

Globalization or De-linking? Gauging the Efficacy of Global Administration to Global Pandemics in the Face of the Novel Corona Virus between December 2019 and the First Quarter of 2020

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Abstract

In the last month of 2019, the world was confronted by an outbreak of a novel Corona virus originating from Wuhan, China – COVID-19. The virus resulted in the deaths of more than three thousand people worldwide by the end of January 2020. By the end of March, the virus had spread to all the continents, threatening to shut down the world economy as we know it today. There was no vaccine or medication to regulate its contagion except that people were mandated to act in a precautionary way to curb its spread. There is no doubt that the corona virus pandemic presented the single most, modern challenge to the global village and globalisation. The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and subsequently, a pandemic. However, despite the decrees, there was no concerted world effort to decisively deal with the plague. Over a period of two months the virus had done extreme damage through the interaction of peoples around the world. Two strategies had become buzzwords for curbing the virus – Social distancing and Lockdown. This paper interrogates the effectiveness of Global administration to this contagion. The paper questions the ability of the global system of administration to deal with global catastrophes of this nature. Concepts of globalisation versus delinking are revisited to assess their applicability today. The paper cross-examines the role of the virus in the incessant trade and biological wars between the West and the East. Qualitative research methods, descriptive and exploratory techniques were used.

Keywords: Globalisation; Delinking; Pandemic; Global Administration; Global Governance; Coronavirus; COVID-19.

Introduction

COVID-19 is caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2) and is part of a large family of corona viruses (CoV). Coronaviruses are transmitted from animals to people, with this particular strain of coronavirus thought to have originated from a seafood market in the city of Wuhan in China in late December of 2019. (Elfein: 2020). Symptoms of COVID-19 bear a resemblance to those of the common cold, with those affected repeatedly suffering fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. Still, infection can lead to pneumonia, multi-organ failure, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and even death, in more severe cases. The elderly and those with pre-existing chronic health conditions have accounted for the majority of deaths from COVID-19. (Elfein: 2020). At the time of writing

this paper, China had the highest figures of recorded infections (81 054), followed by Italy with 53 578, and the USA with 26 892. (Statista 2020). As of March 22, 2020, the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had been confirmed in around 188 countries or territories. The virus had infected 308,592 people worldwide, and the number of deaths had totalled 13,069. The most severely affected countries outside of China included Italy, the USA, Spain, and Germany. (Elfein: 2020).

Although the origin of the virus was China, at the time of writing, the epicentre of the virus had shifted to Europe and America. Meanwhile, as infection numbers surged globally, there was a downward trend in China which the Communist Party hailed as major victory. (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news>). In Africa, few cases, largely of Caucasian origin were reported to have tested positive to the virus.

These were cases of people whose travel history proved that they had travelled to the affected areas. This has fuelled the stigma and prejudice of the origins of the virus – China- and the pseudo-scientific melanin explanations of how Africans are possibly immune to the virus. Be that as it may, the disease proved to be spread through travelling and contact with infected people and areas.

The nature of a global world has not precluded Africa from contracting the disease as it is arguably the epicentre of globalisation. Africa is historically the producer of raw materials which have fuelled and continue to fuel the industrial flame of the developed world and China since the 19th Century. The unavoidable interaction is undoubtedly fuelling the spread of the COVID-19 yet the world does not have a planned strategy to deal with the consequences of negative outcomes. Therefore, there is a need to question the process of global administration itself.

Conceptual framework

Global governance brings together assorted actors to manage collective action at the level of the planet. The goal of global governance, roughly defined, is to provide global public goods, particularly peace and security, justice and mediation systems for conflict, functioning markets and unified standards for trade and industry. (Global Challenges Foundation: 2020). Scholars have used the term “governance” to denote the regulation of interdependent relations in the absence of overarching political authority, such as in the international system. It encompasses the institutions, policies, norms, procedures and initiatives through which states and their citizens try to bring more predictability, stability, and order to their responses to transnational challenges.

