

## **Pandemic Enlightens**

By Smita Gupta

COVID-19 and its impact are known to the whole world. For the nations, it has increased the pace to bring humanity on the edge of human civilization where it has already caused as much carnage as it has been possible. Dragon has and is still spewing fire on the whole world and people had dropped like flies before it. No one has been barred, from biggest economic power in the world - the United States, to the best health care country in the world – Italy. Some have doomed, some are dooming and others on the path. No one is left out, from the sphere of influence. Although, few are trying best to control the afflicted pain of the dragon whip, but the world's bleeding and sobbing is insurmountable.

As Ralph Raico has written, "Throughout history, the "material productive forces" have changed, and with them, the relationships of production" That is the basis of Marx theory. But someday something very curious will occur". Although as a political scientist we still search answers for that "very curious" but maybe it is this global pandemic. Advancement of technology, science, or health has no significance before this pandemic holocaust. It seems as if Human Civilization progress has come to standstill and moving for survival only. Civilization development carries with itself the seeds of its own decay. COVID-19 had been the spinning wheel to know the reality and introspect. This pandemic has put everyone on the spinning wheel to realize and value the valuable. Race to be first, in the race, has actually changed the course of the race. Today, mankind is at such crossroads where it has to introspect for its own existential progress trajectory.

I feel that these are epoch-making times to introspect contested conflicting ideas for our priorities and our decisions. Time has come to believe that nations, world leaders, diplomats together have to resolve to unite. To save ourselves from such pandemic there is no need for best drugs or intelligent Doctors but pursue what James Mill disclosed centuries back "greatest good of greatest numbers", the essence of collective goodwill heal the world. We need to understand that this is the beginning of the end. State actor powers are not pervasive in nature but are subject to boundaries. Dishing out blame on China or America will not serve the purpose. Emergency times have approached to teach mankind a lesson and once lessons are learned, plight will fade away.

Undoubtedly, change in habits for saving the environment has been over-due and so corona-virus did it forcibly. Stars at night were out of sight, owing to rising pollution levels but now they are visible as pollution levels have dipped. Countries have been in lockdown, where no one on roads, offices closed, schools closed, no cars, no transportation means, people restricted to their own homes, led environment to be in a safer position. Pollution levels have decreased around the world. It's a high time warning to humans - if they did not restrict themselves from their devastating greed of more and more then probably - the time is not far when we will die of the scarcity of two most basic essentials i.e. air and water. A mightier warning could not have been designed then COVID-19 to give a lesson to humans. Centuries of destruction to the ecosystem has to be finally stopped, when no collaborative initiative of the world together can agree to bring the temperature of earth down then it is coronavirus as a furious and merciless teacher, who has done it. This event in the century must be taken as a warning to enlighten us, to awaken us from deep slumbered in technologically advanced gadgets.

We have been in the state of amnesia where we do not know, what is happening to us, what we are doing, where we are heading, and why. We do not search for any answers we are just passive beings and carrying on everything discharging the illusionary duty to earn more and more. Coronavirus had knocked us to rethink and recall that there is an urgent need to pay heed to the extent of destruction the human race has already done. Destruction to the environment, destruction to air, destruction to flora and fauna, destruction to the potential of human minds, destruction to personal quality lives, which has extremely changed since the appearance of mobile phones. This COVID-19 has shaken us completely to live lives, we have never dreamt off. Pandemic has actually given us an opportunity to think and introspect our lives and question ourselves where

we are going and why? Actually it allows us to think in terms of unity against a giant demon.

As per me, the Pandemic enlightens us with the lessons of cooperation, solidarity, and humanity. Times are ripe for the world to learn lessons of 'restriction' and 'refrain'. Nations across the world have to relive principles of new world order and follow practicing 'restrain' and 'refrain'. Rehearsing 'restrain' from being an untailored material possession collector and 'refrain' from conflict of interest and influence. Countries have to learn these lessons before this COVID 19 bequeath the world.

I emphasize that the World will change...the world has to change....to survive. We need to enlighten and unite. Unite to forge an unprecedented alliance that has never happened to re-establish sustainable balance on this earth.