

Introduction

Unfolding Crisis: It Doesn't Have To Be This Way!

By Sara Flounders

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The United States is reeling from a triple crisis: the COVID-19 pandemic that has inflicted over 4.4 million confirmed cases and more than 150,000 deaths since the end of February, the most of any country in the world; beyond this pain, suffering and death, over a million workers a week have filed for unemployment ever since April; in the face of shocking instances of police murders, millions of people all over the country, in big cities and small, remote, rural towns have marched and protested racism and systemic abuse of police power.

Facing multiple catastrophes, the U.S. authorities sought someone to blame. Since COVID-19 was first identified in China, politicians of all stripes in the U.S. have assigned the blame for COVID-19 to China and added a worldwide confrontation to the political and economic scene. No day goes by without the U.S. corporate media promoting totally distorted and negative news attacks on the People's Republic of China.

This anthology of articles by social justice activists details the dangers and inaccuracies of this media campaign and analyzes China's contribution to worldwide efforts to control and mitigate COVID-19. The book is a joint project by China US Solidarity Network and International Action Center.

As an anthology, the collection reflects different perspectives and political outlooks. What is remarkably consistent is that the authors confront anti-China rhetoric and urge a scientific approach to this crisis. These writers hold co-operation and solidarity as the best way forward.

Since this book reports the casualties of a rapidly escalating, global pandemic over months, with chapters organized by date within each section, it's important to note the date each chapter was written.

Republicans and Democrats trade barbs over who is "softer" on China. The U.S. closes consulates, ruptures business contracts and major trade deal, expels students and unilaterally

cancels long-established science collaborations and academic and art exchanges, while holding provocative U.S. naval maneuvers in the South China Sea and placing missile systems where they threaten China.

The COVID-19 pandemic puts the contention between the U.S. and China into sharp relief. This struggle is not just between two contending nation states or great powers, as many commentators claim. It is unresolved contradiction between a globalized world economy and an existing but moribund and archaic capitalist system, based on the private expropriation of wealth and resources. The relentless drive of capitalism to reap a profit from every type of human interaction now stands exposed as the greatest danger to the people of the whole planet.

Cooperation threatens U.S. domination

U.S. capitalism has no effective way of resolving the COVID-19 pandemic, even within its borders. This failure is a public humiliation. Washington is also incapable of offering leadership to its imperialist allies or to the developing countries it has long dominated.

The narrow for-profit constraints of capitalism, the absolute need to maximize profits in order for the system to survive, make global cooperation impossible and threaten U.S. hegemony. Within the U.S., the largest capitalist economic crisis in 90 years has shut down industries and services, leaving nearly 30 million, one out of five workers, as of July 30, officially unemployed.

Cyclical capitalist economic crashes have been a regular part of the world's economy for hundreds of years but the onset of the current one has been much quicker and vastly more devastating than normal.

China has been able to avoid these cyclical crises, but you wouldn't hear about that here. China's success is obscured by a barrage of attacks claiming to value freedom over dictatorship. Democrats blame Republicans for the economic crash here, and vice versa. But both political parties and their talking heads understand that they must not blame the competitive for-profit system itself. Exposing that truth could lead to revolutionary conclusions.

The U.S. now has the world's highest number of COVID-19 fatalities, over 150,000, as of July 25. China, with four times the population, has had fewer than 5,000 fatalities. (worldometers.info/coronavirus/#news) This stands as a monumental indictment of the capitalist system, which is of course ignored in the corporate media.

The chaotic disorganization in the U.S. and its inability to consistently test and report the results of this testing, even six months after the virus started to spread, expose the fragmented and profit-driven infrastructure of health care in the United States.

Searing images not easily erased: medical staff pleading for personal protective equipment in desperate job actions on YouTube videos and GoFundMe sites, while wearing rain ponchos, garbage bags, bandanas and shower caps; overwhelmed hospitals, exhausted staff and refrigerated trucks full of bodies.

China's response exposes U.S. failure

As several articles highlight, China, by contrast, although hit first by the virus, has exhibited an orderly, scientific and highly organized response on a national scale. This response is still more impressive since China is a developing country coming from an oppressed, colonized, absolutely impoverished past. Even now its development is highly uneven.

China's government plans to end poverty before 2021, to arrive at a moderately prosperous society for all by 2030 and reach a developed, socialist economy by 2050. It's recent historic accomplishment of lifting 800 million people out of extreme poverty confirms the essential role of socialist planning.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, after a short period of planning and evaluation, the whole country shut down, practicing social distancing and strict health protocols. At the same time, those responsible rushed tons of equipment and thousands of medical personnel, outfitted head-to-toe in protective medical gear, to Wuhan, where two fully equipped hospitals were constructed within weeks in Wuhan to care for the surge in COVID-19 cases.

They instituted food distribution, orderly shopping, a guaranteed income and a freeze on all rent and credit card payments. Free national health care already existed. Massive national testing immediately confined the spread of the virus.

In other places where building socialism is the goal, even in countries starved for resources, -- including Vietnam, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea to the state of Kerala in India -- a mobilized population has proven the best protection against the virus and has kept casualties low.

After it brought the pandemic under control, China sent hundreds of plane loads of medical equipment to every country in Africa and throughout Asia, and shipped essential supplies to Europe and the U.S. The U.S. government went in the opposite direction. At the very moment when appeals for human solidarity and cooperation was most needed, Washington was instead hijacking and redirecting supplies from countries it had put under sanctions.

Competition at all costs

The U.S. failure to adequately test the population represents a failure of a system. The U.S. has no national health care system. A majority of authors in this book focus on this failure.

Medical insurance is generally tied to employment, and care is provided on a for-profit basis by giant hospital groups, pharmaceutical monopolies, labs and urgent care centers. The few state and city agencies that provide low-cost or free health care to the poor, were already gutted of funds. In the past decade, many social services have been privatized and contracted out to private corporations.

The World Health Organization had offered a mass-produced and easily available test kit, used by more than 153 countries. Instead, the government assigned the production of kits to private U.S. labs, which bid for lucrative contracts to make millions of kits. Many kits were defective. The whole campaign, which lacked any cohesive plan, was plagued with errors.

As a result, as of July 30 the U.S. still has one of the lowest rates of testing of any impacted country. This has hampered the ability to get accurate information to map the spread of COVID-19. Because the U.S. lacks a national health care system, the reporting of local test results to state and national databases is still in complete disarray. The same thing is true of treatment plans and allocating scarce medical supplies.

