The Covid-19 outbreak began in Wuhan, China in 2019; that was the first epicentre. At the moment, the US is the new epicentre of the virus as the number of cases in the country has surpassed that of Wuhan with 671,425 infections and 33,286 deaths as of April 17. In China, the government handled the issue by placing a de-facto quarantine on Wuhan and nearby cities which encompasses millions of people. Other countries that have recorded a high number of cases are Spain and Italy.[[1]](#footnote-1)

There are various conspiracy theories which explain the origin of the virus. One of which is that the virus is man made, created by China to be used as a bioweapon. Another theory explains that the virus was being studied in a laboratory in China on animals and becayse of poor security protocols, it escaped. What makes this theory more believable is the fact that Wuhan has the only level 4 microbiology laboratory (the National Biosafety Laboratory) which can handle a virus as deadly as this one.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The virus is not man-made, rather, it is a product of natural evolution. This information came about from the finding of genomic analysis carried out by researchers. They compared publicly available genomic data of different coronaviruses including the one that causes the Covid-19. The coronavirus, like other viruses, have spike protein which it relies on to infect other cells. Over time, each coronavirus has fashioned these proteins differently and it is seen in their genomes. The spike protein of the coronavirus of the covid-19 has unique adaptations that provides special ability for the virus to bind to a special protein found in humans known as angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE2). A related coronavirus, the SARS virus, which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome in humans also seeks out the ACE2. It was predicted that the new coronavirus (covid-19) would not bind as well as the SARS virus does to the ACE2 but to their surprise, it was able to do so beyond their expectation. Its ability to do so is what has scientists convinced that the virus is not bioengineered. The scientists went further to study the genomic data of the backbone of the new coronavirus and they discovered that it resembled that of the bat coronavirus discovered after the covid-19 outbreak. They also found that the region that binds the ACE2 resembles that of a virus found in pangolins. With their findings to scientists were able to come up with two scenarios; first, the virus was first in bats or pangolins and it was able to evolve with time to be able to infect or enter the human body, second, the virus was first in animals before it entered the human body where it was able to evolve or mutate to a form where it could be transmitted from human-to-human.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The pandemic has affected the world economy because of the halt of trade between countries and the transportation of already purchased goods. This was done to prevent the spread of the virus between countries. The demand of goods is lower as states do not want to risk further spread of the virus in their territory and as a result of this, the prices of goods have reduced. Some countries would suffer more than others, especially those that are dependent on the sale of specific goods. Nigeria for example would suffer decreasing GDP as crude oil pieces have dropped. Caribbean countries as well as they depend on tourism. Also, the lockdown in states would slow down or stop the activities of businesses. It is safe to say that the global economy has been slowed down by the virus. Diplomatic relations between states would be limited to online platforms as many states have locked down their airports. With the large number of infected people, there is the lack of adequate medical equipment for tests, treatments and prevention especially in the third world.

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