

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC (COVID-19): CAUSES, EFFECTS AND SOLUTIONS

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OF MAIDUGURI, MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA 2020**

ABSTRACT

Coronavirus is a family of viruses that got its name from its appearance. Following the 1968 scientific investigation under a microscope examination the virus resembled a solar corona, the bright crown-like ring of gasses surrounding the sun that is visible during a solar eclipse and so the name “corona”. There are about 49 million infections of covid-19 recorded in the world with about 1.24 million deaths and 35 million recoveries. The rate of death is about 3% of the total careers. While efforts are on top gear, unfortunately no vaccines have been discovered and approved to prevent it. There are about 63,328 cases in Nigeria, 59,675 recovered and 1,155 have died. On March 11, 2020 COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic similar to H1N1 influenza a pandemic in 2009. COVID-19 likely originated in a “wet market” in Wuhan, with vendors selling live animals such as cats, dogs, rabbits, fish, and bats. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, the new coronavirus may be transmitted through expelled droplets. These droplets can enter a person’s system through “contact routes,” such as the mouth, eyes, or nose. About 94% of the Fortune across the globe, and businesses in Nigeria has been impacted by COVID-19 disruptions. The WHO has adopted non pharmaceutical strategies to prevent and control the spread of COVID 19. With a larger population staying indoors at home, thefts and residential burglaries have decreased. In Peru, crime levels fell 84% in March. Police in India seized thousands of fake masks, raided shops selling overpriced masks and sanitizers. It is arguable that the existence, contracting, spreading, control and prevention of the virus is determined by socioeconomic and political factors which are more clearly articulated by Marxian perspective. Nonetheless, this pandemic is a revelation of inadequate application of existing scientific knowledge. Considering all results found, following recommendations are adopted among others. All recommendations of WHO and NCDC must be strictly adhered to,

particularly the non pharmaceutical measures such as social distancing, wear of face mask, regular washing of hands and avoiding large gathering. Shoulder to shoulder congregations as observed in some religious gathering should be discouraged by criminalizing outlawed crowds. There must be re-intensified fight against corruption to succeed a smooth implementation of all to curb the spread of the pandemic. Efforts must be geared toward ending of capitalism as it is the mother of all crimes and particularly of corruption.

INRODUCTION

On 31st December 2019 Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China, reported a cluster of 27 pneumonia cases link to Wuhan's Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. The market was closed down on 1 January 2020. Samples from the market tested positive for novel coronavirus with symptoms such as high fever, high temperature, continuous coughing, stomach pain, breaths difficulties and severe tracheal blockages (Wu, and McGoogan, 2020).

As at time of this compilation there are about 49 million infections of covid-19 recorded in the world with about 1.24 million deaths and 35 million recoveries. The rate of death is about 3% of the total careers. While efforts are on top gear, unfortunately no vaccines have been discovered and approved to prevent it. There are about 63,328 cases in Nigeria, 59,675 recovered and 1,155 have died (<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus>). So far it is the most devastating health crises of the world in recent timing. What then are the causes of covid-19? How has it impacted on the general population? And what are the solutions?

BACKGROUND TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC

A “virus” is a Latin word meaning venom which is a tiny agent that causes infectious disease. *Coronavirus* is a family of viruses that got its name from its

appearance. In 1968 investigative scientists came up with the term coronavirus, guided by observation that under a microscope examination the virus resembled a solar corona, the bright crown-like ring of gasses surrounding the sun that is visible during a solar eclipse. The name COVID-19 was derived from the year it was first detected (2019) and using letters from CO-rona-VI-rus D-isease (Stoppler, 2020).

The disease caused as a result of COVID-19 has been categorized as an airborne High Consequence Infectious Disease. In a subset of individuals, including those with cardiopulmonary disease or a weakened immune system, the viral infection can progress to a more severe lower-respiratory infection such as pneumonia or bronchitis. As a viral infection, antibiotics are not effective treatment (<https://icmanaesthesiacovid-19.org/background>).

On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 as global health emergency and on February 12, 2020, named the illness caused by SARS-CoV-2 as COVID-19. On March 11, 2020 COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic similar to H1N1 influenza a pandemic in 2009. COVID-19 likely originated in a “wet market” in Wuhan, with vendors selling live animals such as cats, dogs, rabbits, fish, and bats. The new virus probably mutated from a coronavirus common in animals that jumped over to humans in the Wuhan marketplace (WHO; 2019).

