

April 2020: 'The Best Month Since 1987'

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While the bulk of the million Covid-19 cases and 60,000 deaths were overwhelming hospitals across the land American financial markets were experiencing their most profitable monthly asset boom in over thirty years.

Thanks to the \$9 trillion in Fed aid, and a couple trillions more disbursed by Congress, financial capitalists were able to convert suffering and death into a financial windfall. And while ridiculous official promises that the economy will return to its chronically ill normality by the end of the year will come to nothing, April rained dollars while May and beyond await the payback.

First quarter GDP estimate was -4.9%. Consumer spending in March declined 7.5%, the biggest drop since this stat became official in 1959. There are now more than 30 million unemployed, that's 16% of the official workforce, and with a projected 11 million yet to file, the percentage may equal the 25% of the Great Depression. But the latter took three years; this one approximately three months.

In 23 days of the first month of the second quarter a handful of plutocrats 'earned' \$282 billion even though Morgan Stanley and PIMCO estimate a 30% GDP decline in the second quarter while the Congressional Budget Office expects it to be closer to 40%. All this was based on not only the dopey cheerleading of the Trump administration that predicts a quick V-shaped recovery in the third quarter, but also liberal experts such as Krugman, Summers, and Reich who referred to the crisis as mainly medical and not economic.

But the disease had an economic cause: the insane drive for profit that is wrecking both the environment and the quality of life of those that must try to survive within it. Capitalism has sickened every stitch of the fabric of life on earth. But the causes of disease and death can also be made subject to the same fate. World capitalism was entering a recession prior to Covid-19. The pandemic will add greatly to its seriousness. If it retains its destructive capability for estimated two years, capitalism will not be able to survive in its present form, if at all.

Fauci Takes on China

Back in the 1980's a French epidemiologist sent Fauci the results of his research that showed promise in the treating of HIV. Soon after

Fauci announced to the world that he had discovered the first effective drug in treating the symptoms of HIV. So how did that discovery come about? From the culture given to him by the French researcher. So how could Fauci claim a discovery? Because the culture was an active one and was thus not the same at the time of discovery as the one he received.

Fauci is known as a competitor type who loves to beat an adversary. The collegial spirit expected in those working for the betterment of mankind is lacking in this devout Catholic. So despite the fact that French researchers were mainly responsible for the first drug treatment of HIV, France had to go up against the US in obtaining an exclusive patent. Finally France gave up and divided the drug profits with the US. HIV drugs are the perfect profit engine for pharmaceutical companies. Many are required to keep the victims alive and they are very expensive. Finally, what makes it perfect is that it cannot cure one from the disease so patients are cash machines as long as they live. About 80 million have contracted the disease and almost 40 million have died. After 40 years only two persons are thought to have been completely cured.

China performed the first controlled study of remdesivir made by the American company Gilead. It was supposed to involve about 500 seriously ill but China only had half that number because they were getting the upper hand in treating it. Their research, which was published in Lancet, showed the drug to be ineffective. This was followed by an American study using the same format. The unpublished report of its results enthralled the markets as if Covid-19 was destroyed with a remdesivir treatment. Actually it lowered the recovery period from 15 to 11 days. There was no evidence that its treatment was better than the standard procedure. Furthermore, the drug is administered intravenously and tends to sicken many being treated. Gilead did not report the many that dropped out of the treatment program. In effect that makes the study a kind of cherry picking of only those well enough to accept the effects of treatment.

But the drug has received fast track approval for its use. Gilead is ramping up production. America has gained the first foothold in the lucrative cure for this deadly and possibly recurring pandemic. And that has much to do with the current credibility of Fauci who has been one of the few in the Trump team to evoke a sense of sanity among a tribe of fools.

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