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# The Constitution Vs The Virus

A simultaneous attack from the  
coronavirus and US governors?



Can the Constitution Survive?

by  
Brian W. Kelly

# The Constitution Vs. The Virus

**As simultaneous attack from the coronavirus and US governors**

2020 so far has been a nightmare that is far from ending. When it seems like it is over, the end point gets stretched out—often past the point of tolerance and past the point in which the Constitution permits. Like the pandemic of 1917 & 18, the coronavirus has the world in a tizzy from which there has been no escape.

Even New Yorkers and others from big cities who thought they could find solace in their lakeside or mountain retreats to escape the contagion of the big city, have had to go underground in their cabins as their new small-town neighbors, being interviewed on local radio & TV complain of them bringing the big city virus to their small burgs.

The Wuhan or China or Coronavirus COVID-19, a derivative of SARS, arrived with a vengeance in all countries of the world. Now, what? It is called novel, meaning new, and because of its newness, there are no cookbook cures for this plague. And so, death is often a result of a long illness with this virus. Too many deaths! Now that the curve in most US states has flattened, it seems the virus is preparing to superimpose its rules over that of the US Constitution

So what to do? In this book we tell you about this virus and we talk about the measures the President of the US, Donald Trump has taken to keep America as safe as possible to make sure hospitals are not overrun with patients we tough on some promising therapeutics such as Remdesivir that in some cases can cure the virus and in other cases, can serve as a prophylaxis to prevent people from contracting the potentially deadly plague.

After we describe the predicament, we wrap this book up by offering a Constitutional approach to reopen America—sooner, not later with the Constitution as the guiding light. You won't be able to put this book down before you know what you can do to help yourself and your family cope with this horrific pandemic. In this book, your author gives President Trump a few can't miss tips to both get the economy rolling & relieve the frustration of the lockdown, & get the population safe.



**BRIAN W. KELLY**

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Title: The Constitution Vs the Virus

Subtitle: **Can the US Constitution survive a simultaneous attack from a powerful coronavirus and powerful governors?**

Editor, Brian P. Kelly

Author Brian W. Kelly

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# *Dedication*

*I dedicate this book to all of the great health care workers and first responders. God bless you and thank you for your great assistance during the Coronavirus Attack*

*Thank You All!*





# Acknowledgments

*I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of my other 234 other published books.*

*My printed acknowledgments had become so large that book readers "complained" about going through too many pages to get to page one of the text.*

*And, so to permit me more flexibility, I put my acknowledgment list online, and it continues to grow. Believe it or not, it once cost about a dollar more to print each book.*

*Thank you and God bless you all for your help.*

*Please check out [www.letsGOPublish.com\(LGP\)](http://www.letsGOPublish.com(LGP)) to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book. FYI, Wily Ky Eyely loves this book and recommends it to all. Click the bottom of the Main menu on the LGP web site!*

*Thank you all!*



# Preface:

This book that I wrote years ago is your first book to read to refresh your knowledge of the greatest laws of the land, & how our government works

When I wrote a first iteration, the book title was The Constitution 4 Dummies. I wrote it so you understand your rights & your freedoms, so that nobody in government, pandemic or no pandemic could even think about taking them from you!

When I wrote the book about the Constitution I suggested that the readers learned about their rights and freedoms by reading *The Constitution 4 Dummies!* It still is the best thing you can do to understand your role in assuring our great form of government. Those using the coronavirus as a ruse to take away freedom should be well warned. This book teaches all to not accept a government that wants to take away freedom.

The original Constitution 4 Dummies book has nothing to do with coronavirus other than it is your best starter book if you want to read a whole book to refresh your knowledge about the government and its most basic structure and laws. This book uses precepts from that book to show how the Constitution is designed to take on bad politicians even those working with the help of a pandemic virus such as COVID-19.

As a book which fully describes the Constitution, it was written to help you be better prepared to react to the over-reach of corrupt politicians at the highest levels of government. Politicians as high as the governors of your states today are taking away your freedoms during the big virus attack.

Without the knowledge that you can gain easily in this book, for example, you might think that your representatives in Congress control you instead of vice-verse. Smart people do not let their freedoms be taken from them, and you have entered into the realm of the intelligent by learning about the fundamental laws of America from the founders onward. That is why Brian Kelly wrote this book, These are the laws that assure your freedom. This book presents the

precepts of the Constitution in a conversational, understandable and almost fun way.

Today more than ever with our Governors and the Congress acting in a lawless fashion or permitting lawlessness to be the law of the land, Americans need to know our rights and the protections built into the basic framework of our government formed by the US Constitution. Why did we wait so long?

Just because powerful people choose to ignore our rights and freedoms does not mean we must endure tyranny. The first step of course is to understand the most basic written precepts in the Constitution. Reading this book is a must. Combined with a book with a title about the Coronavirus, there is no better combo for today.

Rarely does a book title explain exactly what a book is about. This book is the exception. This book explains in detail the rationale behind the virus, the cause, and it offers information about how to prevent it and to cure it. There is no question about it. It then makes a recommendation to the President for the best way to restart the economy. The fact is that most attempts at a restart in blue states are actually fake restarts as the governors of blue states show no interest in opening America.

With the virus as the first cause, 2020 so far has been a nightmare that won't end. When it seems like it is over, government officials with newly discovered massive power and different objectives than making America OK again have in many cases chosen to stretch the shutdown out often past the point of human tolerance. Like the pandemic of 1917 and 1918, the Coronavirus is a now the big excuse for Democrats to screw the people and get to blame it on a big bad virus.

Even New Yorkers and others from big cities who thought they could find solace in their lakeside or mountain retreats to escape the contagion of the big city have had to go underground in their cabins as they found their new small-town neighbors complaining about them bringing the big city bug to their small burgs.

The Wuhan or China or Coronavirus COVID-19, a derivative of SARS, arrived in the USA with a vengeance as it did in all countries of the world. Now, what. It is called novel, meaning new and because of

its newness, there are no cookbook cures for this plague. And, so, death is often a result of a long illness with this virus. Too many deaths! Worse than that, there are therapeutics that have been proven to cure the virus more often than not but because some of them were endorsed by the president, the Democrats put the big X on them even though they may save lives.

So what to do? In this book we tell you about how this virus got its start in China in December or sooner and how it made its way across the world in record time. We talk about the measures the President of the US, Donald Trump has taken to keep America as safe as possible and we tell you about some promising therapeutics that in some cases cure the virus and in other cases, serve as a prophylaxis to prevent people from contracting the potentially deadly COVID-19. It is too bad that Republicans and Democrats cannot fight together for the good of the people.

Americans were promised that all of the measures like hand washing, masks, and social distancing were needed so that hospitals were not overwhelmed by all of the sick people who would need beds and medicines and ventilators. Then, as Navy mercy ships and the Javits center were unoccupied as the curve flattened, the people caught on to the fact that the original objectives for the measures had been achieved.

But, as governors felt their power waning as the objectives were being achieved, they put the brakes on giving the people back the freedoms they had given up to achieve the “flattening of the curve.” Blue Democrat Governors began to defy the Constitution to extend their lockdown mandates and they feigned shock as the people of American resisted. Instead of being reasonable, officials dug in deeper in attacking freedoms granted to the people by the Constitution during the revolution from England.

We wrap this book up by offering a very simple way to reopen America sooner, not later. The Constitution if it could speak and if it were asked, would tell the people this method is in full compliance with what Jefferson, Hamilton, Washington, Franklin and others would agree is the right path for America today.

This book addresses the major problems with the pandemic but it does not leave the reader hanging. Instead, in simple terms, it presents the issues and the cures and more than an ounce of prevention. This is so important to our lives this year that you won't be able to put this book down before you know what you can do to help yourself and your family cope with this horrific pandemic. Any other president might be inclined to make the issues in the coronavirus saga a political football.

President Trump and his task force are determined to solve the problem and as he once did, he is prepared to Make America Great Again! In addition to the cause and the cure, your author gives President Trump a few can't miss tips to both get the economy rolling, relieving the frustration of the lockdown, and to keep the population safe and living according to a Constitution that we all can live with.

## **Why did Brian W. Kelly write this book?**

Brian W. Kelly wrote this book because he cares about the United States and the other countries affected by this nasty virus. I am publishing this book because I care.

I hope you enjoy this book and I hope that it inspires you to take the individual actions necessary to help us all during this pandemic crisis. Government should be a helpful tool in solving this deep moral and potentially existential dilemma for our country. It should not be the vehicle by which one party gets to shred America's Constitution in order to create a socialist or communist state of our great land.

I wish you the best.

Brian P. Kelly, Publisher  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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# About the Author



Brian W. Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of IT industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer and IBM Mid Atlantic Area Specialist. His specialty was designing applications for customers as well as implementing advanced IBM operating systems and software facilities on their machines.

He has an active information technology consultancy. He is the author of 234 books and numerous technical articles. Kelly has been a frequent speaker at COMMON, IBM conferences, and other technical conferences.

Brian was a candidate for US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and for Mayor in his hometown in 2015. He brings a lot of experience to his writing endeavors.

Brian Kelly knows that the Pandemic crisis can be solved with the right therapeutic in the short term. Regardless of the therapeutic, however, Kelly believes the Constitution is a remedy that cannot be ignored. Keep the faith, we'll be on the streets soon.



# Chapter 1 Liberty Must Not Become a Big Virus Fatality



Ted Galen Carpenter of the Cato Institute noted in a March 30 article that public attitudes about the coronavirus outbreak have been exhibiting features of a collective panic. This is not good for a free country which through its history has exhibited liberty and justice for all. Let's all say the Pledge of Allegiance and then let's repeat it together soon before we are asked to forget about it permanently.

---

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the socialist minister Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). It was originally published in *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. Bellamy had hoped that the pledge would be used by citizens in any country. In its original form it read:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. At this time it read:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1954, in response to the Communist threat of the times, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say today. Bellamy's daughter objected to this alteration. Today it reads:

**"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Let's repeat the above together.**

In World War II, the salute to the flag was said to resemble the Nazi salute, so it was changed to keep the right hand over the heart throughout the entire pledge.

Look at the highlighted pledge above, place your hand over your heart and repeat the pledge with whomever is with you at the time.

---

Ted Galen Carpenter is a conservative writer who is very concerned that such an attitude (collective panic) may give government the green light to steal away the people's freedoms. There is the danger that government measures designed to deal with a very real public health problem may lead to enormous collateral damage both to the economy and the freedoms that Americans take for granted.

Of course the people who most take these freedoms for granted are those who are most familiar with a document entitled, The Constitution of the United States of America. And, well they should as the Constitution is the singular document that guarantees all American freedoms. The Bill of Rights is a quick snapshot of those freedoms that is easier for Americans to recall than the entire Constitution. Together, the Constitution and its first ten amendment, aka The Bill of Rights are

what guarantees all Americans the freedoms we have enjoyed all our lives—at least until the pandemic. That is what this book is all about.

## **Does Government Have Rights?**

### **No! The Constitution grants rights only to the people!**

The pandemic has found governments at all levels taking ever more extreme, even outrageous, actions in an effort to stem the outbreak. For example in some states such as New York and California and Michigan and other states have issued orders closing most private businesses and requiring residents not engaged in “essential” activities to remain in their homes. We’ve lived through it but the spirit of the US Constitution does not condone such acts.

Nevada’s governor took this one step further by greatly restricting doctors from prescribing an anti-malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, because the Trump administration experts suggested it held promise for treating coronavirus. Trump is not well liked in official circles and if he were right, he would have a better chance at reelection.

Ostensibly the Governor’s ban was because in the governor’s opinion, such prescriptions might lead to hoarding. U.S. Justice Department officials secretly asked Congress to give the executive branch the authority to seek orders from federal judges to detain indefinitely any individual during the current emergency or any future one.

Although appalling, such attempted eviscerations of constitutional liberties are not be surprising but to remain free, we cannot tolerate them. Though Governments of all sizes invariably exploit crises to expand their powers—often to a dangerous degree, they have no power to do such things. Another issue is that after the crisis ends governments do not like giving up power they have gained. And so, a significant residue of expanded powers always persists after the crisis recedes and life supposedly returns to normal.

The historical record also demonstrates that “temporary” measures enacted to deal with a specific crisis frequently prove to be anything but temporary. One insidiously corrosive “temporary” change was the establishment of the withholding provision to the federal income tax during World War II. That temporary measure is still with us, and

the effect has been revolutionary. Paying the tax in installments that show up as nothing more than an entry on an employee's paycheck stub disguises the extent of the actual tax burden on that individual and reduces the emotional impact. Citizens are less likely to object to high tax rates and hold their government accountable.

The major lesson from history is that Americans need to resist the casual expansion of arbitrary governmental power in response to the current coronavirus crisis. That is a good reason to protest governor actions that are beyond tolerance.

In early March 2020 without the people's blessing, authorities around the United States ordered schools to close and either prohibited large-scale public events or pressured the sponsors to take such action. Authorities did not have the power to so act and achieved their power only by the people's tacit and total acquiescence.

A growing number of jurisdictions soon went further. San Francisco ordered residents to "shelter in place," barring them from engaging in any "nonessential" activity outside their own homes. All of this occurred before California Governor Gavin Newsom and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo set a new, even more intrusive pattern by ordering statewide lockdowns. One of the common parts of such lockdowns and shut downs, is that they occur primarily in states controlled by Democrat officials.

Both the nature and scope of the expanding restrictions should alarm all defenders of liberty. In mid-March, North Carolina went beyond shutting down individual enterprises or even types of businesses; authorities there placed most of the Outer Banks off limits to tourists and other outsiders.

Police established checkpoints to examine identifications and required special permits for access. There is more than a small echo in that measure of the ubiquitous police or military checkpoints and "show your papers" demands that countries in the old Soviet bloc implemented, and various dictatorships around the world require today. It's an ominous policy and image.

Yet, there are “scaredy cat citizens” willing to grant all of their freedoms to the custody of a “caring” government. This is not wise. When should one give up his freedom? Never!

Sentiments in favor of comprehensive lockdowns to halt the spread of the virus do reflect understandable emotions, but panic is always a poor basis for policy decisions. The economic costs of such radical responses to the coronavirus outbreak are enormous, and the damage to basic liberties ultimately have proven even worse.

Ugly, potentially dangerous precedents are being set left and right. In virtually every case, officials imposed restrictions without any provisions for appeal—or even public comment. Worse, they do not seem to recognize any limits to their power with respect to a health crisis.

The steps taken to date go far beyond the longstanding authority of local governments to impose quarantines on individuals or families diagnosed with certain highly contagious diseases. Entire cities and states are now being put on similar lockdowns, even though the overwhelming majority of residents show no signs of coronavirus or any health issue whatsoever.

Yet, these same authorities permit in many cases upwards of 65% of the population’s deaths to be in the most vulnerable categories—the infirm and the elderly in special homes.

Worries about expansive government diktats and precedents are especially warranted if the coronavirus outbreak is neither unique nor a crisis of short duration. Originally, as we all know, the promise was based on a pervasive assumption that the emergency would last only a few weeks. Americans believed the politicians that after the “lockdown,” life in America (as well as other countries) would return to normal.

But in Trump’s March 16 press conference, both the president and his health policy advisers indicated that the outbreak might last until July or August. Some experts in Britain feared that it might last until spring 2021.

Citizens get nervous in the service as the saying goes. That possibility creates some very serious concerns. What if the coronavirus does not prove to be a one-time visitor, but resembles influenza outbreaks that ebb and flow each year. In addition to the adverse economic consequences, forcibly cocooned populations will have every justification to become furious if arbitrary bureaucratic edicts repeatedly uproot their lives.

Bureaucrats need to be concerned also as their reign over the people, if it becomes a reign of tyranny and terror, will surely end with the officials in a not-too-happy state of affairs.

Consequently, there is an immediate and an imperative reason to monitor and curb some of policy precedents being set by a government that has gone too far. Future overcautious or egotistical, bully-like public officials will be tempted to impose drastic measures even in response to lesser health or other emergencies. They will answer harshly to any attempts to limit their illicitly acquired government powers to close private businesses fundamentally alter the relationship between individuals and the state in a dangerous fashion.

The governors may decide to prohibit freedom of travel within or outside the state. Travel restrictions that confine people to their homes or bar them from specific areas are a major cause for alarm. Such restrictions always have been a hallmark of authoritarian political systems and police actions. Need I mention WWII Germany?

Likewise, the postponement of elections to the mailman is unsettling. What if we cannot trust mailmen? Giving incumbent officials such authority creates an obvious potential for abuse—especially if the incumbents face the prospect of electoral defeat. Perhaps worst of all is the possibility of the federal government being able to seek the indefinite detention of people based on nothing more than a Justice Department request and a compliant judge's order.

How do you think worldwide atrocities occur? That is why Americans must not give up their freedom just to gain for another day a life without an infection from the coronavirus.

Given the historical record of how previous emergencies spawned corrosive policies that continue to menace basic freedoms years or



decades later, it is urgent to seek effective curbs on the growing abuses of power in the current crisis.

We the people of America must resist being stampeded into endorsing whatever policies self-interested officials insist are necessary. Benjamin Franklin observed that “those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Americans must keep that wise admonition in mind during and after the coronavirus crisis.

The biggest friend of America is the framer’s Constitution and the second biggest friend is America’s declaration of freedom known for all ages as “The Declaration of Independence” What good is independence without freedom.



# Chapter 2 Is the Cure Worse Than the Disease?

Below is a montage of your favorite Democrats



Above is a montage of your favorite Republicans

## Can the US live without the Bill of Rights?

Democrat officials mostly naturally, but also Republican officials in their wimpiness in facing major issues and their ineptness when they have clear solutions that most Americans love, cannot seem to

reconcile their differences for the good of the country. What is wrong with them? They prefer to argue their point more than they would like to know what a preponderance of Americans think about a given matter such as their preoccupation with staying shut down.

The facts folks indicate that politicians have adopted a posture that simply leaves them free of guilt regardless of whether anything good happens when real decisions are necessary. Politicians have stopped caring because their entourage will get them elected regardless of what they do, by convincing the proletariat (us folks!) that they are the worthy candidates regardless of the issues. How else can you explain the current presidential candidate.

Because I believed once in my life that the people did not believe as the politicians. I ran for Congress and then one time I ran for Mayor of my own City. I lost big time after spending too much of my own money to convince the people that it was OK to elect somebody who was not among the politically elite.

By the way, I could use the few thousand today that I invested in my campaigns, hoping the people would not insist that I be of the politically elite to be elected. The papers in my home town and the people said I had no experience. I thought that meant I should be elected—all other things being equal—but the press said I had nothing to offer because I had never held office. Whew! Did I learn a ton.

So now in the waning hours of the pandemic, I find myself looking at politicians who no longer believe they must put up even a good face for the people. Governors in blue states punish their constituents if they take any action that puts their personal freedom and survival ahead of the dictates of their rulers. It is amazing. It's like they do not believe they will be held accountable because in the end nobody cares enough to make them accountable.

Certain officials know they are violating the Constitution to achieve their lockdown objectives. But, they don't care. By and large they continue their malfeasance even if the people protest en masse. The politicians seem to believe they are impregnable and unanswerable to the people. And so, the virus has a major ally in its fight against ordinary people—that ally is the political class beginning with many of the US governors. Yes, it is hard to believe. But, if you don't believe,

the governors may very well have you doing hard time for misjudging their fervor.

Make no mistake about it, the unholy alliance today is the big virus and the politicians. They have joined against the people and neither care a darn about the Constitution.

There is no win-win strategy being deployed. Either the virus gets you or you starve at the hands of public officials. Peter Navarro, director of Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, on Sunday May 17, 2020 asserted more Americans will die because of “quarantine and lockdown” than from COVID-19. He’s right and will stay correct until the Constitution is respected again.

Navarro spoke on this day in a formal interview with NBC News’ “Meet the Press.” Mr. Navarro also serves as policy coordinator for the National Defense Production Act, the group responsible for having masks and ventilators etc. He blamed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for dropping the ball in its initial testing effort.

“Early on in this crisis, the CDC which really had the most trusted brand around the world in this space, really let the country down with the testing,” he charged. “Because not only did they keep the testing within the bureaucracy, they had a bad test. And that did set us back.”

He said President Donald Trump rightly realized the risks and benefits of lockdown — and worried it would be worse than the coronavirus.

“We know statistically based on our experience with the China trade shock in the 2000s that unemployment creates more suicides, depression and drug abuse,” he said. When you get a virus besides these issues, you get more of them. A lockdown spawns a growth in a lot of stuff you would get in smaller measure anyway. The lockdown is its own pandemic and perhaps it is worse.

Protests in cities and state capitals have exploded around the country, with sign-toting and horn-blowing activists exhorting governors to ease stay-at-home restrictions put in place to combat the coronavirus. Governors have become dictators in their own right but in recent weeks, their demands for unquestioned allegiance is getting a lot of pushback. Americans are complaining in droves that their

constitutional rights are being denied, to the point that threats have been made against the life of a number of state's governors including the governor of Kentucky.

For example, a Facebook post this past Saturday in the "Boone County Neighborhood Group" contained what Kentucky lawmakers described as threats against Gov. Andy Beshear. The post started by saying Beshear's actions denied Kentuckians their constitutional rights. The citizens still believe in the Bill of Rights.

"By these unconstitutional acts on the part of Andy Beshear the Constitution protects us and gives us the authority to eliminate him by any means necessary via the Second Amendment," the user wrote. But the person who made the comments told The Courier Journal in a message Sunday that his post was "NOT threatening anyone."

We know that the Bill of Rights consists of the first ten changes, called amendments to the Constitution. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Governors who demand stay at home lockdowns are violating the Constitution. The people do have inalienable rights. Plus those specifically outlined in the Bill Of Rights.

The ACLU has stayed out of the abuse of state power so far but their web sites discuss this in simple terms for all to understand.

For example, they say there are at least these three principles to remember if you choose to engage your government in an act of civil disobedience.

## **1. CONDUCT, NOT CONTENT**

It's not what you say—it's the way that you say it. Your right to express your opinion is protected no matter what beliefs you hold. What matters is how you use that right. If you organize a protest that causes serious disruption, the government may be able to intervene. But with a few notable exceptions, nobody can restrict your rights simply because they don't like what you say.

## 2. FREE SPEECH IS FOR EVERYONE

Young or old; anarchist or evangelical; pacifist or hawk; Mormon or Muslim; these rights apply to you. It doesn't matter whether you're a U.S. citizen, whether you're of voting age, or whether you speak English. Free-speech rights are for everybody. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

## 3. WHEN, WHERE AND HOW

Consider when, where and how you use your free-speech rights. If you organize a rally that causes violence or unnecessary disruption, your event may be disbanded. Every municipality has regulations and it's your responsibility to understand them. You must observe reasonable regulations on time, place, and manner when you exercise your rights to demonstrate and protest.

So, the people have all the rights, not the government

Attorney General William Barr said a few weeks ago that he was on the side of the people in their protests against unlawful government actions. He said that some state governors' efforts to fight the coronavirus "infringes on a fundamental right" of American residents.

Barr made his comments in an interview on "The Hugh Hewitt Show" that state governments in the U.S. need to "do a better job" of ensuring coronavirus restrictions are "properly targeted" and do not unnecessarily infringe on constitutional rights. He added that the country is currently facing "unprecedented burdens on civil liberties." "When a governor acts, especially when a governor does something that intrudes upon or infringes on a fundamental right or a Constitutional right, they're bounded by that," the attorney general said. "And those situations are emerging around the country, to some extent." Every day we read about governors overstepping their bounds on restricting the rights of the people. Meanwhile the people have become quite restless.

The attorney general said the government needs time to adapt during a crisis and has the responsibility to "tailor its approach" after initially

issuing potentially “blunt” restrictions. Barr said since the country has had time to flatten the curve of coronavirus cases, it is now time for the government to adjust the original restrictions. Unfortunately, it seems that there are governors in many states, mostly blue states, who love their new found authoritative power and do not want to give it up.

Barr cautions governors to watch their use of power because there are limits. He said the stay-at-home orders are “disturbingly close to house arrest” but added, “I’m not saying it wasn’t justified.”

“We didn’t adopt them as the comprehensive way of dealing with this disease,” he said. “And we are now seeing that these are bending the curve, and now we have to come up with more targeted approaches.”

The attorney general said asking people to keep six feet apart, to wash their hands and wear personal protective equipment in public “are fine.” Permanent home confinement and a total business shutdown, however is not fine.

Barr’s comments come as governors are taking more steps to reopen after the coronavirus pandemic shuttered their economies. President Trump said this past week that some governors have “gone too far” in their restrictions to reduce the coronavirus spread.



## Chapter 3 Americans Are Mad as Hell About Government!



Howard Beale was “mad as hell”

### How mad can one get?

Democrat governors test the limits of making people mad today by locking down their states and making people grovel to be able to work. That’s how mad people can get. Democratic governors make it tough to get a great therapeutic at the pharmacy because Trump thinks it can cure the virus. Oh, by the way, it can!

While people’s lives and jobs are being devastated by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), and there has been no FDA-fully-approved treatment, governors or state pharmacy boards in Nevada, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Texas are issuing emergency orders to restrict which medications doctors can use to save lives. How’s them apples?

These governors and often their health directors have no background in infectious disease, medicine, research design, or epidemiology, yet they presume to dictate to front-line physicians who are reading the emerging research and caring for patients. They think they are hurting Trump by laughing at him and denying the doctors their opportunity to prescribe needed medicine. That’s unconstitutional folks.

Many doctors are using older medicines, FDA approved for more than 70 years and widely used worldwide to treat malaria, lupus, and

rheumatoid arthritis—chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil). They often add azithromycin (Z-pak), a commonly used antibiotic with some activity against this virus. It works. President Trump himself uses it as a prophylaxis so that he does not get COVID-19 and he does not have to wear a mask or take social control measures.

The politicians are power hungry and they are presuming to decide that doctors may not prescribe these drugs “off-label,” i.e. for anything other than the disease for which the FDA originally approved the drug. Their pretext is that we do not have large randomized controlled clinical trials (RCT) for this new indication.

While governors have been handing down negative orders, doctors in the U.S. and overseas have been reporting tremendous success in treating COVID-19 patients: reductions in hospitalization, less need for scarce ventilators, less need for ICU and intubations, and significantly lower death rates.

Why should it matter what a doctor prescribes to today’s liberal progressive governors. I’ll tell you, it is another way to get trump and theoretically make him look like a good for advocating a drug that pharmacists won’t fill.

Many are in favor but they are quiet at the risk of being ridiculed. Those in favor include Two studies from France, conducted by Dr. Didier Raoult, specialist in infectious disease and viral illness, are very promising. Besides helping relieve signs of illness, hydroxychloroquine plus azithromycin also appears to shorten the period of infectivity, which is critically important in controlling disease spread.

Data on safety and effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin are coming in almost daily from more than 10 countries, including Canada, Australia, Israel, South Korea, and China. It is a game changer but liberal progressive socialist governors don’t care.

Several Governors jumped on this restriction bandwagon soon after President Trump announced at a recent Corona Task Force briefing that chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine showed hope in treating COVID-19, based on several small clinical studies from Johns

Hopkins, France, and (at last count) eight other countries. He did not say he recommended these medicines, as some media have falsely stated. Obviously he does now as Trump's own doctor, has prescribed it as a prophylaxis for him to avoid getting the virus.

The Constitution, the law of the land which you are about to explore in the next several chapters is unlawfully being bypassed by these opportunists in government. That makes a lot of US "Mad as Hell!" Howard Beale in the paragraphs below in this chapter represents all frustrated Americans. His story, though unrelated to COVID-19, really captures the mood and the emotions of America today regarding a government gone bad!

You may not remember because you are probably not old enough but many others of you have enough years to have seen the movie long after its debut in 1976. So, if you have some baggage, and you have some time on your bones, you may remember back in November, 1976 when Howard Beale, as played by Peter Finch, the long-time anchor in the movie "Network News," gets the bad news that eventually causes him to utter one of the most famous movie lines of all time.

Beale gets fired and is given two weeks. The long-time anchor has a very poor reaction to this news and he cannot control himself during the next news broadcast.

He promises to commit suicide on the air. The company immediately fires him—no second chances for a repeat performance. Beale is devastated and remorseful. He begs for the opportunity to say good-bye to his fans with dignity, and he is given his last opportunity ever for air time so that he can say his good-by's and also apologize. He gets his chance

Yet, once on the air, Beale is overwhelmed by his continuing circumstance. He goes into another diatribe starting off with a rant claiming that "Life is bullshit." He is so passionate that his ratings spike as he persuades his viewers to shout out of their windows: "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" That is the line heard 'round the world.

Well, my fellow Americans, I bet you saw this coming, and I am going to deliver it as passionately in words as I can: "I am mad as

hell, and I am not going to take this anymore.” I bet you are too. Let me remind you.

Living in Pennsylvania with a tyrant named Governor Tom Wolf who has never met anything reasonable in his life is bad enough. But, Pennsylvania has all of the other maladies affecting blue states.

Taxes are too high, elected officials are out of touch, government is too big, spending is out of control, the Affordable Healthcare has become a train wreck, and heroes are dying in the VA system, and nobody, after spending \$160 billion per year supposedly on Veterans, can tell us why they are neglected.

The people of America see the federal government as incompetent. We Americans have no voice. We exchange five top Taliban Officers from Gitmo for one PFC. Additionally, and this is the worst: too many of US are too lazy to hold government accountable, and too many of our finest are on the take.

It really is a train wreck. Corporate leaches have infiltrated our government. We have record unemployment; illegal aliens are smiling as they take American jobs; an unsustainable status quo supports special interests over the people's interests and when we look to the future we see a public education system that creates dummies. The graduates are so dummm that they don't seem to mind being called dummmies. Scrooge would sum it up with a hearty “Bah Humbug.” It is that bad!

Trump has rescued America from a lot of this already but he Democrats want the power to bring back the poorest economy since the depression, excessive welfare and income redistribution; institutionalized lying; a corrupt stat-loving press carrying water for government; a debt large enough to kill America; huge student debt stopping graduates' successes; tyranny v. democracy; government lawlessness; freedom and liberty in jeopardy; American stagnation, and a big loss of America's world prestige.

And, on top of that, the press beats its breast about its importance by suggesting that the president learns about what's happening across the world from reading the newspapers. Everybody in Washington gets a free ride with no accountability. It is that bad.

Our big government has become such a problem that most Americans believe that it can never again be the solution. Our finest hope, our youth; go through colleges in huge numbers only to be unemployed and sacked with debt for life. As a Democrat, I am smarter than most. I know that the Democratic Party is the source of their ill fortune. But, millennials do not believe it so they are not willing to fight the bad guys to make America great again!

This group of youngins known as millennials are the smartest by cranium but they are the stupidest offspring America has ever produced from anybody's loins in terms of their gullibility and their willingness to sacrifice their future for a promising promise.

They have no clue what life is about and they actually protest American heroes such as Condoleezza Rice and Dr. Ben Carson. Both came to visit universities and were disrespected by the students. Rutgers for example in 2013 picked a boardwalk babe, Snooki, rather than an American who loves America to give them their final addresses at their Universities. Hope is reserved for people who have never met today's millennials.

Students are guided by communists' professors in universities and the students now accept that communism is OK. These are the elite progressives in their universities who believe free speech cannot be tolerated and who fill the heads of the millennials with mush. Their importance is endorsed by the universities when they get to be adorned in their finest plumage at commencement ceremonies, and they process before all others to the stage. With such guidance, students have learned that they really do know it all, though their parents have no clue what happens to them on campus.

In 2014 on through 2016, the administrators and the progressive / communist faculty and student lemmings at a once respected university named Rutgers, embarrassed conservative speakers including a fine American, Dr. Condoleezza Rice. Rice was scheduled to be commencement speaker. She is a major US historical figure besides being an academic in her own right.

The students, faculty, and administration were nasty and unwelcoming to her and they protested her choice as commencement speaker. Rice appropriately rescinded her acceptance. The children

have taken over guided by the communists. Parents need to understand what is happening on campuses across the nation.

The student loan burden prevents former student borrowers from buying homes, cars, and having a family. Yet students do not blame their elite faculty and their establishment universities for anything. They blame George Bush for everything still because some talk show host once told them that works for him. It is great to have brains today, it is just not respected if one decides to use them for the public good.

