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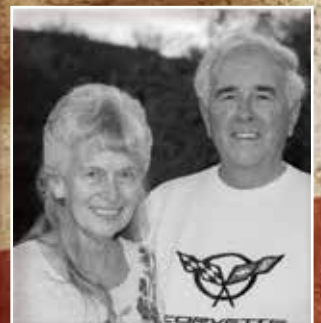
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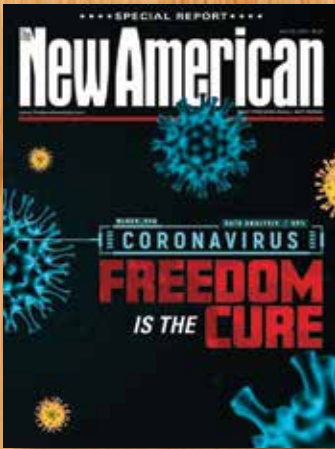
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Coronavirus: Freedom Is the Cure

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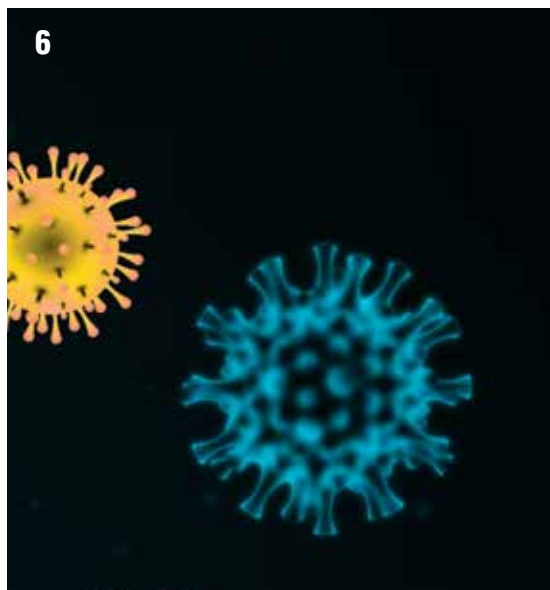
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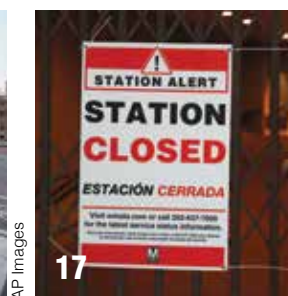
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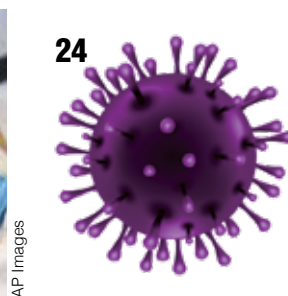


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During the month of March, America underwent a radical transformation. So much so that most of us would undoubtedly agree that the unprecedented and unexpected governmental actions that have taken place in our country in response to the Wuhan coronavirus go beyond anything we have witnessed during our lifetimes. In fact, perhaps even most members of the World War II generation would agree with this assessment.

The “Greatest Generation” endured the Great Depression, wage and price controls, rationing, and a world war fought on multiple continents outside the continental United States. But were they ordered to stay in their homes except for necessary travel? Were they laid off because they were deemed nonessential workers? Were their businesses shut down because the products or services they provided were also deemed nonessential? Were they told they could not assemble in groups of 10 or more? And was this infringement on “the right of the people peaceably to assemble” applied even to religious services, forcing the closure of churches and synagogues?

During past times of national stress, church attendance jumped upward as people turned to God and became more deeply committed to their faith. But in the America — or is that Amerika? — of today, many churches are empty, even on the Lord’s Day, per government edict. Consider, for just one example, Mayor Bill de Blasio’s blatant statement of March 27 to his fellow New Yorkers: “The NYPD, Fire Department, Buildings Department, everyone has been instructed that if they see worship services going on, they will go to the officials of that congregation, they’ll inform them they need to stop the services and disperse. If that does not happen, they will take additional action up to the point of fines and potentially closing the building permanently.”

Who could have imagined, even a few weeks earlier, that

such restrictions could be imposed on large parts of our beloved America — the land of the free and the home of the brave? Perhaps even more shocking, who could have imagined that so many of our fellow citizens would accept these infringements as necessary evils in order to thwart a deadly enemy?

That enemy is, of course, the Wuhan coronavirus. And to wage war against it, those entrusted with political power are not only restricting fundamental freedoms but are also powering down the economy. Of course, we are told that the controls are temporary. “But how temporary?” it is reasonable to ask. And even when the current round of controls is lifted, how long will it be before such controls are once again imposed, the precedent having been established? Nor would the next round necessarily be in response to a virus, but to some other crisis — real, overblown, or perceived — from economic meltdown to climate change.

But even if the current infringements on constitutionally protected rights are soon lifted and not soon put back in place, the damage being done to the economy will be long-lasting. Though government stimulus and bailout funding are supposed to help offset lost income, they can only do net harm in the long run since government cannot create wealth via putting the printing presses into overdrive. By greatly expanding the amount of money in circulation, government can only further diminish the purchasing power of the dollar. Ultimately, unless the economy is powered up again — and soon — many Americans will be impoverished.

Yet, as this special report from THE NEW AMERICAN shows, we do not need to destroy either our freedoms or our economy in order to bring the coronavirus pandemic under control. Put simply, “Freedom Is the Cure.” This special report explains why and how.

— GARY BENOIT



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CORONAVIRUS

FREEDOM

IS THE **CURE**

Governments around the world are trying to stop the coronavirus by curbing the market and stopping the lives of hundreds of millions of people. To stop the pandemic, the opposite approach is desperately needed.

by Dennis Behreandt

As this is being written (the end of March), important nations of the world are on lockdown. Important states in America are on lockdown. Nearly 100 million Americans have been ordered not to leave their homes. Politicians in Israel have openly debated the possibility of eliminating all personal freedoms. Police and National Guard troops are going door-to-door in Rhode Island searching for contraband visitors (especially New Yorkers), raising the specter of martial law. It sounds impossibly apocalyptic, like something out of a bad sci-fi movie featuring the imminent arrival of inscrutable, implacable, and hostile aliens, but it's true.

And, it's poised at this writing to get even worse. According to *Haaretz*, Sigal Sadetsky, the head of Israel's public health services, made reference to the Chinese approach to handling the coronavirus pandemic in remarks to the Knesset Subcommittee on Intelligence and Secret Services. She told them, the paper reported, "that she believes 'everyone will do the same thing.'" Questioned about whether she was advocating a lockdown or curfew, her answer was chilling. "A lockdown and personal monitoring of people, and a total halt to personal freedom," she answered.

She may as well have been speaking for statists everywhere, including in America. As of this writing, the National Guard has been called out in 28 states, and many state governors have issued edicts forcing people to stay indoors. Across the country, businesses deemed not essential have been closed. Alarming, with the urging of Democrats in state governments and in Congress, the president activated the Defense Production Act, the 1950s Korean War-era law that empowers the executive branch of the federal government to take over some or all of the economy as it deems necessary to fight a crisis.

Around the world, with a very few notable exceptions, the response to COVID-19, the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, has been to abandon any pre-

Around the world, with a very few notable exceptions, the response to COVID-19, the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, has been to abandon any pretense of freedom and free markets and to institute thoroughly socialist police states.



State response: National Guard troops in formation at the Jacob Javits Center in New York. In addition to calling out the Guard, states and cities have implemented many authoritarian measures in response to the coronavirus crisis.

tense of freedom and free markets and to institute thoroughly socialist police states.

This is both ethically questionable and morally detestable. It certainly makes a mockery of the American Constitution, laughs in the face of the Declaration of Independence, and is a jackboot stepping on the face of the Founding Fathers.

Moreover, these moves to a socialist police state are going to fail. They are not going to produce a cure for COVID-19. More importantly still, they will destroy the economy, if not civilization as a whole. The entire span of history, especially the experience of the last 100 years, has proven that the flourishing of art, the advance of science, the decline in poverty and the growth in abundance, and, yes, the cure for disease, have been phenomena of the free and undirected activity of individuals in the market unencumbered by bureaucratic red tape and dictatorial meddling.

By contrast, wherever massive government interventions have been tried, they have always ended in poverty, scarcity, and, all too often, mass death and genocide.

In trying to cure the COVID-19 with authoritarian socialism, our policymakers and politicians, and those like them around the world, are putting in place a course of treatment that will kill the patient. The disease may be eradicated, sure, but what's the point if the civilization is destroyed?

It is, without question, important that we stop the pandemic. But if we want to stop this pandemic and the next, the answer is more freedom and more of the prosperity that results from freedom. Using police-state tactics to shutter the economy and control the movement and activity of people creates a multitude of conditions that put lives at risk, including increased poverty, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, and more, all of which compound

Dennis Behreandt is a research professional and writer, frequently covering subjects in history, theology, and science and technology. He has worked as an editor and publisher, and is a former managing editor of THE NEW AMERICAN.

Wherever massive government interventions have been tried, they have always ended in poverty, scarcity, and, all too often, mass death and genocide.



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Scarcity, not abundance: Central planning and government management of the economy were supposed to create a workers' paradise in the old Soviet Union. But the opposite occurred, including long lines for bread, as shown here outside a Moscow state-owned bakery shortly before the USSR formally dissolved in 1991.

the dangers represented by disease. In contrast, an unencumbered society avoids these follow-on impacts while allowing need and opportunity, represented by demand for treatments and solutions, to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. In essence, freedom is the cure.

Socialist Scarcity

If socialist economies promote advanced innovative solutions and economic outcomes, including those needed to fight disease, we should see evidence of this from past experiments with socialist systems. In fact, socialist regimented economies have been tried before, and several times at that. In fact, they have been tried and found wanting even under optimal natural and economic conditions.

The truth is, a socialist command economy cannot work. It generates graft and corruption while having a fundamental inability

to supply even the basic needs of society.

That inability comes from the very nature of economic planning. Consider this on a small scale wherein *you* must decide what goods and services your neighbor needs and should have over the next 12 months. How much fuel should he have? How much food? What kind of food? How often should he have access to that food? What about education? Or entertainment? What technology should he have access to? As the planner for just one neighbor, these are the questions you need to answer. Then there is the matter of bias and emotion. What if your neighbor curses at you, or throws rocks or otherwise resists your plans? Might you take punitive action against your neighbor to teach him a lesson?

Now, expand this to a nation and put bureaucrats in charge. There is no way central economic planning could work adequately, even for just one year for a set

of two neighbors. When expanded to the size of an entire nation, the possibility of successful planning drops to zero.

This is because central planning does away with supply and demand in the market, and with that eliminates price. Prices are the means by which those in need of goods and services signal how much they need, and prices are used by producers to determine what to supply. When some product or service works well or is badly needed or desired, demand for that item rises. If the demand rises relative to supply, then the price increases for that item accordingly. This information is noted by suppliers who then, seeing an opportunity, bring to market either additional supply or new products that will also meet that demand. The information conveyed by prices about potential opportunities in the market also provides incentive for innovation in the pursuit of better means of production, more effective products, or even more efficient means of storage and delivery of products. The result of all this activity, mediated by equilibrium-seeking between supply and demand and signaled by prices in the market, is a growth in availability of goods and services, along with a rich and growing prosperity to be enjoyed by all.

None of this happens, or it happens very poorly, in a socialist command economy. The result is always scarcity, poverty, hunger, and, all too often, death.

The greatest example of this is the experience of the Soviet Union. From 1918 to 1992, the Soviet Union was the world's leading socialist state. Contrary to Soviet propaganda, it suffered regular shortages of goods and services. The 1970s, economically, were the best of times for the Soviet people. And yet the system of socialized planning regularly resulted in shortages.

Former *New York Times* reporter Hendrick Smith witnessed the situation for himself while living in Moscow, the wealthiest of Soviet cities. In his book *The Russians*, he described the shortages Muscovites lived with at the time.

Smith noted that in the mid-1970s, there existed an "enormous gulf between the daily ordeal of the Russian shopper and the easy life-style of Americans. My Russian friends were amused to hear about American suburban housewives getting into the station wagon and dashing off to the super-

market or shopping center for groceries a couple of times a week. For they usually walked to the stores every day for food, often quite a long way, and had to go to several shops — one for bread, another for milk products, a third for meat and so on.”

The reason for the difficulty in procuring groceries and other products, Smith explained, was because of the planned economy.

“In spite of the various tinkering reforms,” Smith wrote, “the Soviet economy still operates by Plan from above rather than in response to consumer demand from below and this produces a lopsided assortment of goods. Goods are produced to fill the Plan, not to sell. Sometimes the anomalies are baffling. Leningrad can be overstocked with cross-country skis and yet go several months without soap for washing dishes. In the Armenian capital of Yerevan, I found an ample supply of accordions but local people complained they had gone for weeks without ordinary kitchen spoons.”

Worse than being unable to provide a normal selection of basic goods and services even during periods of relative peace and prosperity is the outcome of socialist planning when it goes aggressively off the rails for ideological purposes.

The Khmer Rouge of Cambodia offers one such example. To create a thoroughly

centrally planned economy, the country’s communist leaders “evacuated” the cities, killing anyone who resisted, and forced formerly urban residents into hard labor on collective farms. Millions of innocent people died as a result.

Famine and mass death caused by socialistic government intervention is a recurring theme of the 20th century. It happened again in the mid-1980s in Ethiopia, when the government forcibly moved farmers from areas of the north to areas of the south of the nation, disrupting harvests and worsening the effects of army worms and drought. Victims were interviewed for *Cultural Survival Quarterly* in 1985.

“Ninety-five percent of the famine victims who fled to the Sudan before the end of 1984 reported that in their villages the Ethiopian army had burned crops in the fields and grain they had harvested. The army, they said, never stole the grain, it simply destroyed it,” *Cultural Survival* reported.

The journal also reported, “The majority of those interviewed who had fled the resettlement camps claimed that they had not personally been hard hit by the famine. On average, those from Tigre who were interviewed claimed that they had produced 80% of their subsistence, cereal needs in 1984. In addition, on average, these ‘famine’ victims had had more than 22 head of livestock at the time of their re-

settlement. One man said he was taken by the army while he was selling mangoes he had grown on his irrigated farm; another claimed to have been taken from his farm while he was threshing grain.”

Fight Pandemics With Prosperity

In contrast to socialist interventions that return civilization to the stone age, respect for natural freedoms and liberties, and the economic activity of a bureaucratically unencumbered free people, results in the rapid improvement of health and welfare, as further experience over the last 200 years demonstrates.

In his book *The Mainspring of Human Progress*, Henry Grady Weaver, who was head of customer research for General Motors in the years immediately after the cataclysm of World War II, described the massive change brought about by economic freedom in the West over the preceding century and a half:

For thousands of years under the Old World concept of a static economy, operating under bureaucratic control, human beings lived in hunger, filth, and disease. They worked ceaselessly at back-breaking drudgery to keep life in wretched bodies. They died young. For thousands of years, when not fighting wars, they managed to build pigsty shelters, to sow grain, cook meat, yoke oxen, and chain slaves to mills and oars.

Then in this New World, in a brief period of 160 years, Americans created an entirely different mode of life, with improvements and advances in the scale of living beyond the utmost imaginings of all preceding ages. Americans have disproved the pagan superstition of a static universe and have given new meaning to the word progress.

If our progress is to continue, it is important that we do not forget the things which have brought us thus far.

In fact, we can see the productive power of the free market at work even under the current pandemic lockdown conditions imposed by government bureaucrats today.

Because there is such an obvious demand for products and services to fight the coronavirus, many of the remaining



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Total government danger: Khmer Rouge prisoners escorted by a South Vietnamese soldier. At its worst, total government planning and control has led to mass death and destruction like that caused by the Khmer Rouge and other communist governments.

companies that have been allowed to continue operating under despotic government lockdown orders have devoted their productive capacity and research and development teams to developing solutions and providing needed supplies:

- American tissue paper producers are operating mills at full capacity to supply the heightened demand for toilet paper due to fear of shortages caused by government quarantines, curfews, and lockdowns. “We try to make as much as we can right now,” Patty Prats, senior communications manager at Georgia Pacific, told WAFB 9 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. According to the channel, the company’s mill in Zachary, Louisiana, has “stepped up production on the toilet paper side by 120% just to keep up with demand.”

- Canon USA, the American branch of Japanese imaging and industrial giant Canon, has begun work on a rapid test for COVID-19. On March 19, the company “announced the start of development of a rapid genetic testing system for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).” Canon has extensive experience in developing similar rapid test technologies for use in testing for both Ebola virus and Zika virus.

- On March 4, Japanese biopharmaceutical giant Takeda announced that it was

pursuing a blood plasma-based treatment for those suffering from COVID-19. In a press release, the company announced that it would “share with members of the United States Congress that it is initiating the development of an anti-SARS-CoV-2 polyclonal hyperimmune globulin (H-IG) to treat high-risk individuals with COVID-19.”

- Gilead Sciences is moving forward with COVID-19-related trials for its antiviral drug remdesivir. The drug has shown promise, according to the company, against MERS and SARS that are similar to SARS-CoV-2, the cause of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The company notes that it “has initiated two Phase 3 clinical studies to evaluate the safety and efficacy of remdesivir in adults diagnosed with COVID-19 following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) rapid review and acceptance of Gilead’s investigational new drug (IND) filing.”

- Regeneron, a U.S. biotechnology firm, announced on March 17, 2020 that it had made important advances in developing an antibody treatment for COVID-19. According to the company, “Regeneron scientists have now isolated hundreds of virus-neutralizing, fully human antibodies from the company’s VelocImmune® mice, which have been genetically-modified to

have a human immune system. Regeneron has also isolated antibodies from humans who have recovered from COVID-19, in order to maximize the pool of potentially potent antibodies. From this large pool of candidates, Regeneron will select the top two antibodies for a ‘cocktail’ treatment based on potency and binding ability to the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, as well as other desirable qualities. Using a multi-antibody approach allows for targeting of different parts of the virus and may help protect against multiple viral variants.” The company used similar technology earlier to develop a successful treatment for Ebola.

