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Week 3

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Strategic Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Initiative

Weekly Newsletter

Liberty University

Helms School of Government Students



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International News

Africa

[Sudan Coup: Military dissolves civilian government and arrests leaders](#)

Summary: A military coup led by General Abdel Fattah Burhan has dissolved and arrested members of Sudan's civilian led interim government that has held power since the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir two years ago. General Burhan cited fighting and incitement of violence as the reason for the military's intervention. Widespread protests against the coup attempt have sparked throughout the nation's major cities including the capital and at least 3 protestors have been killed with 80 injured.

Analysis: Sudan, since it gained independence in 1956, has always been a melting pot of ideology and country direction. The recent military coup is fully in alignment with their history of political instability. The new military junta overthrew the previously civilian led government in a grand and public fashion which has been met by protests and widespread unrest in the country. Multiple protesters have been killed by military and paramilitary forces, which paints the picture of the hardline approach the new government is taking. Sudan, under this new leadership could see a potential shift in the country direction. Under an authoritarian, military government, we could see Sudan's rich natural resources utilized to restructure the economy and establish Sudan in a better light in the region.

[Tigray crisis: How the West has fallen out with Ethiopia's PM](#)

Summary: With the war in between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF in the northern Tigray province heating up, an increasing rift has formed between the western governments such as the U.S. and EU that have threatened punitive measures should Ethiopia's PM fail to ease the intensity of the conflict. Ethiopia's government has responded negatively to such an approach however, reaching out to Russia and China for diplomatic support and even military aid in the form of possible drone sales from Iran and Russia to beef up the Ethiopian government's forces

Analysis: The Tigray crisis is something that demands our full attention. Ethiopia is yet another country on the east coast of Africa that may be persuaded to join the Chinese sphere of influence in the region. The U.S., E.U., and U.N. have all pushed for a peace deal to be brokered between the TPLF and Ethiopian government to negative effects. In a response to this diplomacy, the Ethiopian government has shut down over 30 diplomatic missions all across the world. Simultaneously it is growing its relationships with Russia &

China and seeking weapons and aid from countries such as Iran, China, and Turkey. Ethiopia is showing its hand and is willing to pick whichever side will help them wage a total war against the Tigray people and pacify the region. The U.S. and West are set in a direction to lose dominant favor with Ethiopia over this war if the diplomatic policy stays the same.

[Still Dangerous, Boko Haram Hanging on in West Africa](#)

Summary: Despite strategic setbacks and the loss of its leader recently in fighting Nigerian security forces and rival extremist groups in the form of ISIS-West Africa, reports of Boko Haram's presence in Nigeria's northern Niger province have remained prevalent signaling a recent uptick in activity.

Analysis: Boko Haram has been waging a terror campaign in Africa for years now. Now, with the death of their leader and the losses and desertions sustained from their skirmishes with IS West Africa, Boko Haram is a far cry from what it was at its power. Boko Haram still has a strong foothold in numerous villages in Nigeria's Niger province. This foothold has proven itself as a worthy opponent to the newly deployed Nigerian military and police to the region. Boko Haram is in a position now where they desperately need to reorganize, rearm, and reorganize themselves if they want to hold on to the power and territory that they once held. This gives West African countries a chance at negate and diminish Boko Haram's military capabilities and regain power over the Niger province.

[Nigeria becomes first African nation to roll out digital currency](#)

Summary: Despite outlawing the use of digital currency by banks and finance companies earlier the year, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari announced the nation's implementation of a national digital currency in hopes of promoting economic growth in the years to come by boosting international trade and the efficacy of monetary policy.

Analysis: With the launch of eNaira, Nigeria now stands as a world leader when it comes to national cryptocurrencies. This new currency is planned to increase international trade and cut transaction costs using the underlying technology, Blockchain. eNaira brings with it a vision of the future and what CBDCs (Central Bank Digital Currencies) could look like on a global scale.

East Asia

[Chinese Industry and Global Supply Chains Hit by Energy Shortages](#)

Summary: Recently, millions of homes and companies in northeast China have been dealing with extreme shortages in electricity. The main cause of the outages is a result of coal shortages which accounts for the majority of China's energy supply. Such outages have come after mining companies in Shanxi, Shaanxi, and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region decided to close or limit output in the wake of fatalities and hazardous working conditions. The Shanxi province in particular, which suffered some mine closures, produces 14% of the world's coal output alone.

