

Coronavirus Reflection

DANIEL BINA

PROFESSOR RUIZ

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The coronavirus pandemic is a global crisis currently being faced, the greatest pandemic that the world has experienced since World War II. The pandemic emerged in Asia last year and has spread to most of the continents in the world. Different countries are recording an increase in the number of coronavirus cases daily. Countries are taking various measures to slow down the coronavirus spread and are working towards obtaining a cure or vaccine for the virus. My country, the US, is one of those that have been hit by the pandemic. I am a student who majors in History in 2020 at UCLA. I am part of those who have been affected by the coronavirus. My studies and life, in general, have been affected by this pandemic. The pandemic has also affected my family in different ways. This essay is a reflection of the effects of COVID-19.

I am a UCLA transfer student finishing my last year of college. I was born and raised in Beverly Hills, California. After high school, I went to Santa Maria College for two years, after which I transferred to UCLA IN 2018. Coronavirus has made me move back home and out of my fraternity. I have had to limit my interactions with people. I am a huge fan of basketball, and I miss the NBA. It pains me that this pandemic has been tough and has affected what I used to enjoy doing.

Corona has also affected how we live as a family. For the first time in ten years, we are all living in the same house. I have two elder brothers, both of whom are gay. They are staying with us now, and my parents are still trying to accept them. My parents say that it was a shock for them to discover that my elder brothers are gay, but are making efforts to support them and

help them feel that dynamism is welcome. My mom is working from home and bonds with them when she is not busy so that she can get to understand them better.

COVID-19 has impacted the communities. The effects of the virus are expected to continue until the spread of the virus is reduced or is combated. My community has been affected, and all social-gatherings have been restricted to thirty people or less. Some businesses have been closed down, and some community members have lost their lives due to the virus. This means that the community will need to re-strategize and come up with better measures to keep going during these tough times. The community will have to adhere to social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus. This will ensure that people can go back to normalcy when the virus is no longer a threat to their health. The community members have been sensitized on the need to be cautious during this time. We have realized that this is an issue for all of us and needs our joined efforts if we want to keep our community safe. This means that the community will need to be more alert, and the members will need to work together to minimize the effects of COVID-19 on them.

The coronavirus has affected my country, the US. The virus has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people in the country. Since the first case was reported in January 2020, over 1 million people have been infected with COVID-19. New York and Connecticut are some of the states that have been hit hard by the coronavirus. All the 50 states have been affected, and the US economy has been brought to a screeching halt. The American workforce is feeling the effects of coronavirus. Some of the adults report that they have been laid off due to the pandemic. In the social aspect of life, coronavirus is changing how people live in the US. Governments in the

different states have come up with strict measures such as limiting social gatherings to fifty or fewer people to prevent the spread of the virus. A good number of people are avoiding dining in restaurants, and others do not go to the theaters. Most of the schools have been closed. The restaurants and bars in some states have only been restricted to offer take away. I believe that feelings of mistrust could be experienced in the country following this pandemic. This is because some people are calling for people living in COVID-19 hotspots to be confined to those areas. Coronavirus is reshaping American politics in numerous ways. Congress has focused on using the emergency spending bill to stimulate the economy by increasing federal spending. The tectonic plates that support American politics are shifting, and it is expected that the 2020 presidential election will be affected by coronavirus significantly. Some politicians, such as Ben Sanders and democrats, have used the pandemic to promote policies that they have always favored. The pandemic means that the country's economy will suffer, its political system will be altered, people will be more divided, and the trust between people and states will decrease.

A prosperous, productive society depends on the health of its people. The world has been affected by coronavirus in different ways. The socio-economic impacts of coronavirus have been felt worldwide, as ill-health has stifled production, consumption, traveling, and other important economic activities. Health disasters that have been experienced in the past had detrimental effects on the economy in the entire world, and coronavirus is not any different. COVID-19 is increasing at an alarming rate and having significant impacts on global economies. China, which was the first country to be affected by coronavirus has recorded a reduction in its GDP in the first quarter of 2020. It is expected that the world will lose billion dollars of dollars by the time the pandemic is over. The United Nations has warned that international arrivals are expected to

reduce, and the tourism chain across the world will lose about 50 billion dollars. If COVID-19 affects those aged between 18-44 years and those who make up the labor force, the impact on economic activity and poverty is expected to be considerable. The economic implications of the virus will not affect the public health sector alone. They are expected to be felt in trade, food and agriculture, travel, and other industries.

