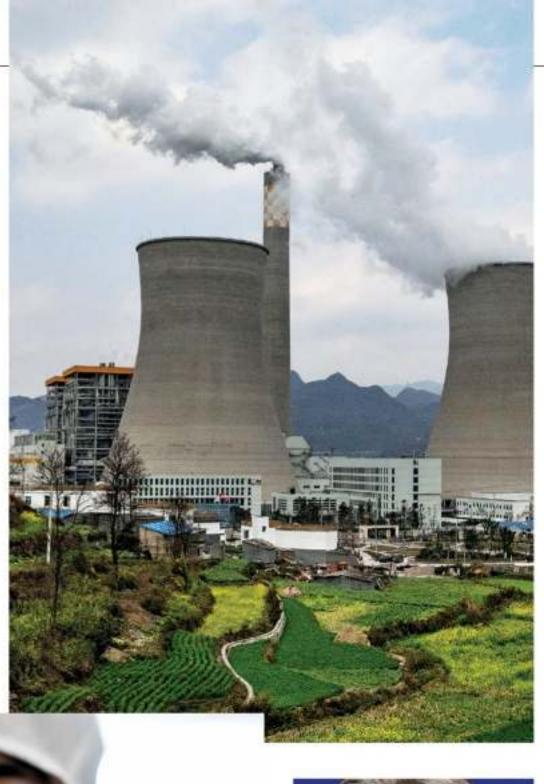
Logically, all of this would lead to sending more troops to the Asia Pacific, and greater investment in technologies to counter China's strengths—for example, defense systems that could shoot down hypersonic missiles. Trump sought both, but never really delivered on either.

The potential problem for Biden is, the U.S. is entering a period in which already huge budget deficits are set to explode to unprecedented levels if the administration's \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill passes.

The Pentagon's longer-term fear, says the source participating in the defense review, is that it will inevitably come under pressure for cuts in spending in the next couple of years. That was true even before the pandemic. The source half-jokingly says he worries that the Biden "pivot to Asia" will end up being as inconsequential, militarily, as was Obama's. Despite much fanfare about the "pivot," only a handful of troops ended up redeployed to Asia (the bulk of them, 1,150 Marines, to Australia). "Everyone around here suspects that the [budget] axe is going to fall at some point," says the Pentagon source.

Blinken plainly wasn't kidding when he said he







LOOKING AHEAD

(Clockwise, from top left) Biden Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has indicated China is seen as the chief geopolitical threat to the U.S. Meanwhile, climate change will be a major issue: China's dependence on coal has made it the source of nearly a third of the world's carbon dioxide emissions—something Biden climate czar John Kerry will likely address; a researcher holds a wafer with carbon nanotubes.

approved of Trump's tougher approach to China. On trade and on defense, Biden's approach so far is more of the same. As far as the details of the previous administration's approach that he said he quibbles with, they come down to two things. Biden will work more energetically with allies to confront China on trade and deter it militarily. The other difference is the eagerness, despite tension in the relationship everywhere else, to work with Beijing on climate change.

Trying to persuade Beijing to reduce its CO2 emissions—by far the most in the world annually—is a nice goal. Why Beijing would play along now is entirely unclear. Climate czar John Kerry has said the world has been starved of U.S. leadership on the issue. The truth is, Beijing has never had any interest in US "leadership" on climate, and it still doesn't.

But given how potent the issue appears to be among the new Democratic party—Biden was willing to anger union workers on the Keystone pipeline in order to assuage climate-obsessed supporters—Beijing may use the issue to try to get what it wants elsewhere. It may promise an emissions cut here or there, or agree to partner on some "green" energy research projects, in return for dropping tariffs or a general de-escalation of the ongoing economic wars.

That's not a deal Trump would have made. But just a month into Biden's term, it should already be clear to his donors—Wall Street, Big Tech and Hollywood most prominently—that this president can't just snap his fingers and pretend it's 2010 again, when U.S. policy was all about "engagement" and a market of 1.3 billion consumers beckoned beguilingly.

Key signals for what Biden's China policy will look like? When (or if) the administration decides to maintain indefinitely the Trump tariffs if China does not step up its purchases of U.S. goods and services; how the now-underway defense review will alter U.S. military deployments in east Asia; whether the new president will try to revive a version of the Trans Pacific partnership—a trade agreement among U.S. allies that the Obama administration never submitted to Congress for ratification. That would be a powerful signal to Asian allies that Biden is serious about working with them to expand trade and contain China, which the treaty excludes.

Biden and his team have already shown they are realists, not romantics, when it comes to China. And the reality they are bending to is one Donald Trump helped create.

Some expectant couples fret over the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, but avoiding

GUIDO MIETH/GETTY

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UIDANCE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH officials about whether pregnant women should get the COVID-19 vaccine has been conflicted and cautious to the point of being noncommittal. For instance, the

World Health Organization initially advised that only pregnant women at high risk of COVID-19 exposure or with a separate underlying condition should get the vaccine; then the WHO revised the guidance to reflect the higher risk pregnant women face of getting severe COVID and the increased risk of pre-term birth. But it added a qualification: the available data was "insufficient to assess vaccine efficacy or vaccine-associated risks in pregnancy," even though "animal studies showed no harmful effects in pregnancy." An independent advisory

committee of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested that pregnant women consider getting the shots "after consulting with their physician."

It's no wonder pregnant women are confused about the COVID-19 vaccines.

The larger problem, of course, is a lack of data: pregnant women were excluded from clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines. With no data on the impact of the vaccines

on developing fetuses, many pregnant couples have opted for a wait-and-see approach. They may not realize, though, that in recent months evidence has continued to mount suggesting that pregnant women are in fact at heightened risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms. By opting to delay vaccinations, they may be putting themselves and their babies in harm's way.

To find out what pregnant women should know about the vaccines, *Newsweek* spoke with Dr. Denise Jamieson, an expert on infectious disease and pregnancy who has long studied the thorny issues around vaccinating pregnant women. Dr. Jamieson, chair of the Department of Gynecology & Obstetrics at Emory University School of Medicine, is a member of the COVID-19 working group of the American College of Ob-Gyns, which helped push the WHO to revise its COVID-vaccine guidance. She has been a practicing obstetrician at Atlanta's Grady Memorial

Hospital for more than 20 years and she worked for the CDC for two decades on infectious diseases in pregnancy, studying HIV, influenza, Ebola, Zika and now COVID-19.

