**NAME: EZE NANCY CHIDEIBEBE**

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**INTRODUCTION**

According to World Health Organisation (W.H.O) Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. A novel strain of corona virus SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in December 2019 in Wuhan, a city in China’s Hubei province with a population of 11 million, after an outbreak of pneumonia without an obvious cause. The virus has now spread to over 200 countries and territories across the globe, and was characterised as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020. As of 9:00 on 21 April 2020, there were 2,397,216 laboratory confirmed cases of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection globally, with 162,956 reported deaths. The number of cases and deaths outside of China overtook those within the country on 16 March 2020. The virus has resulted to increasing poverty around the world and a slack in most countries economy.

**THE IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON THE WORLDS GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL ECONOMY AND STATE RELATIONS.**

The corona virus has definitely affected the health of so many people and causing a huge amount of death. US has suffered more confirmed corona virus deaths than any other country, and on Saturday was poised to soon reach 20,000 Covid-19 fatalities, new data indicated. According to Johns Hopkins University’s tally of US Covid19 fatalities was at 19,877. Italy followed with 19,468. The US was the first country to report 2,000 deaths in a single day, with 2,108 people dying in the previous 24 hours. New York, the hardest-hit US state, saw 783 deaths raising the total to 8,627, governor Andrew Cuomo said at a briefing in Albany, the state capital. Also the New York Times published a devastating report  chronicling Donald Trump’s repeated failures over several months to take the coronavirus crisis seriously, and how the president’s suspicion of the so-called Deep State “colored” his response even as the death toll began to soar. The corona virus has resulted in a huge death toll around the world starting from china, to several other countries largely affecting Italy and the United States of America.

The corona virus aside from the massive death it has caused has also resulted to global hunger. The virus has impacted the world mostly negatively and has affected the world economy by reducing the GDP’s of countries. For example, the United States which is known to hold so much power and is seen as the world’s largest economy has suffered severely from this pandemic as their GDP drops. More than 5 million Americans filed for unemployment, bringing total US jobless claims to 22 million over a four-week period. The ILO’s previously predicted rise in unemployment of up to 25 million in 2020, with losses in labour income in the range of USD 860 billion to USD 3.4 trillion, seems accurate, if not underestimated. According to the ILO, these numbers may underestimate the real magnitude of COVID-19’s impact. The ILO’s latest summary states that the current containment measures are affecting close to 2.7 billion workers, representing around 81 per cent of the world’s workforce.

The crisis is affecting workers in low and middle income countries particularly hard, where the share of those working in informal sectors, and who therefore have limited access to adequate health and social protection, is higher. Furthermore, the containment measures in advanced economies have already started impacting less developed countries through lower trade and investment. The United Nations (UN) has expressed concern that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to a reversal of decades of progress in the fight against poverty, and that already high levels of inequality within and between countries will be further exacerbated. The crisis will therefore inevitably and adversely impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to negatively influence almost all SDGs. The current crisis will also severely affect the prospects for industrialization in developing countries.

COVID-19 is severely impacting manufacturing production in developing countries because the demand from high-income countries for manufacturing goods and raw materials is decreasing. Fully in line with the global economic prospects, a recent report of the African Union (AU) states that “Regardless of the scenario whether optimistic or pessimistic, Covid-19 will have a harmful socioeconomic effect on Africa”. Losses related to the fall of the global oil price are estimated at USD 65 billion. Losses amounting to USD 19 billion are expected in Nigeria alone. Nigeria, as a major oil exporting country, has been caught up in this spiralling global crisis. The Nigerian economy is currently in tatters given that the price of crude oil, the country’s main foreign exchange earner has crashed with the drastic fall in demand by China, one of the major destinations of Nigeria’s crude oil. In fact, the price of crude oil has dropped by half in 2020 due to this global demand shock caused by the virus pandemic and not just the Nigerian economy but several other countries economy including America which has been affected severely by this pandemic causing their GDP to drop and the value of their currency to reduce.

**The corona virus has affected state relations** reason being that, the pandemic has effectively caused the global economy to experience a complete stop. In the words of global economy, it is easy to put the brakes to the economy, but resetting it, is a huge and arduous journey because the market requires time to recuperate from the shock as well as all supply chains need to be in complete sync with one another in order to ensure the reset can happen smoothly and without interference. The SARS Covid 19 has also affected state relations in terms of trade relations as countries can no longer import or export goods. It is now believed that the pandemic could potentially cause globalization to experience a halt or in worst case scenarios, suffer a reversal. The pandemic has brought many risk factors to the supply chain, particularly in the areas of global distribution and supply chain management. With the outbreak receding in China, the overall focus for many multinational corporations in the country now lies in fine-tuning its supply chain so as to ensure they are better equipped to face risks in the future.

