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16/sms09/032

IRD 406

Topic:The great powers and the war Against COVID19.

**GREAT POWERS:**

According to the Collins dictionary, great powers are “ the states or nations of the world with the most economic, political and military strength. They are also known as super powers.

**WHAT IS COVID 19?**

As reported by the World Health Organization (WHO),COVID 19 (Coronavirus disease) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered Coronavirus. Most people who get infected by this virus COVID 19 will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment, while elderly people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular diseases and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

This disease can be prevented by various measures or slowed down. This leads us to the efforts the great powers are making to prevent and slow down this virus. The World Health Organisation have stated that we can prevent ourselves from contacting this virus by washing our hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touch6our face.

At the moment, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID19. however, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments (WHO, 2020).

**Where is he epicenter of this Coronavirus?**

This disease is known to have started in 2019 in the city of Wuhan but the world was unaware. In December 2019, the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province which has a population of 11 million and is China’s seventh largest city became the central beginning of a pneumonia outbreak of unknown cause, with global implications and ongoing impacts. Investigations began on the patients in Wuhan and Chinese scientists in early January 2020 found a novel Coronavirus (ncov) strain from the patients groups. This outbreak is believed to have started at a local seafood/wild animal market (Bret A Nick’s et al 2020). Being unaware of this long time disease, the world is struck by this new Coronavirus with rapid and devastating consequences.

China is known to be the epicenter of this outbreak. According to the New York times, some 7 million people travelled from Wuhan t more than 21 countries before travel restrictions were imposed. The United states stopped the entry of Chinese citizens( any individual coming from china) on January 31, 2020. It was already too late and now today the United states is the epic center of the virus and china have been able to battle the virus and prevent it from spreading further.

Today the death in America from the Coronavirus disease is higher than that of the deaths in Italy. Generally, Europe is not the epic center of this virus not Asia. However, the US is the major great power with the highest rate of death and infected persons (Tim log 2020). Deaths from the virus reached more than 19,880 in the US, according to the data compiled by John Hopkins university. Italy had almost 19,500 fatalities (ibid).

**What are the conspiracy theories regarding this virus? What are conspiracy theorists saying?**

 Till today most individuals and scholars wonder where this virus came from, if its man made or natural? Conspiracy theories have explode across digital news sites and social media. Some conspiracy theorists have concluded that it is a bio weapon which was created in a laboratory, simply meaning that it is man made, some believe that is caused by the 5G network radiation exposure which they say cause damage to the human body.

According to some conspiracy theorists who have introduced conspiracy theories going round now is the idea that the Coronavirus is a bio weapon. some believe that it was created by the Chinese and others, by the United states, that it somehow accidentally or deliberately found it’s way out of high security laboratories and other into the world. Some theorists also claim that it can be traced to the Wuhan Institute of Virology who have been involved in conducting extensive research into the SARS Coronavirus and so on. However, most countries realize that it is not worth the risk developing a virus capable of mass destruction (en.as.com).

Some people/theorists have linked the virus to the advent of the very fast 5G wireless technology. By the proponents of this theory, the Coronavirus was caused as a result of the radiation from the 5G technology. In support of this notion, Keri HIlson, an American singer, too her twitter page to expound how 5G supposedly infects humans with the virus. However, in regards to these theories especially that of the 5G network, there is no evidence that 5G is harmful to human. Its saddens me to see people react by pulling down the 5G towers without looking to see if these claims are right. 5G is just a next generation of wireless network technology, following on from 4G and others (3G and 2G).

While there have be speculations that the virus was developed in laboratories and released either accidentally as a form bio weapon, findings published in the journal Nature Medicine confirm that the virus is a product of natural evolution. According to Kristian Anderson, PhD, corresponding author on the paper and associate professor of immunology and mica Scripps research states that “by company the available genome sequence data for known Coronavirus, we can firmly determine that SARS-Cov 2 originated through natural processes”. Some expert muse evolution could have occurred in a nonhuman host such as bat and then jumped to humans (Labmate-online.com).

What are the impacts of this virus on global Health, global economy and state relations?

Health wise, the virus has created unprecedented disruption of the global Health. This disease has created a global Health curse that now has a deep effect on the way we perceive our world and our everyday lives. This virus has now created an effective health communication for the adoption of sustainable preventive measures and curtailing misinformation (frontierson.Org). COVID19 now has a great effect on global Health care systems too. It is pushing Health care systems to go beyond their limits, to provide available necessary health systems for any patients. This virus is also impacting on the global health supply chains. It is affecting key materials and ingredients, logistics, finished health products shipping and many more. The lockdown period known as the quarantine period is globally affecting all the industries including the pharmaceutical industries. For instance, in India, though production is expected to continue through the lockdown period and in china where pharmaceutical related production is recovering, the capacity will be reduced due to lack of man power and increasing constraints. Suspended operations, flight delays and cancellations are all contributing to our air freight constraints, reducing the supply of pharmaceuticals.

The lockdown as a result of COVID 19 has impacted on the economy globally. Everyday, individuals are losing jobs and incomes with out knowing when the epidemic will end. Small island Nations that are so dependent on tourism, have empty hotels and deserted beaches. The international Labor Organization have estimated that over 195 million job could be lost (UNDP, 2020). The spread of this virus has really encouraged social distancing which has led to the closing of so many financial markets, corporate offices, business and events all over the world. Even concerts have been shut down for individuals in the music industry (entertainment industry). The wide spread of this disease has weakened the global economy. Europe and Japan are even likely already in recession territory given their weak fourth quarter performance and high reliance on trade. The tourism and travel related industries are most affected by this virus. So the more and longer this virus spreads, the more economic and company performance will be affected, raising concerns about debt sustainability especially for highly indebted countries and companies (Segal and Gerstel 2020).

The outbreak and spread of this disease has limited peace operations and postponed and distracted conflict parties from nascent as well as ongoing efforts at diplomacy. COVID19 has filled Geopolitical Frictions, with the United States blaming China for the disease while Beijing tries to win friends by offering aid to affected countries, exacerbating existing great power tensions that complicate cooperation in crises management (African portal.org). An example of a diplomatic event which may have been cancelled is the Russia’s initiative to continue consultations amongst the head of the five great powers at the United Nations General Assembly in 2020. The cancellation of some diplomatic events of course leaves important issues on the back burner without timely discussions. However, technology such as online video conferencing calls can help to some extent overcome difficulties that cannot be discussed face to face, important issues such as joint efforts against Coronavirus and to develop international cooperation.

**Now, how have great powers handled this pandemic?**

Even with these challenges Great powers have contributed and made efforts in handling, trying to prevent the spread of the pandemics, providing for their citizens during quarantine and so on. The pandemic may have also worsened the relationship between US and China. China may have see this pandemic as an opportunity to push or shift the Unipolar world order. China’s challenge to the United states was already strengthening in many fronts like trade before the COVID19 crises erupted. This pandemic may accelerate the shift of power. Great powers have helped in preventing this pandemic. Germany for instance has since led the way in Europe with large scale testing for covid 19, collecting nearly a million samples since the start of the crises recording almost 90,000 infections. Also, some Chinese doctors have arrived in Nigeria to help find and provide vaccines and good treatments for the infected.

Conclusively, during this period, great powers have not handled this pandemic wrongly, though some scholars say that China is using it to her advantage, they are also contributing to eradicating this virus. Without doubts, the United States and other great powers are doing the same, working to prevent the spread of the disease and to find a cure.

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