While the importance of global governance has been acknowledged, we are witnessing the increasing need to manage global problems more effectively in the face of increased interdependence. One crucial global public good is catastrophic risk management – putting appropriate mechanisms in place to maximally reduce the likelihood and impact of any event that could cause the death of 1 billion people across the planet, or damage of equivalent magnitude. (<https://globalchallenges.org/>)

The leading institution in charge of global

governance today is the United Nations, which was founded in 1945 in the wake of the Second World War as a way to prevent future conflicts on that scale. The United Nations does not directly bring together the people of the world, but sovereign nation states, and currently counts 193 members who make recommendations through the UN General Assembly. (<https://globalchallenges.org/>). Beyond the UN, other institutions with a global mandate play an important role in global governance. Of primary importance are the so-called Bretton Woods institutions: The World Bank and the IMF, whose function is to regulate the global economy and credit markets.

Global governance is more generally affected through a range of organisations acting as intermediary bodies. Those include bodies in charge of regional coordination, such as the EU or ASEAN, which coordinate the policies of their members in a certain geographical zone. Those also include strategic or economic initiatives under the leadership of one country – NATO for the US or China’s Belt and Road Initiative for instance – or more generally coordinating defense or economic integration, such as APEC or ANZUS. Finally, global governance relies on looser norm-setting forums, such as the G20, the G7 and the World Economic Forum: those do not set up treaties, but offer spaces for gathering, discussing ideas, aligning policy and setting norms. This last category could be extended to multi-stakeholder institutions that aim to align global standards, for instance the Internet Engineering Taskforce (IETF) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

Methods

Qualitative research design and descriptive methods were used in this article. At the time of researching the coronavirus the situation was still fluid and figures and situations were changing, and so media articles and authoritative scholars were used to analyse this dynamic topic. Main authorities were studied which deal with the topic of Global Governance and the two concepts under review. exploratory techniques were used in the effort to explore the connection between China and American relations. There was a lot of reading and study of newspapers, reports, and listening to news articles concerning the outbreak and a lot of critical analysis put into it.

Results

Globalisation in its form has failed to provide safety to all humanity in the face of global catastrophes. The corona virus has led to the main strategy by individual countries to lockdown. This strategy is antithetical to the very process of globalisation, which is the interconnectedness of the world. But should the world turn to delinking as a strategy to deal with future similar pandemics? The answer is not definitive. The current shutdown has disrupted the world economy as we know it, with industries shutting down, people losing jobs, small scale industrialists losing their livelihoods and above all the financial system collapsing. There is no doubt that as the world comes out of this crisis, a new world order has to come up. What that new world order is will be determined by the way in which the world survives a pandemic such as this one.

Discussion

Is globalisation still relevant?

Globalization is the word used to describe the growing interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in goods and services, technology, and flows of investment, people, and information. (PIIE: 2020). The Levin Institute (2017) describes it as a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies, and governments of different nations, a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology. What is common among these definitions is that this process has effects on the environment, culture, political systems, economic development and prosperity, and on human physical well-being in societies around the world.

Effective global governance cannot be achieved without effective international cooperation. Besides being a manifestation of international solidarity, international cooperation is a means to promote common interests and shared values and to reduce the vulnerabilities generated by increased interdependence. It is also a legal obligation. (United Nations: 2014). Already in 1945, Member States of the United Nations recognized the centrality of "international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social,

cultural, or humanitarian character. (United Nations, 1945, Article III).

From an African perspective, globalisation was an imposed system in which the colonialists did not completely disconnect with the colonised territories during the decolonisation process which began in the 1960s. During the colonisation period, a core-periphery relationship existed in which the colonial power, the core, was the recipient of resources from the periphery, the colonised state. The former colonies were only given political independence yet there was no economic emancipation from the shackles of the colonisers. Neo-colonialism has persisted in which the remnants of the coloniser continue to force the colonised states to pay allegiance to the coloniser. This happens through globalisation.