Unfortunately, this will only encourage investors to perform further withdrawals of capital from the Chinese market, specifically U.S. capital.

Simply put, the market that serves as an underlying foundation for trade relationship will weaken. As such, the decoupling between China and US is inevitable, and will certainly happen quicker than one realizes. The U.S.-China relations have been largely affected by the epidemic as a whole and the bilateral relationship that both governments have worked so hard to keep afloat is now perpetually being replaced by a series of confrontations. The pandemic has brought a buffer period for the U.S.-China relations, interestingly enough. Even if the U.S.-China trade relations were to take a turn for the worse and become more confrontational, both countries would lack the time and resources to properly sort out any foreign policy-related matters in 2020.

**In terms of state relation**, for a change, global political events are not being dictated by one or two superpowers, but governments everywhere are now racing to face the same challenge, adopting different methods from total quarantine and lockdowns to herd immunisation.

The virus, although originating in China’s Wuhan, has been one of the world’s great global equalisers. Unlike humans, viruses do not care where its victims come from, what religion they follow, or what ideology they believe in. All are at risk, and as economies shut down and resources are stretched, international power dynamics may see a shift in the age of the coronavirus. There are also speculations of the corona virus leading to a new cold war but in this case with china not Russia.

The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic has definitely affected international relations and caused diplomatic tensions. The diplomatic relations have been affected due to the tensions around trade and transport of medicines, diagnostic tests and hospital equipment for coronavirus disease. Leaders of some countries have also accused other countries for not containing the disease effectively and resulting in the uncontrolled spread of the virus and developing nations in Latin America and Africa cannot find enough materials for testing for coronavirus disease. The Chinese government has been criticised by the United States for its handling of the pandemic, which began in the Chinese province of Hubei. To counter its negative image, China has sent aid to 82 countries, the World Health Organization, and the African Union.

Japan–South Korea relations worsened as a result of the pandemic. After Japan declared it would start quarantining all arrivals from South Korea, the South Korean government described the move as “unreasonable, excessive and extremely regrettable”, and that it couldn't "help but question whether Japan has other motives than containing the outbreak".

In response to dramatic drop in oil consumption due to the 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic, Saudi Arabia attempted to orchestrate a worldwide decrease in oil production to keep prices at a moderate level. However, when Russia refused to reduce oil production, Saudi Arabia triggered an oil price war in March 2020. This economic conflict resulted in a sheer drop of oil price over the spring of 2020, with the price becoming negative on April 20. Since oil production is inelastic and cannot be stopped completely, but even the lowest possible production level generates much greater supply than demand, the oil industry has nowhere to store oil and is ready to pay for it being taken away.

**How has the great powers handled the pandemic?**

Great powers play a diplomatic blame game, rather than coming together as an international community to respond to and learn from the worst global health crisis in living memory, the world is witnessing an intensification of US-China rivalry for influence at a time when neither can claim to have been sufficiently prepared. U.S has blamed china for not being transparent about their political activities and the pandemic. Instead of forging greater international cooperation, we are in the midst of a diplomatic blame game between China and the United States which hurts all parties by curtailing opportunities for effective collective responses.

In an attempt to deflect widespread criticism of his own performance, Trump announced that his administration would halt funding to the World Health Organization pending a review into its early handling of the pandemic. The United States is by far the biggest donor to the WHO, comprising 15 per cent of total voluntary contributions and dwarfing China’s annual input by a factor of 10. The administration’s decision has faced worldwide condemnation and risks upending the organisation’s efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, particularly in low-income countries. The announcement also follows sustained efforts by President Trump and senior administration officials to label COVID-19 as the “Wuhan” or “Chinese” virus, rejecting international conventions whilst stoking xenophobia.

Chinese Foreign Ministry officials have matched these efforts in-kind, circulating wholly unfounded conspiracy theories that the coronavirus originated in America and was spread by the US Army the same way US also blames china stating the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan China. While US-China tensions did not begin with coronavirus, their effects are now being keenly felt. Crucial collaboration between the public health agencies of both countries has declined in recent years due, in part, to the deterioration in bilateral ties. In 2017, China introduced legislative restrictions on the work of foreign-based researchers that required the monitoring of their activities by local security agencies, focusing some in the global health business to pack up shop.

