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## World After Covid-19: All spheres of life

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**Abstract:** As countries battle the Covid-19 pandemic, one thing is becoming clear: the world after the coronavirus will be different in many respects, including economics, social issues, and health. No one will emerge from this catastrophe without having suffered some sort of loss. Previous challenges to individual and societal liberties were ineffective in changing our way of life, but now this vital asset of our civilisation is in grave jeopardy. The powerful countries will construct a new international order in the post-Covid-19 era, taking into account the lessons learned in dealing with the current pandemic. The involvement of international organisations will be scrutinised as well. Low GDP growth, huge debt, and reliance on oil and critical technology will make it difficult for developing countries to sustain independent foreign policies. In education, e-governance, commerce, health, and artificial intelligence, IT will play a vital role in all aspects of life. Monitoring civilians with tracking devices would run counter to human rights issues in the sake of security and safety. The tourism industry will continue to thrive, but visa requirements will be tightened. Covid-19 teaches a valuable lesson. Survival of the fittest will not work in the march of civilisation. Even if we have to carry them on our shoulders, we must accompany the weak and vulnerable.

**Index Terms - Societal liberties, artificial intelligence, Jeopardy, Critical technology**

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 killed over 50 million people globally, with over 14 million individuals dying in British India alone. This epidemic had a far-reaching and worldwide impact. It had a significant influence on World War I. It shifted the limits of imperial powers and resulted in widespread poverty in many countries due to unemployment and inflation. The pandemic fueled independence movements in former colonies and compelled governments to implement universal healthcare plans. It also resulted in improvements in epidemiology, virology, and vaccine development.

Fast forward a century, and the Covid-19 pandemic has been doing havoc in various regions of the world on many timeframes. The epidemic had reached 213 countries by the beginning of June 2020, with over 365,000 deaths to date, and had peaked only in China, the United States, and Europe. Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and Australia were sluggish to get the virus, but it did not entirely wipe out their populations. There was no way of knowing whether the pandemic would cease like its lesser predecessors SARS (2002) and MERS (2012), or if it would resurface in the winter of 2021. But one thing is certain: when it is ultimately eradicated, we will not return to the world of 2019. In many ways, the world after the Coronavirus will be different – economically, socially, and health-wise. No one will emerge from this catastrophe without having suffered some sort of loss.

It's ironic that this disease has targeted one of modern civilisation's most prized possessions: human liberty. Individual and social liberties have been the hallmarks of our way of life in most areas of the world, for which governments have fought and won wars after making terrible sacrifices. This manner of life could not be changed by Nazi ideology, Fascism, or Marxist coups in the previous century. Terrorism, ISIS, and xenophobia could not stop it in our time. However, a corona virus and its after effects are now posing a significant threat to this crucial asset of our civilization.

Many predictions have been made about what kind of planet we will inherit in the next decade following the cataclysmic transformation of 2020. As governments continue to fight the pandemic, these are based on shifting hypotheses. Apart from emergency financial measures announced by individual governments and international financial organisations to keep businesses and countries afloat and assist individuals who are temporarily unemployed, countries have had little time to consider their long-term strategies. There is, however, plenty of material to go through and piece together a picture of what humanity's future might look like in the months and years ahead when life returns to normal. This paper aims to identify the pieces of the

puzzle that, if and when put together by governments, could provide insight into how we will live in the future.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

To say the least, the pandemic's total economic impact on the global economy is bleak. International financial organisations predict that the economies of Europe and other wealthy countries will contract by 4% to 6% by the end of the first quarter of this year, triggering a global recession. In 2020, global GDP is expected to dip between 2.4 and 2.8 percent. To avoid a complete economic collapse, regions that have not been hit as hard as others are pushing to loosen restrictions and reopen shops, transportation, enterprises, and the service sector. This effort is being led by President Trump. European countries have also begun to gradually open their economies while taking the essential measures in terms of health. Select restrictions are expected to remain in place for at least 6 to 12 months in nations where corona virus has already reached its peak, and if the virus spreads to other parts of the world, these limits may be expanded or enforced more strictly.

