# 1NC

### 1

#### Interpretation: “medicines” is a generic bare plural. The aff may not defend WTO member nations reducing intellectual property protections for a subset of medicines.

#### **Violation – they only defend** emergency use listing medicines during public health emergencies other than Covid-19 of international concern.

#### Vote neg:

#### Precision o/w – anything else justifies the aff arbitrarily jettisoning words in the resolution at their whim which decks negative ground and preparation because the aff is no longer bounded by the resolution.

#### 1] Limits – you can pick anything from COVID vaccines to HIV/AIDS to random biotech to insulin treatments and there’s no universal disad since each one has a different function and implication for health, tech, and relations – explodes neg prep and leads to random medicine of the week affs which makes cutting stable neg links impossible.

#### 2] TVA – read the aff as an advantage to a whole rez aff.

### 2

#### CP: The member nations of the World Trade Organization should allow exclusivity to be extended indefinitely for antimicrobial drugs per Salmieri. The member nations of the World Trade Organization should reduce intellectual property protections for all other emergency use listing medicines during public health emergencies.

Salmieri 18 “INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE FREEDOM NEEDED TO SOLVE THE CRISIS OF RESISTANT INFECTIONS” 2018 Gregory Salmieri [Ph.D., Philosophy, 2008, University of Pittsburgh; B.A. 2001, The College of New Jersey. Fellow, The Anthem Foundation for Objectivist Scholarship; Lecturer, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University] <http://georgemasonlawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/26-1_7-Salmieri.pdf> SM

This Article suggests another sort of solution, which might be described as a way of incentivizing, by means of a single policy change, both the development of new antimicrobials and the responsible stewardship of these drugs. In its simplest form, the solution is to make the patent terms on these drugs extremely long. The solution has been proposed in this form by Professor John Horowitz and Brian Moehring32 as well as Professor Eric Kades,33 and it is occasionally mentioned in the existing literature.34 However, the case for this broad sort of solution has not been adequately articulated or appreciated. The next part develops the case for a solution of this sort and proposes an alternative version of the solution that is better tailored to the problem and better situated within a theory of IP. Finally, Part III addresses some concerns faced by any solution of this sort.

II. THE RIGHT TO THE VALUE CREATED BY RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

Consider how the two-fold problem of growing resistance to our current antimicrobial drugs and the dearth of new antimicrobials under development looks once the specifics are omitted. Forget for a moment that the subject is drugs and microbes—or even inventions as opposed to other sorts of property—and just focus on the structure of the predicament.35 There is a resource of immense value that is being used myopically in a way that destroys existing stocks of the resource, and little is being done to find or develop new stocks of it.

This is a pattern one expects to see with unowned resources, but not with owned ones. It is the classic “tragedy of the commons.” When a patch of grazing land is owned in common by everyone—which is just to say it is unowned—everyone has an incentive to make what use of it he can, leading to its overuse and destroying its value. By contrast, an owner can use land judiciously in ways that preserve its value or even to invest in improving the land. This is possible because the owner has exclusive control of the land in the present and therefore can control its uses, and because the owner expects to reap the benefit of the land’s future value. If deeds to land expired after twenty years, with the land reverting to the commons, land owners would have no financial incentives to preserve or enhance the land’s value past the twenty-year window. In this scenario, they could not afford to forgo shortterm gains that came at the expense of the land’s later value. Nor could they afford to invest in long-term improvement projects, such as clearing new land for grazing. This is the predicament with antimicrobial drugs. The profligate use of such drugs in the present destroys their value in a future in which they are unowned.

This suggests the simple solution of extending the patent terms for antimicrobial drugs. So long as the drug remains under patent, the patent holder has both an interest in preserving its usefulness and the ability to control its use so as to preserve its value. How long should the patent term be extended? The five years of extra market exclusivity offered by the GAIN Act is calculated with a view to incentivizing companies to invest in developing new drugs. The aim of the present proposal is different. It is to enable the creators of drugs to profitably exercise their rights over the drugs in a manner that preserves the drugs’ effectiveness over time—ideally into the indefinite future. This requires extending the term of exclusivity not just a few years or decades, but as far into the future as there is reason to hope that the drugs’ effectiveness can be maintained.

There are various ways in which this suggestion could be further developed; perhaps the most promising is simply to allow patents on antimicrobial drugs to be renewed indefinitely, so long as the drugs’ continued effectiveness can be demonstrated. (How exactly continued effectiveness should be demonstrated is a matter of detail, but likely by showing resistance to be below a certain threshold—perhaps 20 percent—in clinical isolates of interest.36) This would allow for a potentially infinite patent term. “Perpetual patents” have occasionally been proposed, 37 but the lack of a fixed term may do violence to the notion of a patent, so it may be better to conceive of this as a proposal for a new type of IP right that combines features of patents and trademarks. Conceptualizing the relevant right in this way highlights its basis. Like a patent, the right would pertain to an invention and would confer market exclusivity; like a trademark, however, it would be renewable in perpetuity on the grounds that the continued value of the property depends on the owner taking continuous action to maintain it. In the case of the right under consideration, the relevant actions would be those of stewarding the drug in such a manner as to prolong its continued effectiveness in the face of resistance.