In the context of an escalating trade war and deteriorating relations between the two great powers, the number of staff working at US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention operations inside of China has fallen from 47 to 14 since Trump took office in 2017. None of these are good outcomes for the world. Failures by both sides to adequately prepare for the pandemic, coupled with a spiralling contest for influence between Beijing and Washington, suggests that history, this time, is not on our side. The Corona virus crisis shows that both China and the US aren't equipped to lead the world*.*

 Aside from all these negative effects, this pandemic has helped improve global climate in recent times as the skies are clearing of pollution, wildlife is returning to newly clear waters, a host of flights have been scrapped and crude oil is so worthless that the industry would have to pay you to take it off their hands. A few months ago, environmentalists could only dream of such a scenario as the 50th anniversary of Earth Day hove into view. But this disorienting green new reality is causing little cheer given the cause is the coronavirus pandemic that has ravaged much of the world. Although the devastating drop in value of crude oil has helped improve the climate by reducing emission of gases to the air and reduce pollution, it has affected several countries negatively especially oil producing countries. “This isn’t the way we would’ve wanted things to happen, God no,” said Gina McCarthy, former head of the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Obama administration. “This is just a disaster that pointed out the underlying challenges we face. It’s not something to celebrate.”

**THE EPICENTER OF THE VIRUS OUTBREAK**

The coronavirus was first reported in December last year in the city of Wuhan the epicenter of the outbreak in central China and has killed more than 2,500 people there. That means Wuhan alone accounted for nearly 80% of the country’s total deaths of more than 3,200 but it has since spread to 180 countries and territories. While China accounted for majority of the cases up until February, the epicenter has since shifted to the West, with the U.S., Italy and Spain being the top 3 worst-hit countries right now.

After the outbreak of the corona virus in china, Italy became the new epicentre due to the initial inadequate measures in curbing the virus. If Italy’s experience shows anything, it is that measures to isolate affected areas and limit the movement of the broader population need to be taken early, put in place with absolute clarity, and then strictly enforced. The United states being Italy’s neighbouring country failed to take proper measures in preventing the spread due to this, the city of New York became the new epicentre of the virus.

In the last few weeks, COVID-19 has spread to well over 100 countries in a global pandemic that has killed more than 11,000 people. Countries from Italy to the United States and Iran are struggling to contain the virus, with large cities shutting down schools and public places. The coronavirus outbreak reached a somber milestone in the U.S. on Thursday (March 26 2020) the nation now has more coronavirus cases than any other country in the world. There are now at least 82,174 cases of the new coronavirus disease, COVID-19, in the United States, according to worldometer a website that tracks coronavirus cases. That's higher than the case count in either Italy (which has 80,589 cases) or China (which has 81,285 cases). Nearly half of all U.S. coronavirus cases are in New York, which has reported more than 37,700 cases. Just a few days ago, the World Health Organization warned that the U.S. had the potential to become the new epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. coronavirus cases have soared in recent weeks at the beginning of March, the county had reported only about 100 cases total, according to worldometer. American deaths from the coronavirus passed Italy’s, affirming the U.S.’s spot as the epicenter of the global pandemic and Italy as the former epicentre. Deaths from the virus reached more than 19,880 in the U.S., according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Italy had almost 19,500 fatalities. The U.S. figure will rise throughout the day as more states report data.

The heavy toll in the U.S. and much of Europe  is linked to the failure to enact widespread measures like mass testing and social distancing early enough to prevent the virus from taking hold. Parts of the U.S. were still not locked down in recent days, creating the opportunity for wider spread in places that haven’t suffered as much as hot spots in New York and Detroit. NewYork is the most affected city in the U.S with the highest number of death toll.

Coronavirus cases in China, where the outbreak began, initially increased rapidly, but levelled off after about Feb. 20.Although there are speculations of a second wave in china and Singapore according to Teo Yik Ying.

**CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

Of all the mysteries about the novel corona virus, its origin excites the most fervent debate. At the outbreak’s beginning, there were conspiracy theories that the virus was man-made; recently, questions have focused on whether a natural virus was accidentally spread through research.

In the United States, such speculation largely comes from politicians hawkish against Beijing and keen to defend the Trump administration. Scientists, meanwhile, are often the most hesitant to speak out, wanting to focus on research that helps end the outbreak not who, if anyone, caused it.

But the theories have spread widely, prompting a response from U.S. officials and President Trump himself. So, here is a skeptic’s take on three rapidly mutating theories: one clearly false, one possible but not supported by known evidence and one broadly true.