In the spring, the world epicenter of the virus became New York, a financial and media center and the largest city of U.S. imperialism. This made the medical chaos impossible to ignore. Now it is spreading across the country and is far from controlled.

University labs that try to fill the gap and help produce test kits run into a wall. Hospital systems and health insurance conglomerates are locked into exclusive contracts with giant private labs like LabCorp and Quest, which use competing and often incompatible software programs. It is almost impossible to enter a test result that is out of the network. (New York Times, May 21)

The racist and arrogant Trump administration is not the only cause of the COVID-19 fiasco. State governors, city mayors, Democrats and Republicans, are trapped in a tangle of conflicting regulations, competing lobbyists, exclusive contracts and unconnected platforms. Even arriving at a consistent and timely count of the number of positive tests and soaring fatalities is still impossible.

Hunger grows

In late March, Congress hammered out a bipartisan \$2.2 trillion stimulus package, making great promises of relief for workers and small businesses. But most money allocated to small businesses had to go through banks, which required a relationship that many Black and Latinx owned businesses didn't have. Extra federal benefits to unemployed workers went through overwhelmed and unresponsive state unemployment offices. Some workers waited months before receiving any money. Migrants, prisoners and homeless people got nothing.

Large corporations grabbed much of the stimulus money promised to small businesses to stay afloat. At the same time, trillions of federal dollars were pumped into the stock market in an attempt to revive it.

Throughout the spring, millions who qualify for the meager funds had to leap bureaucratic hurdles -- online forms, crashing databases and understaffed phones -- to try to receive what they were promised.

Meanwhile, there are no plans to address the most glaring problem: hunger. Food lines stretch for blocks, and food pantries are completely overwhelmed.

It is estimated that more than 2 million people in New York City go hungry -- a quarter of the population. In one borough, the Bronx, it's even worse: One-third are hungry. A patchwork of over 1,000 emergency food programs, including soup kitchens, food pantries and bag lunches provide limited and uncoordinated relief.

Spreading COVID-19 globally

Capitalism intentionally breaks down social cohesion. Mass mobilizations, unions and community self-control organizations are a threat to exploitation. Police repression and racism are an essential part of the fabric of this society, used like Krazy Glue to forcibly hold together a crumbling system.

Even entirely reasonable solutions, such as the immediate release of prisoners from overcrowded prisons and detention centers, have been stalemated. Despite national campaigns, car caravans and tens of thousands of petition signatures and phone calls on the danger of prisons and detention centers spreading COVID-19, the prison population has stayed basically the same.

But migrant detention centers are being emptied in a way that spreads the virus globally. Although international air traffic is almost shut down, forcible deportations have been made even to countries that have closed their borders to slow the spread of the virus. The Trump administration threatens sanctions against Central American countries that refuse to accept nationals who test positive. Trump is accused of willfully spreading the disease to Central America through deportations, including more than 100 flights to Guatemala. (Salon, April 19)

Military planning goes on

This decaying imperialist system does make plans and has built an elaborate infrastructure. It is focused on high-tech military preparations, new missiles, aircraft carriers, supersonic jets, maintaining 5,000 military bases and building new bases. This is enormously profitable for the largest U.S. corporations -- the military-industrial complex and oil giants -- that are linked to the largest banks. Hostility to China is lucrative for these corporations. Their lobbyists, even in the midst of a pandemic, are demanding new funds and more plans.

The U.S. ruling circles have always been hostile to the revolution that transformed China and broke neocolonial domination. Their hope was that capitalist penetration of China would overturn this accomplishment.

Now that their hopes of regaining control of China's enormous market are fading, the threat of war is growing.

Beginning in 2010, the Obama-Clinton "pivot to Asia" signaled a determination to reassert U.S. dominance. The plan was to surround China with reinvigorated military alliances and new batteries of missiles. There was bipartisan consensus from the beginning to increase naval confrontation in the South China Sea and heightened subversion from Hong Kong to Xinjiang, while stoking a trade war. Endless commentators have described this as the new Cold War. The Pentagon's recent announcements of new nuclear tests, mass production of thousands of

hypersonic nuclear missiles and U.S.-commanded war games in Europe and the Pacific are an ominous escalation.

In reality, it is a conflict created by an outmoded and decaying capitalist system that is confronting a new form of social cooperation and collective ownership that is beginning to unfold -- socialism.

By every possible measure of the virus and of deaths due to a host of many other neglected sicknesses, it is clear that the capitalist profit system itself is the greatest danger to People's health and well-being.

Just a comparison of the number of fatalities confirms how criminally responsible this chaotic economic system is for the deaths of millions of people globally and most glaringly in the U.S. Several authors in this anthology make this comparison. In the corporate media the two sharply different statistics are never mentioned.

According to the highly reputable Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, which maintains a global daily database, as of July 30 the U.S. has the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the world -- 151,760 fatalities. By the most cautious estimate, U.S. fatalities will continue at a rate of more than 5,000 deaths a week, every week for months, into the future. (coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

Projected spikes based on re-opening businesses and the relaxation of social distancing protocols may further escalate these fatalities. More ominous is that even a higher wave of deaths is projected into the winter months. (tinyurl.com/y9e7hlm6)

By the same source for the same date, China by comparison has had fewer than 5,000 total fatalities (4,634 deaths).

More significant is that China has been able to halt the spread of the virus within the country.

There is no expectation that the spread of the virus will be halted within the U.S. Cautious estimates now predict a death toll of 200,000 people by Oct. 1.

It is essential to examine the reason for the dramatically different outcomes, not only with China but with other countries taking a cooperative approach.

China, a still developing country with a population of 1.4 billion, has demonstrated to the world that the Covid virus can be controlled and contained with a scientific approach and with a coordinated social mobilization of the population.

Cuba, a small, blockaded country of 11.3 million, has also confirmed that, despite sanctions and blockade. the entire population can be protected and maintain good health. Besides protecting their own population, Cuban medical teams have traveled with essential supplies to set up more aid projects for COVID-19 around the world than has the World Health Organization.