- Pharmaceutical giant Sanofi has announced that it is working with Regeneron on another treatment for COVID-19. According to a Sanofi press release, the two companies have “started a clinical program evaluating Kevzara® (sarilumab) in patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19. Kevzara is a fully-human monoclonal antibody that inhibits the interleukin-6 (IL-6) pathway by binding and blocking the IL-6 receptor. IL-6 may play a role in driving the overactive inflammatory response in the lungs of patients who are severely or critically ill with COVID-19 infection.”

These are just a few of the actions being taken by private companies and their dedicated scientists, engineers, and production workers to bring needed resources to bear on the problems posed by the novel coronavirus. That they have not needed government direction, oversight, or control to undertake these efforts demonstrates that government is not the solution to the pandemic.

It’s worth noting that in several of these examples, the companies noted that trials and efforts now under way were made possible by efforts to cut through government regulations that would otherwise prove to be roadblocks to rapid innovation. George D. Yancopoulos, co-founder and chief scientific officer for Regeneron, for example, noted that his company and Sanofi “have worked closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, otherwise known as the FDA and BARDA,” to get trials under way quickly.

Even doctors have needed to get regulation out of the way to save patients. In an interview with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani posted to the



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Basic economics: There’s been a run on toilet paper, leading to shortages around the nation. Producers, responding to demand for the product, have ramped up production. They have done so without needing direction from government, demonstrating that the stimulus of demand generates incentive for producers to create and deliver supply.



Stepping up: Regeneron CEO Leonard Schleifer speaks at a meeting with President Trump. As with toilet paper production, private enterprise is leading the way in developing treatments and solutions for COVID-19. Regeneron is one such company working on potential treatments for the disease.

AP Images

mayor's YouTube channel on March 28, Dr. Vladimir Zelenko of the Jewish community of Kiryas Yoel just outside of New York City described his success in treating COVID-19 patients with a drug cocktail of hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, and zinc. Using this combination, he told Mayor Giuliani, "I've had zero patients die, zero patients intubated, and I have currently three patients admitted to the hospital with pneumonia, but they are not intubated and I think they'll be fine." Asked by Giuliani how many patients with COVID-19 he'd treated so far, he replied, "I think 450-500." Moreover, he noted, "Many doctors are coming on board, they're having similar results." He also noted: "This treatment costs \$20." But to make it available required getting government out of the way, something Dr. Zelenko in his comments credited President Trump with doing. The FDA was asked in March by President Trump to "take a closer look at as to whether an expanded use approach ... could be done," said FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn. The FDA subsequently approved the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for COVID-19 treatment.

These and other examples raise an important question: How much more work and innovation might be done to benefit

all of human society if so many millions were not locked down by government authorities? And the corollary question: How much damage will be done by these government actions?

This question was asked by John P.A. Ioannidis, professor of medicine, of epidemiology and population health, of biomedical data science, and of statistics at Stanford University. In an essay for the medical news website Stat, Ioannidis noted: "One of the bottom lines is that we don't know how long social distancing measures and lockdowns can be maintained without major consequences to the economy, society, and mental health," he wrote. "Unpredictable evolutions may ensue, including financial crisis, unrest, civil strife, war, and a meltdown of the social fabric."

He concluded with an ominous warning. With "lockdowns of months, if not years, life largely stops, short-term and long-term consequences are entirely unknown, and billions, not just millions, of lives may be eventually at stake."

This, too, was the warning decades ago from Henry Grady Weaver. "We have moved a long way from the Stone Age," he noted while pointing out that "without the tools of production, human beings would sink back into a state of barbarism."

COVID-19 is dangerous to some, sends many to hospitals, and causes only mild symptoms in most people. Yet authorities have taken drastic, civilization-altering steps to counter it, putting at risk millions of lives and livelihoods, taking away the "tools of production," and threatening indeed to send the world back to the stone age.

This is not the way to cure the pandemic, but is a way only to multiply the force of its impact.

The idea has been set up by propaganda in the press and by demagogic politicians, and accepted by a frightened population, that we face a deadly dichotomy: We can save people by shutting down and putting "essential" businesses under the control of government, or we can reopen with business as usual and cause the deaths of millions. This is an oversimplification at best, and a pernicious lie at worst.

A free people, engaged in economic operations in a free market, has proven, without question and over centuries, to be the greatest engine of innovation and prosperity possible. By contrast, government control stifles production and squelches innovation. Even safety is risked by governments in ways that private enterprise would never consider. Here in the United States, for example, government programs have purposely infected men with syphilis as part of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment (without informed consent, the CDC has admitted), injected people with radioactive isotopes to study the effect of radiation (as documented in the book *The Plutonium Files* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eileen Welsome), and conducted the now notorious MK-ULTRA mind-control experiments with LSD. It is unlikely in the extreme that any private enterprise would have done these things, or gotten away with them had they tried. Government, meanwhile, carried out these experiments for years, decades in one case, and tried to keep them covered up.

In facing the coronavirus crisis, it is important not to underestimate the value of freedom and overestimate the efficacy of government action. In fact, if we really want a cure, get government out of the way and let the world's billions get back to their lives and work.

In the end, it will be freedom that provides the cure. ■

President Fights a Classic Example of Fake News

"It's very clear that there are people in your profession that write fake news. You do."

*At a coronavirus briefing, President **Donald Trump** responded to an insulting question posed by CBS News reporter Paula Reid. She asked the president if he wanted to reopen the economy by Easter solely to help his chances for reelection "even if it means letting people die." The president displayed a high degree of calmness in his response to such an enormous slur.*



Donald Trump

Gage Skidmore

Princeton Professor and MSNBC Commentator Hopes COVID-19 Will Be "Donald Trump's [Hurricane] Katrina"

"I should mention this with a little trepidation but this may be Donald Trump's Katrina."

*Princeton professor **Eddie Glaude**, a virulent anti-Trumper on MSNBC, joins a chorus of media voices rejoicing in the coronavirus as President Trump's "Katrina" or "Chernobyl."*

Yes to Hospital Ships; No to Cruise Ships

"The Navy hospital ships were purposefully altered to be floating hospitals. Carnival cruise ships are built for a very different purpose. I suspect a bit of gimmick here in using them for this purpose in order to justify providing economic relief to the cruise ship industry."

*A national security consultant and managing director of the Ferry-Bridge Group, **Bryan McGrath** readily supports the plan to have Navy hospital ships help in treating coronavirus patients. But he sees no similar benefit in trying to make ships built for pleasure cruises accomplish the same goal.*



Kuhmann/MS

Bill Gates

Bill Gates Calls for a Nationwide Shutdown, Citing Communist China as the Model to Follow

"Cases will be exponentially growing anywhere you don't have a serious shutdown.... The sooner you engage in the shutdown the easier it is to get to the peak. We have not peaked. The parts of the country that are in shutdown, by late April we will start to see the numbers peak."

***Bill Gates** avidly supports coercive government and population control.*

Researchers Suggest Using Blood From Recovered Patients to Fight the Disease

"Four to six weeks after infection, the blood of survivors should be full of antibodies that will neutralize the virus and that will theoretically limit the infection."

*A virologist at the University of Texas Medical Branch, **Vineet Menachery** is far from alone in suggesting such a way of possibly combating the coronavirus disease.*

PBS Reporter Admits She and Fellow Reporters See Themselves as Opponents of President Trump

"We know now that covering President Trump sometimes is like a team sport. We have to have each other's back in the press corps."

*PBS reporter **Yamiche Alcindor** confirmed the media-vs.-Trump reality during an interview with MSNBC's Ali Velshi in which she thanks CNN's Jeremy Diamond for helping her double-team President Trump at a White House coronavirus presser.*

Doctor Says He Has Treated Hundreds of COVID-19 Patients With a 100-percent Success Rate

"I read studies in the Far East that found hydroxychloroquine effective in fighting the virus and studies in France that found that this drug combined with azithromycin work in combating the virus. I decided to combine these two with zinc sulfate and so far, I have treated hundreds of patients and did not have to send a single patient to the hospital."

***Dr. Vladimir "Zev" Zelenko**, a board-certified family practitioner in New York, explained his COVID-19 protocols in a March 25 interview with ChabadInfo.com reporter Sholem Traurig. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McMANUS



Vladimir Zelenko

Facebook

YOUR PAPERS PLEASE

The Enslavement of the Free World

The West, once defined as “The Free World,” has been locked down and liberty destroyed in the name of fighting the current pestilence.



AP Images

Communist lockdown: A woman walks on a deserted street in Wuhan, China, during the lockdown there. Throughout the West, governments have followed the lockdown pattern established by Communist China in response to the coronavirus.

by Dennis Behreandt

“At 2AM on January 23, authorities in Wuhan suddenly issued the order to close off the city.” Chinese journalist Da Shji lives in Wuhan and documented the abrupt lockdown of the city, and shortly after that many more Chinese cities, in a report he filed with the China Media Project, an independent program operated in partnership with the Journalism & Media Studies Centre at the University of Hong Kong.

“All public buses, subways, ferries, long-distance buses and other transport services would be suspended; the airport and train stations would be shuttered,” he wrote of

the then-shocking development. Soon the lockdown would extend beyond Wuhan. “In less than two days, up to noon on January 24, a total of 14 cities in Hubei province would be brought into the quarantine zone.” He concluded, “This was no longer a city under lockdown, but effectively an entire province under quarantine.”

The results were predictable. Those who could, having heard of the coming lockdown, fled the city, with up to an estimated million Wuhan residents leaving in the hours before the lockdown. Many carried the virus to their destinations, exacerbating the epidemic. In Wuhan and other locked-down areas, the captive population was left with an uncertain future, at best.

“What we have is the shutting off and shutting down of a city, plain and simple. A quarantine that means 11 million people are trapped within their city. No one seems to have considered how public order will be maintained, and how our lives here in Wuhan will be supported,” Da Shji wrote.

Critics, meanwhile, were silenced. One writer, Zhang Ouya of the *Hubei Daily* newspaper, expressed frustration online, demanding, “Wuhan must immediately change out its commanders.” For a time, according to Da Shji, this became a rallying cry for the newly oppressed.

“But such a story cannot have a happy ending in China’s stability-obsessed political environment — where anything can be stopped. Zhang Ouya’s post was quickly expunged. The Party leadership of the Hubei Daily Media Group, Zhang’s employer, wrote a letter of apology to the Municipal Party Committee expressing its ‘deepest apologies’ for Zhang Ouya’s ‘incorrect remarks.’ The group also made clear that it was starting ‘relevant procedures’ to hold Zhang accountable.”

As Da Shji noted, this is normal behavior in China where “society [is] closely monitored by the government, and the shadow of Big Brother is everywhere.” There, tyranny is an ever-present latent force, ready always to show its fangs.

But latent tyranny, it turns out, is endemic in the West. Like an unseen geological fault, it was just waiting for a tremor to let slip the dogs of oppression. And so, since the lockdown in Hubei province — now being lifted according to reports — the only things spreading faster than the coronavirus are fear, panic, propaganda, and tyranny.

The Situation in Europe

Europe has become an epicenter in the COVID-19 outbreak, and at the same time, several European nations have adopted strict authoritarian approaches to stopping the spread of the virus:

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio has said he will go so far as to permanently close churches and synagogues if they don't voluntarily shut their doors.

United Kingdom: The regime of U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has put in place highly restrictive regulations on the movement and activity of the British people. Under current rules, people are allowed to leave their homes to shop for necessities, to perform one form of exercise per day, for medical needs, to help a vulnerable person, or to travel to work in the event that working from home is not possible. "You should not be meeting friends. If your friends ask you to meet, you should say no. You should not be meeting family members who do not live in your home. You should not be going shopping except for essentials like food and medicine — and you should do this as little as you can," Johnson said, according to *The Guardian*. "If you don't follow the rules, the police will have the powers to enforce them, including through fines and dispersing gatherings." Among activities banned in the U.K. are weddings and baptisms.

Italy: On March 9, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte put the whole of Italy on lockdown in what Reuters described as "the most severe controls on a Western nation since World War Two." Those restrictions, which at the time included forcing restaurants to close at 6 p.m., were made more stringent starting on March 24 when every business other than grocery stores, pharmacies, post offices, and banks were forced to close their doors for two weeks. Additionally, according to Reuters, officials "banned travel within the country ... to slow the spread of the coronavirus." Anyone venturing outside must carry official paperwork stating the reason for travel, and that will be checked by authorities. Some Italian citizens have chafed under the tyrannical rules. "It looks like an apocalypse has struck, there is no one around," restaurant owner Mario Monfreda said, according to Reuters. "It is a total disaster. This will reduce us to nothing.

More people are going to die as a result of the economic crisis than this lockdown is going to cause than the virus itself."

Elsewhere in Europe: Spain and France have moved to enforce restrictions that are similar to those in Italy. In both countries, citizens have occasionally challenged their captivity. In Spain, one woman was apprehended by police after "she was caught visiting the home of a man she had met on a dating app," according to *Newsweek*. In another example of the absurdity of totalitarian government, a person walking on the street while wearing a dinosaur costume was stopped by police. By March 18, Spanish police had arrested 88 people for violating the lockdown. In France, as in Italy, official documents are required for those stepping outside. Of the French lockdown, Ira Katz, a great American writer living and working in France, observed in a dispatch for *LewRockwell.com*: "We are not really allowed to leave our domiciles so it really feels like the [Nazi] Occupation around here, and we must always carry our paper when we leave the apartment."

Locking Down the Land of the Free

So far, in the formerly free United States of America, several states have imposed restrictions on what government has deemed "nonessential work." Some of these states have violated the U.S. Constitution even more severely by, in effect, putting their citizens under house arrest. So far the states that have abolished freedom in the most egregious fashion include New York, California, Rhode Island, Michigan, and Illinois. More than 20 states, so far, have followed a similar path and the trend seems likely to continue.

Most of these states have followed the general plan as implemented in Europe, though in slightly milder form. Some governors, though, are taking harsher steps. In Rhode Island, Democratic governor Gina Raimondo ordered police to stop cars first with New York plates and then from all other states, and used the National Guard to conduct house-to-house searches for out-of-staters to be quarantined.

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio has said he will go so far as to permanently close churches and synagogues if they don't voluntarily shut their doors. Speaking to religious leaders during his



AP Images

Italian outbreak: Northern Italy, the economic heart of the Mediterranean nation, has been especially hard hit by COVID-19. In response, the government of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte instituted the most severe restrictions on liberty seen in Europe since the end of World War II.

March 27 press conference, he said: “If you go to your synagogue, if you go to your church and attempt to hold services ... our enforcement agents will have no choice but to shut down those services.” Continuing, he warned: “The NYPD, Fire Department, Buildings Department, everyone has been instructed that if they see worship services going on they will go to the officials of that congregation, they’ll inform them they need to stop the services and disperse. If that does not happen, they will take additional action up to the point of fines and potentially closing the building permanently.”

“You have been warned,” he concluded.

In North Carolina, far-left governor Ralph Northam warned his captive citizens that “public and private in-person gatherings of 10 or more individuals are prohibited.” Anyone convicted of breaking this edict faces “confinement in jail for not more than twelve months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.”

In Wisconsin, shuttered by Democratic Governor Tony Evers, Dane County and the city of Madison — the state capital — put up a website that allowed busybodies to report other citizens for gathering in groups and violating stay-at-home directives. In a bit of good news, according to the Madison-based newspaper *Wisconsin State Journal*, authorities took the site offline “after the website was flooded with spam, according to health department spokeswoman Sarah Mattes, including ‘people calling us names’ and complaining that the effort constituted Big Brother-like government overreach.”

In Los Angeles, businesses not complying with orders to close were threatened with punitive action by Democratic Mayor Eric Garcetti. “If we see continued noncompliance [we] will step in and shut off their water and power. You know who you are, you need to stop it. This is your chance to step up and shut it down — because if you don’t, we will shut you down,” warned the mayor.

At least at this point, most of the states under lockdown were Sovietized by Democrats who generally prefer Karl Marx to Adam Smith and Vladimir Lenin to Thomas Jefferson. But even at the national level, the zeal for tyranny seems to grow daily. The Justice Department, according to a report by *Politico*, “quietly asked Congress



California nightmare: Like many states, the Golden State has restricted the activities of citizens and businesses. In Los Angeles, mayor Eric Garcetti has threatened to shut off utilities to businesses not complying with shut-down orders.

for the ability to ask chief judges to detain people indefinitely without trial during emergencies.”

Meanwhile, in Congress, Democrats are using the pandemic to pile-drive their agenda forward. In the spirit of never letting a crisis go to waste, as former Obama administration official Rahm Emanuel once advised, Democratic Majority Whip James Clyburn offered: “The COVID19 bill is a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.”

In addition, federal government technocrats want to use this crisis as an opportunity to further spy on citizens. This would rely on invasive tracking enabled by mobile technology. The *Washington Post* reported on March 17: “The U.S. government is in active talks with Facebook, Google and a wide array of tech companies and health experts about how they can use location data gleaned from Americans’ phones to combat the novel coronavirus, including tracking whether people are keeping one another at safe distances to stem the outbreak.” As NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden has warned, such invasive approaches would probably not be temporary.

Because of the virus, Snowden said, governments might “send an order to

every fitness tracker that can get something like pulse or heart rate” demanding access to that information. “Five years later the coronavirus is gone, this data’s still available to them — they start looking for new things,” he said, according to *Business Insider*. “They already know what you’re looking at on the internet, they already know where your phone is moving, now they know what your heart rate is. What happens when they start to intermix these and apply artificial intelligence to them?”