NEWSWEEK: In addition to your official roles advising on public health, you are a practicing obstetrician. What are you advising your patients to do?

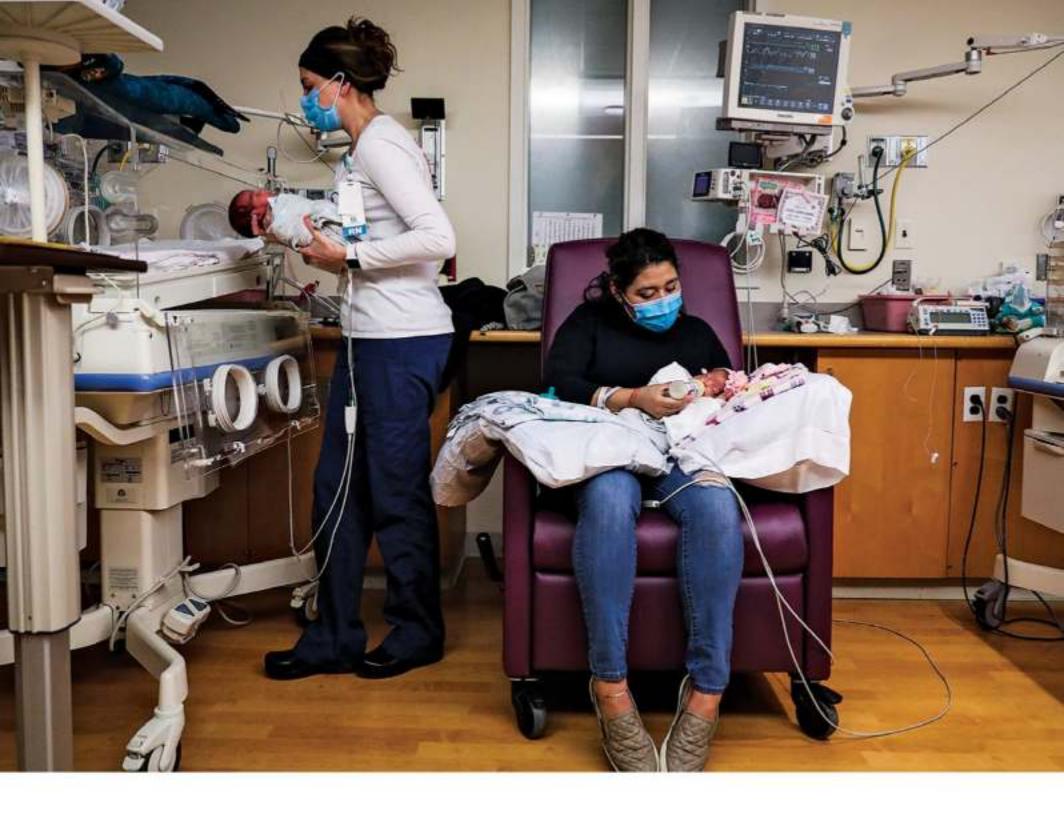
DR. JAMIESON: In general, I'm recommending for my pregnant patients that they get vaccinated. But they should make sure that all their questions with their health care provider are answered and that they're comfortable before getting vaccinated. The benefits of avoiding COVID, which we know particularly are bad and particularly with a pregnancy, outweigh any theoretical risks of the vaccines. [But] there is a lack of safety data.

What are you basing that recommendation on?



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: ADEK BERRY/AFP/GETTY; DMITRY ROGULIN/TASS/GETTY; KAY H





"The BENEFITS of avoiding COVID outweigh any theoretical RISKS of the vaccines."

RISK ASSESSMENT

Despite the lack of safety data for COVID-19, vaccines overall have a good track record of safety in pregnancy. Counterclockwise from above: A nurse tends to a mother, who contracted COVID-19 during pregnancy, and her twins; Dr. Denise Jamieson; An ultrasound scan at a maternity hospital; newborns wear protective face-shields.

We now know that pregnant women are more likely to have severe disease, if they get COVID. They're more likely to be hospitalized. They're more likely to require care in an intensive care unit. They're more likely to be intubated and they're more likely to die. We know that from an accumulating body of evidence. The best evidence we have is a very large report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which reported tens of thousands of cases that include pregnant women. When you compare pregnant women to non-pregnant women of the same age and adjust for [medical] risk factors, it looks like pregnancy in and of itself increases your risk for severe disease.

Why would pregnant women be more vulnerable to COVID-19?

It's not surprising. It's very similar, in this respect, to other respiratory diseases, like influenza. We know that influenza is more severe in pregnant women for a variety of reasons. First of all, there are complicated, complex changes in the immune system during pregnancy—a fetus is basically like a graft that your body doesn't reject.

There are also changes in the respiratory system. Basically, as the uterus grows, there's less room for your lungs, and your lungs become more compressed. Some respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, can be worse in pregnancy. We've known that

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FROM TOP: JACK GUEZ/AFP/GETTY; RAJ K RAJ/HINDUSTAN TIMES/GETTY

for a long time. We were concerned early on that there would be an increased risk of COVID-19, but it just took us a while to sort it all out. Now there's a fairly compelling body of evidence that suggests pregnant women are more likely to have severe disease if they get COVID-19.

What impact would that have on the developing fetus?

It looks like COVID-19 can be transmitted from the mother to the fetus, if the mother is infected, but it doesn't look like that happens very often. The more severe risk is if the mother is sick, particularly severely ill around the time of delivery: the baby often does not do as well. Although all studies are not consistent, it looks like there may be an increased risk of preterm birth. We also know that if a woman is intubated in the intensive care unit, then her baby is not going to do as well either. Preterm babies are at an increased risk for all sorts of problems: their lungs don't develop correctly, their eyes may be affected—multiple systems may be affected for babies who are born premature.

What's the fear about giving vaccines to pregnant women?

The issue is that the vaccines were not thoroughly tested in the pre-approval stages. Pregnant women were excluded from clinical trials, so we have very limited safety and efficacy data. We don't know if the vaccines work as well in pregnant women as non-pregnant ones. More important, we don't have good safety data. One reason why most obstetricians are relatively comfortable with offering the vaccine to pregnant women is that vaccines overall have a good track record of safety in pregnancy. We routinely give vaccines like influenza and Tdap. In the case of influenza, we recommend vaccines for pregnant women and have for many decades.