On 10 January 2020, the first novel coronavirus genome sequence was made publicly available. The sequence was deposited in the GenBank database (accession number MN908947) and uploaded to the *Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data* (GISAID). By 20 January 2020, there were reports of confirmed cases from three countries outside China: Thailand, Japan and South Korea. These cases had all been exported from China. On 23 January 2020, Wuhan City was

locked down with all travel in and out of Wuhan prohibited and movement inside the city was restricted (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/event-background-2019>).

The first European case was reported from France on 24 January 2020. This case had a travel history to China. In Germany, cases were reported on 28 January, related to a person visiting from China. A large number of cases have been diagnosed on board the Diamond Princess, a cruise ship docked in the port of Yokohama, Japan. The first cases were reported on 4 February 2020; the ship was put in quarantine. In total, 696 cases were identified among the ship's passengers. Of these cases, seven died. On 22 February, the Italian authorities reported clusters of cases in Lombardy and additional cases from two other regions, Piedmont and Veneto. As of 25 March 2020, all EU/EEA countries and more than 150 countries worldwide are affected (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/event-background-2019>).

Based on the genetic sequencing of the virus, either bats or the pangolin would be the most probable animal of origin. The four most common human coronaviruses are named 229E, NL63, OC43 and HKU1 did not jump from animals to humans but rather utilize humans as their natural hosts (<https://psychcentral.com/coronavirus/background-history-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19/>).

Deductively, the disease called COVID 19 originated from wild life most probably pangolin. It was discovered that the novel virus (later named SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19) most likely first transmitted from animal the pangolin to human through consumption of bush meats openly sold at the wet market of Wuhan in China. As it infected humans, it could generally get

transmitted among the population easily as it has been normative for people to live in crowds unprotected. The virus easily transmits through a droplet from infected person in any possible way (coughing, sneezing, etc). When the virus is inhaled by breathing through the nose, injected by whatever means through the eyes, ears or mouth from a droplet containing the virus such a person is contracted of virus and subsequently get ill and develop symptoms.

CAUSES AND SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, the new coronavirus may be transmitted through expelled droplets. These droplets can enter a person's system through "contact routes," such as the mouth, eyes, or nose. It is also possible for the droplets to be inhaled into the lungs. Most estimates of the incubation period for COVID-19 range from 1-14 days, though the virus most commonly surfaces with symptoms around day five (Lam; Shum; Zhu; Tong; Ni;; Liao; 2020).

Beneath a coronavirus's pronged exterior lies a round core shrouded in proteins and a "greasy" membrane. The core contains genetic material that the virus can inject into vulnerable cells to infect them. So-called spike proteins extend from within the core to the viral surface and allow the virus to "recognize and latch onto" specific cells in the body. When the spike engages its receptor [on a host cell], a cascade is triggered, resulting in the merger of the virus with the cell. This merger allows the virus to release its genetic material and hijack the cell's internal machinery. Once this happens, the virus sheds its coat and turns the cell into a factory that starts churning out new viruses (C. Huang, Wang, Li, Ren, Zhao, Hu; 2020). SARS had a mortality rate of 9.6% in the early 2000s outbreaks

while MERS has an estimated mortality rate between 30% and 40%. (<https://psychcentral.com/coronavirus/background-history-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19/>).

GENERAL IMPACTS OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC

A *pandemic* is an epidemic that has become a worldwide phenomenon. It is estimated that more than 80% of total cases are moderate, but 14% are severe and 5% critical. Patients with the highest mortality in the Chinese retrospective studies were males with a mean age 17 years older than survivors (68 vs. 51 years) who had some type of underlying pathological process (HTN, diabetes, cardiovascular disease or COPD). The usual cause of death is uncontrolled sepsis and respiratory failure. This seems to correlate with the development of a 'cytokine storm' on the 7th day, which occurs as a result of the virus's interaction with the patient's immune system (Lauer; Grantz; Bi; Jones; Zheng; Meredith; 2019).