As a result of the global economic slump, which may turn out to be far worse than the financial and economic crisis of 2008–9, nationalism will dominate any future debate of international collaboration. Globalisation will not be eliminated, but it will take a back seat as governments compete to care for their inhabitants' well-being before assisting others. The EU Finance Ministers' viewpoints were deeply polarised when they gathered in April 2020 to adopt a half-billion-euro financial emergency plan for member states dealing with the pandemic's effects. The fund will assist EU governments, businesses, and individuals in their efforts to mitigate the pandemic's negative economic impact in their respective countries. In the United States, disagreements arose between state and federal governments over the sharing of ventilators, personal protective equipment, and pharmaceuticals deemed necessary for preventing deaths and restoring the economy. The campaign for the upcoming US Presidential election in November 2020 has intensified this.

Small and medium firms in several nations may be considering going out of business or making large-scale employee reductions unless they can access low-interest government loans or discover new methods to do business. Green and sustainable industries will gain traction and receive additional backing. Rather than investing in mining or the construction of new shopping malls and hotels, the new corporate focus will be on lowering carbon emissions, promoting natural and healthy food options, and improving hospital hygiene and gyms. For the next few years, health will be the most important problem. Oxygen pods may appear in metropolitan areas to provide individuals returning home from work with a breath of fresh air. Future city development will include more garden space, and public spaces will be open and airy to assist decrease infection.

### TRADE

As seen during the pandemic, home deliveries of groceries and general products will grow. Amazon was one of the tech behemoths that hired workers rather than laying them off. Apple, Google, Amazon, eBay, and Alibaba will strengthen e-commerce tools, tighten cyber security, provide buyers with assurances of safe financial transactions, and compete on delivery speed. Young people who are self-employed will promote e-commerce by conducting home deliveries rather than playing virtual games in their leisure time. It might become a regular feature for college students and recent grads looking for internships and summer jobs.

Despite the fact that the United States no longer accepts the WTO's arbitration in settling trade disputes with third nations, trade regulations will remain the WTO's top priority. To assist their domestic industries, countries are prone to adopt more protectionist policies and put high tariffs on imports. Tariff warfare on chosen manufactured goods may be necessary to defend national economies until the economies of major industrialised countries stabilise. Restoring China's export volumes to pre-coronavirus levels will be more difficult.

### Health

With clear criteria for medical practitioners about hospital admissions during emergencies, hospital care will undergo a huge upheaval. Health insurance will be introduced in many nations to cover medical expenses. Services like the NHS in the United Kingdom, which is under enormous strain, may be restructured to better balance critical care with outpatient therapy. MIR scans and physiotherapy care had previously been outsourced by several NHS trusts. Before hospitals intervene, this might be taken to the next step and include other investigations. To deal with the trauma and stress of the present epidemic, the mental health sector, which has traditionally been under-resourced in many nations, will take precedence. More money might be dedicated to research into new vaccinations to prevent future pandemics similar as SARS and Covid-19.

New international health norms for early warning and information exchange between countries will be negotiated. These will concentrate on agreed-upon reporting systems, supervised controls, and collaboration in developing common contingency plans for pathogen, radiation, and virus releases. In addition, a more transparent framework will be in place to monitor viral research and its sponsors.

Questions will be made as to why countries with superior health systems did not respond quickly enough to the signals of a worldwide epidemic spreading. On the 100th anniversary of the Spanish Flu, same concerns were expressed in 2018. Bill Gates, the billionaire philanthropist, recently admitted in a TV interview with Trevor Noah on the Daily Show that while he predicted a global pandemic in 2017, he had no clue it would happen so soon. Neither the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, led by Dr. Anthony Fauci, nor the Gates Foundation put enough money into creating effective vaccines for coronavirus strains that have been identified.

The world's best pharmaceutical companies are now racing to develop an anti-Covid-19 vaccination that is safe for everyone. Big Pharma critics claim that the pandemic is being exploited as a smokescreen to achieve their purpose of making trillions of dollars by pushing vaccines around the world and making them a part of everyone's annual drug management plan. There could be additional hazards involved with the development of a new vaccine, as well as if the virus resurfaces next winter.