Vietnam, with a population of more than 95 million, has had zero reported COVID-19 deaths and only 240 positive cases. Their tactics also involve active tracing measures; clear nationally enforced quarantines with guaranteed food, supplies and essential services; along with mobilization of medical students and retired doctors and nurses to push back the spread of the deadly virus. (For more, see tinyurl.com/yboto4qa/)

It's the system

Every field of science needs to cooperate and study this deadly virus to find treatments, a vaccine and a cure. But also needed is the study of the social and economic system that makes a virus so wildly uncontrollable in capitalist countries.

In the United States, supposedly the most technologically developed and wealthiest country in the world, the whole population faces total dysfunction of the government's social programs that could have controlled the virus. This is true at every level -- from testing to quarantines, to providing PPE for essential workers or essential funding for millions of unemployed workers on the brink of evictions and literal starvation. Now food lines have begun to stretch for blocks, sometimes miles. Hospitals in some places are so overwhelmed that the sick are turned away in droves.

As the Covid pandemic spirals out of control, the other co-morbidities of capitalism arise. The nationally oppressed communities of color have the highest toll of sickness and fatalities in every area of the country.

Hunger in children is soaring. With classrooms closed for months because of the pandemic, millions of children are going hungry. More than 20 percent of children are not getting enough to eat. Half of U.S. school children qualify for subsidized meals. Even the limited aid mandated

by Congress has reached only 4.4 million of the 30 million hungry children who qualify. (tinyurl.com/yc5gx9tp)

Almost all nonessential medical services have been curtailed. Cancer screenings, sexual health services, drug and stop smoking programs, diabetes, tuberculosis and HIV monitoring, mental health support, dentistry, vaccinations and routine checkups are all on hold.

Thousands of medical workers in all these fields face extreme pay cuts and layoffs. Since all hospitals, including public hospitals, operate in a for-profit funding environment, and since "nonessential services" are often the procedures that make profit, hospitals are going bankrupt at an unprecedented rate.

In a U.N. report the World Food Organization warned that, even in wealthy countries, indirect deaths could eventually eclipse the number of direct deaths. In the developing world, famines and total social breakdowns are a far greater threat with 130 million people at risk of starvation. (tinyurl.com/yblhr3zv)

In the U.S. a new round of "stimulus" for working people is under vague discussion. But essential social programs for working people are last in line after the Federal Reserve's urgent need to pump trillions of dollars into the stock market and maintain a military budget larger than that of the rest of the world combined.

Blaming China

Because the U.S. has failed to stop the spread or to provide basic care, the government must make every effort to deflect blame. As U.S. prestige around the world has plunged in light of the complete disarray of its response, the push to "blame China" has intensified.

A look at articles in the corporate media on the COVID-19 pandemic finds almost every narration includes at least a paragraph blaming China or attacking China for a slow initial response.

Yet China's response was stunningly fast in alerting the world and in mobilizing their population and full resources of the state. Compared to the U.S., China acted at the speed of light -- and the U.S. at the speed of a tortoise.

Time line

In evaluating who is responsible for the global spread of COVID-19, it is important to look at the facts, dates and numbers. Several chapters take this up in detail. The dates best expose this crude slander against China.

The virus was first identified in China and announced to the World Health Organization on Dec. 30, 2019. At that time, although there were several severe cases of a new and unusual pneumonia in China, there was not yet one death.

By Jan. 1, the Wuhan market where it is now believed the virus originated was closed down. Public health notices and detailed precautions to all health departments and medical institutions, as well as online information for a new viral pneumonia of unknown cause, were being rolled out throughout China. (A detailed explanation of these steps of identification, containment, rigorous testing and treatment is available at www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/06/c_138951662.htm).

By Jan. 7 Chinese researchers had identified the COVID-19 virus. All this happened before the first reported COVID-19 death in China on Jan. 9.

By Jan. 12 China announced to the world the genetic sequence of the virus and freely shared that sequence in order to aid the world in the mass building of diagnostic kits. The major high-tech and industrial hub of Wuhan, with a population of 11 million, was under strict lockdown for 76 days. In less than two weeks, over 40,000 medics came from all over China to Wuhan to assist. Meanwhile, quarantine measures were put in place in the whole country. Industries, schools, theaters, parks, sports and all social gatherings had been shut down.

However, under China's social system, rooted in its socialist revolution of 1949, wages were guaranteed and essential services continued. Rent, mortgage and credit card payments were frozen.

In February WHO officially reported: "In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history." The report added, "The remarkable speed with which Chinese scientists and public health experts isolated the causative virus, established diagnostic tools, and determined key transmission parameters, such as the route of spread and incubation period, provided the vital evidence base for China's strategy, gaining invaluable time for the response."

A vaccine is not a cure

Finding treatments and a vaccine for those who test positive will not automatically solve the global pandemic of COVID-19.

That's because the drive to compete at all costs is an ingrained and systemic response of the capitalist market system. That system is deeply threatened by cooperation -- even when millions of lives are at stake.

Thus, the U.S. government is refusing to cooperate with China in developing a vaccine. The very idea of learning from China's experience is met with official, racist disdain.

The racism is a cover-up for the fact that cooperation in developing a vaccine is a direct economic threat to far-flung U.S. business interests -- and to the capitalist foundation of the U.S. Big Pharma, the pharmaceutical industry, cannot risk a freely available, globally distributed vaccine that would be a dire threat to its corporate profits -- and more than enough cause to play the "blame China" game.

In thinking of why the U.S. has failed to contain the pandemic, and why U.S. powers that be spurn global cooperation in finding a cure, it is helpful to consider the prevalence of hunger -- in the U.S. and around the world.

The cure for hunger is completely simple and understood by every human being. Hunger is cured by providing food to the hungry.

Nevertheless, hunger and hunger-related diseases killed 9 million people in 2019, more than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. (tinyurl.com/rzvc5ls)

Yet there is no "Race for a Cure for Hunger." In fact, there is a global glut of food -- more than enough to feed every person in the world. But in a world and a global economy in which capitalist property relations prevail, hunger remains a global killer!

In that world, U.S. imperialism -- with a still-powerful military force at its command -- resists every challenge to its profits. So hunger through economic sanctions is instead used as a weapon of regime change and U.S.-orchestrated coups. Hunger is a problem that is never solved under capitalism.

But hunger is the first problem tackled by every socialist country in an organized way. That is why countries that have built and activated a socialist base -- like China -- have the means and experience to cope far better with an unknown health threat such as a virus.

In a global pandemic, capitalism's ruthless competition is the greatest killer.