About 94% of the Fortune across the globe, and businesses in Nigeria has been impacted by COVID-19 disruptions. The United Nations has mobilized the full capacity of the UN system through its 131 country teams serving 162 countries and territories, to support national authorities in developing public health preparedness and response plans to the COVID-19 crisis. UNDP and its country offices worldwide worked under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators, and in close collaboration with specialized UN agencies, UN Regional Economic Commissions to assess the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies and communities. Nigeria has also been impacted with 299 deaths and 10,578 cases recorded as at 1 June, 2020. The

outbreak of COVID-19 has been centred around Nigeria's economic capital, Lagos, contributing over 48% of all cases in Nigeria as at 1 June, 2020(<https://www2.deloitte.com/ng/en/pages/finance/articles/addressing-the-financial-impact-COVID-19-in-Nigeria.html>). Federal Government of Nigeria imposed a lockdown in Lagos and Ogun states as well as Abuja. State governments quickly followed suit by imposing lockdowns in their states. With the burgeoning economy as well as a large informal sector of 65 percent of its economic output movement restrictions have not only reduced the consumption of non essential commodities in general, but have affected the income-generating capacity of these groups, thus reducing their consumption expenditure. The price of Brent crude was just over \$26 a barrel on April 2, whereas Nigeria's budget assumes a price of \$57 per barrel and would still have run on a 2.18 trillion naira (\$6.05 billion) deficit. Similarly, with oil accounting for 90 percent of Nigeria's exports, the decline in the demand for oil and oil prices will adversely affect the volume and value of net exports. In fact, on March 18, the minister of finance announced a 1.5 trillion naira (\$4.17 billion) cut in non essential capital spending (Onyekwena and Ekeruche, 2020).

With an estimated 20 million people across 3577 km², Lagos is Africa's most populous city with the highest population density in Nigeria. Commuters lose up to 75% of their weekly working hours because of traffic congestion. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control's (NCDC) report on 19th May 2020, 42.5% ($n = 2624$) of all reported cases in Nigeria have been reported in Lagos (<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/>).

The Lagos Bus Services Limited (LBSL) and Minibuses (locally called danfo) carries approximately 12–18 passengers owned and operated by individuals.

Others are Taxis and Shared rides like Uber and Bolt, Tricycles (locally called Keke) and Motorcycles (locally called Okada). While social distancing is essential, it will be impractical to practice social distancing in Lagos transport mode (Onyekwena and Ekeruche; 2020).

Likewise the Governments in Iran and Afghanistan reduced the number of prisoners to limit the spread of the virus. The Supreme Court of India directed the release of about 34,000 prisoners. In New Delhi, India, new guidelines were circulated among the police with relation to policing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Israel allowed its domestic security agency to secretly collect cell phone data to track carriers of coronavirus ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the COVID-19_pandemic_on_crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_on_crime)).

Between January and May 2020, Indian security forces conducted 27 counterterrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir and about 64 terrorists were killed. Out of these, at least 18 were killed during the lockdown. In the beginning of March 2020, over 34,000 counterfeit surgical masks were seized by law enforcement authorities worldwide as part of Operation Pangea, supported by Interpol and Europol. In the United States, individuals were arrested after impersonating doctors and demanding payments for treatment. The interruption of formal education results in 67% loss of literacy ability in kindergarten children. In the United States, nearly 30 million children rely on schools to provide free or low-cost meals including breakfast, lunch, snacks, and even dinner. In Washington State, around 45% of the state 1.1 million students enrolled in traditional public and charter schools qualify for subsidized school meals. At least 520,000 students and their families may be affected by food insecurity as a result of school closures. In Alabama, where state-wide school closures as of 18 March

have affected over 720,000 students, the state Superintendent announced that staff in schools disproportionately affected by poverty would create meal distribution networks to provide food for students who rely on school lunches (*Lederer;2020*).

Women make up almost 70% of the health care workforce, exposing them to a greater risk of infection. They often cannot attend work because of childcare obligations that result from school closures. As of March 12, more than 370 million children and youth are not attending school because of temporary or indefinite country wide school closures mandated by governments in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. As of 29 March, nearly 90% of the world's learners were impacted by closures. Congregations for Taraweeh prayers during Ramadan was cancelled as mosques worldwide were shut down. Council of Senior Scholars from Saudi Arabia urged the Muslim world in general to prepare for Ramadan while abiding to precautionary and preventive health measures regarding acts of worship, which includes avoiding gatherings such as communal Iftar and Suhur meals. After Ohio Governor Mike DeWine ordered no gatherings of more than ten people, Ohio's Amish steering committee advised all church districts to heed the state's orders, telling Amish "to cancel or postpone weddings, youth and family gatherings until further notice" (*Lederer;2020*).

