

The Novel Corona Virus a Global Pandemic: An overview of the Blame on China and the Global Response to the Pandemic

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Abstract: *As the world battles with the coronavirus virus epidemics, China which first reported the outbreak of the virus on its soil has been able to stem it under control. But Beijing has refused to take blames for the outbreak of the virus, rather it has blamed Washington. This virus, which was first treated as a natural issue has now transformed into different conspiracy theories which have affected the political, social, and economic lives and relations of people and state actors. This paper analyzed the origin and myth of the virus, China's transparency, and efforts in containing the virus, the global effort in combating the virus, the role played by World Health Organization and the political, social, and economic implications of the virus. All the materials used in this research are sourced secondarily. In analyzing, the paper uses the conspiracy theory which states that the coronavirus pandemic is as a result of conspiracy of global actors. It is found that nations of the world spent much on the military at the detriment of the health sector, this is why the global health sector has been overwhelmed. The paper, therefore, recommends that the coronavirus fallout should be a wake-up call for governments to prioritize health care sector spending over military spending.*

I. Introduction

Readfearn (2020) analyzes that in the public mind, the origin story of coronavirus was as a result of someone in late 2019 who was alleged to be infected with a virus from an animal at the now world-famous Huanan seafood market in Wuhan. Readfearn opines the rest is part of an awful history still in the making, with Covid-19 spreading from that first cluster in the capital of China's Hubei province to a global pandemic that has killed thousands of people. Pangolin, a scaly mammal has made headlines as the animal that is responsible for the spread of Covid-19, as scientists believe that the animal was the staging post before it spread to humans. But there is uncertainty about several aspects of the Covid-19 origin story that scientists are trying hard to unravel, including which species passed it to a human. Scientists are trying to unravel the mystery and origin behind this virus because knowing how a pandemic start is a key to stopping the next one.

It is as a result of the above-mentioned analysis that necessitates this paper to look at the analysis of Readfearn (2020) where the head of the department of microbiology at Melbourne Monash University, Prof Stephen Turner, says that the likely source of coronavirus is from bat. On the hypothesis that the virus emerged at the Wuhan live animal market, Turner says that the idea does not hold water. Turner believes that they are varieties of viruses unknown to man which could be only found in animals especially the wild ones. Just like Turner, other scientists say it is highly likely that the virus came from bats but first passed through an intermediary animal in the same way that another coronavirus, the 2002 SARS outbreak moved from horseshoe bats to cat-like civets before infecting humans. One animal implicated as an intermediary host between bats and humans is the pangolin (Readfearn, 2020). But there are some other schools of thought who believe the spread of Coronavirus has an element of conspiracy in it. For example, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, Zhao Lijian, tweeted that "it might be the US army" that brought the coronavirus to China, giving an official boost to a conspiracy theory that had been allowed to circulate on Chinese social media for weeks. The conspiracy posits that 300 athletes from the US military who in October 2019 attended the 7th Military World Games in Wuhan, where the epidemic first broke out, were infected with the virus, thereby spreading it in China (Li, 2020). The view of the spokesman of China's foreign ministry represents the views of Beijing who believe that the virus was created intentionally by America to destabilize China (Li, 2020). Similarly, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, claimed in March 2020 that the coronavirus could be man-made by the US government. According to Iran Supreme Leader Coronavirus is "specifically built for Iran using the genetic data of Iranians, which they have obtained through different means". There is no shred of evidence to support this insinuation from Iran and China, but this notion has received endorsement from Iran and China government officials (Myers, 2020; Aljazeera, 2020). But the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in March denied this

insinuation from both Iran and China with Pompey saying these "fabrications are dangerous" (Aljazeera, 2020). In return, Trump and Pompeo have angered Beijing by repeatedly referring to coronavirus as "Chinese virus" when discussing the COVID-19 outbreak first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan (Aljazeera, 2020). There is increasing confidence by Washington that the COVID-19 outbreak likely originated in a Wuhan laboratory, though not as a bioweapon but as part of China's attempt to demonstrate to the world that its efforts to identify and combat viruses are equal to or greater than the capabilities of the United States (Baier, 2020). Hart and Fuchs (2020) said Beijing's continuous efforts to avoid blame for the origin of the coronavirus makes it harder for the global community to work collaboratively to defeat the virus.