Former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates wants to go even further, with a frightening proposal that takes the concept of “Your Papers Please” totalitarianism to a whole new level. Asked during an “ask me anything” session on Reddit how the economy can function in a future of “social distancing,” Gates responded that people would need to get some sort of digital verification of their health status. “Eventually we will have some digital certificates to show who has recovered or been tested recently or when we have a vaccine who has received it,” Gates answered.

This ties in nicely with Gates’ involvement in developing a biometric ID for vaccine compliance, along with a host of

related left-wing schemes to manage and control people.

Gates' favored biometric ID is tied to the United Nations and called ID 2020, according to *Biometric Update*, a news site published by industry market research firm Biometrics Research Group, Inc. ID 2020 will "leverage immunization as an opportunity to establish digital identity." The site explains, "Digital identity is a computerized record of who a person is, stored in a registry. It is used, in this case, to keep track of who has received vaccination."

Also involved with building ID 2020 are corporate giants such as Microsoft and consulting firm Accenture, as well as the nongovernmental organization Gavi, which bills itself as "the vaccine alliance."

Note that Microsoft is a leading player in business-centric social media as owner of LinkedIn and provider of the Office365 Teams platform, and is the provider also of user-management software Active Directory, used for user authentication and domain management by almost every company, large and small, throughout the world. Note also that under current Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, the company has launched its "defending democracy" pro-

gram that includes a program called "ElectionGuard" that "will make voting secure, more accessible, and more efficient anywhere it's used in the United States or in democratic nations around the world," according to Microsoft. The system was tested for the first time in an election environment in February in Wisconsin with the help of state election officials, according to Microsoft, and San Francisco company VotingWorks. Supposedly non-partisan, the latter outfit is run by Ben Adida, who on his blog has written favorably of "strict gun regulation" and "mandatory gun licensing," said it was "heartbreaking that Hillary Clinton lost the electoral college," and admitted his support for President Obama, saying, "I enthusiastically voted for you three times."

All these things are bundled together in a disturbing cluster of incipient technocratic authoritarianism and control, tied to vaccine authentication and ID in a time of a pandemic that just happened to be modeled in October 2019 at Event 201 by "the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation." Event 201, a pandemic simulation with eerie similarity

to our current real pandemic, by the way, featured a runaway coronavirus as its pandemic of choice. (For more on Event 201, see "Coronavirus as Gateway to 'Global Health Governance'" on page 36.)

Is There an Alternative to Tyranny?

Anyone doubting these and other statist approaches to COVID-19 is denounced and ridiculed. But despite rampant propaganda on behalf of totalitarianism, it is possible to stop the outbreak without resorting to tyranny. This is the experience of South Korea.

In *The Week*, Peter Weber noted that the United States and South Korea had their first cases at the same time, but that "South Korea's epidemic seems to have already peaked" after beginning an extensive testing campaign. "This testing-backed offensive helped South Korea reduce the number of new cases over a matter of weeks," Reuters reported. Essentially, South Korea determined that the solution to the spread of the virus was to find and quarantine only those people who had been infected with the virus, rather than to employ widespread, damaging, and detrimental police-state lockdowns.

In an interview with the BBC, South Korean Foreign Minister Kong Kyung-wha described the country's strategy. "In mid-January, our health authorities quickly conferred with the research institutions here [to develop a test]," she said. "And then they shared that result with the pharmaceutical companies, who then produced the reagent and the equipment needed for the testing." That testing, she said, was critical. "Testing is central because that leads to early detection," she noted. "It minimizes further spread."

Vietnamese-American poet Linh Dinh has chronicled his time in South Korea during the outbreak, describing life in Seoul. The nation, he notes, "has managed to maintain, nationwide, an impressive semblance of normalcy. People go to work. All stores are open and well stocked."

The lesson of South Korea is that the breathless hyperventilations of statisticians and their enablers in the fear-mongering mainstream media should be ignored. The solution to the pandemic is targeted intervention based on proper testing, not the wholesale liquidation of liberty. ■



AP Images

Singling out religion: New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio signs rules shutting down businesses. As part of efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus, he also warned religious leaders to stop holding services or he would go so far as to permanently shut down churches and synagogues.

AP Images



THE VIRAL ASSAULT ON OUR RIGHTS

Panicked Americans are begging for their rights to be taken away. They are giving up the Constitution for little in return.

by Luis Miguel

The right to peaceably assemble in large groups suspended. Police cars patrolling neighborhoods to ensure citizens remain locked away in their homes and obey curfews. Churches shutting down their worship services out of fear of government reprisal. The state picking and choosing which businesses are deemed acceptable and which must close their doors, as people form into long lines outside grocery stores, fighting each other over essential items.

Is this Venezuela? Is this Soviet Russia? Or some other communist regime?

No. It's the United States of America. The year is 2020 — in the era of the coronavirus.

How have Americans responded to the near-overnight arrival of this 21st-century police state? In the world's bastion of lib-

erty, have the people risen up in indignation against the deterioration of constitutionally protected freedoms taking place right before our eyes?

On the contrary, many Americans can't seem to get enough authoritarianism. The mainstream media's push for stricter controls over the populace amid the COVID-19 outbreak is to be expected. The ruling class's attempt to take advantage of the panic — as seen in the Justice Department's recent request to suspend habeas corpus — comes as no surprise.

But it isn't just the elites in government and the media. Take even a casual scan on social media, and you'll find everyday Americans from both sides of the political spectrum calling on federal and state officials to impose further restrictions — calls to close “non-essential” businesses, to close the beaches, to nationalize this or that industry.

Once or twice a week, you're sure to see among Twitter's trending hashtags #LockDownFlorida or another variant demanding that one of the states thus far refraining from a statewide quarantine jump on the bandwagon.

The masses are literally *begging* the government to take their rights away in exchange for protection from the virus. Governments are happy to oblige, even when their actions are in violation of the law.

Unconstitutional Usurpations

That the federal government lacks authority to shut America down, whether over the coronavirus scare or any other reason, is clear to anyone who takes time to read the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Law of the Land does not grant the legislature or the executive power to stop citizens from leaving their homes or to tell businesses what products to make — even for well-intentioned purposes such as producing more medical supplies.

Yet the mainstream media acknowledges the president's limited authority over the economy, albeit unwittingly. In an effort to kick back against President Trump's desire to bring America back to business as usual as soon as possible, Reuters columnist Jan Wolfe wrote that the commander-in-chief in reality has “little power to restart the U.S. economy.”

Wolfe omitted the logical extension of that argument: If the president has little power to restart the economy, he has little power to shut it down in the first place.

Of course, much of the shutdown has come by way of state governments, typically governors flexing their executive muscles. Yet even here, some are guilty of violating their own state constitutions.

Take Wisconsin, which has enacted a stay-at-home order, banning all “public and private gatherings,” prohibiting crowds larger than 10, and mandating that Wisconsinites at all times keep a distance of six feet from one another. “Non-essential” businesses are closed, and anyone who violates the order by illegally working could face a \$250 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

But Article 1, Section 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution leaves no doubt about citizens' right to assemble: “The right of the people peaceably to assemble, to consult for the common good, and to petition the government, or any department thereof, shall *never* be abridged.” (Emphasis added.)

For politicians who want to expand and centralize power, the coronavirus is a million-dollar lottery ticket. It provides them with a pretext to cancel all legislative ses-

Luis Miguel is a regular contributor to THE NEW AMERICAN whose journalistic endeavors shed light on the Deep State, the immigration crisis, and the enemies of freedom.

sions, commission and city council meetings, public hearings, town halls, rallies, protests, and demonstrations — all under the guise of keeping us healthy.

If anyone dares to question the coronavirus response — its costs both to our wallets and our freedom — they face immense censure from a rabid media and a hysterical public whom the media has effectively induced to believe is facing the end times. Intellectual dissidents are panned as insensitive, scientifically ignorant, and conspiracy theorists — the fall-back ad hominem for whoever refuses to toe the establishment line.

Considering the tyrannical trajectory of the COVID-19 response, how long will it be before opposition to lockdowns, curfews, and the other heavy-handed policies is labeled “hate speech” and outlawed outright, or at least banned on platforms of public discourse such as newspapers, radio, and social media?

Freedom Is the Answer

But locking down America is not only unconstitutional, it is also the wrong way to fight the virus, according to a group of over 800 health officials from the country’s most renowned institutions, including the Yale School of Public Health and the Stanford University School of Medicine, who published an open letter to Vice President Mike Pence and all federal, state, and local leaders involved in shaping COVID-19 policy. These experts strongly oppose the lockdowns being imposed on Americans, writing:

Mandatory quarantine, regional lockdowns, and travel bans have been used to address the risk of COVID-19 in the US and abroad. But they are difficult to implement, can undermine public trust, have large societal costs and, importantly, disproportionately affect the most vulnerable segments in our communities...

Voluntary self-isolation measures are more likely to induce cooperation and protect public trust than coercive measures, and are more likely to prevent

attempts to avoid contact with the healthcare system.

“Voluntary” is the key word.

Those of us who want to preserve our freedom amid this panic believe in the principle of personal responsibility. America’s history has shown that the combination of rational self-interest and personal morality will motivate the majority to act responsibly in situations such as this, assuming the public is equipped with the right information.

If you inform Americans that those with weakened immune systems, such as the elderly and people with certain medical conditions, are the ones who are really at risk, then those individuals will generally, of their own will, self-isolate out of self-interest: They don’t want to wind up hospitalized. Their family and friends will voluntarily refrain from visiting them out of a desire to not infect their loved ones. And nursing homes will voluntarily suspend visits out of self-interest to not kill off their paying residents.



Counterpoint: Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai, a pioneer in systems biology, says the answer is not to quarantine all Americans, but to help the vulnerable while the healthy keep the country running.

In all of this, at no point is it necessary to place restrictions on everybody, regardless of whether they’re susceptible to the virus or not. Such broad actions are the equivalent of using an axe when what’s needed is a surgical scalpel. The cure should be tailored to every person’s or group’s particular needs.

A Common Sense Solution

Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai, a systems scientist and pioneer in the field of systems biology, has repudiated the current approach to the coronavirus, claiming it “at best” is based on a 1950s outdated ‘one-size-fits-all,’ non-personalized approach to medicine and public health; and at worst, is derived from a ‘fake science’ understanding of the immune system.” Dr. Ayyadurai holds four degrees from MIT, to which he returned in 2003 to complete doctoral work within the Department of Biological Engineering — work that led him to develop CytoSolve, a “scalable computational platform for modeling the cell by dynamic integration of molecular pathways models.”

In a letter to the president, Dr. Ayyadurai rejects the response model pushed by Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is seen as the guiding force behind the Trump administration’s coronavirus policy.

Arguing that there is no need to shut down the entire country or to quarantine all citizens, Dr. Ayyadurai proposes a common-sense program driven by personal choice and guided by the scientific principle that it is a compromised immune system that really puts people at risk — therefore, the focus should be on encouraging citizens to strengthen their own immune systems.

The MIT alumnus says only those who test positive for COVID-19 should self-quarantine until they test negative. Everyone should regularly take high dosages of vitamins A, D, and C, as these nutrients play indispensable roles in immune-system functions.

Freedom. Responsibility. Choice. These are the bedrock principles on which our Republic was founded, and they are needed now more than ever to safeguard our public health while also safeguarding our constitutionally enshrined rights. ■

Darlene DeVita

SARS-CoV-2

What Does Science Tell Us?

SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing the disease COVID-19, is a serious threat. If there is good news, though, it is that it may not be as deadly as previously thought.

by Dennis Behreandt

It's a bioweapon: That was the first reaction from many when word of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus started reaching people from China. Even a U.S. senator wondered about the origin of the virus, given that the outbreak reportedly started in a "wet market" that was not far from what *Nature* described in 2017 as "China's pathogen lab," the "maximum-security biosafety facility" in Wuhan.

"We ... know that just a few miles away from that food market is China's only ... laboratory that researches human infectious diseases," Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) said, according to *Fox Business*. "Now we don't have evidence that this disease originated there, but because of China's duplicity and dishonesty from the beginning we need to at least ask the question."

Indeed, as *Nature* reported just a few years earlier, "Some scientists outside China worry about pathogens escaping" from Wuhan's biosafety level-4 (BSL-4) lab.

"Worries surround the Chinese lab," *Nature* said. "The SARS virus has escaped from high-level containment facilities in Beijing multiple times, notes Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey." The dark implication: It, or something else, might escape the Wuhan lab. More-



over, as *Nature* noted already in 2017, "Future plans include studying the pathogen that causes SARS."

Of course, there is legitimate worry that BSL-4 labs may be "dual-use," having a role to play in bioweapons research. Ebright, according to *Nature*, "is not convinced for the need for more than one BSL-4 lab in mainland China. He suspects that the expansion there is a reaction to the networks [of similar labs] in the United States and Europe, which he says are also unwarranted. He adds that governments will assume that such excess capacity is for the potential development of bioweapons."

An additional reason to worry is the history of experimental gain-of-function research that included a pair of researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology working with U.S.-based and international researchers on a study that created a dangerous, chimeric SARS virus. Reporting in 2015 in *Nature Medicine*, the research team noted that they "generated and characterized a chimeric virus expressing the spike of bat coronavirus SHC014 in a

Testing: A Chinese scientist works on a coronavirus test in a "pop-up" laboratory in the city of Wuhan. Shortly after the outbreak, Chinese scientists sequenced the genome of the novel coronavirus and published their results for other researchers around the world to examine.

mouse-adapted SARS-CoV backbone" — work that, to the casual observer, seems to have a disquieting similarity to the novel coronavirus now afflicting the world. With this type of knowledge in Wuhan and the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 locally, near the environs of the BSL-4 lab, it is reasonable to worry that the new pestilence escaped the lab.

Whether natural or not, it is conceivable, however unlikely, that the virus escaped from the lab. But if it is an engineered virus, it would be possible to discover the evidence of it within the SARS-CoV-2 genome. Though there is much yet to learn about the virus, evidence indicates that rather than the new virus being an engineered pathogen, it is most likely the re-

This also doesn't take into account the high degree of probability that death rates from the virus are probably much lower than originally estimated and that in most cases of the disease, symptoms are mild.



Bats: Health officials in Indonesia, wary of bats as a repository of coronaviruses, inspect the animals at a live animal market in central Java. Other coronaviruses, similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, are known to circulate in Chinese bat populations.

sult of zoonotic transmission, a pathogen that mutated in another animal species and jumped to humans.

The Health Crisis

Even though evidence points to SARS-CoV-2 originating from a natural zoonotic event, that doesn't mean it is not a serious problem. In fact, the potential for RNA viruses to mutate themselves into human pathogens is an ever-present danger. The new coronavirus neither is the first to make this jump, nor will it be the last — a frightening problem.

Just how bad is COVID-19, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2? The answer is, not very — in most cases.

“COVID-19 appears to constitute a major threat to human health,” writes microbiologist Jason Tetro in a special issue of the journal *Microbes and Infection* about the coronavirus. “Yet, examining the situation outside of Hubei Province provides a very different perspective. Most infected individuals have a mild disease and do not progress into severe stages of infection. Moreover, patients appear to be able to recover with little to no medical intervention. Based on this evidence, the virus would not be considered a major threat to public health. Instead, it appears to be no more concerning than the influenza virus.”

The chief problem with SARS-CoV-2 is its propensity to spread. The virus spreads

readily, and a complicating factor is that those infected with the virus can spread it before experiencing symptoms. Thus, many people in a region can be infected before anyone knows there is an infection.

A key factor in understanding the threat a viral disease such as COVID-19 poses is the time between when illness starts in an original case and then starts in a new case. In results reported in the *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, a research team from Hokkaido's Graduate School of Medicine “estimated the median serial interval at 4.1 days” for SARS-CoV-2. According to the researchers, this means that the virus may cause the number of disease cases to increase quickly enough “to exceed what available healthcare and public health workers are able to handle.” They also noted that this interval is shorter than the incubation period for the virus, meaning asymptomatic transmission is probable.

This explains, but doesn't condone, the panic now afflicting most Western nations, including the United States, where it is feared that cases of COVID-19 will rise so quickly that medical institutions will not be able to handle the influx of patients.

But this also doesn't take into account the high degree of probability that death rates from the virus are probably much lower than originally estimated and that in most cases of the disease, symptoms are mild.

John P.A. Ioannidis, professor of medicine, epidemiology, and population health at Stanford University, examined the cases of COVID-19 that occurred aboard the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship and concluded that death rates are much lower than previously thought. He estimated a mid-range death rate from the cruise ship data to be 0.3 percent of the general population and noted, as a result, that “this would translate into about 10,000 deaths” if one percent of the U.S. population contracted the disease. “This sounds like a huge number,” he wrote, “but it is buried within the noise of the estimate of deaths from ‘influenza-like illnesses’ that occur every year.

“If we had not known about a new virus out there, and had not checked individuals with PCR tests, the number of total deaths due to ‘influenza-like illness’ would not seem unusual this year,” Ioannidis concluded. “At most, we might have casually noted that flu this season seems to be a bit worse

than average. The media coverage would have been less than for an NBA game between the two most indifferent teams.”

Even Anthony Fauci, a key member of President Trump’s coronavirus task force and head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), recently concluded, along with his co-authors, much the same. In an editorial for the *New England Journal of Medicine* published online on February 28 and in the March 26 print issue, Fauci and co-authors Dr. H. Clifford Lane and Dr. Robert R. Redfield wrote, “If one assumes that the number of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic cases is several times as high as the number of reported cases, the case fatality rate may be considerably less than 1%. This suggests that the overall clinical consequences of Covid-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza.”

Many Frightening Diseases

The deaths from COVID-19 are indeed tragic. The prospect of catching the virus is frightening, and the potential impact of a rapid spread of the disease on medical facilities is alarming. That said, to prevent panic, the disease should be put into perspective.

There have been many deadly pandemics throughout history. The most famous, and perhaps most dreadful and damaging,

was the black death of the 14th century. This plague killed people in from two to seven days after infection and it depopulated Europe, killing perhaps as many as 200 million people. The population of Europe may have been reduced by as much as 50 percent.