Only retirees in their 90's can afford honeymoon cottages while looking for their next spouse. As many as 37 million student loan borrowers are too broke to engage in basic life. College loans, instead of lifting people to the top, have created a new race to the bottom,

On the International stage, America is a bad actor, and frustrated zealots from the left are making sure nobody gives America a break on the world stage. The US now seems to want to make the rest of the world strong by making America weak. The weaknesses of America are highlighted by a corrupt press because Americans have been doing too well and their perspective because of white privilege.

None of this helps command respect for our country from anybody but the guilt-ridden university students and their "lucky to have a job" mentors on the faculty. Having been a faculty member, I know how bad things are. The only people who seem to care have names like John Q. Public. Thank you John for choosing this book about the US Constitution.

Nobody in the world gives America standing ovations anymore. Nobody asks us for curtain calls. Our leaders turn their backs on our friends and seem to pay homage to our enemies. How is this? In mid-2014, we gave up five top command level terrorists from Gitmo for a POW who was a PFC when captured and promoted twice while in captivity.

The POW is accused of desertion, and the Congress accused the administration of not following the law in the exchange. Has Congress lost all its power? Who has the power in the US? The Constitution says it is the people!

Smaller and weaker countries such as Russia, Iran, and North Korea continue to push US around and laugh at US, and our only response is to see if somehow it might have been because we may have offended them.

We show our greatness by counting the number of hits on a *hashtag of bring our girls home*, when no Americans are missing, and we expect terrorists to cower when the number of twitter resends hits a million.

We also refuse to have an honest discussion about why four Americans, including the US Ambassador, were permitted to die in Benghazi when the military says they were prepared to save them. The then Secretary of State responsible for their deaths is then able to run for President as if their deaths did not matter.

We have an administration that blames the Christian Government of Nigeria for not reaching out enough to the Muslim killers who kidnapped 300 girls for sex slaves. Boko Haram had captured and killed 49 boys just a few weeks before.

The captors boldly announced they would sell them on the sex slave market, and the US is powerless in its feeble response. The new strategy is to have time go by so those who are at fault can claim that it is old news.

What has happened to our good sense? Should there not be a set of laws written by sane people so that insane acts cannot occur without retribution? Why do our representatives, especially Republicans who have lots heart not represent America?

For me, these are the worst days of America that I have ever witnessed. COVID-19 has made it even worse. Yet, our government seems to have no problems that need solutions. Clear-thinking Americans look at today's leaders as buffoons, without the wherewithal to tie their own shoes. We are glad we have a guy like Donald Trump to come forth to save us. These leaders would like all Americans to be happy in a state of mediocrity, rather than being outstanding. "Don't worry: Be Happy!" Too bad Trump gave control to the governors.

If you have been paying attention, and I sure hope you have been as it is a civic duty, you know that there are even more issues than the

exhaustive list we just walked you through. Isn't that a shame on US? I think this is the reason that you bought this book. Thank you very much. The Constitution is a survivor's guide to dealing with a corrupt nation; a corrupt press; a corrupt government and corrupt politicians who believe they can trick you into finding them acceptable.

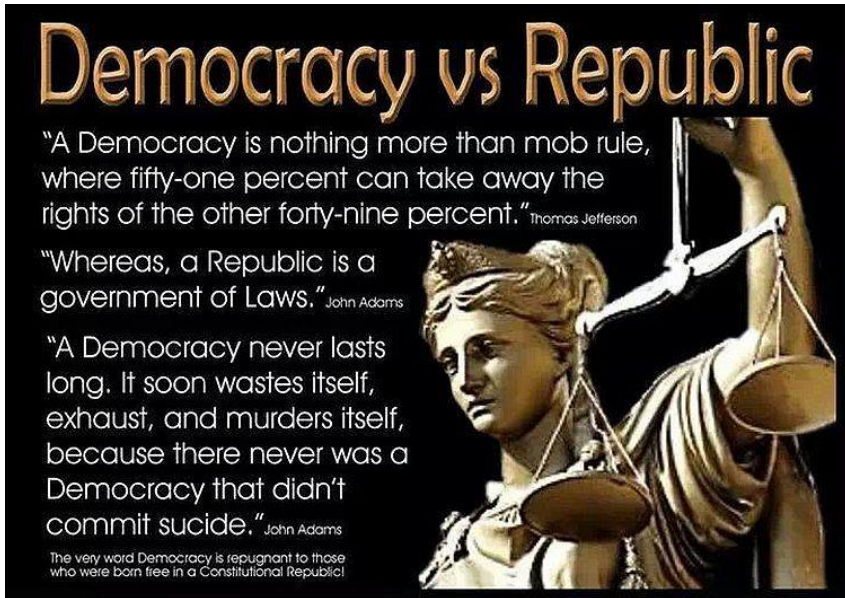
Since you bought this book, I know you and I are on the right side and thankfully we are on the same side. Together, we can all help arrest control of our government back from perpetrators wishing to destroy US.

We first must understand what is going on and we then must understand our rights. Even before you and I and everybody else are on board, just like Howard Beale, we must start the first wave of solutions by opening our windows all the way and shouting as loud as we all can: "I am mad as hell, and I am not going to take this anymore."

Then, make sure that you talk to all of the other "dummmies" out there that you know—people like you and I and others, and let's help them know that unless we all fully engage in America, when we wake up from our deep fog, there may be no America left for our progeny. We will have blown it for sure if that is permitted to happen.



# Chapter 4 The USA is a Constitutional Republic!



## A Representative Democracy

The Constitution prescribes that the US is a representative democracy, which as you will see, along with having an elected chief executive and a constitution also makes the US a *Republic*. The pledge of allegiance notes the words: "...and to the *Republic* for which it stands," for our country is both a representative democracy and a republic.

When we think of the very important notion that "America is a representative democracy," watching the "clowns" from both parties who occupy our central government, it is a sane question to ask if this is really true.

The song, "Is that all there is?" comes to mind. We are nothing like our parents and nothing like our Founders. We have reason to be ashamed of our government, but then again, our country today is so far off the Founders' mark that even shame is not politically correct.

A representative democracy is the foundation of America. However, what makes America—America is that we are also a Republic, the finest form of government ever brought forth from mankind.

We also have a set of laws, beginning with our Constitution, the primary law of the land. These laws govern all people and all politicians in perpetuity—as long as we hold them accountable.

The simple definition of a republic (from Latin -- res publica, meaning is as follows: a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

In practice in a republic, the government is ruled by elected leaders run according to law. The law in our country is The Constitution. Unlike a democracy, a republic is not based on majority rule. The law of the land, a Constitution gives the minority a voice.

Our biggest and most important laws within the US Constitution are written so that the government cannot hurt the people (US) or impose its will upon US. Our country was founded by some very smart people and they knew that without constraints on any government, which could potentially go wild, the people would not be able to win.

The constraints in the Constitution are implicit in that all of the rights are owned by the people, and only those rights explicitly given to government are for the government. In our time from 2014 to 2016, and for most of the Obama years. The people's rights have not counted. Obama's rights as an apparent dictator have been what has mattered. Even Republicans back down fearing Obama as an instrument of the people.

In 2016, the full body of people in the US had gotten fed up with Obama and Hillary Clinton and all of the dishonest politicians in America. Though the press and the esteemed Republican establishment tell the people that Donald Trump is not worth their vote, the people have rejected the establishment on both sides and Donald Trump turned out to be the only good guy in town. God bless him in his victory!

This great body of law known as the Constitution, therefore makes politicians and others in government fear a backlash when they attempt to deny the people, even just one person our liberty and freedom. In a pure democracy, if the majority decided that you or I should be killed, nothing would necessarily stop it. But, in a republic, our form of government, it is the rule of law which prevails and the rule of law starts with the Constitution. The current president unfortunately does not like the rule of law.

It seems for sure that many in our nation today, mostly on the far left, are trying real hard to kill America's America by demeaning the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in particular. You more than likely selected this book to help fight them off. Thank you.

If you could figure any way to put an unmovable grip on corrupt politicians, right now or in the future, would you not do it? The founders of America put such a stranglehold on all political agents of the future when they wrote and adopted the US Constitution, the greatest body of law ever written in any civilization.

Of course, if we the people do not know what is written in the Constitution, it cannot help us much. Can it? So, it is time for all Americans who have not been paying attention to stop being dummies and political sport for the elite. It is time to rule America as our birthright as citizens of this great country commands US. Let somebody else eat cake!

And, so, my fellow Americans, that is the number one reason that in order to form a more perfect union of the original thirteen colonies / states, and with more states expected after the first thirteen, our forefathers built the finest Constitution ever fashioned by the pen of human hands.

The Bible, from the hand of God, may be the greatest story ever told in the greatest book ever written, but the Constitution is as good as it gets for the goodness of man, written by the hands of our first patriots, and surely this document was written with the guidance of God.

In this day and age, there are everyday attempts by the government to undermine our lasting Republic, which is an almost pure constitutional representative democracy. The attacks most often

come from the left side of the political spectrum. Democrats can be better patriots for sure.

## Democracy is the opposite of communism

The ideology of the progressive left favors Marxism and its simpler forms of socialism and communism. Since Americans do not typically vote for socialists, communists, or Marxists, other than some who vote for Bernie Sanders rather than crooked Hillary, these are things that nobody other than a crooked politician should want.

If you are unaware of this in today's government, it is time you considered paying more attention. No politician wanting to be elected will admit they are more communist than American. Yet, as much as it pains me to tell you, unfortunately, they are!

These overtures, which demean the Constitution, the fabric of our democracy, originate from corrupt politicians who have been caught up in a leftist movement, which would like to end capitalism, and bring on a socialist / communist order to replace the American Dream, and all the dreams of *We the People!*

Our Republic as noted is a representative democracy constrained by laws. The Constitution is the biggest constraint that prohibits government from taking over—and that is good. Yet, we do have representatives.

One midnight, I asked myself one of those haunting questions: "Isn't it about time that we real Americans actually had some real "representation" from the so-called representatives in our so-called representative government? I said to myself: "Yes it is!" It doesn't have to be a dream.

If we believe, it can easily again be made a reality. And, we should scream it out at the polling places and at our representative's offices as often as we can. We should accept nothing less. Americans rule America. It is our birthright given to us by the founders.

## **The people have the responsibility of keeping government honest!**

It is up to all people in this great country to understand our laws, first the Constitution, and then to pay attention that our leaders follow those laws. When the top officials in our government do not follow the laws of the land, we must learn to send them home every two, four, or six years, as determined by the term lengths as set forth in the Constitution for our House (2 years), the President (4 years), and the Senate (6 years) respectively.

To say it more clearly: We get to throw the bums out and replace them with people of character on a regular basis; so don't give up! Donot let the politicians think they run the country! That is why our government has worked well for over 225 years. When we get bad apples, we throw them away by voting them out. Of course that means we must vote in order for our choices to matter. And we must be willing to vote our own representatives in the House or the Senate out of office when they choose to not do their jobs.

## **Representatives are of the people?**

Though the representatives are supposed to come from the people, a type of political class of elites has come about and seldom do we get to vote for representatives anymore, who are truly representatives of the people. By understanding America better, and especially by understanding our Constitution, Americans have a far better chance of bringing good and honest government back to the people. We must not be afraid of casting out the evil politicians in our government.

The way it now works, there is far too much separation between US, the electors, and them, the elected officials. Most officials choose to live in gated communities, unaware of what is happening on our streets.

The Constitution provides that elected officials are given the task to coordinate our pooled resources for the intended benefit of "everyone." But everyone is often not included. And politicians often take credit for spending treasury dollars on things that simply

buy themselves votes. Nobody wants this and so it is up to all of US to change it.

Do our representatives in the second decade of the twenty-first century have a genuinely compelling concern for the people and our government or is this simply our notion of Nirvana? We know that Nirvana is the name in Buddhism as its final goal—a transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self; and the subject is released from the effects of karma and the cycle of death and rebirth.

If it is not Nirvana, perhaps it is a Disney-like Utopian myth perpetrated on US by these same “benevolent politicians?” Of course, it may be that our representatives do not care because we do not hold them accountable. We elect them even when they are knaves—even thieves and criminals. Do any of US think politicians really care about the people?

I propose the latter. Our government is wholly unaccountable to We the People. Today, our government rejects the fundamental principles of our founding and has no real legitimacy the further it drifts from the precepts of the Constitution.

The US was not designed this way. The Constitution is the blueprint for our Country’s design. It was designed by a group of artisans to not only represent their artistic touch, but to be held as the behavioral creed of the people, for the people, and by the people, forever. What thinking human being blessed to be part of America, could ask for anything more?

If you think that life, freedom, liberty, and the ability to pursue your own happiness are simple notions, and givens in any civilization, get out your thinking cap, and think again. Why do people from all over the world crash our gates just to get in? Americans are exceptional in that we have full freedom and liberty in our country, and with that we can exceed all limits. Go to any other country, and this exception no longer applies.

Traditionally, the USA has been the freest nation in the world with rights withheld from government and rights given to the people by our Constitution. Today as our country’s foundation is being threatened from within, more than likely you are reading about the

Constitution so you can help protect your rights as well as this great nation which provides them.

Which would you first give up? Your freedom? Your life? Your liberty? Your family? Or your ability to do what you need to do to be happy? The sanest answer of course is “none of the above.”

Who could ask for anything more than being an American? Ask the last arriving immigrant! We are free! But, if Americans do not care about our founding precepts, maybe our freedom, our lives, our liberty, our families, and our ability to do what we need to be happy, will be taken from us one day—perhaps in the not-too-distant future.

If the design of our nation, America, which the founders labored to create is so great, you might ask, why is it that our current lawmakers ignore it? Republicans and Democrats alike appear to be indifferent to the needs of the people they represent.

They have no trouble going with the flow and committing US to years of debt without even taking the time to read the debt-ridden legislation for which they vote. Neither the Constitution nor the Founders would approve of what our representatives, including our president, have done to our country.

Even worse, members of Congress, our alleged civil servants, are able to get away without doing their jobs, while collecting more and more remuneration for their main act of harming the American people at large.

The true answer to that question is very unfortunate for Americans. There is tacit collaboration in undermining the principles of our Democratic Republic by our supposed representatives, their supporters, the special interests, and their corporate interests. We the people now come last. They think we are not paying attention. Maybe we have not been paying enough attention but don't you agree that is about to end. Pay attention is about to become the motto of the free!

**Legitimate immigration was necessary**

Americans are all pro-immigration to the extent of our laws. If Americans were not pro-immigration for example, Columbus and his shipmates and their families more than likely would have withered away from disease or cold winters or they would have lost their battles with Native Americans. All fifty states; at least the mainland forty-eight, would probably now have Native American names, and they would be run by the same financial wizards who run today's highly successful casinos.

After the USA was in operation as a country with a Constitution for just several years, its population was approaching 4 million people. This is just a million more people than the annual flow of illegal immigrants from south of the border.

On March 26, 1790, almost 225 years ago, the second session of the first Congress (operating under the Constitution with a House and a Senate) approved the new nation's initial effort to create the rules under which foreign-born persons could become U.S. citizens.

From this point on, our borders were not open per se, and we had laws (rules) for how those wishing to be Americans could come to visit or to become Americans. All Americans after this point who immigrated were to follow the law of the land.

The Naturalization Act of 1790 specified that "any alien, being a free white person," could apply for citizenship, so long as he or she lived in the United States for at least two years, and in the state where the application was filed for at least a year. The new law also provided that "children of citizens of the United States that may be born ... out of the limits of the United States shall be considered as natural born citizens."

In effect, it left out indentured servants, slaves, and most women. It also mandated that one must "absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty." Though these terms were seen as quite generous, still the law denied the right to naturalize to "persons whose fathers have never been resident in the United States."

Immigration law was becoming more important and the laws have been changed several times since 1790. For example, in 1795, as anti-



immigrant feeling began to grow, the necessary period of residence to become a citizen was increased from two to five years. Immigration law became firmer as the nation aged.

Enter special interests, who like to bypass laws and have their friendly “owned” politicians let them get away with whatever. Regarding immigration, you already know that there are two major special interests. The first special interest is the Democratic Party, which believes that if all illegal foreign nationals were immediately made citizens, the Democrat Party would never lose another election. That is a great motivator to bring all foreigners in immediately and make them all citizens of this nation.

And, so, even though they have taken American jobs and driven down the average weekly wage, your Democratic Representatives in Congress still advocate amnesty and citizenship for them, promising less prosperity for all American citizens. And, unfortunately, most Americans, not seeing that the representatives have become socialists and communists, looking for a poor continually underserved underclass, they will vote them back into office to their own peril.

Their major concern as corrupt politicians is that the Democrat members of Congress get reelected and a Democrat president can be elected each time. Bringing in poor people from south of the border, who feed from our welfare system, assures the Democratic politicians of their votes.

The second special interest is also against the people. They do not gain at the ballot box. However, illegal foreign nationals do provide huge gains in the wallets of American Business. American businesses, represented today by the elite Republican establishment, love paying the smallest wage possible. Since illegal foreign nationals work for peanuts, this is a perfect marriage of needs.

Traditional Republicans have great alliances with businesses. The only groups, who align with the majority of Americans and who oppose blanket amnesty and who are 100% pro-American citizen philosophically, are conservatives, such as those who once claimed allegiance in the TEA Party. They differ on immigration with elitist Republicans, and opportunist Democrats. No American citizen suffering from the worst economy since the depression would be asking the government to invite in more wage lowering workers.

After Republicans chose to side with Democrats when becoming the majority in the house and senate, Tea Party advocates have gone underground in disgust. Many of the same people who once made up the tea party transformed from idealistic Tri-cornered hat wearing patriots who believed that Republican campaign rhetoric that mirrored their beliefs have changed their orientation. They have become a much savvier and in some ways more cynical electorate. That is why Donald Trump is doing so well. The elitist establishment Republicans are held in poor regard.

Thomas J. Donahue, President of the US Chamber of Congress, a disgusting voice for the establishment told Republican lawmakers that if they did not pass amnesty, the Republicans shouldn't even bother to run a candidate in 2016. Populist conservatives go the message loud and clear that establishment Republicans could not be trusted.

The C of C cares nothing about workers' salaries but cares a lot about corporate profits. Donohue demanded that lawmakers to pass amnesty rather than pass on funding from the Chamber for their reelections. Observing the establishment has begun to make populist conservatives suffer from nausea.

The US Senate, controlled by Democrats, passed a global amnesty bill in early 2014, and they were pressuring the House of Representatives to do the same. The conservatives in the House would not budge thankfully. Of course if they pass this scourge on America, just as Marco Rubio got beaten by Trump in 2016, the people will revolt and with no excuses left, throw out both houses of Congress and start over. The people have lots of power when we "pay attention."

The immigration issue is being put forth early in this book to demonstrate that our legislators care more about other factors such as reelection and donations than they do about the people. We have enough people in the country right now or else our real unemployment picture would not look so bad. Why bring more "slave labor" into the country when we know it will make the problem of making ends meet for American families that much worse?

Perhaps too many of US, until things got this bad, had been hoping George would do it! Well, George Washington, one of our finest patriots is long gone, and unless you know of a recent George with the time, it is up to US to do it. Those in Congress who bow to special interests and liberal instincts should be made to take their final bows.

And, by the way, the two George Bush's did not get it done either. But, today's President and his Attorney General don't even try. They are on the other team. They choose not to enforce any immigration law. They do not follow the law of the land, the Constitution. This is tyranny, yet with a Republic Congress that defers to the president, it is tough to get action on behalf of the people.

This book is not about immigration, but it is about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Both of these documents help all Americans to know that the laws are made for Americans to benefit. To demonstrate the lawlessness of the current administration and the disdain they have even for war heroes, here are a few anecdotes.

Without a scintilla of Constitutional authority, just recently, today's President ordered well over 30,000 imprisoned criminals in illegal status to simply be released so "they could be reunited with their families in the US." Among them are rapists and murderers. The homicide victims got no say. The criminals were released from prison into the US—not deported.

They are back on the streets of the US. Did we really need 30,000 more criminals on our streets? Yesterday's President, Barack Obama thinks we should cajole and love the 60,000,000 souls in our illegal population, and he acts like our laws do not apply to him or to foreigners. Meanwhile 30,000 American citizens in prison were not released to be with their families. I agree American criminals should not be released but neither should foreign national criminals.

There is another true story that shows how ridiculous it is for the US to bend over backwards to coddle 30,000 criminals with illegal foreign national status. Mexican authorities know how to handle immigration. They punish Americans in Mexico for the smallest of infractions and will not free them even when there is national outrage in the USA. About a year ago, many of you may recall that Mexican

authorities were holding Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, a Marine war hero from Florida.

US outrage was expressed in a headline from Memorial Day Weekend, 2014: “Leave no man behind: Why is Team Obama unable to bring home Marine held in Mexico?” Later many were wondering how today’s president could free a deserter from the Taliban and completely ignore the plight of a hero marine.

While on the battlefield, this brave Marine saved eight fellow Marines from the Taliban, and in a separate incident he saved a Marine from bleeding to death after he stepped on an IED and lost his legs. Tahmooressi also suffered a concussion when his vehicle hit an IED.

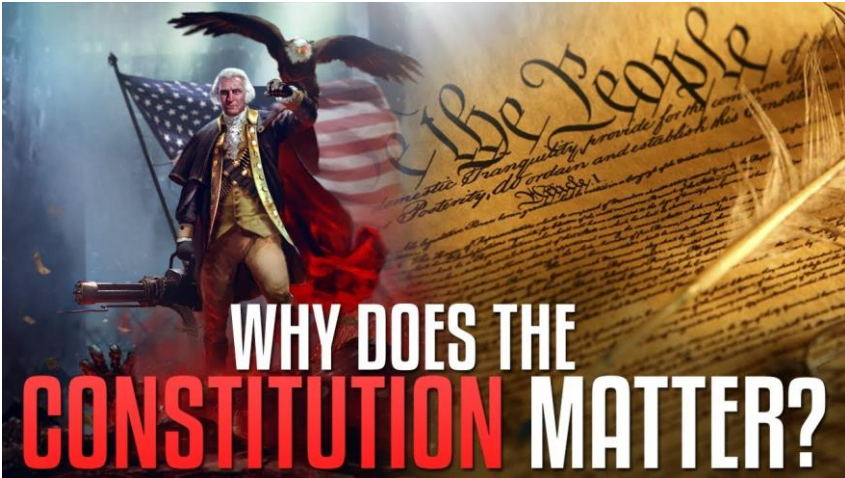
On March 20, 2014, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs diagnosed this young soldier with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Yet, even our President cannot get him freed from a Mexican Jail. Maybe the President has not yet made the call, or maybe he simply does not like Marines? Or maybe he has no power? Who really knows?

This unlucky former Marine simply mis-navigated the San Diego highways and ended up in Mexico. Rather than being treated with respect and returned, this hero Marine was apprehended and incarcerated and after two to three months, he was still there fearing for his life in a dreadful and very dangerous Mexican prison.

After a night in which he avoided death from a prison “Hit Squad,” he was placed in solitary confinement with his four limbs chained to a bed. We treat no illegal foreign nationals with such cruelty. Maybe Mexico is trying to teach the US how to treat border violators?

Can it be that too many of US and too many of our friends have been constitutional dummies for too long? Perhaps understanding our rights and government limitations from the Constitution, as well as your exhortations to all your friends will help many Americans awaken to what happens in a country in which government, rather than the people, has the stronger hand.

# Chapter 5 Why Does The Constitution Matter?



## Americans are too trustworthy

Our representatives are in office far too long and they gain relationships with other politicians who make up the ruling class. Instead of thinking about the folks in Danbury or Wilkes-Barre, or Clarks-Summit, or Santa Rosa, or Chicago, or Avoca, or Great Plains, or Orlando, our esteemed politicians begin to think they belong in Washington DC, not their home cities.

The social life in DC is lots better than most home towns, and our devoted representatives get to rub elbows with the hoity-toity, and the progressive Marxist communists that do not exist in their home areas. They get corrupted. All of a sudden they are important, and being from Podunk or Plymouth does not matter. They begin to like the trappings of Washington more than being with their loved ones back in their home states.

And they try to please the lobbyists and the communists and even those on the other team. They want to be liked and they want something in return that they don't get from the home town folks. Sometimes it is gifts, sometimes it is invitations to the best parties, and sometimes it is the promise of a great job if not reelected. The

longer they are in Congress or in politics per se, the greater the opportunity for corruption.

Unfortunately for all Americans, the new “important” relationships trump the notion of fair representation for the people (US) from back home. When they take their oaths of office and they promise to represent US, most are sincere at the time. That may be the last time.

Once they come to Washington, they experience the trappings and the temptations. And, because humans are only human, way too many of our finest stray from the mark and contribute to the re-creation of a country of which few thinking Americans are proud today.

Yet, we Americans are either too kind or not enough self-assured that we trust them even after innumerable lies and self-aggrandizement. We can't believe they would do “that,” yet they do. So, like dummies, we go ahead and we call them hizzoner or herronner and we reelect them because we think they really cannot be that bad.

Ladies and gentlemen, they are that bad. Stop electing them. Their biggest fear is that someday all Americans will understand the Constitution chapter and verse. On that day, we have all the rights, and they have zero.

Think about our Forefathers, especially George Washington, who guided our troops in the revolution against England's tyranny. Think about honest Abe Lincoln, who freed the slaves and saved the union. They would weep to see what their political successors, our representatives, have done to our nation.

So, our fair haired representatives (figure of speech) choose to represent themselves and their special interests, rather than the areas of the country that sent them to the Congress of the USA to represent the people. Perhaps a dose of Lincoln's “honesty,” is all that is needed to save the day. Wouldn't that be nice?

Our “honorable,” do not even seem to care for our well-being. They do, however, care for their leadership positions, which make them big shots. They care for themselves for sure. Unfortunately, they just can't get it into their heads that we the people are the reason they are in their positions in the first place.

We the people are the employers of all members of Congress, and they serve at our pleasure. The more we all understand that the tighter the reins we can place on errant politicians, the more the people are in charge. It is not too late. The Constitution is our guide and it is our license to rid ourselves of a poor government.

We must understand the Constitution in order for it to work again for US and for America. The last thing we should consider doing is to permit corrupt politicians that we unfortunately have already elected to serve the people, to disembody our Constitution through legislation or through executive actions.

Part of the problem is our fault since we do not check them out well enough before we slam them into office. To make it simple to understand this notion—if there is a rotten piece of fish in the market and we select it for dinner, whose fault is it when it doesn't taste so good and our guests get sick? So, when we pick a rotten person to represent US—whose fault is that? You see, we do not have to be dummies. We simply choose to be.

Does it matter whether the government is controlled by Democrats or Republicans? Democratic leaders have become socialist progressives, just this side of communists over the past several years. The Democrats at home are not far leftists but their leaders are. Republicans still seem to love the American way and are not moving the country towards communism. But, Republicans are too passive in dealing with Democratic leadership that appears hell-bent on destroying our country.

Our country's demise rate grows at a higher rate when leftist progressive communists are in office. When Republicans take over, though it lessens, it does not go to zero as it should because a number of Republicans have become progressive also.

So, right now at least, Republicans, especially conservative Republicans are a better choice for America than Democrats. As a conservative Democrat myself, that is very tough for me to say. I wish it were not so. The best thing for America is to vote for conservatives, even if they are Democrat. But, the facts show most conservatives are either Republican or Libertarian.

The people have been short-changed on the notion of representation and honesty. Honesty is the first thing to go when a representative must lie in order to get the extra benefits their positions can deliver.

When has any incumbent representative run effectively on honesty? Is that because we the people do not care about honesty or are we all smart enough to know that they are kidding. We do not need the Constitution to know that but it might help us to be more honest if we knew and loved the Constitution just a little bit more. Either way it is our fault. We voted all of these 545 miscreants to run our government. We get the government we deserve.

Somebody once said that if you like your honesty, you will be able to keep it and it should save you about \$2500.00 per year. Do you remember who that guy was? He was talking about us all saving \$2500 on Obamacare policies. How'd that work out for you? Helping fight a guy like that is a great place in which we can use our knowledge of the Constitution.

Nobody said that exactly but some president at some time in the last several years did tell Americans that we could keep our doctors, health policies, and that in so doing we would save at least \$2500.00. I am not kidding. He still tells lies because no person in Congress feels strong enough to take him on.

My objective in this book as in many others, which I write, is not to have you know who said that or to get you upset whether he or she did or did not say it. I just want you to think about what the Founders promised and what American government had been delivering to the people before the liars took charge of the government. There is a chasm. We the people can fix that. Learning the precepts of the Constitution can inspire US to get that task done.

My objective is to help smarten you up so that guys like that, whether they are the president or not, do not get to treat you like a chump. Each time I write about this topic, I get smarter also as we all must keep learning all our lives and we must be watchful to keep our freedoms.

America is built on fairness, goodness, and individual strength. We are not supposed to give politicians an even break. The Constitution



is our law and it is our obligation to pay attention so our rights are not violated by grabby politicians. If you happen to be in this low information / overly nice category, thank you for visiting this book. I hope that through these writings, you will become a better American.

The low information gullible people in America must smarten up or we are all toast. Everybody's vote counts the same. When those who choose to not pay attention vote, it is a big plus for dirty politicians and a big loss for real Americans.

When you have the time, please finish reading this book, and you will understand how smart you can be and how much power you can wield against those who care nothing about you or me, or America. Always keep your eye on the ball and do not give the ball up to an opponent just because they lie and they schmooze you.

A book I wrote during the Obama times was titled, *The Constitution 4 Dummies*. It was written so that we can all know the truth even when the corrupt media lie to our faces. The not-so-free, very dishonest and corrupt press provides cover for the government as an ally, not as the fourth estate. It is propaganda for the government and too many gullible Americans sop it up as if it is the truth. The media would have us all believe in the "Tooth Fairy." Any of US that live by believing their lies, need to reevaluate so that we do not remain chumps.

Regardless of which party is responsible for the mess, Americans are on edge anticipating that somehow, because there are big problems, we will all get nailed by one or another of them in one way or another. Many of US think that we will lose our jobs, lose our ability to work full time, lose our health insurance policies, and not be able to afford the new government issued policies coming our way.

When I was growing up, it was not this way. It is time we went back to the better days when there was a real American Dream for everybody. .

We may get sick and we may die because of the "Affordable Care Act." Thank God the president is not under Obamacare so at least he will be available for a eulogy at any of our funerals.

Illegal immigration and amnesty is another of the bad jokes perpetrated on the American people. In this instance, both the Democrats and the Republicans share the same vision – *to stiff the American people*, and to give priority to illegal foreign nationals rather than American citizens. What happened to America and Americans first?

We discussed this topic in detail in a prior chapter. Some truths stand forever. Even Obama, when he met with Pope Francis could not think of anything positive to say, so he quoted his buddy Harry Reid as you can see in the “cartoon” below. The bubbled exchange with the Pope is funny but too true. Pope Francis must have a great sense of humor. Don’t we just love his simplicity?



And, so, I decided that this book about the US Constitution v the COVID-19 virus would not be too political and it shall not be. It is anti-political. But, we must tell the truth about how things really are—don’t you think? Obama is no longer the perpetrator but the governors in his Party sure are.

I have admitted previously that I am a registered Democrat but for twenty years or more, I have not been proud of my Party. The Democratic Leadership can do a lot better. Right now the Party that is the lesser of two evils is unquestionably the Republican Party

though it is an unholy combination of both Democrats and Republicans that have given us this sad state of affairs in the USA.

To help you and your family cope with the times, this book will be truthful and fact-filled and it will make each political party seem like they, and they alone, along with the two party system—are responsible for the problems that America has been suffering while it is trying to stay America.

I know that when you and I think about it, we are on the same page for the same reason. We are all trying to preserve the American way of life—which cannot be found anywhere else in the universe.

Because I love the Constitution so much, I wrote this book so that I can share my sense of what America really is, and why, until the millennials got shut out of the American dream, with no jobs after college; this was the place in which anybody could succeed with some hard work.

America not only promised an American Dream. It delivered. And during that time, the government followed the precepts of the Constitution. Today as government ignores the American Dream or suggests it never existed, life simply is not as good.

