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5/10/20
HIST 129A
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The Reality of Covid-19

Throughout the world, Covid-19 has changed the way of life for everyone in the world. Those who were infected would suffer or died. And those who weren't infected were affected by safety measures and updates or the lack of updates based on decisions made by the government. Some people agree with these measures and updates while others do not. Some people were also affected by these measures and updates more than others. I personally feel like the safety of my race and I were affected greatly in the United States. Other than race being affected by the virus, the economy also took a big hit as well as people who value their freedom to go out and do what they normally do. This is my reflection on how Covid-19 has affected our daily lives.

“Chinese Virus”, “Ching Chong Virus”, “Kung-Fu Virus”, and “Wuhan Virus”, these are the names that that many people have used instead of the actually term, “Covid-19”. Walking around the streets of Los Angeles or back home in San Francisco, one thing surrounds my mind, “will people judge me and stare at me because I am Chinese”? Will these people attack or spit on me like what other Asians are dealing with throughout the world? By singling out a single race or races, the amount of hate crimes towards these people will increase tremendously, which is what has happened throughout the world. These are the main questions that have plagued my mind and my families' minds while the pandemic is still going on. A virus should not be tied to a specific race and those races should not be blamed for the problems created by the virus. As a Chinese American, it makes no sense to me that many fellow Chinese orAsian Americans and I are blamed for this virus just because we are of Chinese or Asian descent. For

me, I tend to cough once in a while, but it feels illegal to do that now because of my looks.

Within my home, I have no problem coughing, but if I'm walking down the street for some fresh air and need to cough, I tend to hold it in until there is no one around me because of the looks I would get because of my face. Is it illegal to cough? No, but people might use my cough as a reason to insult, blame, or tell me to "go back to China". My mom has even told me that she fears walking outside because one cough or sneeze in front of someone can lead to confrontation, and she fears that she could get hurt in that situation. This hurts a lot. It hurts because coughing or sneezing happens out of nowhere, and for someone to use that against my mom or me just because we're Chinese hurts. My Chinese background means a lot to me and for other Chinese Americans, they feel the same and to be crucified because of that is unacceptable. There have been many videos in which Asians are targeted in attacks by people. An example that really stood out to me would be where a African American passenger on a train is telling a Chinese American man to move out of the way because he was scared that he would get the virus. This Chinese American stood his ground and did not say a word to the African American who was staring at him in disgust.. In the background, you could hear the other passengers telling the Chinese American man to move away from him for his own safety. The African American man realized that the Chinese American would not move, so he sprayed Febreeze on the innocent man and all over the area where the man was located.. This really helps draw a picture and provides a clear example of what is happening towards Asians. Asians have to stand up to the constant blame and hate that is now directed towards them and have to take a stand against this racism. One reason that I believe led to the anti-Chinese rhetoric happening in the U.S. would be because of President Trump and his administration characterizing and calling the Virus the "Chinese Virus".

The virus shows the double standards around the world because of its origin. When Ebola broke out in African and eventually reached parts of the world, no one called it an “African Virus”. No one blamed countries in Africa for its role in the creation or spread of the virus. But in the case of Covid-19, the standard has changed.

The events taking place around the world are very shocking and life changing for many. The lifestyles of people have drastically changed and require people to take more action to stay at home to prevent the spread of the virus. Many people have not agreed with this and have called for the reopening of the specific state that they live in. Reopening the country and states in general while there is no viable vaccine to help combat the virus would be a terrible idea and many people will continue to get sick and die from this. Yes the spread of the virus in specific countries around the world may have lowered, but reopening these countries too quickly may lead to the second wave of the virus, which is something the world must avoid. People also have to realize that the reason why the virus has spread is because people are not taking the necessary precautions to socially distance themselves from others. People don't wear masks and most importantly, they do not wash their hands constantly. If these people take the time to do these things, then they make their surroundings safer for themselves and the people around them. Impatience from these people have led to the mass organizing of people to protest against the stay at home orders. In the U.S, Michigan is a prime example of protest taking place against the government. These people are mass gathering while not wearing masks or socially distancing themselves from one another is ironic in a way. It's ironic because this was the main way in how the virus spread from people to people and these protesters are risking themselves and the people around them by getting exposed to the virus. It is also funny listening to the specific reasonings

