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Institute for
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Introducing another week of Future Trends — *tracking current global news stories that provide insight into the future.*

CONFLICT

Assassination attempt on Ukrainian president's top aide. Ukrainian police [are trying to work out](#) who ordered unidentified individuals to try to murder a top aide of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after his car was sprayed with automatic gunfire.

Hundreds storm Namibia parliament ahead of German genocide deal vote. About 300 protestors [stormed parliament](#) protesting that the \$1 billion compensation was not enough and that the opposition and traditional leaders should be involved in the negotiations.

Somalia and African Union coordinate in fight against al-Shabab. There are currently more than 20,000 peacekeepers in the country, trying to [keep Somalis secure](#) from attacks by al-Shabab and Islamic State.

Algeria shuts down airspace to all Moroccan aircraft. Nearly a month after Algeria cut its diplomatic relations with Morocco over “hostile actions”, Algeria’s Supreme Security Council has [decided to close its airspace](#) to all planes from Morocco.

UN issues new Syria war death toll, says 350,000 is an undercount. The [figure includes](#) civilians and combatants and is based on strict methodology requiring the full name of the deceased, as well as an established date and location of death. One in every 13 victims was a woman or a child.

DEVELOPMENT

Air pollution is even more dangerous than previously thought. The WHO has [slashed maximum safe levels](#) of key pollutants such nitrogen dioxide. An estimated seven million people die prematurely each year from diseases linked to air pollution.

A start-up in Benin turns jerry cans into computers. Plastic jerry cans are [being turned into computers](#) and being distributed at low cost. Free workshops regularly teach people how to make computers.

More vaccines for low and middle-income countries. President Biden [announced](#) that the US would double their vaccine contributions to 1.1 billion for low and middle-income countries.

66% of people in high-income countries have now received at least one vaccine dose, 2% in low-income countries. Most low- and middle-income countries are [still struggling](#) to get enough doses just to protect their health and frontline workers, as well as their most vulnerable.

SOCIAL

First-ever high-resolution map of world's coral reefs is complete. The [mapping tool](#) allows policymakers, conservationists and the public to understand the coral reef landscape across the world, with the aim of protecting it.

China will clamp down on abortions for "non-medical purposes." China will [reduce the number of abortions](#) performed for "non-medical purposes", the country's cabinet said in newly issued guidelines.

Over 42% of Koreans in their thirties are unmarried. Many [young South Koreans](#) are opting to distance themselves from marriage and having children. South Korea's total fertility rate has hit a record low of 0.84.

BP says nearly a third of its UK fuel stations running on empty. Lines of vehicles formed at petrol stations for hours to fill up with fuel after [oil firms reported](#) a lack of drivers was causing transport problems from refineries to forecourts.

Murders rose nearly 30% in the US in 2020, FBI reports. The rate of [6.6 homicides per 100,000 residents](#) is the highest since 1990's. Other violent crimes also increased last year, while property crimes fell.

ECONOMICS

High food prices worldwide. An [index compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organisation](#), a UN agency, shows that food prices were a third higher in August than a year before.

UK eyes small steps with US on trade as big deal prospects fade. Johnson's government once touted a trade deal with the United States as one of the big prizes of Brexit, but those hopes have [dramatically faded](#) after Biden replaced Donald Trump and pushed all trade negotiations down his list of priorities.

Power rationing and energy cuts increased in China. The [measures have expanded](#) to more than 10 provinces. In Zhejiang alone, 160 energy-intensive companies have been ordered to halt production.

Peru PM warns gas sector: pay higher taxes or face nationalisation. New leftist Peruvian Prime Minister Guido Bellido [said that](#) companies which exploit natural gas in Peru will need to pay higher taxes or else face nationalizations.

Europe's economic recovery is losing momentum. France and Germany are [struggling with supply-chain issues](#) and a slowdown in the services sector. Activity in both countries eased more than forecast.

POLITICS

Czech far right wants referendum on exiting the EU. The far-right SPD party, which may play a role in forming a new Czech government next month, [will demand](#) the cabinet propose legislation that could lead to a referendum on leaving the European Union.

White House weighs invoking defense law to get chip data. The Biden administration is considering [invoking a Cold War-era national security law](#) to force companies in the semiconductor supply chain to provide information on inventory and sales of chips.

Philippines Duterte is still popular despite pull-back in poll. Three-quarters of Filipinos [were satisfied](#) with President Rodrigo Duterte's performance but his popularity rating was 21% below a record high reached in November 2020.

The EU's green label for gas could be disastrous. Over 150 nonprofit groups [sent a letter](#) urging the EU not to add gas-fired power stations to its green rulebook. According to the letter it would "send a disastrous global signal".

Russia says Taliban recognition not on the table. Russia, the United States, China, and Pakistan are [working to hold the Taliban to the promises they made](#). UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said the Taliban's desire for such recognition is the only leverage the world has.

Germany elections: Centre-left claim narrow win over Merkel's party. SPD leader Olaf Scholz [said](#) he had a clear mandate to form a government.

PEACEBUILDING

NewGen Peacebuilders celebrated International Peace day on September 21 with the [Youth & Peace in Action](#) (YPA) virtual Kick-Off. YPA aims to sponsor and support about 300 peace projects during the school year. An online platform offers students a course -- with a certificate upon completion -- and a companion module for teachers, club advisors and community supporters. Students can develop peace projects independently or through a training and mentoring program.

Jessica Nordell has published a new book on [The End of Bias: A Beginning: The Science and Practice of Overcoming Implicit Bias](#). The author reviews academic research and assessments of real-world policies on prejudice to determine the most effective actions individuals and organizations can take to reduce implicit as well as explicit bias. She offers suggestions for how individuals can take steps to break "habits" of bias while organizations can build an architecture and introduce incentives to encourage inclusion.

[Nine philanthropic organizations](#) have pledged \$5 billion over 10 years for the [Protecting Our Planet Challenge](#) to support the expansion of protected areas, sustainable management of the world's oceans and Indigenous-led conservation.

[A community group in North Minneapolis has launched an effort to interrupt violence](#) by sitting in lawn chairs at hotspots identified by the Minneapolis Police Department as the most dangerous spots in their neighborhood. For the past three months, they have organized volunteers to work in shifts, using a sign-up log online. Since the effort began as part

of a 21 Days of Peace community project, the precinct's police inspector said the area "has seen a reduction in violent crimes." In the winter, the group plans to work on relationship-building with young people in the community.