Do not accept the communist doctrine that this is the new normal. They want to dummm you down and then take your freedoms. We can do much better and we will. It all starts by paying attention.

I hope this book helps to wake up Americans of all ages from the fog that has affected our brains. We have not changed but we have permitted our government to change. Our representatives and our government has changed so much that they have forgotten who we are and who we are supposed to be.

Without using those exact words, our Constitution gives us a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It gives government only powers that are specifically enumerated by the people. Yet, somehow, Americans have become lazy and we have permitted corrupt politicians to be reelected regardless of whether they represent US well or not.

Abraham Lincoln is the most famous historical figure to use this patriotic phrase. It was in his Gettysburg Address from November 19, 1863. For posterity, here is Lincoln's last paragraph. It is chilling:

*"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."*

Big government doesn't work. Big agencies don't work. Big corporations don't work. Big doesn't work well at all, especially if you are one person looking for freedom and liberty.

Government has grown so big that we the people, who own the government according to a deed known as the Constitution, can no longer sort through all the lies and the empty promises. So, we must all help reduce the size of government for the people to ever matter again. We get our chances each election cycle. When we vote to favor corruption, we get the government we deserve.

If all Americans understood America, and were taught to respect America in our schools, instead of blaming America first for everything—we would not have to worry about being defeated from within.

In this way, if any American political party comes-by led by Democrats or Republicans, and it wants to change America into a Communist-Russian-like, or Communist-Chinese-like, or Nazi-German-like country, we will be equipped to fire off a quick nyet, or a mhai, or simply, a hearty and guttural nein!

We can surely add no-way Jose for effect if we choose, simply because we are Americans and we are exceptional. We are the exception to the rule that freedom and liberty cannot work with regular people. What we cannot do is accept and believe the propaganda from the corrupt, socialist progressive communist owned press in the US. Yes, that includes the New York Times, the Washington Post and of course MSNBC. Trying to find the truth in today's news is like trying to find a white glove in the snow.

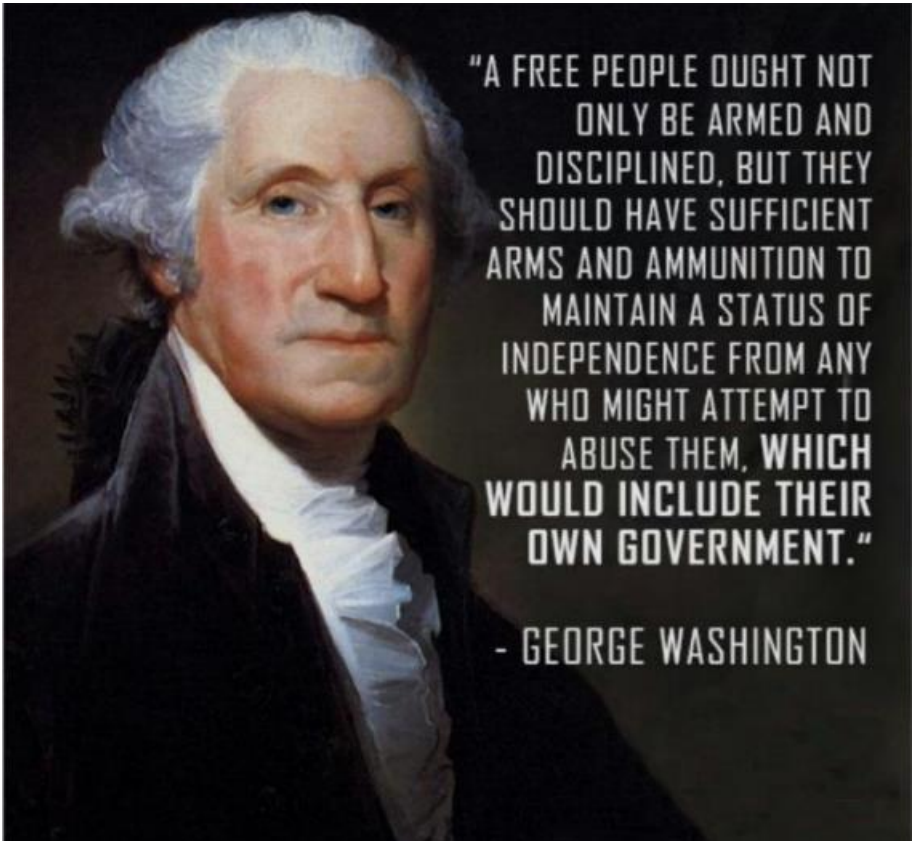
America, from its inception, along with mercantilism, has used capitalism to create the strongest country in the world. Those who do not like America have already removed mercantilism from the landscape and now hope to replace capitalism with socialism / communism. Yet, small-c-communism has never worked anyplace.

Their replacement scenario is a promise of the best of small “c” communism in our later evolution, or revolution, but they may not permit freedom lovers to live when they gain control, if we are not totally happy with their form of control.

If you believe in any of these socialist philosophies and you also like your freedom, it might be a good time to visit the tombstone makers in your area and pick out a good one. In memoriam! You are gone!



## Chapter 6 The Founders Wrote the Constitution to Protect US from Tyranny



### **Socialism, progressivism, Marxism, and communism were considered but rejected**

America has always been a capitalist country in which hard work pays off, and the same goes for our economy. If any American political party comes-by led by Democrats or Republicans, and it wants to change America into a communist, socialist, or Marxist country, once you understand the Constitution, and you are no longer part of the dummy crowd, you will be well-equipped with the information you are absorbing in this book to fire off a resounding "NO" in our native language of English.

Many of the founders, and our relatives from long ago, risked their lives to engage George III of England so America could be free. I mean so that the people could be free and have unbounded liberty. Nobody of sane mind at the time wanted a revolution, but they eventually agreed that freedom is worth a revolution and a free America proves it every day.

Those from countries other than England who came to America engaged other Kings and royalty in addition to King George III. But, all came to America to be free. All Americans in the twenty-first century need to wake up to realize that freedom is not free.

The Founders never envisioned that tyranny would come from the people itself or from the supposed independent press, the so-called fourth estate. The press is known as the fourth estate, an entity whose job has always been to keep government honest. Today that's like enlisting a weasel to guard the hen house.

The true role of the free press is not to take sides with corporations or government or any party. It is not to bring in the most ad revenue and tell falsehoods as if they were fact. Yet, we have no fourth estate today in America because our press leans communist, and they back every word of the administration as if they are a branch of the Democratic Party.

The Founders never expected the citizenry to stand by and permit the powerful to take away liberties for which the revolutionaries shed blood. Our founders would not be happy with many of US today, because we sit idly and let things happen to US.

These brave souls said no to the repression of freedom and they took matters into their own hands, risking life and limb, to provide US all with a free America. In this country, all of the people are free. Go get yourself a breath of fresh air. It is free. Only the corrupt press today will tell you to pay homage to something or somebody to get your clean air.

Today, it is a phenomenon that the well-to-do politicians have become very popular with the dummmest of Americans, who want what they can give to them. Today's politicians, disguised as representatives of



the people are sharp and cunning, and they are always ready to say or do anything that would help them advance to important offices of the city, the state or in the federal government.

The word “politician” is used in the book in its most derisive form and always un-complimentary. Who are politicians? Politicians of the worst order are scoundrels who gain the people’s trust and get elected to office and then they turn on the people for their own self-interests. Today they dupe the lowest level of information citizens and they tease them with handouts to gain control of them.

The founders were well aware of politicians in England and other countries in Europe, and the treachery they caused. Back in the late 1700’s as the Constitution was prepared for ratification, the founders were so tickled that George III was no longer in control, they almost universally felt that the new America, which they were creating, would remain pure over time. Who would ever give up freedom?

Using the Constitution, they tried to build a set of laws that would never ever, ever, require another popular revolution to purify the government. They knew there was the risk of scoundrels who may in later years attempt to take control of the government. In the twenty-first century, those scoundrels are here in droves, and the corrupt press has joined them to keep the people down.

That is why the founders rewrote the first Constitution known as the Articles of Confederation “*in order to form a more perfect union.*” Though their work was excellent, scoundrels still flourish. The union under the Constitution is much more perfect than under the Articles of Confederation (the first iteration of national law); but it is not perfect enough to stop all scoundrels at the doorstep.

To understand that the Founders advocated dissolving and re-forming a government gone badly, this section of the Declaration of Independence does the trick:

*“...That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence,*

*indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”*

Though the Founders did not specifically add anything in the original constitution permitting the government to be overthrown by force, it is implicit as that is exactly what they did as leaders of America to answer Britain’s tyranny.

Since the people have all rights in the Constitution, as you will see shortly, the Second Amendment to the constitution in the Bill of Rights provides all citizens the right to bear arms and it prohibits government from impinging on that right. And thus, the Declaration of Independence shows the willingness of the Founders to use force to overthrow a government if the government goes bad. Meanwhile, the 2nd Amendment gives the people the means – most notably guns and ammunition.

Ron Paul, Mark Levin, Andrew Napolitano and others see it exactly the same way as I do!

**Ron Paul:** *the Second Amendment, ironically, and a lot of people don’t understand this, but it was to protect against abusive government.*

**Mark Levin** *said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment wasn’t for target shooting or hunting or anything else in that realm. He said that “whether you like it or not or whether you agree with it or not, the reason why 2nd amendment exists is to arm the population in order to overthrow a tyrannical government. That’s it.”*

**Judge Andrew Napolitano:** *The historical reality of the Second Amendment’s protection of the right to bear arms is not that it protects the right to shoot deer. It protects the right to shoot tyrants,*

*and it protects the right to shoot at them effectively with the same instruments they would use upon us.*

The fact that Americans are armed is unusual in the world today. America is the exception to all other countries. Our armed population has helped us win wars or at least avoid defeat. For example, a big reason why the Japanese never launched an invasion of the mainland US, even when we were at our most vulnerable after Pearl Harbor, was because they knew the people were armed. America's "hunters" represented the world's largest army.

In just one state, Pennsylvania, for example, just about a million hunting licenses are sold each year. I know that many non-hunters in Pennsylvania also have rifles, and pistols for self-protection.

So, how many guns are there in the US? According to the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey – the leading source of international public information about firearms – the U.S. has the best-armed civilian population in the world, with an estimated 270 million total guns. That's an average of 89 firearms for every 100 residents. It is far ahead of Yemen, which comes in second with about 55 firearms for every 100 people, or Switzerland, which is third with 46 guns for every 100 people.

The Founders did not spend a lot of time on documentation necessary to overthrow the government because they had a difficult time envisioning a scenario in which the recently freed people in the colonies, post revolution, would join an oppressive and tyrannical government, such as ours is today.

Where we are today, it assures that the worst of the worst get to decide which freedoms and liberties should remain with the people, and which ones an all knowing government should take away.

The Founders had created a set of rules, known as The Constitution to assure that all the people would be left with all freedom and all liberty in all cases. They did not want any scoundrels (politicians) messing with this notion or this nation.

Unfortunately, our legislators and at least one of our presidents in modern times have stopped full adherence to the Constitution and

consequently, our freedom is now in jeopardy. Our representatives can stop this tonight or tomorrow or tomorrow night if they wish, the very next time Congress is in session. Ask them why they have not stopped the lawlessness already?

## **Americans must act at the voting booth**

Unfortunately, last time I checked, the legislature (Congress in both Houses but mostly the US Senate) are more interested in being important in Washington than helping the folks back home. As we learn more about the Constitution, we may become brave enough to call them home and replace them with patriots from the ranks of normal citizens.

Only Americans, who hope to be in control of a communist state, advocate against the American way. Egalitarian principles of socialism simply mean that nobody gets to be part of the cream of the crop since the most equal spot for all is the bottom of the barrel.

Before this is fait accompli, Americans who love freedom have to do a little more than just speak up. We have to know what the founders would do to protect liberty and freedom and we simply have to do it or suffer the consequences. Reading this book is a good start. Thank you for taking the first step.

I do not have to preach freedom to 99% of Americans out there. We are all either products of good people who came here to be free or we came here ourselves to be free.

Permitting politicians from either party to talk us out of our birthright is not only dummm... it is asinine.

Yet, we can choose to be the dummmest Americans of all time or we can choose to engage, smarten up, stop being chumps, and take on these bad guys. They do not care at all about us.

Think of the leaders of the regimes that committed the atrocities that prompted our forefathers or us to come here. They were evil. They

were bad. They would love to have their boot on your neck right now if you would let them.

I have had the pleasure of writing a lot of patriotic books. I write tech books and patriotic / political books. This is book # 53 of 66. It is really fun to help people with clear thinking.

Each time I write a book, I hope that I can attract another person into a love affair with America and its almost perfect Constitution. If you have read any of my other stuff, you know that I point out the bad guys and I pull no punches in my description of what we must do to escape from their reach. They will destroy us if we do not pay attention and escape their grasp.

## Read the Federalist Papers

Before the patriotic “4 Dummies” series, my last book was titled *The Federalist Papers*, by Hamilton, Jay, and Madison. Since these eloquent founders had written the papers, my job was merely to arrange them in a 21st century orderly style and set them to print, I wrote no more than twenty pages of original introductory text to help persuade the potential reader that the rest of the *Federalist Papers*, for which they had paid was worth reading. I admit I did a bit more.

I took the patriotic essays of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, known as *The Federalist Papers*, and I separated all of the two page and single page paragraphs, and half page paragraphs, and other large paragraphs, and I chopped them into smaller, more readable bits and pieces. Whether you buy a book or you download these essays free of charge, there is a lot of learning to be had in the *Federalist Papers*. But navigating the long paragraphs is a chore.

I literally had to wake myself up too many times in my initial reading of the *Federalist Papers* because they are tough to read in their natural form. Yet, they are very insightful. I know how tough it is to get through them as written in the original. I did not eliminate a word of the original. I just made it more readable. Check it out at [amazon.com/author/brianwkelly](https://amazon.com/author/brianwkelly).

By the way, just like *The Constitution 4 Dummies*, My version of *The Federalist Papers* by Hamilton, Jay, And Madison also contains the full text of the US Constitution, The Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, The Bill of Rights, and lots of other good stuff that many of US over the years have forgotten.

Once you get back into these writings of the Founders, you will fully understand that they are the glue that keeps Americans free. They can help provide US all with liberty and freedom and justice forever and ever and ever... as long as we pay attention.

Having read the *Federalist Papers* myself, I feel like I should not be the one to offer this exhortation, but I shall anyway. If you can read every one of the *Federalist Papers* in the original, as offered on the Internet for free, you will have passed a great love test for America. And, if you do all the other things you need to do to be the citizen you would be proud to be, you then become worthy of the title, American.

Those of US, who read the *Federalist Papers*, though it is an arduous journey, know we have accomplished a lot. These papers—eighty-five articles written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, available for free on the Internet, quickly show US all that the founders were very concerned that the bad aspects of any other foreign government would not become part of the new American Democratic Republic. Today's administration in Washington and some others would give them pause for sure.

The founders were well aware of politicians and all of their negatives; but since they never put the notion of welfare, food stamps, and cell phones in the founding documents, they did not believe that the people would permit the Republic to be tainted by notions like socialism, progressivism, Marxism, or communism.

In the early days, the people were all aware of the sacrifices the early colonists had made to secure the new America. Never in the history of man was so much patriotism shown for a nation that might not ever make it into the future.

After enduring tyranny from England and other monarchies, Americans fought for and won the revolution against England et al for the cause of liberty and freedom. So that liberty and freedom would

continue as long as possible and perhaps, forever, they built The Constitution.

Here we are 230 plus years later after eight years looking for hope and change rather than looking to the spirits of our founders to rebuild our fallen country. Hope will deliver nothing when action by well spirited citizens is required but discouraged.

I have found so many people, including myself, who at one time have forgotten the sacrifices of the revolutionaries and the gifts of freedom and liberty that were bestowed on all of US at the time of the revolutionary victory. All of these gifts have been emblazoned forever in our Constitution.

We Americans have been so blessed that we have not reminded ourselves enough over the years of our great heritage. Fourth of July celebrations are picnics, and though our parents have tried, the work of our founders and the great Constitution they built as the basis for all of our laws, is often lost in the celebration. Next boom you hear on the 4th, remember why and thank God for such brave men.

Neither freedom nor liberty come cheap so the next time an engaging politician offers you something for nothing, and in your heart, you know it is wrong; stick to your guns. Remember the words of Ben Franklin, a favorite US and Pennsylvania patriot:

“Those who desire to give up freedom in order to gain security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one.”  
Amen!





## Chapter 7 Throw the Bums Out!



### Write opinion letters and call your representatives

One of the reasons for this book and others your author wrote about America and its founding documents such as the Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence is to help US all be better Americans. We do this simply by understanding the Constitution along with America's founding.

In 2020 with the big virus and big blue colored politicians bullying the people it is more and more important for Americans to understand the precepts in the Constitution that give us rights. These rights give us absolute power over bully politicians such as many of the state's governors.

Most of us have seen or read or heard parts of the Constitution and if they have been presented properly, we more than likely, really like them. The Constitution is a friend to all freedom-loving Americans.

It is the defining document of our country. It is the place to go to find out what America is all about! It is about the U.S. of A.—our nation. Our Country is what it is because its definition is embodied in the Constitution, which is America's most fundamental and most prized set of laws.

Our job, moving through life, of course is to learn what we can about our government (as defined by the Constitution). In this endeavor, we should all pay attention that our representatives actually spend their time representing US according to the laws of the founders, not according to their own whims.

When our representatives do not do the will of the people in-between elections such as in these virus times, we need to write letters to the editors of newspapers and other media, and write our Congressmen and Senators so they know they cannot snooker us. We must realize that every two years for Congress and every three years for the Senate, we the people, because of the Constitution have the right and in fact the obligation to replace officials in government who choose not to exercise their duties according to the will of the people.

If they don't listen, then we must do the honorable thing and write them even more letters, and letters to the editor and when they choose not to respond in our favor, we then can un-elect our leaders their next time out on the ballot.

## **Un-elect them! They would hate it!**

Unfortunately for Americans, our representative in the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Presidency, and our representative who sits in our governor's chair is not always a guy like Jefferson Smith from the movie Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. His honor is impeccable. But, the honor of our representatives many times is quite questionable.

Our representation has been getting progressively worse each year—not better. Over the past few years, since 2009 through 2020 especially with the healthcare debacle in 2010, and now again with COVID-19, it is clear that the voices of the people are not being heard in Washington, DC or the state capitols across the nation.

Just as Jefferson Smith in the Frank Capra classic movie, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, found out, the corrupt purposes of elected officials is now in the open. It is to serve themselves by serving special interests. Adherence to Party dictates and philosophies does not come before serving the people in the best way possible.

In the sunlight of the day, therefore, the existing Congress—yes, both houses must go. Not the institution of Congress, just the corrupt members who choose not to serve the people. Today, we also have issues with rogue governors and officials further down the line in the chain of officials who are sworn to enforce their state constitutions as well as the US Constitution. Today, with the COVID-19 state responses, most of the bad decisions are coming from state governors.

We must bid them sayonara. We must say adieu. And when it comes time to elect our next Congress; and our next governor, etc. let's not forget to bring in an honest person who loves America as much as we do. If the mess we have today is not the governors' intentions, and in some cases, the governors' direct fault, then whose fault, I might ask, is it? Might it be Stanley Laurel's or Oliver Hardy's—for it surely it is a comedy!!

## Surprise in email

Several years ago, before President Trump was elected, before I got to the email that prompted this pause, I got another surprise again today. It happened back then when I was re-editing one of my Constitution books, hoping to clean it up for another printing.

Before I show you the picture and the remarks I received, let me tell you this story. I was shopping at Malacaris, a great produce market in Wilkes-Barre PA today when I was joking around with the checkout person and the person behind me. I admitted that I was unemployed but I did not say I was writing books as gigs, hoping the big ship would come in. Hah!

I said that I was thinking about running for President but it seemed that everybody was so happy with the current president (Obama at the

time) that I figure I will have to look someplace else for employment. I then said that everybody loves him so much, I would not have a chance.

The cashier stopped in her tracks and said, that may have been a while ago but you should check again; it is not that way now. The lady behind her said that she did not think anybody liked him anymore. I have relatives in my family who are still doing well and they still love the president, so I figured the president was still doing OK.

But, when these Jane Q Publics told me they were retired and collecting and still felt they had to work 'til they died, I started to think maybe you can't fool all of the people all of the time. It is encouraging that people have begun to think. Thinking is the first step in preserving our democracy and our freedoms.

In the same vein, another surprise from a famous artist and a magnificent painting that I show below.

This is the intro to this email before I show you the picture

Dear John, I thought this an interesting fw so true.

**From:** Trish

**Sent:** Saturday, June 07, 2014 9:39 AM

**To:** great people

**Subject:** RE: New Painting

**If you are familiar with Jon McNaughton's paintings, you will love this one.**

This is one of his latest---his opinions on the current situation are stated very clearly by his paintbrush and his comments below, but no comment is really needed.



McNaughton felt compelled to add text to his painting as follows:

*Many Americans today feel a sense of dismay and horror as we see our country in a downward spiral; economically, morally, and politically. President Obama's indifferent attitude and the continuous list of scandals and bad policy are leading the country to ruin. As an artist I am reminded of the old saying "Nero fiddled while Rome burned." History believes that Nero himself may have set the great fire that burned a part of Rome during his leadership. Afterwards, he blamed it on the Christians who suffered great persecution under his rule. I see great similarities to what we are experiencing today. Obama fiddled, while the people witnessed the demise of America.*

**Jon McNaughton**

Again, it is not my intent to cast aspersions on the past president. My purpose in the next few chapters is to teach the Constitution to help all Americans know what to do to get from under the yoke of this or any president, governor, or representative. The fact is that in the first sections of this book, in which I discuss the founding documents, my intention was to build the case for the book. Why is this book necessary?

Look at McNaughton's painting and you get it clearly. America is falling apart and we want to save it. If President Obama is an innocent bystander then maybe someday, we can find a leader to help rescue us from his intransigence. Maybe!

Of course that was then and this is now, several years later and we have a new president who has reversed Obama's negative and corrupt course. This is not a book about Presidents but about the Constitution and the virus, and that is the purview today of the governors of the 50 states. In case you are wondering however, I believe that President Trump is one of the best presidents this country has ever seen.

The email explained immediately below is also reflective of today's major problems. If the President Obama were to have called me the night after the first run of this book was released and asked me to remove all of the parts that were not favorable to him. I would do so immediately. I would replace those pages with my rationale for doing so. I don't expect a call, and that concerns me as an American, but at least I have no additional work after this book is published. I often asked God to have Obama do the right thing.

Every now and then, we all get encouraged when somebody speaks out exactly how we all should be speaking out. As a conservative Democrat myself, trying to make this book apolitical, I thought about redacting parts of the note above and the email below that discuss people and party in specific terms. But, it is what it is.

I'll let the emails that I received speak for themselves and then after you read them both, we will move to the next section of this book. I once used this coming email in a book titled America 4 Dummies, and I think it also fits US well here also, as we make our points about the virus and the constitution in this book. Please note the context for this email is at least four years ago in the thick of the Obama Administration. Here it is:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Roger

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Subject: Fwd: FW: Two Americas

## Two Americas

To add balance to the president's speech last night, read the below;

This is as well said as anything I have seen. Take the time to read it. No matter your political affiliation, Democrat, Republican, or Independent, it should be clear that this country is in a lot of trouble. Some of us will live long enough to see the consequences, but I really fear for our children and grandchildren's future. The damage that can and will be done over the next three years will likely be irreversible or take years to overcome.

In early January 2014, Bob Lonsberry, a Rochester talk radio personality on WHAM 1180 AM, said this in response to Obama's "income inequality speech":

*To Americans*

*The Democrats are right, there are two Americas.*

*The America that works, and the America that doesn't. The America that contributes, and the America that doesn't. It's not the haves and the have not's, it's the do's and the don'ts. Some people do their duty as Americans, obey the law, support themselves, contribute to society, and others don't. That's the divide in America.*

*It's not about income inequality, it's about civic irresponsibility. It's about a political party that preaches hatred, greed and victimization in order to win elective office. It's about a political party that loves power more than it loves its country. That's not invective, that's truth, and it's about time someone said it.*

*The politics of envy was on proud display a couple weeks ago when President Obama pledged the rest of his term to fighting "income inequality." He noted that some people make more than other people that some people have higher incomes than others, and he says that's not just.*

*That is the rationale of thievery. The other guy has it, you want it, Obama will take it for you. Vote Democrat. That is the philosophy that produced Detroit. It is the electoral philosophy that is destroying America.*

*It conceals a fundamental deviation from American values and common sense because it ends up not benefiting the people who support it, but a betrayal. The Democrats have not empowered their followers; they have enslaved them in a culture of dependence and entitlement, of victimhood and anger instead of ability and hope.*

*The president's premise - that you reduce income inequality by debasing the successful - seeks to deny the successful the consequences of their choices and spare the unsuccessful the consequences of their choices.*

*Because, by and large, income variations in society is a result of different choices leading to different consequences. Those who choose wisely and responsibly have a far greater likelihood of success, while those who choose foolishly and irresponsibly have a far greater likelihood of failure. Success and failure usually manifest themselves in personal and family income.*

*You choose to drop out of high school or to skip college - and you are apt to have a different outcome than someone who gets a diploma and pushes on with purposeful education. You have your children out of wedlock and life is apt to take one course; you have them within a marriage and life is apt to take another course. Most often in life our destination is determined by the course we take.*

*My doctor, for example, makes far more than I do. There is significant income inequality between us. Our lives have had an inequality of outcome, but, our lives also have had an inequality of effort. While my doctor went to college and then devoted his young adulthood to medical school and residency, I got a job in a restaurant.*

*He made a choice, I made a choice, and our choices led us to different outcomes. His outcome pays a lot better than mine.*

*Does that mean he cheated and Barack Obama needs to take away his wealth? No, it means we are both free men in a free society where free choices lead to different outcomes.*

*It is not inequality Barack Obama intends to take away, it is freedom. The freedom to succeed, and the freedom to fail. There is no true option for success if there is no true option for failure.*



*The pursuit of happiness means a whole lot less when you face the punitive hand of government if your pursuit brings you more happiness than the other guy. Even if the other guy sat on his arse and did nothing. Even if the other guy made a lifetime's worth of asinine and shortsighted decisions.*

*Barack Obama and the Democrats preach equality of outcome as a right, while completely ignoring inequality of effort.*

*The simple Law of the Harvest - as ye sow, so shall ye reap - is sometimes applied as, "The harder you work, the more you get." Obama would turn that upside down. Those who achieve are to be punished as enemies of society and those who fail are to be rewarded as wards of society.*

*Entitlement will replace effort as the key to upward mobility in American society if Barack Obama gets his way. He seeks a lowest common denominator society in which the government besieges the successful and productive to foster equality through mediocrity.*

*He and his party speak of two Americas, and their grip on power is based on using the votes of one to sap the productivity of the other. America is not divided by the differences in our outcomes, it is divided by the differences in our efforts. It is a false philosophy to say one man's success comes about unavoidably as the result of another man's victimization.*

*What Obama offered was not a solution, but a separatism. He fomented division and strife, pitted one set of Americans against another for his own political benefit. That's what socialists offer. Marxist class warfare wrapped up with a bow.*

*Two Americas, coming closer each day to proving the truth to Lincoln's maxim that a house divided against itself cannot stand."*

-----

Wow! Isn't that why you are reading this book? Thank you Bob Lonsberry! We need more of you in our America!



# Chapter 8 The Coronavirus Saga

## Tell me about the problem?



Javits Center, NYC conversion to a 2900 bed hospital for COVID-19

The US Center for Disease Control has been working overtime for most of 2020 and part of 2019 in response to a pandemic of respiratory disease spreading from person-to-person. It has been caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. There have been other coronaviruses but this one is different and it has received more attention than any virus in history.

The disease has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”). It comes with a very serious public health risk. The federal government of the US is very concerned for the safety of US citizens and has been working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this bleak situation. COVID-19 can cause mild to severe illness; most severe illness occurs in adults 65 years and older. For some reason it creates a fatal situation in many adults over 65 years of age.

## **The United States is the leader of cases in the world**

It began slowly in the US and as soon as President Trump saw its lethality. And its origin in China, he cut off all travel to China and later Europe and then Great Britain in an attempt to keep the virus from our shores. Different parts of the US have been experiencing different levels of COVID-19 activity.

The United States nationally is coming out of the acceleration phase of the pandemic. The duration and severity of each pandemic phase can vary depending on the characteristics of the virus and the public health response. It seems like the model projections have the infection and death curves flattening meaning the virus has been substantially but not entirely mitigated. CDC and state and local public health laboratories have been testing for the virus that causes COVID-19.

## **Center for Disease Control (CDC) Recommendation**

With the death toll from the virus in the US pushing the 100,000 number already in the US, there is hope in that the infection curve has flattened and in many cases is receding.

Things are a lot better than earlier estimates, The original calculations based on the C.D.C.'s scenarios suggested, 2.4 million to 21 million people in the United States could require hospitalization, potentially crushing the nation's medical system, which has only about 925,000 staffed hospital beds. Fewer than a tenth of those are for people who are critically ill.

The assumptions fueling those scenarios were mitigated by the fact that cities, states, businesses and individuals took steps to slow transmission, even if some are acting less aggressively than others. The C.D.C.-led effort developed better models subsequently and these have decreased the worst-case numbers, though in many cases, the actual values have not been made public. As businesses reopen, so far at least, there has been no marked increase in cases or deaths. The people know how to mitigate and with or without strict government controls, the people are cautious.

The CDC continues to suggest that everyone can do their part to help the country respond to this emerging public health threat. Here are some of the CDC's important guidelines to which all Americans are asked to adhere.

Part of the CDC recommendation is for individuals to use a cloth face covering to keep people who are infected but do not have symptoms from spreading COVID-19 to others.

The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected and it offers some protection for you from others. The cloth face coverings recommended for the general population are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Medical face masks such as N-95 are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders, as recommended by CDC. If the supply of the N-95 were adequate in the US, there would be no restrictions on the type of face covering for individuals who are not part of a medical team.

The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing, the primary means that the US is deploying to stop the spread of the virus. The CDC continues to recommend that people try keep about 6 feet between themselves and others.

The White House's "Slow the Spread" guidelines came after the 15-day shutdown and were in place until April 30. Now, it is up to the individual states. The people for the most part have had enough and want strict measures to be abandoned in favor of reasonable measures. The CDC asks to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of social distancing at all levels of society.

People 65 years and older and people with severe underlying medical conditions should take special precautions because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. The death rate has been substantially higher for elderly patients.

If you are a healthcare provider, use your judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. If there were enough tests for

everybody more people would be advised to get tested but the tests are in short supply but this situation is getting better.

Those people who get a fever or cough should consider whether they might have COVID-19, depending on where they live, their travel history or other exposures. All of the U.S. has been seeing some level of community spread of COVID-19. Testing for COVID-19 may be accessed through medical providers or public health departments, but there is no treatment for this virus. Hydroxychloroquine has shown some promise as a prophylaxis and as a cure for the virus but there are no confirmed studies of this as of yet.

The good news is that most people have mild illness with the disease and are able to recover at home without medical care. Some have major illnesses however, and need hospitalization.

If you are returning from a country with travel restrictions, you should stay home and monitor your health. All other international travelers please follow CDC instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully known. Reported illnesses have ranged from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. While information so far suggests that majority of COVID-19 illnesses are mild. About 16% of the cases reported from China were very serious.

A CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report that looked at severity of disease among COVID-19 patients in the United States by age group found that 80% of deaths were among adults 65 years and older with the highest percentage of severe outcomes occurring in people 85 years and older. People with serious underlying medical conditions — like serious heart conditions, chronic lung disease, and diabetes, for example — also seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.

The COVID-19 is a pandemic. FYI, a pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people

and can spread between people sustainably. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is infecting people and spreading very easily from person-to-person. On March 11, the COVID-19 outbreak was labeled a pandemic by the WHO.