We don't give live vaccines—vaccines that contain live virus like measles, mumps and rubella or smallpox. There was a problem with the smallpox vaccine—it can cross the placenta, infect the baby and then the baby can have adverse effects. But the COVID-19 vaccines are not live viral vaccines—none of them are.

Why were pregnant women excluded from the vaccines trials?



In general, pregnant women are often excluded from clinical trials that study new medications or new vaccines. Some people are concerned about the risks of conducting research trials with a developing fetus involved.

What they don't realize is there are also risks of developing interventions that then can't be offered to pregnant women—there are risks to not getting a vaccine. For decades we've been saying, "Please include pregnant women in clinical trials so that they're not excluded when the lifesaving interventions are introduced." Yet we have continued to exclude pregnant women because it's easier and less complicated.

That's what happened this time. Whenever a new pathogen comes along, the medical community acts surprised and wonders what to do with pregnant women. We need to prepare better to thoughtfully include pregnant women in trials earlier on and to think about these pregnancy issues in advance of the next pathogen that emerges.

What has past experience with other pandemics taught us?

Each one is a little bit different. Zika was sadly remarkable in that it had a very specific pattern of congenital defects—it was like the congenital rubella of decades ago, which was a devastating condition. Zika was a very mild disease in most people and no one really thought that much about it, until this pattern of birth defects was recognized.

LIFE CHANGES

A fetus may make the mother more vulnerable to COVID-19. Clockwise from top; A pregnant woman gets vaccinated; a 24-year-old pregnant woman who died of COVID-19 is interred; twins with microcephaly and their mother, who had Zika while pregnant.



"It's really hard for PREGNANT women to stay safe and to avoid getting COVID-19."

The sad story about Ebola is that pregnant women were left out of clinical trials of the vaccines. Since Ebola is so deadly, there were excess deaths because pregnant women were not given the same opportunity to be vaccinated. The pandemic influenza [involving the H1N1 virus in 2009] was very similar to what we're seeing now in that pregnant women were at an increased risk for severe disease—even more so than with COVID-19. When the H1N1 variant emerged, nobody had immunity. Before there was a vaccine available, a lot of pregnant women died in the U.S. and Australia.

What else are you seeing in the clinic?

I've spent months now taking care of COVID-positive pregnant women. We started testing at our institution relatively early on. We have seen everything

from very mild disease in pregnant women to severely ill pregnant women with COVID-19.

What kinds of things are you seeing that made you so concerned about COVID-19?

Two things come to mind. Number one, we're identifying a lot of women who are asymptomatic, who are coming in with COVID-19 and have no idea they're infected. Women will say, "I don't understand. I'm at home all day with my one-year-old son, we don't go out anywhere." In some cases, she may have even quit her job to stay at home "because I didn't want to get COVID." Then I'll ask, "Who else is at home with you?" And she'll say, "Oh, well, my husband. He has to work. I mean somebody in the family has to be bringing in the money, and so he's a worker in a poultry farm."

Then all of a sudden, the light bulb goes off: that it's really hard for pregnant women to stay safe and to avoid getting COVID-19. In some cases, the disease is mild and they're asymptomatic; in some cases, it starts out mild and becomes severe; and in some cases, we see pregnant women with COVID who are very ill.

What impact has that had on their babies that you've seen?

In general the impact of COVID-19 is more severe in the mothers, and [the babies] luckily tend to do well.

Why do you think they're protected?

It's not easy to transmit COVID-19 from the mother to the baby. It's not one of those pathogens that easily passes through the placenta and infects the baby, the way Zika does or cytomegalovirus. For COVID-19, the biggest risk to the baby is really after birth, both in getting COVID-19 from the mother as well as from other family members or other people who may interact with the infant. It was a big question early on whether mothers can safely breastfeed. We're learning that, yes, they can—as long as they practice safe breast and hand hygiene and, if they're infected, wear a mask when they're around the baby.

What would be the incentive for not including pregnant women in the trials?

It's harder and it's more complicated. You really have to think through the issues. You have to collect enough information from a small group of

non-pregnant persons to be confident that the vaccine, overall, is safe and that you understand how it's working. And then, you can add in pregnant women. But it is complicated, because you have both the woman's health to worry about as well as the developing fetus'.

The problem is that now it's almost too late. Although some of the vaccine manufacturers are planning phase-3 placebo-controlled clinical trials with pregnant women, the problem is it's harder and harder to enroll a woman in a trial and tell her, "hey, you have a 50 percent chance of getting the vaccine and a 50 percent chance of not getting the vaccine" when she really wants to get the vaccine and it may otherwise be available to her.

Given what we know now about COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women, what are the remaining concerns? Are more trials necessary?

At this point, thousands of pregnant women are being vaccinated. We now need to follow those women to make sure that it worked like it does in nonpregnant persons. More important, we need to make sure that the infants born to vaccinated women are healthy. Several vaccine manufacturers are opening clinical trials to enroll pregnant women.

From what you're saying, there's no reason to believe that they won't be healthy.

Yes, there's no theoretical reason why the vaccine would not be safe in pregnancy. But again, it is important that we don't just say, "too late!" We need to actually follow these women and ensure that their outcomes are good.

What questions do you hear from pregnant women about the COVID-19 vaccines?

One question I hear often is, "I'm thinking about doing IVF [in-vitro fertilization]. Should I get immunized?" The answer is yes. Before you get pregnant, it's a great time to get all your vaccinations, including COVID-19, if you are eligible.

Another question I hear is, "Can I become sterile if I take the vaccine?" That is a myth that has been propagated on social media, and in one blog in particular. It was supposedly based on a false claim that [one of the COVID-19 vaccines] had a protein that was similar to a placental protein. There is no truth to it, but it just keeps getting circulated.



Newsweek

Best Maternity Hospitals

→ Nothing is more exciting, more happy—or more stressful—than the birth of a child. Choosing the right hospital to see to the health and well-being of both mother and baby can take some of the worry out of the experience.



