

COVID-19: A GAME CHANGER

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Abstract: *The world is shifting rapidly and from fighting using swords and shields to gain superiority against your adversary to using nuclear weapons to annihilate your opponent's identity, the world had come a long way. The world had seen the destruction, which was caused by nuclear weapons, but it did not stop there. In 1961 building of Tsar Bomba by the Soviet Union which is 3333 times more powerful than the bomb used in World War. The world is evolving so do the style of warfare. Cyber warfare, chemical warfare and biological warfare are an emerging threat in the 21st century. As per saying "what goes up must come down", the world had seen so many states, empires like Aryan, Muslims, Europeans all rose from nothing and ruled the world but in the end, they all got dethroned. After WW2, world power shifted from European countries towards the Soviet Union and the US. A long history of cold war resulted in the disintegration of the Soviet Union led to the unipolar system. 21st century had many ups and downs but China rising from dust to compete with the US is the main headline. The world got dismantled after the outbreak of the corona virus and when this virus took the whole world by storm and jeopardize the human civilization all eyes were set on the west. This paper will explore the western response to the pandemic and how this pandemic will bring change in this world.*

Keywords: Covid-19, Game Changer, Economic Crisis, Blame Game, China

Research Area: Social Sciences

Paper Type: Research Paper

1. INTRODUCTION

Corona Virus or COVID-19 is the most talk about topic in the world right now. No one able to actually knew how it started, although many conspiracy theories are roaming in the streets, we do know that this all started from China. No one thought this virus will shape itself into a pandemic monster after some months and the whole world will be under the influence of this deadly virus. As WHO (2020) Identify four COVID-19 transmission speeds for different audiences theories regarding the outbreak of this virus. More study will further explain the new masters of the world and how this virus will open the door for the new masters to take control of the world. So, it is crucial to analyze this COVID-19 from different stand points.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the year 2020, the world got hit by one of the worst pandemics in human civilization. It spreads from China and made its way around the world. COVID-19 said to be the fifth documented pandemic since the 1918 Pandemic Influenza (Flu). From Wuhan, China where the first-ever case was recorded it spreads worldwide in the matter of no time. On 12 January 2020 China publicly shared the genetic sequence of COVID-19. On 13 January 2020 Officials confirm a case of COVID-19 in Thailand, the first recorded case

outside of China (WHO, 2020). The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020. Many theories on whom the patient zero was roaming all over the world but no one able to figure out how it all started. The coronavirus was officially named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses dependent on Phylogenetic examination (Liu, Kuo & Shih, 2020). SARS-CoV-2 is accepted to be an overflow of a creature coronavirus and later adjusted the capacity of human-to-human transmission. Since the infection is profoundly infectious, it quickly spreads and persistently develops in the human populace. As of June 21, 2020, 8,931,812 corona virus cases were reported out of which 467,011 people died (Worldometer, 2020). Although the fatality rate is just above 1% but the way this virus spreads and diseases caused by this virus had severe effects on human health.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The method which has been tested is qualitative and quantitative aimed at ascertaining the cause and the effect through focusing on literature.

4. RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 New Blame Game

Blame games are always prevalent in countries and powerful countries use this propaganda for their own self-interest to gain upper hand. The world had a long history as to how countries are utilizing this term for their own advantage. The world history is filled with many conspiracy theories when great powers blame other states for their own self-interest. From using 9/11 opportunity to attack Afghanistan to attack Iran for blaming them to have chemical weapons the world did come a long way.

More than 200 countries are facing problem from this Corona virus and it had some severe effects individually, nationally, and internationally. This corona virus spreads through people to people contact. If we talk about developed countries like China, the US and other European countries do not have a clue about how to fight against this situation. After it went global whole stock market of the world crash down drastically. As businesses shut down and people remain isolated in their home's world faced one of the worst economic crisis including India and US stocks degraded by 2%. COVID cases are increasing day by day more than 2 million people are affected by this virus and more than one hundred thousand died. Things got interesting when the blame game began. US and China start blaming each other for this outbreak. As China is of the view that the US army is to blame for the outbreak of the virus in Wuhan province. While the US stands firm on its position by constantly calling it a Chinese virus which led to panic like situation for the world.

US President Donald Trump labelled this virus as "Chinese Virus" and defend it publicly by saying, "It's not racist at all. No, not at all. It comes from China, that's why. It comes from China. I want to be accurate." (Forgey, 2020) While China's stance is clear in this regard as China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said, "Patient zero in global pandemic may have come from the US not the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. It might be the US army

who brought the epidemic to Wuhan. Be transparent! Make public your data! The US owe us an explanation.” (Austin & Smith, 2020)

Two of the World biggest economy is head to head in this blame game and no one backing down. For every other nation, the priority must be the pandemic and the relationship between both countries. US and China should stop this blame game and should work together progressively.