This new sort of property right could, in principle, be applied to drugs that are already off patent or otherwise ineligible for patent protection. The Chatham House Working Group proposes granting “delinkage rewards” to “firms registering a new antibiotic without patent protection (such as new uses for old drugs),”38 and it may be that the sort of IP protection proposed here would be applicable in such cases as well. If so, the right would be justified by the discovery of the new use for the drug and by the fact that intelligent management of this use is required for it to retain its value. A more difficult case is granting such rights to already known antibiotics that have gone off patent and are now available as generics. Removing these drugs from the commons would make it possible for an owner to profit by stewarding them responsibly. The difficulty here is determining who would own them. Professor Kades considers the possibility of granting a new patent to the original patent holder, but suggests “auctioning the patent rights [to such drugs] to the highest bidder.”39 Both are plausible solutions. Another option, in light of the issue of cross-resistance (which will be discussed in Part III) would be to apportion the IP rights to the relevant drugs among the owners of other drugs with similar mechanisms of action.

Instituting the sort of property right described here (whether or not it is extended to drugs that are currently unpatentable and/or in the public domain) would create an environment in which pharmaceutical companies and other private entities can compete to develop new policies and business models that maximize the total value derived from antimicrobial drugs over time. An important advantage of this proposal is that it does not require policymakers (or authors of law review articles) to know in advance which specific practices would have this auspicious effect. However, some obvious possibilities suggest themselves.

Pharmaceutical companies could sell new antimicrobials at a price high enough to make it prohibitive to use them as anything other than treatments of last resort. In addition to extending the drugs’ useful lives, the high prices would compensate for the lower initial volume of sales, and the drugs could eventually be repriced for wider use as second- and then first-line treatments. This repricing would have to be paced both to the growth of the resistant bacterial population and to the development of new antimicrobial drugs to take their predecessors’ place as treatments of last resort. One can imagine many variations of this strategy with different price points and development cycles.

Pharmaceutical companies could also extend the effective lifespan of their antimicrobials through contractual arrangements with healthcare providers, which restrict the latter’s use of the drugs to certain protocols or best practices. Imagine the new business practices whereby pharmaceutical companies might profit from drugs that are never or hardly ever used. Licensing plans like the one proposed by Commissioner Gottlieb might be employed in innovative ways.40 For example, healthcare providers or insurance companies might pay a monthly fee for the right to use these drugs should it ever become necessary to do so. Or the various parties might negotiate a system whereby a pharmaceutical company (or an entity that has licensed drugs from multiple companies) charges a fixed price for treatment in accordance with a proprietary antimicrobial protocol that makes use of several of their drugs, specifying which drugs can used under which conditions.

The suggestions in the last paragraph all amount to ways in which revenues from the creation of a new drug might be “delinked” from sales volume. In principle, this delinkage could occur simply through market forces, without any additional policy interventions, but since governments and multinational organizations account for most of the spending in the healthcare sector in much of the world, their adopting policies favoring delinkage would likely stimulate the development of these sorts of business models under an IP regime of the sort suggested. Indeed, such delinkage–promoting policies would likely fare better under the proposed IP regime than under the current IP system because, as The Chatham House Working Group observes, “patent expiry” creates some difficulties for such policies.

Obligations for responsible use can be carefully crafted and functional when monopoly rights are in place, but are likely to fail once generic antibiotics are introduced upon the termination of the period of exclusivity. Generic manufacturers ordinarily rely on volume-based rewards, and low prices and large volume of sales without appropriate measures to conserve the antibiotics may be an important driver of indiscriminate use and resistance. A sustainable system will require controls on market entry after termination of the patent, and regulation of the way the generic products are marketed and prescribed.41

It bears emphasizing at this point that the best stewardship policies for antimicrobial drugs remain to be discovered. The Chatham House Working Group report (quoted several times above) represents the cutting edge of research on this issue, and it offers precious few details about the new “delinked” business model it says “needs to be developed.” Successful business models are rarely if ever specified from on high by public policy makers. Securing a long-range IP right to antimicrobial drugs would create the conditions in which the healthcare industry as a whole could invest the resources required to discover the practices, protocols, and business models that maximize the value of these substances. In addition, the ability to capture this value as profit would create an incentive to develop new drugs as needed.

IP rights, and patents in particular, are sometimes understood as bargains between creators and society. The proposal under consideration grants a lot more to the developers of any new antimicrobial drugs than they are granted under current law, but it asks a lot of these developers in return—for it requires them to become good stewards of their drugs by discovering and implementing the means necessary to preserve the drugs’ value over time, so that the maximum potential benefit from them is realized.42 This is work that needs to be done by someone, and the sort of IP regime proposed here would enable those people and firms most qualified to do this work to profit by doing it.

This leads to a deeper point. Although IP rights are often understood as special privileges granted by government and justified on utilitarian grounds, the dominant strand in early American jurisprudence, taking its inspiration from John Locke, regards all property rights as securing to a creator the fruits of his productive work.43 Among the reasons why patents and copyrights are finite in duration, whereas rights to chattels or land can be passed on from generation to generation indefinitely, is that chattels and land generally need to be maintained in order to retain their economic value over time, whereas this is not true of the economic value of an artwork or a method.44 But the case under consideration reveals that the continued economic value of certain methods does depend on an ongoing process of intelligent management by which one uses the method sparingly. It is this very fact that (according to the argument of this Part) justifies extending the IP right to the drug indefinitely. This raises the question of whether there are structurally similar cases in other fields, where the continued commercial value of a potential invention depends on its judicious use. If so, it may be that there are other values being destroyed (or never created) because of tragedies of the commons that could be rectified by policies analogous to the one suggested here.