This is the first pandemic known to be caused by this new coronavirus. In the past century, there have been four pandemics caused by the emergence of new influenza viruses. As a result, most research and guidance around pandemics is specific to influenza, but the same premises can be applied to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Pandemics of respiratory disease follow a certain progression outlined by the CDC. They begin with an investigation phase, followed by recognition, initiation, and acceleration phases. The peak of illnesses occurs at the end of the acceleration phase, which is followed by a deceleration phase, during which there is a decrease in illnesses.

Different countries or parts of countries can be in different phases of the pandemic at any point in time and different parts of the same country can also be in different phases of a pandemic.

### **Risk Assessment**

Risk depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads among people; the severity of resulting illness; and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccines or medications that can treat the illness). There are no vaccines or medications specifically intended to fight this virus.

In the absence of vaccine or treatment medications, nonpharmaceutical interventions become the most important response strategy. These are community interventions that can reduce the impact of disease.

The risk from COVID-19 to Americans can be broken down into risk of exposure versus risk of serious illness and death.

### **Risk of exposure:**

Cases of COVID-19 and instances of community spread are being reported in all states.

People in places where ongoing community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated risk of exposure, with the level of risk dependent on the location.

Healthcare workers actively caring for patients with COVID-19 are at an elevated risk of exposure. Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.

Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure, with level of risk dependent on where they traveled.

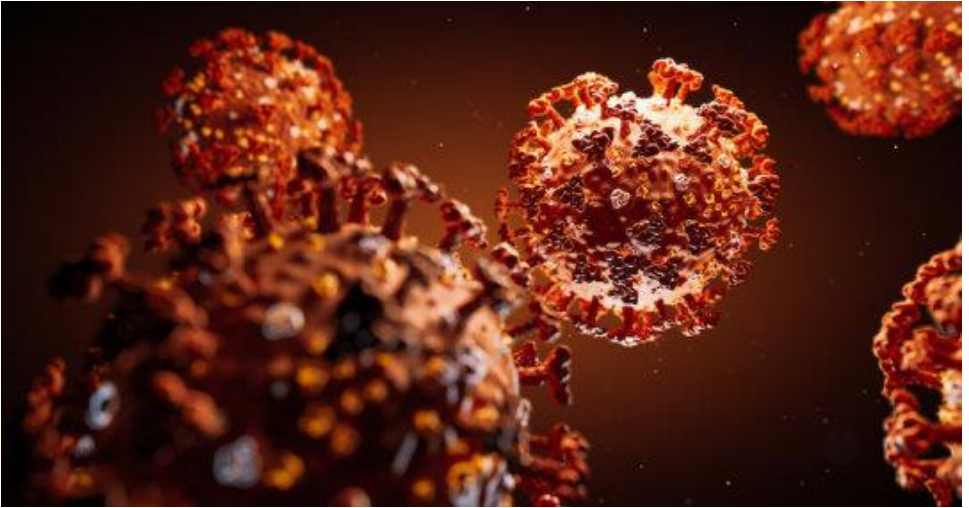
**Risk of Severe Illness:**

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know now, those at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions



# Chapter 9 Origin of COVID-19



Coronavirus illustration (stock image). Credit: © pinkeyes / Adobe Stock

On March 17, 2020, Scripps Research released a press release explaining the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic that the world is now enduring. Much of the information in this chapter has been culled from their report as well as that from [genengnews.com](http://genengnews.com)

On March 19, Geneng News put out a report that discussed the origins of the Coronavirus. In it they posture that the virus evolved naturally, and 'Is Not a Laboratory Construct.' This was proven by their genetic study.

## What is the official name and why?

Official names have been announced for the virus responsible that is responsible for COVID-19. (It had previously been known as "2019 novel coronavirus") and the disease it causes. The official names are shown on the next page:

### **Disease name**

coronavirus disease name is (COVID-19)

## **Virus name**

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 is (SARS-CoV-2)

The term *Novel* is used with this and means the following in this book:

**Novel:** *new and not resembling something formerly known or used.*

## **Why do the virus and the disease have different names?**

Viruses, and the diseases they cause, often have different names. For example, HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. People often know the name of a disease, but not the name of the virus that causes it.

There are different processes, and purposes, for naming viruses and diseases.

Viruses are named based on their genetic structure to facilitate the development of diagnostic tests, vaccines and medicines. Virologists and the wider scientific community do this work, so viruses are named by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV).

Diseases are named to enable discussion on disease prevention, spread, transmissibility, severity and treatment. Human disease preparedness and response at a world level right now is the role of the World Health Organization (WHO), so diseases are officially named by WHO in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

## **Origin of the disease and virus**

The novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus emerged from the city of Wuhan, China, in late 2019. It has since caused a large scale COVID-19 epidemic (declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020) and it has spread to more than 209 countries and territories as of April 7, 2020. This disease is the product of natural evolution, according to findings published recently in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

The analysis of public genome sequence data from SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses found no evidence that the virus was made in a laboratory or otherwise engineered. Despite this analysis, pundits across the world have voiced suspicion with the proximity of the

outbreak to a large lab in the Wuhan province. Though early indications were that the source was the Wuhan Wet markets, further information has become available that the virus may have escaped from one of the two labs in Wuhan. Though the source of the virus is likely the labs, there is no evidence to suggest that the virus is man-made. The official word is that the disease and the virus are the product of nature and were not manufactured for bio-war purposes. Here's how the scientists know.

"By comparing the available genome sequence data for known coronavirus strains, we can firmly determine that SARS-CoV-2 originated through natural processes," said Kristian Andersen, PhD, an associate professor of immunology and microbiology at Scripps Research and corresponding author on the paper.

In addition to Andersen, authors on the paper, "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," include Robert F. Garry, of Tulane University; Edward Holmes, of the University of Sydney; Andrew Rambaut, of University of Edinburgh; W. Ian Lipkin, of Columbia University.

### **What are Coronaviruses?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses ranging widely in severity. The first known severe illness caused by a coronavirus emerged with the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic in China. A second outbreak of severe illness began in 2012 in Saudi Arabia with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

On December 31 of last year, Chinese authorities alerted the World Health Organization of an outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus causing severe illness.

### **What do we know now about the disease and the virus?**

Very shortly after the epidemic began, Chinese scientists sequenced the genome of SARS-CoV-2 and made the data available to researchers across worldwide. Let me explain how significant this was.

Two biologists from John Hopkins, Peter Thielen and Tom Mehoke have spent years sequencing the genome of influenza. They were naturals to examine the work of the Chinese scientists as this new strain of coronavirus spread across the globe. These biologists are now using their experience from the Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Laboratory to better understand the virus that causes COVID-19.

With software and molecular biology approaches developed in part at their Applied Physics Laboratory, Thielen and Mehoke use a handheld DNA sequencer to conduct immediate on-site genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2—the virus that causes COVID-19.

"This information allows us to track the evolution of the virus," Thielen said. "It gives us a sense of where the new cases coming into Baltimore could've originated, and insight into how long transmission may have occurred undetected. There are a lot of things we can glean from that."

The virus causing COVID-19, Thielen said, does not appear to be mutating as fast. "When this virus was first sequenced in China, that information was helpful in starting the process to develop a vaccine," Thielen explained. "What we're doing informs whether or not the virus is mutating away from that original sequence, and how quickly. Based on the mutation rate, early data indicates that this would likely be a single vaccine rather than one that needs to be updated each year, like the flu shot." In the near-term, the mutations inform how the virus is spreading.

The resulting genomic sequence data has shown that Chinese authorities rapidly detected the epidemic and that the number of COVID-19 cases have been increasing because of human to human transmission after a single introduction into the human population.

Andersen and collaborators at several other research institutions used this sequencing data to explore the origins and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 by focusing in on several tell-tale features of the virus.

With the United States continuing to ramp up testing and mitigation capabilities, the ability to understand how outbreaks are linked gives public health departments another tool for evaluation. Mutations can explain how long the virus may have gone undetected and the

supposition that there are likely far more cases than diagnosed, and can advise on what measures to put in place (such as the social-distancing efforts and closings that are ongoing nationwide).

Sequencing of the virus' genome is being performed by scientists all over the globe as they work to trace the source of regional outbreaks. In northern California, for example, news reports suggest that genome sequencing has linked the Bay Area outbreak to the Grand Princess cruise ship, which linked back to the virus found in Washington State, which likely came from China.

That's the type of insight—a DNA fingerprint, if you will—that Thielen and Mehoke will gain as more virus genomes are sequenced from the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., regions.

These two biologists along with other scientists analyzed the genetic template for spike proteins, armatures on the outside of the virus that it uses to grab and penetrate the outer walls of human and animal cells. More specifically, they focused on two important features of the spike protein: the receptor-binding domain (RBD), a kind of grappling hook that grips onto host cells, and the cleavage site, a molecular can opener that allows the virus to crack open and enter host cells.

### **For a layman, that explains it very well.**

The scientists found that the RBD portion of the SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins had evolved to effectively target a molecular feature on the outside of human cells called ACE2, a receptor involved in regulating blood pressure. The SARS-CoV-2 spike protein was so effective at binding the human cells, in fact, that the scientists concluded it was the result of natural selection and not the product of genetic engineering.

In other words, this refutes some popular conspiracy theories suggesting that the virus from Wuhan may have been man-made and may have been intentional.

The team found that this evidence for natural evolution was supported by data on SARS-CoV-2's backbone -- its overall molecular structure. If someone were seeking to engineer a new coronavirus as a pathogen, they would have constructed it from the backbone of a virus known to cause illness. But the scientists found that the SARS-CoV-2 backbone

differed substantially from those of already known coronaviruses and mostly resembled related viruses found in bats and pangolins.

"These two features of the virus, the mutations in the RBD portion of the spike protein and its distinct backbone, ruled out laboratory manipulation as a potential origin for SARS-CoV-2" said Andersen. Josie Golding, PhD, epidemics lead at UK-based Wellcome Trust, said the findings by Andersen and his colleagues are "crucially important to bring an evidence-based view to the rumors that have been circulating about the origins of the virus (SARS-CoV-2) causing COVID-19."

"They conclude that the virus is the product of natural evolution," Goulding adds, "ending any speculation about deliberate genetic engineering."

### **Possible origins of the virus**

Based on their genomic sequencing analysis, Andersen and his collaborators concluded that the most likely origins for SARS-CoV-2 followed one of two possible scenarios.

In one scenario, the virus evolved to its current pathogenic state through natural selection in a non-human host and then jumped to humans. This is how previous coronavirus outbreaks have emerged, with humans contracting the virus after direct exposure to civets (SARS) and camels (MERS). The researchers proposed bats as the most likely reservoir for SARS-CoV-2 as it is very similar to a bat coronavirus. There are no documented cases of direct bat-human transmission, however, suggesting that an intermediate host was likely involved between bats and humans.

In this scenario, both of the distinctive features of SARS-CoV-2's spike protein -- the RBD portion that binds to cells and the cleavage site that opens the virus up -- would have evolved to their current state prior to entering humans. In this case, the current epidemic would probably have emerged rapidly as soon as humans were infected, as the virus would have already evolved the features that make it pathogenic and able to spread between people.

In the other proposed scenario, a non-pathogenic version of the virus jumped from an animal host into humans and then evolved to its current pathogenic state within the human population. For instance, some coronaviruses from pangolins, armadillo-like mammals found in Asia and Africa, have an RBD structure very similar to that of SARS-CoV-2. A coronavirus from a pangolin could possibly have been transmitted to a human, either directly or through an intermediary host such as civets or ferrets. Amazing!

The other distinct spike protein characteristic of SARS-CoV-2, the cleavage site, could have evolved within a human host, possibly via limited undetected circulation in the human population prior to the beginning of the epidemic. The researchers found that the SARS-CoV-2 cleavage site, appears similar to the cleavage sites of strains of bird flu that has been shown to transmit easily between people.

SARS-CoV-2 could have evolved such a virulent cleavage site in human cells and soon kicked off the current epidemic, as the coronavirus would possibly have become far more capable of spreading between people.

Study co-author Andrew Rambaut cautioned that it is difficult if not impossible to know at this point which of the scenarios is most likely. If the SARS-CoV-2 entered humans in its current pathogenic form from an animal source, it raises the probability of future outbreaks, as the illness-causing strain of the virus could still be circulating in the animal population and might once again jump into humans.

The chances are lower of a non-pathogenic coronavirus entering the human population and then evolving properties similar to SARS-CoV-2.

Funding for the research was provided by the US National Institutes of Health, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Wellcome Trust, the European Research Council, and an ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship.

For a non-scientist and a non-biologist such as myself, I am glad there is no test on the information above. It pleases me to no end, however, that there are such brilliant people with such great knowledge to study and dissect the makeup of this current pandemic. They not only pass

these tough tests every day, they construct tests so that others can learn from their work.

They are working to make our world a safer place to live and to create the biological armaments to fight and defeat diseases and viruses such as those associated with Covid-19.



# Chapter 10 Coronavirus Changed Relationship of US & China



Writer Julian E. Barnes has found some issues regarding the Chinese reporting of the Coronavirus cases to the world community and has cautioned the CIA to pay attention to the facts on the ground. Parts of this chapter are based on his analysis and his cautions to the US CIA. His article was published originally on April 2, 2020 and it was updated on April 7 to reflect new information.

He reported that the C.I.A. has been warning the White House since at least early February that China had vastly understated its coronavirus infections and that its count could not be relied upon by the rest of the world's concerned community.

As the US has been compiling major predictive models to reflect the truth of the virus spread information to be able to effectively fight the

virus, things are not adding up according to current and former intelligence officials.

The intelligence briefings in recent weeks, based at least in part on information from C.I.A. assets in China, played an important role in President Trump's negotiation recently of an apparent détente with President Xi Jinping of China. Since then, both countries have ratcheted back criticism of each other. The President of course is no longer firing barbs at China and the Chinese communists are no longer pushing that US soldiers started the virus in Wuhan in China

US scientists have been trying to obtain a more accurate count of the Chinese rate of infection and deaths from the virus because it has worldwide public health implications. This is a time of grave uncertainty over the virus; its speed of transmission; and other fundamental questions. For American officials, having access to and understanding the data is critical to getting a better perspective of how Covid-19 will affect the United States in the months to come.

Perhaps even more importantly, the data is critical to understand the effectiveness of countermeasures such as social distancing, according to American intelligence agencies and White House officials. Can the information from China other than the virus sequencing, which appears truthful, be trusted? So far, to the frustration of both the White House and the intelligence community, the agencies have been unable to glean more accurate numbers through their collection efforts. China can do better if it chose to do so.

And so, American intelligence agencies have concluded that the Chinese government itself does not know the extent of the virus and is as blind as the rest of the world. Midlevel bureaucrats in the city of Wuhan, where the virus originated, and elsewhere in China have been lying about infection rates, testing and death counts, fearful that if they report numbers that are too high they will be punished, lose their position or worse, current and former intelligence officials said.

Bureaucratic misreporting is a chronic problem for any government, but it has grown worse in China as the Communist leadership has taken a more authoritarian turn in recent years.

President Trump has been behaving more diplomatically in recent days regarding China. For example, he stopped calling the virus the Wuhan virus and the Chinese virus after he explained why he can't change facts as it really is the Wuhan virus and it is also the Chinese virus because that is where it originated. He articulated this at one of the daily Coronavirus briefings with his task force. In recent days, he had a conversation with Xi Jinping in which he discussed the country's relationship but he had little to say to the corrupt media about his conversation.

## **World Health Organization (WHO) & the President**

This is a time in history when the President of the United States is counting our allies . You are either with the US or against the US. If you are against the US, you should not expect to receive millions of dollars from the US. For example, the WHO collected over \$400 million last year from the US. The President said this will either end or be substantially curtailed.

In the second week of April in the Tuesday press briefing, after his normal remarks, President Trump read what appeared to be prepared statements about his position on the World Health Organization. He said that the United States was preparing to put a hold on its funding for the organization because "they called it wrong" and have a, as he claims, a strong bias for China.

Later during the Q&A portion, he softened that position to say the administration would look into it.

"They called it wrong," Trump said at the start of the briefing. "They missed the call. They could have called it months earlier. They would have known. And they should've known. And they probably did know. So we'll be looking into that very carefully. And we're going to put a hold on money spent to the WHO. We're going to put a very powerful hold on it."

"I'm not saying I'm going to do it," Trump later answered. When a reporter reminded him that he did in fact say he would put a hold on funding, Trump pushed back: "No I didn't, I said we're going to look at

it, we're going to investigate it, we're going to look at it, but we will look at ending funding."

Earlier that Tuesday, the President tweeted criticism at the WHO, who in some pundits' minds are a source of blame for the spread of the virus in the U.S., writing "The WHO really blew it. For some reason, funded largely by the United States, yet very China centric."

### **WHO What's the issue?**

It is a big one. When the W.H.O. declared a global public-health emergency at the end of February, it heaped praise on China's "extraordinary" efforts to combat the coronavirus epidemic and urged other countries not to restrict travel to China. Considering that US health officials credit Trump's travel ban with saving American lives, WHO's praise of China was just the opposite position. Its praise for China, which was not at all forthright in its official comments on aspects and origins of the disease. Many accuse the Chinese Communists of outright lying. On April 14, President Trump cut the funding (\$480 million) until an evaluation is completed

The World Health Organization's \$4.8 billion budget is not self-sustaining. The US pays a good part of the freight, providing over \$480 million just last year. China, in contrast, contributed \$44m. The Trump administration has already requested a major reduction for 2021. Trump does not see the value for Americans for what the US pays.

James Kraska of "WarontheRocks.com" wrote a piece about whether China is legally responsible for COVID-19 damage and he suggests that the claims against the country could be in the trillions.

The truth appears to be that the novel coronavirus incubated in Wuhan from mid-December 2019 to mid-January 2020. The story is that the Chinese state made intentional misrepresentations to its people concerning the outbreak. For example, they provided false assurances to the population preceding the approach of the Lunar New Year celebrations on Jan. 25.

An example cited was from the celebration of the Lunar New Year. Pan Chuntao, unaware of the epidemic in progress, a 76-year old from Wuhan, told family that he was feeling festive. He knew there were reports of a virus in his city. However, local officials urged calmness. They assured him that there was no evidence it was transmitted person to person, they said. They offered that they had not reported a new case in days.

To go have a good time, Pan took off on Jan. 16. The 76-year-old left his two-bedroom apartment to attend a government-organized fair. His family was concerned. “We told him not to go because we saw some rumors on WeChat of doctors getting infected,” said Pan’s son-in-law, Zhang Siqiang. “But he insisted on going. He said, ‘The government says it’s not a problem, there are no cases

It was what appears to have been a deadly mistake for Pan. In fact, chances are, he and his daughter may now be among the 14,300-plus people infected with a new strain of coronavirus — an outbreak that has killed (if you can believe the numbers) at least 304 people in China, spread to more than 20 countries, disrupted the global economy, and left 55 million people in China’s Hubei province under an unprecedented lockdown. Obviously the numbers are far greater today.

In mid-December, an outbreak of a novel influenza-like illness was traced to workers and customers of the city’s Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, aka a Wet Market. In April upon further analysis, it appears the virus came from one of two labs in WHuhan but was not man-made.

The Wet Markets contained exotic and wild animal species. On Dec. 26, multiple Chinese news outlets released reports of an anonymous laboratory technician who made a startling discovery: The sickness was caused by a new coronavirus that was 87 percent similar to SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Li Wenliang, serving as an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, sounded the alarm in an online chatroom on Dec. 30. That night, Wuhan public health authorities solicited information on the emergence of a “pneumonia of unclear cause,” but omitted Li’s discussion about SARS or a novel coronavirus. Li and other medical

professionals who tried to disclose the emergence of the virus were either suppressed or jailed by the regime. There was no room for the truth.

On Jan. 1, the state-run Xinhua News Agency warned: “The police call on all netizens to not fabricate rumors, not spread rumors, not believe rumors.” The coverup was in full bloom and the people had to mind the instructions or face a major retribution. Perhaps they would disappear.

It took just four days after Li’s chatroom discussion, that officers of the Public Security Bureau forced him to sign a letter acknowledging that he had made “false comments,” and that his revelations had “severely disturbed the social order.”

It was reported that Li, who has become something of an underground folk hero in China against chicanery by state officials, ultimately died of the disease. China silenced other doctors raising the alarm, minimizing the danger to the public even as they were bewildered and overwhelmed.

The numbers coming from China have been questioned for veracity according to US officials. The story is that the State media “suppressed information” about the virus. Although authorities closed the Wuhan “wet market” at the epicenter of the contagion, they did not take further steps to stop the wildlife trade.

By Jan. 22, when the virus had killed just 17 yet had infected more than 570 people, China tightened its suppression of information about the coronavirus that it deemed “alarming,” and further censored criticism of its malfeasance. “Even as cases climbed, officials declared repeatedly that there had likely been no more infections.”

President Trump found that the WHO was complicit in verifying China’s reporting as being accurate.

US officials had a difficult time discovering what was true and what was fabricated in the Chinese statements. For example, on Dec. 31, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission falsely stated that there was no “human-to-human transmission” of the disease, which it described

as a seasonal flu that was “preventable and controllable.” Later, the WHO backed this.

On Feb. 1, the New York Times reported that “the government’s initial handling of the epidemic allowed the virus to gain a tenacious hold. At critical moments, officials chose to put secrecy and order ahead of openly confronting the growing crisis to avoid public alarm and political embarrassment.”

Importantly, China “failed to expeditiously share information” with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the novel coronavirus. For example, China waited until Feb. 14, nearly two months into the crisis, before it disclosed that “1,700 healthcare workers were infected.” Some US officials believe that WHO was notified but kept it a secret to help the Chinese look better to the world.

It is a fact that such information on the vulnerability of medical workers is essential to understanding transmission patterns and to devise strategies to contain the virus. The experts at WHO were reportedly stymied by Chinese officials for data on hospital transmissions.

Moreover, China’s failure to provide open and transparent information to WHO is more than a moral breakdown. It is also the breach of a legal duty that China owed to other states under international law, and for which injured states — now numbering some 150 nations — may seek a legal remedy.

Kraska writes that “unfortunately, China’s evasions are part of the autocratic playbook, repeating its obstruction of information that ‘worsened the SARS crisis’ 18 years earlier. In that case, ‘China, which led WHO member states to adopt’ the new International Health Regulations in 2005.

“In both cases, China and the world would have been spared thousands of unnecessary deaths had China acted forthrightly and in accordance with its legal obligations. Although China’s public health system has been modernized, observed Jude Blanchette, head of China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, “its political system has regressed.”

## Is China in compliance with the world?

China has memberships in many world organizations and the memberships all seem important to them. For example, it is one of the 194 states party to the legally binding 2005 International Health Regulations. Therefore it is not optional for China to do its legal part such as its duty to rapidly gather information about and contribute to a common understanding of what may constitute a public health emergency with potential international implications.

The IHR is legally binding and they were adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1969, to control six infectious diseases from back then. The diseases are 1. cholera, 2. plague, 3. yellow fever, 4. smallpox, 5. relapsing fever, and 6. typhus. The 2005 revision added smallpox, poliomyelitis due to wild-type poliovirus, SARS, and cases of human influenza caused by a new subtype, set forth in the second annex.

In Article 6 of the International Health Regulations, it demands that states provide expedited, timely, accurate, and sufficiently detailed information to the World Health Organization about the potential public health emergencies identified in the second annex. This is in order to galvanize efforts to prevent pandemics. W.H.O. also has a mandate in Article 10 to seek verification from states with respect to unofficial reports of pathogenic microorganisms. Membership does not come without requirements.

Member states are required to provide timely and transparent information as requested within 24 hours, and to participate in collaborative assessments of the risks presented. Yet President Trump noticed that China failed to do its duty regarding the Coronavirus even before it was judged to be a pandemic.

China in fact, backed by the WHO, rejected repeated offers of epidemic investigation assistance from WHO in late January (and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in early February), without explanation. The US was serious in its offer of help with the epidemic. China seemed more concerned with secrecy and President Trump noticed.



The Washington Post, not a friend of the WH, reached this conclusion in a story on Feb. 26 that China “was not sending details that WHO officials and other experts expect and need.” It must have hurt them to admit that China was not performing as it had promised.

While the World Health Organization later lauded China for its efforts, Mara Pillinger of Georgetown’s O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law concluded that Beijing’s partial collaboration “made it politically tricky for the W.H.O. to be able to publicly contradict” China while still getting at least some useful data from China. President Trump thus sees W.H.O. as a conspirator that took US funds and backed China. They are not a victim in this scenario.

The big question is: Is China legally responsible to the world of nations?

China’s intentional conduct is clearly wrongful. The question across the world is: “*is it unlawful?*” If so, do other states in the big world have a legal remedy?

We can discuss Article 1 of the International Law Commission’s 2001 Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts. This states clearly that states are responsible for their internationally wrongful acts. This commission’s restatement of the law of state responsibility was developed with the input of states to reflect a fundamental principle of international customary law, which binds all nations.

In this scenario, “wrongful acts” are those that are “attributable to the state” and that “constitute a breach of an international obligation” (Article 2). Conduct is attributable to the state when it is an act of state through the executive, legislative, or judicial functions of the central government (Article 4). So where does that leave us?

Kraska’s writings lead us down a path to say that this was the snapshot chronological scenario: China’s failures began at the local level, then they quickly spread throughout China’s government, all the way up to Xi Jinping, the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. The General Secretary, who our President wishes to maintain a cordial relationship, is now being pilloried by Chinese netizens for his failures of action and inaction. The most prominent critic, Chinese tycoon Ren Zhiqiang, lambasted Xi for his mishandling of the coronavirus, calling

him a “power hungry clown.” Ren soon disappeared. No, we are not kidding about that.

Powerful people can commit atrocities and scare everybody from calling them out. Did something bad happen to Ren for offering his true feelings? Will he ever reappear. China is China and does not have a Constitution or a Bill of Rights.

Responsibility for the Coronavirus pandemic flows from local Wuhan authorities to Xi himself, which are all organs of the state of China, and whose conduct is therefore attributable to China. An “organ of the state” includes any person or entities that are acting in accordance with national law.

Suppose China were to disavow conduct by local authorities or state media as not necessarily directly attributable to the national government, such actions nevertheless are accorded that status if and to the extent the state acknowledged and adopted the conduct as its own, as was done by the officials in Beijing (Article 11). American Journalists who were from the left, and mostly in favor of the Chinese actions, were unexpectedly removed from China as life became uncomfortable answering questions about the Coronavirus. So, America has not natural means of finding out the truth of what is happening now.

We all know that wrongful acts are those that constitute a breach of an international obligation (Article 11). A breach is an act that is “not in conformity with what is required of it by that obligation . . . .”

China’s failure to expeditiously and transparently share information with W.H.O. qualifies as a bad act in accordance with the International Health Regulations. It constitutes an early and subsequently extended breach of its legal obligations (Article 14). So is China responsible or just a bit player in a plot by some of its local officials?

Not at all. China, as a signatory, bears legal responsibility for its internationally wrongful acts (Article 28). The consequences may include full reparations for the injury caused by the wrongful acts. But, are they collectible?

Most third parties believe that China did not intentionally create a global pandemic. However, it was guilty of malfeasance which was certainly a cause of it. The world knows even if the world is not speaking openly.

There is one epidemiological model at the University of Southampton who found that if China had acted responsibly just one, two, or even three weeks more quickly, the number affected by the virus would have been cut by 66 percent, 86 percent, and 95 percent, respectively.

In other words, besides those suffering from the virus themselves, those whose lives were snuffed out by this invisible virus could be alive today if China had acted responsibly.

Even though the Chinese Communist Party had signed legal commitments to the International Health Regulations, the Chinese Communist Party's failure to abide by its promises has let loose a global contagion, with mounting material consequences. No apologies have been forthcoming—not that seeking forgiveness would bring any lives back. But, how about a simple “I’m sorry!” None came.

Here I am in the early part of April 2020, and the high cost of the coronavirus grows daily, with increasing incidents of sickness and death. There is no quick end to the contagion that affects the whole world.

The mitigation and suppression measures enforced by states to limit the damage to people are wrecking the global economy This too is against the rules.

Under Article 31 of the Articles of State Responsibility, nation states are required to make full reparations for the injury caused by their internationally wrongful acts. Injuries include damages, whether material or moral. Injured states are entitled to full reparation “in the form of restitution in kind, compensation, satisfaction and assurances and guarantees of non-repetition” (Article 34).

Restitution in kind means that the injured state is entitled to be placed in the same position as existed before the wrongful acts were committed (Article 35). To the extent that restitution is not made, injured states are entitled to compensation (Article 36), and

satisfaction, in terms of an apology and internal discipline and even criminal prosecution of officials in China who committed malfeasance (Article 37).

Finally, injured nation states are entitled to guarantees of non-repetition, although the 2005 International Health Regulations were designed for this purpose after SARS (Article 48). As the world continues to suffer the costs of China's breach of its legal duties, it remains to be seen whether the injured states can be made whole.

James Kraska in his extensive commentary, writes the following as a wrap-up:

*No one expects that China will fulfill its obligations, or take steps required by the law of state responsibility. So, how might the United States and other nations vindicate their rights? The legal consequences of an internationally wrongful act are subject to the procedures of the Charter of the United Nations.*

*Chapter XIV of the charter recognizes that states may bring disputes before the International Court of Justice or other international tribunals. But the principle of state sovereignty means that a state may not be compelled to appear before an international court without its consent. This reflects a general proposition in international law, and its fundamental weakness.*

*Still, injured states are not without remedy. Barring any prospect for effective litigation, states could resort to self-help. The law of state responsibility permits injured states to take lawful countermeasures against China by suspending their own compliance with obligations owed to China as a means of inducing Beijing to fulfill its responsibilities and debt (Article 49). Countermeasures shall not be disproportionate to the degree of gravity of the wrongful acts and the effects inflicted on injured states (Article 51).*

*The choice of countermeasures that injured states may select is wide open, with only minimal limitations. For example, countermeasures may not involve the threat or use of force or undermine the human rights of China (Article 50). Except for these limitations, however, the United States and other injured states may suspend existing legal obligations or deliberately violate other legal duties owed to China as a means to induce Beijing to fulfill its responsibilities and address the calamitous damages it has inflicted on the world.*

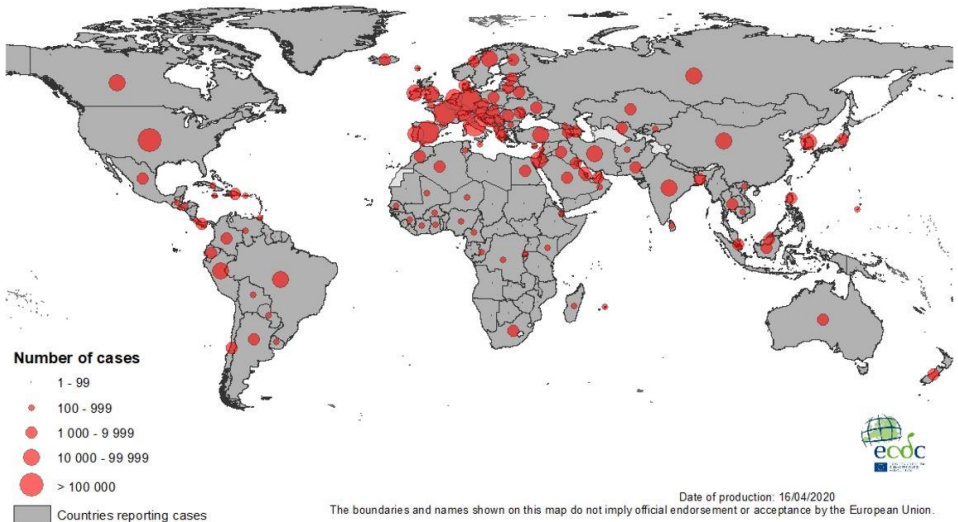
*The menu for such countermeasures is as limitless as the extent that international law infuses the foreign affairs between China and the world, and such action by injured states may be individual and collective and does not have to be connected explicitly to the kind or type of violations committed by China.*

*Thus, action could include removal of China from leadership positions and memberships, as China now chairs four of 15 organizations of the United Nations system. States could reverse China's entry into the World Trade Organization, suspend air travel to China for a period of years, broadcast Western media in China, and undermine China's famous internet firewall that keeps the country's information ecosystem sealed off from the rest of the world. Remember that countermeasures permit not only acts that are merely unfriendly, but also licenses acts that would normally be a violation of international law.*

*But the limitations still leave considerable room to roam, even if they violate China's sovereignty and internal affairs, including ensuring that Taiwanese media voices and officials are heard through the Chinese internet firewall, broadcasting the ineptness and corruption of the Chinese Communist Party throughout China, and reporting on Chinese coercion against its neighbors in the South China Sea and East China Sea, and ensuring the*

*people of China understand the responsibility of the Chinese Communist Party in unleashing a global contagion.*

# Chapter 11 The Virus Remedy Across the World!



*Why did it happen? Why was the world response so inept? Why did so many people die? Has washing hands and avoiding neighbors ever solved a pandemic in our past?*

The whole world did not completely go in total lockdown but from those of us living through this nightmare, no matter in which country we live, it sure seems total.