### Education

In several nations, primary and secondary education immediately transitioned from classrooms to e-learning during the coronavirus lockdown. Turkey went even further, dedicating free TV channels to e-learning for households without access to the internet. Students adjusted to a new way of learning, which is likely to become the new standard in education, with the help of dedicated chat groups and video classes. Although this will have an impact on traditional education, it will be more efficient and successful due to its plug-and-play capability and group involvement via specialised chat rooms. Teachers will be trained in new e-learning methods, despite the need for classrooms and schools to provide children with outdoor space for sports, personal interaction with their peers, and a break for parents who work full-time and rely on nurseries and schools to keep their children occupied during office hours.

The way governments reacted to the demand that consumers pay their household and business bills and access other government services through e-government portals was another valuable lesson learned from the coronavirus outbreak. Countries will focus on extending e-government services in the post-corona world to allow individuals to pay utility bills, rates, and taxes online, get official papers, and receive government notifications immediately in their mailboxes as they are issued. At a high level of consumer involvement, banks have already integrated IT into their services. These will be improved in the future to reduce cybercrime and eliminate the necessity for bank branches in every village and town. With just head offices in major cities, banks are expected to become less visible to the general population. Banks are already using biometric and voice identification to identify clients electronically. Credit cards may be replaced in the future by iris recognition or the implantation of smart chips into human bodies.

For every household and individual, mobile and fixed broadband data will take on the same importance as gas, electricity, and water. As technology advances, citizens will be able to use free public WiFi hotspots at airports, hospitals, train stations, retail malls, and other public locations. On a yearly basis, private and business subscribers will pay a flat charge for unlimited 5G data. For citizens receiving governmental assistance and support funds, councils may subsidise these.

### Information technology

This will be the fastest-growing sector. Due to the high reliance on the internet during Covid-19, prominent IT companies were forced to make changes to their public websites to allow clients access to more cyber communication. Companies that provide web-based conference services, such as Zoom and Skype, have seen their stock prices grow. Netflix and Disney, two of the biggest names in home entertainment, each added millions of new users. Google and Apple teamed up to generate coronavirus statistics. To fulfil increased demand in the post-corona phase, these behemoths are likely to increase their investments in IT services.

Artificial intelligence will be supported in industrial and societal applications thanks to the contentious 5G broadband. Using robots and drones to reduce human exposure to hazardous conditions will be more cost effective for hospitals and the defence industry. Unless they have completed the first stage of initial consultation via video link, health practitioners may stop meeting patients face-to-face in routine appointments. GPs will approve medicines for patients online, and they will be delivered to their homes without the receiver having to go to the drugstore.

Countries may also utilise IT to track citizens' movements using mobile phone tracking software or chips integrated in driver's licences and photo ID cards. At the touch of a button on their mobile equipment, cops might gain restricted access to residents' financial, job, and criminal records. Considerations of security and health will overwhelm any protest for privacy. Human rights activists will be concerned about the potential that this could offer authoritarian administrations in suppressing and blackmailing opponents. There would be legislation in established democracies to clarify the limitations and mandates of authorised

government agencies, which would have the power to monitor citizens' movements under the law, and citizens would have a means to challenge misuse through the courts. Every individual's position will be detectable through satellite with the passage of time, just as machine-readable passports carry all important information about their holders on government portals.

### **Tourism**

Holidaymakers will want to take a break after living in their homes for months, as long as the destinations they visit are free of illness risks. Tourism will recover, but it will take some time. The reopening of tourism will also aid the return of regular and budget airlines, as well as related travel-related services, allowing thousands of unemployed individuals to return to work and bringing these firms back into profitability.

Gambia, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Spain, Portugal, India, Egypt, Tunisia, and Turkey, all of whom have made significant investments in the tourism sector, will work closely with hotel and resort operators to ensure that tourists are provided with an insulated and infection-free environment. Tourist resorts will be self-contained, and locals will not be permitted entry. Staff will only be admitted once they have been tested on a regular basis to ensure they are clear of infection or disease.

In most nations, new visa rules will be implemented for travellers. Visa restrictions will be imposed on nationals of countries where the pandemic has not yet reached its peak in states where the virus has peaked and life has returned to normal. If a vaccine is produced and marketed globally, countries may need a new corona virus health insurance or vaccination certificate before issuing a visit visa to international travellers. In such a setting, health considerations and safeguards may put old-age retirees at a disadvantage compared to working families, who have both time and means to take frequent vacations.