On April 2020 Easter festival, arsonists set more than twenty 5G cellular towers in the United Kingdom on fire, forming a pattern of bunny-eared infernos that points to one of the many conspiracy theories surrounding the spread of the novel coronavirus. The basic idea is that 5G, a new generation of wireless communication, is responsible for the coronavirus crisis, and the idea has spread rapidly (Sorkin, 2020). The believers of 5G conspiracy believe that 5G frequency spectrum somehow transmits and spreads the virus, as if in a wireless miasma (Sorkin, 2020). Popular beliefs and conspiracy theories that wireless communications pose a threat have long been around, but the global spread of Coronavirus at the same time that countries were rolling out fifth generation wireless technology has made some theorists to see the invention of 5G as the reason for the outbreak of coronavirus.

As mentioned earlier, Trump and Pompeo have angered Beijing by repeatedly referring to COVID-19 as "the Chinese virus" when discussing the COVID-19 outbreak first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Given the myth surrounding the Pandemic it become imperative to analyze China's transparency in coronavirus situation and its effort in containing the virus. Also, to analyze the response of countries around the world in tackling the pandemic, and analyze the role played by World Health Organization (WHO). While looking at the political, economic, and social impact of the pandemic.

Conspiracy Theory and the Various Narratives on Covid 19 Pandemic

Conspiracy Theory was promoted by Karl Kooper (2002), a conspiracy theory is an explanation of an event or situation that invokes a conspiracy by sinister and powerful actors, often political in motivation when other explanations are more probable. The term has a pejorative connotation, implying that the appeal to a conspiracy is based on prejudice or insufficient evidence. Conspiracy theories resist falsification and are reinforced by circular reasoning: both evidence against the conspiracy and an absence of evidence for it are re-interpreted as evidence of its truth, whereby the conspiracy becomes a matter of faith rather than something that can be proved or disproved. There have been conspiracy theories about the outbreak of coronavirus with various sources alleging different origins of the virus. For Beijing, the virus might have been planted by the US to destroy China. Washington on its part believes the virus might have been planted by China in order to prove to the world that it has capabilities to contain any virus, thereby making them to quickly attain the number one superpower status. There are some theorists who believe that the virus was brought by the invention of the 5G network, the believers of this theory believed that 5G frequency spectrum somehow transmits and spreads the virus.

According to WHO (2020), however, coronaviruses popularly nicknamed Covid-19, are a group of viruses belonging to the family of Coronaviridae, which infect both animals and humans. Human coronaviruses can cause mild disease similar to a common cold, while others cause more severe disease (such as MERS - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). A new coronavirus that previously has not been identified in humans emerged in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Signs and symptoms of coronavirus include respiratory symptoms and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and sometimes death. Standard recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 include frequent cleaning of hands using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water; covering the nose and mouth with a flexed elbow or disposable tissue when coughing and sneezing; and avoiding close contact with anyone that has a fever and cough.

China's. Transparency in Coronavirus Situation and its effort in containing the Virus

On March 18, 2020, China marked a milestone in its war against the coronavirus pandemic. On 19th March 2020, China for the first time since the outbreak of coronavirus records no new local infections in the central province of Hubei, where more than 60 million people have been in confinement as part of a nationwide effort to control the deadly outbreak (Huang, 2020). The respiratory illness caused by the new pathogen, first detected in late December in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, and has spread rapidly across the world, infecting millions of people and killing thousands. America and Europe have become the new epicenters of the disease, also known as COVID-19, with the death toll in the US, Italy and Spain higher than China. As at April 25th 2020, the pandemic has affected 2 million and 8 hundred thousand people and killing more than more than 200 hundred thousand people globally (Maxouris, 2020). China's efforts in tackling the coronavirus virus have