As of today, there are 208 countries and territories that are affected by the coronavirus. It is worthy of note that Sub-Sahara Africa's numbers of cases and deaths are substantially less than most countries which have the virus.

Why? Because the areas discussed are mosquito malaria prone. The people who live there, if they are living, after DDT was banned have already been treated with chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine for years to prevent and to cure their malaria in this area of the world. For many years US travelers have taken prophylactic shots (small dosages with

effects lasting several or more weeks) to not get malaria while they hunted big game in Africa. If the big game had its way, it would have banned both chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine. Meanwhile, since the evidence of a COVID-19 cure is only anecdotal, the rest of the world is struggling more so and dying with the pandemic.

The story of this nasty bug as noted in prior chapters shows that it first surfaced in the Chinese seafood and poultry market late last year, and migrated through human transfer to the 208 assorted countries killing more than 90,000 and sickening more than one and a half million in just a matter of weeks. The World Health Organization wasted no time declaring the situation a pandemic.

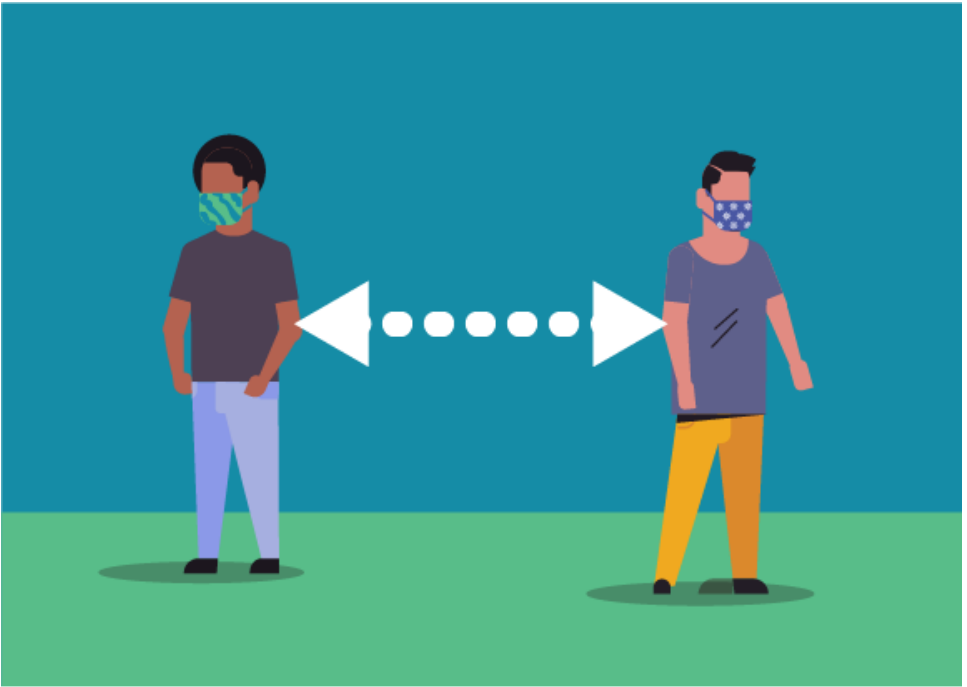
As a result of the penetration and spread of the virus, almost all countries instituted a number of remedies to mitigate the virus.

Almost simultaneously, countries adopted similar approaches to keep from contracting this deadly virus. Still the officials suggest that limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 aka (COVID-19). Besides quarantine, a major recommendation is to wash hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizers and practice as technique that has been dubbed as social distancing.

Social distancing is also called “physical distancing.” It is a self-described term in many ways meaning *keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home*. To practice social or physical distancing, here are some basic rules:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings





Picture is worth a thousand words What is social distancing?

In addition to everyday steps to prevent COVID-19, keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally and across the country and world. Since there are no recommended therapeutics and there is no vaccine for the COVID-19, the objective is to not get it. Stay away from other humans who do not live in your immediate residence.

**Here are some other recommendations:**

When COVID-19 is spreading in your area, everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside your household in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick – those with other health issues and those over 65-years of age.

## **Why should I practice social distancing?**

Cynics and perhaps realists have begun to substitute the term social control for the term social distancing. The reasons are obvious.

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. Just because you don't see it happening, does not mean it is not happening. Imagine that everybody you speak with or come closer than 6 feet or so to you is spreading these contagious droplets and this makes you even safer.

The droplets can infect just by being in the opening passages of your airways but can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

You can also get the COVID-19 virus by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sun light and humidity. Social distancing helps limit contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces.

Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can get and spread COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their community. For some people, the risk of not paying attention to social distancing can be to suffer death after a long illness with the virus.

## **Here are some tips for social distancing**

- Follow guidance from authorities where you live.
- If you need to shop for food or medicine at the grocery store or pharmacy, stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Use mail-order for medications, if possible.
- Consider a grocery delivery service.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others, including when you have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store.
- Stay at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering.
- Avoid large and small gatherings in private places and public spaces, such a friend's house, parks, restaurants, shops, or any other place. This advice applies to people of any age, including teens and younger adults. Children should not have in-person playdates while school is out. To help maintain social connections while social distancing, learn tips to keep children healthy while school's out.
- Work from home when possible.
- If possible, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- If you are a student or parent, talk to your school about options for digital/distance learning.

### **Stay connected while staying away.**

It is very important to stay in touch with friends and family that don't live in your home. Call, video chat, or stay connected using social media. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations and having to socially distance yourself from someone you love can be difficult. Read tips for stress and coping.

### **What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?**

We have heard there is some concern out there about the differences between isolation and quarantine. The following should help in their differentiation:

#### *Quarantine*

Quarantine is used to **keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others**. Someone in self-quarantine decide on their own to stay separated from others, and they limit movement outside of their home or current place. A person may have been exposed to the virus without knowing it (for example, when traveling

or out in the community), or they could have the virus without feeling symptoms. Quarantine helps limit further spread of COVID-19.

### *Isolation*

Isolation is used to **separate sick people from healthy people**. People who are in isolation should stay home. In the home, anyone sick should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick” bedroom or space and using a different bathroom (if possible).

## **What should I do if I might have been exposed? If I feel sick? Or have confirmed COVID-19?**

**All people should self-monitor all the time.**

**When monitoring yourself, be alert for symptoms; do the following**

- Watch for fever,\* cough, or shortness of breath.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
- Practice social distancing. Maintain 6 feet of distance from others, and stay out of crowded places.
- Contact a physician if you believe you have symptoms

**What should you do if you feel healthy but: you recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, or you recently traveled from somewhere outside the U.S. or you just came from a cruise ship or river boat**

- Self-Monitor
- Self-Quarantine
- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms.
- Stay home for 14 days and self-monitor.
- If possible, stay away from people who are high-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

**If you feel healthy but have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or**  
Are waiting for test results, or have symptoms such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath

- Self-Isolate
- Stay in a specific sick room or area and away from other people.
- If possible, use a separate bathroom.
- Read as much important information about caring for yourself or someone else who is sick.

**Look up such important information on the Internet or ask your family doctor about:**

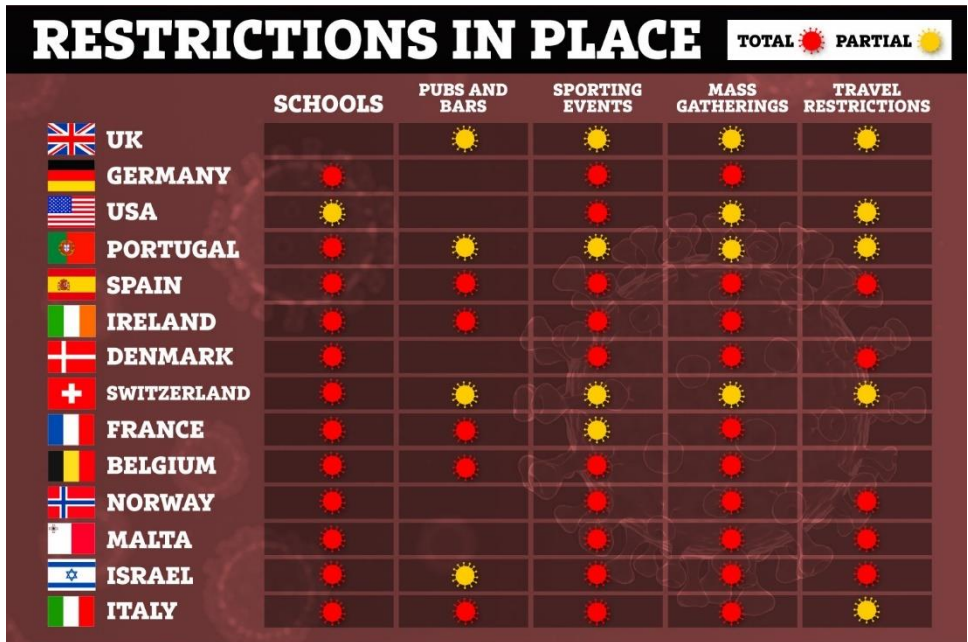
- How to Protect Yourself
  - Social Distancing
  - Face Mask
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home
  - Lysol
  - Wash hands with soap & water
- Gatherings and Community Events
  - Social Distancing
  - Masks



# Chapter 12 The World Declares a Lockdown!

*The reference document for parts of this chapter was written by Derrick Bryson Taylor for the New York Times on April 7, 2020. The game totals keep changing but can easily be rechecked by doing an Internet search.*

As you can see from the map of restrictions, the whole world is not completely in total lockdown but from those of us living through this nightmare, no matter in which country we live, it sure seems total.



As of April 7, 2020, there are 208 countries and territories that are affected by the coronavirus. It is worthy of note that Sub-Saharan Africa's numbers of cases and deaths are substantially less than most countries which have the virus. Why? Speculation is that the areas are mosquito malaria prone, the people have been treated with chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for years to prevent and to cure malaria in this area of the world. These two drugs are reported to have a prophylactic (preventative) effect on the Corona virus also. Meanwhile the rest of the world is struggling more so with the pandemic.

The story of this nasty bug as noted in prior chapters shows that it first surfaced in the Chinese seafood and poultry market late last year, and migrated through human transfer to the 208 assorted countries killing more than 90,000 and sickening more than one and a half million in just a matter of weeks. The World Health Organization wasted no time declaring the situation a pandemic.

We will discuss potential cures and the politics behind such cures in later chapters.

## **What happened when?**

I can show a fairly accurate timeline of the outbreak so far that may help put the origination and some destinations of this coronavirus in perspective.

The virus itself was brewing in November and perhaps even before that.

### **17 November 17 2019**

There is a report from by the South China Morning Post (SCMP) on 13 March 2020, that a 55-year-old man who was later confirmed with the novel coronavirus, may have contracted the disease on 17 November 2019. This apparently is the best information so far about the earliest date of virus contraction.

### **Dec 1, 2019**

The earliest traceable and confirmed patient, the 55-year-old man started experiencing symptoms on 1 December 2019. According to the report, he had not been to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market of Wuhan. No epidemiological link could be found between this case and later cases. This is not confirmed

### **Dec 2, 2019]**

A 51-year-old Dongguan doctor suddenly developed a cough and fever and was hospitalized. This is the first known hospitalization caused by the pneumonia with unknown causes. The patient had a lung infection, severe pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and



allergic purpura. No epidemiological link could be found between this case and later cases. As of mid-January 2020, his diagnosis included *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and fungi. The tests for COVID-19 had been developed only days before this report.

### **Dec 10, 2019**

Before the determinations on earlier cases, there was a 57-year-old seafood merchant working at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. He is considered by some to be the first patient< The source for this is a March 6, 2020 report by The Wall Street Journal. As you can see, this early information is sketchy at best.

### **Dec 12, 2019**

On January 9, 2020, the Thai online news Thaiger reported the new viral outbreak was first detected in the city of Wuhan on 12 December 2019. The source of this information was not provided in the news report.

### **Dec 16, 2019**

The patient known as first traceable patient, the 55-year-old man, was admitted to Wuhan Central Hospital with infection in both lungs. He was resistant to anti-flu drugs.

### **Dec 20–29, 2019**

During this period, members of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and others reported and published a report on seven cases of people with severe pneumonia who were admitted to the intensive care unit of the Wuhan Jin Yin-Tan Hospital at the beginning of the outbreak. A patient labeled as ICU-01 was not proven to be linked to the Wuhan Seafood Market, but the other six were either sellers or deliverymen at the market. Speculation was that the live market would play a major role in the determination of the cause.

### **Dec 21, 2019**

Chinese epidemiologists published in the CCDC Weekly (Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention) Jan 21, 2020 edition, an article stating that their first cluster of patients with "pneumonia of an unknown cause" occurred beginning on Dec 21, 2019.

## **Dec 24, 2019**

Doctors from the Central Hospital of Wuhan took fluid samples from the lungs of a 65-year-old deliveryman who worked at the Wuhan seafood market and sent them to Vision Medicals, Guangzhou, for further testing.

## **Dec 25, 2019**

China's Youth Daily, Wuhan Fifth Hospital gastroenterology director Lu Xiaohong said that she heard that some of the hospital staff might be infected by this unknown agent on Dec 25.

## **Dec 26-27, 2019**

Zhang Jixian, the Director of the Department of Respiratory and Critical Care at Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese & Western Medicine, examined an elderly couple who presented themselves at the hospital with fever and cough on Dec 26, 2019. CT scans of their chests showed a different pattern from other viral pneumonias. She asked the couple's son to undergo a scan and found the same pattern. But, he had showed symptoms. Another patient, who was employed as a merchant from the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, arrived at the hospital with a fever and cough that same day. After conducting normal tests, Zhang ruled out known respiratory ailments. She reportedly believed this was an infectious disease. She reported the four cases to her superiors at the hospital on Dec 27, 2019..

Vision Medicals had sequenced most of the virus from fluid samples of the 65-year-old deliveryman sent by Central Hospital of Wuhan on Dec 27. The results showed an alarming similarity to the deadly SARS coronavirus that was prevalent between 2002 and 2003.

## **Dec 28-29, 2019**

During the following two days, three similar cases were received by the Hubei Provincial. They were all associated with the seafood market. On Dec 29, the hospital administration convened a multi-departmental panel of doctors. The doctors concluded that the cases were unusual and required special attention. They thus reported their findings to the provincial CDC.

Wuhan CDC staff initiated a field investigation and found additional patients with similar symptoms who were linked to the market. This is attributed to a CCDC publication—the initial admissions to Hubei Provincial Hospital occurred on Dec 29

### **Dec 30, 2019**

There was a genetic sequencing report from CapitalBio Medlab of Beijing about the pathogen of a 41 year-old-patient, the sample of which was collected by Wuhan Central Hospital (mistakenly diagnosed as Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS coronavirus)). This mistaken result alerted the authority and some of the Wuhan doctors of the issue.

Wuhan Municipal Health Committee issued an "urgent notice on the appropriate treatment to patients with pneumonia of unknown cause" to medical institutions under its jurisdiction.

Multiple doctors in Wuhan examined and shared the test report via the internet, including Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital. Li posted a warning to alumni from his medical school class via a WeChat group in the late afternoon that a cluster of seven patients treating within the ophthalmology department had been unsuccessfully treated for symptoms of viral pneumonia and diagnosed with SARS. These patients did not respond to traditional treatments, and so they were quarantined in an ER department of the Wuhan Central Hospital.

In the WeChat post, Li posted the erroneous diagnostics that "there had been 7 confirmed cases of SARS". Li posted a snippet of an RNA analysis finding "SARS coronavirus" and extensive bacteria colonies in a patient's airways. Thereafter, news of an outbreak of "pneumonia of unknown origin" started circulating on social media on the evening of Dec 30 2019.

### **Dec 31, 2019**

This is where the World Health Organization gets involved. The Wuhan Municipal Health Committee informed WHO that 27 "cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology (unknown cause) were detected in Wuhan." Most worked in the stalls at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, seven of whom by this time, were in critical condition.

Chinese state television CCTV ch13 in their daily news broadcasts issued an epidemiological alert telling entire country of a strange and unknown virus found. It also reported that a team of experts from the National Health Commission had arrived in Wuhan on the day to lead the investigation. The People's Daily said the exact cause remained unclear and it would be premature to speculate."

A vendor at the Huanan Seafood Market, named Qu Shiqian said that government officials had disinfected the market premises on Dec 31, 2019 and told stallholders (those who worked in the market stalls) to wear face masks. Qu said he had only learned of the pneumonia outbreak from media reports. "Previously I thought they had flu," he said. "It should be not serious. We are fish traders. How can we get infected?"

Tao Lina, a public health expert and former official with Shanghai's Centre for disease control and prevention, said, "I think we are [now] quite capable of killing it in the beginning phase, given China's disease control system, emergency handling capacity and clinical medicine support." No human-to-human infection had been reported so far and more pathological tests and investigations were underway, official said.

As a result of the official announcement of the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan immediately tightened their inbound screening processes Hong Kong Secretary for Food and Health Sophia Chan Siu-chee announced after an urgent night-time meeting with officials and experts, "[any suspected cases] including the presentation of fever and acute respiratory illness or pneumonia, and travel history to Wuhan within 14 days before onset of symptoms, we will put the patients in isolation." .

The social media reports stated that 27 patients in Wuhan—most of them stallholders at the Huanan Seafood Market—had been treated for the mystery illness.

On the Financial Times of March 20, 2020, they stated "Taiwan said its doctors had heard from mainland colleagues that medical staff were getting ill — a sign of human-to-human transmission. Taipei officials said they reported this to both International Health Regulations (IHR), a WHO framework for exchange of epidemic prevention and response

data between 196 countries, and Chinese health authorities on December 31."

### **Dec 31 2019**

Chinese authorities treated dozens of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause. The government in Wuhan, China, confirmed that health authorities were treating dozens of cases. Days later, researchers in China identified a new virus that had infected dozens of people in Asia.

### **Jan 11, 2020**

China reported its first death. On Jan. 11, Chinese state media reported the first known death from an illness caused by the virus, which had infected dozens of people. The 61-year-old man who died was a regular customer at the market in Wuhan, and he had previously been found to have abdominal tumors and chronic liver disease. The report of his death came just before one of China's biggest holidays, when hundreds of millions of people travel across the country.

### **Jan 20, 2020**

Other countries, including the United States, began to confirm cases. The first confirmed cases outside mainland China occurred in Japan, South Korea and Thailand, according to the World Health Organization's first situation report. The first confirmed case in the United States came the next day in Washington State, where a man in his 30s developed symptoms after returning from a trip to Wuhan.

### **Jan 23, 2020**

Wuhan is a city of more than 11 million people. It was abruptly cut off by the Chinese authorities.



Chinese authorities suspended buses, subways and ferries within the city of Wuhan, pictured above on Feb. 3. Credit...Getty Images

The Chinese authorities closed off Wuhan by canceling planes and trains leaving the city, and suspending buses, subways and ferries within it. At this point, at least 17 people had died and more than 570 others had been infected, including in Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, South Korea and the United States.

### **Jan 30, 2020**

W.H.O. then declared a global health emergency. Amid thousands of new cases in China, a “public health emergency of international concern” was officially declared by the W.H.O. China’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said that it would continue to work with the W.H.O. and other countries to protect public health, and the U.S. State Department warned travelers to avoid China.

### **Jan 31, 2020**

The Trump administration against the advice of mostly everybody decided that for the safety of Americans he would restrict travel from China. They suspended entry into the United States by any foreign national who had traveled to China in the past 14 days, excluding the immediate family members of American citizens or permanent

residents. By this date, 213 people had died and nearly 9,800 had been infected worldwide.

### **Feb 2, 2020,**

The first coronavirus death was reported outside China. A 44-year-old man in the Philippines died after being infected, officials said,. It was the first death reported outside China. By this point, more than 360 people had died.

### **Feb 5, 2020**

A cruise ship in Japan, The Diamond Princess, a part of Princess Cruise Lines, quarantined thousands.



The Diamond Princess cruise ship on Feb. 9Credit...Eugene Hoshiko/Associated Press

After a two-week trip to Southeast Asia, more than 3,600 passengers began a quarantine aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama, Japan. Officials started screening passengers, and the number of people who tested positive became the largest number of coronavirus cases outside China. By Feb. 13, the number stood at 218.

### **Feb 7, 2020**

A Chinese doctor who tried to raise the alarm died.



The death of Dr. Li Wenliang provoked anger at how the Chinese government handled the epidemic. Credit...Tyrone Siu/Reuters

When Dr. Li Wenliang, a Chinese doctor, died on Feb. 7 after contracting the coronavirus, he was hailed as a hero by many for trying to ring early alarms that a cluster of infections could spin out of control.

In early January, the authorities had reprimanded him, and he was forced to sign a statement denouncing his warning as an unfounded and illegal rumor. Dr. Li's death provoked anger and frustration at how the Chinese government mishandled the situation by not sharing information earlier and silencing whistle-blowers.

## Feb 11, 2020

The disease which the virus causes got a new name. The World Health Organization on Feb. 11 proposed an official name for the disease the virus coronavirus causes: *Covid-19*, an acronym that stands for coronavirus disease 2019. The name makes no reference to any of the people, places, or animals associated with the coronavirus, given the Chinese goal to avoid a stigma of association.



By the next day, the death toll in China had reached 1,113 and the total number of confirmed cases rose to 44,653. There were 393 cases outside of China, in 24 countries at the time.

### **Feb 13, 2020**

In China, there were more than 14,000 new cases in Hubei Province. Officials added more than 14,840 new cases to the total number of infected in Hubei Province, and the ruling Communist Party ousted top officials there. The new cases set a daily record, coming after officials in Hubei seemed to be including infections that were diagnosed by using lung scans of symptomatic patients.

### **Feb 14, 2020**

France announced the first coronavirus death in Europe.



France's first coronavirus death was the fourth death from the virus outside of mainland China. Credit...Ilan Langsdon/EPA, via Shutterstock

An 80-year-old Chinese tourist died on Feb. 14 at a hospital in Paris, in what was the first coronavirus death outside Asia, the authorities said. It was the fourth death from the virus outside mainland China, where about 1,500 people had died, most of them in Hubei Province.

## **Feb 17, 2020**

Chinese officials drafted legislation to curb the practice of eating wildlife such as that found in the aforementioned market. China said it was reviewing its trade and consumption of wildlife, which has been identified as a probable source of the outbreak. Officials drafted legislation that aims to end “the pernicious habit of eating wildlife,” a statement from the Standing Committee of the Congress said.

## **Feb 19, 2020**

Hundreds are released from the quarantined cruise ship. After a two-week quarantine, 443 passengers began to leave the Diamond Princess cruise ship. It was the first day of an operation taking three days to offload people who tested negative for the virus and did not have symptoms. Passengers who shared cabins with infected patients remained on the ship. A total of 621 people, including passengers and crew aboard the ship had been infected.

## **Feb 21, 2020**

An outbreak in South Korea is linked to a secretive church. The Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a secretive church in South Korea was linked to a surge of infections in the country. The number of confirmed cases in the country rose above 200, and more than 400 other church members reported potential symptoms, health officials said.

As a result, the government shut down thousands of kindergartens, nursing homes and community centers, and put a stop to political rallies in the capital, Seoul.

## **Feb 21, 2020**

The virus from an undetermined source infected people in Iran. On Feb. 19, Iran announced two coronavirus cases in the country, then hours later said that both patients had died. Two days later, the country announced two additional deaths. The source of the virus in Iran is unknown. By Feb. 20, the number of global cases had risen to nearly 76,000, according to the W.H.O.

## **Feb 23, 2020**

Italy, which has a major trading relationship with China and which had many recent visits from Wuhan was affected by a major surge in coronavirus cases. Italian Officials began to lock down towns.



Officials in Italy locked down 10 towns after a cluster of cases suddenly emerged near Milan.  
Credit...Nicola Fossella/EPA, via Shutterstock

Europe faced its first major outbreak as the number of reported cases in Italy grew from fewer than five to more than 150. In the Lombardy region, officials locked down 10 towns after a cluster of cases suddenly emerged in Codogno, southeast of Milan. As a result, schools closed and sporting and cultural events were canceled.

## **Feb 24, 2020**

The Trump administration began to get a feel for the enormity of this epidemic and asked Congress for \$1.25 billion for a coronavirus response.

As the number of coronavirus cases around the globe continued to climb, the Trump administration began preparing for the virus to arrive in full scale in the United States. The White House asked Congress to allocate \$1.25 billion in new emergency funds to bolster its preparedness — a significant escalation in the administration’s response. At this point the United States, where Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials warned of an almost certain outbreak, at this point, had 35 confirmed cases and no deaths.

## Feb 24, 2020

Iran emerges as a second focus point of the virus.



A number of other countries in the Middle East have reported coronavirus cases that have been linked back to Iran. Credit...Atta Kenare/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

At this point in the epidemic's spread, Iran said it had 61 coronavirus cases and 12 deaths, more than any other country but China, and public health experts warned that Iran was a cause for worry — its borders are crossed each year by millions of religious pilgrims, migrant workers and others. Cases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and one in Canada, have been traced back to Iran. The US offered help to Iran but the offer was rejected.

## Feb 26, 2020

Latin America reported its first coronavirus case. Brazilian health officials said that a 61-year-old São Paulo man, who had returned recently from a business trip to Italy, tested positive for the coronavirus. It was the first known case in Latin America. Officials also began tracking down other passengers on the flight the man took to Brazil and others who had contact with him in recent days.

## Feb 28, 2020

The number of infections in Europe spikes. Italy, where 800 people had been infected by Feb. 28, remained an area of major concern. Cases in 14 other countries, including Northern Ireland and Wales, could be traced back to Italy. Germany had nearly 60 cases by Feb. 27, and France reported 57, more than triple the number from two days earlier. Both England and Switzerland reported additional cases, while Belarus, Estonia and Lithuania all reported their first infections.

## Feb 28, 2020

Sub-Saharan Africa recorded its first infection.



Nigeria's first confirmed case was an Italian citizen returning to the country. Credit...Pius Utomi Ekpei /Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, confirmed its first case of coronavirus on Feb. 28. The patient was an Italian citizen who had returned to Lagos from Milan.

## Feb 29, 2020

The United States recorded its first coronavirus death and announced additional travel restrictions. The West Coast got some of the first infections seemingly because of many flights from China before the travel ban took place.

A patient near Seattle became the first coronavirus patient to die in the United States on Feb. 28. As the number of global cases rose to nearly 87,000, the Trump administration issued its highest-level warning, known as a “do not travel” warning, for areas in Italy and South Korea most affected by the virus. The government also banned all travel to Iran and barred entry to any foreign citizen who had visited Iran in the previous 14 days.

### **March 3, 2020**

U.S. officials approve widespread coronavirus testing. The C.D.C. lifted all federal restrictions on testing for the coronavirus on March 3, according to Vice President Mike Pence. The news came after the C.D.C.’s first attempt to produce a diagnostic test kit fell flat. By this point, the coronavirus had infected more than 90,000 around the globe and killed about 3,000, according to the W.H.O.

### **March 11, 2020**

President Trump restricted / blocked visitors from continental Europe. In a prime-time address from the Oval Office, Mr. Trump said he would halt travelers from European countries other than Britain for 30 days, as the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic and stock markets plunged further.

### **March 13, 2020**

President Trump declares a national emergency.

Mr. Trump officially declared a national emergency, and said he was making \$50 billion in federal funds available to states and territories to combat the coronavirus. He also said he would give hospitals and doctors more flexibility to respond to the virus, including making it easier to treat people remotely.



President Trump, who declared a national emergency, made millions of dollars in funds available to states. Credit...Erin Schaff/The New York Times

## March 15, 2020

The C.D.C. recommends no gatherings of 50 + people in the U.S.



Central Park on March 18. President Trump advised citizens to avoid groups of more than 10. Credit...Juan Arredondo for The New York Times

On March 15, the C.D.C. advised no gatherings of 50 or more people in the United States over the next eight weeks. The recommendation

included weddings, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events and conferences. The following day, Mr. Trump advised citizens to avoid groups of more than 10. New York City's public schools' system, the nation's largest with 1.1 million students, also announced that it would close.

### **March 16, 2020**

Latin America begins to feel the effects of the virus. Several countries across Latin America imposed restrictions on their citizens to slow the spread of the virus. Venezuela announced a nationwide quarantine that began on March 17. Ecuador and Peru implemented countrywide lockdowns, while Colombia and Costa Rica closed their borders. However, Jair Bolsonaro, the president of Brazil, encouraged mass demonstrations by his supporters against his opponents in congress.

### **MARCH 17**

France imposed a nationwide lockdown. On March 17, France imposed a nationwide lockdown, prohibiting gatherings of any size and postponing the second round its municipal elections. The lockdown was one of Europe's most stringent. While residents were told to stay home, officials allowed people to go out for fresh air but warned that meeting a friend on the street or in a park would be punishable with a fine. By this time, France had more than 6,500 infections with more than 140 deaths, according to the W.H.O.

### **MARCH 17**

The E.U. barred most travelers from outside the bloc for 30 days.

European leaders voted to close off at least 26 countries to nearly all visitors from the rest of the world for at least 30 days. The ban on nonessential travel from outside the bloc was the first coordinated response to the epidemic by the European Union.





The European Union adopted a 30-day ban on non-essential travel to at least 26 European countries from the rest of the world. Credit...Maria Contreras Coll for The New York Times

### **March 19, 2020**

For the first time, China reported zero local infections. The report was specific: no new local infections for the previous day. This was a milestone in the ongoing fight against the pandemic. The news signaled that an end to China's epidemic could be in sight.

However, experts said the country would need to see at least 14 consecutive days without new infections for the outbreak to be considered over. And the announcement did not mean that China recorded no new coronavirus cases. Officials said that 34 new cases had been confirmed among people who had arrived in China from elsewhere.

### **March 21, 2020**

Hospitals and other health care units were complaining that they did not have enough equipment to handle the volume of cases. Companies promised to begin producing medical supplies to address the need. On March 21, the White House said that American companies were increasing efforts to restock hospitals with important supplies. Hanes and General Motors agreed to make masks and ventilators. Christian Siriano, a fashion designer, Dov Charney, the founder of Los

Angeles Apparel, and Karla Colletto, a swimwear company, all agreed to repurpose their operations to create masks and hospital garments.



Gov. David Ige of Hawaii issued a mandatory two-week quarantine for anyone arriving in the state. Credit...Caleb Jones/Associated Press

Hawaii's governor orders a mandatory 14-day quarantine to arriving visitors and residents. Gov. David Ige of Hawaii ordered a mandatory 14-day quarantine for everyone arriving in Hawaii, including tourists and returning residents. Mr. Ige called his order the first of its kind.

### **March 23, 2020**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson locks Britain down.

The lockdown closed all nonessential shops, barred meetings of more than two people, and required all people to stay in their homes except for trips for food or medicine. Those who disobey risked being fined by the police.

### **March 24, 2020**

Announcement: The Tokyo Olympics were delayed until 2021.

Officials announced that the Summer Olympics in Tokyo would be

postponed for one year. Only three previous Games had been canceled, all because of war: The 1916 Summer Olympics were canceled because of World War I, and the Summer and Winter Games were canceled in 1940 and 1944 because of World War II.



