

The Post-Covid Conundrum

Thomas R. Cuba, 2020 0325

We are setting ourselves up - or letting ourselves be set up by circumstance - for a difficult chapter in American History.

It starts with a lot of hate: The hatred of the President and the hatred of a group - progressive liberals. With that fertile ground to land in, a virus arose and invaded our nation. The hate didn't cause the virus, but it certainly gave it socio-political legs.

Whatever action one of the two 'hated' took, the supporters of the other 'hated,' demeaned, dissected, derided, and hated the action. Government, at all levels, reacted emotionally and politically, often violating the federal and state constitutions as well as county and municipal charters. Everyone was blamed for everything by everybody.

Those events set up the conundrum we shall soon face.

Possibility Number One (P1).

The disease wanes and comparatively few people die: compare to seasonal flu.

Possibility Number Two (P2).

Many Americans succumb and the disease hangs on for many months.

A secondary victim of these events is the economy. Many people are already pushing the issue of saving the economy to the forefront, some even claiming that more Americans will succumb to a failed economy than had died as a result of Covid.

A look towards the future reveals the conundrum.

In P1, everyone will take credit and the measures taken will be hailed as having prevented massive numbers of deaths. Critics will still say that more could have been done and deaths reduced even further.

In P2, everyone will blame everyone else and the lack of even more forceful measures will be called for next time.

In either case, someone will eventually point out that the seasonal flu often kills tens of thousands of Americans every year. The aggressive and repressive measures taken regarding Covid will be called upon to control the seasonal flu as well. One indicator that such an outcome is possible is that one person, Glenn Kirschner, a political analyst, has already suggested that people could be charged with murder for how things were handled.

In either case, whether the victims are American people or the American economy, the aggressive measures taken might become the new 'normal.' The temporary loss of freedoms imposed upon us

during the fight against Covid will become the new standard operating procedure. Eventually, they may even be adopted as a preventative standard and imposed permanently.

The third victim, then, is Freedom itself.

In the past, we Americans have sacrificed our lives and our economy to preserve and protect Freedom. Will we do it again?

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