THE BIRTH OF A HEALTHY BABY BRINGS great joy—especially during such a difficult time. If you're planning to add a new baby to the family, you want to feel confident that you've chosen a first-rate maternity hospital to help you achieve that happy outcome. How can you make informed decisions about maternity care? Newsweek used data from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit organization that reports on the safety and quality performance of U.S. health care facilities, to highlight the Best Maternity Hospitals 2021. Our list presents 217 hospitals

tals in 37 states, categorized by region. The facilities that made this list met Leapfrog's high standards for safety and quality of the maternity care they provide. ¶ "We commend them for their commitment to excellence," said Leah Binder,President & CEO, The Leapfrog Group (and mother of two). "We salute the doctors and nurses and health care leaders across the country who make it their life mission to improve the quality of maternity care in the U.S." ¶ All hospitals that participated in the 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Survey have shown their commitment to transparent reporting of their birthing processes and outcomes. The facilities cited by *Newsweek* as Best Maternity Hospitals 2021 are an elite group demonstrating excellence in maternity care. ¶ For additional information, go to www.newsweek.com/bmch-2021.

METHODOLOGY

The Leapfrog Group is an independent nonprofit that monitors health care quality and safety. To be considered for the Best Maternity Hospitals list, hospitals had to demonstrate that they fully met Leapfrog's standard for all of the following measures:

→ Early Elective
Delivery: For this
measure, a lower rate
is more desirable.
Leapfrog's target for all
hospitals is 5% or less.

- → NTSV C-section: For this measure, a lower rate is more desirable. Leapfrog's target for all hospitals is 23.9% or less.
- → Episiotomy: For this measure, a lower rate is more desirable. Leapfrog's target for all hospitals is 5% or less.
- Newborn Bilirubin
 Screening Prior to
 Discharge: Leapfrog's
 target rate is 90% or
 greater, meaning that at
 least 90% of babies are

screened for jaundice.

→ Appropriate DVT
Prophylaxis in Women
Undergoing Cesarean
Delivery: Leapfrog's
target rate is 90% or
greater, meaning that
techniques to prevent
blood clots are used for
at least 90% of mothers
delivering via C-section.

Additionally, hospitals had to earn an A, B, or not be scored on the Fall 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.

Mid-Atlantic

DELAWARE

Bayhealth Kent Campus Dover

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel Medical Center Annapolis

Garrett Regional Medical Center

Oakland

Meritus Medical Center Hagerstown

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr Hospital Bryn Mawr

Butler Memorial HospitalButler

Geisinger Medical Center

Danville

Meadville Medical Center

Meadville

Paoli Hospital Paoli

Penn State Health Holy Spirit Medical Center

Camp Hill

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Philadelphia

UPMC Harrisburg Harrisburg

WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital Chambersburg

Wellspan Waynesboro Hospital Waynesboro **Westmoreland Hospital** Greensburg

VIRGINIA

Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital of Richmond Richmond

Riverside Regional Medical Center Newport News

Southside Regional Medical Center Petersburg

University of Virginia Medical Center Charlottesville

Winchester Medical Center Winchester

Midwest

ILLINOIS

Rush Copley Medical Center Aurora

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Mattoon

West Suburban Medical Center Oak Park

INDIANA

DeKalb Memorial Hospital Auburn

Elkhart General Hospital Elkhart

Hancock Regional Hospital Greenfield

La Porte Hospital La Porte

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Memorial Hospital of South Bend South Bend

Saint Joseph Health Mishawaka Medical Center Mishawaka

IOWA

Genesis Medical Center-Davenport Davenport

MICHIGAN

Ascension Borgess Hospital Kalamazoo

Ascension River District Hospital East China

Bronson Battle Creek Battle Creek Lakeland Community
Hospital Niles

Niles

McLaren - Bay Region Bay City

Mercy Health Saint Mary's Grand Rapids

MISSOURI

Freeman Health System Joplin

Mercy Hospital Jefferson Festus

Southeast Hospital Cape Girardeau

ОНЮ

Adena Regional Medical Center Chillicothe Aultman Orrville Hospital

Orrville

Cleveland Clinic Health System -Fairview Hospital Cleveland

Cleveland Clinic Health System -Hillcrest Hospital Mayfield Heights

Fisher-Titus Medical CenterNorwalk

Mercy Medical Center Canton

Miami Valley Hospital South Centerville

OhioHealth Grant Medical Center Columbus Summa Health System, Akron Campus Akron

Summa Health,
Barberton Campus
Baberton

WISCONSIN

Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire Eau Claire

Northeast

CONNECTICUT

Johnson Memorial Medical Center Stafford Springs

The William W.
Backus Hospital
Norwich

University of
Connecticut Health
Center, John
Dempsey Hospital
Farmington

MAINE

Cary Medical Center Caribou

Franklin Memorial Hospital Farmington

Mid Coast Hospital Brunswick

Northern Light A.R. Gould Hospital Presque Isle

York Hospital York

MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire Medical Center Pittsfield Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Boston

CHA Cambridge Hospital Cambridge

Emerson Hospital Concord

Heywood Hospital Gardner

Lowell General Hospital
- Main Campus
Lowell

Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital Brockton

St. Luke's Hospital New Bedford

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Portsmouth
Regional Hospital
Portsmouth

NEW JERSEY

Ocean Medical Center Brick

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick

University Hospital Newark

NEW YORK

Rome Memorial Hospital Rome

St. Joseph's Hospital Health CenterSyracuse

VERMONT

Rutland Regional Medical Center

Rutland





Pacific

CALIFORNIA

Corona Regional Medical Center Corona

El Camino Hospital **Los Gatos** Los Gatos

Enloe Medical Center Chico

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Antioch Antioch

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Baldwin **Park Medical Center** Baldwin Park

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Modesto Modesto

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Roseville Roseville

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - San Francisco San Francisco

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - San Jose San Jose

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Santa Rosa Santa Rosa

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Walnut Creek Walnut Creek

Kaiser Foundation Hospital - West Los Angeles Los Angeles

Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center Downey

Kaiser Permanente Fontana Medical Center Fontana

Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center Los Angeles

Kaiser Permanente Ontario Medical Center Ontario

Kaiser Permanente Panorama City Medical Center Panorama City

Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center Redwood City

Kaiser Permanente San Diego Medical Center San Diego

Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara **Medical Center** Santa Clara

Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center Sacramento

Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center Vacaville

Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center Vallejo

Loma Linda **University Medical** Center-Murrieta Murrieta

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Loma Linda

Madera Community Hospital

Madera

MemorialCare Saddleback **Medical Center** Laguna Hills

PIH Health **Hospital - Whittier** Whittier

Pomerado Hospital Poway

Scripps Memorial Hospital of Encinitas Encinitas

Sharp Grossmont Hospital

La Mesa

Tri-City Medical Center Oceanside

University of California Davis Medical Center Sacramento

University of California Irvine Health Orange

HAWAII

Adventist Health Castle Kailua

OREGON

Asante Ashland Community Hospital Ashland

CHI Mercy Health Mercy Medical Center Roseburg

Providence Medford Medical Center Medford

WASHINGTON

MultiCare Covington Medical Center Covington

Multicare Good Samaritan Hospital Puyallup

PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center Vancouver

St. Anne Hospital Burien

St. Elizabeth Hospital Enumclaw

St. Francis Hospital of Federal Way Federal Way

St. Michael **Medical Center** Silverdale

Southeast

FLORIDA

AdventHealth DeLand DeLand

AdventHealth Tampa Tampa

Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola Pensacola

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Lakewood Ranch

Sacred Heart Hospital On The Emerald Coast Miramar Beach

St. Lucie Medical Center Port St Lucie

Tampa General Hospital Tampa

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GEORGIA

Meadows Regional Medical Center Vidalia

Piedmont Fayette Hospital

Fayetteville

Tanner Medical
Center of Carrollton
Carrollton

MISSISSIPPI

Methodist Olive Branch Hospital Olive Branch

NORTH CAROLINA

Alamance Regional Medical Center

Burlington

Atrium Health Cabarrus Concord

Atrium Health Cleveland Shelby

Atrium Health Pineville Charlotte

Atrium Health Stanly Albemarle

Atrium Health Union Monroe

Central Carolina Hospital

Sanford
Catawba Valley

Medical Center Hickory

Harris Regional Hospital

Sylva

MH Mission Hospital McDowell, LLLP Marion **Mission Hospital** Asheville

Ashevine

Nash Hospitals, Inc. Rocky Mount

New Hanover Regional Medical Center Wilmington

Novant Health Mint Hill Medical Center Charlotte

Rex Hospital, Inc.Raleigh

Sentara Albemarle Medical Center Elizabeth City

University of North Carolina Hospitals Chapel Hill

Vidant Duplin Hospital Kenansville

WakeMed Raleigh Campus Raleigh

Wayne UNC Health Care Goldsboro

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital Charleston

Colleton Medical Center
Walterboro

Mount Pleasant Hospital Mt. Pleasant

Prisma Health Baptist Columbia

Prisma Health Baptist Easley HospitalEasley

Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital Greenville

Prisma Health Greer Memorial Hospital Greer

Prisma Health Laurens County Hospital Clinton

Prisma Health Oconee Memorial Hospital Seneca

Prisma Health Patewood HospitalGreenville

TENNESSEE

Regional One Health Memphis

Southern Tennessee Regional Health System - Lawrenceburg Lawrenceburg

Sumner Regional Medical Center Gallatin

Williamson Medical Center Franklin

Southwest

ARIZONA

Banner - University Medical Center Phoenix Phoenix

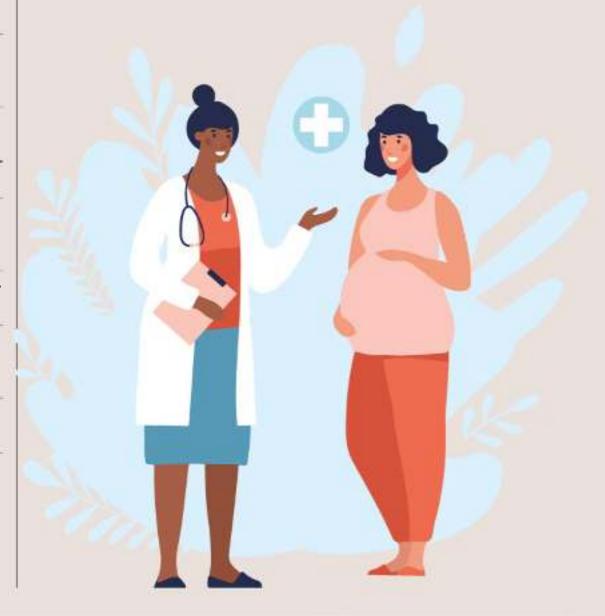
Banner Del E Webb Medical Center Sun City West Banner Desert Medical Center Mesa