India ordered a three-week lockdown for its 1.3 billion citizens, and officials pledged to spend billions on medical supplies. Credit...Narinder Nanu /Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

### **March 24, 2020**

India, a country of 1.3 billion, announces a 21-day lockdown. One day after the authorities halted all domestic flights, Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, declared a 21-day lockdown. While the number of reported cases in India was about 500, the prime minister pledged to spend about \$2 billion on medical supplies, isolation rooms, ventilators and training for medical professionals.

### **March 26, 2020**

The US eclipsed all other countries in confirmed coronavirus cases. The United States officially became the country hardest hit by the pandemic, with at least 81,321 confirmed infections and more than 1,000 deaths. This was more reported cases than in China, Italy or any other country.

## **March 27, 2020**

President Trump signed the coronavirus stimulus bill into law. Mr. Trump signed a \$2 trillion measure to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Lawmakers said the bill, which passed with overwhelming support, was imperfect but essential to address the national public health and economic crisis.

## **March 28, 2020**

The C.D.C. issued a travel advisory for the New York region. The C.D.C. urged residents of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to “refrain from nonessential domestic travel for 14 days effective immediately.” The advisory did not apply to workers in “critical infrastructure industries,” including trucking, public health, financial services and food supply.

## **March 30, 2020**

More states issue stay-at-home directives. Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., issued orders requiring their residents to stay home. Similar orders went into effect for Kansas and North Carolina. Other states had previously put strict measures in place. The new orders meant that least 265 million Americans were being urged to stay home.

## **Apr 2, 2020**

Global cases top 1 million, and millions lose their jobs. By April 2, the pandemic had sickened more than 1 million people in 171 countries across six continents, killing at least 51,000.

In just a few weeks, the pandemic put 22 million Americans out of work, including a staggering 6.6 million people who applied for unemployment benefits in the last week of March and another 5 million in the second week of April (22 million total). The speed and scale of the job losses was without precedent: Until March, the worst week for unemployment filings was 695,000 in 1982.

## **Apr 3, 2020**

Health officials and government bureaucrats engage in debate over who should wear masks. The C.D.C. unequivocally urged all Americans to wear a mask when they leave their homes. However, some officials called the recommendation voluntary and the President

said that he had tested negative twice and did not see a need to wear one himself. “With the masks, it’s going to be a voluntary thing,” the president said. “You can do it. You don’t have to do it. I am choosing not to do it. It may be good. It’s only a recommendation, voluntary.”

### **Apr 5, 2020**

WH insiders continue to fight over therapeutic drug to fight coronavirus. There is no known cure for coronavirus. There is no vaccine and the scientists say the best hope is for a vaccine 18 months from now and that is unlikely. That would mean many, many more deaths.

Yet there is promise in a number of unofficial studies. Anthony Fauci calls these anecdotal meaning not proven by scientific trials, yet in the studies, patients are recovering. President Trump wants all Americans to have a right to try this drug and the evidence suggests he may be right, though he has no scientific proof, people are recovering.

### **Scoop: Inside the epic White House fight over hydroxychloroquine**



There is no peace at the Task Force Table Photo: Drew Angerer /Getty Images

The White House coronavirus task force had its biggest fight yet on Saturday, pitting economic adviser Peter Navarro against infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci. At issue: How enthusiastically should

the White House tout the prospects of an antimalarial drug to fight COVID-19?

**Behind the scenes:** This drama erupted into an epic Situation Room showdown. Trump's coronavirus task force gathered in the White House Situation Room on Saturday at about 1:30pm, according to four sources familiar with the conversation. Vice President Mike Pence sat at the head of the table.

Numerous government officials were at the table, including Fauci, coronavirus response coordinator Deborah Birx, Jared Kushner, acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, and Commissioner of Food and Drugs Stephen Hahn.

Behind them sat staff, including Peter Navarro, tapped by Trump to compel private companies to meet the government's coronavirus needs under the Defense Production Act.

**Toward the end of the meeting,** Hahn began a discussion of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, which Trump believes could be a "game-changer" against the coronavirus.

Hahn gave an update about the drug and what he was seeing in different trials and real-world results.

Then Navarro got up. He brought over a stack of folders and dropped them on the table. People started passing them around.

"And the first words out of his mouth are that the studies that he's seen, I believe they're mostly overseas, show 'clear therapeutic efficacy,'" said a source familiar with the conversation. "Those are the exact words out of his mouth."

**Navarro's comments set off a heated exchange** about how the Trump administration and the president ought to talk about the malaria drug, which Fauci and other public health officials stress is unproven to combat COVID-19.

Fauci pushed back against Navarro, saying that there was only anecdotal evidence that hydroxychloroquine works against the coronavirus.

Researchers have said studies out of France and China are inadequate because they did not include control groups.

Fauci and others have said much more data is needed to prove that hydroxychloroquine is effective against the coronavirus.

As part of his role, Navarro has been trying to source hydroxychloroquine from around the world. He's also been trying to ensure that there are enough domestic production capabilities inside the U.S.

**Fauci's mention of anecdotal evidence "just set Peter off,"** said one of the sources. Navarro pointed to the pile of folders on the desk, which included printouts of studies on hydroxychloroquine from around the world.

The reality is that people who were going to die are today still living and well. Anecdotal or not, people breathing to Navarro is more than enough proof.

### **April 6, 2020**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson moved into intensive care after being admitted to the hospital with the virus. Ten days after going public with his coronavirus diagnosis, Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain was moved into intensive care. The decision was a precaution, according to the British government, who also said he had been in good spirits. Mr. Johnson had also asked the foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, to deputize for him "where necessary."

### **April 8, 2020**

President Trump slammed the W.H.O. Over Coronavirus response and the truth. The president is not alone in his criticism - China reopens Wuhan after a 76-day lockdown.

### **April 9, 2020**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been moved out of intensive care but remains in hospital, Downing Street has said.

## **April 10, 2020**

In today's briefing, the speakers noted that there are pieces of promising news, including that the daily increase in new cases is leveling off and daily death tolls in hotspots like New York are also leveling off.

This is a signal that social distancing efforts undertaken weeks ago may actually be working. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, whose grave words comparing these weeks to 9/11 and Pearl Harbor, says that most of the U.S. won't be able to open by May 1 and when normal activities do resume it will be "place by place, bit by bit. We'll see.

There is that old Alka Seltzer ad that suggests "why trade a headache for an upset stomach." To some opening up the economy is necessary because the benefits of keeping it closed may disappear quickly if the when the economy is about to be resuscitated, it may be found that it has been dead too long! We'll see!

One thing is for sure if the hundreds of millions of hydroxychloroquine doses that have been acquired actually can prevent the disease as it seems it does and if it can cure the disease, then this makes opening the economy a lot less risky. 1. You can prevent getting it and 2. If you do get it, you can be cured for \$20.00. The stakes are high

## **April 14, 2020**

Trump announces he is halting funding to the WHO while a review is conducted, saying the review will cover the WHO's "role in severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of coronavirus."

## **April 20, 2020**

Chilean health officials announce that Chile will begin issuing the world's first digital immunity cards to people who have recovered from coronavirus, saying the cards will help identify individuals who no longer pose a health risk to others.



## **April 21, 2020**

California's Santa Clara County announce autopsy results that show two Californians died of novel coronavirus in early and mid-February - up to three weeks before the previously known first US death from the virus.

## **May 1, 2020**

The US Food and Drug Administration issues an emergency-use authorization for remdesivir in hospitalized patients with severe Covid-19. FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn says remdesivir is the first authorized therapy drug for Covid-19.

## **May 4, 2020**

During a virtual pledging conference co-hosted by the European Union, world leaders pledge a total of \$8 billion for the development and deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against the novel coronavirus.

## **May 11, 2020**

Trump and his administration announce that the federal government is sending \$11 billion to states to expand coronavirus testing capabilities. The relief package signed on April 24 includes \$25 billion for testing, with \$11 billion for states, localities, territories and tribes.

## **May 17, 2020**

The numbers keep increasing but at a decreasing rate. More than 4.6 million cases of Covid-19 have been recorded worldwide, including at least 314,000 deaths.

More than 1.5 million cases of Covid-19 have been recorded in the US, including at least 90,000 deathss.

US warning: Without better planning, the US risks its "darkest winter in modern history," ousted vaccine expert Dr. Rick Bright testified before Congress.

Brazil overtakes Spain: The South American country is now the fourth-worst hit in the world, with more than 233,500 cases.

China quarantine: At least 8,000 people have been quarantined in northeast China as authorities battle a new outbreak. A top Chinese health official told CNN that avoiding a new wave of cases remains a "big challenge" for the country.

## Chapter 13 The “Cures” for the Coronavirus



Could tobacco cure coronavirus? Don't laugh.

Though there is a lot of hope for a cure for coronavirus, so far, no dice. The Pentagon's medical research arm, however, did credit the use of tobacco plants in 2012 for the quick development of 10 million doses of flu vaccine. Who knows whether tobacco will become a health improvement agent?

The official word is that there is no cure for the Coronavirus COVID-19. If there were a cure, the pandemic would be over already. But, the fact is there is no cure. We spent the first chapters discussing the cause of the pandemic and now it is time to discuss what we can do about it, even though there is no official cure.

The work has been going on and companies are getting closer and closer. A fairly comprehensive list of drugs for COVID-19 is presented at the following URL:

<https://www.clinicaltrialsarena.com/analysis/coronavirus-mers-cov-drugs/>

This chapter is based mostly on this work. As a non-scientist, the list of potential cures for this virus is amazingly large. Reading the blurbs gives one an idea of the complexity of the mission and the innovative approaches that are being developed to attack this killer virus.

You will see that there are a lot of facts on the cures already in the pipeline and there are more introduced every day. There are so many potential cures that if they all worked well, it would still be difficult to pick one. The fact is that there is hope that before mankind is eradicated by any strange disease, the geniuses out there will have a cure for us.



Despite no official cures, there are a number of wannabe cures. Like all things, some are good, some are bad, but other than the developer of a particular cure, none are fully advocated by the independent experts in the scientific community such as Dr. Fauci.

Nonetheless, it helps one's spirit to know that scientists are already working on cures for Covid-19 and many believe there cures are ready

for evaluation. That evaluation of course is what may take much more time than the brainwork to develop a cure.

After the SARS and MERS outbreaks, the National Institute of Health (NIH) immediately got to work funding potential cures. None are deemed ready for prime time yet, but when there is a deep need like now, it adds impetus to efforts that may have been lagging for some time. The scientists get inspired to make something click after getting the proverbial shot in the arm such as a new pressing need.

The potential cures come from companies and organizations from all over the world, even from the country where the virus was first discovered. For example, the first COVID-19 vaccine in China is expected to be ready for clinical trials by the end of April, 2020, according to Xu Nanping, China’s vice-minister of science and technology. Experts say a vaccine needs at least five years to mature enough to be released as safe and proven. Nonetheless, it all starts with a thesis that must be proven or disproven. Inovio Pharmaceuticals plans to begin clinical trials on their coronavirus vaccine this month—yes of this year—April this year.

Regular people on the street would not be surprised if a vaccine were available tomorrow but those familiar with the process think that the most optimistic estimate of 18-months is even way too ambitious. So, though we have all these named cures, there is nobody who has come forth to announce that any are the beat-all and end all.

Health officials from W.H.O. have noted that Gilead’s remdesivir has demonstrated efficacy in treating the coronavirus infection. That does not make it the game changer or the scientific community would be touting it as such.

## **Hydrochloroquine approved for emergency use by US FDA**

For over a month now, since I heard the low-down on the French study and the success of the patients in the study, my favorite above all the unproven drugs has been Chloroquine and its derivative Hydroxychloroquine. President Trump tuned into the same study that I reference here and he asked the FDA to look into it as a therapeutic

remedy to stop COVID-a9 in its tracks after it has infected somebody. Of course politically speaking the Never Trumpers are having a field-day bad mouthing the potential for a game changer because they fear the President may gain some electability credits from it.

On May 18, the President announced that he was using hydrochloroquine as a prophylaxis to prevent him from getting the virus.

For President Trump, whether Covid-19 patients should take a once-obscure malaria drug is not even a close call: “What do you have to lose?” he said during a briefing a little more than a week ago. “And a lot of people are saying that, and are taking it.”

For physicians on the frontlines, the question of whether to use that drug or other unproven medicines is among the most challenging they’ve faced: They’re trained to make decisions based on rigorous data but have little to go on in treating patients with an entirely new disease. The claim that the results of studies in which none of the patients were denied the drug are not scientific and though in referenced published studies, the patients did well, because the clinical scientific method was not used, they declare the results anecdotal, meaning invalid for scientific purposes.

Based on Trump’s urging, however, and despite Dr. Fauci’s concern for the science of testing, The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) looked at these two drugs and approved limited emergency use for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19.

The President of the United States, Donald Trump, had announced on 19 March that chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, also known as Plaquenil, used to treat malaria, arthritis, and Lupus were approved by the FDA to be tested as a treatment for COVID-19.

Chloroquine is being tested in various clinical trials conducted by government agencies and academic institutions and New York hospitals. Hydroxychloroquine is a derivative. It is my favorite of all the hopefuls because it has those anecdotal studies as backup, and doctors swearing it has helped their patients. President Trump has acquired over 300 million does for the US stockpile as soon as he

heard that it might be in short supply as it is becoming a preferred treatment outside the US.

Is this evidence from Dr. Smith non-anecdotal? You decide. He has already decided.

Laura Ingraham has a section on her show that she calls her Medicine Cabinet. It discusses the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, whether diabetes increases COVID-19 risk.

Drs. Ramin Oskoui, cardiologist and CEO of Foxhall cardiology, and Stephen Smith, founder of the Smith Center for Infectious Diseases and Urban Health, join Laura Ingraham on 'The Ingraham Angle.' Almost every night to offer their perspectives and review new facts.

Dr. Stephen Smith, founder of The Smith Center for Infectious Diseases and Urban Health, said on “The Ingraham Angle” in early April that he is optimistic about the use of antimalarial medications and antibiotics to treat COVID-19 patients, calling it “a game-changer.” Nobody put words in the Doctor’s mouth. Nobody has disproven his theory



Dr. Smith



Dr. Oskoui

**Ingraham's 'Medicine Cabinet' on effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, whether diabetes increases COVID-19 risk**

“I think this is the beginning of the end of the pandemic. I’m very serious,” Smith, an infectious disease specialist, told host of the Fox show, Laura Ingraham.

Currently there is no known cure for the coronavirus pandemic ravaging the globe.

Smith, who is treating 72 COVID-19 patients, said that he has been treating "everybody with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin [an antibiotic]. We’ve been doing so for a while.”

Dr. Smith pointed out that not a single COVID-19 patient of his that has been on the hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin regimen for five days or more has had to be intubated (go on a ventilator).

“The chance of that occurring by chance, according to my sons Leon and Hunter who did some stats for me, are .000-something,” he said, adding that “it’s ridiculously low.”

Smith explained that “intubation means actually putting a tube down into your trachea and then you’re placed on the ventilator for respiratory support.”

The Food and Drug Administration recently announced an emergency-use authorization for several drugs, including hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, despite a lack of clear scientific clinical trial-type evidence of their effectiveness. The drug has been used for malaria for 65 years with minimal issues.

A study published earlier this month by French researchers suggested that COVID-19 patients could be treated with antimalarial medication and antibiotics in the battle against the novel coronavirus.

Smith noted on Wednesday that he thinks his data supports the French study.

“Now you actually have an intra-cohort comparison saying that this regimen works,” he told the show’s host.



Speaking on “Fox & Friends” the same week as Dr. Smith, Dr. Mehmet Oz brought up an “important randomized study still unpublished from Wuhan, China.”

He said that his team spoke to the medical leadership in China and vetted the study.



Oz supports Hydroxychloroquine Regimen

“We think it's real,” Dr. Oz said on Thursday.

He then went on to explain what the study, which looked at 62 patients, showed. He noted that half of the patients got the traditional therapy being offered in China and the other half got the traditional therapy plus hydroxychloroquine. Technically, though the sample of 62 is small, it is not insignificant and it can be thought of as a valid clinical trial.

“In terms of symptoms, their temperatures, their fevers broke instead of three days, which is the norm over there on this treatment, they got two days,” Dr. Oz said.

He added that “in terms of coughing, the other big symptom you have, again it takes a little over three days oftentimes for that to go away and that was dropped at two days.”

Dr. Oz then pointed out the part that “really caught my attention.” “They did CT scans of the chest in all the patients. All the patients had pneumonia when they started. Over the course of the five-day treatment with the hydroxychloroquine and 55 percent of the control population where they just got the normal therapy there was resolve and resolution of the pneumonia in 81 percent of the patients on the hydroxychloroquine, there was improvement in the lung's images,” he pointed out.

Dr. Oz noted that these results are “statistically significant.”

He went on to say that even though the study only monitored a small group of people, “they still got the measures that we like to see.”

Dr. Oz acknowledged that a bigger clinical trial is still needed, adding that the Chinese study “is an early effort to try to show a lot of people whether this is the right way or the wrong way to go.”

“I should point out in the 31 patients that were the control group, four patients had bad outcomes, they got significantly worse. None of the patients in the hydroxychloroquine group got significantly worse,” he said.

“So the Chinese are using this as part of their routine treatment. They have a national protocol for measuring COVID-19. I think we ought to consider something like that in this country, but at least physicians and patients should be able to discuss this a bit more comfortably until we have the bigger randomized data from studies done in this country.”

## **Other potential COVID-19 “cures” are being introduced**

Other antiviral drugs are also planned to be fast-tracked for testing for coronavirus. There is a major impetus for those with a means to direct their resources into finding a solution to this plague on America. Not all the work is being done in the US. For example Favilavir is the first approved coronavirus drug in China.

## **Favilavir**

The National Medical Products Administration of China has approved the use of Favilavir, an anti-viral drug, as a treatment for coronavirus. The drug has reportedly shown efficacy in treating the disease with minimal side effects in a clinical trial involving 70 patients. The clinical trial was conducted in Shenzhen, Guangdong province.

There are many pharmaceutical companies involved in developing coronavirus drugs / vaccines. This gives us all hope yet, none have been mainstreamed as being the “cure.” So we must all wait for all of the approvals to come in.

Here is a list of about thirty novel coronavirus drugs that pharmaceutical companies across the world are working on. The first grouping I show are candidate vaccines and are not therapeutic drugs such as hydroxychloroquine. I have included a short abstract from the web site above that describes the drug and how it is to work. Since I am not a doctor, I can say that they all have the potential to become major coronavirus vaccines or antivirals, etc. for treating the contagious coronavirus infection.

## **Novel coronavirus vaccines**

Listed below are a few of the coronavirus vaccines in various stages of development, across the world. There are many more

### **Fusogenix DNA vaccine by Entos Pharmaceuticals**

Entos Pharmaceuticals is in the process of developing what they call Fusogenix DNA vaccine developed using the Fusogenix drug delivery platform. It is designed to prevent COVID-19 infections. Fusogenix drug delivery platform is a proteo-lipid vehicle that introduces a genetic payload of “cure” directly into the cells.

Entos is working on developing an optimized payload containing multiple protein epitopes derived from SARS-COV-2 proteins. The

objective is for these to stimulate an immune response in the body to prevent COVID-19 infection.

## **ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 by University of Oxford**

The University of Oxford's ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 is an adenovirus vaccine vector developed by the university's Jenner Institute. The university is testing the vaccine in a clinical trial planned to be conducted in the Thames Valley Region.

Approximately 510 volunteers aged between 18 years and 55 years will be enrolled for the study.

## **Gimsilumab by Roivant Sciences**

Roivant Sciences is advancing the development of Gimsilumab a clinical-stage, human monoclonal antibody. The drug targets granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), which is a pro-inflammatory cytokine found in high levels in the serum of COVID-19 patients.

Targeting GM-CSF is expected to reduce lung damage and reduce mortality rate in COVID-19 patients.

## **AdCOVID by Altimune**

Altimune has collaborated with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) to develop a single dose intranasal vaccine for COVID-19 named AdCOVID. The company is currently carrying out immunogenicity studies after, which phase one clinical trial material will be developed.

Altimune and UAB will work with researchers to conduct preclinical animal studies and phase one clinical trial in the third quarter of 2020.

## **TJM2 by I-Mab Biopharma**

I-Mab Biopharma by TJM2 It is a neutralizing antibody, as a treatment for cytokine storm in patients suffering from a severe case of coronavirus infection. The drug targets the human granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), which is responsible for acute and chronic inflammation.

The company will commence development after receiving approval for the Investigational New Drug (IND) application from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

## **Coronavirus vaccine by Medicago**

Medicago is developing drug candidates against COVID-19 after having produced Virus-Like Particles (VLP) of the coronavirus. The company has formed a collaboration with Laval University’s Infectious Disease Research Centre to develop antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.

The company’s research activities are being partly funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

Etc. etc. etc.

## **Coronavirus drugs**

**Several of the novel coronavirus drugs in various stages of development globally are listed below.**

### **Remdesivir (GS-5734) by Gilead Sciences**

An Ebola drug developed by Gilead Sciences that was found to be ineffective is now being tested in two phase III randomized clinical trials in Asian countries.

The trials are being performed on 761 patients in a randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind study at multiple hospitals in Wuhan, the epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak. The results from the trials are expected to be available over the next few weeks.

According to a report by The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), remdesivir, when administered to a coronavirus patient in the US, appeared to have improved the clinical condition.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is also carrying out clinical trials to test the safety and efficacy of the drug. The first patient to be administered the drug is an evacuee from the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

## **What is Remdesivir and how does it fight the coronavirus?**

Annie Luetkemeyer, MD, an infectious disease specialist who is leading the COVID-19 clinical trials at UCSF and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, explains what we know about remdesivir.

Remdesivir is an anti-viral drug administered by IV. It's known as a nucleoside analog, meaning it mimics a component of viral RNA that the virus needs to replicate itself.

“Remdesivir is basically faking the virus into thinking it's a building block of viral genetic material,” said Chin-Hong.

The virus uses an enzyme called RNA-dependent RNA polymerase to assemble chains of RNA piece by piece. When the RNA polymerase picks up the drug instead, the RNA assembly line is jammed and viral replication soon halted.

When tested in infected cells in the lab, remdesivir stops replication in a range of viruses, including hepatitis, Ebola and other human coronaviruses, such as SARS and MERS. But the drug was shelved by Gilead Sciences, its manufacturer, after trials in Ebola patients found it to be less effective than other Ebola therapies.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, researchers pulled the drug out of the freezer and found that it also stops replication of SARS-CoV-2. Because its safety had been shown in the earlier trials, remdesivir quickly moved into clinical trials for COVID-19.

What do we know from clinical trials?

Three clinical trials so far have reported on remdesivir's effects on COVID-19.

Promising results come from a large National Institutes of Health (NIH) study that enrolled over 1,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients across 22 countries. To qualify, patients had to be hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 and have evidence of lung involvement, such as an abnormal chest X-ray or needing supplemental oxygen.

Remdesivir is favored by Dr. Fauci.

## What will it take to beat the coronavirus?

Andy J. Semotiuk; Contributor. I write about investor immigration and about Immigration issues.

The battle with Covid-19 will require help from all of us. What is the best way to deal with it?. Let’s talk about the best way to deal with it— with or without a vaccine or therapeutic?



## Coronavirus is a tough enemy to beat

The experts tell us that while the infections should peak in just a few weeks, the coronavirus pandemic could last for another 12 to 18 months. That’s the bad news. The good news is that it may also go away in the summer.

Regardless, as we know well, with all the companies racing to beat the competition for completing a vaccine, without a vaccine, we are all less safe. Some say that when we are free from the state’s lockdown, the only real solution appears to be to develop a herd immunity.

## **What is herd immunity?**

After at least half the population has had the infection, we ultimately become immune to it. In the Plague of 1918, the Spanish Flu, that took two or three years and nobody was sure if it would ever stop. There is no guarantee event that will work. Besides, without extensive testing, we have no idea what percentage of the population has been infected.

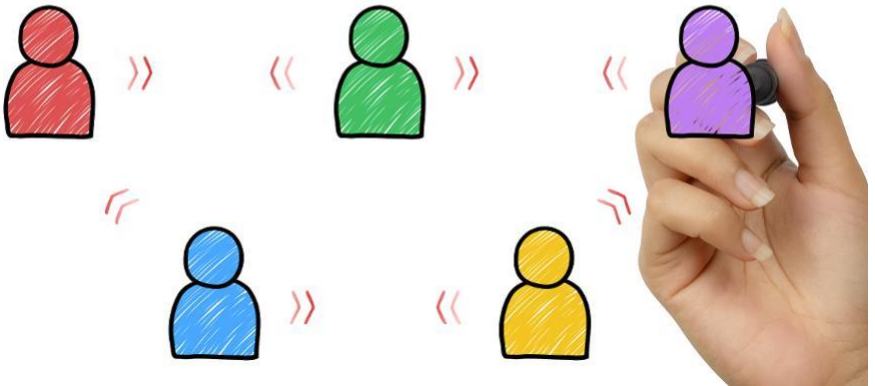
Alternatively, and hopefully most likely, a vaccine or a therapeutic will be developed and then widespread “inoculation” will take place. The experts tell us probably that could take a year or more if you are an optimist. Who knows?

Meanwhile, we have watched news about the challenges that the covid-19 virus has brought to America’s health care system. Some of the revelations such as: American athletes getting tested while others wait in line, a 17-year old young man dying because a hospital would not treat him because of a lack of medical insurance, and America running out of ventilators and basic protective gear to treat patients for front line health care workers have been very discouraging. They have highlighted some of our worst moments. It seems like those type of incidents are already behind us.

Economically, the news that over twenty-two million applicants filed unemployment claims over the past four weeks and that the total unemployed in March of this year alone has risen to almost 20 million million has been staggering. And that does not include the two or three million foreign workers who have likely become jobless suddenly as well-whether they are legal or illegal.



# SOCIAL DISTANCING



Social distancing (AKA social control) is the recommendation that seems to have saved us so far. When the herd immunity hits or Hydroxychloroquine is approved and works, we can let our guard down but not until. . There is nothing else in the armament of medical science to beat this virus.

All these shocking developments have most Americans very concerned about whether. this will ever be over. Most are down so low, about 75% think it is going to go on for a long time to come even if it crashes the economy for good.

And Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top expert on infectious diseases, has cautioned that the virus dictates the timeline and warned that to gradually reopen the country we need to be able to execute widespread testing. The means to get this job done must be in place, so doctors can better identify, isolate and trace cases. He may be right but somebody has to hold the essential jobs and it is getting more difficult with the population being so skittish and with the hoarding mentality overriding the notion of herd immunization. .

Despite all that, as America and the world address these seemingly insurmountable issues, there are a number of good things happening as well.

## How We Are Adapting

For one thing, relationships between people are warmer, total strangers seem to be more polite, helpful and accommodating for the most part. Even when an outrageous act occurs, just a month or two ago, nobody would be alarmed. “It’s how we are.” However, just today, twenty cars had their tires slashed in a hospital ER parking lot.. The deed was discovered when shift nurses tried to pull away after putting in a long shift. People on the scene in the hospitals and in the press rooms of the nation’s media, treated this as one of the most egregious disgusting acts of the pandemic. They are right. People are beginning to care about people and such nasty treatment of care-givers is viewed as intolerable.

There is a better sense of community that has arisen as we care for one another. Perhaps it is just because we sense that there is the potential of mortal danger involved. There is the sense that we are equally vulnerable, although we are told that older people are more at risk.

Keeping a physical distance has required us to be more flexible in allowing others to go ahead of us, or pass us while we stand by. We are learning that we should wear non-medical face masks to protect one another from each other.

Isolated as we maybe, our televisions, radios, smart phones, and personal computers are helping us all learn new ways to interact with each another. For example, in my case I have been invited to participate a few Zoom calls. I am going to make sure that I can so next time I can say yes.

Before the outbreak, I never felt it worth my time to learn the technology and that meant I never used it. I will now. There is a dawning realization that we are more connected to each other than we realized previously. Globalization, in the sense that what the Chinese are doing affects what we are doing, as an example, is increasingly apparent to us.

There is other good news, if not just good points. Most people with COVID-19 recover. They get better. Estimates now suggest that in the neighborhood of 99% of people infected with COVID-19 will recover

to lead normal lives. Children are infected less often and have milder symptoms. The CDC tells us all that vast majority of infections so far have afflicted adults., especially senior citizen adults. The number of new cases has plateaued in many places across the world including the US states. China and the Republic of Korea have reported significantly declining epidemics.

Is it not a great thing that we have the Internet. We are not alone. Those who stubbornly exist without the Internet have a good reason to reconsider. The “Net” is helping us communicate a lot with each other and even to medical providers.

People in isolation or quarantine can ask for help, visit friends, see family and doctors virtually, and provide updates on their condition. Our response to future pandemics should also improve because this one has exposed shortcomings in healthcare systems throughout the world, including the US.

This provides an opportunity for all of us to improve them. Many people and organizations have stepped up to help. Some major health insurers have promised to cover care and testing related to COVID-19, and some celebrities and professional athletes and even business people have donated significant resources to help those taking a financial hit because of the pandemic.

### **It’s time to thank God and all the Helpers**

Let us not forget to be thankful to all those who work daily in the front lines to save us - the doctors, nurses, lab technicians, first responders, police officers, fire fighters and all the others. Let us also be thankful for the tremendous leadership we have seen across the country by those who care for us and seek to marshal the resources needed to win this battle. It is refreshing to see President Trump in a positive light, like a caring godfather for everybody in the country on both sides of the aisle. Thank you President Trump for your Fireside Chats. FDR would be proud of you.

Above all, let us not forget our families and neighbors who are helping us daily and who constantly remind us of our humanity.

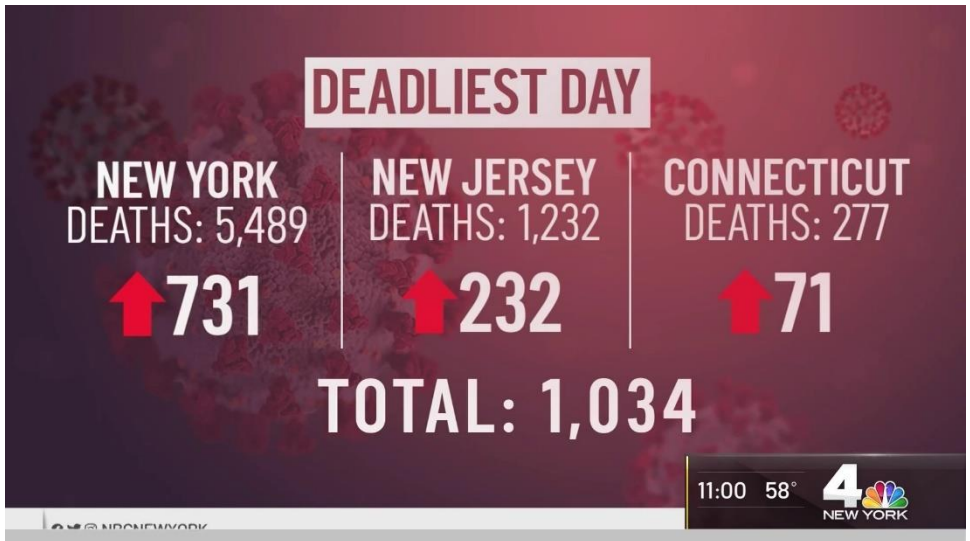
## Life will get better



SAN FRANCISCO, CA - APRIL 2: UCSF nurses hold a rally before dawn to protest a lack of personal protection. HEARST NEWSPAPERS VIA GETTY IMAGES

In short, we all have learned that this nasty pandemic has given us opportunities to re-imagine the world and our place in it. No doubt we will face even more challenges. But while we deal with the difficulties visited upon us and mourn our major losses, let us take note of the good that has entered our lives as well. You know that we will survive this challenge, no matter what it takes, and return to a different life hopefully better than the one we once had. Let's leave the bickering where it belongs—in the garbage.

# Chapter 14 New York State Update



Four Days before Easter Sunday

## Inching up on Easter

**1771550 cases total deaths 108532 212 countries & territories**

People keep getting sick and keep getting admitted to hospitals, being put on ventilators, and many unfortunately, die without family present.