from these people on why they are protesting. An example was a woman who said that “we’re tired of not buying the things we need, go to the hairdresser, to get our hair done”. The fact that this lady is mad about not going to the hairdressers is very selfish and funny. It's selfish of her because she cares more about fixing her hair than the health of the people around her. It’s funny because she believes fixing her hair is her main priority, but her priority should be staying at home worrying about her health and the health of others. The stay at home orders are very hard, and it can take a very long time for people to adjust to this. However, when a country has over 80,000 deaths from the virus, staying at home for the benefit of your life and the lives around you is the solution. What this tells you about the virus is that it can spread and kill people, especially elders, if one is not careful or safe with the things they do when leaving the house. If one is to leave the house to enjoy a walk or to go grocery shopping, then they have to realize that they must wear a mask and social distance themselves from others for their safety.

The virus has a lot of meaning to the world. The economic effects of the virus have hurt the economies of many nations around the world. Many small businesses, restaurants especially, have closed or on the blink of closing because they have little to no customers. Owners of these businesses have had to lay off many of their workers because they can no longer afford to pay them. Many jobs have been lost, and the number of unemployed people around the world is increasing everyday. Globally, tourism has dropped tremendously as countries' leaders have closed off borders and stopped people from going to their countries to prevent the spread of the virus. This has hurt the economy, because tourism is a part of a country's main economic infrastructure and with that gone, many small businesses who rely on tourists have suffered. Oil prices have gone down tremendously as people are required to stay home, therefore no needs to

drive their vehicles. The lower demand of oil has led to the fall of gas prices throughout the U.S. Pre-Covid-19 the gas prices around my area range around \$3.50 a gallon, but because of the drop of oil prices the cost of gas is now around \$2.90 a gallon, which is a huge difference. The economy will continue to suffer while people are out of work and are required to stay at home. Currently, our president is calling for the gradual reopening of the country, but this can lead to the continued spread of the virus throughout parts of the U.S. Yes the economy is important to Americans, but it should not come before the welfare and lives of the American people.

Politically, some world leaders are doing nothing to fix the spread of the virus. Countries like the U.S, Brazil, the U.K, Russia, and others have done very little, and even in some cases, neglect the fact that Covid-19 is a problem. The consequences with this is that many of the citizens within these countries will suffer from the effects of the virus and in the worst cases, many will die. This is preventable if these countries just focus on mass testing and to develop a new vaccine for people. But instead many are proposing early reopenings of their respected countries just so their countries' economies can start up again. It's sad that many of these leaders focus on wealth and making money instead of the welfare of their citizens. These leaders need to be held accountable for their actions, but depending on the leaders' political views, their followers will defend them until the end, with examples being the Trump followers on Twitter. Then there are leaders who have been prioritizing testing and the health of their citizens by offering mass testing and focusing on stay at home orders. Countries like Taiwan, South Korea, and Vietnam come into mind. They also had very strict rules regarding gatherings of large groups of people, and in some cases, they had a period of lockdown to help prevent the spread of the virus. What is shocking about these countries is their quick response to the spread of the virus

along with how close they are to China. Following the news of these countries, I have seen that they have lowered the amount of people infected, but also they have reported days in which there were no new confirmed cases. In some YouTube videos, many people in Korea have returned to their daily life, where healthy people are allowed to eat in restaurants, shop in malls, and many have returned to work.

Covid-19 relates to the diseases that plagued the new world once people from the Iberian Peninsula sailed there. The means of how the diseases were spread are similar because the natives of the new world were introduced to these diseases by the sailors of the voyage, and the effects of the diseases are similar in turn many of them would die because their bodies cannot fight off these diseases. In today's cases, many people around the world were introduced to Covid-19 that had originated from China, because it spread globally due to flight travel. Many people have died from Covid-19, but compared to the Native Americans, populations around the world have not been decimated.

Covid-19 has changed the way people live throughout the world. Many people have died, lost jobs, or are struggling with the stress from the virus. Without the development of a vaccine, the world may have to stay inside for the time being. People have to stay patient during this pandemic. Losing a job is way better than losing one's life or the life of a loved one. We, as citizens around the world have to play our part to help fix this by staying at home and washing our hands constantly.