Banner Casa Grande Medical Center Casa Grande

Havasu Regional Medical Center Lake Havasu City

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center Gilbert

Shea Medical Center Scottsdale





Verde Valley Medical Center Cottonwood

OKLAHOMA

Ascension St. John Owasso Owasso

Bailey Medical Center LLC

Owasso

Mercy Hospital Ada Ada

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City Oklahoma City

TEXAS

Ascension Seton Hays Kyle

Hendrick Health System Abilene

Medical City Arlington Arlington

Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital Cypress

Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital

Houston

Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital Katy

Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center Houston

Memorial Hermann Northeast Humble

Memorial Hermann Southeast

Houston

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital

Houston

Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital Sugar Land

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights Harker Heights

South Texas Health **System Edinburg** Edinburg

West

COLORADO

Banner Fort Collins Medical Center Fort Collins

Centura Health Castle Rock Adventist Hospital Castle Rock

Centura Health-Avista **Adventist Hospital** Louisville

Centura Health-**Littleton Adventist** Hospital Littleton

Centura Health-**Longmont United** Hospital Longmont

Centura Health-Mercy **Regional Medical Center** Durango

Centura Health-St. **Francis Medical Center** Colorado Springs

East Morgan County Hospital Brush

Good Samaritan Medical Center

Lafayette

Lutheran Medical Center

Wheat Ridge

McKee Medical Center Loveland

St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center **Grand Junction**

Sterling Regional MedCenter Sterling

IDAHO

Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center Idaho Falls

St. Lukes Hospital Nampa Medical Center Nampa

St. Luke's Boise **Medical Center** Boise

St. Luke's Magic Valley **Medical Center** Twin Falls

St. Luke's Meridian **Medical Center** Meridian

MONTANA

Billings Clinic Billings

RCHP Billings-Missoula LLC DBA Community Medical Center Missoula

NEVADA

Renown Regional **Medical Center**

UTAH

Cedar City Hospital Cedar City

Intermountain **Medical Center** Murray

LDS Hospital Salt Lake City

Layton Hospital Layton

Logan Regional Hospital Logan

McKay-Dee Hospital Ogden

Park City Hospital Park City

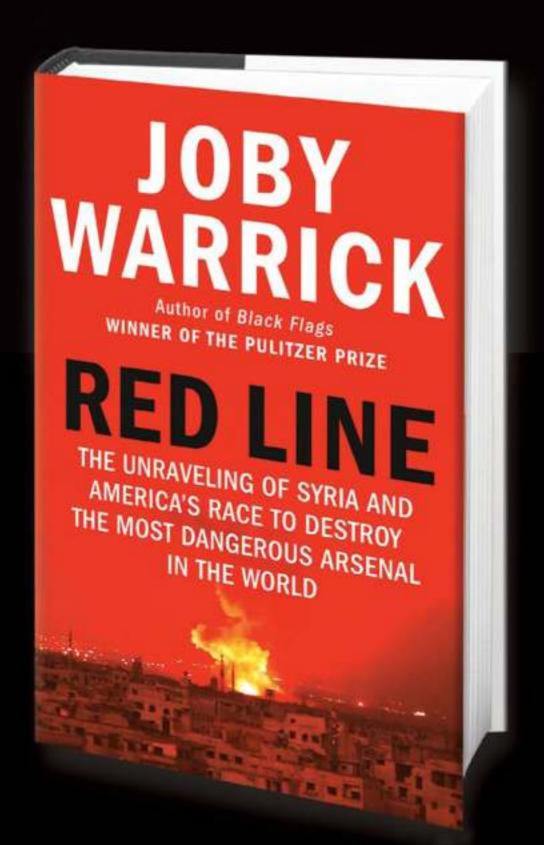
WYOMING

St. John's Medical Center Jackson



JOBY WARRICK

A GROUNDBREAKING CHRONICLE
OF AMERICA'S MISSION IN SYRIA



Drawing on original reporting,
Joby Warrick reveals the littleknown story of America's quest
to find and destroy Syria's
chemical weapons, and keep
them out of the hands of the
Islamic State.

"GRIPPING."

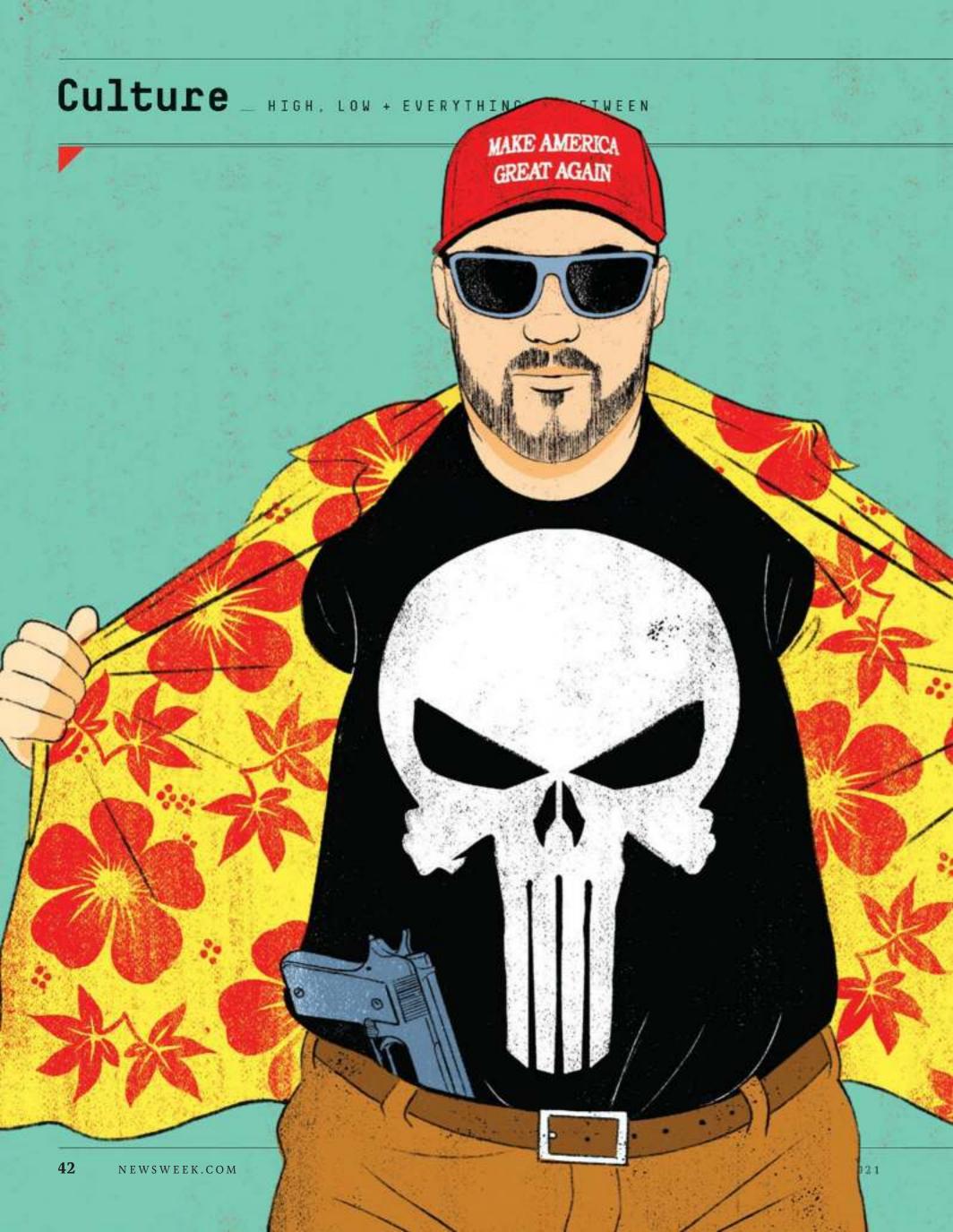
—Library Journal (starred review)

"WARRICK DELIVERS A COMPREHENSIVE AND ELECTRIC TALE.

Espionage fans and military history buffs will be enthralled."