#### AMR competes – that’s the UN.

UN 18 12 November 2018 “Antimicrobial resistance a 'global health emergency,' UN, ahead of awareness week” <https://news.un.org/en/node/1025511/antimicrobial-resistance-a-global-health-emergency-un-ahead-of-awareness-week-2> SM

Many antibiotics are no longer effective in fighting infections as those infections have built up resistance to the medication.

Deaths due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) could surpass annual cancer fatalities, a situation which the UN has called a “global health emergency.”

The UN agencies, which include the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization and the UN Environment Programme called for the more responsible use of antibiotics in humans, animals and agriculture at the opening of World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) in Asia and the Pacific on Monday, 12 November.

The main message of the awareness week this year is “handle antibiotics with care,” focusing on action plans to prevent infections in livestock, aquaculture and crop production while promoting good farming and food safety.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines antimicrobials as drugs which prevent and treat parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal infections. However, overuse by health practitioners and misuse in the agricultural sector means they are no longer effective in fighting many infections.

Antibiotics can end up in soil, water and the environment at large, giving microbes further opportunity to build up resistance FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Kundhavi Kadiresan, pointed out.

The UN considers AMR as a priority health issue to be tackled with as much urgency as Ebola and HIV.

#### Even if the aff incentivizes innovation they cannot incentivize innovation in anti-microbial research – the problem right now is lack of profit incentives for innovation and responsible stewardship.

Salmieri 18 “INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE FREEDOM NEEDED TO SOLVE THE CRISIS OF RESISTANT INFECTIONS” 2018 Gregory Salmieri [Ph.D., Philosophy, 2008, University of Pittsburgh; B.A. 2001, The College of New Jersey. Fellow, The Anthem Foundation for Objectivist Scholarship; Lecturer, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University] <http://georgemasonlawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/26-1_7-Salmieri.pdf> SM

According to a 2013 report by the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), two million people in the United States annually contract infections that are “resistant to one or more of the antibiotics designed to treat those infections”; the result is at least 23,000 deaths and (direct and indirect) economic losses that have been estimated at $55 billion (in 2008 dollars).2 The United Kingdom’s Antimicrobial Resistance Review estimates that, worldwide, there will be as many as ten million deaths annually from such infections by 2050.3 A 2017 report by the World Bank Group anticipates the financial toll:

In the optimistic case of low AMR [antimicrobial resistance] impacts, the simulations found that, by 2050, annual global gross domestic product (GDP) would likely fall by 1.1 percent, relative to a base-case scenario with no AMR effects; the GDP shortfall would exceed $1 trillion annually after 2030. In the high AMR-impact scenario, the world will lose 3.8 percent of its annual GDP by 2050, with an annual shortfall of $3.4 trillion by 2030.4

There are two related aspects to this crisis: (1) bacterial populations are evolving resistance to the antimicrobial drugs currently in use, and (2) there are few new drugs in the developmental pipeline that promise to be effective against these bacteria.5 It is widely understood that both aspects are caused or exacerbated by the economic incentives faced by the pharmaceutical industry and the healthcare industry more broadly.6

The eventual obsolescence of any conventional antimicrobial drug is inherent in its use, but it is hastened when the drug is liberally prescribed.7 Such liberal prescription is driven by incentives for both physicians and pharmaceutical companies. Patients’ expectations for prompt treatment sometimes lead doctors to prescribe broad-spectrum antibiotics in cases where it would be more prudent to await testing and prescribe a more targeted antimicrobial—or to prescribe antibiotics for viral infections where they are ineffective. 8 Pharmaceutical companies have an incentive to sell as much volume as possible in the period between the drug’s Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) approval and the end of its twenty-year patent term.

The problem of liberal prescription of antibiotics has been much discussed in medical and policy circles. 9 It is widely agreed that an important part of the solution is antimicrobial stewardship, which the Infectious Diseases Society of America defines as follows:

Antimicrobial stewardship refers to coordinated interventions designed to improve and measure the appropriate use of antimicrobials by promoting the selection of the optimal antimicrobial drug regimen, dose, duration of therapy, and route of administration. The major objectives of antimicrobial stewardship are to achieve optimal clinical outcomes related to antimicrobial use, to minimize toxicity and other adverse events, to reduce the costs of health care for infections, and to limit the selection for antimicrobial resistant strains.10

The most dramatic outcome thus far of the policy discussion, in the United States at least, is that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services updated its “Conditions of Participation.”11 These updated “Conditions of Participation” (issued as a result of an executive order by President Obama in 2014) require all hospitals participating in Medicare and Medicaid to establish and maintain “antibiotic stewardship programs.”12 These conditions are already in effect for acute care hospitals and are expected to go into effect generally by the end of 2018.13

An additional incentive for too liberal use of antibiotics comes from outside of the healthcare industry. These drugs are useful as a growth promoter for livestock, and it has been shown that this use can lead to the growth of resistant bacteria, which can then infect human beings. 14 Such use of most antibiotics is now banned in the European Union member states, Mexico, New Zealand, and South Korea.15 In the United States and Canada, regulatory agencies have issued guidelines against this use of antibiotics that are deemed medically important.16

The second aspect of the crisis is the dearth of new antimicrobial drugs in development. A 2017 World Health Organization report projects that approximately ten new antibiotics and biologicals will be approved in the next ten years but warns that “these new treatments will add little to the already existing arsenal” because most of them will be “modifications of existing antibiotic classes,” which are “only short term solutions as they usually cannot overcome multiple existing resistance mechanisms and do not control the growing number of pan-resistant pathogens.”17