Through this system, there was and still is a deliberate political, economic, cultural and social subjugation, not physical, but based on power relations. Information technology, communication, trade and migration have deliberately been used to aid this process and have become indispensable vehicles through which the coloniser has maintained a grip on the former colonies.

This paper does not seek to explain the already known cons of globalisation, but to test its veracity in dealing with the current world pandemic of the Corona virus. The World Health Organisation (WHO), established in 1948 as a specialised agency of the United Nations, is currently the global body in charge of governing the risk of pandemics. It does this mainly through a governance mechanism called the International Health Regulations (IHR), the goal of which is to stop public health events that have the potential to spread internationally with minimal interference of travel and trade. (Global Challenges Foundation: 2020). The IHR first came into force in 1969, with an initial focus on four infectious diseases – Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever and Smallpox.

Revised in 2005, the IHR now acknowledge that many more diseases than the four originally covered may spread internationally, and that many cannot be stopped at international borders, as was demonstrated by the spread of HIV in the 1980s and SARS in 2003. Emphasis is therefore placed now on the requirement that countries rapidly detect and respond to outbreaks and other public health events which have the potential to

spread internationally. (Global Challenges Foundation: 2020).

De-linking

Delinking is a concept based on the dependency theory of development which was developed after World War Two, by thinkers such as Samir Amin, Walter Rodney, Emmanuel Wallerstein and Andre Gunder Frank. As a concept delinking had two aspects: on one hand, the economic aspect which entailed the refusal to submit to the demands of the worldwide law of value, or the supposed 'rationality' of the system of world prices that embody the demands of reproduction of world capital. On the other hand, delinking had the political aspect: that is a national and popular project of the liberation of the poor nations. The concept according to Amin (1987) arose because the crisis of development, in keeping with the general pattern of the crisis of the world-system, has led to questioning again the development strategies of "opening to the outside" based upon a thorough participation in the international division of labour. Delinking in this paper is used as an extension of what the development theorist Samir Amin intended it. We therefore agree with Amin when he noted that, "...the word delinking has passed into common language, and its use is being extended every day...and that this extension is accompanied, as is often the case, with a progressive shading-off of its meaning."(Amin:1987)

In keeping with this observation in the context of this paper the definition of delinking will go beyond the one given by Amin when he pointed this out, that "the development of countries at the periphery of the world-capitalist system, consequently, passes through a necessary break from this world capitalist system- a delinking- that is to say, the refusal to submit national-development strategy to the imperatives of globalisation". But the meaning that we give to the sense of delinking here is not only limited to the economic meaning of economic independency, but to a total lockdown or shutdown or sealing off of borders of nations from one another and thereafter organising a system in which a country can survive on its own with minimal contact with the rest of the world except when in need of essential goods and services, for, particularly, the movement of people (international migration) across borders to other nations especially in the face of catastrophic

disasters such as COVID-19. The Corona virus has exposed how a globalised world, particularly through migration, can easily be annihilated by a natural disaster of a contagious nature like this one. The objectives of this article are as follows:

1. To elaborate on the meaning of delinking as it pertains to international migration of people from one country to another.
2. To show how other aspects of globalisation can be kept, such as the sharing of technology, especially the information communication technology to keep the link with other nations in order to avoid a repetition of the spread of world pandemics such as COVID-19 which has the capacity to wipe out humanity as we know it.
3. To highlight how the Corona Virus pandemic has irreversibly reconfigured the world economy, world relations and people's behaviours worldwide as we knew them by analysing the only common solution to this pandemic in the absence of its vaccine.

Lockdown/Shutdown – The Global System of Dealing with COVID-19

In the wake of the outbreak of the pandemic, the world had to follow some guidelines as advised by health providers. Some of these were:

1. Frequently and meticulously cleaning one's hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
2. Avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth, because hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses.
3. Practicing respiratory hygiene
4. Wearing masks
5. If one had fever, cough and difficulty breathing, they should seek medical care early.
6. Isolation of people suspected to have been in contact with infected people. (WHO: 2020)
7. Maintaining social distancing.
8. Self-isolating once one suspected that they were symptomatic of the disease.