As of Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, as I am penning the last several chapters in this book, the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been confirmed in around 212 countries or territories worldwide. By Easter, the virus had infected 1,780,684 people worldwide, and the # of deaths totaled 108,837. The most severely affected countries include the U.S., Italy, and Spain.

In the US, more than 21,000 people with the coronavirus have now died, according to a New York Times database. The country's death toll increased by more than 2,000 in a single day for the first time on Friday Apr 10, and has now, NY alone has surpassed the number of reported deaths in Italy.

# Cases in the U.S.

Other Languages ▾

Print Page

Last updated on May 19, 2020



As of Sunday (Easter) afternoon, the US statistics show at least 546,341 people across every state, plus Washington, D.C., and four U.S. territories, have tested positive for the virus. This again, is as reported by the New York Times database.

## Cases & Deaths from Feb 26 to Easter—April 12, 2020

<u>State Name</u>	<u>Cases/100K</u>	<u>Deaths/100K</u>
New York	88,694	9,385
New Jersey	61,850	2,350
Michigan	23,853	1,391
Pennsylvania	22,896	522
Massachusetts	22,860	686
California	22,439	633
Louisiana	20,595	840
Florida	19,339	451
Illinois	19,180	682
Texas	13,557	325

Of course there are 40 states not listed and as of Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, all states have at least one case. New York, which is an international City in a state of international people has the most cases. Most of the cases were caused by people to people transmission.

Before President Trump called off the travel from China, hundreds of thousands had come in and had already infected New Yorkers.

As the number of known cases reached into the hundreds, then the thousands, then the hundreds of thousands, life all over the country changed in profound ways. Malls, salons and dine-in restaurants have been forced to close or in many states risk police action. High school proms, college graduations and professional sports have been cancelled or postponed. Some states have told people arriving from elsewhere to quarantine themselves for fourteen days. Others have warned that the pause on communal life will likely last weeks more, and that the eventual return to work and school will come in stages.

The President's recommendation first was a shutdown of two weeks but when the disease seemed to be winning in the race for Easter, the President raised the ante to the end of April. We offer our thoughts on how to get the country back to work in a later chapter.

President Trump had sounded the alarm on January 30, long before many in the country were taking the threat seriously and yet, the Democrats deride him still for being a laggard on addressing the pandemic.

Yet, Governor Cuomo and House Speaker Pelosi and Mayor De Blasio were three of the last officials to take the pandemic seriously. It was not until March 20, 2020 that Governor Cuomo, for example began to take things in NY seriously.

Prior to being hit in the face with reality, Cuomo and Pelosi and De Blasio were rather cavalier in their concern about the potential magnitude pandemic.

Earlier on March ;N.Y. Governor Andrew Cuomo joined FNC's "Sunday Morning Futures" host Maria Bartiromo suggesting that while the situation with the coronavirus is severe, people should avoid panicking and all efforts should be made to avoid "shutting everything down for two weeks" like China has done." Cuomo had no idea what he would face just a few weeks later. Yet, he had no problem hurling blame at Trump for a poor response.

"Remember what we're really trying to do here is avoid the massive disruption of closing everything down for two weeks, the way China did, the way Italy is doing. And we're trying to protect the vulnerable populations for whom this Coronavirus could really be dangerous, senior citizens, immune-compromised," he said.

Bartirromo asked whether mass transit systems should be shut down as a precaution, citing the outbreak in Westchester county linked to a passenger on the MetroNorth rail system.

"At this time, there's no reason to close down mass transit, Maria. We haven't had -- to the extent, we have big numbers in New York, it's actually in Westchester, which is a suburban community, as you know, where you have a cluster of cases," Cuomo replied. I bet the Governor would like to have those words back. But, as a realist, he did the right thing just a few weeks later.

The head of the Democrats in Congress, Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not concerned about COVID-19 until it seemed that she might be able to poke fun at Trump about how his response was perceived by Democrats.

She was concerned as it seems to have played out about her district San Francisco's economy but had no desire to engage with the notion of protecting anybody from anything infectious in February. She had previously damned Trump's travel band as racist in January and she seemed not yet convinced in February about the dangers of the coronavirus.

On February 24, for example, the San Francisco KRON reported that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was in San Francisco spending several hours visiting Chinatown to encourage people to visit the shops and restaurants there amid fears of the coronavirus.

Business in Chinatown had really slowed down over the prior month, mainly due to concerns about the coronavirus. Pelosi did a walking tour of the area starting in the Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Shop.

She also visited several other businesses and talked to people. There were neighbors, including the owner of the cookie shop, who says the last month has been difficult.



“Business is slow. People don’t want to come, they are scared,” Kevin Chan said. Pelosi would not believe it. She took this opportunity to encourage people to come back to Chinatown to spend their money.

“You should come to Chinatown. Precautions have been taken by our city. We know there is concern about tourism throughout the world but we think it’s very safe to be in Chinatown and hopefully, others will come,” Pelosi said.

Really Nancy! And you blame Trump’s January 30<sup>th</sup> response to limit air travel from Chinas as racist? Really!

Governor Cuomo also had to deal with his own little Napoleon in NY City, a man who is also known as comrade De Blasio by some Fox celebs. He had made some proclamations that gave the Mayor apparently more power over the virus precautions than even the Governor. Mayor Bill de Blasio said he has no regrets about his actions early on.

Think about his recklessness. He told New Yorkers to visit their local watering holes (bars) less than a day before restaurants and bars in NY state shut down to help contain the spread of the coronavirus. De Blasio and Cuomo did not always communicate well.

“I look back to March 15, New York City had limited occupancy at restaurants but that was a time when we were seeing a big increase *in infections* in a state like Washington, and the Mayor put precautions to the wind when he suggested that it was OK to say to New Yorkers, ‘If you love your neighborhood bar, go there now.’ I mean, on reflection, were comments like that a mistake?” asked NPR’s “Morning Edition” host David Greene in a live interview with the mayor Thursday.

Digging in, the Mayor suggested: “No, because I said that literally about a day before they were all about to be shut down,” de Blasio answered.

At the time, the City had just 330 confirmed coronavirus cases and five deaths. Just four days later, there were 2,468 cases and 22 deaths. We all know NY leads the world today so should there have been more caution than inviting the world to shed its masks in NY.

Researchers now believe the deadly disease was likely spreading in the city as early as February, weeks before the Big Apple's first confirmed case.

de Blasio also waited until March 15 to close city schools after teachers threatened a boycott and Gov. Andrew Cuomo negotiated a shutdown with unions. Now what—the City and the state agree things are not good in NY.

The news consuming public is outraged that President Trump has been working hard of this crisis in more ways than one and no matter what he does, the fake news media and even city and state Democrat politicians are slamming him and threatening impeachment on the coronavirus. Meanwhile, they are so concerned about the sliver in Trump's eye that they can't see the logs in their own eyes.

Until recently when the President ordered FEMA, and others in the administration to satisfy NY's equipment needs, the governor and the Mayor of NY were slamming Trump's efforts. This was very unfair. It is not as bad as it was. But, consider this big log in Governor Cuomo's own eye:

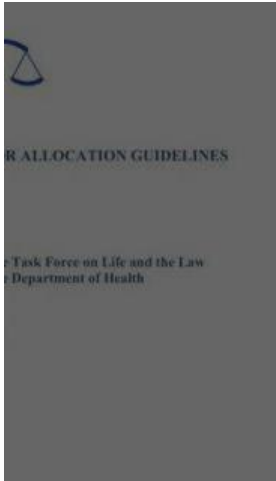
Sean Hannity, one of the most popular anchors on cable television recently blasted Governor Cuomo for not having the State of NY prepared for the crisis though he knew the state was not prepared as of 2015.

Here is what Hannity said. You will notice there is no love lost between him and Governor Cuomo.

Every New Yorker needs to know that Gov. “all talk no action” Andrew Cuomo has failed to deliver for the people of his state during the crisis created by the coronavirus pandemic.

While the Democratic governor continues to blame President Trump for a ventilator shortage in New York, a state Health Department report warned Cuomo all the way back in 2015 about this exact problem.

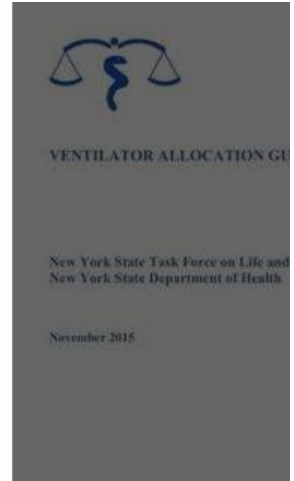
Everyone needs to read this report.



VENTILATOR ALLOCATION GUIDELINES

New York State Task Force on Life and the Law  
New York State Department of Health

November 2015



On Page 30, the Health Department report on ventilator allocation guidelines states: “during a severe influenza pandemic, there is likely to be a projected shortfall of ventilators (-15,783) during peak week demand.”

But that’s not all. At the beginning of that report the New York State Health Commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker wrote: “Dear New Yorkers, Protecting the health and well-being of New Yorkers is a core objective of the Department of Health. During flu season, we are reminded that pandemic influenza is a foreseeable threat, one that we cannot ignore. In light of this possibility, the Department is taking steps to prepare for a pandemic and to limit the loss of life and other negative consequences.

“An influenza pandemic would affect all New Yorkers, and we have a responsibility to plan now. Part of the planning process is to develop guidance on how to ethically allocate limited resources (i.e., ventilators) during a severe influenza pandemic while saving the most lives.

“As part of our emergency preparedness efforts, the Department, together with the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, is releasing the 2015 Ventilator Allocation Guidelines, which provide an ethical, clinical, and legal framework to assist health

care providers and the general public in the event of a severe influenza pandemic...”

Hannity was outraged and asked: “Where was the response from the governor? Where was the sense of urgency after such an explicit warning?”

Gov. Cuomo refused to act. He did not listen. He bought zero ventilators. The cost to purchase the needed ventilators was only 0.4 percent of the 2015-2016 state budget.

Instead of buying life-saving ventilators, Cuomo wasted hundreds of millions of dollars on failed projects, like \$750 million on a failed solar panel factory, \$90 million on a partnership with a California light bulb company that went nowhere, and \$600 million on a computer chip factory that went bust.

End of Cuomo ventilator story

When the governor finally was prompted to take action it was near the end of March. Shortly after Cuomo’s March 20 announcement of a shutdown of NY state, Illinois made a similar declaration. This showed how states and cities were operating on their own when it came to making momentous decisions in the fight against the virus. President Trump said he depended on the cities and states to do the right thing.

"We're all in quarantine now," Cuomo (D) said at his first shutdown news conference. He said: "Think about it. We're all in various levels of quarantine."

His order was for nearly 100 percent of New York’s workforce to stay home. He knew it would be painful and costly. The governor noted that it was deemed the only way to prevent the surge of coronavirus patients requiring intensive hospital care from outstripping New York’s capacity to provide ventilators for the worst cases of the covid-19 disease. Cuomo had taken his time to get serious but when he did he meant it.

He noted that “These actions will cause disruption. They will cause businesses to close. They will cause employees to stay at home. I

understand that. They will cause much unhappiness,” Cuomo said. The governor said that he accepts full responsibility for the decision and that if people are unhappy about it, “Blame me.” The governor showed that he cared about what happened in NY and the people accepted his words but not all abided by the shutdown order.

Governor Cuomo also agreed to trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine beginning in the last week. Cuomo is serious about shutting down this deadly virus in NY State.

Despite the trials that Cuomo has OK'd in NY hospitals, many liberal progressives in the main news media have been mocking the potential benefits of hydroxychloroquine as a pet therapy of “Dr.” President Trump’s. They do not want to credit the drug with any success because it might help the President get elected. That is sick but true.

White House economic adviser Peter Navarro said President Trump was correct to talk about “the possibility” that the long-used anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine can treat some symptoms of the coronavirus. Notably, Navarro did not deny a report from Axios that he got into an argument with Dr. Fauci about recommending hydroxychloroquine during a White House coronavirus task force meeting on the first weekend in April.

The epicenter of the United States’ COVID-19 pandemic has started clinical trials on pharmaceutical drugs that could potentially treat the virus. According to a news release by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, the observational studies began on Tuesday.

Cuomo’s office said that the state of New York acquired 70,000 doses of hydroxychloroquine, 10,000 doses of Zithromax and 750,000 doses of chloroquine in the past few days in hopes of testing the results among patients suffering with the deadly coronavirus.

During a press conference on the last Tuesday in March, the governor showed confidence in the face of unprecedented concern. “We hope for optimistic results,” Cuomo said of the clinical trials. “The President and the FDA accelerated that drug coming to New York, so the hospitals will start using that drug today.”

CNN's John Berman pressed Navarro about his (or the president's) qualifications to weigh in on the use of any medication.

"The issue wasn't about me offering my medical opinion," Navarro said. "The question was whether we should take the 29 million doses in the FEMA storehouses and surge them into the zones, and it was unanimous in that task force meeting to do so. So, that's the only question I posed."

"You may find this interesting," he told the CNN host. "In the city that you live in, in New York, in the New York health and hospitals system, virtually every patient now that comes in presenting COVID-19 symptoms is given a cycle of hydroxychloroquine, and when I discussed this last night with Mitch Katz, who is the head of that system, I asked him, are you doing that because the federal government is telling you or because you think it may work? And he said quite clearly that it may work."

Regarding Cuomo's shutdown order, from the beginning, the order said that businesses that failed to comply with it, would be fined, although the state was not initially planning to sanction individuals found in violation, NY officials said.

Cuomo's move came as state and local authorities faced the prospect of running out of beds in hospital intensive-care units, and also grappled with an urgent demand for masks and protective gear for the health-care workers treating coronavirus patients. To try to keep more hospital beds free, the state urged and later demanded that all hospitals cancel elective surgeries.

The announcement shook up most people in the US as more and more states were in the same boat.

"I feel terrified," said Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, a longtime emergency room nurse and the president of the 40,000-member New York State Nurses Association.

Sheridan-Gonzalez, who works at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, said that when her association recently surveyed its members, only 4 percent felt confident in their hospitals' responses so far to the pandemic.

“We had warned them since 9/11 that we are not prepared for disaster,” she said, calling the lack of equipment and staffing “a crisis.” Although industrial-quality N95 masks are available at the hospital where she works, nurses are permitted to wear them only when inserting tubes or performing other procedures that risk suspending droplets of bodily fluid in the air, Sheridan-Gonzalez said.

All the nurses want to be able to do what we can do,” she said, but “it inhibits that desire to help, to be placed in danger.”

A Montefiore spokeswoman said the hospital is “following all CDC guidance and protocol.”

Cities across the country struggle to protect vulnerable homeless populations as coronavirus spreads.

At Mount Sinai Hospital, the first in New York to treat a coronavirus patient, emergency department medical director Jolion McGreevy said things are functioning fairly smoothly. The hospital was seeing about 130 patients a day reporting flu-like symptoms, and those patients are steered to a separate screening area.

“We’re not feeling a crunch of the supplies,” McGreevy said in March. “That’s not to say that it’s not at the front of our minds.”

As of Friday, March 20, 7,102 New Yorkers had tested positive for the novel coronavirus, and 5,151 of those were in New York City. Statewide, 35 people had died, officials said. The figures mean that roughly one-third of all known U.S. cases are in New York City. “I hate to say this, but it’s true: We are now the epicenter of this crisis, right here in the nation’s largest city,” Mayor Bill DeBlasio said.

As of April 12 Easter Sunday, the NY statistics show how deadly the virus has become in the state though the need for beds and respirators did not reach the levels anticipated by the models. There are now over 188,694 cases in NY and 9385 deaths. In just three weeks, the cases and the # of deaths have shot up at an alarming rate. .

The good news of course is that it has slowed. Every day for the past several weeks, Governor Cuomo has held a news briefing to update

the public on how the state is doing. Just like the President's briefings which are almost every day, Cuomo's press briefings have been well received.

After a late start and a lack of preparedness at the top, New York has really championed efforts to solve the crisis in NY as well as can be.

You can see some of the efforts on the new. The USNS Comfort a 1000 bed floating hospital is set up and functioning inside of NY harbor and it is taking all patients now regardless of their diagnosis. Samaritan's Purse has set up a 600-bed mobile hospital across from MT. Sinai Hospital in NY Central Park fully staffed with equipment, ICU's, beds, doctors, nurses, and technicians. Additionally the Javits Center has been converted into a 3000 bed hospital by the Army. It took just about four days to set this up for the people of New York. New York should have nothing to complain about regarding the federal response.

## **Cuomo Extends NY State shutdown to May 15**

New York State recorded its fewest deaths in 10 days on April 16, 2020, but the governor said more progress was needed before he would lift restrictions.

Mr. Cuomo said that New York continued to make progress in containing the coronavirus and he cited encouraging statistics, but he also said that the rate of infection would have to slow much more before he would lift restrictions that were in place through April 29.

"What happens after then? I don't know," Mr. Cuomo said of new end date for the restrictions. "We will see depending on what the data shows."

Trump Said Democrats and The liberal media want to keep businesses closed to hurt his reelection, not to protect from the coronavirus. Public health experts, who are mostly big liberals say it's vital that people stay home to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. They



refuse to listen to arguments of what a depression will do to people's lives.

Andrew Cuomo's early announcement of an extension to the shut down is part of the "destroy trump Democrat platform. Impeachment did not work. The Mueller Report did not work. The Whistleblower did not work so the Dems have determined that making the pandemic affect Americans worse than it has to will help them beat Trump as they know no other way.

The NY public are calling for an investigation into Gov Cuomo and the Nursing Home Deaths in NY from COVID-19

## **Nursing Homes Are Hot Spots in the Crisis. But Don't Try Suing Them.**

In New York, 5,300 nursing home residents have died of Covid-19. The nursing home lobby pressed for a provision that makes it hard for their families to sue.

In the chaotic days of late March, as it became clear that New York was facing a catastrophic outbreak of the coronavirus, aides to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo quietly inserted a provision on Page 347 of New York's final, voluminous budget bill.

Many lawmakers were unaware of the language when they approved the budget a few days later. But it provided unusual legal protections for an influential industry that has been devastated by the crisis: nursing home operators.

The measure, lobbied for by industry representatives, shielded nursing homes from many lawsuits over their failure to protect residents from death or sickness caused by the coronavirus.

Now, weeks later, more than 5,300 residents of nursing homes in New York are believed to have died from the outbreak, and their relatives are finding that because of the provision, they may not be able to

pursue legal action against the homes' operators over allegations of neglect.

# Chapter 15 State of Pennsylvania Update



Pennsylvania has no testing facilities? What's that all about?

I regret to say that I am a Democrat and that the people of Pennsylvania, not me mind you, elected a Democrat as our governor and then reelected him last year. The Democratic Party left me behind years ago. Tom Wolfe, PA governor does not represent the kind of decisions that are good for Pennsylvanians or others visiting this state. His attitude seems to be “Too Late, I am the Governor!”

Governor Wolfe is a billionaire and has little empathy for non-billionaires such as truck drivers who drive the roads in PA to assure the shelves in food stores and others are filled in a timely fashion. Why would I say that? Because it is true.

WILK radio's talk-show lines were filled immediately after Wolfe's March 17, 2020 shutdown order. The governor wants to make life completely safe for state workers but others be damned. He closed all rest stops in the state on March 17, in response to his apparent concerns that there was no other way to mitigate the spread of

coronavirus. Truckers had to hold it or find another way to relieve themselves. Nice way to treat those making the critical deliveries in the state.

Because it created a danger to truckers parked on the side of the road and to vehicles passing them, the calls were quick and the consensus was the governor had overreached in his authority. Selected rest stops began to reopen in the following days after tons of complaints. But Wolfe had the last laugh as he did not open them all and still has not.

Do as I say but not as I do. Somehow Wolf himself was strangely granted a waiver for his own business. But the people of PA who want the Liquor Stores to reopen blasted Wolfe's favoritism for himself. So, on March 26, having heard enough complaints, Mr. Wolf's office said it had rescinded a waiver that had been issued to the governor's former business, a kitchen and bath cabinet supply company in Central Pennsylvania, after Spotlight PA and PA Post inquired about how it qualified as "life-sustaining."

Wolf's office chose not to use the real excuse of *Do as I say but not as I do*. It was not wise for the governor to mess with constituents who have not had a drink of booze since St. Patrick's day when the governor padlocked all the state run booze stores in the Commonwealth.

A.C. Nielsen released some data this week showing Pennsylvania's bordering states saw higher increases in distilled spirit sales than the nation average in the first full work after liquor stores closed. Ohio saw a 60% increase; West Virginia, a 32% increase; and Maryland, a 28% increase, all above the national average increase of 27%. The people are pressing for the privatization of the Liquor Stores. Why should the state be in any business competing vs. entrepreneurs?

Let me tell you all what it was like leading up to the March 17 shutdown in PA and then afterwards. I write books for a living. I was about to begin working on a book titled Great Moments in Kansas City Chiefs Football in January. My plan was to begin after the Super Bowl on February 2, 2020.

When I was well on my way to getting the book underway after I came back from Florida, two weeks after the Super Bowl contest, I

decided to add a little story about Pennsylvania and living through the Coronavirus crisis in a state that cares more about state union workers and government employees than it does for ordinary people. Here is a section I added to the Kansas City book that I am including in this book. It sets the stage for how the coronavirus crisis affected the people of the commonwealth, no matter who you are. I will indent this missive a few spaces so you can tell that it is an insert to this book. Here goes:

“Writing this book has given me even more respect for the Chiefs and what a bunch of scrappers they were—from day one with a great legendary coach Hank Stram. It was not until Stram’s swan song season in 1974 after 15 years of winning everything that came his way that Stram had a losing season. How about that?

The price of a current Super Bowl ticket is a little out of my league but I did make it to Florida this year with my brother and sister as snowbirds and we watched the Super Bowl in sister Mary’s Snowbird Livingroom with plenty of grub and libations. It was an away game for us and we loved every minute, even the pregame action by the pool.

We did not talk once about the coronavirus once, which at the time, had yet to be labeled a pandemic. It was not an issue in Pennsylvania in January or so it seemed, and after staying in Florida for a good part of February, even when we got home, it was not at the top of our interest level. That soon changed. Very soon.

Throughout February, we were getting snippets of the situation as it existed in Wuhan, across the world, the US prognosis, and Pennsylvania itself. Our Governor Wolf made some sort of a disaster declaration on March 6, but colleges and schools were not yet closed. He closed everything on March 17 or so it seemed but not all the counties.

By the time, April 1 came around after piecemeal PA county closedowns and shutdowns of non-life-essential activities in the states, including schools, the Governor expanded the lockdown to all counties in the entire state on April 1. Right now, for example,

on April 5, PA is essentially closed for business. Many businesses and business groups have accused Governor Wolfe of over-reach.

We noticed no change in Florida activity while we were there. If there were restrictions we did not notice them. There was no lockdown and no talks about staying home. NY locked down the state and the city about 2/3 into March under duress.

Both Cuomo and De Blasio—the State, and the City of NY had not paid much attention to the pandemic 'til that point. The Speaker of the US House was not very concerned either. The signals were very mixed as only the President seemed to think we needed to worry.

The Speaker had been in Chinatown on the West Coast inviting people to come on down and continue to have a good time. You've probably seen the video. The impeachment debacle was over and Congress had yet to get back to work, or so it seemed. A lot of people had this pandemic wrong.

On January 31, long before anybody who was anybody was aroused enough to act, President Donald Trump saw something and despite negatives from the opposing party, he, on his own authority as president banned travel from China to the US.

In retrospect, even the scientists say things would be much worse without that ban. Italy and Iran kept inviting Chinese from China and their countries have been paying for the lack of social distancing from infected foreigners and guests. The analysts often suggest that is why their issue is so bad today..

Florida governor Ron DeSantis had his own reason. Florida is so warm, nobody thinks flu. But even he eventually gave in under pressure. He finally issued a statewide lockdown after revealing coronavirus first started circulating in Miami in early February during the Super Bowl from International travelers and soon state cases surged to 6,955.

Yes, concern in Florida began after we left after the Super Bowl but cases of coronavirus in Florida have surged to nearly 7,000, with 857 people hospitalized and 87 dead at the time this was

written. When I was in Florida on February 2 during the Super Bowl, I had no idea anything like this was happening. I am very glad the Chiefs got to play the game and win the game. God works in strange ways for sure.

Before April 1, 2020, Governor DeSantis had refused to initiate a statewide lockdown despite the fact that cases of coronavirus there were spiking. His order went into effect Thursday April 2 at midnight and was scheduled to last 30 days. Hopefully, that will do it.

Testing in the state at the time of Superbowl was only for those who had been to certain parts of China. No wonder I did not know about it. The first confirmed case of coronavirus in Florida was a month later on March 1 , the first death was March 5. I was home for weeks before that happened

As Chiefs fans know very well, the Chiefs Super Bowl victory took place at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens with 62,000 people in attendance. Few people in the stadium had any issues with sickness, if any. There are still no reported cases of Chiefs or 49ers coming down with the virus.

Yet, despite a reasonably good record, the experts watching what is now happening, say that Florida is on track to become the next coronavirus epicenter in the US as the number of cases spike there. I hope not. I hope the heat in the Florida air kills it. I do.

The shutdown of our county in PA had not yet happened. We stay home most of the time anyway but in PA before this became a big deal, we had big family athletic plans that for parts of the family rivaled even the Super Bowl.

You see, we, the Kellys, were planning to go outside driving on March 12 to see my wonderfully talented niece compete in the AAA PA State diving championships held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg. By then we knew about social distancing and other than four of us being in the car both ways for the 100—mile trip, we kept our distances. We did not think it applied to us. Nobody had clued us in seriously at this point. We had been back from

Florida about three weeks or so, by then so we figured whatever it was, it was gone.

Because we all support the finest who engage in athletic events, please permit a few paragraphs to help you know why this was important to us all. My niece, Sophia Ginochetti, had placed in the States Championship in each of the prior years from Freshman year through Sophomore, to Junior—in which she competed. We had been there cheering her on each year. She was a Northeastern PA prodigy. NEPA was not known for its prowess in swimming or diving. We were all very proud.

Side note: Sophia's dad, Brian, was a high school State Champ, and her mom Liz was a diving star at Meyers High in Wilkes-Barre, PA. So what's that they say about the apple?

This year, her Senior year, after an early season injury, she almost had to drop out of diving completely. There seemed like there might be just enough time for her to recover. And, so, with just the right amount of determination, and great physical training and coaching, Sophia came back. It took much work on her part and her coaches.

Before her injury, she hoped to get a State-Level trophy in this her senior year at Wyoming Valley West High School. She did exactly that. But because of COVID, and her injury, she almost did not get to compete. The meet itself almost did not happen. In fact, we thought it had been called off.

My brother Joe was driving the newest vehicle in the extended family with my wife Pat and his wife Diane maintaining navigational duties. As we got halfway to Lewisburg, we got a call that made us confused about whether the meet was a go or no-go. In fact, we thought it was canceled. So, we turned around half way to Lewisburg. We got the word at about 11:30 AM on March 12, that the meet was off because of the Governor. This was bad news but hopefully it would be rescheduled.

When we got all the way home we learned that the news we heard was about the AA-level diving not AAA. Sophia was competing in AAA. The meet had never been called off but PA has such poor



communication about what was or what might be that many were confused and many decided not to attend. We decided to begin again.

After a short while at home, to pack some extra sammiches, we got back in the car and got to see the whole event. We arrived a little after 2:00 PM and we are thankful that we did.



Sophia Ginochetti in Action—A winner--made the state champs finalists

Sophia Ginochetti, my wonderful niece, performed better than ever. She was great and got on the medal stand in eighth place, which was her goal after recovering from injury. She was thrilled as all of us were. After the diving, the call on the meet occurring was so close that Bucknell was shut down tight as a drum and the rest of the swimming & diving was canceled by the State to be rescheduled one day in the futures. The Governor canceled it for good last week. He could have waited until things were safer. Think of Andy Reid’s people showing up for the Super Bowl and finding out it was postponed indefinitely for the coronavirus.

So, the same day that Sophia earned her medal, the PIAA announced it was postponing the Class AA meet originally scheduled for Friday and Saturday as the sports world reacted to the coronavirus pandemic.

“On the way there we were just hoping and praying that we were able to compete,” Sophia said. “We didn’t know if it was going to happen. Our family bought Sophia a cake, which she loved and

she had some great writeups in the local paper. We'll see the Sophia branch of the Kelly family with mom and Dad, Liz and Brian and siblings Fleure and Lukaduke soon. We can't wait.



Andy Reid in some unexpected Super Bowl Action – A Winning coach

Despite the Coronavirus being in the Air in Florida on February, 2, the Chiefs got to win the World Championship. Andy Reid's team were crowned champions. And lucky us a second time, as on March 12, my niece Sophia got to compete and win eighth place in the PA State Championship diving competition. Bravo to Andy and the Chiefs. Bravo to Sophia and Wyoming Valley West High School. God bless us all and keep us safe. Today is April 5 as I prepared to publish the KC Chiefs book.

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On March 16, Governor Wolfe extended a semi shutdown to the entire state of PA, reportedly in an effort to halt the spread of the coronavirus, although he also maintained that he will not send the National Guard or state police to force businesses to close or stop events, such as an influx of out-of-towners coming to PA to get out of highly infected New York

The pundits did not applaud Wolf's shutdown but excused it by suggesting that he had acted in similar fashion to neighboring states, including Ohio, New York and New Jersey. Other than Ohio run by a RINO governor, the bordering states to PA are all under control of progressive liberal Democrats.

Wolfe had closed everything including schools statewide and a range of government offices in the days leading up to the big shutdown. Of course state workers would continue to be paid by the people even though they would be delivering no useful services.

It was called a shutdown of nonessential government offices and nonessential business activity. How the governor intuitively understood what the word "essential" meant, the people still question his decisions. It began on March 17. And was to last for two weeks but it was extended later to the end of April. Now, Wolfe is suggesting that may not be enough time.

People think of essential as food, clothing, energy and shelter. But, shelter was not included. People who sold their homes the day before the shutdown were prohibited by law from buying their new home even if the closing date was set. With Wolf, no exceptions unless he has a political reason or so it seems. On May 19, after two whole months, and after threatening to veto a bill that sailed through the legislature to open up real estate offices and permit homes to be bought and sold again in PA. the governor quietly "permitted" the industry to reopen. Humph!

When he called the shutdown, he provided a bunch of excuses to make it seem he cared. The Governor said: "This isn't a decision that I take lightly at all," Wolf said during a news conference at the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. "It's one that I'm making because medical experts believe it's the only way we can prevent our hospitals from being overwhelmed by patients."

State-owned liquor stores were directed to shut down after being open Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, and restaurants were to end dine-in service immediately. By the way, the lines at the state-run Liquor Stores were blocks long throughout the state. The stores have not reopened and Wolfe has no plans to reopen them. He does not care about anybody with a need to make time go faster with a few nips and he does not

care about alcoholics who may die without their daily intake. I believe Wolfe does not care about people. First he refused to open rest facilities on the highways for truckers and now, to make it safe for state workers, he has closed all liquor stores in the state.

About three weeks ago he permitted dial in curbside service at a few liquor stores. My wife called about 50 times in her spare time one day and did not get through.

In one of his fireside chats, the governor suggested that the people can use the online web site and order all they want. I know of many people who tried to that but they could not get in as the site was down all the time. I have one friend who did get in online after days of trying and she said the price to deliver one bottle from the state was \$40.00. Like I said the governor cares little to nothing about the people.

Wolf's order is a blend of voluntary and mandatory actions. For instance, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board said it was suspending gambling operations for all casinos. Wolf on Sunday night ordered bars and restaurants in five counties to close dine-in service and said businesses that do not adhere to the order could face penalties.

Still, he also said that he would not use force to close businesses, but he urged people to understand that all Pennsylvanians are in the fight together and said they owe it to one another not to spread the disease. The governor has reneged on using force also.

“People will be making their decisions what they do with their lives all across the commonwealth for the next days and weeks and months,” Wolf said in response to a reporter's question about racetracks refusing to close unless forced. “What we ought to do is think not what should we do in terms what the law is, but what should we do in terms of what we owe to our fellow citizens.”