On 26th January China was the first country which instituted measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak including extending the Spring Festival holiday and became the first to close all universities and schools around the country. On 4th March UNESCO reported that 22 countries on three continents had enacted preventive measures including the temporary closure of schools and universities,

impacting 290.5 million students around the world. According to the UNESCO Monitoring Report, 192 countries had implemented nationwide closures, affecting about 99% of the world's student population (Guan; Liang; Zhao; Liang; Chen; Li; 2020).

The Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople issued a worldwide suspension of all "divine services, events, and rites, with the exception of private prayer in churches that will remain open, until the end of March". In a homily given on March 29, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow called upon the faithful to temporarily refrain from attending church services, and to commit "to strictly following all the regulations coming from the sanitary authorities in Russia (*Lederer;2020*).

In Spain, the Bishops' Conference "suspended all talks, concerts etc sessions on church premises." In Poland, the Bishop's conference canceled its March plenary. In Italy's northern Bergamo Diocese, clergy tested positive for COVID-19 with six deaths as of March 2020. In Mississippi April 2020 the First Pentecostal Church of Holly Springs successfully led a legal battle against its city's government over a stay-at-home order after local police broke up an Easter service and a Bible study. The church was burned to the ground a month later (*Lederer;2020*).

California Governor Gavin Newsom issued an order limiting congregations to the lower of 100 attendees or 25% of capacity. South Bay United Pentecostal Church sued to remove the limits, stating that its services typically attract 200 to 300 congregants. The United States Supreme Court upheld the state's right to impose limits on congregations as well as secular activities in the protection of public health. The Court maintains and ordered a verdict that, although

California's guidelines place restrictions on places of worship, such restrictions is consistent with the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment (*Lederer;2020*).

ROLE OF CRIME AND CRIMINALITY IN HINDERING THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The WHO and various domestic national centers for disease control throughout the world have created non pharmaceutical strategies to prevent and control the spread of COVID 19. These measures are supposed to be simple public convenience initiatives which ideally are supposed to be fully accepted globally and individually practiced to enhance protection against contamination and infection. Such protocols must be redrafted as laws to be covered by attached punishment for their failure to be adhered to individuals and organizations. In case of Nigeria relative legislations were made including possible punishment for their violation at all levels of government. Quite instances of enforcement are on record by delivering some prosecution of offenders of COVID 19 protocols. These protocols are predominantly not observed at the individual level particularly in northern part of Nigeria like Borno state. You hardly people dressed with face masks as you go round capital cities like Maiduguri. Congregations in prayers in mosques and churches are unguarded, public gatherings are also unguarded as people celebrate without any respect to the protocols. While public schools are closed islamiyya are operated even at the period of the restrictions and without government approval of their operations. There are no forth coming directives to enforce the protocols from the sub-national governments. This could be described as compromise and therefore corruption and abuse of office. If decisive

steps are not taken to enforce to observance of the protocols, the chances of prevention and control of the spread of the infection is very low.

COVID-19 pandemic has impacted crime particularly organized crime, terrorism, street crime, online crime, illegal markets and smuggling, human and wildlife trafficking, slavery, robberies and burglaries. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime has stated in a policy brief in March 2020 that the pandemic has caused a decrease in some organized-criminal activities, while providing new opportunities in other areas, causing a change in the "organized-criminal economy" that may be long term. Overall, crime in Chicago declined 10% following the outbreak of the pandemic. This decrease is being seen across cities globally as restrictions were increased to contain the virus (*Lederer;2020*)

A detailed examination for one UK police force variation found some types of crime declined immediately from 'global pandemic' announcement from the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020. With a larger population staying indoors at home, thefts and residential burglaries have decreased. In Peru, crime levels fell 84% in March. Alleged Serbian drug lord Dragoslav Kosmajac died of COVID-19. Karachi, one of "Asia's most crime-ridden cities", saw an entire week in March go by without any car thefts. In New York City, grand larceny declined by over 50% in April compared to the same period last year; however, the city saw a rise in commercial burglaries despite the overall fall of ~29% in major crimes. In Mexico, amid the pandemic, some criminal groups were seen handing out food supplies, while in other places in Mexico some criminals were facing unemployment. In Australia, border police found methamphetamine (crystal meth/ice) being smuggled into the country in hand sanitizer bottles. Police in India seized thousands of fake masks, raided shops selling overpriced masks and sanitizers, and initiated a case against hoarders of personal protective equipment

(PPE). Operation Stolen Promise was enacted with aid from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Food and Drug Administration, the US Postal Inspection Service, the US Secret Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Five Eyes Law Enforcement Working Group, an intelligence coalition formed by Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The operation investigated and seized shipments of "mislabeled, fraudulent, unauthorized, or prohibited" COVID-19-related items (*Lederer, 11 April 2020*).