Similarly, the Spanish Flu of 1918 infected an estimated 500 million worldwide and caused 50 million deaths, with 675,000 of those deaths in the United States.

Thankfully, COVID-19 appears far less deadly, at least so far, by comparison.

Other extant diseases, too, present a greater threat than COVID-19, most notably malaria. According to the CDC, “In 2018, an estimated 405,000 people died of malaria,” mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, with about 2,000 cases in the U.S. each year. Another disease that continues to extract a heavy toll is cholera, caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. According to the CDC there are up to 2.9 million cases of cholera annually around the world and 95,000 people die from the disease. Frighteningly, *V. cholerae* “has emerged as a notorious multi drug resistant (MDR) enteric pathogen,” notes recent research published in the journal *Vaccine*.

How Does the Pandemic End?

The good news is, even if tens of millions of people become infected with SARS-

CoV-2, upwards of 98-99 percent or more will survive the disease. At least in its current form, COVID-19 is not going to be the disease that removes the human species from the planet.

The bad news is that halting the spread of the disease will continue to be very expensive and disruptive, especially if the current approach of blanket lockdowns used by many states and nations continues. Under such measures, disease and death from SARS-CoV-2 will be compounded by deaths brought on from damaging behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse and even suicides induced by isolation policies. Already, indicators of a significant uptick in suicides have been noted.

“FirstLink, a local company that answers the 211 helplines and National Suicide Prevention Hotline, says call volume to some call centers are up 300% nationally,” reported *Valley News Live* in Fargo, North Dakota, on March 24. This aligns with research published in the journal *Crisis* in 2010 that looked at suicide rates in Hong Kong during the original SARS outbreak in 2003. In that case, researchers noted, “Social disengagement, mental stress, and anxiety at the time of the SARS epidemic among a certain group of older adults resulted in an exceptionally high rate of suicide deaths.”

Is there any hope, then, of a happy ending? Unfortunately, it remains difficult to know. The virus may mutate during the course of the pandemic and the mutated form may become less dangerous. Or, it may, in fact, be the case that warm weather coming with spring in the northern hemisphere will shut the virus down, as it seems that SARS-CoV-2 is most virulent at a temperature of 46.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

This was the conclusion reached by a team of researchers in a study they made available on medRxiv, the preprint server for health sciences. The Chinese researchers reported that their study “suggests significant impact of daily mean temperature on the daily confirmed new case counts 14 days later.” They also noted that “there is an optimal temperature for SARS-CoV2 at 8.07 °C [46.5 °F] and most cities with high epidemic transmission of COVID-19 locate in the humidity range of 60%~90%.”

If this is true, with any luck a long, hot summer will exterminate the virus and life can go on. ■



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Past pandemics: Medical workers tend to sick patients at Camp Funston in Kansas during the 1918 Spanish Flu outbreak that killed as many as 675,000 Americans. As in the past, viruses that pose health threats will continue to emerge.

THE PROBLEM WITH RNA VIRUS MUTATION

by Dennis Behreandt

Like all coronaviruses, and many others besides, SARS-CoV-2 is an RNA virus, meaning that its instruction set is encoded in a strand of ribonucleic acid rather than in the double helix of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). As a result, RNA viruses have a propensity for mutation.

Unlike DNA viruses that have more robust “proofreading” processes that limit mutation during replication, this is largely absent in RNA virus replication. The difference between RNA and DNA virus mutation was described by science journalist David Quammen in his 2012 book *Spillover*. DNA, he notes, is resistant to mutation by its double-stranded nature and because its chemical structure only bonds in specific ways. Additionally, during replication, DNA is “proofread” and repaired by the enzyme DNA polymerase. If a mistake is made during replication, Quammen notes, “the polymerase recognizes that mistake, backtracks ... fixes the mismatch, and then moves on. So the rate of mutation in most DNA viruses is relatively low. RNA viruses, coded by a single-strand molecule with no such corrective arrangement ... sustain rates of mutation that may be thousands of times higher.”

This property of RNA viruses has been known — and has worried scientists — for decades, with recognition of viral mutations coming as early as the 1940s. In 1987, D.A. Steinhauer and J.J. Holland of the Department of Biology at the University of California, San Diego, observed of RNA viruses, “Rates of evolution of continuously replicating RNA viruses may exceed by a million fold the rates of evolution of their DNA-based hosts.”

As a result of this rapid change, in 1988 James and Ellen Strauss from the Division of Biology at the California Institute of Technology noted that “RNA viruses will continue to evolve rapidly” and that “new pathogens can and will arise.”

Indeed, Steinhauer and Holland warned: “It should not be surprising that previously unknown human, domestic-animal, and



Microscopic mayhem: An image from a scanning electron microscope shows SARS-CoV-2 viruses emerging from a cell.

plant crop diseases will appear at intervals, and that many or most will be due to evolving RNA genomes.”

Based on the propensity and likelihood of RNA virus mutation, it is likely, and certainly not surprising, that SARS-CoV-2 mutated within another species in such a way that it was able to jump to humans. And while it may or may not have happened in the Wuhan wet market, the potential exposure of a relatively large population of humans to concentrated potential animal source populations that were reportedly available in that market makes it a likely location for the jump to have occurred. And no release from the city’s biosafety level-4 lab would have been necessary.

SARS-CoV-2 Genome

In the case of the novel SARS virus, researchers in China were very quick in sequencing the new viral genome and in reporting the results of their research to the international scientific community. They published their findings in *The Lancet*. They found that the new virus was most similar to coronaviruses known to be endemic to bat populations.

Published online at the end of January, the Chinese researchers noted that SARS-CoV-2 “was more similar to two bat-derived coronavirus strains, bat-SL-CoVZC45 and bat-SL-CoVZXC21, than

to known human-infecting coronaviruses, including the virus that caused the SARS outbreak of 2003.”

By publishing their work in *The Lancet*, the researchers made the rest of the world’s scientific establishment take note. And with the proliferation of the virus around the world, it would be possible to compare samples of the virus with the genome results from China. If the virus was an engineered bioweapon, that fact couldn’t stay hidden for long.

In fact, researchers with The Scripps Research Institute, along with researchers at Columbia University, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Sydney, and Tulane University, have concluded that the virus was not man-made. They found that both certain mutations to the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the virus and its basic structural makeup prove that the virus developed from a natural, rather than laboratory-made, source.

In a press release, Scripps reported the researchers’ findings: “If someone were seeking to engineer a new coronavirus as a pathogen, they would have constructed it from the backbone of a virus known to cause illness. But the scientists found that the SARS-CoV-2 backbone differed substantially from those of already known coronaviruses and mostly resembled related viruses found in bats and pangolins.”

As for the receptor-binding domain — a part of a protein that can bind, or attach to, other molecules — the researchers found that while it had a high affinity for a certain human receptor (ACE2), it wasn’t perfect and that the SARS-Cov-2 “RBD sequence is different from those shown in SARS-CoV to be optimal for receptor binding.” SARS-CoV is the coronavirus that sparked a disease outbreak from 2002-2004 beginning in China’s Guangdong province.

“These two features of the virus, the mutations in the RBD portion of the spike protein and its distinct backbone, rule out laboratory manipulation as a potential origin for SARS-CoV-2,” concluded Kristian G. Anderson of the Department of Immunology and Microbiology at The Scripps Research Institute. ■



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PLAGUED BY BAD DATA

A countrywide shutdown is said to be necessary because of the deadliness of the coronavirus. But experts are simply guessing at death rates, and past pandemics were likely much worse.

by William F. Jasper

Attempting to quantify mortality from diseases is a problematic enterprise, particularly on a national or global scale, due to the vast differences in access to medical care and the wide variability in monitoring, recording, and reporting from one locale or nation to another. The annual influenza (flu) death statistics from organizations such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) have been criticized for years by scientists, physicians, and epidemiologists as being methodologically flawed, bias infected, and wildly inflated.

In a 2011 study, Peter Nicolai Doshi of MIT wrote that “influenza vaccine effectiveness has been vastly overstated, predictive models of pandemic influenza are demonstrably flawed, and officials conflate true influenza with influenza-like illness.”

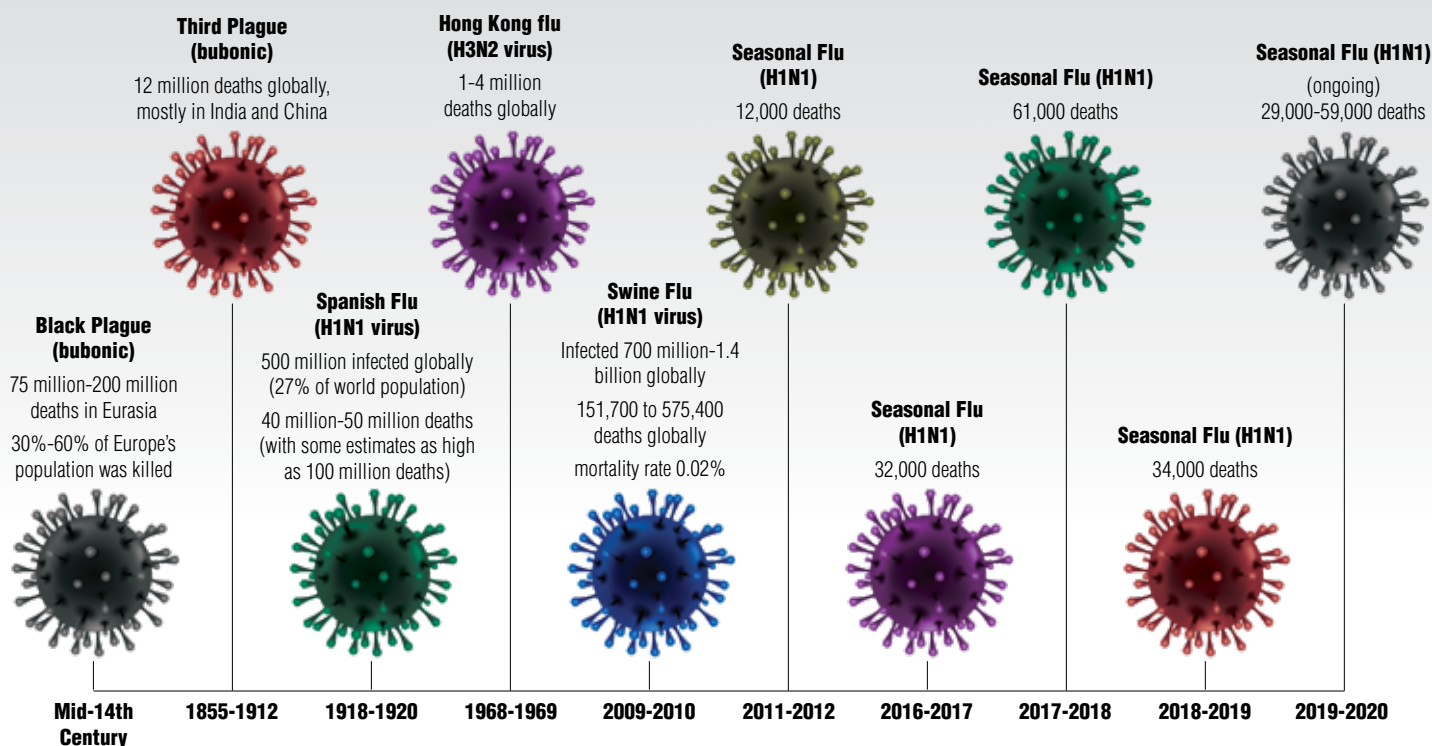
CDC admits that its flu death statistics are not actually confirmed cases but the result of “mathematical modeling.”

The same flaws and manipulation bedevil the current CDC/WHO statistical pronouncements concerning COVID-19. Dr. John P.A. Ioannidis, an epidemiologist and co-director of Stanford’s Meta-Research Innovation Center, wrote on March 17, “Three months after the outbreak emerged, most countries, including the U.S., lack the ability to test a large number of people and no coun-

tries have reliable data on the prevalence of the virus in a representative random sample of the general population.” Dr. Ioannidis continued, “This evidence fiasco creates tremendous uncertainty about the risk of dying from Covid-19. Reported case fatality rates, like the official 3.4% rate from the World Health Organization, cause horror — and are meaningless.”

Nevertheless, the WHO and CDC are using COVID-19’s supposedly greater (and unverified) 3.4-percent fatality rate to justify totalitarian policies that weren’t even attempted in previous epidemics/pandemics, such as those listed below. Yet somehow we survived those plagues — without succumbing to the even worse plague of despotism. ■

PUTTING COVID-19 INTO PERSPECTIVE



FANNING WUHAN VIRUS HYSTERIA

MEDIA'S LATEST ANTI-TRUMP WEAPON

The fearmongering Fake News is truly the “enemy of the American people,” pushing a totalitarian agenda that is making us more and more like Communist China.



“We are at war!” WHO chief Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is leading a global “crisis choir” that insists Communist China has provided the model that all the world should follow in dealing with COVID-19.

by William F. Jasper

“We are at war with a virus that threatens to tear us apart.... Without aggressive action in all countries, millions could die.... First, fight. Fight hard. Fight like hell. Fight like your lives depend on it — because they do.”

— Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the UN’s World Health Organization (WHO), March 26, 2020

WHO chief Dr. Tedros, the ubiquitous media face of all things authoritative concerning “global health,” has warned that the COVID-19 pandemic is “the defining health crisis of our time.” In his March 26

William F. Jasper is senior editor of THE NEW AMERICAN.

address to the G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit on COVID-19, he defined the issue as a “war” and “a global crisis that demands a global response.” He told world leaders to “repurpose the industrial might of your nations for this effort.” His prescription for world political leaders to impose command-and-control schemes over their entire economies is a prescription to emulate Communist China and other dictatorships. Not surprisingly, the same media that have been pushing the panic button since the initial outbreak of the virus were quick to jump on this latest dire pronouncement from the WHO fear factory.

For the globalists and the media leftists, the new coronavirus epidemic offers the perfect opportunity to weaponize fear for multiple gains: 1) to expand and concentrate government control nationally; 2) to

expand and concentrate government control globally; and 3) to destroy President Donald Trump, destroy the beginnings of the Trump economic recovery, and destroy the efforts that Trump has initiated to reverse decades of globalist programs, including our build-up of, and dependence on, China.

The “damned if you do, damned if you don’t” meters are running wild as the hate-Trump media alternately blast the president for not going “full-Wuhan” fast enough, while at the same time accusing him of tyrannical designs and intending to make himself king when he implements the lockdowns and spend-thrift programs they have demanded. Leading “journalists” of the major media have gleefully called COVID-19 “Trump’s Chernobyl” and “Trump’s Katrina,” hoping to associate the president in the public mind with those deadly disasters. Media so-called legal experts are accusing President Trump of homicide and calling for his prosecution over his supposed “criminal” mishandling of the virus response.

Average citizens and dissenting medical/scientific experts who are against draconian measures by government are also being threatened as “virus deniers” and “conspiracy theorists” who pose a serious “public danger.” Big Tech social-media platforms are being urged to censor and deplatform dissenting views — even more than they were already doing.

Attempts by renowned immunologist Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, to calm the hysteria and debunk the discredited scare scenarios of the bureaucrats and computer modelers have been met with media fury. Notwithstanding the fact that she is a world-recognized

AP Images

expert on communicable disease and was appointed by President Barack Obama as the U.S. global AIDS coordinator, she has become a media target, denounced as a Trump shill. Ditto for other medical and scientific experts who have been attacked by the media elites and/or censored into media oblivion for daring to challenge and contradict the gospel declarations from globalist bureaucrats at CDC and WHO. We have included statements by these genuine, credible experts below to counter the flood of disinformation and fearmongering. But first, we begin with a brief recap, citing a small fraction of the panic-feeding statements and headlines that are being used to stampede us lemming-like into accepting total government as the solution to a “crisis.”