included strict social distancing, more than a month of city-wide lockdowns of Wuhan and surrounding areas, extensive public monitoring of citizens, as well as various methods of punishment and rewards to encourage adherence to such measures. The efforts have been praised by the World Health Organization, which concluded in a report in February 2020 that China's "bold approach" had "changed the course of how the coronavirus can be dealt with. It added: "In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile, and aggressive disease containment effort in history" (Kuo, 2020). The country where the virus emerged has received praise for its handling of the crisis. World Health Organization Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed China for the "speed with which [it] detected the outbreak" and its "commitment to transparency". But despite those warm words from the WHO, there is considerable and persistent doubt about the official statistics coming from Beijing. A senior British government minister, Michael Gove, said that some of the reporting coming from China was unclear, and not accurate, he believes China is hiding some facts about the coronavirus, the nature, and infectiousness of the virus". German Chancellor Angela Merkel in April 2020 urged China to be as transparent as possible about the coronavirus outbreak, as Beijing faces mounting pressure over its management of the crisis. According to Merkel "I believe the more transparent China is about the origin story of the virus, the better it is for everyone in the world in order to learn from it," (Lau and Wong, 2020). Similarly, the US President Donald Trump said that the reported death toll and infections seemed not to be accurate, he believes China has not been honest with its figures". The US lawmakers have also accused China of under-reporting the scale of the outbreak (BBC, 2020). China has rejected the claims of its not being transparent by the US claiming that it has been "open and transparent" about its response to the pandemic. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that American officials "just want to shift the responsibility." "Actually, we do not want to fall into an argument with them, but faced with such repeated moral slander by them, I feel compelled to take some time and clarify the truth again," Hua said, adding that the U.S. response to the virus has been slow and posed threat to the world. "Can anyone tell us what the U.S. has done in the last two months?" she asked. Hua also blasted U.S. officials for publicly attacking China since the outbreak, saying their comments were "just shameless and morally repulsive (Archiga, 2020)

Analyses of the Global Effort in Tackling Coronavirus

While the disease has been stemmed in China, the virus is wreaking havoc in other parts of the world, with America being the new epicenter with more than 800 hundred thousand people infected and more than 50 thousand deaths as of April 25th, 2020. Many Western countries now find themselves being criticized for not taking proactive actions when the outbreak first occurred. This led to Dr Bruce Aylward, a leading expert at the World Health Organization (WHO), in late February 2020 to suggest that other countries should replicate China's approach to containing the spread of COVID-19 (Huang, 2020).

Even without considering the lack of policy autonomy in many democracies in the world because they do not have "despotic" power and must contend with the checks and balances of a democratic system, effective implementation of those draconian containment measures would require a strong state to penetrate society and enforce its decisions. China can achieve that, thanks to the extensive array of vehicles installed in the Mao era to do just that, village party branches, street sub district offices and former barefoot doctors (those who received little training but were allowed to practice in the countryside in the Mao era; in the 1980s they were certified to become "village doctors") who were mobilized to take temperatures, quarantine people and trace infections and their close contacts. Differing from the former Soviet Union, which relied heavily on formal bureaucracy and police to enforce government policies, China also uses social forces to conduct "community policing", for example by having residents monitor each other's activities. These traditional vehicles were made more efficient with the introduction of big data and information technology, such as QR codes, to track and stop the spread of the virus. Partly because the stringent quarantine measures were brought in during the spring festival holiday, Chinese people overall were cooperative with this seemingly Orwellian approach. Furthermore, the rapid centralization of political power in China since 2012 has generated strong incentives for government officials to rush to jump onto President Xi Jinping's bandwagon to demonstrate their political loyalty. Not surprisingly, when President Xi clearly signaled his policy priority in the COVID-19 crisis after January 2020, inaction and foot-dragging soon gave way to zealous and heavy-handed policy actions. Other countries may borrow some of China's containment measures (for example, shutting down a city), but it would be challenging for them to halt economic production and strictly enforce social distancing measures to the same level as seen in China. The Chinese government sealed off cities, apartment complexes and villages, placing security guards on patrol around the clock to monitor people's movements. There have even been reports of residents being arrested for stepping outside their homes or not wearing masks while playing Mahjong at home. Even in Italy, the first Western democracy to adopt expansive containment measures that appeared to mirror China's lockdown of Wuhan, the government did not immediately stop essential businesses from operating as normal, nor did it bar foreigners and outsiders from coming in and out of the affected areas. Before the coronavirus outbreak came at a full force in New York. There were orders by the government for people to maintain social distance, grocery