The World Health Organization published a cyber security notice warning people of fraudsters imitating WHO employees. Another cyber fraud in America resulted in money that was meant for the unemployed being redirected to fraudulent accounts. The scale of it involves millions of dollars and it appears that the cyber-criminals are Nigerian. In Peru, the number of women reported missing has surged from five per day from before COVID-19 to eight during the lockdowns. In total, 915 women in Peru were reported missing and feared dead during the three months quarantine (*Felbab-Brown, 2020*).

Asian American family members stabbed by an individual who claimed that the family was Chinese spreading the virus. In its magazine *Al-Naba*, ISIL recommended that its members exploit the pandemic in order to carry out terrorist attacks. Some extremists regard the virus as being divine punishment for human sins, both in the West and in Muslim countries. Riyaz Naikoo, a commander of the terrorist organization Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, in his last audio message in April 2020, told his followers to follow health safety guidelines that health experts were sharing during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was killed shortly after. Also in May a series of attacks in Afghanistan resulted in the deaths of 56 people. The targets included a hospital's maternity ward and a funeral, resulting in the deaths of babies, hospital staff, and people at the funeral. Between April 1 and June 6, 2020, the

Irish police were purposefully spat or coughed on by individuals on 93 occasions, causing the department to increase their use of spit hoods by 70%. In the United States, multiple police departments documented individuals coughing or spitting on responding officers and saying that they had COVID-19. Charges that could be filed against these individuals range from second-degree assault or terrorist threatening. A New Jersey woman spat on a police officer and told responding officers that she was positive for COVID-19 while they were arresting her. Similar cases were reported in Florida, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, and other states (*Ernst, 2020*).

In India, the Tablighi Jamaat religious event hosted by an Islamic missionary group became the country's largest super-spreader, resulting in various types of criminal charges being filed against the attendees for not heeding lockdown restrictions. More than 800 foreigners who attended the event were tracked down and their visas blacklisted. Indian media reported that those who were quarantined by the government spat on healthcare personnel among other things, resulting in numerous charges under the Indian Penal Code. Acknowledging the increased workload, Polish police wrote in a tweet on 19 March, "Please stop all criminal activities until further notice", a message that was directed at criminals, adding, "We will appreciate the expected cooperation related to refraining from committing crimes". The Crown Prosecution Service of United Kingdom has advised out of court disposals for less serious crimes. Governments in Iran and Afghanistan have reduced the number of prisoners to limit the spread of the virus. The Supreme Court of India directed all Indian state governments to consider releasing some prisoners, resulting in as many as 34,000 being temporarily released (*Warrell, Helen; Fildes, 16 March 2020*).

In large parts of the world police predominantly service upper-class and middle-class neighborhoods. The worldwide COVID-19 lockdowns are likely to

trigger significant, if temporary, changes in patrol allocations, as police and supplementary forces are called upon to ensure that residents do not violate stay-at-home ordinances. A global recession may also exacerbate preexisting and intensifying rural crime and conflict, such as between farmers and herders that is playing out across Africa and often is very deadly. In developed countries, shifting patrolling to urban spaces may worsen certain behaviors, such as water theft for agricultural production in Australia and the United States (specifically, California and Colorado). In the most water-deprived countries, such as Yemen, Jordan, Pakistan, and parts of India, upstream water theft may not leave enough water for drinking, despite coronavirus-induced high fevers and dehydration, let alone for hand-washing for the poor or for entire cities (*Lederer;2020*).

CCTV systems, facial recognition technologies, crowd sourcing, artificial intelligence, and big-data mining have been an increasing feature of both the anti-crime world and the authoritarian world. It is most advanced and Orwellian in China, where government authorities scan cell phones at will and identify faces in the crowd. COVID-19 may make citizens of countries that have prioritized online privacy and data protections, such as in Europe, willing to sacrifice civil liberties for health protection. In response to COVID-19, some countries have emptied their prisons to limit the spread of infection with Iran promising to release 85,000 prisoners and Afghanistan 10,000 (*Lederer;2020*).

In other cases, criminal groups will play the role of enforcer with full agreement and even at the request of the state. Such deals in which governments outsource the rule of urban and rural peripheries to criminal groups long preceded COVID-19.