—Publishers Weekly





WOMEN TO LOOK UP TO

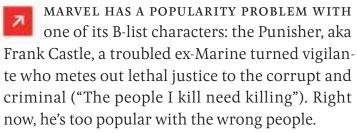
High achievers during the dark days of the pandemic. » P.46





The Punisher Goes Rogue

Marvel's vigilante has been adopted by some extremists, and there's not much the company can do about it



Among the MAGA hats, Don't Tread on Me Flags and Trump 2024 banners on display during the January 6 invasion of the Capitol, were also logos and images belonging to various comic book characters. One of the most popular was the Punisher's signature white-on-black skull emblem, which cropped up on patches, shirts and flags. Some were on officially licensed Marvel merchandise, some on copyright-infringing knock-offs.

While the symbol has long been popular with people eager–either seriously or in jest–to project a badass image, its public appropriation by a pro-Trump mob, touched a nerve.

Jon Bernthal, the actor who most recently played the character (on Netflix's *The Punisher*, canceled in 2019) tweeted, "These people are misguided, lost, and afraid. They have nothing to

do with what Frank stands for or is about." Some comic fans meanwhile called on Marvel to retire the character altogether. And Gerry Conway, the writer who co-created him in 1974 with artists Ross Andru and John Romita tells *Newsweek*, "I could definitely see it might be time for him to step back for a bit. Not because there's anything necessarily wrong with the character, but given where we are right now in our society."

As for Disney-owned Marvel itself, which is reportedly planning a Punisher TV reboot, a company spokesperson declined repeated requests for comment except to say Marvel doesn't support its intellectual property being used without permission.

What can a brand do when one of its copyrights gets hijacked? They can, and often do, sue the knock-off makers and the retailers that sell counterfeit goods. Julie Zerbo, founder and editor-in-chief of

The Fashion Law.com, says "I know that Disney, for instance, is quite aggressive. When *The Mandalorian* first came out, they didn't want anyone selling Baby Yoda gifts." But Zerbo also says "Withthe rise of the internet, it's kind of a



losing battle. Let's say Nike filed a lawsuit against all of these websites that are selling counterfeit shoes, and they win. The court says the defendants have to stop selling counterfeits on the domains they've used. Let's say Nike takes on 20 of these websites—before the case is even done, 20 more will already be selling comparable items."

Additionally, Jeanne Fromer, a professor of law at New York University and co-director of the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, says avoiding losing to counterfeiters is not the only consideration. "Aside from proving whether you have a strong legal claim, there's a PR component as well," she says. "Often, we'll hear that copyright or trademark owners might not want to go after their consumers, because it just generates bad PR for them....So, there may be some economic and PR

calculus companies use to decide if legal action is not worth pursuing."

And while Marvel could sue manufacturers who have ripped off the Punisher image and put it on items designed to appeal to extremists, there is little it can do about militia groups and others sporting officially licensed Punisher merchandise.

Sports shirt maker Fred Perry

"The idea that police, even unofficially, would take on this character just seemed to me to be not only totally inappropriate but also shocking."



found itself in a similar scenario recently when the Proud Boys adopted the company's black and yellow polo shirts as an informal uniform. Last September, Fred Perry discontinued the shirts and put out a press release warning, "To be absolutely clear, if you see any Proud Boys materials or products featuring our Laurel Wreath or any Black/Yellow/Yellow related items, they have absolutely nothing to do with us, and we are working with our lawyers to pursue any unlawful use of our brand."

Marvel has shown no sign of being willing to go that far, and even killing the character outright might do nothing to de-weaponize the skull symbol. The real problem with the Punisher seems inherent in the character himself: is he a troubled good guy or fascist murderer?

Co-creator Gerry Conway calls him "a bit of a Rorschach test." Conway first dreamed the Punisher up as a supporting character for Spider-Man in the early 1970s when the country was trying to put Vietnam behind it, urban crime was high, faith in government was low and violent revenge movies like Dirty Harry and Death Wish were big hits. The Punisher was "kind of in the Zeitgeist," Conways says, coming out of a "sense of society being out of control" and the desire for "a vigilante coming in and restoring order by taking on the role that institutions had failed to perform."

Conway says he first noticed that the Punisher had taken on a life outside of comic books years later when he read an article about Iraqi soldiers using the Punisher's logo after they had seen American Marines wearing

NO SALE Fred Perry stopped selling its black and yellow shirt in Canada and the U.S. after it was appropriated by the Proud Boys.

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it on their uniforms.

In his best-selling 2012 memoir *American Sniper* (later turned into a film directed by Dirty Harry himself, Clint Eastwood) Navy Seal marksman Chris Kyle wrote about why the Punisher appealed to him: "He righted wrongs. He killed bad guys. He made wrongdoers fear him. That's what we were all about. So we adapted his symbol—a skull—and made it our own, with some modifications. We spray-painted it on our Hummers and body armor, and our helmets and all our guns. And we spray-painted it on every building or wall we could."

Conway says he understands, to some extent, the Punisher's appeal to soldiers (the character is, after all, a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder). He was more troubled, though, when during last summer's Black Lives Matter protests, some

cops started to adopt the skull as their own. The emblem began appearing on patches and stickers in the colors of the "Thin Blue Line" flag created by "Blue Lives Matter" supporters. Conways says "The idea that police, even unofficially, would take on this character just seemed to me to be not only totally inappropriate but also shocking." In response, he started a campaign to have artists of color redesign the skull logo for a T-shirt line called "Skulls for Justice." All proceeds from the shirts—more than \$70,000 thus far, according to Conway—have been donated to Black Lives Matter (Conway has no ownership stake in Punisher imagery).

Conway says it seems logical that the character's popularity with soldiers and cops set the stage for its adoption by "right-wing and fascistic militia types, who in many cases, are

DIFFERENT TAKES A Punisher-inspired flag on January 6. Actor Jon Bernthal (below), denounced the rioters, saying they misunderstood the character.

in fact police officers and ex-military people. You get this cross breeding of white supremacy and hate that's just so repulsive."

"Social media encourages people to link ideas with images, and then make it easy for these semiotic packages to circulate," says Janet Abbate, a Virginia Tech professor and author of *Inventing the Internet*. As a result, she says, images "become unmoored from their original meanings." She adds, "I think the internet has made cosplay more mainstream, which may make it easier and more acceptable for people to dress up in this kind of imagery during in-person actions."

According to George Hawley, an associate professor of political science at the University of Alabama and author of multiple books about the alt-right, "right-wingers a little closer to the mainstream" like libertarians and the Three Percenters are more likely to borrow images from popular culture like the Punisher than people on what he calls the "explicitly racist right."