'U.S. Chernobyl': Why the U.S. failed and China won against COVID-19 !

By Lee Siu Hin

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What's going on?

In January 2020, several cases of viral pneumonia of unknown origin were detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. No one knew exactly what the virus was, hence the vague identifier of "coronavirus" so popularly known today. Thousands of miles away in the U.S., when the virus was believed not to have reached its soil yet, right-wing U.S. elites, media, and politicians began using cruel words and ridicule against China, calling the virus "China's Chernobyl." U.S. Senator Tom Cotton, famous for his anti-China rhetoric, along with the right-wing media and the "liberal" Washington Post, began spreading the "Wuhan military lab-made virus" conspiracy theory.

I was in China at the time. As a Chinese-American community activist, I had been working and traveling between China and the U.S. for a bi-national solidarity activism project and working in the medical field. Due to the increased U.S. cold-war hostilities against China, we organized a 21-person U.K/U.S. activist delegation to China last December 2019 to January 2020. We traveled from Beijing along the Silk Road to Urumqi, China, the capital of Xingjian Uyghur Autonomous Region. Our main purpose was a fact-finding tour to fight U.S.-Western propaganda against China regarding Xingjian. We met many people and talked to Muslims and Uyghurs about the true situation.

It was right after the New Year 2020, on the tour bus to Dunhuang, China, when we heard the breaking story of the U.S. assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, and the small but developing news about a mysterious virus that broke out in Wuhan, China. By the time we returned to Beijing at the end of the tour on January 7, 2020, the situation in Wuhan seemed to be getting serious, with more and more local news coverage and public health warnings.

I stayed in China until January 20, 2020, and flew back to the U.S., 3 days before the Chinese government ordered Wuhan's lockdown and tens of thousands of medical workers were sent to

the city. It became the biggest medical emergency mission in human history. Based on my medical experience, I knew it could develop into a health crisis, but no one could expect a pandemic to emerge and become a major global crisis that would deeply affect each and every country. This was a turning point in history that occurred over the course of just a few weeks.

It seemed with every passing day less was known about the pandemic yet China beat the odds by completely containing the virus within 3 months. When the Wuhan lockdown officially ended on April 8, 2020, it marked the official end of the COVID-19 crisis in China. But no one could predict that the pandemic would spread rapidly to Europe or that the U.S. would become the COVID-19 epicenter of the world with nearly a quarter of all global cases and deaths.

Again, we need to ask: What's going on?

The success of China's struggle against the virus and the U.S. failure, demonstrates the success of China's socialist system, and the failure and dysfunction of the U.S. capitalist system. It also shows that the arrogance of the U.S. from left to right, due to the ceaseless anti-communist cold war against China, meant that the U.S. could not put aside differences and learn from China's successful experience. This arrogance sent the U.S. into an abyss of corona disaster of hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 deaths, millions of cases, and trillions worth of economic losses with no end in sight.

The first reported case in Wuhan came at the height of China-U.S. tensions. There was a U.S.-instigated trade war and a U.S./ Western-backed color-revolution in Hong Kong, China. The U.S. was routinely sending naval carriers and war planes to the South China Sea. The U.S. mobilized its entire state machine against Huawei, China's burgeoning telecom company. The U.S. Congress passed the so-called "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" on December 3, 2019, in a blatant example of interference in China's Xinjiang region.

Most of these U.S. China-bashing campaigns have failed. The U.S. was forced to sign the trade accord with China to ease the trade war. Huawei didn't fall. Hong Kong police are now under new leadership that has cracked down and arrested thousands of neo-Nazi Hong Kong pro-independent rioters in mid-December 2020. Additionally, no uprising occurred in Xinjiang after U.S. political pressure. The D.C. elite certainly felt humiliated and defeated by China. Now they are furious.

Just like a money-losing gambler in desperate need of making a comeback, the coronavirus was the perfect bet for turning the table. Sinisterly calling it "China's Chernobyl," U.S. anti-communist war-monger imperialists painted a sick fantasy that mirrored the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986. They made accusations that China covered up the problem. They hoped that China would have poor medical supports causing massive deaths -- which would then lead to the country's economic collapse causing condemnation and isolation from the international community. This in turn would lead to mass anger and uprising, and finally to the collapse and overthrow of Communist China.

Ironically, China successively mobilized the masses to beat the virus quickly and effectively while the U.S. under the Trump regime led the country into total disaster. The US not only became the hardest hit country with the highest rate of infected people and the highest casualties, but the country has spiraled into economic collapse, massive unemployment, and has even been unable to provide enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical workers. COVID-19 is indeed the "U.S.'s Chernobyl."

But that's not the lowest. What do you mean here? Do you mean: That's not all?

Many U.S. corporations and the wealthy took the opportunity to profit from the crisis with Trump's help. The elites were given disproportionately huge sums of government funds to bail out their businesses and thus made "national crisis fortunes" from the disaster. On March 27, 2020, the President signed a two-trillion-dollar stimulus bill, the CARES Act, providing minuscule payments to taxpayers while providing trillions in big business bailouts.

Stimulus funds for working people and small businesses such as the direct payments of \$1,200 to most individuals who made up to \$75,000, or \$2,400 for couples making up to \$150,000 and the expanded unemployment benefits that boosted the maximum benefit by \$600 per week. There was also a \$367 billion Paycheck Protection Program -- PPP loans for small businesses, and the \$150 billion for state and local governments for their virus fights. However, a much larger portion, nearly half of the bailout (\$867 billion) was for corporate bailouts which included \$500 billion in loans for large industries including \$25 billion for passenger airlines, \$4 billion for carriers, \$3 billion for aviation contractors and \$17 billion for "businesses critical to maintaining national security," i.e. military contractors.

In addition, a \$130 billion was earmarked for hospitals, but there is no clear indication how much of that money will be spent on treating the COVID-19 patients. In reality, many U.S.

COVID patients received hundreds of thousands even million dollars medical bills after their treatment. The bailout was merely a crazy money grab-party for the richest 1% and the so-called "small" businesses, and the liberal Democrats who initially opposed the bill did so not because they're angry about corporate welfare, but because they wanted their own companies to be added to the list. Such bipartisanship made it increasingly clear that the rich do not care whether workers or the poor live or die.