Analysis: The energy shortages in the northeast China provinces have increased the price coal to record highs. The global supply chain has already been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant reduction in the world's largest coal production regions threatens the global economy. Closure of manufacturing facilities based in China will increase prices of electronic and other materials produced in the nation.

[Hong Kong's Media Under Siege](#)

Summary: After National Security Law (NSL) came into effect a year ago in Hong Kong via Beijing, the state of journalism is in a dire situation. Under NSL, authorities have been allowed to: restrict academic freedom, civil society organizations, and social services. Also, journalists are being threatened with life in prison for critical reporting on the government, meanwhile their work is taken down and replaced with propaganda. Several other concerning laws have been passed dealing with personal data privacy and revoking tax exemptions of charities suspected of "promoting activities disadvantageous to national security."

Analysis: The media sector in Hong Kong is becoming stifled by Beijing's NSL. The new legislation has wide-ranging implications for free speech and the spread of state propaganda. Hong Kong authorities have begun to criminal prosecutions of journalist accused of crimes such as "collusion with foreign forces." As authorities continue to crackdown on the media sector, accurate reporting from sources in China may becoming increasing difficult. Defense of freedom is of high priority to U.S. interests in the preservation of democracy internationally.

[Major Construction Underway at Three of China's Airbases Closest to Taiwan](#)

Summary: Starting in 2020, China began upgrading three significant airbases within 200 miles of Taiwan. This comes after scores of various Chinese aircraft have been edging closer and closer to Taiwanese airspace, many of which launched from these three airbases. Upgraded aprons, storage bunkers,

hardened aircraft shelters, and some 400 aircraft structures are in the process of being built, which not only hints at a future war with Taiwan, but a massive air force buildup in China overall.

Analysis: The strengthening of China's eastern air force bases at Longtian, Huian, and Zhangzhou exemplifies Beijing's developing hostile posture towards Taiwan. This reinforcement of military infrastructure gives the Chinese military a tactical advantage against the island nation. At the Zhangzhou airbase, construction of new surface-to-air missile defense sites points to an increased preparedness for a major conflict.

[South Korea tests 1st domestically made rocket as it pursues satellite launch program](#)

Summary: In early October, South Korea launched its first domestically made rocket as the nation sets its sights on a satellite launch program. Since the 1990's South Korea has been launching satellites through means of other countries but is seeking to finally have its own system to launch more advanced communications and military intelligence satellites. Almost every component of the new rocket from its engines to its launch system is designed and built in South Korea unlike in previous years. Expectedly, North Korea has made its opinion clear on how US and South Korean "excessive arms buildup" will cause instability in the region.

Analysis: The development of South Korea's satellite launching rocket technology may prove to be strategically advantageous to the U.S. in maintaining its defensive posture in the region. North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, has expressed his displeasure with the U.S. and South Korea over these events. This milestone marks another step forward for the South Koreans towards more ambitious goals such as launching their own military intelligence satellites. Increased South Korean military capabilities may be a welcome deterrent among growing weapons testing activities by the North Koreans and the Chinese.

Europe

[Matteo Salvini: Right – wing Italy politician on trial for blocking migrant boat](#)

Summary: The right-wing politician denies kidnap and dereliction of duty charges. Prosecution witnesses include Hollywood actor Richard Gere, who was on board. Mr. Salvini closed ports to rescue boats, leaving dozens of migrants stranded aboard a Spanish rescue vessel for three weeks in deteriorating conditions. He faces a maximum of 15 years in jail if convicted.

Analysis: Europe, as well as many other parts of the world have faced a severe refugee crisis since 2011 with the Arab Spring and Syrian civil war. This has led to great conflict between southern European countries who receive and hold refugees applying for asylum and Northern European countries. Countries such as Spain, Greece, and Italy have struggled with the refugee surges and are trying to grapple with the influx. This is article is just an example of an overarching theme currently being played out in Europe.