To fight against Corona Firstly, the United States and China must stop blaming each other for this outbreak. Secondly, both these governments should work together to stop the wrath of this virus. If the United States and China are successful in fighting this pandemic together you never know what future have for both countries and in doing so the two countries just might end up building bridges that could be useful in future when this corona episode ends.

4.2 Economic Crisis

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations stated, “The recovery from the COVID-19 crisis must lead to a different economy” (Guterres, 2020).

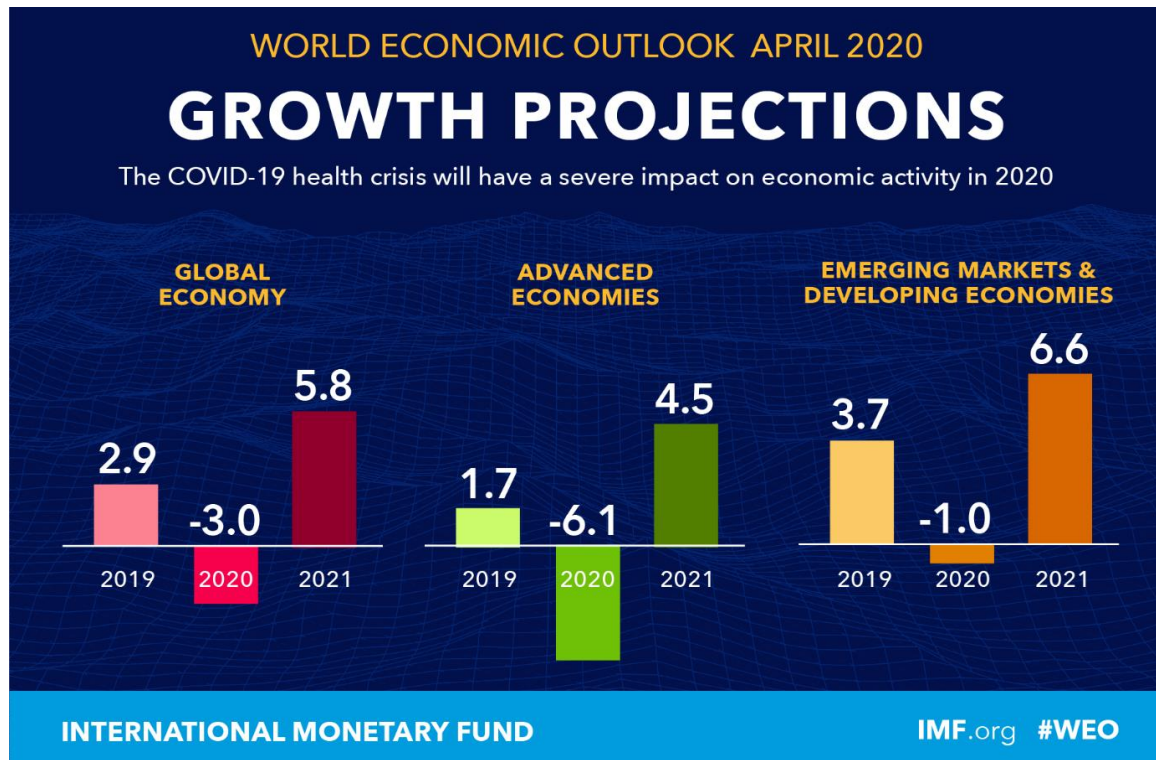
The world will take years to recover from the corona virus pandemic, the organization for Economic Co-operation and development has warned (Chan, 2020). After this COVID-19 outbreak world is almost completely lockdown. As the whole world is lockdown world can face one of the worst economic crises in their history. From different standard points of view, the world will face a different kind of challenges. Firstly, culturally from greeting to contacting each other, they will hesitate to handshake even after this all was over.

Secondly Socially because of the fear people will try to avoid a large audience, big gatherings, and other things like that because mentally they will remain in the fear this virus had created in a few months. Thirdly and most importantly economically private and public sectors will face a huge amount of challenges as they do not have much to pay to their employees so they will try to minimize the number of employees which will surely increase the number of unemployment which will bring more burden on already fragile economies. Economically the world will need some time and assistance to get back on track.