Thanks to COVID-19, Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos' fortune has increased to nearly \$172 billion due to the pandemic, which has forced many people to stay at home and shop online. While Bezos profited from the virus, his overworked employees went without proper pay and a lack of protective gear which caused hundreds of Amazon warehouse workers to fall ill to the virus. Eight Amazon workers have died. Bezos is not the only one who managed to increase his fortune while the deadly virus battered the global economy. In the past six months, the collective net worth of the 500 wealthiest people in the world rose from \$5.91 trillion to \$5.93 trillion, according to Bloomberg.

Yet while the rich feast, workers and "guest workers" from south of the border working in the food packing, meat and farm industries are suffering. The greedy pursuit of profit by capitalist bosses cares nothing about the workers who produce our food. In Evansville, TN, every one of the 200 farmworkers there has tested positive for the virus. Southern New Jersey has seen hundreds of migrant farmworkers become infected with the virus. According to WHYY radio in Philadelphia, these workers are not covered by medical insurance and simply put, no one cares about them. In fact, no one knows exactly how many have been infected or died from the virus.

It's the same situation at poultry processing facilities. According to CDC, between April and May 2020, 16,233 workers were infected in 239 facilities across the country, with 86 deaths.

Does the government protect them? No! According to CounterPunch, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is leaving immigrants to die in detention, and retaliating when they speak out. At ICE detention centers, conditions of confinement put people at high risk for contracting the virus. As of May 31, 2020, ICE reported testing 2,781 out of approximately 24,700 people in its custody; 1,461 tested positive out of only 61 of their more than 200 facilities. Two people have died in ICE custody from COVID-19, and a third person reportedly died of COVID-19 shortly after release from detention. According to Vera.org, the actual

number is 15 times higher than what ICE has reported to date. One group of researchers even concluded that 72 percent to nearly 100 percent of detained people may eventually be infected.

The lowest-paid workers are always the losers in the United States. This is true even for government employees. According to the latest government data on July 9, 2020, more than 1,018 out of 50,000 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees have tested positive for coronavirus and 6 have died.

Even more cruel and racist acts occurred when Trump blocked other countries from getting the much needed COVID- fighting medicines and equipment.

During a peak in COVID-19 cases, the U.S. put more sanctions against Venezuela. Trump used at least \$601 million out of an estimated \$24 billion looted Venezuelan public money, frozen by the U.S. government, to build the border wall between the U.S and Mexico during this COVID-19 crisis, according to The Grayzone. Trump and his rich pals don't care about fighting the virus, they just want to rip-off as much profit as they can for their business interests.

As Chinese activist Zhang Weiwei puts it: "The difference between the Sino-US COVID-fight models is reflected in the specific guiding principles of the war against the virus. From the beginning in China, Chinese President Xi Jinping clearly put forward four requirements: strengthen confidence, work together, scientific prevention, and precise measures. I have always advocated observing the world with the eyes and standards of the Chinese. Many health experts wish to consider these four principles as four standards and see how the U.S. virus-fight has been carried out."

The first is "false confidence." From the beginning, the U.S. and some European countries brandished confidence; they cynically gloated that the outbreak was just a "China virus" that only affects Asians but not white people. They did not think preparation was needed, and if the virus spread to them than herd immunity would quickly dampen the impact. From Trump to Pelosi, left to right, few in the U.S. and the major European powers believed that a real virus war would be coming soon.

The second is "together in the same boat." As soon as the outbreak in Wuhan broke out, the slogan in all parts of China was "Wuhan refueling." All over the internet, netizens spread slogans such as support Wuhan with all your heart, support Hubei (Wuhan is the capital city of

Hubei province), and the support of the 42,000 medical personnel across the country working in Hubei to beat the virus.

The United States, on the contrary, has no such cultural tradition of "working together in the same boat," nor the institutional arrangements to facilitate the principle of "working together in the same boat." Individual states and the Federal Government have been involved in robbing masks, protective clothing, and ventilators from each other.

American politics is a "me-only" selfish identity politics, which has caused all kinds of resistance and social division during the virus crisis. Trump is not enthusiastic about supporting Democratic Party-led states, nor is the Democratic Party willing to listen to Trump's command. Even the simple public health requirement of wearing masks was highly politicized in the U.S. Wearing masks has been labeled by the right-wing as a form of surrender to the Democratic Party and unpatriotic.

Such selfishness and ignorance lead to many idiotic actions across the U.S.; from the gun-carry anti-lockdown protests, anti-mask rage, to virus parties on college campuses. Early July 2020 a man in his 30s from San Antonio, Texas, died after going to a "COVID-19 party" to prove that the virus was a "hoax," according to the local KENS 5-TV station.

The fundamental difference between the COVID-19 fights in China and the U.S. is this: China is fighting for the people no matter the cost. That's the reason China was able to beat the virus in a short time with low casualties and protect the economy from long-term economic ruin.

On the other hand, U.S. leadership doesn't care about the people; it cares only about saving the capitalist financial bottom line. U.S. leadership gave up on saving people and even neglected to protect the elderly while racists blamed China for their miserable failure.

Many Chinese experts say that if U.S. and western countries acknowledged the "China standard," they would have been far better off and the pandemic might have been contained as it is in China.

Let's look at the numbers. By mid-July, the CDC reported daily infected cases in the U.S. of over 66,000 per day, almost the entirety of China's 84,000 infected cases that emerged between January-April 2020.

On July 19, 2020, U.S. COVID-19 infection had reached record-breaking 84,033, more than entire China's coronavirus infected numbers.

According to my compiled analysis, based on July 10, 2020, COVID-19 data:

+ The overall infection rate of China vs. U.S. (people infected/ total population X 100%) is 0.0061% vs. 0.9652%, death rate China vs. U.S. (dead/total population) is 0.000333 vs. 0.040736, which means a person in the U.S. has a 158 times higher chance of becoming infected and 122 times of being killed by the virus than a person living in China.

+ If we consider a comparison based on population density (people infected/country area) it can be understood as how many chances you'll see your neighbor infected, and seeing them die. U.S. persons have a 38 times higher chance of seeing their neighbors infected, and 29.6 times higher chance of seeing them dying from COVID-19 than a Chinese neighbor.

+ Expanding on this data, let's compare China with other major outbreak countries (with higher infection and death counts than China), mostly western developed countries. The number is even more staggering. Compared with China on infection rate and death rate: Brazil has a 141 times higher infection rate (IR) and 101 times death rate (DR) than China; Russia 89 times the IR and 101 times the DR; U.K has 72 IR and 204 DR times higher; Spain 89 IR and 183 DR times higher; Italy 66 IR and 174 DR higher; France 51 IR and 135 DR times higher.

