

Corona virus: impacts, conspiracy theories and ways great powers have handled the pandemic

The Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic presents a serious threat to the world. The Coronavirus disease is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus has its impacts on the world; health wise, the global economy as state relations as well.

Conspiracy theories are built on the notion that the powerful group is acting in secret, thus building on and potentially creating suspicion and distrust. The Corona virus has given a rise to a flood of conspiracy theories, misinformation and propaganda, putting an end to public trust and undermining health officials in ways that could elongate and perhaps outlive it. Fisher, 2020.

Corona virus conspiracy theories center around the origin of the Virus in China, also known as China Corona Conspiracy; Political Corona Conspiracy which explains that the powerful in one's society are exploiting the crisis.

While there has been speculation that the virus was developed in laboratories and released either accidentally or as a form of bioterrorism, different findings confirm COVID-19 is a product of natural evolution. Some are of the opinion that it is only natural while some are of the view that it is man made. For example in Nigeria, many do not believe that the virus is real and so most people aren't practicing social distancing as well as other precautions/preventive measures. Also, nobody knows of anyone who has the virus in Nigeria

which still makes people question if the virus is real or not. Many believe it's just a way the government has figured out how to loot money. For instance, there have been relief funds given by banks as well as G-20 countries to help aid Nigeria. All of these funds haven't been reflected till today.

COVID 19 has engulfed nearly the entire world as it carries severe consequences for countries' populations and economies. On 14th April, the International Monetary Fund updated its global growth projections from only three months ago , indicating that the global economy is expected to experience its worst recession since the Great Depression. Also, the International Labour Organization predicted a rise in unemployment of up to 25million in 2020. According to Hutt 2020,

more than 5 million Americans filed for unemployment last week, bringing total US jobless claims to 22 million over a four-week period.

According to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), developing countries are at risk, as the crisis is expected to hit workers in low and middle-income countries hard, where the share of those working in informal sectors and who therefore have limited access to adequate health and social protection is higher.

In addition, the United Nations has expressed concerns that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to a reversal of decades of progress in the fight against poverty and high levels of inequality within and between countries will be further exacerbated. It will set back

the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The realization that the economic costs of a pandemic can be huge, far surpassing investments in research and prevention, will lead to billions more dollars of investment in research, vaccines, therapeutics, and non-medical methods of prevention. This will mean that trillions of dollars in economic losses, loss of life, and loss of livelihoods for millions of poor people all over the world will be averted.

Considering the sheer chaos inflicted upon global public health and the international economic structure, International political activities are not dominated by one or two superpowers, but governments are now rushing everywhere to meet the same obstacle,

embracing various approaches from complete quarantine and lockdowns to herd immunization.

Abdulrazaq (2020)

The United States and China have a mutual interest in combating the virus outbreak, as other countries are relying on these major powers on finding the cure. According to Stokes, "the emergence of the Corona virus has provided an issue that Washington and Beijing can cooperate on." The U.S has allocated up to 100 million dollars to aid countries including China in fighting the spread of the virus and helped facilitate 17.8 tons of donated medical equipments. U.S companies and charities have contributed supplies and assistance as well.

Although both countries are interested in achieving a common goal which is to put an end to the pandemic, the

big power competition has not ended even with the global problem. Many scholars and experts are looking forward to the post-pandemic period as perceptions of how the world's two major powers handle the pandemic both at home and on the international stage will go a long way in determining whether China or the U.S. comes out of the crisis with the upper hand. The Trump administration has concentrated primarily on holding China at the international hot seat by emphasizing its position as the source of a virus that has spread to other parts of the world as he further stresses the "Chinese virus" to drive home the same point.

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated unparalleled health and growth instability for the

global community.

Organizations that combat infectious diseases, help health personnel, provide social services, and protect livelihoods have moved to the very center of the attention of the nation. But they find their work complicated by challenges of access, safety and financial stress like never before. Michael Igoe (2020). According to Nigeria's former Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the uproar in virtually every country over the lack of equipment and supplies to check for and defend against COVID-19 would cause countries to re-examine their supply chains for essential goods related to health and livelihood. This will lead to an upward movement in nationalism with respect to the need to produce pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and

equipments domestically. Finally, health services have to change how they think and act, a complete change of approach. In addition, a common factor in epidemics is the high number of patients who arrive at hospitals all at the same time. This can have a negative impact on even well-developed healthcare systems, which are not used to coping with these kinds of numbers every day. Adapting to this is not easy.

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