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Jordan Hess

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Hess, Jordan, "COVID-19 Personal Reflection" (2020). *Personal Reflections*. 8.
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Jordan Hess

April 15th, 2020

Covid-19 Reflection

People need to be aware about the harm that this virus caused, not from its biological nature, but from the greed, corruption, and inability to respond accordingly by numerous governments around the world. China was the first afflicted, back in Q3 2019, and they neglected to warn the proper authorities quite what was brewing. By the time people knew about it, it had spread. China to this day continues to lie about total number of people affected, both living and dead... But I live in America and don't quite care so much about how they responded, as I do about how the U.S. government responded. We have a horrible leader in Donald Trump, and even acknowledging him as the leader of this country makes me confused and sick. Regardless, he continued to downplay what was happening, saying it would blow over, and people aren't to be worried. Government officials and stockbrokers then committed a huge insider information scandal and sold off tremendous amounts of stocks which is highly illegal, but no one seemed to care. The savvy personal trader made lots of money, expecting company values to drop tremendously, but how many people do you know that trades stocks casually? Not many.

No one that I was talking to, in person and online, was really sure what to make of this pandemic. No one was sick in America, yet we were told to stock up on supplies and to start social distancing. People started going to the stores and buying up toilet paper for some reason, and paper towels. Beyond that, everyone thought it was blown out of proportion, and then the first cases started coming in. Mostly the elderly and immune compromised so the average person reassured themselves that they would be ok. But then healthy people started dying, the number of affected just kept growing, and people started to get scared. Social distancing started to be enforced, and once again the young people and, dare I say, stupid people continued to ignore this and kept saying how everything was overblown, and a conspiracy theory, etc. Police intervention started to occur and people began to get fined for having gatherings, or going to stores without face masks, but this varied from state to state. Some of our lives didn't change much, introverts who normally stay at home most of the day continued to stay at home, people who had jobs that were unaffected by the virus kept going to work, albeit with some fear and anxiety. We've got celebrities living in mansions preaching the common man to "just stay at home, it's easy!" We've got influential people trying to boost spirits by singing on social media, and showing "just how easy it is", while the poor man continues to work, and die. Those "fortunate" enough to lose their jobs were easily able to get unemployment, though this is most likely less than what they were making before. I have enough money for a long time, myself, so financial struggles haven't hit me as hard as others, and thus I'm unaware many of the nuances surrounding this aspect of the pandemic.

Countries around the world started to introduce stimulus relief checks, with America being pretty much at the bottom of the barrel, essentially borrowing money from our future taxes to pay for this stimulus package now... Except that package includes a 1.8 trillion-dollar corporate bailout. So once again, American taxpayers are expected to bail out corporations worth billions of dollars, and we're supposed to be thankful to the government for giving us an advance on our taxes. Oh, but certain people can't even get that relief check, such as people who owe child support. Meanwhile, it's an

election year and our one candidate that endorsed universal basic income (essentially what the stimulus check is doing) was shunned and cast aside fairly early on, and the other candidate preaching for universal health care and an end to corporate bailouts just dropped out after the overwhelming slew of centrists (left leaning republicans) decided to vote on the moderate, yet again. This country is shifting its goalposts to the right with each election, to the point where even a true centrist will be viewed as a progressive. I'm not sure what it will take for people to finally see the need for progressiveness in politics, because if a global pandemic which sickens, kills, lays people off, and impoverishes the common man doesn't do it, I really don't know what will.

Politics aside, this has been truly an unfortunate time in American history. People are discouraged from leaving their houses for anything besides work, exercise, and essential shopping trips. People haven't seen their significant others in weeks due to the social distancing recommendation. People are trying to stay hopeful that this resolves itself by summer time, but I have my doubts. And probably the worst part of this all is, is there going to be any change? China recently confirmed that certain animals are finally worth enough to be deemed as pets, such as dogs, and this will stop the consumption of dogs (this whole thing came from eating affected bats, by the way), but what else? Clearly American politics won't change. The rich will continue to get richer, corporations will continue to get bailouts when they underperform, and the poor will continue to be sacrificed in order for that to happen.