In other words, a person in the U.S. especially in NYC, and most people from the western capitalist first world see no end to the virus in sight and are facing far more threat, stress and horror from the virus than a Wuhan resident faced during the peak of their outbreak.

With the COVID fight successfully won in China, a second wave prevented, and a quick economic rebound, many experts predict China will emerge from the coronavirus crisis stronger than the U.S. "The pandemic is going to reinforce that the United States is simply not the highly functional, advanced role model it used to be," said Edward Alden, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a traditional anti-communist/anti-China think-tank.

Many U.S. elites fear the COVID-19 pandemic may accelerate America's declining status with their traditional allies rather than the virus itself.

So, what is the U.S. planning to do? Just like any other imperialist power in history, the U.S. desperately chooses to launch an all-out assault against China. The U.S. capitalist system can

always be counted on to prepare for war, just not for fighting COVID-19. They can neither lose face nor money -- and choose a dirty fight and shameful denial instead.

While the U.S. faces tremendous public health and economic crises, the COVID-19 pandemic will cost the U.S. economy trillions and the global economy \$21 trillion. Yet, the U.S. still considers building more bombs more important than human life.

On July 1, 2020, a whopping \$740.5 billion military spending package was approved by the Democratic-controlled House Armed Services Committee and rubber-stamped by a GOP-controlled Senate Armed Services Committee. Trump, considered by some on the left and the right to be anti-interventionist, did not hesitate to sign off on the package.

At the same time, after failing to spread the "Wuhan military lab China virus" conspiracy hoax, the U.S. capitalist elite from Trump to the DNC changed their tactic, pushing overt war treats, sanctions, and covert intelligence campaigns against China.

On the military front, on July 3, 2020, the U.S. sent two aircraft carriers to the South China Sea for exercises even as China was holding drills nearby. This was a pointed "gun-boat" message to China that "the U.S. doesn't appreciate Beijing's military ramp-up in the region," according to a U.S. official quoted by the Wall Street Journal.

Between July 6 to 8, 2020, the U.S. sent military aircraft to conduct close-up reconnaissance operations on China's southern coast, as close as 51.68 nautical miles from Guangdong coastal area, for three consecutive days.

Again on July 17, 2020, USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan, the two aircraft carrier battle groups, held another "dual carrier" exercise in the South China Sea; this is the second time the US military has held a "dual carrier" exercise in the South China Sea within two weeks, according to the China Global Times.

By mid-July 2020 there'd been at least five U.S. warships or spy planes identified in the South China Sea or near Chinese coastal areas.

On the political front, on June 30, 2020, Chinese telecom giants Huawei and ZTE were officially designated "national security threats" by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). Huawei has been completely banned from the U.S. Meanwhile, the U.S. has succeeded in pushing the U.K. to drop Huawei from their construction of a 5G network instead of offering

help to fight their COVID-19 crisis, as the Chinese had just done for months by sending medical supplies.

Furthermore, instead of working on any legislative bills to reform the police force following the murder of George Floyd and the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests, the Senate on May 14, 2020 and the House on May 27, 2020, rushed to pass the "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act" by a vote of 413-1. The bill was signed by Trump into law on June 17, 2020. It was written with the intention to undermine China's sovereignty over the Xingjian region.

In addition, on July 2, 2020, the Senate from liberal Democrats to right-wing GOPs, shamefully and unanimously passed the "Hong Kong Autonomy Act" (H.R. 7440), intended to destabilize Hong Kong, China. On July 14, 2020, Trump signed the Hong Kong Sanctions bill, ending Hong Kong's special status. The U.S. also instituted a sweeping travel ban on Communist Party of China members.

As China Global Television Network (CGTN) reporter Liu Xin says: "The propaganda is working yet again, and it's so great that even the most obvious of hypocrisy goes unnoticed. I realize a lot of these examples might fall on deaf ears because we don't have enough distance from some of the stuff I'm talking about here like we already had with the Iraq war or maybe some of you are too young to remember the effects that the Iraq war propaganda had on us or maybe you still really believe you did the right thing and brought freedom and democracy to Iraq.

"This should be a time when the world comes together, for the time being, to fight COVID-19 rather than its hegemonic states looking for someone to blame for the pain of the virus. We've seen the consequences of convincing themselves that China is an evil enemy who covered up COVID-19. And the world will not stop looking for what China has made available for everyone to fight the virus more effectively.

"The President of the United States was elected by capitalist power with who can push the right button. As many silly people as there are silly presidents. There is no stupid but more stupid." Liu continues. Many experts around the world have pointed out that Trump's approach is to divert contradictions and hope that the public will shift their attention to racism from the fact that they do not have the leadership or the will to enact an effective resistance to the pandemic. In other words, just blame China.

"Ideology is the most basic way of thinking for Americans. Regardless of the level of education, from the red neck in the bar to the professor in the school, talking about China and socialism are the same arrogance and prejudice," Liu concludes.

The U.S. and the American model has lost its grip over the narrative, making this period a moment of political, cultural and ideological reexamination.

We need to ask ourselves, from the COVID-19 fight, can the U.S. learn from China?

The U.S. speaks of human rights every day. Human rights are first and foremost the right to living. With so little effort given to protect the right to living in the U.S., it's a shame to hear U.S. politicians and even many Americans publicly stating that they have "given up the elderly" and even believe that "in order to protect the economy, the elderly should make sacrifices and give up treatment." The end result: tens of thousands of U.S. senior citizens in danger of being casualties within care facilities or in their own home without proper help.

We should learn from China's successful COVID-19 experience, investigate why Chinese socialism works, and do what we can to build international health solidarity.

Furthermore; there won't be health justice unless U.S. sanctions against Venezuela, Cuba and Iran that block health and essential supplies to them are removed; and U.S. wars on Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan that destroy vital infrastructure are terminated. Let us not forget to call for an end to the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation and blockade against Palestine that has complicated the colonized nation's COVID-19 response.

It is no secret that domestically, police brutality and the war on terror is in fact just more oppression for Black and immigrant communities. There won't be health justice in the U.S. unless there is a people's revolution for fundamental social change that demands the moving of money and wealth from the richest 1% and from war back to the working class, people of color, immigrants and Indigenous people.