UNDERSTANDING COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN MARXIAN PERSPECTIVE

Marxism is a method of socioeconomic analysis that views class relations and social conflict. It uses a methodology called historical materialism to analyze the process of development of capitalism and the role of class struggles in systemic economic change. Class conflict arises in capitalist societies due to contradictions between the material interests of the oppressed proletariat (workers), a class of wage laborers employed to produce goods and services, and the bourgeoisie (capitalists), the ruling class that owns the means of production and extract their wealth through appropriation of the surplus product (profit) produced by the proletariat (*Lenin;1967*).

Relating above to the understanding of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is arguable that the existence, contracting, spreading, control and prevention of the virus is determined by socioeconomic and political factors which are more clearly articulated by Marxian perspective. Since the original source of the virus is bush meats consumed by man as food, it is very clear despite the level of advancement in science and technology globally, this pandemic is a revelation of inadequate application of existing scientific knowledge. There is nothing wrong in hunting any animal for human consumption. However, there is a requirement for the application of public health and community health codes for the prevention of avoidable infection. The pandemic manifested level of poor organization of Wuhan and particularly the wet market where the infection reportedly originated. Wuhan is just a case of billions of similar markets operating devoid of application of public health codes. Coronavirus is similar to Lassa fever, Ebola etc having originating from wildlives marketed freely as bush meats in Nigerian markets without any adherence to public health codes.

Another lesson from the pandemic is the establishment of the fact that there is very poor linkage between research, reporting of research and adopting of

recommendations for implementation as policy by government. If research has discovered sources of infections, it is left for government to implement the recommendations as policies. Government has the authority to draft it as law and enforce it through its agencies. If it fails to effect so, it has decided to fail in its function as government. If governments fail in their obligations by exhibited irresponsibility and lack of political will, such act can be summarized as corruption. And heads of government must be called for explanation judiciously. And those are the conflict of material interest adequately observed by the Marxian perspective. Government officials have been found to be corrupt intentionally for profit motive by members of the ruling class against the subordinate class.

Adequately the perspective explain that a class struggle which is commonly expressed as the revolt of a society's productive forces against its relations of production, results in a period of short-term crises as the bourgeoisie struggle to manage the intensifying alienation of labor experienced by the proletariat, albeit with varying degrees of class consciousness. In the case of the pandemic this alienation has been characterized by deliberate avoidance of implementation of public health codes by various governments that resulted in different public health issues and pandemic. As the pandemic is on there are side by side demonstrations against various governments for failures to tackle the pandemic and corruption in office. Examples are the demonstration against Donald Trump of USA, Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel etc. In several situations such struggles resulted in overthrowing of regimes. Marxian economics and its proponents view capitalism as economically unsustainable and incapable of improving the living standards of the population due to its need to compensate for falling rates of profit by cutting employee's wages, social benefits and pursuing military aggression. This explains why Trump withdrew funding the WHO at the midst of the pandemic. This is the period USA funding is required since it has been leading sponsor of the body. And

the reason given by Trump is “WHO is pro-China” and described COVID 19 as China virus. The perspective maintain that starting with the conjectural premise that social change occurs because of the struggle between different classes within society who are under contradiction against each other. The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. Marx considered class conflicts as the driving force of human history since these recurring conflicts have manifested themselves as distinct transitional stages of development in Western Europe.

The perspective captures why there is epileptic implementation of the interim WHO non pharmaceutical recommendations for the control and prevention of the pandemic such as social distancing, wearing of face mask in public, regular washing of hands with detergent or alcohol based sanitizer, isolation of carriers etc. The reasons remain conflict of interest, profiteering and alienation. For instance in Nigeria, immediately after the discovery of the pandemic, president Mohammadu Buhari set up a very powerful presidential task force on COVID 19 chaired by Secretary Government of the Federation, Boss Gida Mustapha. The task force in line with global WHO drafted protocols recommended for observance of social distancing, wearing of face masks in public and tracing and testing of contacts desk cases and quarantine of immigrants from COVID 19 host countries. Initially Lagos, Ogun and Abuja were shut down for weeks advising states to follow suit. Unsurprisingly governors of some states seriously implemented the protocols others were found to unserious. Efforts of governors like that of Lagos and Kaduna are commendable but some others were found to discouraging. Like in Borno there

is no respect to the protocols particularly in areas of worship. For instance islamiyya schools are operated without any respect to social distancing. Prayers are performed without respect to social distancing. This carelessness and lack of focus on issues of public health is a testimony to deliberate exploitation of the gross ignorance of the larger population under the disguise of religion which was adequately captured as manipulation of religion by the elite. If cases of the pandemic escalate it is a clear pointer to official mischief, irresponsiveness and irresponsibility.

