

Q3, 2020

Events Driving Global Instability and Risk



Global Coronavirus Pandemic Continued, July – Sept 2020

- The global coronavirus pandemic continued to unfold during the third quarter of 2020, reaching over 30m cases and nearly 1m deaths worldwide

United States

- The US saw daily new cases spike further during Q3 reaching nearly 80k per day for a total of c.7m to date, leading the world

India

- India's case load became the world's second highest in Q3, with over 5m cases and 85,000 deaths despite a stringent lockdown

Latin America

- Latin America now accounts for over 40% of of average global deaths from COVID, led by Brazil and Peru with over 160,000 deaths between them

Europe

- Virus surging again in second wave following schools reopening with record numbers of daily new cases in France and Spain



US: Wildfires in Sept

- Record wildfires burn more than 3% of California's land
- [30] deaths and [US\$1bn] in damage



UK: Government to break treaty obligations in Brexit withdrawal in Sept 2020

- New UK bill violates Brexit deal signed with EU
- Move threatens to collapse talks leading to hard Brexit for the UK
- Warnings given to UK by Biden and Trump on trade if Northern Ireland peace agreement undermined



Belarus: Anti-government protests and demonstrations in July-Sept 2020

- Mass protests against authoritarian leader
- Over 7,000 protestors arrested with 4 dead and 50 missing following violent gov. reprisals



Russia: Opposition politician poisoned in Aug 2020

- Russian activist Alex Navalny poisoned by nerve agent Novichok in Russia
- Use of poison was confirmed in Germany following medical evacuation
- Same agent was used to poison Russian military officer in the UK



Hong Kong: Mass demonstrations resume in Aug-Sept 2019

- Mass protests against China resume
- 300 protestors arrested under new anti-sedition laws imposed by China



United States: Protests, civil unrest and riots in July-Sept

- Civil unrest and riots continue following further police actions
- National guard activated in 30 states
- Over 20 dead and 14,000 arrests made
- Violent responses by federal agents
- Armed counter-protestors in evidence



Beirut: Chemical explosion in Aug 2020

- Chemical explosion in Beirut port kills 200, with 6,500 injured
- Up to US\$15bn in damage with 300,000 left homeless



India-China: Border dispute flares in Sept 2020

- Renewed border skirmishes between Indian and Chinese troops in disputed region
- First (warning) shots exchanged between the parties in 45 years



Global Recession in July – Sept 2020

- According to World Bank forecasts, the global economy will shrink by 5.2% this year, the deepest recession since World War 2
- Economic activity among advanced economies is anticipated to shrink 7% in 2020

United States

- Real GDP down 32.9% in Q2 2020
- Current unemployment rate 8.4%
- The US economy expected to contract 6.1% for the full year

India

- GDP down 24% in June quarter
- Unemployment rate at 8.4%, down from peak of 24% in Q2
- Indian GDP to contract 3.2% in 2020

China

- China bucks global trend with 3.2% quarterly GDP growth
- Growth for the year overall to be slightly positive at 1%

Europe

- GDP in the EU down 11.9% in Q2
- EU unemployment at 7.4%
- Euro area GDP expected to contract 9.1% in 2020 Source: Various Press Articles

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Events Driving Global Development and Progress

Politics, Economics and Society



Environment:

Deutsche Bank to end coal mining related business activities in Jul 2020

- New Fossil Fuels Policy provides a framework for business activities involving oil, gas and coal
- Bank to end coal mining related to global business activities by 2025



Society: Bloomberg donates US\$100m to Black Medical Schools in Sep 2020

- The broader aim is to increase the number of Black doctors in the U.S. and increase the number of doctors in underserved communities



Environment:

Apple aims to become entirely carbon neutral by 2030 in Aug 2020

- Commitment covers entire supply chain and lifecycle of all its products
- The company will also develop innovative carbon removal solutions for 25% of its carbon footprint



Environment: Unilever to spend

US\$1.2bn cutting fossil fuels in Sep 2020
Unilever will cut out ingredients made from fossil fuels in its cleaning products. The company seeks to halve emissions from its products by 2030

Science & Technology



Healthcare: Oxford vaccine enters final phase of COVID-19 trials in Aug 2020

- The vaccine is one of the farthest along of numerous COVID-19 vaccines in development.
- Could be rolled out by the end of the year