[COVID: Biden sets new rules as air travel to the US reopens](#)

Summary: The plan to reopen the US border next month to foreign flights includes a requirement that almost all foreign visitors be vaccinated against Covid. The US travel ban has grown to include dozens of countries, including the UK, much of Europe, China and India. The travel industry has been asking for US President Joe Biden to lift the ban. Originally imposed by Donald Trump, the ban on flights from most foreign countries was extended when Mr. Biden took power in January 2021.

Analysis: As the United States and the rest of the world begins to open up and begin to shed Covid regulations international travel is becoming slightly more relaxed. There has been a pattern of countries opening and closing their borders to other countries that have Covid spikes. This new opening by the United States to many of the world's leading countries may be a sign that the world is starting to get back to some new sense of normalcy.

[How Belarus is helping 'tourists' break into the EU](#)

Summary: The mobile phone camera pans left and right, but no-one moves. The exhausted travelers lie scattered among the trees. Jamil has his head in his hands, his wife Roshin slumped forward next to him. The others look dead. Late afternoon light slants through the forest, the pine trees forming a dense natural prison. They've been walking since four in the morning. "We're shattered, absolutely shattered," Jamil's cousin Idris intones, almost mechanically. We've been tracking Idris and his friends since they left northern Iraq in late September. Idris has recorded their progress on his phone and sent us a series of videos along the way. The group are Syrian Kurds, in their 20s, looking to Europe for a better future. They are all from Kobane, the scene of ferocious fighting between Kurdish fighters and Islamic State militants in late 2014. But while their motives - political instability at home, fear of conscription, lack of employment - are the familiar refrain of migrants the world over, the route they have taken is new.

Analysis: Tensions between Belarus and the EU have soured greatly since Belarus diverted and grounded a Ryan air flight passing through their airspace because it held a Kremlin opposition journalist. Belarus received numerous sanctions from the EU for his and in retaliation no longer makes any effort to stop refugees from entering Poland and Lithuania from its borders. This has led to a great number of illegal immigrants entering the EU. Belarus has

become yet another entry point for illegal immigration into Europe, further worsening their crisis.

[Brexit: Welsh ports increasingly bypassed by Irish ferries](#)

Summary: Simon Coveney said there were 44 direct routes between Ireland and the EU. "That figure would have been less than a dozen this time last year," he said. The UK government said the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic meant it was too early to judge the new trading relationship with the EU. Before Brexit, Mr. Coveney said the Irish government had looked at options for direct ferry routes between Ireland and mainland Europe. The EU and UK are set for an intense round of negotiations in the coming weeks after European Commission vice president Maroš Šefčovič unveiled a range of proposals aimed at cutting the red tape the Northern Ireland Protocol has imposed on moving goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

Analysis: Brexit created great tension in the EU as one of their most powerful members leaving left a hole in their economic, travel, and political network of countries. The closing of UK borders has led to complications for travel from the EU to England prompting the nation of Ireland to bypass Ireland on its way to other EU nations.

Middle East

[Israel Accuses 6 Palestinian Rights Groups of Terrorism](#)

Summary- Israel has targeted six Palestinian Rights Groups as working in alignment with the terrorist organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, providing aid to the group through foreign funding. This is counterproductive for the case for statehood on behalf of the Palestinians. Israel's defense ministry said the groups had ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP), a left-wing faction with an armed wing that has carried out deadly attacks against Israelis.

Analysis- State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters. "We believe respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and a strong civil society are critically important to responsible and responsive governance," he said. The Biden Administration sets the tone that it will not look the other way, just as the Trump administration did but instead put limits on the Israeli Defense department. Domestic politics has played a role in the current funding of the Israeli Defense force.

[Pakistan eases travel restrictions, announces aid for Afghanistan](#)

Summary: Pakistan has agreed to lift many of its restrictions on Afghanistan and waive visa fees until the end of 2021, allowing increased numbers of Afghan citizens to enter the country and receive medical assistance. In light of the country's new openness, concerns were raised over the TTP, Pakistan Taliban, using Afghan soil against Pakistan. However, Pakistan is confident that the TTP will not pose an imminent threat to the reduction of border sanctions.

