

## Is Coronavirus the worst of the worst for the Human and Earth?

<sup>a</sup> Orhan Özçatalbaş

<sup>a</sup> Akdeniz University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics, Antalya/Turkey

For the world and the region, where the coronavirus pandemic has visited with so much negativity in 2020, speculation has it that “it’s the worst of the worst.”

This global pandemic, which has deeply affected our lives with its multifaceted effects, has already begun to question and destroy many customaries and acceptances in our minds. Although there have been devastating global outbreaks in the past, where human losses have reached exceptional numbers, the outreach of media and advancement in information technology has created extraordinary effects in human and social psychology.

If we consider the exaggerated, biased and inaccurate information that bombard our media outlets, we can and should expect it to bring about permanent changes in our worldview, like the effect ocean waves create every time they hit the ocean shore.

This global atmosphere of uncertainty and fear is essentially a precursor sign that nothing will ever be the same again...

- *Let’s think! What was on our individual agenda before the coronavirus pandemic? What was on the agenda of our country and counties of our region? So what was on the agenda of countries with strong economic and global military influence?*
- *Let’s think! What agendas did we have before the coronavirus pandemic? What was on the agenda of our countries and our counties? What was the agenda of the economic superpowers with global military influence?*

Undoubtedly, countries had different agendas and goals apart from the havoc threatening global social order and societal governance today.

Regardless of the widespread effect the virus has caused; it is not possible to surmise that all these agendas have suddenly changed.

### Questioning the Effect of Corona on the Agenda

Until the global pandemic, local governments and global superpowers had, most of the time, different agendas. On one hand, we were focused on (space) colonizing the Mars, advancing in cybersecurity, technological development work. On the other hand, we inhabited a world where fundamental human rights are violated, a world where there is no respect to the rule of law and people ravaged by poverty exist, left alone in the face of famine, hunger and underdevelopment; a world where, for the survival on the planet, the most plausible conditions are subsistence in drylands. Succinctly, there is starvation rampant in less developed nations with people dying from obesity in more developed countries and an immense discrepancy between economic and social welfare.

Moreover, we have a world doomed to a low level of education, a low standard of living, chaos and internal troubles, and an opposite world which has reached a high level of well-being. However, the hegemonic demands of the world superpowers continue to suppress and brutalize the survivors from these tragedies, and this capital-centered structure has always worked against the economically weak, particularly low-development countries ravaged by civil wars and internal conflicts, shortages of energy and human capital orchestrated by external meddling.

Briefly we have reached a point where; the system is dominated by the advanced and a world that imposes a uniform lifestyle and a hollowed-out world popular culture where human values and social heritage, which are the common heritage of mankind, are put in the background...

### Post-Corona Period

These days, the coronavirus pandemic continues to threaten all countries, regardless of whether they are local and global powers. This pandemic that threatens human life is desired; it will result in the disappearance of the understanding of capitalism. It should be noted, however, that this change of understanding is not easy or even impossible.

Received: 16 April 2020; Received in revised from 19 April 2020; Accepted 21 April 2020. Countries that believe the world is their property and believe that the entire socio-political, economic and military system is under their control globally seem not to allow a world order beyond their control, even if they understand that after the coronavirus, this would not be the case. In fact, when these countries face such a serious wave of global threats, they are expected to question themselves and change their agenda to create new policies.

Consequently, common sense demands that countries, which declare in particular that they advocate the defense of civilization and democracy and that the protection of human rights is their responsibility, but do not fulfil the requirement of this assertion, should, after the global virus epidemic, develop reasonable and virtuous policies that focus on humanity and that are used for the common good of the blue planet and humanity.



Prof. Dr. Orhan ÖZÇATALBAŞ,  
Akdeniz University Faculty of Agriculture, Department of  
Agricultural Economics  
Research interests: Rural Development and Extension,  
Agricultural economics, Rural and Energy Policies,  
Information technologies

\* Corresponding author. E-mail address: oozcatalbas@gmail.com (Özçatalbaş). April 2020