stores, pharmacies and major retailers like Walmart are still allowed to open and public transportation remains operational, but all these failed in New York because according to some advocates of democracy, the executive does not have the power to give such orders (Huang, 2020). In the US, President Trump has faced heavy criticism for having overseen a slow and ineffective response to the coronavirus pandemic, failing to quickly embrace public health measures that could have prevented the disease from spreading (Shear and McNeil, 2020). Shear and McNeil (2020) believed that, instead of the US to take proactive steps when the outbreak first occurred in China, the US was busy blaming China for its draconian approach to the handling of the virus. The lack of quick action in the part of the US is believed by many to be the cause of high surge of number of coronavirus patients in US. Sadly, at a point when the crisis started surging in the US, the Trump administration's response has as many shortcomings. At the penultimate stage, governors and mayors were begging the federal government to help. But President Trump spent weeks downplaying the gravity of the coming storm, refusing to implement the Defense Production Act to address dire supply shortages, calling the virus a "hoax," a "Chinese Virus" and suggesting that it would disappear like a "miracle." Even now, as the pandemic wreaks untold devastation in America, President Trump continues to take drastically lame measures to save lives and the economy. For example, Trump dismissed as "wrong" a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services watchdog report stating that U.S. hospitals do not have the supplies they needed to help patients and frontline medical workers (Hart and Fuchs, 2020). Today, as of 26th April 2020, the United States is the new COVID-19 epicenter, with more reported cases than any nation in the world, overtaking Italy that was the epicenter before now. The United States also lags way behind on testing, so doctors and local leaders across the nation are "flying blind." And the Trump administration still refuses to coordinate medical supply distribution among states, forcing governors to bid against one another on the commercial market. The result is deadly: Some states have more ventilators and protective equipment than they need while others are facing dire shortages and risks to their lives (Hart and Fuchs, 2020). While Americans are dying, President Trump and his congressional and media allies are already launching their cover-up campaign. A reckoning is coming; the 2020 American election is around the corner; the Trump administration is working furiously to get out ahead of it with a massive damage-control media blitz. The plan: fan the flames of anti-China rhetoric to divert attention from the Trump administration's direct responsibility for an untold number of American deaths. These narrations shows that the world was not ready to combat the coronavirus pandemic when the virus was at penultimate stage, and are still not ready to fight it now, as the virus has now taken a political turn (Huang, 2020; Hart and Fuchs, 2020; Shear and McNeil, 2020).

The Failure of Global Healthcare in Containing Coronavirus

As the prevalent coronavirus outbreak continues to spike, the global health sector has been overwhelmed even though the health sector of advanced economies is the most funded sector (Stukler, 2013) but why has it been overwhelmed. WHO said the health systems are collapsing under the pressure of too many cases," WHO added that the supply chain for personal protective gear like masks, gloves and gowns is under immense pressure. Feuer (2020) believes that the advanced economies did not envisage that their health sector would be so overwhelmed. This is an outcry for countries of the world to build health facilities that will withstand any disease and be prepared to develop vaccines for any diseases with the same energy put in building deadly weapons of war. As the virus spreads from China to across the world, it has overwhelmed some countries. In America, the death toll is rising by thousands everyday as health officials struggle to increase the country's health-care capacity. And as the coronavirus pandemic spreads throughout the United States, events have shown that the US hospitals are ill-prepared to manage the increasing number of Covid-19 patients. The US government's projection shows that, in a moderate disease outbreak, 200,000 people will need intensive care. Today, there are fewer than 100,000 ICU beds in the United States, and most of them are already occupied (Wen, 2020). America, Europe and elsewhere are now implementing social distancing policies to slow the spread of the virus and keep the number of patients needing care below the capacity of the health systems. The governments of the US, Italy, Spain, and other hard-hit countries have restricted travel within the country.