**The outbreak was linked to bio weapons research:** As China placed Hubei province under lockdown in January, the Washington Times, a conservative U.S. newspaper, cited research by former Israeli military intelligence officer Dany Shoham to argue that “Coronavirus may have originated in lab linked to China’s biowarfare program” in Wuhan, the Hubei capital. Experts suggesting that the virus was man-made relied on a shoddy understanding of the science. According to Richard Ebright, a professor of chemical biology at Rutgers University, “Based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus.”

**The novel coronavirus leaked from a lab accidentally:** As the bio weapon theory subsided in February, it was replaced by a more plausible alternative: That a virus from a natural source could have leaked accidentally from one of Wuhan’s laboratories. Some scientists don’t dismiss this outright. According to Ebright the theory is  “at least as probable” as an incident outside of a lab, a position other scientists disagree with.

There is circumstantial evidence. Researchers at the Wuhan branch of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention did conduct research on bat coronaviruses which some viewed as risky. But that does not prove that the novel coronavirus was ever studied in Wuhan, nor that it leaked. “There is no evidence of escape from a lab,” stated by Andrew Rambaut, a microbiologist at the University of Edinburgh.

**The Chinese government misled the world about the coronavirus:** With no direct evidence of a leak from a laboratory, it was noted that China has blocked the release of information about the early days of the outbreak. Beijing was slow to share data with outsiders, including experts from the World Health Organization. An investigation by the Associated Press published Wednesday found that Chinese officials withheld information for six key days, allowing the virus to spread without restriction at a crucial moment. Chinese journalists have published articles that suggest officials undercounted the death toll in Wuhan. Scientific research that suggested China was the source of the outbreak has been withdrawn. Some Chinese officials, such as Foreign Ministry spokesman Lijian Zhao, have floated unfounded theories that the virus may have originated from the United States.

Although, one of the great mysteries of the Covid-19 pandemic is how, exactly, the SARS-CoV-2 virus made the leap from wildlife into humans. Scientists who’ve analyzed the virus’s genome believe it came from a bat, likely in China. But Chinese epidemiologists have revealed little about how or where the first patients were infected. One focus has been a wet market in Wuhan, where live wildlife was sold for food, because 66 percent of the first cluster of 41 cases in December 2019 had exposure to this market. Yet there is also genomic evidence and reports the virus could have been circulating earlier, in November. Several virus experts have dismissed two of the theories that have surfaced about the corona virus origin that Chinese scientists bioengineered it in a lab and/or deployed it as a bioweapon. Some speculations have been that President Donald Trump is also now using this potential avenue for blaming China; on April 15, he said his government was looking into whether the virus came from the Wuhan lab. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has also said Beijing “needs to come clean” on what it knows about the virus’s origin.

Such a spy novel worthy plot may seem plausible for a number of reasons: the Chinese government’s poor record of transparency; the fact that the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a research center with facilities in the same city where the virus first appeared, was studying dangerous pathogens, including bat coronaviruses; and US officials’ concerns about the lab’s safety standards in 2018, per the Washington Post.

**CONCLUSION**

The covid 19 virus which started in Wuhan, China has since then spread to the rest of the world causing a devastating effect on the world at large.

**The question is, is the covid19 virus natural or man-made?**

According to a new comparative genomic analysis the COVID-19 virus causing the pandemic evolved from naturally occurring strains. According to most scientists the covid 19 is natural not man-made and the theory by the US president Donald Trump about the virus been leaked from a lab or caused through bio weapons is false. Dr. Robert Garry, a professor at the Tulane School of Medicine, authored one of the first major studies that refutes theories that COVID-19 was engineered as a biological weapon. According to his research, it has been a special mutation that is thought to be what makes this coronavirus so contagious.

Due to alot of speculations and conspiracy theories that went to a pretty high level Dr. Robert Garry, decided it was important to get a team together to examine evidence of this new coronavirus to determine what we could about the origin. Dr. Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, supported the study’s findings, saying, "This study leaves little room to refute a natural origin for COVID-19." Researchers concluded that the novel coronavirus is not a human creation because it does not share any "previously used virus backbone." It likely arose, the study said, from a recombination of a virus found in bats and another virus, possibly originating from pangolins, otherwise known as scaly anteaters. COVID-19 is 96% identical to a coronavirus found in bats, researchers said, but with a certain variation that could explain what has made it so infectious. And while many believe the virus originated at a fish market in Wuhan, China, Garry said that is also a misconception. Several scientists have made clear explanations as to why it is not man-made but rather natural.

In the face of a pandemic, it’s understandable that many are looking for someone to blame. But a cascade of small errors is more likely than one grand conspiracy. Learning from that may not be satisfying, but it could go a lot further in preventing this from happening again.

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