The outbreak of pandemic Covid-19 everywhere throughout the world has upset the political, social, monetary, and strict and money related structures of the entire world. World's highest economies, for example, the US, China, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, and numerous others are at the edge of a breakdown. Plus, Stock Markets of the world have been pounded and oil costs have tumbled off. In a week 3.3 million Americans applied because of losing a job and after another seven days 6.6 million individuals began looking for jobs. Additionally, numerous specialists on monetary and budgetary issues have cautioned about the declining state of worldwide monetary and money related structure. For example, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), clarified that "a recession at least as bad as during the Global Financial Crisis or worse". Additionally, Covid-19 is hurting the worldwide economy in light of the fact that the world has been

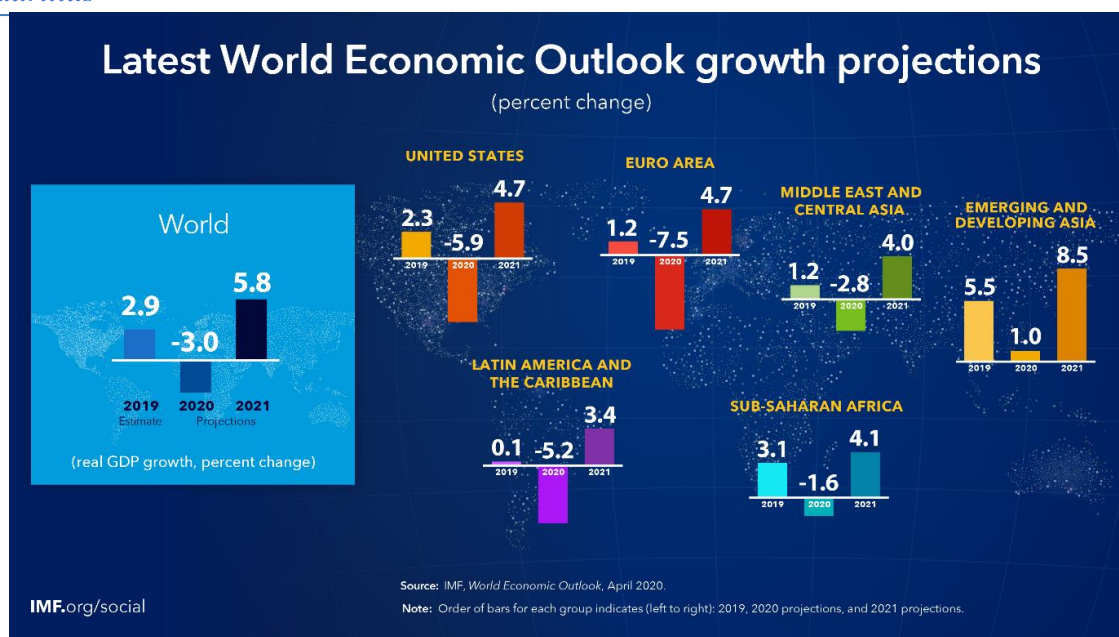
encountering the most troublesome financial circumstance since World War-II. (Mahar, 2020)

The world had seen the downfall of the GDP growth throughout the world. the following figure shows the economic growth projections on the global economy, advanced economies and on emerging markets & developing economies that how the economies impacted by the COVID-19. The figure illustrates how the Global Economy degraded after COVID-19. Advanced economies of the countries got to hit rock bottom and decreased to -6.1 worst economic crises after World War 2.



Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/04/14/weo-april-2020>

If we investigate the latest world economic outlook growth projections regionally, we are going to see a great downfall in economies. The following figure illustrates the latest world economic outlook growth projections from which it is clearly visible what kind of economic challenges are in front of the world and particularly the US and European countries.



Source: <https://www.imf.org/~media/Images/IMF/Publications/WEO/2020/April/WEOMap.ashx?la=en>

4.3 Emergence of China

From the last few decades, only concern for the so-called Global Power was China's growing economic influence all over the world. It was thought that China will overcome the US economy in the upcoming years, but COVID-19 jeopardized global economy. China's economy endured extraordinarily through the span of the episode like every other country. However, China has to a great extent gotten COVID-19 levelled out and the economy has, for the most part, re-opened while the remainder of the world is confronting the most exceedingly terrible of the infection. The Chinese government is currently looking forward towards returning the economy on target for the remainder of 2020.

The analysts believe when this scenario will end, we will see a great shift in world politics. As the world power was hit by one of the worst crisis, China will use this opportunity and will come up with some sort of 'Pacific settlement' and the world will welcome that. China will be the new global power. Chinese president Xi Jinping had his eyes on playing an important role in building the new world order but Xi was seen indicating that China should guide the new world order. China President Xi Jinping said,

"We should guide the international community to jointly maintain international security." (Huang, 2017)

After this Corona virus crisis, we will see a great shift in world politics the world will be suffering from economy deficiency, China will play its trump card by questioning the world power. Great propaganda led by China and supported by its allies against the US will be the last nail in the coffin for the great power. China will guide the world through some pacific settlements and will lead the new world order. As many analysts believe new master is already walking towards the throne and will take charge of this world after this COVID-19 crisis will be over.

5. CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories always remain there whenever major world events occurred. The outbreak of this virus not only brought the impacts this Virus has but it also fueled many conspiracy theories. From labelling corona virus as a biological weapon to label this virus as a part of the game plan to control human civilization the world had heard every kind of misinformation.

Amid all these wild guesses, in a rare public statement, the Office of the US Director of National Intelligence, which oversees American spy agencies, has said it concurs with the “wide scientific consensus” regarding Covid-19’s natural origins. (Yousaf, 2020)

“The intelligence community will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan.”

Another conspiracy theory circled across the US when it was claimed that pandemic is just a part of a great game plan of Bill Gates to implant trackable microchips, although no evidence was found in this regard. A new YouGov poll of 1,640 people suggests that 28% of Americans believe that Bill Gates wants to use vaccines to implant microchips in people - with the figure rising to 44% among Republicans. Rumours took hold in March when Mr Gates said in an interview that eventually "we will have some digital certificates" which would be used to show who'd recovered, been tested and ultimately who received a vaccine. (Goodman & Flora, 2020)

Another theory was roaming around the world when China faced the wrath of corona virus. Muslims believe that China faced the wrath of God after news spread how Chinese were torturing Muslims in concentration camps. In Pakistan, these conspiracy theories have gone significantly more profound. Some trust it is a piece of a grand plan to prevent Muslims from going to mosques. Others imagine that the world power has chosen to control the developing total populace, and henceforth the infection. There is one segment in Pakistan which accepts that there is no such thing as a virus, for example, Covid-19. These individuals believe biting the deaths because of coronavirus are false, and individuals are dying because of natural cause however their demises are being labelled to the virus to create a panic scenario.

6. CRITICAL ANALYSIS

In this pandemic situation, when China able to control this virus and closed its border for the world and the whole world is fighting against this virus the fingers are raising towards China. In my opinion, whether China is behind all of this or not, but this scenario paved the path for China to become the superpower. China’s economic growth after 2000 really put pressure on Washington to somehow counter China’s influence.

At the point when China was experiencing the episode, the U.S. was excessively occupied with scoring political focuses by slamming China, censoring its draconian and legitimate laws, blaming it for not regarding human rights and individual flexibility, and for

the most part, attempting to slander the nation. Be that as it may, China ignored the pressure from the outside world and concentrated only on eliminating this virus.

The U.S. government sat around idly, disregarded the enduring of the Chinese individuals, and expected that it could never happen to them. They were loose and, somewhat, some U.S. lawmakers were content with the loss of human lives and the financial harm China was languishing. Rather, China recouped, and a steady typical circumstance has nearly returned.

The U.S. is currently confronting tremendous difficulties, particularly as it has now become the most exceedingly terrible hit nation. During the ongoing pandemic, "China-Fever" was extremely apparent in the U.S. Had it invested less energy in hostile to China assessments and more on controlling the pandemic, the circumstance may be different.

In this pandemic situation, whole world attention got diverted when George Floyd's death has sparked protests across the US. Mr. Floyd was a black man who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes as he told them "I can't breathe". The death of a black man by a white man causes a flare in black people which led to protests across the US. A single death of a black guy in the US caused panic situation which led Trump fled to the bunker after protests raged outside of White House. Pandemic conditions and economic challenges are a concern for the US when this falls to join forces with domestic demonstrations during this large stage.

If this virus is created by the Chinese government for the purpose of targeting the US, I think China is surely winning, their strategy of using a biological weapon to destroy the US and his allies are up to the mark and US is struggling. China will surely use this opportunity to dethrone the United States once and for all. As the whole world is struggling against this virus, there will be a time in the near future when this episode ends.

At that point, China will facilitate other countries for its own self-interest and will try to give some pacific settlement to contemporary issues the world will be facing. As many analysts believe COVID-19 episode is a catalyst in the process of shifting powers from West to East.

7. CONCLUSION

At this moment the world is facing the wrath of corona virus and facing the consequences of not taking precautionary measures immediately, where for other countries like China corona virus just opened a door to take control of the world. COVID-19 episode turns out to be a game changer for China as they likely to go past the United States and can become the global power. The dream of Chinese President Xi to lead the new world order is not far away. China must take some precautionary measures as another wave of virus just started creating panic in Beijing. How China will respond to that? How China will play his cards after this episode ends? The most important question turn out to be that, are we on the verge of another Cold War?

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