Wolf's orders in recent days have often caused confusion and required clarification or adjustments.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court gave local judges the ability to shut down county courthouses as needed and the

Pennsylvania Turnpike interchanges will no longer take cash or credit cards.

## CASES

Cases confirmed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health have exceeded 60,000, as of Monday May 18. The majority of confirmed cases have been in southeastern Pennsylvania and Hazleton. The number of deaths in PA is reported as of Monday at 4600.

Health officials have said 68% of the people affected were in nursing homes.

The number of medical professionals getting infected with the fast-spreading COVID-19 in Pennsylvania is growing.

The Wolf administration's definition of nonessential businesses includes community and recreation centers; gyms, including yoga, barre and spin facilities; hair salons, barbers, nail salons and spas; casinos; concert venues; theaters; bars; sporting event venues and golf courses; retail facilities, including shopping malls, except for pharmacies or other health care facilities within retail operations.

Licensed child care centers, except those in Philadelphia, must shut down. Adult day care centers and senior community centers also must close.

Restaurants can remain open for carry-out, drive-thru and delivery orders, and shut down dine-in service.

In Philadelphia, Mayor Jim Kenney on Monday ordered a two-week halt to all nonessential business activity and city government operations in the city of 1.6 million people.

Kenney asked that residents and businesses observe the restrictions, and said he understood that it could have devastating effects on them.

"We are aware that this will disrupt life in Philadelphia and we do not make these changes lightly," Kenney said in an address from City Hall.

Philadelphia's guidance to businesses was slightly different than Wolf's, and the Wolf administration said Philadelphians should follow the city's guidance.

On Friday, April 10, Wolf ordered the closure of all schools statewide and a no-visitor policy at all state prisons and licensed nursing homes statewide.

## **The Courts**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is giving the chief judges in each county authority to close down court facilities and suspend time limits that normally apply to court proceedings.

Several counties immediately did so, and Commonwealth Court canceled oral argument scheduled for next week, including for a closely watched lawsuit over the "Marsy's Law" victim rights constitutional amendment.

The high court acted Monday and provided the emergency powers through April 14. The order, it said, does not affect criminal defendants' constitutional right to speedy trials.

## **Business groups are calling Wolf's actions overreach**

It was an overreach, or at the least a reach not plainly supported by the evidence at hand, some said upon reading the restrictions. Others demanded more justification for why certain businesses and industries landed on either of the lists. Governor Wolfe appears to be behaving as a dictator, regardless of what others think is reasonable or unreasonable.

"We understand that there are necessary precautions that must be taken to protect life, but no other governor, even in states with many more cases and wider community spread, has taken this extreme action," Gordon Denlinger, state director of National Federation for Independent Business, said in a recent statement.

“We want to know the basis for Governor Wolf’s decision and whether it is justified by specific federal Centers for Disease Control directives.”

Leaders of the state Senate’s Republican majority echoed the NFIB’s concerns and called for the administration at the least to set up a process by which affected business owners could appeal to stay open. House Republican leaders went even further, promising to “explore all avenues available to us to determine whether the action he’s taken is allowed within our state Constitution.”

“The Wolf Administration set off a panic tonight throughout the Commonwealth with its edict to shut down employers,” the House leaders said. “These actions will shut down many small, family-owned shops and businesses, not only for the duration of this event, but possibly, and probably, forever.” Wolf remained unmoved by the pleas of state businessmen.

### **Why can’t Pennsylvania’s liquor stores be open?**

Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation that has closed liquor stores. Does that help the people of Pennsylvania? John Baer wrote a piece asking this question.

He says that Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan recently opined that people are fascinated that just about everything in America is closed except its liquor stores. Peggy must not know about Pennsylvania. She added: “This is because there isn’t a politician in the country stupid enough to prohibit alcohol in a national crisis,” she wrote. Well, in Pennsylvania, politicians don’t care what the people think. Hmmm. Is Governor Wolf just stupid. Some of his actions raise suspicions.

Noonan also wrote, “No nation in the history of the world has closed both its churches and its liquor stores simultaneously and survived.” I have not done the research to prove or disprove that one but if true, it makes my case. It is foolhardy for Wolf to close the only source of liquor in the state of PA. His closure sure makes it harder for anyone to lift their spirits in Pennsylvania

So, Peggy, welcome to Pennsylvania. Gov. Tom Wolf, to fight the spread of Covid-19, shut down liquor stores last month then asked churches to end in-person services.

### **Fervor, religious and otherwise, spread rather rapidly.**

And while one can pray without one's church, one can't drink without one's booze, so fervor over liquor spread a little further. Grocery stores are open. Beer distributors are open. Why can't state-run liquor stores be open?

Seems two reasons. First, it helps Wolf's stay-at-home mitigation orders by eliminating another 600 places people gather. And, arguably, it further protects unionized store workers and would-be customers.

Second, it gives Wolf some cover in the controversy over his closing so many businesses, as in, "See, I'm closing state business, too." And it shows love for unionized store workers, who were paid since stores closed March 17 — and until April 10, according to Liquor Control Board communications director Elizabeth Brassell.

But booze-buyers weren't happy. They wanted their government to protect and serve.

Wolf got the message and announced April 1 that the drinks were online.

But it was April Fool's Day, and they really weren't. Wolf jumped the gun. Clearly, the LCB wasn't/isn't ready. Its website ([lcb.pa.gov](http://lcb.pa.gov)) was/is swamped.

For example, on April 6, it got more than 1.5 million hits. Only about 216,000 happy hour hunters got in, leaving 1.3 million folks reading a message about "overwhelming demand" while being thanked for being a "a valued customer."

Oh, by the way did I tell you that the delivery charge of one item is \$40.00.

**Tell me again, why PA has an LCB?**



Now, of course there are far more critical issues facing us all than availability of booze. Everybody gets that. But Pennsylvania, unique in so many ways, now gets national attention for not being able to handle its liquor. The land of taxes now is almost dry.

Before the gov announced the closure, I bought two boxes of my favorite red. I had two gallons of Dago Red from friends. I mix them to create a unique glass of wine before dinner. After over a month I am now running low on both. Must I go out of state?

CNN reported you can buy online in the Keystone State “only if you’re lucky.” Forbes last week noted that during a “tremendous upsurge” in the liquor business. PA taxpayers will have to make up for the opportunity loss when Wolf decides he can raise taxes.

At \$40 per order, nobody cares is the LCB expands its online capacity and distribution efforts. We’d rather get into a vehicle with gasoline and head to a border state and load up for a couple months of supply. How does that help anybody. My 76 year old neighbor was about ready to make the run and next week I will accompany him. How does that help anybody in Pennsylvania?

### **Could the state have done better?**

Sure. Buy a two-for dinner at Olive Garden or any of the other places with great take-out deals such as KFC and others and you know that the state store which prepares no meals could have done much better but they don’t care about the people of Pennsylvania. They could have opened some stores with limited employees and limited access. They could have used their online order system or a call-in system with curbside pickup if they did not want to punish the boozers in Pennsylvania. Who are they to do this to us?

Just a few weeks ago, they expanded the phone in orders and now, the wait is just about five callers to get through to some stores. Our typical store is still unreachable.

Though most people say to hell with the LCB. There are plenty of places to get alcohol online, and we do know buying out-of-state spirits risks the wrath of the LCB’s Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

It's, of course, illegal in Pennsylvania. It's the same as in-person buying from border states.

Hope is a garnish in the cocktail of the day. So, here's hoping these days pass quickly. Cheers. What if they start stopping the sale of maraschino cherries and bitters? They sound like dictators in PA because that is how they are behaving.. The secret is that Pennsylvania Governor Wolf does not care what you think or what I think or what the businesses of PA think. He is the boss. He not only has the bully pulpit so what he says goes, what he says is enforced by the gendarme.

His leadership has made it both difficult and dangerous to buy liquor in the state. He vetoed liquor privatization to get elected in 2015 and now he is making all of Pennsylvania wish that liquor was privatized.

If my buddy across the street and I perish from our out-of-state venture to stock up, remember it was because the state of Pennsylvania, land of taxes, has shut down all state run liquor stores, leading customers to crowd into retailers across the border. And, oh, by the way they have stepped up enforcement of border state liquor purchases to show citizen perpetrators that it is not wise to mess with Mother LCB. The Wolf will get you.

PA is not the only state that sells liquor to US citizens. Recently, Canal's Discount Liquor Mart, a liquor store in New Jersey located near the Pennsylvania border, reopened after several days of self-enforced closure. People are frenzied approaching an open liquor store and the owner wanted to protect himself.

The out of state store's owner had closed his doors because, like many New Jersey liquor stores along the state border, it had been flooded with customers in what Paul Santelle, executive director of the New Jersey Liquor Store Association, described to NJ.com as "a panic, a tsunami of business." Governor Wolf created the tsunami intentionally.

I looked up to see if Governor Wolf was a booze temperate man, meaning he did not drink. Nothing is written about it. That's strange. A man in charge of 600 liquor stores and nobody knows if he has the taste for booze?

My dad worked for Stegmaier Brewery in Pennsylvania for years and because he got laid off in the winter sometimes and had a hard time putting bread on the table for a family of nine, he enjoyed placing signs on the wall such as “Never Trust a Man Who doesn’t Drink.”

My not being able to research whether Tom Wolf is a teetotaler, I suspect the billionaire does not want anybody to know. Did Tom Wolf close down hard alcohol purchases in the state of PA because he is a teetotaler and he believes that alcohol is unnecessary for a good life? You tell me folks. It is strange that nothing is published on the subject.



(Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Store)

Over the border, the onslaught of customers, which the store's owner said reached more than 120 percent of the store's usual weekend capacity, didn't come from inside the state of NJ. Instead, the barrage of consumers came from Pennsylvania, which closed all of its liquor stores on March 16.

Pennsylvania, a goofy "control state" in which every liquor store is operated by the state, has some of the most onerous rules governing alcohol sales in the nation. They are not strict enough for teetotaler Wolf who made them tougher by making 600 stores close overnight.

The PA response during the COVID-19 pandemic provides both an unfortunate reminder of the folly of giving the state government a near-monopoly over liquor sales—and an object lesson in how the closure of businesses in the name of public health can backfire.

The shuttering of Pennsylvania's state-run stores meant that for weeks, it was nearly impossible to buy liquor legally within state borders. Only in-state distilleries licensed for direct consumer sales were able to sell spirits. Try to find one of those!!!

"By closing all the stores, what they are doing is forcing a lot of people to simply go out of state," says David Ozgo, the Senior Vice President of Economic & Strategic Analysis for DISCUS, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. Ozgo notes that while other states also own and operate liquor stores, Pennsylvania is "the only state in the country that has taken this extreme measure."

That didn't just make it harder for Pennsylvanians to buy liquor. It also made it unusually dangerous, as the experience of liquor retailers across the border in New Jersey shows. As Matt Dogali, the president and CEO of the American Distilled Spirits Alliance, told me, "It's counter to [COVID-19-related] containment measures to force people to travel long distances to crowded stores." Does Tom Wolf care about that fact. He seems to care little to nothing about regular people.

He would tell us all that social distancing (control) guidelines made him do it and he did not want to infect his union buddies in the State Liquor Stores from PA consumers if he were willing to engage in the truth.

The guidelines are supposed to encourage people to travel as little as possible and to keep their distance when in the presence of others. That's much harder to do when the only option for purchasing liquor involves driving a great distance and crossing a state border. At least one county in West Virginia now prohibits the sale of liquor to Pennsylvania residents in order to stem the tide of border-crossing customers.

What hath Tom Wolfe wrought? Does he care at all? Most Pennsylvanians think he cares not an iota what they think. Thank God Republicans control the chamber as he will not be able to force a tax increase on Pennsylvanians to pay for his folly.

How many people who live inside PA were infected pushing against the person in front of them in the last State Store line the day the

Liquor Stores closed in PA. Just like the rush across the border, Pennsylvania's closure of spirits stores sparked a similar effect inside the state, with customers reportedly rushing to state-run stores the day before they closed, resulting in record sales and probably a lot of sick people. The sickest of course were those who failed to get in.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the state stores, not run as a profitable business, were not ready for the deluge. "We are depleted to a level we have never experienced before," a liquor board spokesperson told PennLive.com in March, "because we were unable to plan for this rush of business. It is the same as the great Toilet Paper Rush of 2020.

So the hurried and unplanned state shutdown of liquor stores didn't just inconvenience residents—it repeatedly created situations of presumably unsafe crowding. It is reasonable to assume that the move negatively impacted public health in Pennsylvania, the opposite of the intended effect.

I bought my stock a day before the notice of shutdown as the state stores made sure PA residents understood they were not closing. But, Governor Wolf had other ideas.

Unexpectedly, the state announced that it would allow some sales through its online portal. But the state-run website crashed almost immediately after opening, then stopped taking orders, citing "overwhelming demand. Poor planning again by the Wolf team. Can governors be impeached?

The Wolf measures were ostensibly designed to protect both customers and employees. But state control of liquor sales isn't necessary for such precautions to be implemented effectively.

Where a friend of mine lives in Washington, D.C., the many privately owned liquor stores have been able to continue operating after they were dubbed "essential businesses" by the city. They are indeed essential as spirits and for spirits.

These stores have taken elevated health risks seriously while continuing to serve customers. In recent weeks, I've seen area liquor store employees wearing surgical gloves and medical masks to protect

from infection. That is a natural response. Shutting down a country or a state is an unnatural response.

There is an alcohol delivery service called Drizly, that makes its money by partnering with local retailers, makes it possible to get bottles delivered directly to your home from many different local liquor stores in Washington DC, without the multiple interactions that in-store transactions sometimes require. Wolf did not try to make something like this work in PA because he would have to fire union workers who come before the needs of PA consumers.

Pennsylvania does not permit you to buy liquor from other states. Unlike many states, Washington, D.C., does allow its residents to pretend they live under the US Constitution to purchase and ship liquor from out of state through online outlets such as Caskers.

Late last month, people received an email from Sherry's Wine & Spirits, one of Washington's best liquor stores. The message asked that customers choose delivery or curbside pickup if at all possible, outlined a variety of enhanced sanitization procedures that were being implemented, and urged buyers to switch to contactless payment methods.

Governor Wolf's team never thought of this or simply figured not accommodating boozers was more in line with his teatotaler philosophy. The note raised the possibility of ending in-store sales but indicated that pickup and delivery options were expected to remain. Pennsylvania under control of Tom Wolf, who does not understand the term entrepreneur, would not help a business do anything even if he missed out on taxes that would surely accrue.

Stores like Sherry's, in Washington, in other words, have figured out ways to both stay open for business, increase profits, and stay safe. Pennsylvania, in contrast, by completely shutting down its state-owned liquor stores, has somehow managed to accomplish neither. Perhaps that is Tom Wolf's plan which might as well be as simple as "Let them eat cake!" does not take the people into consideration

## Chapter 16 Michiganders Don't Want What the Governor Is Serving!

**Boss Lady's social control not for the people.**



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer extended the state's stay-at-home order until the end of April but is facing increased resistance to show more flexibility to businesses to open if they can do so safely. (Photo courtesy of the governor's office)

The Wall Street Journal recently penned a headline that sums up the feelings of many people in Michigan as the Governor proves how tough she can be. *"It's Still America, Coronavirus or Not Draconian orders and enforcement will undermine public support for social distancing."*

Whitmer uses social control rather than social distancing. Social distancing sounds like an optional notion.

Across the entire country, Americans by and large have willingly obeyed the government's shelter-in-place and social-control orders. Unfortunately for some public officials, that doesn't seem to be enough. They're indulging their inner **bully** in ways that over time will

erode public support for behavior that can reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

What Michigan's new coronavirus stay-at-home executive order means is just that: "Michigan residents must stay at home and away from non-essential workplaces through April 30. The very determined Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said this on a Thursday in the second week of April, extending an initial order that went into effect on March 24.

Just when Michiganders saw the goal posts, she stretched the field again and set the date to May 28. Who knows as May 28 approaches if she'll get out her goalpost stretching tool again. Michiganders are very upset to put it mildly.

The new orders are overreach and overkill according to many who don't see it like the Governor. It extends many of the requirements of the previous one, including a ban on gatherings or non-essential in-person work. But it is much stricter, including more stringent restrictions on stores that are allowed to remain open and specifically, it bars non-essential travel. Stay off the streets. Even in Pennsylvania the neighbors take walks. In Michigan, walks are now taboo.

The governor justified her plan as life-saving, not life-serving. The people, trapped in their homes, did not like what she was selling.

"Now is not the time to pull back at all. It is the time to intensify. That's exactly what we're doing," Whitmer said during a news conference.

Large stores will be required to limit the number of people allowed in at once to four customers per 1,000 square feet and small stores must limit customers to 25 percent of total occupancy. Stores must put up markings to show customers where to stand to remain six feet apart while waiting in line, and big stores have to close sections for gardening, painting, furniture, carpeting and flooring.

In Michigan if your retail business wants to stay open, even if you think these are just the Governor's whims if you say no, you will be out of business and you may be excluded from government business relief.



What jobs are exempt from Michigan coronavirus lockdown? You may be surprised.

Stores will also be required to reserve at least two hours weekly for vulnerable populations to shop, including people over the age of 60, pregnant women and people with comorbidities like heart disease and diabetes.

Auto dealers, previously closed under the first order, will be allowed to open only for remote sales, though showrooms will be required to remain closed.

The Governor's first stay-at-home order was set to expire April 14, but cases have continued to climb since it went into effect. As of the time of this new order, Thursday, Michigan had 21,504 confirmed cases of the virus and 1,076 deaths. Officials say it's necessary to continue to slow the number of serious cases being sent to the state's swamped hospital systems.

"All model projections are clear that without sustained social distancing measures, more people will die and hospitals will become overwhelmed," chief medical executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun said.

The stay at home order "is the most important thing we can do to slow the spread of this disease" because it allows time for officials to build up field hospitals and collect necessary supplies like PPE and ventilators. Some think the curve is flattening nationwide and such restrictions are a bit too much.

The Governor also has her supporters. People will still be allowed to go outside to exercise or walk their pet, to go to essential places like the grocery store or gas station, as long as they stay 6 feet away from one another, but will be specifically banned from traveling for vacation or other non-essential reasons.

The head of the Michigan State Medical Society, Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala, said Whitmer's extension was "the wise thing to do at this time."

But top leaders in Michigan's Republican-led Legislature blasted Whitmer's extension, arguing the state should begin relaxing restrictions on regions with fewer cases or businesses that could operate safely with proper social distancing policies.

"Family-owned businesses have been run to the ground and hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs because of it," House Speaker Lee Chatfield, a Republican from Levering, wrote on Twitter.

"Unemployment is skyrocketing and our government has not been there to answer the call." "We deserve better! This is unacceptable."

The governor's extended Stay-at-Home order is the wrong call and is bad for Michigan families. We had a chance today to protect public health and take a positive step towards recovery. Unfortunately, rather than focus on what's safe, the governor decided again who is "essential."

Chatfield is urging Whitmer to tailor restrictions based on "safe" jobs not just "essential" ones. Similarly, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, urged "common sense revisions" and said without them, Whitmer's new order will "unnecessarily hurt" regions and business sectors.

"Individuals living in regions of the state that are experiencing little to no growth in infection rates should be able to return to their jobs to support their families if proper safety protocols are put in place," he said in a statement.

"Similarly, businesses that can implement strict health and safety measures should be permitted to remain open and operational regardless of whether they are deemed 'essential.'"

On April 15, formerly called Tax day, Michiganders decided to take to the streets to protest their governor, whose chances for a VEEP nod from Biden go down each time the people complain loudly to the media.

Thousands of demonstrators descended on the state Capitol in Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, 4/15. to protest Gov. Gretchen

Whitmer's restrictive stay-at-home order, clogging the streets with their cars while scores ignored organizers' pleas to stay inside their vehicles.

The protest — dubbed "Operation Gridlock" — was organized by the Michigan Conservative Coalition and the Michigan Freedom Fund, a DeVos family-linked conservative group. Protesters were encouraged to show up and cause traffic jams, honk and bring signs to display from their cars. Organizers wrote on Facebook: "Do not park and walk — stay in your vehicles!"

Many ignored the recommendation of the protesters, The people were upset big time. Demonstrators, on foot, were seen waving American, "Don't Tread on Me" and Trump campaign flags. At least two Confederate flags were spotted.

Protesters could be heard chanting "Open up Michigan!" At one point, there was a "lock her up" chant in reference to Whitmer. She was hoping Biden was not listening.

"We can get this rally done and stay within the social distancing guidelines," Marian Sheridan, a Michigan Conservative Coalition co-founder, said in a statement ahead of the rally. "Citizens are frankly tired of being treated like babies. As adults, we now know what needs to be done to stay safe."

Everybody does! It's time to open up America!



## Chapter 17 Lockdown Challenges Being Waged vs Dem Governors



The Michigan Governor loves to make the news

Even now as some restrictions in some states are being lifted, state leaders continue to face objections from the people. On May 15, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration continued to defend her rigid stay-at-home order against a lawsuit brought by the GOP-controlled legislature. The people are on the side of the Constitution as are the legislators.

There has been a raging public debate over statewide coronavirus lockdowns while there is a series of legal battles going on in state capitals. Clearly the orders are unconstitutional even in the cases in which local judges' rule against the Constitution. Those against the lockdown are winning some of the battles.

Sometimes the Constitution wins against the big bad virus and its democrat political allies. For example, Wisconsin's Supreme Court on Wednesday in the second week in May, made a decision to toss out Gov. Tony Evers' statewide shelter-in-place order. This set off a

scramble in cities across the state to impose their own local restrictions. Not every person is for an easing of restrictions. Elsewhere, bars and restaurants shut down by the order decided on their own to declare themselves open for business. The people are being backed by legislators in their belief that the governors are acting against the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

In a NewsMax survey last week, 85% of those polled said they wanted lockdowns and shut downs ended and the people wanted to be free as guaranteed by the US Constitution.

So here we are well into the third month of something that all Americans agreed would have been OK for two weeks . Legal challenges continue to mount across the country. Some governors are moved by the challenges even before adjudication while others remain unfazed.

Some governors react stubbornly by extending their state's shelter-in-place orders while some have begun to peel back some restrictions. The plaintiffs are business owners, aggrieved private citizens, pastors and in some cases, state legislators and legislatures. Americans who studied history know that we were not meant to be locked up without having committed a crime.

The lawsuits are about to reach a pandemic level. Already, more than a dozen states across the country have faced legal battles over their lockdown mandates. The question is "will any others be as successful as the litigation filed by Wisconsin's Republican-led Legislature."

In Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration on Friday of last week continued to defend her unreasonable and unilateral extension of the state's emergency declaration and its stay-at-home order against a lawsuit. It was brought just as in Wisconsin, by the GOP-controlled Legislature after it voted to deny her an extension of her mandates last month. Governors are simply ignoring the legislature and the people. For their part, many entrepreneurs are ignoring the government and opening up shop. I predict that that the standoff will get worse before it gets better.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom faces over a dozen lawsuits. They challenge the new way of life that he imposed on Californians. He has

issued new rules for everything from beach to business closures. And earlier in May a coalition of business owners sued Maine Gov. Janet Mills, also a Democrat, seeking to end that state's shelter-in-place order.

The lone pair of Republican governors facing such lawsuits, Maryland's RINO Larry Hogan and Ohio's RINO Mike DeWine, recently announced reopening plans that could potentially render pending lawsuits moot. We'll see.

Earlier this month, a group of state delegates and religious and business leaders sued Hogan seeking a temporary restraining order to block the governor's order. Though the state has asked a federal judge to dismiss the case, a scheduling hearing was held last week — days before Hogan announced the end of the statewide lockdown — indicating it will move forward to giving state residents more freedom.

Last week was a big week for anti-governor legislation, For example in Ohio, a libertarian group early last week filed suit on behalf of nearly three dozen independent gyms in the state challenging the exclusion of such facilities from Ohio's initial reopening phases. The same group earlier tried and failed to mount a legal challenge to the state's closure of nonessential businesses.

A day after the lawsuit was filed in state court, however, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced that gyms and fitness centers in the state will be allowed to reopen on May 26. The people are speaking loudly and they appear willing to fight for every inch of freedom they feel is their due. .

Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court was even brought into the fray when the high court denied a group of Pennsylvania business owners their request that the state's nonessential business closures be lifted. This was a decision made by Justice Samuel Alito that has already found itself in an appeal. Pennsylvanians are talking about impeaching Governor Wolf to be free from his schemes.

Legal threats against Democrats who have kept more stringent social distancing restrictions in place have taken different forms.

In Texas, for example, the pressure has come from the top down. There, state Attorney General Ken Paxton on Tuesday threatened the leaders of three major metro areas — Austin, Dallas and San Antonio — with legal action if they don't roll back parts of their local stay-at-home orders.

The initial waves of litigation under shutdown orders pertained to issues like abortion access and religious services. The latter issue is still a factor in several of the lawsuits against governors — and one of the few areas where judges have shown more willingness to overrule state leaders.

But the latest round of lawsuits has taken aim at whether governors have the authority to unilaterally extend their initial orders, and at restrictions on protests that continue to pop up at state capitols across the country.

Unfortunately for the people, when it comes to the shelter-in-place orders, however, judges have mostly deferred to governors' broad authority under their respective state constitutions to take drastic action in the case of a public health emergency.

Wisconsin's shelter-in-place order is the first of its scope to be overturned by the courts. It's unclear whether cases will keep going forward as governors begin lifting aspects of the social distancing restrictions litigants are challenging.

Though the initial response to the COVID-19 outbreak by governors and mayors who issued shelter-in-place orders, closed businesses they have deemed nonessential, and banned gatherings, including church and political assemblies were accepted by the people as necessary.

They were looked upon as two-week temporary measures which somehow never expired. Now, the people who believed two weeks was OK are looking for relief from the moving goal posts. They are looking for things in the Constitution to protect them from governor-instituted tyranny.

Are these orders Constitutional? One vocal sector of opinion has answered with a loud "No way!" "Reopen" demonstrators, assembling



and recently descending on state capitals, take it as a given that the framers of the U.S. Constitution would approve of their cause.

According to the activist group FreedomWorks, “many” rights “are being unconstitutionally suspended by governors and mayors, acting unilaterally across the country.”

What are some recent examples of unconstitutional violations, according to this perspective? A letter signed by prominent conservatives points to bans on surfing and outdoor play, as well as the failure of state and local authorities to “narrowly tailor” orders to permit a maximum of private activity. It also cites various bans that are more widely agreed to be improper.

A policy letter from Attorney General Bill Barr has been widely interpreted as endorsing these ideas, promising federal action against local public health orders not only when they overstep civil liberties but also when they result in what is tersely described as “undue interference with the national economy.”

If you want to know whether something is unconstitutional, one group you might ask is judges. And in early rounds of litigation, a reasonably clear—and, to many of us, unsurprising—answer has been emerging.

Some ways in which shutdowns are applied may indeed be unconstitutional, as when a mayor allows a civic group but not a church to convene in numbers, or when a gun shop gets treated less favorably than comparable small businesses because someone in the governor’s office isn’t fond of Second Amendment rights. Those cases, important as they are, change only a few lockdown outcomes. And the remedy that follows — making restrictions neutral and even-handed — is different from lifting those restrictions.

As for the argument that lockdowns as such are broadly unconstitutional, that one has begun to reach judges — and so far fallen on its face. But just like the battle against King George, the people are becoming more and more emboldened and determined to gain back lost freedom.

Business people in Pennsylvania and Michigan have already sued to reopen their businesses, and the judiciary in both states has said no. In

Pennsylvania, while three Justices partially dissented, they did so without endorsing the plaintiffs' contentions of unconstitutionality, instead indicating that they deserved more latitude to develop their case. The Michigan ruling upholding Governor Gretchen Whitmer's order against challenge was handed down by a judge who earlier served as deputy legal counsel to former Republican Governor John Engler and has advised the state's Federalist Society chapter.

What about the objection that while modern judges may have lost their spine, earlier judges — such as those in the period of more property-rights-oriented jurisprudence that preceded the New Deal, or in the Founders' era — would have recognized lockdowns and business closures as unconstitutional?

That's even weaker. Judges in those periods, like judges today, recognized as uncontroversial a very sweeping state and municipal "police power" to act against the spread of communicable disease. And judges back then were if anything even more deferential toward public health authorities' decision-making than they are today. It is unpalatable for Americans to see any official of any government using dictatorial powers to have their way, especially when the aggrieved party needs to work to put food on the table.

During the Spanish Flu pandemic a century ago, prohibition on public assemblies and closure of businesses were common. Were any of these steps ever successfully challenged as unconstitutional? I haven't been able to find a single instance of that. A couple of cases from around 1900 did rule San Francisco authorities wrong to have mistreated local Chinese-Americans on a rationale of disease prevention. But the racial-oppression element was significant in those cases — as it would be today if anything similar were tried — and in the leading case there wasn't even any evidence that the disease was present in the city.

Another leading case from that era, *Compagnie Francaise de Navigation a Vapeur v. Louisiana Board of Health* (1902), sheds light on the arguments about interstate commerce. Up to that date — which is in and of itself revealing — no general challenge to the constitutionality of a state quarantine law had been heard.

The French steamship company that sued mounted a pretty good case that it had been jerked around by the state of Louisiana, which would

not let it disembark passengers even though (1) there was in fact no illness on the ship; (2) the company could offer evidence that the state's supposed fear of contagion was a pretext; and (3) interstate commerce was being directly curtailed as some of the passengers on board would be headed to other states once they got off. Even so, only two justices on the Supreme Court favored the company, and all nine agreed that quarantine was an uncontroversial use of state police power.

So far, it seems that courts will only rarely find state public health powers to overstep the Commerce Clause's protection of interstate commerce; the model case would be if a state exercised such powers so as to lay burdens on out-of-state businesses from which it arranged to excuse in-state businesses. That isn't a very common complaint against the governors' and mayors' orders today, which would not seem to leave a very wide margin for intervention on that ground by the U.S. Department of Justice. But, if and when the people decide to riot, all bets are off.

As for the Framers, they were intimately acquainted with the dangers of epidemics, which had ravaged the colonies as well as wiping out much of the Indian population. From its outset, American constitutional law, like the colonial law that preceded it, recognized states' and cities' police power during true emergencies to intercept the sorts of otherwise harmless movements and actions that can turn well-meaning individuals into vectors of physical harm to others.

Bans on assembly, movement, and badly needed economic activity? Citizens of the early Republic went through all these and much more. Churches shut their doors. People were routinely cooped up in their homes — contrary to some recent speculation, there was no general practice of applying restrictions only to the sick. Not long after the adoption of the new Constitution, the nation's capital of Philadelphia was struck with a deadly outbreak of yellow fever; persons fleeing the city in the direction of places like Baltimore were turned back at gunpoint, while Alexander Hamilton and his wife Eliza, after surviving the illness, had to undergo quarantine at the behest of authorities in Albany, N.Y. whence they had fled.

In Massachusetts, to take another example, a 1797 law provided that a person "coming from any place out of this state, where the small pox

or other malignant distemper is prevailing, into any town within this state,” shall be obliged to obey the commands of selectmen to depart the state “in such manner, and by such road as the said selectmen shall direct.” The measure made it unlawful for any resident to entertain in his house such a person ordered to leave, once warned of the circumstance.

All of this can seem discouraging to those of us of a libertarian disposition who believe above all in the protection of individual rights as the proper function of government. After the immediate threat to life has passed, both we and the courts must be vigilant that constitutional rights now bent spring back upright, and that governments promptly and fully relinquish whatever emergency powers they have flexed. But we also need to face the facts about this country’s actual constitutional law, which from the Revolution to the present day has been united in treating legitimate government power as at its zenith during a “hot” emergency of deadly contagion.

It can be tempting to spin tales of constitutional law as we might like it to have been, and pass that off as the actual state of the law. We who believe in law as law should especially resist that temptation.

Having said that, clearly there are cases today in which politics rules rational thought. Why is it that Democrats want to shut down America and Republicans want the economy to thrive. Can this be a continuation of the Dem plan to impeach Trump at the ballot box by any means possible? We’ll see!

In the meantime, don’t come to Pennsylvania and expect anybody to say, “Drink UP!”

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