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**IRD 402**

**Foreign policies of the Great Powers**

**Assignment Question: The Great Powers and the war against covid-19.**

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) China office heard the first reports of a previously-unknown virus behind a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, a city in Eastern China with a population of over 11 million. The disease [appears to have originated](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports) from a Wuhan seafood market where wild animals, including marmots, birds, rabbits, bats and snakes, are traded illegally. Coronaviruses are known to jump from animals to humans, so it’s thought that the first people infected with the disease – a group primarily made up of stallholders from the seafood market – contracted it from contact with animals.

What started as an epidemic mainly limited to China has now become a truly global pandemic. There have now been over 2,406,745 confirmed cases and 165,273 deaths, according the John Hopkins University [Covid-19 dashboard](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6), which collates information from national and international health authorities. The disease has been detected in more than 200 countries and territories, with Italy, the US and Spain experiencing the most widespread outbreaks outside of China. In the UK, there have been [120,067 confirmed cases and 16,060 hospital deaths](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/f94c3c90da5b4e9f9a0b19484dd4bb14) as of April 18.

The epicenter of the virus rests between New York and china, some individuals say it is New York due to the fact that it is the largest and most densely populated city in the US, and coronavirus tends to spread in dense places and the spatial closeness makes individuals vulnerable. over 100,000 people have been tested for coronavirus in New York, about 25% of all testing nationwide has been performed by New York. Others say it is in China specifically the Wuhan province given that, that is where the outbreak initially started from and in the worst-case scenario 9,700 is said to be infected in Wuhan alone likely to be infected.

Due to the spread of the Corona virus, there is seen slowdowns, and closures in factory production of the products. Due to the presence of virus found in the Chinese health care system, delay is observed in medical device processes in China. Due to the result of the spread of the COVID-19 infection, an adverse impact is noticed on the 4th Quarter financial results of the country. In terms of product sales, there is seen a major inclination towards food and consumables. Due to the outbreak of corona virus, an increased expense has been recorded by companies that has negatively impacted the sales in Quarter 1 of the financial year. There are several retailers who had to ultimately shut down their stores in China. A few of them have reduced their working hours and some retail stores only offer limited operations. Due to reduced business, many companies have reported loss of revenue due to the spread of this virus. It has also resulted in reduction of earnings of the workers employed in businesses that have been impacted by this virus.

A negative impact is seen on both margins, and revenue generation. As China is the high-margin business in areas of manufacture of snacks, several companies from all across the world are affected by the outbreak of this virus. Due to shortage of the number of trucks, and other transportation options in China, the outbreak of this virus has led to an increase in the transportation cost as well. These impacts are being experienced all over the world but I used China as a case study because that is where the outbreak originated from.

There are ten main conspiracy theories regarding the virus but the top five are: the first states that the US government created the virus to destroy China’s economy and that US might have also created it so they could sell vaccines to the Chinese government.

The presenter based his claim on the fact that corona means crown in Russian and Latin. As we all know, President Trump used to be a judge on beauty pageants and was sometimes in charge of crowning the winner. The presenter said this was the reason the virus was named after crowns. Meanwhile, scientists say they named the virus after its crown-like shape.

Secondly, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation collaborated with the World Economic Forum and the John Hopkins Center for Health Security to test how well we were prepared to deal with an epidemic. In a curious twist of fate, the Covid-19 virus showed up two months later. Conspiracy theorists say the program was a prelude to the upcoming epidemic, which all three organizations had planned all along. Meanwhile, the John Hopkins Center for Health Security has denied any link between the event and the Covid-19 epidemic.

Thirdly, a scholar named Dana Ashlie states that the virus is as a result of the 5G internet. Wuhan was one of the first Chinese cities to get 5G internet. It is the same city where the Covid-19 virus first appeared which she doesn’t think is a coincidence and Ashlie believes the Covid-19 virus is caused by radiation waves released by 5G internet. She based her claims on a two-decade-old research paper that revealed 5G was dangerous to human health. Ashlie says the so-called coronavirus is actually radiation poisoning. She says it weakens the immune system, leaving a person vulnerable to diseases.

Fourthly, some people believe the Canadian government led by social studies teacher Justin Trudeau (pictured) created the Covid-19 virus at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, Canada. The lab is a Canadian government-owned facility that conducts research into deadly viruses, just like the one in Wuhan, China. Conspiracy theorists say two Chinese spies stole the virus and sent it to the Wuhan Institute of Virology where it ended up causing the epidemic. The spies in question are Dr. Keding Cheng and his wife, Dr. XiangguoQiu. The couple worked at the lab until they were suddenly laid off in 2019.

Lastly, something incredible happened in northeast China in the early hours of October 11, 2019. A meteorite exploded in the sky just after midnight, causing an intense flash that made the night sky as bright as day.Conspiracy theorists have now jumped on that incident. They say the meteorite brought the Covid-19 virus from space. Scientists say this is unlikely since the meteor did not land on the ground. Even if it did, they do not think the virus could have survived the extreme temperature of the landing. Meteors that do not burn up in the atmosphere can reach up to 1,198°F by the time they touch the ground. That is more than enough to kill the virus several times over.

The Great powers have handled this crisis by issuing a nationwide lockdown, providing facilities where the patients will be treated, helping certain poor communities that are not able to earn any form of income during this crisis. Various countries are fumigating the buildings in order to limit spread, Russia for instance, released several lions on the streets to prevent individuals from coming out. As of last week, president Donald Trump of the United States of America wants to open some states due to the risks the lockdown posses on their economy but schools remain closed.