Few new antimicrobial drugs are in development because there is a low return on the investment needed to discover such drugs and shepherd them through the approval process. This is the reason why Aventis, Bristol-Myers, Squibb, Eli Lilly, Glaxo SmithKline, Proctor and Gamble, Roche, and Wyeth all “greatly curtailed, wholly eliminated or spun off their antibacterial research” between 1999 and 2003.18 The already low return on investment will dwindle as stewardship guidelines are adopted and the drugs are prescribed more judiciously.19

The Chatham House Working Group on New Antibiotic Business Models summarizes the situation thusly:

Today, few large pharmaceutical companies retain active antibacterial drug discovery programmes. One reason is that it is scientifically challenging to discover new antibiotics that are active against the antibiotic-resistant bacterial species of current clinical concern. Another core issue, however, is diminishing economic incentives. Increasingly, there are calls to conserve the use of truly novel antibiotics, which might limit sales severely and discourage greater investment in R&D. Meanwhile, unless they see evidence of superiority, healthcare payers are unwilling to pay prices that would directly support the cost of development, provide a competitive return on investment and reflect the value to society of maintaining a portfolio of antibiotics adequate to overcome growing resistance.

A principal reason for this is the mismatch between the current business model for drugs and combating resistance. The current business model requires high levels of antibiotic use in order to recover the costs of R&D. But mitigating the spread of resistance demands just the opposite: restrictions on the use of antibiotics. Economic incentives play a key role in the global resistance problem, leading to overuse of these precious drugs at the same time as companies are abandoning the field; and the increasing restrictions on inappropriate use of antibiotics make them relatively unprofitable compared with other disease areas.20

#### Only antimicrobial resistance causes extinction---that’s the aff

### 3

#### CP: The member nations of the World Trade Organization ought to reduce intellectual property protections for emergency use listing medicines during public health emergencies other than Covid-19 of international concern.

#### The People’s Republic of China should:

#### - substantially increase innovation funding, production and global distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines for all current and future waves of the pandemic

- includes Sinovac, sionpharm, and any future vaccines

#### - cooperate with allies to achieve increased production and global distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine.

#### Solves case – China vaccinates the world – even if I kick the counterplan distribution happens anyway

* Preempt bad – Gostin just manufacturing ]good bc quantity + new waves – cp solves both

Mallapaty 6-9 Smriti Mallapaty 6-9-2021 "China is vaccinating a staggering 20 million people a day" <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01545-3> (She has a master of science degree in environmental technology from Imperial College London.)//Elmer

For more than a week, an average of about **20 million people** have been vaccinated against COVID-19 **every day in China**. At this rate, the nation would have fully vaccinated the entire UK population in **little more than six days**. China now accounts for more than half of the 35 million or so people around the world receiving a COVID-19 shot each day. Zoltán Kis, a chemical engineer in the Future Vaccine Manufacturing Research Hub at Imperial College London, doesn’t know of “anything **even close to those production scales**” for a vaccine. “The manufacturing efforts required in China to reach this high production throughput are tremendous,” he says. The majority of doses are of one of two vaccines, both of which have been approved for emergency use worldwide by the World Health Organization (WHO). CoronaVac — produced by Beijing-based company Sinovac — showed an efficacy of 51% against symptoms of COVID-19 in clinical trials, and much higher protection against severe disease and death. The second jab was developed in Beijing by state-owned firm Sinopharm and has demonstrated an efficacy of 79% against symptomatic disease and hospitalization. Supplying vaccines to the world China’s current vaccine production rate could potentially **make a significant dent in global demand**, says Kis; that would be “**a huge step in reducing the health-care and economic burden of the COVID-19 pandemic**”. China has already supplied 350 million doses of the two vaccines to more than 75 nations, and WHO approval should now trigger the further distribution of both vaccines to low-income countries. “China’s vaccination campaign got off to a slow start, but has rapidly picked up pace,” says Rongjun Chen, a biomaterials scientist also at the Future Vaccine Manufacturing Research Hub. As recently as mid-April, China was administering only about five million doses a day. According to an official at China’s National Health Commission, the nation aims to produce some three billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines in 2021 — and up to **five billion per year after that**. To achieve such high production rates, many things need to go according to plan across the entire production and distribution chain, from sourcing raw materials to manufacturing active ingredients, filling vials and distributing doses to vaccination centres, says Kis. “It is crucial that everything arrives at the right location at the right time.”

#### China’s using absence of vaccine alternates to assert influence.

Zhao 4-29 Suisheng Zhao 4-29-2021 "Why China’s vaccine diplomacy is winning" <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2021/04/29/why-chinas-vaccine-diplomacy-is-winning/> (Professor and Director of the Center for China–US Cooperation at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver)//Elmer