Different people have attached different meanings to the Punisher emblem and that process of appropriation and redefinition of pop culture images, shows no sign of stopping. NYU law professor Fromer says "I think we'll be seeing a lot more of this, given the meme culture we live in, where visual images and logos are currency. I think we'll continue seeing these images being co-opted by extremist groups as much as by the mainstream. It's quite striking right now, but I don't think this is an issue that's going away."

Culture



1 Historic Golden Globes WinHollywood, California

Chinese filmmaker Chloé Zhao made Golden Globes history by becoming the first woman of Asian descent and only the second woman ever (the other was Barbra Streisand for *Yentl*) to win the best director award in 2021 for her film *Nomadland*, which also took home Best Picture, and featured real life, modern-day nomads riding the recession and their retirement out in RVs.

1.7-1



10 5 Youngest Woman to Row Ocean SoloCanary Islands to Antigua

After 70 days, 3 hours, and 48 minutes on the Atlantic Ocean, 21-year-old swim instructor Jasmine Harrison became the youngest woman to row solo across any ocean. The world-record-breaking athlete from landlocked Yorkshire, England, rowed 3,000 miles while checking off "a near collision with a drilling ship, two capsizes, lots of peanut butter and Nutella consumed, visits from dolphins," Harrison's team chronicled on Twitter.



0 2 Voice of Mars Mission LandingNASA Laboratory inPasadena, California

"Touchdown confirmed! *Perseverance* is safely on the surface of Mars." These historic words from NASA's rover landing on February 18, 2021, were delivered by Indian-American scientist Dr. Swati Mohan, the mission's guidance and control operations lead. As well as giving calm play-by-play narration, the engineer was the first to confirm to all earthlings that the rover successfully landed on the surface of the red planet.

O 3 Youngest U.S. Inaugural PoetWashington, D.C.

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it," became the words of hope at President Joe Biden's swearing-in ceremony. The youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, and the first U.S. youth poet laureate, 22-year-old Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" poem was one of the most memorable and igniting moments on an already historic day.



0 4 Surfed Year's Biggest Wave

Nazaré, Portugal
Brazilian Maya Gabeira
didn't just ride the
biggest wave ever by a
woman, but at 33 years
old, she surfed the tallest
wave by anyone—at
73.5 feet high—in the
2019–20 winter season.



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6 First Female Head of WTONigeria

A former two-time Nigerian finance director, Ngozi Okonjo-lweala began her term as the first woman and African director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which governs trade rules between nations, on March 1, 2021. She spent 25 years at the World Bank as a development economist, and was the first woman to serve as Nigeria's finance minister. One of the items first on her agenda: equitable vaccine access for developing countries.

7 First Women toOverwinter Arctic Solo

Svalbard, Norway

Two women and one (female) dog in an Arctic trappers' hut for nine months with 50 plus polar bears right outside.
This is quarantine life for Sunniva Sorby and Hilde Fålun Strøm, the first women to overwinter in the high Arctic without men during the 2019–20 winter 87 miles from civilization in an effort to bring research to scientific and educational institutions, while raising awareness about climate change.



08 Mother of the COVID-19 Vaccine

Hungary to Philadelphia

Hungarian-born biochemist
Katalin Kariko's decades
of genetic molecule mRNA
research paved the way
for the development of the
Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech
laboratories' COVID-19
vaccines. Despite significant
opposition, Kariko forged
ahead, convinced of the
disease- and virus-fighting
potential of mRNA, paving
the way for the lifesaving
vaccine breakthrough.

09 First Indigenous Foreign Minister New Zealand

In 2020, New Zealand appointed its first Indigenous female foreign minister, Nanaia Mahuta, who is Māori. Mahuta also was the country's first female member of parliament to wear on her chin a moko kauae, a sacred and traditional tattoo that contains ancestral and status information for the Māoris.



UNCHARTED

Women Making History During the Pandemic

In honor of Women's History Month and International Women's Day (March 8th), we're highlighting women making history today and changing the world right now—during a debilitating pandemic, no less. From the first women to overwinter solo in the high Arctic to the engineer who delivered the news to all earthlings that NASA's rover touched down on Mars and the biochemist whose scientific research paved the way for a COVID-19 vaccine, these women made historic strides and achievements in a locked down and downtrodden era. You might not know all their names now, but their impact on the world will go down in history. —*Kathleen Rellihan*



Gina Torres

over the course of gina torres' career, she's played basically everything. "I would not have gotten this far if I wasn't game. I've played a witch. An assassin." From The *Matrix* franchise to *Suits* to the cult classic *Firefly*, she's done it all, and now she can add a Ryan Murphy series to her resume with Fox's 9-1-1: Lone Star. "There are things that come your way that you just don't say 'no' to." She plays Tommy Vega, a paramedic forced to return to work because her husband's restaurant was closed due to coronavirus. "We're doing this in real-time. We are, for lack of a better phrase, embracing the pandemic, understanding that we're playing frontline workers." Important to Torres is her presence in Hollywood as a prominent Afro-Latina actress. "I'm coming forward and being all who I am and never, ever sacrificing one for the other. That was an industry problem." But she says things are changing, that Hollywood isn't forcing actors to choose one identity over another. "This is who we are. This is what the spectrum of Latina looks like. That's super important. We make money. We are viable. We are green."



What was it like approaching a role that is so timely?

We're not playing characters, we're playing people, right? This is what their world looks like right now.
We would be doing a complete disservice not to acknowledge every level of sacrifice and danger that they're putting themselves and their family in as well. So I loved that part of it because it really brings it home.

What was it like shooting under COVID conditions?

To some degree, we have become accustomed to the new dance that we have to do. What's hard is that I cannot identify anybody on the crew. Not one. I saw my wardrobe person having lunch the other day in a corner social distancing and I had no idea it was her; it was the first time I'd seen her face [laughs].

Did you think the dress you wore to the royal wedding would become such a viral hit?

I really didn't think that there would be that many eyes on me because we were the Americans.

Are you surprised Firefly has remained such a fan favorite?

The fact that it resonated, it was like ripples on a pond, and now it's become generational. That's an extraordinary thing and really is a testament to good storytelling, good characters and hitting on our basic need for family and belonging and wanting to feel safe. — H. Alan Scott





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