

Sangwoo Kim

Professor Teo Ruiz

History 129A – Second Paper

18 May 2020

The impact of Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) is unprecedented and exceptional. The statistics from Johns Hopkins University and Medicine show that there are about 4.7 million of the total confirmed and about 31 thousands global deaths (Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, websites). Compared to previous pandemics, such as SARS of 2002 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), H1N1 flue of 2009 (Hemagglutinin 1 Neuraminidase 1), and MERS of 2012(Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), total deaths and the change in political initiatives clearly prove its seriousness. History repeats itself. As history repeats itself, diseases also develop their way to survive in a changing environment. The evolution of virus causes people to protect themselves from the possible infection. However, it is certain that the impacts of COVID-19 are remarkably different from previous diseases, and it is also noticeable that how it has changed my life directly or indirectly. This essay will analyze the impacts of COVID-19 on myself, which has changed my future plans, and my personal reflections on its positive functions in terms of changing the working environment and giving an educational opportunity.

The vivid and direct impact on myself is environmental change. I got to know the seriousness of the COVID-19 compared to other students because South Korea was one of the countries where the COVID-19 became wide-spread in advance. Even though there is ongoing controversy when it comes to the origin of the virus, it is widely accepted that the origin of the virus came from Wuhan city of China. Because South Korea and China are geographically closely located, the impact of the virus from China to Korea must be initial. However, the spread of the virus to the United States was also the problem of time. Its power

of the spread was so fast that every title of today's news had started with how much the total confirmed get increased. As an international student, I should have kept in mind that there would be a possibility of going back to my country when I heard the news about the confirmed person of the virus in the United States. Because Los Angeles was the location where diverse ethnicities live together, I was worried about its possibility of variety and mutation. As soon as the virus got worse, the U.S. government initiated social distancing by controlling the operation of restaurants and discouraging people from going out. Because South Korea had experienced its first seriousness in advance, the time when the U.S. started to get worse was the period of the recuperation in Korea. As soon as I realized its seriousness in the U.S., I quickly booked a flight ticket to my country in order to block any possible infections. The most vivid and direct change of the virus is the environmental change from the U.S. into South Korea.

The COVID-19 has also changed my career path from getting a job into having time to break and to study more. I was planning to have an internship opportunity in L.A, but my plan had changed as I moved back to South Korea. Because the internship required me to stay in the U.S., I can't do an internship and live in South Korea. The internship opportunity was very important to me because it was directly related to my future career path. However, I and my parents both agreed that a similar internship opportunity can be provided in the future, and the issue of health must be prioritized. Therefore, I gave up the opportunity and moved back to my country without more hesitation. If I didn't move back to my country, I would do both an internship and school works at the same time. Because of the situational change, I should prepare for another plan for my career. After all, it gave me another conclusion that it would be better for me to study more and to get some licenses, which are related to my future goal. Even though the COVID-19 has significantly changed my career paths, I interpreted it as another opportunity to re-plan for my career more deeply and carefully.

The significant impact of the COVID-19 toward my family is the decrease in income. The decrease in income was another fundamental cause of my decision that made me move back to Korea. My father owns a small business related to export business. The business of export is directly related to the COVID-19 because the manufacturing factories were located in China. Due to the virus, all planned-production have ceased. As the government of China ordered the stop of manufacturing, all companies where their factories are located in China had to experience the problem of production, which directly resulted in a dramatic decrease in their profits. The reason why it was the fundamental cause of moving back to my country was that it made my parent hard to support heavy tuition fees. I am a lucky student who is able to study abroad in the best environment under the financial supports of parents. However, the uncertainty of financial supports from my parents has changed my mind. I had to move my expected graduation earlier than I expected in order to save tuition fees for another quarter. After all, I decided to graduate one quarter earlier. I believe that the financial problems made by the COVID-19 are not only my family problem but also the problem of all families. Everyone can agree with the difficulty of their work because all companies had decided to cut their costs by firing their employees or giving unpaid leave. People are not living in a difficult situation where they need to reduce unnecessary expenses because of the COVID-19.

My personal reflection on the event of the COVID-19 is the people's different awareness of its seriousness based upon their ages. The elders feel its seriousness more directly and seriously, and the young generations feel it more carelessly and indifferently. Although the awareness is dependent on one's realization of its seriousness, there is a tendency that the elder people are more likely to care about its impacts than the young people do. I felt such feeling when I visited the grocery store in L.A. near my house. I could find the most elder generations wore a mask, but few young generations work masks. I think the

primary reason for such difference is because the elder people are easier to get infected by the virus than young people. However, it is still noticeable that young people think of the COVID-19 as normal flu. The younger groups tend to under-estimate its seriousness because of their belief in health. On the other hand, the elders take this problem seriously and try to prepare for the virus more actively. A few weeks ago, there was an issue related to the COVID-19 in Korea because a young man went to a night club. The guy, who is blamed for the cause of infection, didn't recognize whether or not he was infected by the virus until he went club. Even though he apologized for his carelessness, it was too much after many people were infected by him. It is very selfish to neglect its seriousness because they are young. Young people can transmit their virus to old people. It's very random that we are going to meet someone or visit somewhere that was affected by the virus. I wish the COVID-19 would be the opportunity that educates the seriousness of the virus to the young generations so that the upcoming young generations don't repeat the same mistake that we have experienced.

Another personal reflection on the COVID-19 is that it creates the possibility of changing the working environment in the future. It is general that we should go to the workplace every morning. When the government initiated the mandatory remote-working, companies need to use tele-communication platforms in order to maintain their business. Due to the changes in the working environment from face-to-face into remote, companies try to use remote video conferencing platforms. I believe this will change the future working environment in a way that most companies can substitute normal days with video conferencing days. I was told to my friend who works at the Korean company that a lot of companies, including his company, substitutes face-to-face meetings with video conferences because of the current situation. He also told me that it is much more efficient to have a video conference at home because he can avoid rush hour, which usually takes about 2 hours.

People get to know the convenience of working from home due to the COVID-19 by chance, so they can maximize the efficiency of work by saving time from the commute.

As referenced in the summary of week VIII, there is a distinct evaluation in terms of the accomplishment that Phillip II had made. The positive evaluation would be his establishment of Spain's identity as a Catholic country, while the negative evaluation would be his negligence of governance, which resulted in national bankruptcy (Ruiz, Summary VIII). From these controversial evaluations, I get to know one critical fact that there is no perfect and positive evaluation of a historical event. To be more specific, a historical event has both positive and negative evaluations at the same time. Even though the COVID-19 have brought about exceptional mortality rates, which is the global tragedy, the critical influence of the virus became an educational element that gives people an important lesson about the possible outcome that certain virus can enormously change our daily lives. The spread of the COVID-19 is on progress. Nobody knows when it will disappear; however, the time we are suffering right now becomes a chance that all people, regardless of their ages, get to know the seriousness of the diseases. I hope people are aware of how to cope with infectious diseases from the experience that we go through nowadays.

Works Cited

“COVID-19 Map.” *Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center*, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, 2020, [coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html).

Ruiz Teo . Week VIII Summary. 14 May. 2020. Class notes