It is obviously confirming to failure of capitalism as it has succeeded in conditioning illusion and illusiveness. The form of economic organization influences all other social phenomena including social relations, political institutions, legal systems, cultural systems and ideologies. The capitalist mode of appropriation in which the product enslaves first the producer, and then appropriator, is replaced by the mode of appropriation of the product that is based upon the nature of the modern means of production; upon the one hand, direct social appropriation, as means to the maintenance and extension of production on the other, direct individual appropriation, as means of subsistence and of enjoyment. A socialist economy would not base production on the creation of private profits, but on the criteria of satisfying human needs that is, production would be carried out directly for use. Conflicts between the development of material productive forces and the relations of production provoke social revolutions and thus the resultant changes to the economic base will lead to the transformation of the superstructure.

This study adopted the Marxian perspective with a conviction that Marxist sociology is a form of conflict theory associated with Marxism's objective of developing a positive (empirical) science of society as part of the mobilization of a

revolutionary working class. Interestingly this can help explain the complex dynamics of modern society.

THE CHALLENGES AND WAYS OUT OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC

There have been protests and demonstrations around the world against responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by governmental bodies. Some forms of protests have been compared to the Anti-Mask League of San Francisco movement that was seen during the 1918 pandemic (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_over_responses_to_the_COVID-19_pandemic).

A coronavirus testing center that was being built in Abidjan, Ivory Coast was destroyed by angry protesters, which they said was in a crowded residential area too close to their homes. This protest is justifiable since building isolation is a contradiction to a global WHO recommendation for social distancing to prevent infection from the virus. Protestors accused the Kenyan Police of killing at least six people within the first 10 days of lockdown. Others protested against the forced quarantine of individuals failing to comply with regulations or returning home from abroad, claiming that they had been quarantined for longer than 14 days and made to pay the government for their care. This was a criminal act of government against its citizens by transferring its responsibility to innocent population. Hundreds protested on 8 May 2020 when the government destroyed 7,000 homes and a market in Kariobangi to control the virus. A Malawi high court temporary barred the government from implementing a 21-day lockdown after it was challenged by the Human Rights Defenders Coalition, after it was argued that more consultation was needed to prevent harm to the poorest and most

vulnerable. Small protests had been staged prior to the ruling, in at least three major cities with some protestors stating it was better to contract the virus than die of hunger due to lack of work(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_over_responses_to_the_COVID-19_pandemic).

In Nigeria a group of at least twenty coronavirus patients forced their way out of an isolation facility to protests against alleged improper care. Three young, female opposition activists were abducted and sexually abused by suspected state security agents following a protest in Harare, Zimbabwe, over COVID-19 lockdown measures on May 15, 2020. In China there was protest against plans to set up designated coronavirus clinics near residential areas in Hong Kong on 15 February 2020. Small shop owners protested the continuation of rent charges outside of the Grand Ocean Department Store in Wuhan, chanting "Exempt rental for a year, or refund the lease". In Pakistan dozens of doctors were arrested in Quetta after protesting the lack of safety equipment to battle the spread of the disease. Hundreds of laborers protested against their forced layoffs due to the pandemic by gathering outside their old places of work throughout the city of Karachi. Parents of students who had been studying abroad in the Chinese province of Hubei protested against the government decision to leave the children in the area in February 2020. In Iraq protests against the lockdown have been coupled with the ongoing protests against the current government and the female based violence within the country. At least one demonstrator died after soldiers used tear gas, batons, and live bullets to disperse protesters in Tripoli who were throwing molotov cocktails. In Philippines spontaneous demonstrations were held on 1 April 2020, by a Quezon City urban poor community to protest lack of food

and other assistance during the metropolitan-wide COVID-19 lockdown. In Russia security forces broke up a crowd of about 2,000 individuals protesting against the lockdown in Vladikavkaz with some detained and organizer arrested. Some protesters stated; "Today, under the pretext of the coronavirus, which doesn't exist, people are driven into slavery, they are trying to establish total control over all us all". The first US case of COVID-19 was recorded on January 19, 2020. On February 9, Governors were briefed by the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Beginning in mid-March various social distancing measures to limit spread of the virus were undertaken. Admitted measures included stay-at-home orders ("quarantine"), school and business closures, and limitation on the size of gatherings. In Chile on 18 March, riots took place at the communes of El Bosque, La Pintana, and other communes in the Santiago Metropolitan Region. Rioters are denouncing the hunger resulting from the partial and total lockdowns in the region"(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_over_responses_to_the_COVID-19_pandemic).