Chinese COVID-19 vaccines have been shipped to more than **80 countries** for market or emergency use. Among them, 53 countries received vaccines for free (including developing countries in Africa and some strategically important Asian countries such as the Philippines and Pakistan) and 27 middle-income countries paid for doses. Rolling out of vaccines to developing countries, Beijing has framed itself as **a solution to the pandemic** rather than the origin of the coronavirus. China’s advanced vaccine diplomacy stands in contrast **to the ‘me first policies’** of the **United States and the European Union**. With a shortfall in supplies, US and EU leaders have faced high infection rates and death tolls at home and feel the need to inoculate their domestic populations first. This has left the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people without vaccine supply and at risk. China has not faced these problems and can afford to send vaccines abroad. Just by showing up and helping plug gaps in the global supply of vaccines, China has g**ained ground** in vaccine diplomacy. President Xi Jinping pledged that Chinese vaccines would be provided as a global public good. But a large portion of Chinese vaccines are not free — some countries have paid Chinese vaccine makers. Still the absence of the United States and European Union from vaccine diplomacy **is not lost** on countries struggling to put shots in people’s arms. Many countries would prefer US or EU-made Pfizer and Moderna vaccines over China’s vaccines if given the choice, **yet they cannot access them**. These countries are desperate and have jumped at the opportunity to receive Chinese vaccines. Chinese companies are also more willing than their western counterparts **to strike licensing deals** to produce vaccines in foreign countries. For example, Indonesia has become a regional hub for Sinovac’s CoronaVac through its state pharmaceuticals company Bio Farma. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) chose Sinopharm because it was willing to conduct phase three clinical trials in the UAE and build native vaccine production capabilities. Sinopharm also arranged to manufacture its vaccine in the UAE for regional distribution. Beijing’s vaccine diplomacy involves propaganda to boost **perceptions of China as a generous and responsible power**. Chinese media has covered every delivery of vaccine shipment. The scene is set by a standard script. When a cargo plane lands, it is greeted by senior local leaders accompanied by Chinese ambassadors fawning over the vaccine cargo. Vaccine diplomacy has helped **increase China’s influence** and enabled it to capitalise **on new opportunities**. China has rolled vaccines out to participants of its Belt and Road Initiative (**BRI**) **and enhanced preferential access to jabs alongside investments in infrastructure and connectivity projects**. According to an April Think Global Health report, of the 56 countries to which China pledged doses, all but one were participants in its BRI. Naming it the Health Silk Road, vaccine diplomacy has provided a foothold for China’s pharmaceutical industry that has been plagued by scandals and low levels of trust at home and abroad. Making Sinovac and Sinopharm household names in foreign countries, China may change these perceptions. Although Chinese vaccine makers were among the earliest in the world to begin clinical trials and self-reported some key results, many have not published complete data in peer-reviewed journals. This has fuelled scepticism about their safety and effectiveness. Gao Fu, director of China’s Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, noted in April that Chinese vaccines were not as effective as hoped and mixing them was among the strategies being considered to boost their effectiveness. Some countries have been reluctant to greenlight Chinese vaccines. Singapore received its first shipment of Sinovac vaccines in February, but Singaporean regulators have not approved its use, moving ahead with using Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Polish President Andrzej Duda spoke with President Xi about buying Chinese jabs in March. Yet Poland’s health authorities have recommended against using Chinese vaccines because of a lack of data. Concerns have also arisen about whether China’s production capacity is able to keep pace with an ever-expanding list of overseas customers and its domestic vaccination campaign. The Turkish government ordered 20 million doses of China’s Sinovac vaccine. But delayed shipments forced the government to repeatedly revise its vaccination timetable. Egypt purchased a total of 40 million doses of the vaccine from Sinopharm in January but had received only a tiny percentage of its vaccine order from China by the middle of April. This tension will intensify as China’s domestic demand for vaccines increases. China has continued with vaccine diplomacy in the absence of the United States and other Western countries. These countries should compete and cooperate with China to overcome bottlenecks in the global distribution of vaccines and ensure that all nations, particularly developing countries, receive the vaccines they need to finally beat COVID-19.

#### Waivers are a critical issue in the perceptual ineptness of America and the West.

Pratt and Levin 4-29 Simon Frankel Pratt and Jamie Levin 4-29-2021 "Vaccines Will Shape the New Geopolitical Order" <https://archive.is/OgDcA#selection-847.23-857.11> (Simon Frankel Pratt is a lecturer in the School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies at the University of Bristol. Jamie Levin is an assistant professor of political science at St. Francis Xavier University in Canada.)//Elmer

While home to vaccines produced by the likes of Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson—all now household names and whose vaccines are considered more efficacious—governments of these states have demonstrated a **reluctance to supply doses** to much of the rest of the world at the expense of domestic vaccination rates. The United States and the U.K. have exported almost none, and the EU is clamping down. They have similarly been **unwilling to waive patents**, allowing for production of these vaccines where they are most needed. This suggests that the United States and the EU are **slow to fully exploit the geopolitical opportunities** of vaccine diplomacy or at least are not willing to do so with the same alacrity and **enthusiasm as other states**. That may change as time goes on, however, and the result will be worsened inequities within already inequitable trade relationships between these countries and the global south.