COVID-19 also has political consequences on different countries across the world. For example, the Communist Party of China has dismissed some administrators because of how quarantine was handled in Central China. The Italian government has criticized the European Union because of its lack of solidarity with Italy in fighting the virus. There is a probability that the virus will affect Trump's likelihood of winning the 2020 presidential election in the US. It is also possible that coronavirus will lead to political instability in developing countries.

The consequences of COVID-19 show that society needs to be united. It shows that each person's well-being depends on that of the rest of society. The society is never productive during periods of ill-health, and individualism does not work. People are interdependent, and this manifested in the social, political, and economic systems across the world. The society requires collective consciousness and people who work together at all times so that they can beat all the challenges and thrive as a whole. The society can never work without good health and the realization that all the people depend on each other and should be united.

History shows that one of the health disasters that hit America is the smallpox epidemic, which occurred during the 1770s. This epidemic is related to what is happening now, as we shall see later. Indigenous populations in America were affected by smallpox, which was brought from

Europe. The entire indigenous populations were devastated by smallpox. Smallpox was among the most feared infectious diseases because it resulted in high mortality rates among native Americans. About 30 percent of the native Americans were eradicated by smallpox. Some of those who were eradicated belonged to Puget Sound tribes. Ethnographer Charles Hill-Tout while describing the epidemic, said that a dreadful misfortune befell the people. This started when fish were covered with sores and blotches, rendering them unfit for human consumption. The people stopped eating them until there came a time when no other food was available. This was when a dreadful skin disease broke out upon all people. The disease spared no one. People were sick and died in large numbers such that when fresh food was available, only a small number of people who survived could get it. This was not the only epidemic of smallpox as Native Americans were affected by the disease from the 15th century to the 19th century. Smallpox was ended in 1980 across the world.

Looking at what happened during the time of smallpox in America shows that coronavirus is related to what we are learning. Smallpox affected many native populations and led to the death of a huge number of them, the same way that corona is affecting a large number of people in the US and across the world. Corona is also a dreadful misfortune just as smallpox was. Corona is causing great suffering across the world and continues to claim thousands of lives daily. Coronavirus continues to have negative effects on all the people in the world. Some people like I have been forced to go back home by the coronavirus pandemic. Businesses have been affected, and some of them remain closed. This confirms that coronavirus is causing the same distress as the one that was caused by smallpox. For coronavirus to be eradicated and dealt with

better, it is important to look at the strategies that were used to eradicate smallpox and use them to control it.

It is hard to predict what the world will look like after the coronavirus pandemic is over. However, I believe that some of the practices currently being employed will make up the post-pandemic world. I predict that the world will experience an increase in digital events because most of the in-person events switched to digital after the pandemic broke out. More businesses will offer online services as most of the shopping is carried out online during the pandemic. I also predict that more healthcare facilities will offer consultation services through videos because this practice has increased during this time when social distancing has been encouraged. The world will have a stronger digital infrastructure that will allow more people to work home. This will be supported by the fact that COVID-19 has caused many people to start working from home. Generally, the nature of the world that we live in currently is expected to change after the coronavirus experience.

COVID-19 has had numerous effects on me, my family, my community, and the world. Many activities have been brought to a standstill, and some people have lost their jobs. Social gatherings have been limited, and people no longer interact freely. The world is experiencing a pandemic that has made everyone realize that we need to change how we work, learn, and relate with others. We need to be connected and work together towards the eradication of the virus. The world is expected to experience some changes after this pandemic, changes that will make it better and more prepared for future disasters.