Voices of Hysteria

- “‘We Are At War,’ WHO Head Says, Warning Millions Could Die From COVID-19” — *National Public Radio (NPR)*

- “We would predict approximately 510,000 deaths in GB [Great Britain] and 2.2 million in the US, not accounting for the potential negative effects of health systems being overwhelmed on mortality.” — *study by Neil Ferguson and the British Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team, cited in numerous fevered media reports*

- “The coronavirus could kill millions of Americans: ‘Do the math,’ immunization specialist says.” — *CNBC story headline*

- “Coronavirus could kill 45,000,000 and infect 60 per cent of global population.” — *Metro News (U.K.) reporter Eliza Menendez*

- “Experts Simulated a Coronavirus Pandemic Last Year and It Killed 65 Million.” — *New York Magazine’s Adam K. Raymond*

- “Coronavirus Trend: One in 10 of Those Hospitalized Die.” — *FXStreet.com headline*

- “The coronavirus is Trump’s Chernobyl — a growing catastrophe in which the government response is deadly because Trump is more worried about protecting the myths that define his alternative reality than protecting vulnerable people who will die.” — *Washington Post columnist Brian Klaas*

- “Donald Trump may have crimi-

nal exposure for some level of negligent homicide or voluntary/involuntary manslaughter for the way he’s mishandled the Coronavirus crisis.... The homicide liability issue MUST be addressed.” — *MSNBC legal analyst Glenn Kirchner*

- “Let’s Call It Trumpvirus. If you’re feeling awful, you know who to blame.” — *New York Times columnist Gail Collins*

- “I’ve been saying Coronavirus may be Trump’s Katrina; but this makes the case that it’s more like his WMD [Weapon of Mass Destruction].” — *New York Times columnist Paul Krugman*

- “Is coronavirus Donald Trump’s Katrina?” — *CNN editor-at-large Chris Cillizza*

- “[Donald Trump] is unqualified and unfit to be president of the United States. And unfit at one of the most dangerous times this country has seen in, well, I’ll say it, since 9/11.” — *Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, on MSNBC’s Morning Joe*

- “You know, your campaign put out a critique of President Trump that says if he doesn’t [do] these things, you know, he could cost lives. Do you think there’s already — do you think there is blood on the President’s hands, considering the slow response?” — *NBC’s Chuck Todd gives a*

leading question to Trump’s Democratic opponent Joe Biden

- “These lies can cause immediate and tangible harm to people, and the platforms must act to stop them from spreading. It’s critical that Americans receive verified, trustworthy information about the coronavirus and heed the advice of our country’s public health officials as we learn more about its potential impact here at home.” — *Democrat House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr., advocating censorship and condemning those who question the “official” pronouncements of CDC/WHO authorities*

- “It’s time for facts, not fear. We appreciate Google, Facebook, TencentGlobal, TikTok and Twitter’s efforts to combat misinformation and rumors on #2019nCoV & direct users to reliable sources.” — *tweet from Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of WHO*

Voices of Reason and Sanity

Then there are those who are merely trying to discern the truth and communicate what is happening, as far as the coronavirus goes:

- “When people start talking about 20 percent of a population getting infected, it is very scary but we don’t have data that



Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, a noted virologist (who was previously an Obama HIV/AIDS task force appointee), has, like President Trump, come under media attack for refusing to push the panic buttons.

matches that based on the experience.... The predictions of the models don't match the reality on the ground in either China, South Korea or Italy.... There's no ... reality on the ground where we can see that 60 to 70 percent of Americans are going to get infected in the next eight to 12 weeks." — *Dr. Deborah Birx, White House Coronavirus Task Force coordinator, at a March 26 White House briefing*

• "I just want to echo again that the risk is low — the risk is low. I encourage Americans to go about their life." — *CDC director Dr. Robert Redfield, at a February 29 White House press briefing concerning airline travel and viral contagion.*

• "Three months after the outbreak emerged, most countries, including the U.S., lack the ability to test a large number of people and no countries have reliable data on the prevalence of the virus in a representative random sample of the general population. This evidence fiasco creates tremendous uncertainty about the risk of dying from Covid-19. Reported case fatality rates, like the official 3.4% rate from the World Health Organization,

cause horror — and are meaningless." — *John P.A. Ioannidis, M.D., epidemiologist and co-director of Stanford's Meta-Research Innovation Center*

• "As an MIT PhD in Biological Engineering who studies & does research nearly every day on the Immune System, the #coronavirus fear mongering by the Deep State will go down in history as one of the biggest fraud[s] to manipulate economies, suppress dissent, & push MANDATED Medicine!" — *Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai, holder of four Ph.D.s, inventor of e-mail, founder of several successful companies, and a leading biological engineering researcher*

• "Physicians Thank Trump, Say More Freedom Needed to Fight COVID-19" — *The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) thanked President Trump in a letter for his "calm, rational approach" to the coronavirus and, unlike WHO/CDC, urged him to allow more medical/health freedom*

• "What I have a problem with is the panic and the fact that businesses are getting destroyed, that people's lives are being up-

ended, not by the virus, but by the panic.... The panic must stop. And the press, they really somehow need to be held accountable because they are hurting people." — *David Drew Pinsky, M.D., author and radio-television celebrity known as "Dr. Drew"*

• "The panic over the coronavirus is more damaging than the actual coronavirus." *Professor Leonid Eidelman, outgoing president of the Israeli Medical Association*

• "There's unnecessary, exaggerated panic. We have to calm people down.... Everybody is whipping everybody else up into panic — the leaders, via the media, and the wider public.... We've entered some kind of vicious cycle." — *Professor Jihad Bishara, director of the Infectious Disease Unit at Petah Tikva's Beilinson Hospital in Israel*

• "I've been handling these emerging contagions for about 20 years now, and I have to tell you, I've never seen one handled better." — *Marc Siegel, M.D., professor of medicine at New York University, responding to media criticism of President Trump* ■



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CORONAVIRUS

Deep State Assault on Economic Freedom

Under the guise of fighting the coronavirus, globalists are instituting policies that will bring about global government, total surveillance, and unending personal controls.

by Alex Newman

Using the panic over the coronavirus as a pretext, the Deep State and its propagandists have been working overtime to fundamentally transform society — especially on the economic front. Virtually every Deep State objective is being peddled as a supposed solution or treatment for the Chinese virus. From going “cashless” with digital currency, to endless money printing by the Federal Reserve, to buying up real assets, to crashing the economy with “stay-at-home” orders, to getting everyone dependent on government with so-called stimulus payments as the productive economy grinds to a halt, to globalizing the monetary system, the danger is very real. The push to crush privacy, the middle class, and what remains of the free market system has gone

into overdrive. The risks are enormous. The economic devastation unleashed largely by government decree — mostly at the state level — has already been catastrophic. Stocks lost almost 30 percent in less than a month, wiping out all the gains made under President Trump over three years. Everyday Americans were fleeced. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, though, top executives at U.S.-traded companies dumped almost \$10 billion in shares of their own firms between early February and the market collapse, saving them billions. A number of lawmakers also had amazing timing, including Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and others with access to inside information, selling millions of dollars worth of stock before the collapse.

But the stock market collapse and the pain felt by Wall Street may be overshadowed by the devastation of main street. Millions of Americans are losing their jobs amid the crisis, and more probably will soon. The wave of firings and furloughs was

Economic apocalypse: By government decree in response to the Chinese virus, many American cities such as New York look like a ghost towns, with the economy grinding to a halt.

so huge that it crashed unemployment websites nationwide. St. Louis Fed projections estimate some 47 million Americans could lose their jobs. Because surveys show most Americans still live paycheck to paycheck, those job losses are going to continue reverberating through the economy as payments are missed for cars, rent, credit cards, and more. Countless small businesses — and potentially even major companies — may shut forever, even with federal bailouts. Just look at car sales: down about 36 percent just from February to March.

In response to the economic chaos unleashed by the government-ordered shutdown of the economy, Congress and the Federal Reserve System sprang into action to make the problems worse. While ostensibly aiming to prop up markets and provide \$6 trillion or more of “stimulus,” or about \$70,000 per American family of four, the goals are obviously much broader. Lawmakers in Washington, D.C., for instance, immediately launched plans for a \$2 trillion spending bill that would shower funny money on companies, individuals, and practically everybody — at least those with lobbyists on Capitol Hill. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) described it as a “wartime level of investment.”

Naturally, Democrats advanced proposals to tie the “stimulus” funding to mandates that would fundamentally transform America. They tried to sneak in everything from “climate” regulations on air travel to “diversity” mandates for corporate boards to big bucks for abortion giant Planned Parenthood and other Democratic cronies. “All private hospitals should be made public for the duration of the virus,” U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) wrote on Twitter, in one of many Democratic proposals to further empower Big Government. Democrats also pushed for more “collective bargaining” for federal employees. Many of those schemes, though not all, were killed by GOP lawmakers, who were more interested in peddling corporate welfare. Still, the devastating consequences of this bailout bonanza will be felt for decades to come.

Alex Newman is a journalist, economics educator, author, and consultant.

The “Stimulus” Scam

In the end, the package included a \$500 billion “corporate liquidity” welfare slush fund that will bail out big corporations such as airlines, hotels (not President Trump’s), and others impacted by the coronavirus hysteria — all of it with “strings” attached, of course, such as no stock buybacks allowed for at least a year, and no arguing with Big Labor. Small businesses got a \$350 billion fund. The bailout bill also provides \$100 billion for hospitals as part of what was described as a “Marshall Plan.”

Lobbyists for bloated state and local governments, which have trillions in outlandish pension liabilities, managed to convince Congress to include an unconstitutional \$150 billion bailout not only for pensions, but for state/local bonds and debts, and government spending. There are also smaller amounts to bail out everything from tribal governments and farmers to the government propaganda scheme known as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The IRS, refugee resettlement agencies, museums, universities, and more all got bailouts too. Government schools at the K-12 level will be receiving almost \$15 billion to start as the education establishment scrambles to keep children trapped in “failing government schools,” as President Trump put it in his 2020 State of the Union address.

Individual Americans below certain income thresholds, meanwhile, were slated to receive a \$1,200 check each, plus an additional \$500 per child, in addition to massive infusions of cash for state unemployment systems to pay out 100 percent of lost wages. Congressman Thomas Massie called that the cheese in the mousetrap. More than a few socialists are pushing the narrative that it is time to consider a government-provided “Universal Basic Income” that would get everyone dependent on the feds.

Where that money was supposed to come from was hardly discussed — especially odd considering the \$23 trillion national debt, not counting the new spending for the stimulus. Instead, Republicans and Democrats squabbled about who would get it, what strings would be attached, and what sort of other unconstitutional policies could be hidden inside the gargantuan package. In reality, it would be hard to find enough suckers to lend Uncle Sam another

Where that money was supposed to come from was hardly discussed — especially odd considering the \$23 trillion national debt, not counting the new spending for the stimulus.



Trillions in new debt: President Trump signs the \$2 trillion “stimulus” bill, which promises to shower taxpayer cash on big businesses, small businesses, state and local governments, and even individuals.

\$2 trillion when they are guaranteed to lose money on the spread between inflation and the interest. Experts say Congress will likely just “print” the money by issuing more Treasury bonds and then expecting the privately owned Federal Reserve System to “monetize” that debt by creating currency out of nothing.

Critics blasted the scheme. “This profligate spending will do little to help the American economy or average citizens in the long run,” explained Jeff Deist, president of the pro-market Ludwig von Mises Institute. “But the additional debt added to an already whopping \$1 trillion 2020 federal deficit will plague taxpayers for years.... More money and more cheap credit can’t stimulate anything in such an environment, because money and credit aren’t goods and services. It can

and will, however, saddle future generations of Americans with more debt misery and entrench a standard of moral hazard for corporations from which free markets may never recover.”

Federal Reserve

Aside from the enormous congressional spending spree, the Federal Reserve has once again decided that opening the floodgates with “unlimited” trillions in new currency is the way to go as well. The infusion of trillions of newly created dollars into the economy will further erode the purchasing power of the money in circulation, resulting in rising prices. But the Fed will not only be firing up the printing presses, it will also be buying everything in sight, ranging from U.S. Treasury debt and municipal bonds to mortgage-backed securities and

even corporate bonds. The Fed is now literally loaning money it creates out of thin air directly to businesses, both large and small, at interest. Early estimates suggest the Fed may create as much as \$4 trillion for “stimulus” and bailouts. Despite almost a decade of outrageously low interest rates, the central bank also slashed interest rates down to zero in the largest single-day interest rate cut in U.S. history.

The new schemes, which will amount to trillions of new dollars injected into Fed-backed sectors of the economy, may go beyond even the unprecedented policies from the 2008 crisis. By the time that fiasco was all over, the special inspector general for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) estimated the potential total cost of the combined crisis bailouts at \$23.7 trillion — more than \$75,000 per person in the United States. The Fed also ended up owning such prize assets as the Red Roof Inn, a national hotel chain that the banking cartel purchased with fiat currency that it created from nothing.

Even establishment analysts expressed surprise at the enormity of the current Fed machinations compared with those from the last crisis. “The actions taken are breath-taking in their scope. Indeed, these steps surpass in breadth and depth the measures that the Fed created in the midst of the financial crisis a decade ago,” explained Wells Fargo’s Jay Bryson, comparing the new policies to the relatively less gigantic interventions under former Fed boss Ben Bernanke. “If the Fed pulled out a monetary policy ‘bazooka’ during that crisis, then the steps it announced this morning are the central bank equivalent of ‘going nuclear.’”

The consequences of this, of course, may prove cataclysmic to the economy and the currency, as more than a few experts pointed out. “None of this is working — none of this can work,” fumed Peter Schiff of Euro Pacific Capital, noting that the coronavirus was just the “pin” and that a dollar crisis was inevitable even without the viral hysteria. “Nothing is going to stop the bottom from falling out from under the dollar.” Pointing to Zimbabwe, Venezuela, and the Weimar Republic before them, Schiff said the same money-printing policies pursued in America will produce the same consequences as they did in those nations: hyperinflation and economic catastrophe.

This is the crisis Schiff has been warning about for many years, he said. “This is the beginning of the end,” warned Schiff, touting gold as a safe haven amid the chaos. “This is how it starts. And believe me, when you see how this finishes, this is going to be unlike anything we have experienced. I think we have passed that point of no return. It’s like we’ve already jumped off the top of the building, off the top of the Empire State Building. There’s no way to change our minds now. We’re going to hit that pavement. I can’t see any way we can avoid that. All we can do is brace for impact ourselves.”

While Schiff and other analysts have touted gold and precious metals ahead of the expected destruction of the currency, some experts are sounding the alarm on that as well. Trends forecaster Gerald Celente, for instance, echoed President Trump about the cure being worse than the disease, and warned of coming gold confiscation by government. “They are destroying the global economy. They are destroying people’s lives,” he said. “When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it. You are going to see gangs like never before.”

Just as during the Great Depression and other economic crises, the poor and middle-class in America are being looted. As asset prices collapse in this controlled

demolition of the economy, globalists and mega-bankers will step in and scoop up real-estate, businesses, and more for pennies on the dollar. Americans will be left holding the bag in the form of higher taxes and ever-greater debt levels.

Globalist Currency

The push to globalize the monetary system in response to coronavirus is also on. As regular readers of this magazine know well, the Deep State has been grooming the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to become a global central bank for decades. And during this crisis, there has been quite a bit of chatter about transforming the IMF’s proto-global currency, known as “Special Drawing Rights” (SDRs), into a full-blown global currency. There is also talk by top IMF leaders of “boosting global liquidity” by creating SDRs. Less than a year ago, top globalists at the World Economic Forum, including José Antonio Ocampo, a Columbia University professor, were openly calling for turning the SDR into “a true global currency.” Many top officials from around the world have said the same thing.

In her response to the virus, IMF boss Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria sounded ready to push globalism full speed. “How deep the contraction and how fast the recovery depends on the speed of con-



Hyperinflation coming? Euro Pacific Capital's Peter Schiff said the out-of-control bailouts and Federal Reserve money printing will lead to massive inflation and a catastrophic economic crisis.



Flickr/FriendsofEurope

Becoming an international “Fed”: IMF boss Kristalina Georgieva vowed she would be “boosting global liquidity” using Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the proto-global currency issued by the would-be planetary central bank.

tainment of the pandemic and on how strong and *coordinated* our monetary and fiscal policy actions are,” she said during a March 26 G20 meeting. (Emphasis added.) “We must act at par with the magnitude of the challenge. For us at the IMF it means working with you to make our crisis response even stronger. For this we ask your backing to double our emergency financing capacity and boost global liquidity through a sizeable SDR (Special Drawing Right) allocation, as we successfully did during the 2009 global crisis and by expanding the use of swap type facilities at the Fund.”

Georgieva also boasted that the IMF could “quickly disburse \$50 billion through its emergency financing facilities” to “help” poorer nations “dealing with COVID-19.” Those governments have already “asked the IMF to make an SDR allocation” for them, she said. The IMF boss vowed to make up to \$1 trillion in lending capacity, too. In short, global “quantitative easing” with the global wannabe currency SDR, made up of a basket of national currencies including the dollar, is setting the stage for even “bolder” actions during the next crisis. They are laying the groundwork for turning the SDR into a true global currency, so that eventually, the IMF can do what the Fed

is doing, on a global scale. “Together we will lay the ground for a faster and stronger recovery,” she concluded, saying this is “a global problem calling for a global response.”

Digital Dollars: War on Cash and Privacy

Making sure that the crisis created by government and the Fed does not go to waste, totalitarians have been pushing the Deep State’s cashless-society agenda like there is no tomorrow. The accelerating war on cash is now being justified by the establishment’s propagandists because cash is supposedly transmitting coronavirus. And the propaganda is having the desired effect. According to Fox News, many businesses nationwide are discouraging or outright declining to accept cash. In South Korea, authorities removed all currency from circulation for two weeks while encouraging everyone to use cards and mobile phones. Other governments are joining in.

Seeking to exploit the fear to advance the war on cash (and privacy), American Democrats twice tried to sneak language creating a “digital dollar” and a “digital wallet” controlled by the Federal Reserve into coronavirus legislation. Under the scheme, which was removed before passage, Americans would have received their

“stimulus” payments as “digital dollars” via a “digital dollar wallet.” Proponents of the scheme were thrilled. “It is worth exploring, testing, and piloting a true USD CBDC [Central Bank Digital Currency] and broader digital infrastructure in order to improve our future capabilities and resiliency,” founding director of the Digital Dollar Project Daniel Gorfine told *Forbes*.

The two Democratic bills defined a digital dollar as “a balance expressed as a dollar value consisting of digital ledger entries that are recorded as liabilities in the accounts of any Federal Reserve Bank or ... an electronic unit of value, redeemable by an eligible financial institution (as determined by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System).” The digital wallets, also defined in the legislation, would be tied to a “digital identity” and would be maintained by the Federal Reserve, according to the original bills. In short, globalists and central bankers and their allies and dupes in legislatures are hoping to exploit this crisis to advance a cashless society — something that would enable total surveillance, and, incidentally, the negative interest rates they have been pushing for so long, making people pay for the privilege of having their money in a bank, rather than simply keeping their cash at home.

Communist China seems to be the model for shifting away from cash and toward electronic payment systems and digital currency. In fact, the dictatorship appears to be the preferred Deep State model when it comes to “fighting viruses.” Consider a 2010 report by the Rockefeller Foundation titled “Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development.” The document envisions a future pandemic scenario, dubbed “Lock Step” in the report, in which the United States suffers due to a lack of tyranny, while China fares much better.

“The Chinese government’s quick imposition and enforcement of mandatory quarantine for all citizens ... saved millions of lives, stopping the spread of the virus far earlier than in other countries and enabling a swifter post-pandemic recovery,” the report says, touting the imagined responses of other authoritarian regimes, too. The document then goes on to outline the citizen-demanded “top-down direction and oversight” over nations and economies. It

mentions, among other policies, “biometric ID for all citizens,” “tighter regulation of key industries,” “a suite of new regulations and agreements,” and more to “restore order and, importantly, economic growth.”