#### Chinese hegemony squashes separatist movements.

Ryan D. Griffiths 16, Sydney IR senior lecturer, “States, Nations, and Territorial Stability: Why Chinese Hegemony Would Be Better for International Order,” Security Studies, 25:3, 519-545

To conclude, a hegemonic China ought to influence international order by shifting the balance from self-determination toward territorial integrity. Its insistence on supporting territorial integrity in the internal sense is significant, and only in instances of consent would the state recognize independence claims. As such, the prohibition on conquest should endure during a time of Chinese hegemony, but the rate of state birth would decrease. State proliferation would be controlled relative to the partly controlled international order that has characterized the post-1945 period. The Pax Sinica How would a future period of Chinese hegemony compare with the current international order or orders of the past? I have argued that Chinese hegemony would privilege territorial integrity at the expense of self determination. The result would be an international order that would resemble earlier periods in some ways and be unique in others. Sovereign norms would once again be dominant and liberal norms would be subordinated to the right of states. One result of this shift would be a decline, if not disappearance, in nonconsensual secession. However, since a Chinese hegemon is likely to hold on to the territorial integrity norm, conquest would also remain rare. The overall result would be a surprisingly stable international order, a Pax Sinica. To consider this argument it is useful to place this Pax Sinica in historical perspective (See Table 1). Given its emphasis on sovereignty and its internal fragmentary pressures, China would shift the normative balance to a point where secession is only legal in the presence of sovereign consent. Importantly, that move would jettison the constitutive process of statehood, since self-determination would be elevated to a positive right only in the presence of consent. The difficult decision of choosing who counts would be simplified by effectively allocating that choice to sovereign states. Not unlike the pre-Napoleonic era, sovereignty would prevail and the arc of history would bend back toward the right of states. Importantly, this would not simply be a return to the 1800s.67 The politics of recognition in the 19th century possessed a liberal undercurrent and, as Fabry argues, the United States and UK would often disregard the sovereignty of states when recognizing breakaway regions that had prevailed over their central governments.68 In truth, Chinese hegemony would resemble the 18th century more than the 19th, when states hewed closely to the sovereign principle that recognition should only be given in cases of consent. The notion that minority nations should be able to self-determine, that individuals selecting into a group should have rights, was not yet on the map. The liberal tradition was only just emerging and the sovereign tradition was relatively unchallenged. The Pax Sinica would bear those same conservative features. However, Chinese hegemony would also bear modern features. The main difference is the very conception of sovereignty and the corollary development of the norm of territorial integrity. Should the norm of territorial integrity be supported by a Chinese power, state death would remain a rare occurrence. Unlike the 18th and 19th centuries where the number of states was gradually reduced through conquest and accession, very few states would exit the system unless they voluntarily chose to unify with other states. Thus the Pax Sinica would be rather stable. The number of states may gradually increase, but it would be limited to those cases where the sovereign gave its consent—that is, controlled proliferation. This anticipated focus on territorial stability under Chinese hegemony is consistent with both contemporary and historical political doctrine. The Confucian emphasis on a strong and stable state is echoed in recent political slogans like “Stability and Harmony.”69 There are conservative, statist overtones in China’s policies without any commensurate emphasis on liberal norms. Unlike the United States, Chinese exceptionalism does not promote a set of universal values in its foreign policy.70 Meanwhile, recent scholarship has looked into the past to examine what previous periods of Chinese regional dominance say about patterns in international order.71 One common finding is that imperial China tended to emphasize patterns of informal rule where other polities remained sovereign, yet informally subordinate. Indeed, David C. Kang finds that the China-centered international order that existed in East Asia from the 14th to the 19th centuries—the so-called Tribute System—was characterized by stable borders and infrequent wars of conquest, at least where recognized political units like Vietnam and Korea were concerned.72 The hegemon showed little tolerance for unrecognized, tribal, and/or institutionally dissimilar groups, especially on the western and northern frontiers. Of course, past behavior is not a perfect indicator of future performance, but that approach to international order privileges recognized states and emphasizes the sovereign territorial grid in a manner where the hegemon can exert power and influence without formal conquest. Essentially, there is continuity between China’s imperial past and what this paper predicts for the future should it become a hegemon. I began the article by claiming that the Pax Sinica would be better for international order. In making this claim I define “better” in narrow terms emphasizing territorial stability, which can be assessed in several ways. How often do either external aggressors or internal separatists shift sovereign borders through violence? What is the frequency of secessionist civil war? How much international discord is there on the topic of secession and recognition? This is the ledger I use when comparing the Pax Sinica with the post-1945 American-led order. There are many other factors, to be sure, and critics might point to a number of ways in which Chinese hegemony would be worse. For example, they may question the support for human rights under Chinese leadership. I do not argue that Chinese hegemony would be better in all ways—there are pros and cons to any order—but I contend that there are net benefits where territorial stability is concerned. Analyzed under these terms the key differences between the American order and the imagined Chinese order have to do with the politics of secession and sovereign recognition. International order matters because it determines diplomatic practices and shapes behavior. It sets the rules of the game. The American-led order over the last seventy years has attempted to balance the norms of territorial integrity and self-determination by establishing rules for what nations are eligible for independence. But, as Fabry notes, that is an enormously challenging project because developing clear rules that separate the lucky from the unlucky requires that states derive agreed-upon criteria in a constitutive process.73 Given the politics and conflicting principles of international life (and the evolving nature of normative arguments), inconsistency, ambiguity, and accusations of hypocrisy are unavoidable. The resulting political space creates uncertainty for states and nationalist movements over when self-determination applies and when it should be subordinated to territorial integrity. Incidents like the Ukrainian crisis cast a shadow over separatist crises elsewhere. The leadership in Azerbaijan detects double standards in American policy, wondering why it “punishes Russia for annexing Crimea, but not Armenia for similar behavior in Karabakh.”74 Such uncertainly can makes states feel vulnerable, as it has in Azerbaijan, change the incentives for key actors, and increase the chance of conflict. Secessionist civil war is a common feature of contemporary times. Scholars estimate that at least half of the civil wars since 1945 have involved secessionism, and Barbara F. Walter argues that secessionism is the chief source of violence in the world today.75 Erica Chenowith and Maria Stephan find that secessionism is one of the few (if only) forms of political protest where violent tactics are more effective than nonviolent.76 Meanwhile, Tanisha Fazal and I identify fifty-five secessionist movements as of 2011 and record that many of these movements feel they have a reasonable chance of gaining independence in light of the somewhat flexible practices surrounding recognition.77 Given the strategic environment in which secessionists operate, where violence can be effective and where sovereignty is thought to be obtainable, it should come as no surprise that conflict is common. In regard to territorial stability, the concern of contemporary times is not traditional territorial conquest, but the threat posed by state fragmentation.78 This is where Chinese hegemony ought to improve international order.