For travel insurance firms to settle any medical or travel-related claims, developed country travel advisories will become significant reference points. These advisories will also provide issuing countries with political leverage over host countries, which could be used to force these countries to enter into difficult tourism agreements, support international initiatives they oppose, or vote in favour of the sending country at the United Nations and its related agencies.

### **Local government**

Local governments spent more than three times their allocated budget on community policing, cleanliness, and care services during the current pandemic. Due to self-isolation and economic lockdown, their traditional sources of revenue, such as public transportation, traffic penalties, delayed rates, and rents on municipal properties, suffered greatly. They are unlikely to recuperate their losses from the affected city and provincial governments, who are also facing financial difficulties. In the next months, this loss will result in significant reductions in council services. Garbage collection, for example, may be stretched to three weeks, and libraries and community facilities could be closed. Only an increase in council rates, which people would have to endure from their budgets, will provide the same level of local government service as before the crisis.

### **The workplace**

Open workspaces and hot-desking were already commonplace among office workers. This epidemic has raised the stakes much higher. It has demonstrated how managers can save money on administrative costs by allowing employees to work from home. Workers will squander less time getting to work and spending less money on lunches and coffee breaks. Businesses that do not need to maintain significant inventories or goods will rent tiny office spaces and encourage employees to work from home. Firms will recruit workers for three days per week rather than the conventional five days per week in order to spread the employment pie across a big number of persons looking for work. Most travel agencies would start working on e-ticketing from home, thus they may disappear from main streets.

Business travel will be significantly reduced, leading in a higher reliance on virtual meetings and a reduction in airline business class seats. International enterprises who conduct business utilising air miles will have a lower carbon footprint as a result of this.

### **Elderly care**

Unlike the Spanish Flu, this pandemic has targeted the elderly and those with medical issues, as well as those who live in congested and impoverished areas. A lot will change in the way society cares after its poor and old in terms of health and care services in the coming years. Countries with a growing senior population will need to come up with new ways to support work pensions and social care. Proposals to raise the national insurance contribution to support rising health-care expenses have been proposed in the United Kingdom for many years. This could become the standard in many European countries, not just the United Kingdom. Private care home regulations will also be enhanced to guarantee that these facilities do not fail their elderly residents in times of crisis, as was the case in Spain, Italy, and the United Kingdom during the coronavirus pandemic.



## Social networks

Many of the social standards we take for granted will be thrown out in the new world order. Coffee shops and bars may have to adapt how they serve their clients in the future, relying on takeout and possibly charging extra for the usage of interior space. Smoking was made illegal ten years ago. Tobacco businesses have had a difficult time reinventing themselves. They'll now be entirely finished. Because of worries about diabetes and alcohol misuse, the next target will be alcohol and fizzy drink makers, with health taking first. Individualism will erode social and cultural contacts, such as people travelling packed trains and attending weddings and social functions.

On the bad side, the poor will resort to crime, computer fraud, drug misuse, and, in the worst-case scenario, depression and suicide. In order to further their agendas, enemy states will use these factors to disrupt life and foment internal unrest. Wars will continue to exist, but the manner in which they are fought will change. The poor and disadvantaged will bear the brunt of this bleak situation in many facets of their lives. Individualism will become, in a bizarre manner, the keyword for human survival in a globalised society.

## Faith and fatalism

As in all times of crises, the church, temple, and mosque will continue to operate as expressions of religious freedom and human imperfection. Covid-19 brought together ayatollahs, priests, pundits, imams, and rabbis to appeal to their followers and seek forgiveness for their sins in the hopes that this divine retribution would be lifted, as it had been in the ancient times when Yahweh aided the children of Israel during the reign of Pharaoh and the Great Plague. Every country will always have strong pockets of believers who reject science and modern approaches to solving problems in favour of returning to their forefathers' established religion. The loyal include not just the fatalists in society, but also educated people, doctors, teachers, and technocrats from various fields. People from all walks of life ignored their governments' social distancing counsel to attend community worships in various countries.