Global actors have been criticized for paying so much attention to military than healthcare. The belief of the global actors is that war casualties represent the greatest casualties that could befall any country (Mangan, Schoen and Higgins, 2020), but the greatest casualty that could befall any country is the failure of the health sector (Mangan, Schoen and Higgins, 2020), for example, Spanish flu of 1918 killed more Americans than the World War II did (Waxman and Wilson, 2018). A government whose health care does not receive much attention from it, is bound to fail, in agreeing to this assertion, the Director of the Washington DC- based Win Without War advocacy group, Stephen Miles, says "when we can't help those suffering from opioid addiction get treatment, and when we can't ensure education and healthcare to all of our citizens, how is it possible we can justify spending billions more on weapons that don't work to fight enemies that don't exist?" (McCarthy, 2018). Covid-19 could end up killing more people this year than some wars waged by the United States, including the Vietnam and Korean conflicts, and World War I, (Mangan, Schoen and Higgins, 2020). In questioning the high

military spending in detriment of health care, Preble (2020) asks the following questions, if some of the money spent on the U.S. military had been better spent on more useful things closer to home? If a few million additional N-95 masks, have protected more Americans than a few additional M1 Abrams tanks? If the money spent on even a single F-35 fighter plane have saved more lives in April and May of 2020, at least if it had been used to buy a few thousand more ventilators. When Donald submitted the 740 billion dollars on military spending in February 2020, the accompanying press release outlining the rationale for this spending didn't mention infectious diseases or coronavirus or anything pertaining to protecting public health. The Covid-19 pandemic has come and ravaged America, and in order to develop measures to stop the further spread of the disease and caring for those who have contracted it. Such measures require several key pieces of protective equipment; from N-95 masks to gloves and gowns. Testing kits and thermometers are needed to separate the healthy from the sick. And hospital beds and ventilators are needed for those who fall ill. Shortages have prompted governors and mayors to appeal for help not only from the US federal government, but also from foreign governments. Michigan, which as of 3 pm on April 29th, 2020, had reported more than 20,000 confirmed cases, and more than 1000 deaths from the disease, had on April 1st requested over 20 million N-95 masks and 25,000 ventilators. Massachusetts secured 1.2 million N-95 masks from China, delivered by the New England Patriots' team plane. Surveying that budget request from two months ago, the Trump administration had asked for \$11.4 billion to purchase 79 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, \$3.5 billion for 2 Arleigh Burke destroyers for the Navy, and \$1.5 billion to modernize 89 M-1 Abrams tanks. By way of comparison, then, and using high end estimates for the medical devices, for the cost of a single F-35 (\$144 million), the United States could have purchased at least 2,800 ventilators.

In March 2020, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan called on hospitals to quickly expand the number of beds in the state. Six hospitals reported that it would cost nearly \$40 million to add 340 by May 1st. At that rate, the one Navy destroyer in the Trump administration's budget (\$1.75 billion) costs as much as 14,870 hospital beds. And it would cost less to purchase 17 million N-95 protective masks (at the pre-gouging price) than what U.S. taxpayers are being asked to spend to modernize a single Abrams tank (the one the Army doesn't want) (Preble, 2020).

This American military spending experience illustrates how global actors are paying more attention to defense at the detriment of their healthcare sectors. In Africa, where the continent is battling with various insurgent groups and rebels, emphasis has only been on fortifying the defense, to most African countries, defense is the number one priority. Below is table that supports this argument

Countries 2020 budget	Health	Defence
Algeria	\$3.3 billion dollars	\$13 billion
Nigeria	\$128 million	\$2.2 billion
Egypt	\$7.8 billion	\$11 billion
Ghana	\$77 million	\$215 million dollars

This table shows that Africa leaders have consistently improved the defense spending and neglected their country's health sector despite several pledges to do improve it. In 2001, the heads of state of 52 African countries met in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and committed to spending 15 percent of their yearly domestic budget on health. Just a handful of countries have met this target on the continent (Adebayo, 2020). Majority have fallen through the cracks in fulfilling this commitment. Since it signed the declaration, Nigeria has allocated less than six percent of its budget to health, and most of the funds are spent on salaries (Adebayo, 2020).

Role played by World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO), the UN's health agency, has played a crucial role since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, ever since the first cases were identified in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019. At a press conference, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, outlined five ways the agency is leading the global response.

Helping countries to prepare and respond.