Not surprisingly, these are exactly the sort of schemes that Deep State globalists are pushing for coronavirus. The “ID2020” scheme backed by billionaire population-control zealot Bill Gates of Microsoft and the Rockefeller Foundation, for example, falls right in line. According to the effort’s website, the plot seeks to give everyone on Earth a “digital identity” that would follow them from birth to death. And it would also keep track of all sorts of data, including health and vaccine information, enabling governments and globalists to keep people everywhere under control.

Separately, Gates, who backed the Orwellian Event 201 (see page 39), partnered with other globalists to fund research at MIT on “a novel way to record a patient’s vaccination history: storing the data in a pattern of dye, invisible to the naked eye, that is delivered under the

skin at the same time as the vaccine.” In a press release about the scheme released right around the time COVID-19 was identified in Wuhan, MIT said the technology “consists of nanocrystals called quantum dots.” This tattoo-type scheme would “remain under the skin where it emits near-infrared light that can be detected by a specially equipped smartphone.”

As far as new regulation, the establishment’s propaganda organs have gone into overdrive peddling new and “improved” controls over the economy. As previously mentioned, Democrats tried to stuff the “stimulus” bill with all sorts of new mandates, including large parts of the “Green New Deal” agenda. Climate alarmists everywhere, meanwhile, are publicly working to ensure that America and the world will never go back to the pre-coronavirus economy with its heavy reliance on petroleum and other fuels by trying to make the new regime permanent. How much they will be able to get away with considering President Trump is in office remains to be seen. But the precedent has now been set

— just wait until the next “pandemic” or “crisis” to see how far they will go.

Real Solutions

The only real solution to the economic calamity afflicting the American economy is to get the people back to work, and the government out of the way. It was government, the Deep State’s propaganda machine, and the Fed that caused this crisis — period. And they know very well that a collapsed economy would kill and maim far more people than the Chinese virus ever could. Transferring America’s wealth to the elites connected to the Federal Reserve and the political class via this engineered destruction of the economy is a crime of epic proportions.

To prevent an even greater economic disaster going forward, Americans must first go back to work, followed by a drastic cut in the size and scope of government. Holding Communist China and the global elites accountable is important, too. Finally, the Federal Reserve must be dismantled so that an honest, sound monetary system can take root and unleash genuine prosperity. Freedom is literally the cure! ■



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Price Controls and Hoarding DURING A PANDEMIC

In major public emergencies, government makes raising prices a crime, though such laws always end up hurting more than they help.

by Steve Byas

We often divide the nation into “Red,” or Republican, and “Blue,” or Democratic states, presuming that the former are more likely to uphold the virtues of the free market than those run by demagogic and left-leaning politicians in the latter. But the truth is that when disasters, pandemics, and other events occur, most politicians react in much the same way — and it isn’t pretty.

In my home state of Oklahoma, where no Democrat has carried a single county in the presidential race since 2000, the Republican attorney general, Mike Hunter, announced his response to the rising shortages (brought on by panic buying) of certain items. He said that the state’s “price-gouging” statute is now in effect, with the announcement by President Donald Trump of a national emergency in reaction to the coronavirus. The Oklahoma statute prohibits “an increase of more than 10 percent for the price of goods or services after a declared emergency.” This declaration could be from either the governor or the president.

Hunter, of course, did not make the law — it was enacted several years ago when the Democrats ran the Legislature. But it is Hunter’s job to enforce the law. At the same time, if he understood and believed in the power and the morality of the free market, Hunter could use this time as a teaching opportunity. He could say something like, “As your attorney general, I am required to enforce this law, but the fact is we would be better off to leave the free market to work its magic.”

Instead, Hunter spoke as if the free market itself is the enemy. “Scam artists routinely prey on individuals’ emotions during times of fear and crisis. I encourage Oklahomans to remain calm but cautious during the ongoing coronavirus epidemic. Don’t pay inflated prices for things like hand sanitizer, paper towels or other products and services that are becoming sparse.”

Then, Hunter unsheathed the sword of potential government retribution. “If anyone encounters price gouging, fraudulent charities or other crimes related to deceptive business practices, contact my office where we will not hesitate to prosecute in order to protect our citizens.”

Steve Byas is a university instructor of history and government, and author of History’s Greatest Libels.



AP Images

Failure: Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter could have responded to calls for price controls by defending the marvel of the free market and its morality. Instead, he upheld the idea that government-imposed price controls — which create shortages — are a good thing.

Notice that Hunter placed “price gouging” in with “fraudulent charities” as a “crime.” In effect, Hunter is calling free market pricing a “crime” in Oklahoma and in America, a crime that deserves prosecution so as to “protect our citizens.”

What Hunter should have done was advocate the repeal of the law and allow price controls be lifted. Prices are the language of the marketplace. They communicate to buyers and sellers alike that a *new normal* has arrived. In the case of the coronavirus, concerns exacerbated by government impositions have caused an increase in demand for items such as hand sanitizer, surgical masks, and toilet paper. This means that the price should rise. And when the price is not allowed to rise, by these popular but ill-advised laws, a temporary acute shortage is quickly transformed into a chronic shortage.

Price controls are a lie, whether they control prices by keep-



Hoarding: Empty shelves at this Walmart in Pennsylvania illustrate vividly what happens when people anticipate that government policies will curtail supplies: shortages. Price controls exacerbate the panic because people oversupply when prices are low. Allowing prices to rise would actually discourage hoarding.

ing them *below* the market price, or *above* the market price. If sellers are ordered to sell below the market price, they will produce less of the product, and may even exit the market completely. In the case of hand sanitizer and toilet paper, buyers are hoarding (meaning there is high demand) because prices are too low to discourage them from stocking up. It is common sense to predict that hoarding will only exacerbate the shortage.

Some respond to the situation by arguing for rationing, as is done in socialist countries such as Venezuela. Rationing produces anger from those who get less than they wanted, but it does not produce any more goods and services. Without an incentive to bring more items to the market, sellers won't. Historical examples are plenty. During the Civil War, for example, the Confederate government imposed price controls on high-priced fruits and vegetables in the Richmond market. Nearby farmers responded by not bringing any fruits and vegetables into the capital city.

Robert Schuettinger and Eamonn Butler wrote an entire book on the dismal history of price controls, entitled *Forty Centuries of Wage and Price Controls*.

From the ancient days of Hammurabi

in Babylon, to the Emperor Diocletian in the days of the Roman Empire, to the days of the Civil War, to modern times, wage and price controls have always produced chronic shortages. In their book, Schuettinger and Butler explain, "It appears that the very people who were supposed to benefit from the Hammurabi wage and price restrictions were driven out of the market by those and other statutes." Government cannot repeal the law of supply and demand any more than it can repeal the law of gravity, or of mathematics. Two plus two cannot become five, instead of four, simply by government edict.

But that is what price controls propose. They are saying an item is worth X amount of dollars, when it is really worth $X + 2$, for example. More people will buy an item if it is priced too cheaply, and fewer people will produce it. In essence, price controls below the market price are telling sellers they should subsidize consumers. Price controls above the market price are saying that consumers should subsidize sellers.

The solution today, during the dark days of the COVID-19 outbreak, as it has been throughout 40 centuries of wage and price controls, is the same: Allow the price to rise to its natural level. When this happens,

more suppliers will enter the market, increasing the supply of a good or service.

As Dennis Behreandt wrote in this issue, "The BBC has reported that Japanese electronics giant Sharp is to use a TV factory to make surgical masks amid the coronavirus outbreak." By switching production from LCD panels to mask production, it is expected that they will be turning out as many as 500,000 masks per day.

What happens when prices are not allowed to rise because of government edict? In the present crisis, many in the general population anticipated the government (either at the state, local, or federal level) was going to restrict people's movement to their homes in quarantines. Expecting the need for certain items (such as toilet paper and hand sanitizer), citizens rushed to their local Walmart, Target, Costco, etc., and bought up enough to tide them over during the time they can't leave their homes. Others began to notice the higher-than-usual purchasing of these items, so they logically followed suit.

This scarcity could have been moderated if the stores had been allowed to raise their prices accordingly. This would have done two things: 1) Customers would have purchased less at the higher price; and 2) The stores would have had an incentive to get more of the items on the shelves. More items on the shelves, rather than less or none, would have calmed the fears of most of the population, and would have led quickly to a stabilization of the situation.

Syndicated columnist Veronique de Rugy offered an explanation for what happens if the free enterprise system is allowed to operate without the shackles so often placed upon it by either well-meaning or demagogic governments. "The fact is there's no better means of slowing the rising demand — and especially, reducing excessive hoarding — than allowing the very price hikes that governments are trying to prevent."

Yet, government officials pat themselves on the back and accept the accolades of an appreciative public when they prevent these needed price hikes. They can tell the public that they have saved them from a price increase from a so-called price gouger. Of course, you might not have any hand sanitizer, toilet paper, or other items you need or want, either.

That is their idea of "protecting the public." ■

AP Images



“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

EXERCISING THE RIGHT

Binge-buying Hits Firearm Industry

As the nation struggles to cope with coronavirus and the government's response, people have responded by engaging in “binge-buying”: buying excessive amounts of goods to prepare for possible shortages. But people aren't buying vans full of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and pre-packaged foods because of their fear of the coronavirus and the desire to lock themselves in their residences to ride out the viral storm. No, they fear government will so interfere with commerce and their personal freedoms that they won't be able to access goods should they need them.

And that binge-buying has now extended to include ammunition and firearms. The *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported on March 23 that firearm dealers across the region are experiencing a surge in sales that is leaving their store shelves practically bare. AO Sword Firearms owner and CEO David Chong told the *San Diego Union-Tribune* that his gun sales had increased “tenfold” and that he expects that his store will be out of guns to sell very soon, adding, “It's never been this busy.”

Though the gun stores have been trying to comply with social-distancing rules by limiting the number of customers in the store at one time, the resulting business doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

As with runs on grocery stores, people are buying because they fear the consequences of the government's actions, afraid the government's actions will lead to greatly expanded crime, as criminals try to take what they can't buy. Fifty-two-year-old Kelly Morgan, a customer at AO Sword Firearms who was looking to buy ammunition, expressed his concerns about what might happen. “You know, Rome fell overnight.... It didn't fall at night, but it fell overnight.... When that happens, I just want to be safe.... If you're ready, you don't have to get ready.”

His fears and those of other consumers highlight the reality that most people instinctively know, that, despite years of constant anti-gun propaganda from gun-control lobbies, you can't always rely on law enforcement to protect you or your family.

Gun and Ammunition Shortage on the Horizon?

All of this binge-buying is beginning to take its toll, Fox News warned on March 18. As sales continue to outpace what was anticipated, experts familiar with the firearms industry feel it's only a matter of time before the supply of guns and ammo dries up. Eric Poole, editor of *Guns and Ammo* magazine, told Fox News that gun “retailers and manufacturers were not prepared to meet the surge or a sustained long-term demand, so firearms and ammunition will seem to be largely absent from dealer shelves for weeks to come.” Poole also explained that measures meant to contain the coronavirus might inadvertently make the firearm shortage even worse. “If firearm and ammunition manufacturers throughout the U.S. are required to keep their workforce at home, this will have a more profound effect and drive up prices.”

On that note, some governors have taken steps to exempt gun manufacturers and firearm dealers from mandatory shutdowns for the stated purpose of containing the virus.

Both Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb were praised by the National Rifle Association (NRA) for “protecting the Second Amendment.” On the flip side, the NRA criticized New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy for not exempting firearm dealers.

Exploiting the Pandemic

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Champaign, Illinois, Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen, both Democrats, made national news this past week for all the wrong reasons, when they each signed emergency orders in response to the coronavirus that allow their local municipalities to ban the sale or transportation of firearms.

Their actions were reported on by patriotic news sources, and so the left-leaning establishment media quickly rushed into damage-control mode. *USA Today* posted on March 21 an entry entitled “Fact check: Did New Orleans mayor's order allow ban on gun sales?” which featured a long and meandering recitation of the original order

and the reaction by patriotic news sources to publicize these encroachments on our Second Amendment rights. *USA Today* took great pains to stress that bans have not yet occurred and that these provisions may only be exercised in the future if political leaders decide it's necessary to maintain public safety. *USA Today* also shot down a strawman by pointing out that the order does not provide for the confiscation of guns already owned by lawful owners.

So what was the outcome of *USA Today's* “fact check”? “Our ruling: True — New Orleans now has the power to suspend the sale and transportation of firearms as allowed in the Louisiana Disaster Act.”

The *Chicago Tribune* took a similar tack, running cover for Mayor Feinen, reporting that she is “not banning gun or alcohol sales, or seizing property after several conservative media outlets highlighted the mayor's ability to take those actions as part of an emergency declared to deal with COVID-19.” You see, you nervous worry-warts? She hasn't done it yet, although she has the power to do it when she feels like it.

But these measures might not go unanswered, as both the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and the NRA have made public statements criticizing the measures and hinted that legal challenges might be mounted if these localities ever act on these orders. Alan Gottlieb, founder and executive vice president of SAF, stated that after “Hurricane Katrina, we sued the city when then-Mayor Ray Nagin's administration began confiscating firearms from law-abiding citizens for no good reason. The federal court ordered the city to cease confiscations.... We sued New Orleans then, and we'll do it again.... While we certainly recognize the seriousness of this virus and its ability to spread rapidly ... treating Covid-19 and taking steps to prevent it from infecting more people has nothing at all to do with the exercise of the right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment.... People legally licensed to carry should not have their right to do so suddenly curtailed because some politician panicked.... We didn't allow it before, and we're not going to allow it now.” ■

— PATRICK KREY

Coronavirus as Gateway to “Global Health Governance”

To the globalist choir — Bill Gates, WHO, PRC, CFR, Big Media, etc.
— China's Xi Jinping is the coronavirus hero; Trump is the villain.

by William F. Jasper

The Wuhan coronavirus (now dubbed COVID-19) originated in the People's Republic of China. Thanks to Xi Jinping's secret police and the Chinese Communist Party censors, the Wuhan doctors who tried to warn about the emerging epidemic were rounded up and gagged, allowing the virus to spread throughout China and around the world. Dr. Li Wenliang, one of the original COVID-19 whistleblowers, was forced by Xi's police to sign a confession saying he spread “untrue speech” for warning colleagues about the virus. Dr. Li died soon thereafter, allegedly from the virus.

Xi's regime not only suppressed news of the virus and failed to protect the Chinese people, but it expelled foreign journalists, refused to share information with foreign medical authorities, and is most responsible for the deaths now attributed to what is being called a global pandemic. Yet, astoundingly, Xi and his communist regime are now being heralded as the heroes of the coronavirus outbreak. The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) propagandists have been in overdrive for weeks, changing the coronavirus narrative to praise Xi and condemn President Donald Trump. What's more, they claim that China's “excellent” response to the virus is a model for “global health governance,” which is code for global socialized medicine. The CCP's ham-fisted propaganda is beyond ludicrous, but that hasn't stopped the World Health Organization, the United Nations, U.S. Democrats, and the usual suspects in the Fake News media from repeating the CCP's propaganda lines and adopting them as their own.

“Xi leads people's war on epidemic,” blared the headline for a March 12 story in *China Daily*, a primary propaganda fount for the Communist Party of China (CPC). Here are the opening stanzas of



Warm embrace: The UN's World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (left) and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands in Beijing. Dr. Tedros and WHO have become super cheerleaders and propagandists for Xi and his communist regime.

the *China Daily* rhapsody to the great Paramount Leader:

WUHAN — Standing in a hospital hall, a man wearing a face mask waved to a big screen. On the screen, a patient seen lying in bed, flanked by two medical workers, waved back.

“What you should do now is stay confident. We all should be confident that we will win this war,” the man said through a video link at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, epicenter of the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak and capital of Hubei province.

“Victory for Wuhan, victory for Hubei and victory for China!” the man declared with a clenched fist.

The man of the hour was President Xi Jinping, commander-in-chief of China's war against COVID-19, who flew into Wuhan on Tuesday to inspect epidemic prevention and control work on the ground.

“There is no doubt that the Chinese people, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China with Xi Jinping as the core, have made remarkable contributions to the global fight against the epidemic,” declares another *China Daily* article on March 16.

Hundreds of similar articles have belched forth from the Chinese media since the coronavirus outbreak. That *China Daily*, *People's Daily*, *Xinhua News*, and other official propaganda outlets would dispense such cartoonish, over-the-top drivel glorifying Xi Jinping is hardly surprising. That's what propaganda outlets for totalitarian governments do; that's their job. Disseminating propaganda, lies, and disinformation is the very reason for their existence. All totalitarian dictators — Lenin, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Castro, et al. — have been masters of the Big Lie. And since Xi has climbed to the top of the Beijing dogpile of the Communist Party he has assumed

even more coercive control over the press than was previously being exerted. As we reported in detail in 2013 (“China’s ‘Journalists’ Ordered to Take New Propaganda Training”), the CCP’s Central Propaganda Department announced, on October 10, 2013, a mandatory three-month training program for all journalists to curb deviation from the Party line in “news” reporting. Since that time, the Chinese media have built a cult of personality around Xi to rival that of infamous mass-murderer Chairman Mao.

Xi and China: A Model for the World?

According to the Chinese propagandists, not only is Xi Jinping a heroic leader for China, but the leadership provided by him and the Communist Party of China is an exemplar for global imitation. Here is yet another bouquet to Xi from *China Daily*: “China’s response to novel coronavirus pneumonia has set an example for the world in coping with the contagion and offered experience in advancing global public health governance, officials and experts said.”