With the Black Lives Matter protests appearing to be the future of political life for some time to come, it is time to actively connect our struggle with others, whether it is racism with economic justice; wars in Africa to wars in the Americas, Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine and Korea; or sweatshop exploitation in Los Angeles; the fight against international arms sales, child labor and child soldiers; or fighting AIDS and poverty at home. Only by linking all of our struggles together against our common enemy can we see a better future, together!

China and Cuba lead in curbing pandemic

By Lyn Neeley

March 26, 2020, Workers World

China and Cuba have made significant scientific advances in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic. China is considered the world's front-runner in the development of a vaccine, while Cuba's antiviral drug, Interferon Alpha 2b, is reducing the number of deaths. Both countries, in outstanding acts of socialist internationalism, are sending doctors and medical supplies to suffering countries in the midst of the pandemic.

In contrast, the U.S. has a weak health care system infected by capitalism with no centralized plan. The government is allowing the virus to spread by relying on for-profit companies to supply testing kits and necessary medical equipment in the country.

The U.S. administration is worsening the virus globally by increasing sanctions and blocking aid to over 39 countries, containing one-third of the world's peoples.

On Dec. 31, China had alerted the World Health Organization about a new strain of the coronavirus that was causing a severe respiratory illness. WHO named the disease COVID-19. The actual virus that causes the disease is SARS-CoV-2, which was so designated by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.

Chinese doctors answer desperate call from Italy for medical help

Within a week, Chinese scientists had isolated the virus from a patient, sequenced its genome and published the information for the world to freely use. China's speed in sequencing a previously unknown genome was unprecedented.

Creating a vaccine for COVID-19

There are seven known coronaviruses and they all cause respiratory infections in humans. Once a coronavirus enters the body, it advances directly to the lungs and can cause a range of respiratory symptoms from dry cough to fever to viral pneumonia. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they transmit from animals to people.

The new, recent coronavirus, COVID-19, has a genome similar to SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), MERS (Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome) and avian flu, which can only be contracted through direct contact with birds.

Coronaviruses are covered with spikes that form a crown or corona around the virus. These attach to lung cells with their spikes, allowing them to invade and kill the cells.

Many scientists are working on vaccines by focusing on two features of the virus -- the hooks at the end of the spikes and also the point of contact where those hooks cleave or crack the cell wall to gain entrance into the cell.

China leads

As of March 14, China's CanSinoBio lab had begun testing a vaccine for COVID-19 in Wuhan province, where the virus was first identified. The lab developed a genetically altered SARS-CoV-2 virus that was unable to cause infection but was effective in creating antibodies. The vaccine proved safe in trials with animals so scientists are now testing the vaccine on a large group of 108 healthy adults, aged 18 to 60.

Chinese scientists successfully created a similar vaccine for Ebola in 2017. They also used their experience and technology to create the new vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Lagging behind China, a U.S. company, UModerna, says it will begin a smaller set of trials on people in Seattle with a vaccine that uses only a part of the SARS-CoV-2 genome.

In a process not yet ready to proceed to human trials, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Tarrytown, N.Y., genetically modified mice to have human immune systems. The mice are exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, causing a build-up of antibodies to fight the virus. Scientists have isolated the mouse antibodies and will combine them with antibodies from humans who have recovered from COVID-19. The company predicts making an antibody cocktail to use in human trials "soon."

Cuba's advanced pharmaceutical discovery

Cuba may have already developed a successful medicine able to cure some cases of COVID-19.

Interferon Alpha 2b is an antiviral drug that Cuba developed during a dengue fever outbreak in the Caribbean in 1981. This interferon drug creates conditions within cells that limit the replication of the SARS-CoV-2 and MERS viruses.

Interferon is a naturally occurring chemical in cells that alerts nearby cells of an invading virus, causing them to heighten their antiviral defenses. Dengue fever and coronaviruses have evolved the ability to destroy interferon and get through a cell's defenses.

Cuba's Interferon Alpha 2b was designed to mimic the response of the cells' natural interferon and thus boost the immune system against the illness.

Cuba and China unite to fight COVID-19

In China, the Cuban-Chinese company, ChangHeber, has been producing Interferon Alpha 2b since 2003. That drug helps people with compromised immune systems avoid some of the complications of viral invasions.

As soon as COVID-19 was identified, China began using Interferon Alpha 2b on people who were infected by the virus, with over 1,500 people improving under the treatment. Cuban biotech specialist Dr. Luis Herrera Martinez explained that "its use prevents aggravation and complications in patients reaching that stage that ultimately can result in death." Dr. Herrera Martinez is the creator of Interferon Alpha 2b. (tinyurl.com/ur4sa4n)

Martinez asserted, "The world has an opportunity to understand that health is not a commercial asset but a basic right. ... [Cuba] has more physicians working abroad than practically any other country in the world, not because we are exporting anything but simply because we want to participate in building a world with better health conditions and living conditions."

After the Lombardy region in northern Italy officially requested doctors and medical help from China and Cuba, both sent an emergency contingent of doctors and nurses. The 52-strong brigade arrived at Italy's Malpensa airport, near Milan, on March 22 as Italy reported 59,139 COVID-19 cases and 5,476 deaths.

This is the sixth medical brigade Cuba has sent abroad in recent days to combat the spread of the new disease, highlighting its revolutionary medical diplomacy. These brigades are being

sent at a time when many Cuban hospitals are facing imperialist-imposed difficulties -- they're unable to buy vital medicine abroad largely due to the blockade of decades-old U.S. sanctions.

On socialist Vietnam's response to COVID-19

By Dr. Ngo Thanh Nhan & Merle Ratner

August 27, 2020

Tonight I'd like to talk about Vietnam's experience in combating COVID-19. The first case in Vietnam was on Jan. 23. Between then and early July there were about 200 cases of infection -- and no deaths. The second wave of the new strain of COVID-19 started on July 1. Even with this second wave, as of today, Aug. 20, Vietnam has recorded only 1,034 cases with 29 deaths. Many of those who died had terminal illness and some cases were related to long-term illness from Agent Orange toxins [from the 1955-1975 U.S. war on the country].

The Ministry of Health gives instant reporting at ncov.moh.gov.vn where data is submitted directly from local hospitals across the country.