The World Health Organization has issued a COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which identifies the major actions countries should take, and the resources needed to carry them out. The action plan, which is updated with fresh information and data improves WHO's understanding of the characteristics of

the virus and how to respond, acts as a guide for developing country-specific plans. The health agency's six regional offices, and 150 country offices, work closely with governments around the globe to prepare their health systems for the ravages of COVID-19, and to respond effectively when cases arrive and begin to mount. With partners, W.H.O set up the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, to ensure patients get the care they need, and frontline workers get essential supplies and information; and to accelerate research and development of a vaccine and treatments for all who need them (UN news, 2020).

Providing Accurate Information, busting dangerous Myth

The internet is mostly stained with information, some of which is false about the Covid-19 pandemic. In the midst of this "infodemic", W.H.O is producing accurate, useful guidance which helps in saving lives of millions around the world. This includes around 50 pieces of technical advice for the public, health workers and countries, with evidence-based guidance on every element of the response, and exploding dangerous myths. The health agency benefits from the expertise of a global network of health professionals and scientists, including epidemiologists, clinicians and virologists, to ensure that the response is as comprehensive, authoritative and representative as possible. To eliminate misleading information, the W.H.O set up a team to give everyone access to timely, accurate and easy-to-understand advice, from trusted sources. In addition, daily situation reports and press briefings, as well as briefings with governments, are keeping the world informed about the latest data, information and evidence. Many social media and tech companies are working closely with the World Health Organization to aid the flow of reliable information, including Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok; and chatbots on the WhatsApp and Viber platforms have garnered millions of followers, sending out timely updates and reports (UN news, 2020).

Ensuring Vital Supplies reach frontline health workers.

Personal protective equipment is essential to ensure health professionals are safe as well as save others. So far, W.H.O has shipped more than two million items of personal protective equipment to 133 countries and is preparing to ship another two million items in the coming weeks. More than a million diagnostic tests have been dispatched to 126 countries, in all regions, and more are being sourced. However, far more is needed, and the World Health Organization is working with the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum, and others in the private sector, to ramp up the production and distribution of essential medical supplies. On 8 April, W.H.O launched a "UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force", which aims to dramatically increase the supply of essential protective equipment where it is needed (UN news, 2020).

Training and Mobilizing Health Workers

The W.H.O is aiming to train millions of health workers, via its OpenWHO platform. Thanks to this online tool, life-saving knowledge is being transferred to frontline personnel by the World Health Organization, and its key partners. Users take part in a worldwide social learning network, based on interactive, online courses and materials covering a variety of subjects. OpenWHO also serves as a forum for the rapid sharing of public health expertise, and in-depth discussion and feedback on key issues. So far, more than 1.2 million people have enrolled in 43 languages. Countries are also being supported by experts, deployed around the world by the World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). During outbreaks, the network ensures that the right technical expertise and skills are on the ground where and when they are needed most. Emergency Medical Teams are also an important part of the global health workforce. These teams are highly trained, and self-sufficient, and are sent to vulnerable areas around the world (UN news, 2020)

The search for a Vaccine

Laboratories in many countries are already conducting tests; the hope is that they will eventually lead to a vaccine. In an attempt to corral these efforts, the W.H.O. brought together 400 of the world's leading researchers in February to identify research priorities. The agency launched a "Solidarity Trial", an international clinical trial, involving 90 countries, to help find effective treatment. The aim is to rapidly discover whether any existing drugs can slow the progression of the disease, or improve survival. To better understand Covid-19, the World Health Organization has developed research protocols that are being used in more than 40 countries, in a coordinated way, and some 130 scientists, funders and manufacturers from around the world have signed a statement committing to work with W.H.O. to speed the development of a vaccine against COVID-19 (UN news, 2020)

Political, Economic and Social Impacts of Coronavirus

The outbreak of pandemic Covid-19 all over the world has disturbed the political, social, economic, religious and financial structures of the whole world. World's topmost economies such as the US, China, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, and many others are at the verge of collapse (Mahar, 2020).