Analysis: Pakistan has just pledged to \$28m in humanitarian aid and relax trade and travel restrictions to Afghanistan. The new Afghan government is facing a worsening economic crisis and Pakistan is stepping in to support them in their darkest hour. This aid, however, is coming at a price. The TTP (Pakistan Taliban) is growing its influence in the tribal territories of Pakistan. With the crisis in Afghanistan, the TTP has been able to use Afghan soil and aid from the Taliban to grow their power and influence and the Pakistani government is advocating for assistance in diminishing their strength. The Pakistani government's public interests reflect the Western governments in pushing the Taliban government to implement fundamental rights and reduction of space for international terrorist organizations. Pakistan has much to benefit from increased trade and influence in Afghan politics and they are looking to grow that influence as soon as possible.

['Children going to die': UN warns of 'acute' Afghan food crisis](#)

Summary: Starvation threatens the ever-collapsing economy of Afghanistan. With over half of the country suffering from this crisis, foreign aid must be unfrozen to revive the dying population. Families are taking desperate measures to secure nutrition, with some trading their possessions out of desperation for any source of food. Fears are also being raised concerning the possible mass exodus from Afghanistan which could occur if the food crisis does not get resolved soon.

Analysis: The international community is nervous about giving aid to Afghanistan because of fears of legitimizing and supporting the new Taliban government. The population is suffering because of the new government that has been installed and the stance on human rights abuses it has taken. There will be further pressure on the international community to act because of the level of poverty and starvation in the country.

Latin America

[Ecuadorian Sailing Ship Catches Low-Profile Narco Speedboat](#)

Summary: A 19th century style marine time vessel somehow intercepted a drug trafficking vessel, and the traffickers were transported to the mainland after they were apprehended the incident took place in international waters between the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Colombia and Ecuador's Insular Exclusive Economic Zone (IEEZ), which surrounds the Galapagos islands, on Oct. 22. In a [statement](#), the Ecuadorian Navy confirmed that the LPV had been stopped together with its crew of three Ecuadorians and a Colombian.

Analysis: Being that the drugs were being transported within this Narcos submarine and was on route to Colombia and then North America, should give U.S homeland Security new intel on what routes to keep an eye on. Also use for the U.S coast guard intel that will keep U.S territorial waters protected

[Ex-soldiers protest in Guatemala to get civil war payment](#)

Summary: Former soldiers who are demanding they be paid a war-time bonus for serving in Guatemala's 1960-1996 civil war burst onto the grounds of the country's congress building Tuesday and set several vehicles on fire. Many veterans who inflicted these chaotic scenes were the ones who fought leftist revolutionary movement.

Analysis: These veterans of the prolonged Guatemalan civil war were financially backed by the U.S government in order to contain the spread of communism. In order to cease the protesting, the U.S would have to step in and aid the Guatemalan government in compensating these veterans

[Bolsonaro says Petrobras privatization is 'on our radar' as fuel prices rise](#)

Summary: on Monday, Petrobras announced it would raise diesel and gasoline prices at the refinery gate starting on Tuesday, following a spike in international oil prices and a sharp depreciation of Brazil's currency. Petrobras being Brazil's fuel supplier, would bring consequential effects to the international markets. And having it privatized can run a chance of prices being driven even Higher.

Analysis: The U.S already dealing with high gas prices in this fiscal season, would not reap benefits if other world leaders fuel were to increase prices. Post-COVID-19 effects have led to the need for these global companies to make up for previous losses

[IATA sees unacceptable trend in tax hikes for aviation in Latin America](#)

Summary: After COVID crippled airline industries worldwide, Latin American companies from the DR to Argentina are hiking tariffs and taxes on an already staggering economy, further jeopardizing the limited bounce back that has happened.

Analysis: After COVID crippled airline industries worldwide, Latin American companies from the DR to Argentina are hiking tariffs and taxes on an already staggering economy, further jeopardizing the limited bounce back that has happened. According to IATA, domestic markets are expected to reach almost 75% of pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year, although restrictions will keep international travel at 22% of pre-crisis levels due to ongoing measures to curb the spread of the disease. Standardized rules for international travelers amid the coronavirus pandemic are considered key by industry leaders in order to prevent the aviation sector's recovery from stalling. Summer travel for 2022 will be correlated to the scramble for making up for the decrease in flights from last year.