The above were mostly local remedies to contain the spread of the virus. On a wide scale move, China locked down 13 of its cities — and their 38 million residents — in an effort to contain the deadly coronavirus outbreak. (Chadwick: 2020). According to Wang and Wee (2020), the Chinese province of Hubei, where the coronavirus pandemic began, allowed most of its 60 million residents to leave, ending nearly two

months of lockdown and sending a strong signal of the government's confidence that its tough measures have worked to control the outbreak. The easing of the lockdown was the latest sign that China appeared to have successfully tamed the epidemic by placing sweeping restrictions on hundreds of millions of people, while governments elsewhere floundered. (Wang & Wee: 2020).

The World Health Organization, which has officially declared the outbreak a pandemic, has called on "all countries to continue efforts that have been effective in limiting the number of cases and slowing the spread of the virus, and more than a third of the planet's population is under some form of restriction." (Kaplan, Frias & McFall-Jensen: 2020). Various terms have been used to describe these restrictions, such as shutdown, lockdown and extreme social distancing. While "lockdown" is not a technical term used by public-health officials, it refers to anything from mandatory geographic quarantines to non-mandatory recommendations to stay at home, closures of certain types of businesses, or bans on events and gatherings. At international level, it meant banning flights, banning foreign people entering a country and restricting the flow of goods. For some period, the global world witnessed semi-delinking which became a possible solution to a catastrophic world pandemic. This brings up the question of the effectiveness of permanent de-linking or semi-delinking as a strategy to permanently deal with probable planetary catastrophes. At the time of writing this article, the authors were under a lockdown in Botswana and the results of lockdowns across the world are yet to be evaluated.

It is our argument that globalisation, which is the interconnectedness of the countries of the world can itself pose a colossal danger to the survival of humanity. As in the case with the Corona virus pandemic, the world was confronted with a reality of a possible annihilation of humanity because a virus which originated in Wuhan China went on to claim its epicentre in Europe and America within a short period of three months and this, aided by the migration of people. This adds to the already existing criticisms of globalisation, such as the promotion of neo-colonialism, the erosion of cultures of smaller communities (cultural imperialism), the exploitation of resources by the

Global North of the Global South and the dumping and political domination of weaker countries by more powerful ones.

The safety that lockdowns (delinking) gave to those areas which were affected most by COVID-19 was palpable. In Europe, calls for lockdowns became a rallying point to save the deteriorating situation. The biggest lockdown was enforced in India (currently happening at the time the article was being written), where 1.3 billion people have been ordered to stay inside for 21 days. This lockdown exceeded the size of those that happened in China even at the height of the epidemic there. (Buchholz: 2020). Other big lockdowns are happening in the U.S., where the majority of states and several cities have said that they would be enforcing strict stay-at-home orders, and in Europe, where there are nationwide lockdowns in France, Spain, the UK, Italy and elsewhere (totalling more than 300 million people). Almost all Russian regions have adopted lockdown measures first imposed in the nation's capital, Moscow - affecting around 142 million Russians in total. (<https://www.statista.com/chart/21240>).

What is most significant for this analysis is the effect of this attempt at containment on the functioning of the world economy as we know it. It became business unusual with many people stopping work, companies closing, industries coming to a halt and the world financial system collapsing at a rate never before seen in the history of mankind. On the downside, it should also be stated that this form of delinking threatened the general livelihood of the poor and posed a real danger of mass starvation, particularly in countries that already had their fair share of economic crisis, such as Zimbabwe. For farm workers in Mumbai, India, being able to survive is contingent on two factors such as in a case with one widow who survived on getting a daily wage of 100 Indian rupees (\$1.3) a day, and two, receiving a widow's monthly pension of 1,000 rupees (\$13.1) from the government. Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak at the beginning of March, both sources of income have dried up. (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04>)