The same article quoted Suerie Moon, director of research at the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Gene-

va, Switzerland, as stating that “the world needs stronger and more resilient global governance to deal with outbreaks, adding that as a major global player, China has both the potential and the capacity to play a larger role in global governance processes affecting health.” Moon’s Global Health Centre is one of many similar outfits that serve as adjuncts of the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO), the bureaucracy slated to lead the UN’s long-planned global socialized medicine.

And there were more, many more. In a *China Daily* article entitled “China’s action draws praise from WHO,” we read of the Chinese leader’s “heroic” efforts:

“Beijing’s massive response is ‘making us safer’, head of the world health body says”

Leaders of the World Health Organization have applauded China’s massive response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus multiple times in recent weeks....

The board members were all saying that China’s action “is making us safer”, Tedros said. He quoted a board member from the United Kingdom as saying that “this is heroic”

when describing China’s action because shutting down a city or province bears serious consequences for the economy and other areas.

For those who may have missed it in the media’s coronavirus avalanche, as in the *China Daily* article above, “global health governance” has become the new daily meme from globalist policy “experts.” WHO’s Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (more commonly known as Dr. Tedros) has led the pack in proclaiming the need for “global health governance,” with China serving as the model. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, Tedros has been a nonstop media machine, with daily praise for China’s communist regime — helmed by the Great Leader Xi Jinping — along with appeals for more funding and more power for the UN’s WHO bureaucrats. Ditto for other WHO and United Nations officials. That is hardly unexpected, as the UN and WHO have become increasingly dominated by Chinese nationals, along with European, American, and African toadies for the Beijing regime, as *THE NEW AMERICAN*’s Alex Newman has repeatedly pointed out.

On March 8, *China Daily* trumpeted Dr. Tedros’ expression of appreciation to China with a \$20 million contribution to WHO. Never were hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of global propaganda services so cheaply bought. Not only do Xi and Communist China receive accolades from UN/WHO officialdom, but the communist objective of restructuring the world along the lines advocated by China receives an immeasurable boost. The term “global governance” came to the fore in the 1990s with the UN-appointed Commission on Global Governance. As *THE NEW AMERICAN* reported in 1996, the push for global governance, as promoted in the commission’s 1995 report *Our Global Neighborhood*, was (and is) a push for a socialist world government.

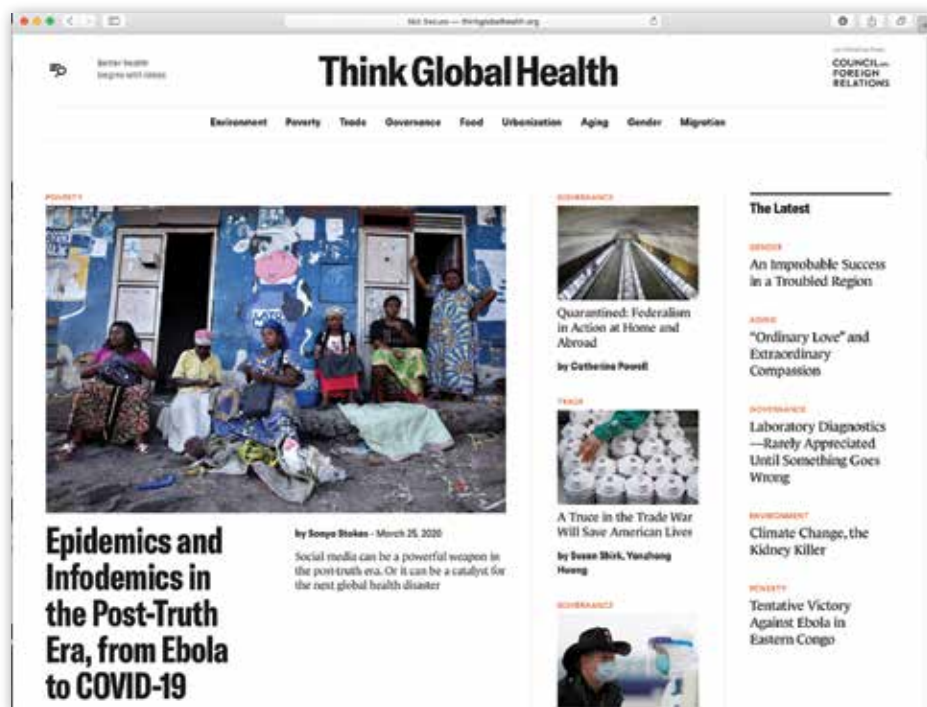
The WHO-Beijing love affair didn’t begin with Dr. Tedros. Neither is the China-as-leader of “global health governance” meme a new, post-COVID-19 invention. Dr. Tedros’ predecessor, Dr. Margaret Chan, another Beijing shill, led the way. In Beijing in January 2017, Dr. Chan signed an agreement between WHO and China to jointly implement a health



Responding to fears: In his March 25 White House briefing to the nation — flanked by Vice President Mike Pence (left) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin — President Donald Trump spoke about the coronavirus threat and the measures he was taking.

AP Images

Xi's regime not only suppressed news of the virus and failed to protect the Chinese people, but it expelled foreign journalists, refused to share information with foreign medical authorities, and is most responsible for the deaths now attributed to what is being called a global pandemic.



“Crisis” bonanza for globalists: The Council on Foreign Relations is capitalizing on the “coronavirus crisis” to push its world-government agenda; its ThinkGlobalHealth website is but one of its many propaganda outlets exploiting — and assisting — the media-fed panic.

project based on Xi’s “Belt and Road Initiative.” “Chan spoke highly of China’s contributions to the work of the WHO and the country’s role in global health governance,” *China Daily* reported at the time.

U.S. Media Propagandists

In addition to its unabashed exaltation of Xi and the CCP, *China Daily* and the rest of the Beijing choir have repeatedly bashed the United States and President Trump, calling his references to the “China virus” and “Wuhan virus” explicitly racist and xenophobic.

China Daily condemned Trump for using “the widely regarded racist and stig-

matized term ‘Chinese virus’ to describe COVID-19, something the WHO has repeatedly warned against.”

Here are a few additional examples of articles from *China Daily* showing the CCP-WHO team-up to push the line that China is a victim of vicious racist slurs by President Trump and members of his administration:

- “WHO warns against using virus slurs”;
- “Pompeo faces ire for stigmatizing COVID-19”;
- “US spin on virus’s name condemned.”

It should serve as an eye-opener to those whose eyes have been wide shut that the global press — and especially the U.S. and European media — have gladly

served as an echo chamber for Xi’s propagandists.

Never-Trumper Max Boot, a senior fellow on national security at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and one of the Deep State *Washington Post*’s window-dressing “conservatives,” has used his *Post* column and his Twitter feed to pound President Trump relentlessly for his alleged leadership failures regarding the virus epidemic. In his February 26 column, which has been cited and echoed by the Big Media Trump haters, Boot attempted to exploit the coronavirus outbreak against the president. “Diseases, far more than any human enemy, ruthlessly expose and exploit the weaknesses of their victims,” Boot warned. “Now, the coronavirus outbreak is laying bare the pathologies of the Trump Administration, which include compulsive lying, pandering to dictators, ideological aversion to ‘globalism,’ inveterate hostility toward experts and expertise, and — in a related development — sheer incompetence.”

Richard Haass, president of the world-government-promoting Council on Foreign Relations, appeared on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe* with Joe Scarborough to weaponize the virus against President Trump. Haass asserted that Trump “is unqualified and unfit to be president of the United States. And unfit at one of the most dangerous times this country has seen in, well, I’ll say it, since 9/11.” Continuing with the 9/11 comparison, Haass averred that Trump is responsible for putting “orders of more magnitude of Americans” in danger. Scarborough, the host of the show and one of MSNBC’s most virulent anti-Trumpers, is a CFR member, as is his co-host (and current wife) Mika Brzezinski (daughter of the late Zbigniew Brzezinski, a notorious globalist and CFR director).

As the most influential globalist think tank and the main incubator for Deep State operatives who have run the U.S. government throughout Democratic and Republican administrations for much of the past century, the CFR has played a major role in pushing the “global health governance” line, along with the anti-Trump/pro-China narrative. Here are a few of the recent CFR offerings regarding those subjects from the organization’s website (cfr.org):

- “Why Global Governance of Disease Matters for the Emergence of a Novel Coronavirus”;

- “Examining the Coronavirus Outbreak: China, Markets, and Global Health Governance”;

- “China and Coronavirus: From Home-Made Disaster to Global Mega-Opportunity.”

The CFR has even launched its own website, thinkglobalhealth.org, to promote the idea of “global health governance.”

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is at the very center of the matrix of organizations and institutions pushing for “global health governance,” “reproductive health,” and population control. The Gates Foundation is a big financial backer of WHO, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and was a big backer of the Global Health Initiative of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The Gates Foundation has also showered millions of dollars on the planet’s premier abortion providers: International Planned Parenthood Federation, Marie Stopes International, and the UN Population Fund. Bill Gates is also a founding member of the ultra-exclusive group of billionaire population-control advocates that calls itself The Good Club, which names among its handful of members George Soros, Michael Bloomberg, Ted Turner, and Oprah Winfrey. The late David Rockefeller, storied banker and longtime chairman of the CFR, was the

organizer and *éminence grise* of the club.

Gates, Soros, and the rest of their globalist ilk hate President Trump but love communist Supreme Leader Xi Jinping. *China Daily* proudly notes that Microsoft billionaire Gates has donated millions to China’s coronavirus efforts. “Chinese President Xi Jinping has written back to Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, after receiving a letter from the US business leader on the novel coronavirus disease,” it reported. *China Daily* continues, “In his letter dated Feb 20, the Chinese president wrote: ‘I deeply appreciate the act of generosity of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and your letter of solidarity to the Chinese people at such an important moment.... We are resolute in protecting the life and health of the people of China, and of all countries around the world. We are determined to do our part to uphold global public health security,’ Xi added.”

Bill Gates and his Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are leading forces in the moves to bring about socialist-communist-capitalist “convergence” under a system of elite “global governance.” In 2017, Gates was honored by China’s communist regime by being inducted into the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

In 2013, Gates was an honored guest — along with George Soros and the International Monetary Fund’s Christine

Lagarde — at the Boao Forum for Asia, where Xi Jinping delivered the keynote address. Soros has fulsomely praised Xi Jinping and has said China should “own” the new world order.

Event 201: “Simulation”?

Bill Gates, his foundation, and his sprawling global “health” empire have become the “go to” authorities on COVID-19. As it happens, only a few weeks before the virus outbreak in China, the Gates Foundation, along with the World Economic Forum and the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, sponsored a “pandemic exercise” known as “Event 201.” The “players” in this high-powered “simulation” included key individuals from the government, corporate, and NGO worlds. A deputy director of the CDC and the chief of China’s CDC also participated in this October 2019 pandemic simulation that involved a novel coronavirus. The entire exercise was spookily similar to the COVID-19 outbreak that occurred only weeks later. Were Bill Gates and his fellow Event 201 players far-sighted planners, the “wisemen” who should be looked to for direction? Were these globalists merely “lucky” that the real virus has provided them an opportunity to be the saviors of humanity? At the very least, they have parlayed this frightening epidemic into a concerted effort to promote the “global health governance” they have been championing for years. A full report on Event 201 is beyond the scope of this article. We will be reporting on it in more depth in a future issue. Gates, Soros, Bloomberg, Turner, Rockefeller, and other globalists of our ruling classes seem to be far more comfortable with totalitarian thugs such as Xi than with the nationalist-minded, freedom-oriented “deplorables” who elected President Trump. Like the pigmen in the final scene of George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, who are neither pig nor man, but some kind of freakish morphed creatures, the globalist elites are neither communist nor capitalist, but some kind of creepy and detestable mixture of the two.

They are odious quislings — traitors to God, country, and humanity — who are fomenting and using the current coronavirus panic to build the “global governance” world-government scheme that the CFR and its globalist allies have been pushing for the past century. ■



AP Images

Funding death: Billionaires Bill and Melinda Gates have built an image of themselves as philanthropists who promote global health, but they fund organizations, including the International Planned Parenthood Federation, that are the planet’s leading providers of abortion.



Correction, Please!

Virus Spread Exposes Risks of Relying on Drugs, Medical Supplies From China

ITEM: An article in the *Atlantic* dated March 11 warned that the “global outbreak” of the Chinese coronavirus “has served as a stark reminder that the human race is all in this together and that collaboration among countries is the only way out of this nightmare. But rather than focus on the demands of interdependence, a number of prominent figures in the Trump administration and Congress are seizing the moment to highlight the dangers of America’s dependence on other nations in general and China in particular.” The author worries that “could upend global supply chains and renew a push to unwind economic integration between the world’s two largest economies, which could significantly reverse globalization.”

ITEM: Leading Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and others on the Left, such as former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, made disparaging claims about the Trump administration. During the late February debate, for example, Bloomberg claimed that the president “defunded Centers for Disease Control, CDC, so we don’t have the organization we need. This is a very serious thing.”

Similarly, former Vice President Biden mistakenly told the nation that Trump had reversed the Obama-Biden administration’s budget increases to those agencies. Said Biden: “We increased the budget of the CDC. We increased the NIH [National Institutes of Health] budget.... He’s wiped all that out.... He cut the funding for the entire effort.” (These assertions were too much for even the fact-checkers of the left-leaning *Associated Press*, which called them “wrong.” More details follow.)

In an early March interview, Biden also said that Trump had “eliminated” the pandemic-response team. Variations of that erroneous claim appeared widely in the echo chambers in the leftist mass media. For one example, DNC chairman Tom Perez said on CNN on March 15 that



He believes it’s worth a try to lie: Joe Biden has been trying to tear down Donald Trump by lying and saying that Trump dismantled a critical pandemic-response team and cut spending to the CDC. Since few media bother to correct the claims, the lies have taken on life.

President Barack Obama “created an office of preparedness in the White House. And what does this president do? He eliminates it.” (That, too, is wrong; more below.)

ITEM: *Xinhua*, the official state-run press agency of Communist China, maintained on March 4 that the world should thank Beijing, not blame it for spreading the virus, adding a not-so-veiled threat that if China should ban the export of pharmaceutical drugs, “the United States would sink into the hell of a novel coronavirus epidemic.”

CORRECTION: Every once in a while, you catch the communists in China telling the truth. In the case cited above, a state propaganda outlet acknowledges that Beijing could put the United States into a world of hurt by exercising its stranglehold on the pharmaceutical drugs depended upon by millions of Americans.

The Pentagon, some members of Congress, and several prescient experts are also among those who have recognized this vulnerability. Last fall, for example, Rosemary Gibson told the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in Washington, “If China shut the door on exports, our hospitals would cease to function, so this has tremendous urgency.”

Gibson, a senior advisor on healthcare issues at the Hastings Center and co-author of *China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America’s Dependence on China for Medicine*, also warned lawmakers last November about the susceptibility of the United States to disruptions in the supply of such drugs. As she notes, “Medicines can be used as a weapon of war against the United States.”

And last September, Gibson told *THE NEW AMERICAN*’s Rebecca Terrell, “Think about how China devastated our steel industry, dumping its product here at below-market price and destroying our manufacturing base,” Gibson points out. “They want to do the same thing with medicine. They’ve already done it with penicillin.” The final U.S.-based penicillin production facility closed in 2004. (The thorough summary, “China: Making Your Medicine,” appeared in the print edition of this magazine for September 16, 2019.)

At issue are many drugs used in this country and elsewhere. The Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* took note of this a few months ago, saying that as of 2018, the People’s Republic of China accounted for 95 percent of U.S. imports of ibuprofen; 91 percent of U.S. imports of hydrocortisone; 70 percent of

U.S. imports of acetaminophen; 40 to 45 percent of U.S. imports of penicillin; and 40 percent of U.S. imports of heparin, citing Commerce Department data. In addition, “Chinese pharmaceutical firms have captured 97 percent of the U.S. market for antibiotics and more than 90 percent of the market for vitamin C,” writes Yanzhong Huang, an expert at the Council on Foreign Relations.

This is not a new development, but it is one that has additional import when our country is beset with the deadly virus that emerged from Wuhan, China. Not long thereafter, the Chinese government began a disinformation operation suggesting that U.S. Army soldiers were the original source of the coronavirus.

It should go without saying that the communist bosses in Beijing are not our buddies. And Gibson was hardly exaggerating when she said in March, “If China shut the door on exports of core components to make our medicines, within months our pharmacy shelves would become bare and our health care system would cease to function.”

Our supply-chain vulnerabilities are not restricted to drugs made in China. While the American private sector is gearing up as we write, surgical masks and respira-

tors have been in very short supply — reportedly being hoarded by China for its own people. As Tom Nickels, executive vice president of the American Hospital Association, told *Wired*: “Because China produces such a large proportion of the U.S. drugs and medical supplies — especially personal protective equipment (like masks, gowns and gloves) that are used by hospital caregivers to protect themselves and their patients from infection — our members have expressed concern that the already fragile supply chain will break with the worsening conditions in China.”

Meanwhile, political enemies of President Trump were busy lying about what his administration did or did not do. Some of the comments of the leading Democratic candidate for president, Joe Biden, are cited above. In the same vein, in February, Biden blasted Trump’s early and perceptive decision to stop flights from China as a way to control the virus — with the former vice president charging, “This is no time for Donald Trump’s record of hysteria and xenophobia — hysterical xenophobia — and fearmongering.” Biden later changed his accusations into claims that the president was not doing enough with Beijing, and speculated that if he had been in the Oval Office, “I would be on the

phone with China making it clear we are going to need to be in your country. You have to be open. You have to be clear.”

As we alluded to above, the AP showed that Biden and Mike Bloomberg were “both wrong” when they alleged that critical health agencies here were not prepared for the virus because of Trump funding cuts. In fact, Congress paid no attention to anything in the president’s proposed budget. (This is not unusual. As the *Washington Post* explained in 2018: “It’s an American political tradition for Congress to consider every president’s budget as ‘dead on arrival.’”) In the case of the most recent health agency budgets, as the AP pointed out, financing actually *increased*.