“The question shouldn’t be what we ought to do, but what we can do” – Rory Stewart

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Domestic News

Chinese Hypersonic Missiles

Missile Threats: Missiles of China

- BLUF: As the US continues to face the economic consequences of the global shipping crisis and unemployment, growing threats like Chinese hypersonic missiles and ISIS-K now present additional domestic concerns for US policy makers.
- China is currently working on building and deploying a sophisticated missile arsenal. Their goal is to build intercontinental ballistic missiles that have the technology and precision to hit targets accurately and consistently.
- These missiles would include:
 - Hypersonic glide missiles
 - Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs)

These missiles can be launched air, land, and sea, with the potential of hitting the U.S. mainland and/or U.S. allied forces. In addition, China has a growing contingency of developing nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles and a growing fleet of nuclear ballistic missile submarines.

New York Post: China Reportedly Tested Nuclear-Capable Hypersonic Missile in August

- The testing that China has been conducting on intercontinental ballistic missiles has demonstrated China's advanced space capabilities, catching the U.S. Intelligence by surprise.
- The Chinese launched a rocket carrying a hypersonic glide missile. It flew through low-orbit space before cruising towards its target. The U.S. has plans to counter China by outfitting all Navy destroyers with hypersonic missiles, which can travel 5x the speed of sound and are controllable even after launching due to the advanced hypersonic technology. According to *Financial Times*, the Defense Department Spokesman, John Kirby, China is currently the U.S.'s primary pacing challenge. However, China denies this and claims that they have no interest in racing and competing with other states.
- SWOT Analysis:

<p>Strengths:</p> <p>Capabilities to Counter China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfitting entire navy fleet of destroyers with hypersonic missiles • Ability to travel 5x the speed of sound • Controllable after launch • Increases abilities to evade defense systems 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <p>U.S. Vulnerability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misrepresentations/faulty assumptions of intentions • Lack of communication • China orbiting missiles around south pole; U.S. military has missile defense system set up in the North, making tracking and monitoring very limited
<p>Opportunities:</p> <p>De-escalation and Combat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening diplomatic dialogue • Posing as a non-threat • Draw redlines where needed • Plant ballistic missiles system at South Pole (given funding) • Begin monitoring South Pole via satellite the low-orbit space • Gather intel on nuclear tech of the Chinese to match and exceed their capabilities 	<p>Threats:</p> <p>China's Capabilities and Intentions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maneuverable anti-ship ballistic missiles • Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs) • Hypersonic glide vehicles • Advancing long-range nuclear missiles with ability to hit the U.S. homeland. • Growing fleet of nuclear ballistic missile submarines

Supply Chain Crisis

Record of 60 Cargo Ships Wait to Unload at Busiest U.S. Port Complex

- Timeline
 - o 2020
 - World Bank Performance Index top 50 rankings for most effective ports, in terms of efficiency in moving ships in and out of ports, do not have a single US port in the ranking. Highlights the upcoming issue.
 - o September
 - Report shows increase of single standard shipping container cost from China to US. \$3,000 in August, over \$20,000 in Sept
 - o Sept 1st
 - 40 container ships anchored off the coast of CA went to 73 in less than 3 weeks
 - o Sept 15th
 - 60 container vessels still sit outside San Pedro Bay with 20 set to arrive the following week
 - Reports show containers wait 6 days for truck pick up, 8,000 containers wait 12 days to be taken by train
 - Volume at LA port currently up 30.3% this year
 - o Sept 22nd
 - Containers wait 8.7 days to be unloaded at major ports.
 - Night/weekend shifts started to transfer into 24/7 supply chain
 - o Sept 27th
 - Costco charters 3 ships to import products from Asia to US/Canada. This will assist the company in avoiding 6 times the normal cost of seeking shipping containers through a 3rd party.
 - o Sept 29th
 - Port of Long Beach announces 24/7 operations, like ports in Asia and Europe. Executive director of LA disagrees with this approach as 30% of truck appointments go unused due to poor coordination between ports, truck companies, and warehouses.
 - o Oct 1st
 - Total number of vessels at California ports reaches 161, nearly 100 hundred more than normal before COVID.
 - Port of Boston completes major expansion of Conley Container Terminal. While this does not solve global supply chain issues, as a deep-water dock and 3 high-capacity cargo cranes do not carry nationwide impact,

this does assist east coast ports like Port of New York. Port of Boston can now accept 14,500 containers, compared to the previous 10,000. 2 ships arrive at Conley a week, and the next priority is to begin a weekly service route between Boston & southeast Asia.