Vietnam is a country of more than 97 million people, so 29 deaths is 0.299 per million of the population. The United States is a country of 331 million people where there have been more than 183,650 deaths, which is 554.83 per million -- or 1,855.82 times proportionally bigger.

The second wave of COVID-19 is centered in Da Nang, the third-largest city in Vietnam, and a major tourist destination and transit city for foreign workers. Da Nang is also the second-largest hot spot for Agent Orange/dioxin in the land and water.

How did Vietnam, a developing country still dealing with the impact of United States chemical warfare, manage to achieve such impressive results?

First and foremost is the dedication to defeat COVID-19 with a priority on saving lives. Early on the prime minister of Vietnam declared that the entire country would focus all of its human potential and economic and technological capacity on ending the pandemic.

It was designated a campaign like the campaigns Vietnam fought to win national liberation. The slogan was "Vietnam, dare to win, dare to beat the corona virus." Preserving human life and health was the highest focus rather than Vietnam's economic growth! Reopening the economy was only done when it was deemed safe for workers and their communities.

Socialist values against the pandemic

Vietnam has a socialist-oriented market economy. To deal with COVID-19, the Communist Party in Vietnam applied socialist values and strategy to overcome the weaknesses of the market economy.

The Party and the government did a materialist analysis of COVID-19 -- of where and to whom it was being transmitted and how it could be fought. They took into account the real conditions in Vietnam.

As a mid-level developing socialist country, Vietnam could not rely on an abundant supply of high-tech medical equipment but could rely on a public health system that had been built up for many years to serve the people. While Vietnam's hospital system varies in quality, its preventive health and public health planning and response is impressive, with a serious investment in public health infrastructure such as emergency operations centers. Vietnam had also learned from its experience in earlier SARS and avian influenza pandemics.

Vietnam decided to focus on stopping the outbreak before it spread widely, using contact and community tracing, testing where available, and a massive public education and outreach program.

In the areas where COVID-19 had spread, Vietnam shut down non-essential businesses and schools. In neighborhoods with a high incidence, residents were placed under strict quarantines. People were asked to stay in their homes to avoid further transmission and were provided with food, medicine and medical care. People coming from overseas underwent a mandatory two-week quarantine in hotels or other centers where they were provided with free food, lodging and medical treatment.

Everyone had access to treatment whatever their financial status. Masks and PPE were widely available to medical people, to essential workers and to ordinary people.

Science, cultural work, centralized planning applied

Vietnam utilized the latest science to study the strains of COVID-19 from the first to the second wave. Early on they developed a comprehensive system of contact tracing using a community model that extended down to the grassroots level, the urban neighborhoods and rural hamlets. Leaders told the truth to the people, early and often, about the science of COVID-19 and what people could do to prevent exposure.

Vietnam was very quickly able to get factories to pivot to producing everything from PPE to medical equipment. Science and technology experts played a role by inventing phone applications that allowed people to see if people were infected with COVID-19 within a certain radius. Signing up for these apps was voluntary and popular.

Information and cultural workers were mobilized to educate, update, inspire and mobilize the people to fight COVID-19. Colorful banners on the streets, announcements on TV, and daily briefings by the prime minister and city leaders conveyed a clear, practical, consistent and compassionate message.

The government through its ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health, mobilized broader networks to disseminate instantaneous information through central online platforms. Together with health workers, young artists produced a popular song showing people how to wash their hands properly, which was widely circulated on Vietnamese media and internationally. This consistent information and cultural work prevented the spreading of misinformation and rumors.

People's power democracy

Everything we've just described has been covered by the international press. What has not been a focus, and what is, in fact, most crucial to Vietnam's success, is People's power and socialist democracy in Vietnam!

This is the human protagonist in socialism, and it is what made all the difference in Vietnam's ability to do so well in fighting COVID-19. Exemplars in Global Health described this approach as "a strong whole-of-society approach [that] engages multi-sectoral stakeholders in decision-making process and activate[s] cohesive participation of appropriate measures." (ourworldindata.org/COVID-1-exemplar-vietnam)

The campaign against COVID-19 was carried out by the Communist Party, the mass organizations and the whole people. With the Party playing the leading role in setting the policy and strategy, it mobilized Party members from the grassroots to the provinces to the national level to develop, explain and implement the COVID-19 strategy.

Mass organizations involved are the Vietnam Fatherland Front, Vietnam Women's Union, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Vietnam Farmers Union, the Vietnam General

Confederation of Labor, and the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/dioxin. Many other mass organizations, including the army, leapt into action to organize their members in the public health campaign.

The neighborhood block associations played a complementary role to that of the party and the mass organizations. These block organizations constitute the smallest unit of community organization and exist in many streets in cities and the countryside across Vietnam.

Neighbors helped their neighbors to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and to access medical care. They helped enforce mask wearing and other quarantine rules by exerting social pressure in their collectively oriented communities, curbing any self-centered or selfish behavior. There were no armed protests against the quarantine in Vietnam as there were here in the U.S.

Socialist analysis

One of the hallmarks of a socialist society is the ability to do analysis of time, place and condition, and develop strategy and tactics to meet the needs of the people at that time. This goes together with regular assessments of what was successful and what was not, drawing lessons for improvement.

Criticism/self-criticism is practiced to strengthen People's work, using their strength to overcome their weaknesses. This allowed Vietnam to identify complacency after the first wave of the virus as a problem and to take corrective measures to stem the second wave with popular mobilization.

Vietnam's response to COVID-19 has an internationalist focus as well. Cuba and Vietnam have a particularly strong cooperation. Cuba sent Vietnam a team of medical experts and thousands of vials of an antiviral drug, Interferon alfa-2b, to fight against COVID-19. Vietnam recently donated three tons of medical equipment to Cuba, including rapid test kits, masks and protective suits along with 5,000 tons of rice. Vietnam also helped other countries suffering from the pandemic, even sending donations of PPE to Europe and the U.S.

You can see how differently socialist Vietnam manages the COVID-19 crisis than the United States. In Vietnam, People's level of confidence in the Communist Party and the government has been strengthened by the achievements of the campaign to defeat COVID-19. People feel

a strong sense of pride, as the country has come together to support everyone, and to do what few other countries have been able to do.

Dr. Ngo Thanh Nhan is with the Việt Solidarity & Action Network, Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign, and also Việt Solidarity and Action Network for Black Lives Matter, Mekong-NYC. They ask readers to note that the views expressed here are their personal opinions.