Analysing the global response to the corona virus pandemic

The inadequacies of the global response to the coronavirus pandemic brings to the fore the

question on the materiality of the global administration system and the need for a new global order. Its limitations reside in the belief that international cooperation and international organizations can solve every global issue. In fact, executive powers capable of lending binding force to common decisions are lacking at international level. (Levi: 2016). The fact that in the globalization process tendencies toward world unification coexist with decentralization and localization led to the idea of glocalization. It is a concept that echoes the federalist viewpoint of a reorganization of political power on several levels of government from the local community to the UN. This perspective is an aspect of the larger idea that, if globalization is to be regulated, international relations must be constitutionalized according to the example of the European Union, which is the laboratory of a new form of large-scale political organization. This idea includes institutions like a World Parliament and a World Government.

It is the above weakness upon which the global response to the COVID-19 can be analysed. While the World Health Organisation was declaring the pandemic as a Health Emergency, the underlying assumption was that the world will unite to fight and defeat the virus. However, the most significant aspect of the expectations from the WHO concerns the sphere of politics, and consists in the contradiction between a transnational organisation that has a global dimension, and a system of states that are national. The doctrine of sovereignty will apply in which an individual state will take measures that are of interest to itself and its survival. This explains today why, despite the WHO proclamation of a Global emergency, some countries have locked down and others have largely ignored the calls, while others have taken a wait-and-see approach, to the detriment of their societies.

The lack of a known concerted effort to develop a vaccine of the coronavirus by the leading global powers (USA, China and the G20) is a cause to argue that global governance will always remain a myth as long as there is no

unified response to global threats. According to the New York Times (2, April 2020), “The leader of the United Nations has called the coronavirus pandemic the most challenging crisis since the organization’s founding after World War II. But the Security Council, its most powerful arm, has been conspicuously silent.” And our argument is that if there can be no binding global administration to events that pose danger to the survival of humanity as we have known it, there is a need to imagine the advantages of delinking.

It is important to note that in the face of this global pandemic, most countries turned to inward-looking strategies and “sealing-off” in an effort to contain the virus. The United Nations failed to fulfil its outside role as the pandemic rages on across the globe. Even the financial response by the prime intergovernmental organisation has been too slow to assist the affected nations. The issue concerning most researchers in this field is how the global new order should be organised if it is to deal with world catastrophes.

Is its global biological warfare? – the suspicions

Man has used poisons and toxins for assassination purposes ever since the dawn of civilization, not only against individual enemies but also occasionally against armies. (Frischknecht: 2023). The foundation of microbiology by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch offered new prospects for those interested in biological weapons because it allowed agents to be chosen and designed on a rational basis. According to Frischknecht (2003), these dangers were soon recognized, and resulted in two international declarations—in 1874 in Brussels and in 1899 in The Hague—that prohibited the use of biological weapons. However, although these, as well as later treaties, were all made in good faith, they contained no means of control, and so failed to prevent interested parties from developing and using biological weapons. The table below gives a summary of how biological weapons have been used in the world over time.

Table 1

Year	Event
1155	Emperor Barbarossa poisons water wells with human bodies, Tortona, Italy
1346	Mongols catapult bodies of plague victims over the city walls of Caffa, Crimean Peninsula
1495	Spanish mix wine with blood of leprosy patients to sell to their French foes, Naples, Italy
1650	Polish fire saliva from rabid dogs towards their enemies
1675	First deal between German and French forces not to use 'poison bullets'
1763	British distribute blankets from smallpox patients to native Americans
1797	Napoleon floods the plains around Mantua, Italy, to enhance the spread of malaria
1863	Confederates sell clothing from yellow fever and smallpox patients to Union troops, USA

Source: [Friedrich Frischknecht: 2003.

It is not clear whether any of these attacks caused the spread of disease. In Caffa, the plague might have spread naturally because of the unhygienic conditions in the beleaguered city. Similarly, the smallpox epidemic among Indians could have been caused by contact with settlers.