#### WWIII – turns and outweighs the entire case because it makes management of the commons impossible

Valaskakis 14, Former OECD Ambassador of Canada (Kimon, “Separatism Everywhere : The New Global Epidemic,” <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kimon-valaskakis/separatism-everywhere-the_b_4977800.html>)

Fourth and finally, there is simple self interest. Rich provinces, in a country, whose constitution obliges them to help poorer ones, (like Canada) may want to end these subsidies and keep all the money to themselves. Under this logic it should be Alberta rather than Quebec considering secession. When all is said and done, is all this good or bad news ? At first blush, by invoking the principle of self-determination, the virtues of decentralization and more responsible local government, we might be tempted to welcome these centrifugal forces. But upon reflection and careful analysis we should instead fear them because they will exacerbate the present mismanagement of our planet. The separatists often believe that they can repeal globalization by a simple declaration of sovereignty, the adoption of a new flag and national anthem and by being awarded a seat in the United Nations. This, unfortunately is a delusion. Globalization is fueled by international capital, labor and technology movements, the internet, global finance and powerful worldwide networks — some visible, others covert. Multinational corporations are going to remain global, and so are mafias, narco-cartels, organized crime, jihadists etc. If all the separatist movements in the world were to succeed, we could move from a present world of under 200 countries to one of over 1,000 -- all with an equal seat at the UN. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to decide on anything in a 1,000 strong UN general assembly? Think, also, of the balance of power: 1,000 fragmented small countries, plus their subnational governments, competing for the favors of a dozen huge unregulated global conglomerates. It would be an embarrassment of riches for the footloose conglomerates. It would also be Eldorado for organized crime, jihadists, tax evaders and assorted criminals vaulting from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The sociologist, Daniel Bell once remarked,in the 1970s, that the nation state had become too big for the small problems and too small for the big ones. His words were prophetic but they cut both ways. National governments can no longer cope with pandemics, global warming, international terrorism, unregulated global finance -- unless they act in unison in intergovernmental organizations. But, by the same token, Lilliputian micro states, emerging from the global separatist wave, would be even be less capable to deal with these problems. Global governance would then be completely controlled by the remaining, still international, private networks. A scary scenario to be sure. Does that mean we must stay put and freeze present borders in perpetuity. No, obviously not. Re-arrangements and restructuring are necessary. But the more sustainable answer may be in new forms of federalism rather than in the pure multiplication of sovereignties. In today's interdependent world, sovereignty is an illusion except if you are a superpower. The problems are too big while the means available to the new so-called 'sovereign' government are too small. The 'balkanization' of Eastern and Southern Europe after the First World War, led to the Second World War. The balkanization of the world through wide-spread separatism could increase the probability of a third one. Not an inspiring scenario.

#### 1AR theory is skewed towards the aff – a) the 2NR must cover substance and over-cover theory, since they get the collapse and persuasive spin advantage of the 3min 2AR, b) their responses to my counter interp will be new, which means 1AR theory necessitates intervention. Implications – a) reject 1AR theory since it can’t be a legitimate check for abuse, b) drop the arg to minimize the chance the round is decided unfairly

#### Condo’s good – a) prep skew – they’re more familiar with the aff so I need to be able to leverage multiple forms of prep, b) reciprocity – no condo means every perm becomes a no risk issue which creates NIBs to ballot access

## Case

### Solvency

#### Squo solves – plan increases price of scarce materials and results in costly, ineffective facilities

Mcmurry-Heath 8/18 (Michelle Mcmurry-Heath, [physician-scientist and president and CEO of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization.], 8-18-2021, “Waiving intellectual property rights would harm global vaccination“, STAT, accessed: 8-19-2021, https://www.statnews.com/2021/08/18/waiving-intellectual-property-rights-compromise-global-vaccination-efforts/) ajs

Covid-19 vaccines are already remarkably cheap, and companies are offering them at low or no cost to low-income countries. Poor access to clinics and transportation are barriers in some countries, but the expense of the shot itself is not. In fact, if the World Trade Organization grants the IP waiver, it could make these vaccines more expensive.

Here’s why. Before Covid-19 emerged, the world produced at most [5.5 billion doses](https://www.barrons.com/articles/a-plan-to-break-the-vaccine-manufacturing-bottleneck-51621952245) of various vaccines every year. Now the world needs an additional [11 billion doses](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-g7-summit---12-june-2021) — including billions of doses of mRNA vaccines that no one had ever mass-manufactured before — to fully vaccinate every eligible person on the planet against the new disease.