Healthcare: Tool created to stop mega fires in Sep 2020

- Scientists in California have created a tool that uses AI and satellite images to map every tree
- Firefighters can use the tool to predict how current fires may spread



Technology: Fleet of high-altitude balloons deliver internet service in Kenya in July 2020

- Internet access to tens of thousands of people in Kenya
- Expected to be cost-effective solution in underserved areas



Society: Africa declared free of wild polio virus in Aug 2020

- Africa has been declared free from wild polio with 95% of population immunised
- Nigeria, the last country to be declared free, accounted for more than half of all global cases less than a decade ago

Politics: EU agrees EUR750bn recovery fund in July 2020

- Major plan to reconstruct the region's pandemic-stricken economies
- Distribution in the form of grants and loans to be distributed from 2021-2023



Politics: Israel, Bahrain and UAE sign Peace Accord in Sep 2020

- The deal to normalize the long-strained relations between the countries
- It is expected to advance peace in the Middle East region



Healthcare: Gene-editing treatment to restore sight in blindness in Sep 2020

- Hungarian scientist discovers revolutionary gene-editing treatment to cure blindness



Cleantech: World's largest nuclear fusion project begins assembly in Aug 2020

- The US\$24bn project is being built by a consortium of 35 nations
- Project is expected to be generated by late 2025



Politics: Intra-Afghan peace negotiations in Sep 2020

- First ever direct talks to prioritize a permanent ceasefire and agree on a power sharing agreement to end the years-long conflict in the country
- The talks comes six months after US-Taliban peace deal was signed



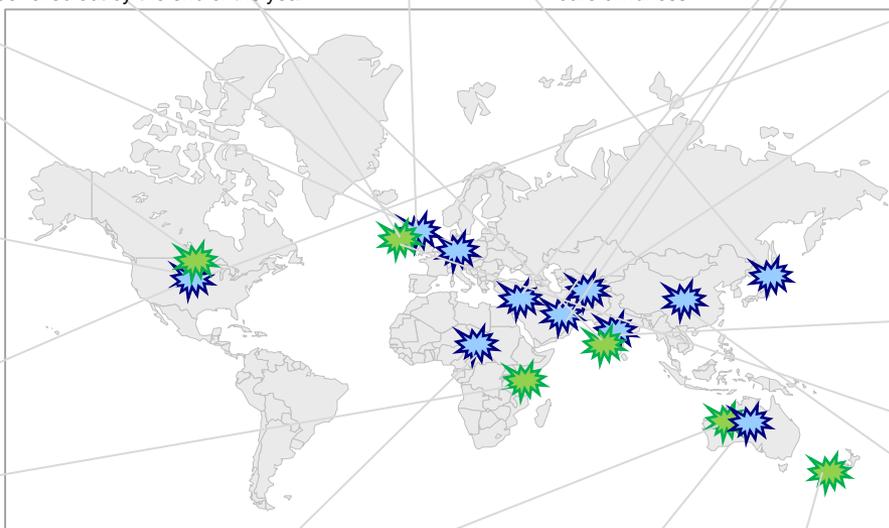
Society: Google launches US\$10bn digitization fund in India in July 2020

- Google to invest over next 5-7 years through a mix of equity, infrastructure and ecosystem investments, partnerships and operations
- Fund will focus on enabling affordable access to the internet and information for Indians



Healthtech: Covid-19 tracing tool to be built into phones in Sep 2020

- Android and iOS are set to have a Covid-19 notification systems built-in
- This will replace the need for users to install contact-tracing apps developed by public health bodies



Technology: Space technology to boost Australian water management in Sep 2020

- The system will be used to monitor the quality of Australia's water by alerting authorities to natural events such as toxic algae blooms through real-time updates



Technology: Zero emission hydrogen heavy trucks in NZ in Sep 2020

- First heavy trucks powered by zero-emissions hydrogen fuel cells to be hauling freight by early next year



Environment: Australia to invest US\$13bn to cut emissions in July 2020

- Investment over the next 10 years in technologies to cut carbon emissions
- The technology roadmap is expected to shape Australia's climate and energy policy

Environment: China pledges to become carbon neutral before 2060 in Sep 2020

- China ensures its greenhouse gas emissions will peak prior to 2030
- Being the world's biggest emitter, this is the first time for a clear long-term trajectory for decarbonisation in China