

Nothing Is Working

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As I write the number of persons sickened and dying because of the novel coronavirus is rising -- 275,000 and 11,000 respectively -- while the US financial economy has set new downward speed records -- the Dow, about to cross the 30,000 marker recently, has fallen to 19,000 with other indices are sharing a similar level of pain. The Trump market ended on Friday. But the worst of it is that this one two punch has resulted in a technical knockout for the real economy. Soon those still standing in its corner will have to either throw in the towel or clear out before it hits the mat.

China appears to be over the hump in settling its score with Covid-19. But the enemy has switched its onslaught to new fronts: Europe at the moment taking the brunt with Italy playing the role of virtual punching bag. But today the US almost tied Italy with the most new cases (5000+), and if it continues with 30% leaps per day, along with the help of the lousiest 'First World' health care system on earth, it should outdo any region of the world in misery.

So is 'communist' China now prepared to run away with the prize? Only those fools who believe it's communist for a country to sell (or long term lease to disguise the theft) the earth its people live on to capitalist investors, or have 70% of its GDP now generated by workers who are only paid for their labor power with the rest of the value of their production going to private capitalists and the public 'communist' elite. No. China is an as yet unrefined capitalist state. It is no longer a nation of fish swimming circles around its enemies in order to defeat them.

Presently the little fishes are paddling out to beg for business from its former enemies because they have more than \$2 trillion in dollar denominated securities that must be rolled over and only dollars can perform the ceremony. China just completed a humiliating experience sucking up to Trump in order keep the dollars flowing from US trade and now that country has taken weeks just to become conscience of the problem. So China's economy will experience an enhanced sink rate thanks to its rulers latching onto to a dying system.

Last year 19 federal agencies and 12 states (including NY) and other entities conducted a 4 day mock exercise to determine: *"1. How the federal government will organize to manage a nationwide pandemic influenza response; 2. Anticipated local and state pandemic influenza*

response challenges; and 3. The federal government's capabilities and available resources to support local and state response efforts during a nationwide influenza pandemic."

The exercise had the pandemic originating in China (it was named *Crimson Contagion - Crimson - get it?!*), and it exposed all the fatal defects in a system that places profit before ancillary issues like protecting millions of Americans from sudden preventable death. So now, I guess it's all up to Cuba, a nation that has suffered a trillion dollars of economic damage because of the US blockade, but is still able to assist a British cruise liner with a number of Covid-19 infected passengers that had been turned away by a half dozen countries. It's also sending aid to Italy, a country that has received almost nothing from the EU even though it's one of its original member states.

And then there is the deliberate mystification as to the origin of many of these recent, dangerous, outbreaks of infectious diseases. The official lie is that it's all natures' doing.

[See below from Rob Wallace who is an evolutionary biologist and public health phylogeographer presently visiting the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is author of *Big Farms Make Big Flu* and the soon to be published *Revolution Space*, both with Monthly Review Press.]

I said industrial agriculture, but there's a larger scope to it. Capital is spearheading land grabs into the last of primary forest and smallholder-held farmland worldwide. These investments drive the deforestation and development leading to disease emergence. The functional diversity and complexity these huge tracts of land represent are being streamlined in such a way that previously boxed-in pathogens are spilling over into local livestock and human communities. In short, capital centers, places such as London, New York, and Hong Kong, should be considered our primary disease hotspots.

If anything positive is to come out of this world tragedy it is that there is one primary source that is infecting and destroying all of our *natural* human qualities, and it is the political and economic system that rules over us and the world.

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