As a way out from the pandemic, on 8th March 2020 Italy issued a decree to install strict public health measures including social distancing starting first in the most affected regions. In January, Mongolia shut its borders with China to prevent the spread of the virus with no cases of coronavirus have been reported in Mongolia. On 5th June 2020, WHO published an updated guidance on the use of masks in communities, during home care, and in health care settings in areas that have reported cases of COVID-19. This guidance is aligned with ECDC opinion published on 8 April 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cireng.2020.05.009>).

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) also arranged N50 billion (\$138.89 million) credit facility to households and small and medium enterprises most affected by

the pandemic, a N100 billion (\$277.78 million) loan to the health sector, and a N1 trillion (\$2.78 billion) to the manufacturing sector. All CBN interventions interest rate have been revised downwards from 9 to 5 percent, and a one-year moratorium has been introduced, effective March 1. The official exchange rate has been adjusted from N306 to N360. Introduced import duty waivers for pharmaceutical companies and increased efforts toward ensuring that they receive forex. The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) as well as State Inland Revenue Services (SIRS) ordered to waive personal and corporate income tax for the second quarter of 2020. Nigeria confirmed its first case of COVID-19 in Lagos State on 27th February 2020. The public budget increased from 8.83 trillion naira (\$24.53 billion) in 2019 to 10.59 trillion naira (\$29.42 billion) in 2020, representing 11 percent of the national GDP (*Felbab-Brown,2020*).

As of 15 April 2020, many EU/EEA countries started to adjust their response measures (i.e., gradual opening of school, small shops and other businesses etc). On 13 May 2020, the European Commission presented guidelines and recommendations to help Member States gradually lift travel restrictions, with all the necessary safety and precautionary means in place and on 21 May 2020, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) jointly published Guidance for the management of airline passengers in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 17 June 2020, the European Commission presented a European strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing and deployment of vaccines against COVID-19 (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/event-background-2019>). The US now the epicenter of the virus, reversed its initial indifference approved strict external travel prohibitions and some states enacted

strict internal restrictions. The president approved a coronavirus relief bill of USD2 trillion, which was designed to bolster unemployment benefits for individuals, increase money for states, deliver a huge bailout fund for businesses and send one-off payment of up to USD1,200 to every American with an annual income of USD75,000 or less (<https://time.com/5798684/coronavirus-glossary-definitions/>).

In California's Santa Clara County, for example, on March 9, officials temporarily banned gatherings of more than 1,000 people in the wake of a COVID-19-related death. In an area of New York state that had seen a cluster of cases, officials announced on March 10 a two-week closure of schools, houses of worship and other large gathering places (<https://time.com/5798684/coronavirus-glossary-definitions/>).

To avoid the infection of covid-19 and prevent its consequences in society the WHO recommended non pharmaceutical measures. Social distancing (2metres), Face mark application, Washing of hands regularly and avoiding of hand shaking, Use of hand gloves and other PPE by medical officers on duty. Temperature testing with referral of those found in above 39 degree centigrade cases and isolation of patient. Drafting laws to enforce such recommended affairs by courts and Law Enforcement Agencies. Zero tolerance to corruption as means of transparency in government business as a measure in provision of infrastructure together with demolishing of worshipping centers around offices and adherence to social distance in mosques, churches and certainty punishing defaulters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Governments at all level should provide adequate “health based safety” protocols. These include (a) all hunters that hunt wild and domestic butchers must dress in public health based safety Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE). (b) There must be routine house to house checking by public health personnel to ascertain sustenance of required health based safety measures at all homes. There must be adequately intensified scientific research to discover vaccines for coronavirus and all related infections.
2. All recommendations of WHO and NCDC must be strictly adhered to, particularly the non pharmaceutical measures such as social distancing, wear of face mask, regular washing of hands and avoiding large gathering.
3. Shoulder to shoulder congregations as observed in some religious gathering should be discouraged by criminalizing outlawed crowds.
4. There must be re-intensified fight against corruption to succeed a smooth implementation of all to curb the spread of the pandemic. Efforts must be geared toward ending of capitalism as it is the mother of all crimes and particularly of corruption.

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