## Non-state actors

Thousands of volunteers, citizens' groups, and charities working in disaster relief and poverty reduction delivered food and supplies to the poor and vulnerable in support of their governments' relief efforts during the pandemic. Activists and civil society organisations also kept a close eye on their governments' responses, pointing out faults that had escaped the authorities' notice. Their efforts assisted the media in highlighting the under-reporting of deaths in care homes across the globe. They also drew attention to the inefficient equipment acquired from Chinese suppliers in the early phases of the epidemic to address hospital supply constraints. The non-state sector will be under enormous pressure to meet demand in the aftermath of the pandemic, when the need for assistance may be greater. Many international NGOs have forecast a drop in fundraising campaign income, which would be exacerbated by additional cuts to government aid and institutional support. Small organisations that rely on donations for revenue flow may face closure in the near future due to a shortage of public donations. Even huge charities may be obliged to form awkward alliances in order to maintain poverty reduction operations in target nations and save money.

## Developing countries

The fatal toll from the coronavirus has mainly escaped developing countries. However, if it strikes in the following phase, they will be destroyed due to a lack of health infrastructure and the inability to carry out even the most basic safeguards, such as isolating infected persons from the healthy population and treating them in hospitals. The lack of ICU units, ventilators, and personal protection equipment for doctors and nurses could endanger both qualified professionals and patients' lives.

Some of these countries' economies were put under full or partial lockdown, revealing their inability to handle financial shocks. The majority of developing countries have a huge labour force that relies on daily pay to get by. During protracted periods of economic stagnation, they are unable to earn a living. In many developing countries, tensions arose between the centre and federating units over whether to keep the economy partially open or impose a full lockdown to stem the spread of the disease. The government of Malawi was prevented from implementing the lockdown by the country's High Court. The Supreme Court of Pakistan, on the other hand, adopted a different view, warning the government against failing to take proactive measures to prevent the pandemic from spreading. These tensions may extend beyond the pandemic, contributing to more political unrest. Countries with elections coming up in the next two years will blame others to obscure their own government's failings.

Many developing countries have sought debt rescheduling and emergency finance from international financial institutions, resulting in increased debt burdens in the future. Without immediate international aid, most of these countries' ability to stabilise their economies will be severely limited, resulting in poor GDP growth, high trade imbalances, job losses, and domestic loan defaults by small firms.

Low GDP growth, hefty debt repayments, and significant import dependence on energy and vital technology will make it difficult for developing countries to sustain independent foreign policies. While they do not want to be in that situation, their negotiating strength with international creditors will be severely diminished, similar to when Bolshevik Russia agreed to Germany's terms in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1918. It may be a harsh analogy, but this is how those countries will feel once they have become

completely engulfed in a vicious cycle of political and economic instability, ongoing debt servicing, and escalating development expenditures.

### International order

It is becoming evident that in the post-Covid-19 world, powerful countries will construct a new international order based on the lessons learned from totalitarian regimes and liberal democracies in dealing with the current pandemic. But it must not be a replica of the post-World War II arrangement, in which the victorious states created an international order for the rest of the world to follow and imposed its norms on all states without asking their peoples. It's worth noting that the Bretton Woods System and the League of Nations, which preceded the United Nations, predated the independence of several Afro-Asian countries, which had to recognise many international accords and protocols as successors as part of the decolonization process.

Countries that have achieved complete or partial control of the pandemic with lower death rates (China, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Taiwan, and South Korea) do not have political systems that the rest of the world should aspire to, as opposed to the liberal democracies in the US, UK, and EU, which were unable to prevent the disease's spread in the early stages, resulting in thousands of deaths, including those of their health professionals. They may also struggle to recover as effectively as China from the global economic downturn that is expected to hit the rest of 2020.

The delicate balance between political totalitarianism and the free market economy will have to be considered when establishing a new world order, as both have demonstrated different strengths. Despite being the world's most populated country, China spared a significant number of its citizens from coronavirus mortality, whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and France were unable to do so despite having the best healthcare systems and equipment.