In addition, yellow fever is spread only by infected mosquitoes. During their conquest of South America, the Spanish might also have used smallpox as a weapon. Nevertheless, the unintentional spread of diseases among native Americans killed about 90% of the pre-columbian population.

Table 2

Disease	Pathogen	Abused ¹
Category A (major public health hazards)		
Anthrax	Bacillus anthracis (B)	First World War
		Second World War
		Soviet Union, 1979
		Japan, 1995
		USA, 2001
Botulism	Clostridium botulinum (T)	–
Haemorrhagic fever	Marburg virus (V)	Soviet bioweapons programme
	Ebola virus (V)	–
	Arenaviruses (V)	–
Plague	Yersinia pestis (B)	Fourteenth-century Europe
		Second World War
Smallpox	Variola major (V)	Eighteenth-century N. America
Tularemia	Francisella tularensis (B)	Second World War
Category B (public health hazards)		
Brucellosis	Brucella (B)	–
Cholera	Vibrio cholerae (B)	Second World War
Encephalitis	Alphaviruses (V)	Second World War
Food poisoning	Salmonella, Shigella (B)	Second World War
		USA, 1990s

Glanders	Burkholderia mallei (B)	First World War
		Second World War
Psittacosis	Chlamydia psittaci (B)	–
Q fever	Coxiella burnetii (B)	–
Typhus	Rickettsia prowazekii (B)	Second World War
Various toxic syndromes	Various bacteria	Second World War

Source: [Friedrich Frischknecht: 2003]

Category C includes emerging pathogens and pathogens that are made more pathogenic by genetic engineering, including hantavirus, Nipah virus, tick-borne encephalitis and haemorrhagic fever viruses, yellow fever virus and multidrug-resistant bacteria.

Does not include time and place of production, but only indicates where agents were applied and probably resulted in casualties, in war, in research or as a terror agent. B, bacterium; P, parasite; T, toxin; V, virus.

From the onset of the Corona Virus outbreak, there existed suspicion all around the world as to the origins of the virus itself. Was it a laboratory exercise gone wrong that led to the escape of this virus from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or did it indeed originate from a sea-food market in Wuhan as was reported? According to Business Today (2, April, 2020), A \$20 trillion lawsuit has been filed against Chinese authorities in the US over coronavirus outbreak. The lawsuit alleges that the virus had been released from the Wuhan Virology Institute and that it was designed by China to kill mass populations. The report also pointed to the evidence that linked China. According to multi media reports, there was only one microbiology lab in China that handled advanced viruses like the novel coronavirus, and it was in Wuhan. (Business Today, 2, April 2020). It is not lost on the same world, that China concealed the outbreak of the virus for a month before it announced its existence. The battle between American giant Google and Chinese multinational telecommunications giant, Huawei in the last quarter of 2019, in which the American Government banned Huawei from using Google services, heightened the suspicions of a retaliatory action by China.

Until recently, conventional warfare involved declarations, bullets, bombs and the mobilisation of troops. Today's warfare, as Bill Gates points out, is a highly infectious virus. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Af6b_wyiwI) and the victor is the one who finds the vaccine

first. African countries were dragged into the First and Second World Wars because they belonged to a colonial block. In this pandemic war, again they faced a danger even though they were dragged into it by virtue of which foreign nationals frequented that country.

Is it a War for Economic Dominance by Global Economic Superpowers?

One virus, the Wuhan virus, as the American President, Donald Trump called it, created an unprecedented crisis in the whole world. By the time the world swung into action, the virus had already crossed most borders and the world had to play catch-up. However, there is one country which had an edge during the virus – the home country of the virus – China. There is no doubt that China was hit for weeks and that the Chinese people suffered, but by the time of writing this article, China had announced that it had contained the threat. According to Wionews (2020), in line with that, China closed its borders but businesses and factories were up and running again. Recovery will take time again but they have made a start. Companies are being asked to make coronavirus supplies and they are making equipment other countries might need to fight the outbreak, such as gloves, masks, personal protection equipment and even ventilators.

