

Coronavirus, Flu -- Made by Capitalism

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Most people think that infectious diseases in humans are just a natural consequence of us coming in contact with the critters that harbor them. It could be in the food that we eat or the air that we breathe. A random, chance, event that we can do little to prevent except when diseases are created for use by our as weapons against an enemy. The most well known recent case of weaponized bug attack, this time accidentally perpetrated on ourselves, is Lyme disease caused by insects escaping from secret biological warfare research being conducted on an island in Long Island Sound very near Lyme Connecticut.

In China it wouldn't have been surprising to learn that the disease somehow jumped from the African Swine Disease that has killed half of that country's hogs. Instead the current Coronavirus pandemic's source is thought to have come from a seafood market in Wuhan China that also had for sale a wide range of live domestic and wild animals, including snakes, which the latest research indicates as the origin of the infection. SARS and MERS were also coronavirus epidemics and both of those had animal sources. Seafood is in the clear because there are no known examples of coronavirus infection in that food source.

It's safe to say that it wasn't a good idea to permit a wide variety of live wild animals, harboring unknown hazards to humans, to be brought into a city of 11 million people for sale and slaughter. Many dangerous diseases have come directly from our food system including *Campylobacter*, Nipah virus, Q fever, hepatitis E, and influenza variants.

Every winter we are notified of the importance of our annual flu shot. But we are never told that many of the flu variants derive from the *anything for the maximization of profits* factory farming of animals favored by capitalism. Many types of flu have avian sources, especially poultry raised in factory farms where they have been identically bred and fed for disease resistance and quick growth. A clean and human raising of poultry would naturally limit sickness.

Systematic drugging of poultry or ourselves leads to the mutation and development of resistant pathogens. Many of the flu strains are unintended consequences of capitalist farming methods with the US being the source of some of the most serious. This country played a

part in the H1N1 flu epidemic of 2009 which killed as many as 579,000 worldwide in its first year.

China's conversion has resulted in a great deal of rapid development as the capitalist world made use of its skilled cheap labor, and as a market for its great consumption of commodities. Now things are turning ugly.

Dr. Li, an ophthalmologist, tried to get out word of a new type of viral infection. Instead of searching for evidence of the danger the state apparatus sent out the cops two warn Li to shut up or risk the consequences. Dr. Li himself contracted the Coronavirus and even though only 34 he died early this morning. Was it the disease or was the state concerned that a popular critic of a bad system should undermine Chinese capitalism had he remained alive? The anger of the masses was immediate. Soon we should know if China will be added to the many recent uprisings.

Economic Info

– The Coronavirus is not only harming the Chinese people it is also having a dangerous effect on the world economy. China has shut down many plants to keep the virus spreading. They are supposed to reopen on the 10th of this month but that is expected to be extended if the rate of growth of those infected continues to rise. Many foreign investors have lost their major source of profit. Perhaps a bug instead of a burst bubble will cause the next recession.

– Germany had hoped its manufacturing woes had turned around but factory orders for December fell a seasonally adjusted year to year 8.6%. That's the worst showing since September 2009.

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