The new international order will not work in a unipolar planet. It should not be an order in which a government decides to restrict the export of a pharmaceutical required by its citizens to cure sickness symptoms but then reverses its decision after receiving a phone call from another powerful country threatening 'consequences' if the medicine's shipment is halted. It should not be an order in which the owner of a natural resource is not the country in which it is located, but rather another country with the capacity and capability to destroy it if its requirements are not met. It should not be an international system in which a country's raw material is exported at pennies per metric tonne and then imported back in dollars per metric tonne after reprocessing and value addition by the same country.

Worker strikes and a substantial increase in government subsidies could come from growing inequities within and between countries. This could resurrect the discussion over the significance of ancient liberalism and socialism ideologies in addressing economic challenges, as shown by the US and Chinese economic models, and exacerbate the rivalry between these two superpowers.

### Multilateralism

The role of multilateral organisations will be scrutinised in the emerging international order. Countries will be hesitant to sponsor organisations that are out of date in the modern world. The financial systems of the UN, Commonwealth, WHO, and OIC reveal a fundamental flaw in which significant contributors have the authority to compel these organisations to work first for their own national interests before pursuing broader common goals. To make these organisations more accountable to donors, new restrictions will be implemented. Obviously, this will set back the democratic reform programme. The UN's incapacity to prevent conflicts, control refugee flows, and respond effectively to disasters, as well as the WHO's inability to foresee and prevent this pandemic and previous epidemics, have already come under fire. Part of the reason for their poor performance is that wealthy and powerful countries have abandoned global institutions. There are rival limited and worldwide forums that are viewed more seriously than the UN and its agencies, including as the G-7, G-20, and World Economic Forum. In the work of multinational organisations, there is also redundancy and a lack of coordination.

Intergovernmental discussions may rely more on virtual meetings to increase efficiency, with preparation done by diplomatic embassies in the organising country. The Indian Prime Minister successfully held a virtual summit of SAARC leaders in March 2020 to coordinate the pandemic response. The EU Foreign Ministers virtually met to agree on an EU emergency credit for members. Many high-level regional and global political and corporate gatherings have taken place virtually since then to promote this new trend. Some Heads of State or Government may choose to address the UN General Assembly via streaming video rather than travelling to New York to deliver their country statements at the 2020 UN General Assembly Session in September.

Leaders will have to put in a lot of effort to re-stitch the delicate patchwork that has been built up over decades in order to agree on collaborative procedures that will make globalisation work for everyone. If Donald Trump wins the presidential election in November 2020, the world may witness the United States' isolationism, as it practised during the Great Depression of the 1930s. On the contrary, rivalry between the United States and China may grow in manufacturing and commerce, which is the polar opposite of what is needed to improve people's lives around the world. The participation of the EU, UK, ASEAN, and Russia, which will not allow this rivalry to cloud international collaboration, is the only silver lining in this scenario. They will also oppose either the United States or China being the leader of a new unipolar world.

The Alliance for Multilateralism, a 2019 project led by France and Germany, has as one of its goals the reform and modernization of current international organisations. However, because it is a European effort, it will take time to gain global acceptance and be included in ongoing UN reform and democratisation debates. Organisations like the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, on the other hand, have a stronger chance of gaining reform acceptability because they represent members of multiple international and regional organisations both inside their particular regions and globally.

Global supply chains, which have increased interdependence between countries in terms of manufacturing and labour, may weaken, causing countries to rely on national or regional suppliers. This will have an impact on the cost of items produced, while also denying much-needed jobs to cheap offshore labour. Developing countries will gain better control of their strategic industries and reserves as a result of this approach. To the detriment of labor-intensive and import-dependent countries, such inward policies may reverse achievements in international standards and quality control.

### Conclusion

The coronavirus illness has taught us a valuable lesson. In humanity's post-modern evolution, there is a new struggle for survival of the fittest. It means that if you don't have the fortitude as an individual or as a country to overcome the economic, financial, and social challenges you face, your lease on survival in a highly competitive world is about to expire. Is the world ready for such a dreadful scenario? Humanity dictates that we bring our poor and vulnerable along with us on the march of civilization, even if it means carrying them on our shoulders. But, in order for this to become a reality, international consensus is required.

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