Our argument is that, having put its competitors into a metaphorical intensive care unit, China is now selling them ventilators. But is China making a profit out of this? Two Chinese Army Generals, Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangsui, explored the strategies that militarily and politically disadvantaged nations might take in order to successfully attack a geopolitical superpower like the United States. American military doctrine is typically led by technology; a new class of weapon or vehicle is developed, which allows or encourages an adjustment in strategy. (Liang & Xiangsui: 1999). They argue that this dynamic is a crucial weakness in the American military, and that this blind spot with regard to alternative forms of warfare could be effectively

exploited by enemies. The traditional mentality that offensive action is limited to military action is no longer adequate given the range of contemporary threats and the rising costs - both in dollars and lives lost - of traditional warfare. Instead, Liang and Xiangsui suggest the significance of alternatives to direct military confrontation, including international policy, economic warfare, attacks on digital infrastructure and networks, and terrorism. Even a relatively insignificant state can incapacitate a far more powerful enemy by applying pressure to their economic and political systems. Some issues below are worth mentioning.

As the ongoing crises of the worldwide pandemic increased, some people in the business sector felt the need to do some damage control. An article by 'TIME' reported that Senators in the United States sold millions worth of shares before the pandemic heightened in severity. (<https://time.com/>). Although some regarded this as a questionable decision, others pointed out that it was the perfect time to purchase stocks due to the plummeting of the market. The question that remains is "Why did those Senators sell their shares?" From another point of view, one would think that the shares sold were to be affected by the pandemic and it was best for them to sell the majority of their shares in order to avoid any implications.

Globally, the business of selling sanitizers has risen. Companies such as Purell are making triple their normal sales due to CoV. An article by 'WUSA9' reported that Purell has made a yearly increase of 225% with their hand sanitizers. (<https://www.wusa9.com/>). Other individuals have taken the entrepreneurial route and made their own sanitizers to sell to the public. Sanitizers have always been in existence but many saw them as a luxury. With this pandemic, they have now become an essential to all. Supermarket shelves have been emptied of sanitizers by people trying to maintain good hygiene as they go about their daily lives. Some have even resorted to making their own sanitizers to sell to others but the worry arises where most of these people have little knowledge on making sanitizer formulas that will work.

The face mask business has also sky-rocketed in terms of sales. Many businesses have diversified their production and have added face masks to their production line. "Automobili Lamborghini is reconverting some departments

of its production plant in Sant'Agata Bolognese in order to produce surgical masks and protective medical shields for the Sant'Orsola-Malpighi Hospital in Bologna, which is involved in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, in collaboration with the University of Bologna. The Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences will oversee validation testing of the medical devices made by Lamborghini, prior to their delivery to the hospital." (<https://www.lamborghini.com/>). The pandemic has hit many businesses hard and they are now seeking new ways of coping with the sudden decrease in sales.

The pharmaceutical industry has always benefited from other day to day sicknesses but since the pandemic there has been an increase in the need for medication. The public is spending more money on immune boosters and vitamins to help them during these difficult times. At the same time this has become a race between pharmaceuticals to find a cure for the virus.

Concluding remarks

The global world is faced by an unprecedented catastrophe in its history. All countries are rallying towards one focal strategy – lockdown - in order to contain the threat that the outbreak poses. It would seem that a new order in which the global world would act the as one has arrived. The paradox though, is that, countries have sealed off their borders, literally implementing a phase of delinking in which the connection through migration has been cut. Yet through technology, the world is in touch and countries are learning from the experiences of others. There is consensus that the global governance system has had to play second fiddle to the virus in terms of its reaction to it. America, the biggest power, is fast becoming the epicentre of the pandemic whereas China, from where the virus originated, is playing the supplier of the equipment needed to fight the outbreak. The questions that this paper has raised demand an answer. Is this the highest stage of globalisation and from here does it experience "the Law of Diminishing Returns?". Is the Global Administration system through the United Nations effective? Is the world a pawn to the biological and economic warfare between China and the United States of America? All these are questions that researchers are confronted with.

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