

Gig Economy Expands into Bloodletting

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Everyone is aware of those public service announcements urging blood donations. It is an easy feel-good exercise in common humanity; a civic duty. But in some communities those announcements become ads promoting the sale of ones life sustaining blood for the purpose of keeping the blood making body alive.

It's big business. The sale of American blood products, mostly plasma, now constitutes more than 2% of total exports by value. That is more than the total combined value of corn and soy exports. The US largely owns the market because most advanced capitalist nations are not as business minded and refuse to permit the sale of blood products.

The US is the blood plasma seller to the world having taken 70% of the world market at a value of \$28.6 billion in 2017. Of course the human cattle being blooded for profit are the poorest of the American people. It is an important part of survival. A study in Cleveland found that a majority of donors obtain a third of their income by selling their blood.

Cows may be milked daily but humans can only be blooded twice a week. That means a maximum of 104 blood days a year at about \$30 per sale. But like many hard labor jobs blood selling takes a toll. About 70% involved in this business experience health complications.

There is at least one sick positive in this. Undocumented Mexicans are blocked at the border, or kicked out if discovered. Selling ones blood is not permitted in Mexico. To take advantage of that open market there are at least 43 welcoming blood buying centers along the border where desperate Mexicans will gladly be granted a temporary visa for the enrichment of American vultures.

China News

-- Capitalism is a market economy. It means buying and selling. And to have the best chance for success one embellishes the product. Political leaders do the same in selling themselves by exaggerating or faking accomplishments. China is a bit different. Their new-made capitalism is still like a child learning to walk. They can't help but make it obvious to all just what they are doing.

After every national census China has revised its GDP upward. After the most recent one it announced a 2.1% rise in nominal GDP to \$13.08 trillion. It's part of the never ending struggle of all capitalist states to make sick economies appear healthier than their real condition. But China, to its unintentional credit, at least makes it obvious in which direction it *really* is going.

The upward revision in 2004 was 16.8%; 4.4% in 2008; and 3.4% in 2013. With 2.1% in 2019 we can reasonably predict which direction it will go after the next one. Soon they may have to make negatives into positives. According to a report in the SCMP faking data is currently of critical importance because China must at least appear to continue the trend of doubling its economy every ten years. 2020 is the deadline for the next one. To achieve that goal the 2.1% appears just enough to cover a growth rate that will soon fall below 6%. But at least the national numbers are more accurate than those at the provincial level. In 2015 the national GDP figure was 7% less than the sum of provincial reports.

-- The on going youthful 'fight for democracy' in Hong Kong bears little resemblance to other struggles for freedom. Those rarely try to prove a point by shitting on their own turf. The innocent protesting Hong Kong tykes destroyed a good deal of six of their colleges and universities -- four of them severely. The City University of Hong Kong revealed that the cost for it alone will be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. But as long as they are waving the American flag and singing our anthem, these rampaging marauders will always get good press in this country.

Economic Info

– The markets had another good week which ended with another report of some sort of minimal trade settlement with China. All the data this week was negative. The PPI came in at 0.2% instead of the expected 0.5% indicating a weak retail sector. The unemployment filings for the week have almost always been in the low 200 thousands. The forecast this week was 212,000 and it came in at 252,000. And retail mirrored the PPI with 0.5% forecast and a reading of 0.2%.

– The continuing slump of the world capitalist economy causes causes conflicts among the best of capitalist friends. Along with the trade wars a new one has developed in the WTO. The US has blocked the functioning of the all important appellate sector where disputes are settled. It needs to have 3 members and as of this week it only has 1 and the US refuses to allow a selection of new members. It's not just Trump but previous presidents that have complained that it tends to expand the powers of the WTO instead of limiting their rulings to the specific dispute. Trump vulgarly says it's because "they are always voting against us." His idea of a fair game is to always win.

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