Matric number: 16/sms09/084

**THE GREAT POWERS AND THE WAR AGAINST COVID19**

Background of Corona-Virus

Corona viruses are a large family of zoonotic viruses --viruses transmissible between animals and humans-- that can cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most common symptoms among confirmed COVID-19 patients include fever and dry cough (Congressional Research Service, 2020).

The Epicenter of the Corona-Virus Outbreak

There are concerns raised as to what the epicenter of the virus outbreak is. This is due to the wide-spread of the virus, with its devastating effects. The epicenter of the Virus is shifting from place to place, as the Virus is slowly becoming a pandemic. New York became the Epicenter of the Virus as it has half of the 74,000 Corona Virus cases discovered in the United States, which is about ten times what other States in the United States possess. The situation of New York is blamed on the density, population of its city, late response, the hunt for the ‘positives’ to the Virus. However, other states stand the chance of becoming an epicenter for the Corona-Virus outbreak. Control measures such social-distancing and proper hygienic measures, can all help to slow down its spread (Levenson, 2020).

 According to Jervis, Clark, & Reyes, (2020), New Orleans may become the new epicenter for the Virus, due to the city’s poverty rate, lack of healthcare and affordable housing, and high rates of residents with pre-existing medical conditions. In Wuhan, China, there were the first ever detected cases of Corona Virus outbreak from a food- market, with a large community of people infected, while spreading it to other parts of the world. The record showed that 5 million people left Wuhan before the outbreak became not only China’s problem, but those of other parts of the globe (Fottrell, 2020).

The Conspiracy Theories on the Corona Virus

**The government introduced the CoronaVirus in 2018, and Bill Gates was also somehow responsible. This raises questions like** “Was the release of this disease planned?” Sather tweeted. “Is the media being used to incite fear around it? Is the Cabal desperate for money, so they’re tapping their Big Pharma reserves?” This **suggests that the government is using the Corona Virus to make money out of a new vaccine. Bill gates has also been a target for these theories as it suggests that the presentation made by him in** a 2018 Massachusetts Medical Society and New England Journal of Medicine event, proved suspicious, as he suggests that the world should prepare for a pandemic as though they were preparing for a war, right after a simulation process with a similar flu (Dickson, 2020). Others include the fact that **there is a vaccine or cure for coronavirus that the government won’t release; the virus originated from Chinese people eating bats; the virus is no worse than a common cold; hand-dryers are effective at killing Corona Virus;** Corona virus is a bio-weapon engineered by the Chinese government (or the CIA) to wage war on America (or China); Dean Koontz predicted the Corona Virus (Dickson, 2020). Therefore, unlike these conspiracy theories, scientists, have been accustomed to how deadly viruses operate, suggest that the novel Corona Virus pandemic is a natural event and that the SARS-CoV-2 virus isn’t a man-made bio-weapon (Smith, 2020).

The Impact on Global Health and Global Economy

As of March 18, 2020, the novel corona virus that began sickening patients in Wuhan, China, in early December 2019 had spread across the globe. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 15 countries, including the United States, have reported more than 1,000 infections. Europe is the current epicenter for cases and deaths related to the virus. WHO has named the new virus “severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2” (SARS-CoV-2) and the disease that it causes “corona virus disease 2019” (COVID-19). WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, raised its global risk assessment to “Very High” to “pandemic” on February 28, and labeled the outbreak a “pandemic” on March 11. In using the term pandemic, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cited COVID-19’s “alarming levels of spread and severity” and governments’ “alarming levels of inaction.” President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in the United States on March 13 (Congressional Research Service, 2020). Current diagnostic supplies are insufficient to meet global demand, and scientists are trying to create tests that are cheaper and more easily administered and that provide faster diagnosis. No specific treatments or vaccines for COVID-19 exist. However, funding has been raised by the by great powers and prominent individuals to assist countries suffering from the virus, as well as medical equipments. Cures for the Virus are undergoing clinical testing to prove their effectiveness (Congressional Research Service, 2020).

The official data confirmed a widespread slowdown in economic activity foreshadowed in [low pollution levels](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-04/pollution-data-shows-china-s-uneven-economic-recovery-from-virus) and [depressed shipping traffic](https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/3051784/shipping-lines-face-troubled-waters-oil-tankers-container), among other informal barometers. These are indications of how far-back the economy is. A lot of Analysts have predicted that China’s economic growth will be really slowed down with a drop in first quarter GDP. As COVID-19 spreads, China’s economic recovery will be challenged as demand from other countries drops as they cope with the virus. Although, China is not the only nation suffering greatly, economically, Europe, South Korea, Iran, the United States, and elsewhere are facing the impacts of the Virus, with authorities implementing [increasingly restrictive measures](https://www.politico.eu/article/italy-orders-total-lockdown-over-coronavirus) to contain the virus. [Europe](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/09/business/europe-recession-coronavirus.html) and [Japan](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/09/business/economy-business/japan-gdp-recession/) are gradually sliding into recession due to their high dependency on trade. The United States’ is not immune to the above economic impact. Estimates of the global impact vary: early last week, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) [predicted](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-outlook/volume-2019/issue-2_7969896b-en#page1) that COVID-19 will lower global GDP growth by one-half a percentage point for 2020 (from 2.9 to 2.4 percent); Bloomberg Economics [warns](https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-coronavirus-pandemic-global-economic-risk/) that full-year GDP growth could fall to zero in a worst-case pandemic scenario (Sergal & Gerstel, 2020).

Will States recover from this? The extent of the damage will depend on how quickly the virus is contained, the steps authorities take to contain it, and how much economic support governments are willing to deploy during the epidemic’s immediate impact and aftermath.