Whatever Trump does is considered wrong by his hypocritical political and media opponents. Consider New York Mayor Bill de Blasio’s comments to MSNBC. The outbreak of the coronavirus, in his view, demands the nationalization of crucial factories and industries. That’s a dedicated statist: The radical mayor de-tests Trump, but insists that the president take over entire industries.

And Democrats (including Joe Biden) lied about Trump’s supposed elimination of the pandemic-response team. As confirmed by the man who previously headed the directorate, Tim Morrison, it was merged as part of an effort to trim the swollen National Security Council — with the directorate of global health and biodefense being combined with two other positions. “If anything, the combined directorate was stronger because related expertise could be commingled,” Morrison has written.

Morrison, now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, testified in mid-March before the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship. Indeed, said Morrison, the “team, despite uninformed rhetoric to the contrary, was never dismantled and continues to serve today as the United States responds to COVID-19.”

In his testimony, Morrison also pointed out “the simple fact that the Chinese Communist Party initially concealed the fact of the viral outbreak” from the Chinese



AP Images

Warning taken? China implied that it might withhold pharmaceutical products from the United States. Since it supplies most U.S. drugs and ingredients, a cut-off could mean our medical system virtually shuts down.



Correction, Please!

people, international healthcare authorities (including the World Health Organization), the United States, and other countries. According to WHO, said Morrison, “the National Health Commission of the PRC initially knew of the ‘Wuhan virus’ as early as December 8, 2019. Yet, initial substantive disclosures to the WHO did not take place until approximately January 11, 2020.”

The *Sunday Times* in London (citing Chinese business news site Caixin Global) also revealed that Chinese authorities knew of the virus in early December, but ordered labs to stop testing, destroy samples, and suppress that news. China, reported the *Sunday Times* for March 1, “did not report there was human-to-human transmission until more than three weeks later.”

Such censorship and predatory economic policies are consistent with Beijing’s “Made in China 2025” plan. This is a state-led industrial policy that seeks to make China dominant in global high-tech manufacturing by rapidly developing 10 high-tech industries. One of these sectors in the 10-year plan is emerging biomedicine. As you can imagine, the U.S. Department of Defense has been closely tracking this policy of our strategic adversary. The

most recent annual DoD review to Congress on Communist China (known within the Pentagon as the “China Military Power Report”) observes:

China continues to implement long-term state-directed planning, such as “Made in China 2025” and other industrial development plans, which stress the need to replace imported technology with domestically produced technology. These plans present an economic challenge to nations that export high-tech products.

Morrison also alluded to “Made in China 2025” in his Senate testimony. As he put it: “China’s state sponsored capitalism — has destroyed the free market in many sectors, from 5G to Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients. Just look at the PRC’s Made in China 2025 plan for the roadmap. The CCP has not been shy about this — it does not think we will respond to its predations.”

Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), who chairs the Small Business Committee, has introduced legislation that would address U.S. dependence on China for drugs; he says America has become “dangerously reliant.” The senator has also

recognized that “reliance wasn’t some accidental byproduct of globalization but the outcome of a deliberate strategy by the Chinese Communist Party, which made biomedicine and high-end medical equipment a priority of its ‘Made in China 2025’ plan.”

The fact that China has become the world’s largest supplier of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), providing key components to drug-makers around the globe, fits this picture as well. An account published in *Stars and Stripes* last August quoted recent remarks by Christopher Priest, the acting deputy assistant director for healthcare operations and Tricare for the Defense Health Agency. As Priest told the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, “The national security risks of increased Chinese dominance of the global API market cannot be overstated.”

Such facts are among the reasons why the president has talked about “bringing home” supply chains, jobs, and production. That does not, however, mean nationalization of industry.

When it comes to the U.S. response to the Chinese virus, many politicians and much of the mass media are short-sighted and long-winded. As usual, regardless of the question, the preferred answer is to mandate additional and more-centralized powers for the federal government.

Yet while the “federal and state governments are playing crucial roles” in coordinating efforts against the virus, the “single biggest mistake so far came from the government,” as columnist Kimberley Strassel pointed out in mid-March:

The feds maintained exclusive control over early test development — and blew it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s failure delayed an effective U.S. response, and the private sector is now riding to the rescue.

When this crisis ends, here’s hoping there is still a relatively free government and a viable private sector. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR



AP Images

The healthcare market: China has been cornering the world market in such things as face masks, drugs, and medical equipment. However, the danger this presents to world supplies has been highlighted by the coronavirus, as China has shipped faulty products or not shipped at all.



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Proof That Kindness Spreads as Fast as Viruses

Regardless of how unwarranted the government's extra-constitutional response to the coronavirus may be, one thing is certain: This pandemic has proved to be yet another opportunity for Americans to showcase their goodness.

Jesse Farren-James of Hyde Park, Massachusetts, for example, posted a Facebook recruitment page for area residents to organize trips to the grocery store for supplies for those who were unable to venture outside, according to the *Boston Globe*. Farren-James even offered her Costco membership for those who were hoping to buy in bulk.

In Milwaukee, Fox News told about landlord John Zutz, who owns a three-family residence and slashed his April rent from \$1,100 to \$100 so his tenants were not in dire financial straits. When Zutz made the decision to cut the rent, he did not know whether his tenants needed it or not, but had hoped that even if they didn't need the extra money, they would use it for good.

"I see what's happening inside the world, in the country, and I realize there's going to be a lot of people out of work, and they need help," Zutz said. I'm not sure if [my tenants] need it or not. That's the point. They may not need it, but I encourage them, if they don't need it, to spend the money in the neighborhood."

As it turns out, however, at least one of his tenants desperately needed the break.

Cai Logan told WISN-TV the reduced rent was an enormous blessing, as his income has been cut in half as a result of the coronavirus response.

Zutz says he will wait and see what happens in the next few weeks before he decides what to do for May's rent.

In Dorchester, Massachusetts, parents started a fundraiser to raise money for food and supplies for students and their families in response to the closure of Boston Public Schools. MSN reported that Lisa Graustein, a mother and former Boston Public School teacher who led the effort, took \$2,000 raised by neighbors and used it to purchase items from a restaurant

supply company in Needham. Neighbors than bagged up the food she purchased and dropped it at schools to be served to area residents in need.

"Food insecurity is real in our city and this crisis is going to exacerbate that exponentially," Graustein said in a telephone interview. "Everyone is feeling anxiety and uncertainty, and besides avoiding social contact and washing our hands there's not a lot to do. But here's something we *can* do that directly addresses the hard outcomes of this disease."

MSN reported that Graustein's good deed inspired several of her friends in other states to launch similar campaigns.

In Ohio, in response to Governor Mike DeWine's decision to limit all restaurants and bars to delivery and carryout options, a regular customer at Coaches Bar and Grill — who insisted on remaining anonymous — surprised staff by leaving a \$2,500 tip on a \$30 bill and asked that the gratuity be divided equally among the restaurant's five servers, WBNS Local 10 News reported.

Coaches' owner Benny Leonard said the tip prompted "tears of joy," adding the customer's kindness was a wonderful juxtaposition to the hoarding highlighted on the news. "We've got people fighting over toilet paper and so on and so forth, and to have a guy show up and care enough about people that give him a beer and a hamburger once in awhile, that means a lot," Leonard said. "It's humanity at its best."

Across the country, college students have been making grocery runs for at-risk seniors. Becky Hoeffler of Duke University is one such student. She told WNCN News she was inspired by her own fears about her grandfather going grocery shopping and decided she would make grocery runs for her senior neighbors.

Hoeffler reached out to a nearby housing community for senior living and received permission to post a sign near the mailbox station that featured a photo of herself at a supermarket with a note that read, "Need someone to do your shopping? I would be able to go to the store so you can avoid crowds due to coronavirus."

She also posted her offer on a local Facebook group, Bull City Shares.

"In these situations, when the community steps up, you really lessen the pressure on first responders and medical personnel," she told WNCN. "If you're able to decrease, even by a little bit, the number of patients that have to seek care because they've been exposed to something, it's good for the community as a whole."

University of Nevada pre-med student Jayde Powell created "Shopping Angels," a network of shoppers to provide free grocery delivery to the sick and elderly, CNN reported.

The group started with 20 members, but grew exponentially as need grew. Before long, and after national news coverage, Powell said she received calls from people in California, Arizona, Connecticut, and New York who wanted to volunteer. Powell was able to connect volunteers to people in need through social media.

Powell even started a GoFundMe account so that people who had a tight budget could still get supplies. "We don't want money to be a deterrent," she explained. "If you cannot afford toilet paper or something like that, you're still to reach out to us."

Even young children are helping out, and children have found unique ways to do good deeds during the crisis. Sisters Taran and Calliope of Columbus, Ohio, threw a small concert for their homebound neighbor Helena Schlam, 78.

The girls' mother, Rebecca, told the *Columbus Dispatch* she called Helena to see if she needed any groceries during her self-imposed quarantine. Helena did not, but Rebecca wanted to do something, aware that Helena must have been lonely. She enlisted the help of her daughters.

Aware that Helena is an enormous fan of classical music, Taran and Calliope came up with the idea of putting on a small show for her on her porch. For more than half an hour on March 16, the girls played the cello for their neighbor.

"It was so delightful. It was a little cold but I just put on an extra coat," Helena recalled. "The kids are really quite talented and it was so much fun."

These are just a handful of the many amazing stories that have come out of the nation's coronavirus crisis. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

Coronavirus **Silver Lining?**

With all the doom and gloom about coronavirus, it is easy to miss the potential silver lining that is emerging. It's true that the economy is in chaos; the Deep State is peddling its dangerous agenda; and the panic is real. But if Americans play their cards right, the response to coronavirus could produce a number of extremely positive outcomes for faith, family, and freedom.

Start with faith. For too long, Americans have turned sports and government into idols. Now, though, with sports canceled and government flailing around barking idiotic orders, it is becoming clear that faith in these idols was deeply misplaced. Government is not going to save anyone, and this is something that more and more Americans are realizing. Across the nation, everyday people are turning back to God.

Some anecdotes indicate that the hysteria is already having an effect. A few weeks before this special issue went to press, a relative called and said that seven people at a drug-rehab facility had decided to get baptized there amid the crisis. This was the first time something such as that had happened. Amid the terror and panic, faithful people who trust in God are helping their neighbors and exuding a sense of peace.

On the education front — something that touches on each element of faith, family, and freedom — the Chinese virus pandemic has created an unprecedented opportunity. As this is being written, most American public-school students are learning at home, and millions of parents are now learning they are capable of homeschooling, as well as getting a much closer look at the indoctrination their kids are subjected to. This is amazing.

The tide is already shifting on this in a major way. In 2019, after *THE NEW AMERICAN*'s Special Report "Rescuing Our Children," nationwide celebrities ranging from talk-show titan Rush Limbaugh to evangelist Franklin Graham urged parents to remove their children from public schools. And in his 2020 State of the Union speech, even President Trump blasted the fact that so many children are "trapped" in "failing government schools."

As millions of American parents try homeschooling for the first time amid coronavirus lockdowns, they are realizing that they can do it — and also that it is fun. This is among the best things parents could do for their children. With "online" government-school classes, millions of parents are also seeing — many of them for the first time — the perverted filth and outlandish dumbed-down material that their children are being



exposed to every day under the guise of "education."

Interest in homeschooling and online programs such as FreedomProject Academy is soaring as a result, as countless news reports have pointed out in recent weeks. With some effort, Americans can ensure that when the government schools re-open, they will have millions fewer victims to indoctrinate, sexualize, and dumb down.

The benefit to the freedom fight of ensuring a real education for millions of additional children would be hard to overstate. Families will be-

come closer, morals will improve, faith will grow, knowledge of true history and the Constitution will spread, and a love for liberty might be rekindled across America. Indeed, if a serious exodus from government schools results from this crisis, it may prove to be the single most devastating blow to the Deep State's agenda in generations. The time to strike is now.

Another benefit of the recent hysteria is a growing understanding among Americans of the need to prepare, *not* rely on government. While the establishment regularly mocked and demonized "preppers" for keeping some extra food and ammunition (and toilet paper!) at home, those who were prepared now suddenly look sensible, not foolish, while the mockers look silly. Everybody should have contingency plans, and this crisis will mean Americans will be far better prepared the next time the Deep State creates or exploits one.

From the standpoint of America's national security and public health, one tremendous potential development is the Trump administration's move to reduce and even eliminate the nation's outrageous and potentially deadly dependence on the mass-murdering Communist Party regime ruling mainland China. From rare minerals and pharmaceuticals to military supplies, the days of depending on Beijing are probably going to wane.

Some prominent analysts have even suggested that the globalist New World Order agenda itself may become a casualty of this pandemic. In his widely distributed column, pundit Pat Buchanan sounded elated. "It may one day be said that the coronavirus delivered the deathblow to the New World Order, to a half-century of globalization, and to the era of interdependence of the world's great nations," he argued, pointing out that Americans were now ready to put "America and Americans first!"

Despite the Deep State ramping up its attacks on freedom like never before, there is a real chance that this engineered madness could blow up in the faces of globalist schemers. ■

The Mainspring of Human Progress



Do interventionist governments hamper human progress by stifling individual initiative? Henry Grady Weaver (1889–1949), a General Motors executive who once made the cover of *Time* magazine, explains in this free market classic that human progress is the result of individual initiative. (1953, 287pp, pb, \$17.95ea)

\$17.95

BKMHP

The Problem With Socialism



From debunking the theories and narratives that underpin socialism and socialist programs, to outlining a powerful case for freedom and free markets, *The Problem With Socialism* can serve as an excellent resource to educate Americans. (2019, hb, 176pp, 1/\$18.95ea; 2-4/\$17.95ea; 5+/\$15.95ea)

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Communists Winning Elections

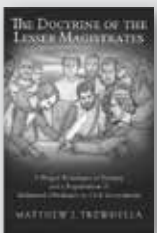


Believe it or not, despite their disastrous ideology, avowed communists have been winning elections in the United States. This reprint of an article from the February 17 issue of *THE NEW AMERICAN* tells how they have done it and what their plans for the future are. (2020, 8pp, 1-24/\$0.50ea; 25-99/\$0.40ea; 100+/\$0.35ea)

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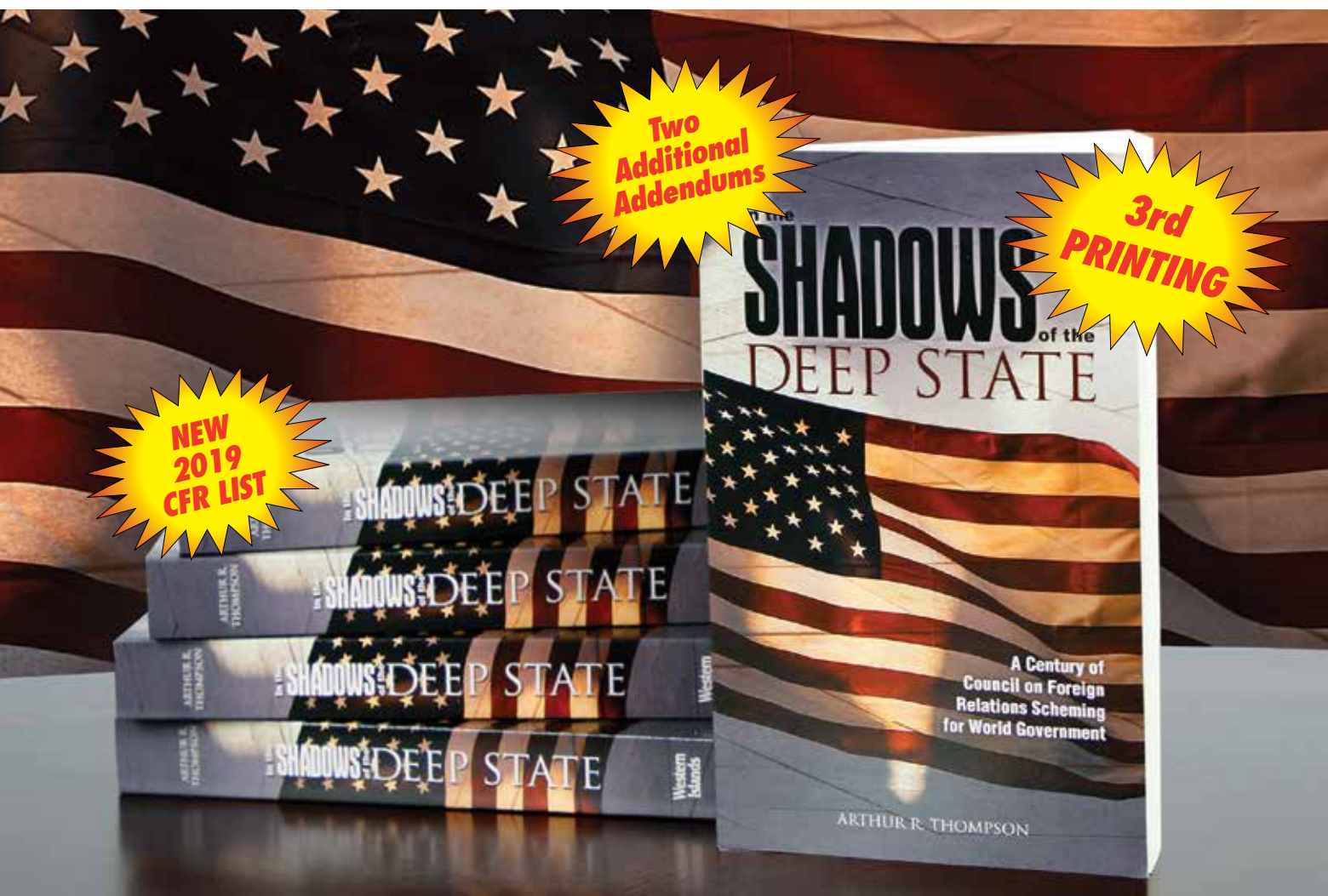
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