Economic impact of coronavirus

Confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus have surged globally. Businesses are coping with lost revenue and disrupted supply chains as factory shutdowns and quarantine measures spread across the globe, restricting movement and commerce. Unemployment is skyrocketing, while policymakers across countries race to implement fiscal and monetary measures to alleviate the financial burden on citizens and shore up economies under severe strain. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 9 April 2020 said the coronavirus pandemic had instigated an economic downturn the likes of which the world has not experienced since the Great Depression (Hutt, 2020). Covid-19 is harming the global economy because the world has been experiencing the most difficult economic situation since World War-II (Mahar, 2020). The lockdown caused by the outbreak of coronavirus has restricted various businesses such as travelling to contain the virus consequently these businesses are coming to an abrupt halt globally. The spread of the epidemic is picking up speed and causing more economic damage. It is stated by the U.S. official from federal reserves that American unemployment would be 30% and its economy would shrink by half (Mahar, 2020). There will be massive loss of jobs and rise in unemployment around the world as a result of the lockdown. While when it comes to the stock market, it is severely damaged by Covid-19 such as the stock market of the United States is down about thirty percent. By looking over the existing condition of several businesses, most of the investors are removing their money from multiple businesses in this regard; \$83 billion has already been removed from emerging markets since the outbreak of Covid-19 (Mahar, 2020). So, the impact of Covid-19 is severe on the economic structure of the world because people are not spending money and resultantly businesses are not getting revenue therefore most of the businesses are shutting up shops.

According to Mahar (2020) many nations are going through recession and collapse of their economic structures that point out the staggering conditions for them, in this regard almost 80 countries from both developing and developed countries have already requested International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial help. Such as Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan who requested IMF to help Islamabad to fight against Novel Coronavirus.

Political Impact of Coronavirus

The political effects of the coronavirus in developed economies could be as substantial as the economic effects. Leaders from South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, and U.S. President Donald Trump have been sharply criticized for mishandling the virus and allowing cases to increase. Speculation is rife that Prime Minister Abe may be forced to leave office earlier than expected, while if the coronavirus causes an economic slowdown or recession in the United States, then it could reduce the chances that President Trump is reelected. President Moon, meanwhile, faces a petition signed by hundreds of thousands of citizens to remove him from office. Taiwan seems to be the only country where the government's approval rating has increased, thanks to deft handling of the virus by the Tsai Ing-wen administration (Miller, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has renewed the Cold War between Beijing and Washington. Beijing has blamed the US for the coronavirus outbreak, according to Li (2020), Beijing believes the virus was brought by 300 athletes from the US military who in October 2019 attended the 7th Military World Games in Wuhan, where the epidemic first broke out, and infected Chinese with the virus. Washington on the other hand believes that the virus was created at Wuhan laboratory, though not as a bioweapon but as part of China's attempt to demonstrate to the world that its efforts to identify and combat viruses are equal to or greater than the capabilities of the United States (Baier, 2020). At a time when every country's hands must be on deck in containing this virus but accusations and counter accusations have further widened the differences between these two nations.

Social Impacts of Coronavirus

The social impact of coronavirus has created a barrier in social interactions, particularly physical interactions this has caused untold hardship on people. The coronavirus outbreak has caused a panic in the relationship between pets and their owners. The fear is occasioned by the belief that pets or other livestock may pass on coronavirus to humans, as a result many people were reluctant to keep their pets fearing transmission. In addition, many countries have reported an increase in domestic violence and intimate partner violence attributed to lockdowns amid the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic. Financial insecurity, stress, and uncertainty have led to increased aggression at home among couples and their children.

II. Conclusion

Coronavirus has affected the political, social, and economic system of the world. The disease has rendered companies and industries closed, which means loss of livelihood, the loss of livelihood which is attributed to the economic effect of coronavirus has caused frustration in many homes which has resulted to an increase in domestic violence. Add to this is the political effect the virus has caused in international relations.

Beijing and Tehran have blamed the US for the coronavirus outbreak, according to Li (2020), Beijing believes the virus was brought by 300 athletes from the US military who in October 2019 attended the 7th Military World Games in Wuhan, where the epidemic first broke out, and infected Chinese with the virus. Washington on the other hand believes that the virus was created at Wuhan laboratory, though not as a bioweapon but as part of China's attempt to demonstrate to the world that its efforts to identify and combat viruses are equal to or greater than the capabilities of the United State. This, analysts believe, is not necessary if coronavirus is to be defeated.