- o Oct 2nd
 - Costco/Target charter their own cargo ships. Coca Cola reroutes ships to non-major US ports to prevent longer delays.
 - Port of Savannah: 20 container ships waiting to dock, record number of ports in past FY,
 - Port of NJ/NY: record number of cargo for 13th consecutive month, 9 cargo ships expected to dock in 48 hours no labor shortages there
 - Turnaround time for containers in port has doubled in 2021 compared to 2017-2019 at 6.4 days vs 3.6 days to unload
- o Oct 6th
 - Commercial pipeline brings over \$1T worth of good from Asia is clogged.
 - Average cost to ship went up to \$20,586, double what it was in July and January
- o Oct 7th
 - 60 ships still wait outside LA, before COVID rarely one waited
 - Major companies purchase former agriculture transport ships for holiday season orders. Port of LA incoming cargo reaches 30% increase from last year
- o Oct 13th
 - Biden announces plan to ease West Coast delays by expanding round-the-clock- ops. Main part of plan is commitment of retailers/shippers to ramp up overnight/off-hours ops at Long Beach and LA.
 - Port of LA announces 24/7 ops
 - Port of Long Beach made the transition in Sept (these ports account for 40% of US shipping containers)
- o Oct 14th
 - Forbes report suggest US economy heading for economic recession within 6 months. Sharp decline in jobless rate below 5%, comparable to the 2007 trends.
- o Oct 18th
 - Companies are forced to charter flights to move goods in preparation for the holiday season. These charter flights are costing companies up to \$2 million per flight.
- o Oct 16th

- Report from Jefferies states confidence we are past the peak pinch of the crisis. Spending in America in September neared pandemic level highs, economists suggest significant improvement will be made in 2022, the shipping industry must make it through the holiday season.
- o Oct 18th
 - Companies are forced to charter flights to move goods in preparation for the holiday season. These charter flights are costing companies up to \$2 million per flight.
- o Oct 25th
 - Truck driver shortage rises to an estimated 80,000 in order to effectively manage and deliver the nation's goods. How many incentives will companies have to create to bring workers back?
- o Oct 26th
 - Warehouses across the United States are almost full. In the Los Angeles area, warehouses only have a 1% vacancy rate.
- o Oct 28th
 - US DoT granting \$5 billion to modernize the infrastructure at the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach after recent reports state over 100 ships waiting off the coast to unload.

ISIS-K in Afghanistan

[ISIS in Afghanistan Could Potentially Kill 6-12 Months](#)

- Senior Pentagon official warned Congress that ISIS-K could have the ability to attack the U.S. within 6-12 months.
- Indications and Warnings:
 - o ISIS-K seizes U.S. weapons from the Taliban
 - o Increases in anti-U.S. propaganda, which shows direct attack on the U.S.

Labor Crisis

[Delta Variant and Worker Shortage Keep a Lid on Job Growth](#)

- Prior to Covid-19 the unemployment percentage was 3.5% in 2019.

Covid-19 brought that number up to 14.7% in 2020, the highest in history; now that number is down to 4.8%. That number is projected to increase again.

- The U.S. Labor Department Turnover Survey revealed that there are 10.4 million job openings. The "quit rates" rose to 4.3 million in August. This will lead to further unemployment, an increase in inflation, and cause tension in international commerce and relational ties.
- Sectors affected the most are food service, wholesale trade, and education. This disrupts local and global production and supply chain networks.

Job Market Remains Tight in 2019, With Employment Rate Falls to Its Lowest Level Since 1969

- U.S. households have built a "savings buffer". They don't have an urgency to return to work; older workers are considering not returning to work, partly because of their age, as well as a lofty 401k pension plan. There have also been slower birth rates due to this, meaning fewer younger workers entering jobs.
- THERE IS ANOTHER ANSWER
 - Employers cannot afford to employ as many as they would like due to high costs

Supply shortages and high energy/commodity prices

“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge” – Proverbs 18:15