Recommendations

Evans (2020) believes that for the virus to be stopped it is important for medical scientists to have an enhanced understanding of the origin of the virus because knowing the origin of a virus is important in stopping the next one. The global world system should spend the enormous resources used in acquiring weapons on vaccines and research in order to combat any diseases. Covid-19 could end up killing more people this year than some wars waged by the United States, including the Vietnam and Korean conflicts, and World War I, (Mangan, Schoen and Higgins, 2020). The coronavirus fallout should be a wakeup call for governments to prioritize health care sector over military. There should be more and cheaper kits for people in order for people to get themselves tested at home without necessarily going to hospitals. In Africa, Senegal, which reacted rapidly and firmly to the Ebola outbreaks in its region in 2014, has once again reacts the same to the coronavirus pandemic. The country is the home of the Pasteur Institute, a research lab that partners with the World Health Organization to fight viral outbreaks and is the creator of one of the first yellow fever vaccines. The Pasteur Institute teamed up with Mologic, a British biotech firm founded by a researcher who developed the pee-on-a-stick pregnancy test, to create test kits which will be able to diagnose Covid-19 within 10 minutes. According to a spokesperson of Pasteur Institute, the kits will be released in the next 2 months and will only cost \$1 per kit. "People will be able to do it themselves". And this will enable everyone to be tested for Covid-19. Even without the soon to be introduced 10-minute kit, Senegal's testing capabilities are better than those of the US. Senegal is currently using test kits that diagnose patients within four hours (Frank and Grady, 2020). People should be educated about the virus because enhancing education and health literacy can have reinforcing positive effects on the ability of humans to fight more deadly diseases (Evans, 2020). Because in a country like Nigeria where illiteracy is high, there is a general belief among the poor masses that Covid-19 is mainly targeting the country's elite, particularly politicians, despite warnings that the life-threatening respiratory illness could hit the poor as well. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has recorded more than 1000 cases since the end of February - most of them people who had been abroad, and those they had interacted with after their return to Africa's most-populous state, which has a population of about 200 million. So far, Nigeria's list of people who got or have died from Covid-19 includes President Muhammadu Buhari's chief of staff, politicians, heads of government agencies, former ambassadors and their aides or relatives. These are the kind of people who normally jet off to the UK, Germany, or the US at the slightest headache because Nigeria's state hospitals are poorly funded, run-down, and lack adequate equipment. With some Nigerians believing that selectiveness of the virus might be a God's way of bringing changes to their government (BBC, 2020). This is a time for governments of developing countries to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, the equal and the unequal of the society. In Nigeria for example President Muhammadu Buhari while campaigning for election in 2015 promised to end "medical tourism", but he himself spent more than four months in London in 2017 getting treatment for an undisclosed illness and subsequently returning to the UK capital for additional care. But with the borders closed and every country haunted by its Covid-19 experience, Nigerians both the elite and the poor are in this mess together. There is a need for governments particularly the developing ones to improve the standard of living of their populace because in a situation where the living standard is poor, social distancing and isolation will be difficult. For example, social distancing and self-isolation is impossible in a typical Nigerian slum. In a situation where about 30 families cram into a building, sharing the same toilet and bathroom, the potential disaster is unimaginable. Mitigating the spread and worst consequences of the coronavirus in Nigeria goes beyond social distancing and isolation, it is through the provision of effective palliatives measures for Nigerians especially the very poor, and this can be done through effective community support mechanism, it is only when this is done that Nigerians will truly stay at home and have confidence on their government that they truly care. Having largely ignored the Nigerian masses for long, the Nigerian government faces an uphill task in re-winning its citizens' confidence and trust. Earning the trust is not only crucial for the fight against Covid-19 but also for Nigeria's long term progress and system of governance. This can be done by pumping money into the economy and improving access to soft loans for vulnerable poor Nigerian marketers and putting in place measures that will increase job opportunities such as provision of constant electricity and favorable environment and conditions for doing business. Also the Covid-19 experience has taught Nigeria that too much reliant on oil will not do well to her economy, what happens if the price oil falls as experience during the Covid-19 outbreak? There is every need for Nigeria to diversify her economy

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