Even as Covid-19 vaccines were still being developed, pharmaceutical companies began retrofitting and upgrading existing facilities to produce Covid-19 vaccines, at a cost of $40 to $100 million each. Vaccine developers also licensed their technologies to well-established manufacturers, like the Serum Institute of India, to further increase production. As a result, almost every facility in the world that can quickly and safely make Covid-19 vaccines is already doing so, or will be in the next few months.

The cutting-edge mRNA vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech face an even bigger capacity issue. Since the underlying technology is new, there are no mRNA manufacturing facilities sitting idle with operators just waiting for licensing agreements to turn on the machines. Nor are there trained personnel to run them or ensure safety and quality control. Embedding delicate mRNA vaccine molecules inside lipid nanoparticle shells at temperatures colder than Antarctica isn’t as easy as following a recipe from Bon Appetit.

Another big barrier to producing more shots is a shortage of raw materials. Suspending intellectual property protections and allowing any manufacturer to try to produce these vaccines, regardless of preparedness or experience, would increase the demand for scarce raw materials, driving up prices and impeding production.

Nor could all companies that suddenly get a green light due to suspended intellectual property rights produce vaccines as cheaply or quickly as existing manufacturers. Building a new vaccine manufacturing facility costs about $700 million, takes many months — if not years — to build and, once opened, requires another [four to six months](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/reports/2020/07/28/488196/comprehensive-covid-19-vaccine-plan/) to start producing vaccine doses. And because negotiations surrounding the WTO waiver, which began this summer, could take until December before they are completed, it wouldn’t be until well into 2023 or later that any additional doses would become available.

That’s slower than our current production rate. According to a report from Duke University’s [Global Health Innovation Center](https://launchandscalefaster.org/covid-19/vaccinemanufacturing), companies are on track to manufacture enough shots in 2021 to fully vaccinate at least 70% of the global population against Covid-19 — the level required to achieve herd immunity.

Covid-19 vaccines are saving millions of lives and protecting trillions of dollars of economic activity for an exceptionally low cost. Israel, for example, which has one of the world’s highest vaccination rates, paid [$23.50 per dose](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-to-be-paying-average-of-47-per-person-for-pfizer-moderna-vaccines/) for early shipments, for a total of about $315 million. That’s approximately equal to the gross domestic productivity losses incurred during [just two days of shutdowns](https://www.bmj.com/content/372/bmj.n281) in the country.

Many countries are buying shots for under $10 per dose. India and South Africa — the two countries leading the petition to gut IP rights — are paying just $8 and $5.25 per dose, respectively. For reference, a regular flu shot costs about $14 in the United States, and pediatric vaccines average about $55 per dose.

Meanwhile, low-income countries that can’t afford even modest prices are getting their vaccines at no charge. [COVAX](https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax), the international nonprofit vaccine distributor, aims to deliver 2 billion doses to developing nations by the end of the year.

President Biden vowed to make America the world’s [“arsenal of vaccines.”](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/05/17/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-response-and-the-vaccination-program-4/) The U.S. has already committed $4 billion to COVAX, has donated more than 100 million vaccine doses abroad, and is on track to donate [500 million more](https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/08/03/1023822839/biden-is-sending-110-million-vaccines-to-nations-in-need-thats-just-a-first-step) by the end of summer. Other countries are following the administration’s leadership and ramping up their donations.

#### No Disease X impact— it’s unscientific- your author is speculating about a monster disease that doesn’t exist and still says vaccines solve

#### CNA ev just says news diseases coming—even with strong pharma we can’t stop them—COVID proves- the world didn’t find a medical treatment until millions were dead.

#### COVID vaccines were a fluke- it was based on Israeli research on the SARS outbreak from the 90s—next disease will be brand new

#### No disease can cause extinction

Adalja 16 [Amesh Adalja is an infectious-disease physician at the University of Pittsburgh. Why Hasn't Disease Wiped out the Human Race? June 17, 2016. https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/06/infectious-diseases-extinction/487514/]

But when people ask me if I’m worried about infectious diseases, they’re often not asking about the threat to human lives; they’re asking about the threat to human life. With each outbreak of a headline-grabbing emerging infectious disease comes a fear of extinction itself. The fear envisions a large proportion of humans succumbing to infection, leaving no survivors or so few that the species can’t be sustained.

I’m not afraid of this apocalyptic scenario, but I do understand the impulse. Worry about the end is a quintessentially human trait. Thankfully, so is our resilience.

For most of mankind’s history, infectious diseases were the existential threat to humanity—and for good reason. They were quite successful at killing people: The 6th century’s Plague of Justinian knocked out an estimated 17 percent of the world’s population; the 14th century Black Death decimated a third of Europe; the 1918 influenza pandemic killed 5 percent of the world; malaria is estimated to have killed half of all humans who have ever lived.

Any yet, of course, humanity continued to flourish. Our species’ recent explosion in lifespan is almost exclusively the result of the control of infectious diseases through sanitation, vaccination, and antimicrobial therapies. Only in the modern era, in which many infectious diseases have been tamed in the industrial world, do people have the luxury of death from cancer, heart disease, or stroke in the 8th decade of life. Childhoods are free from watching siblings and friends die from outbreaks of typhoid, scarlet fever, smallpox, measles, and the like.

So what would it take for a disease to wipe out humanity now?

In Michael Crichton’s The Andromeda Strain, the canonical book in the disease-outbreak genre, an alien microbe threatens the human race with extinction, and humanity’s best minds are marshaled to combat the enemy organism. Fortunately, outside of fiction, there’s no reason to expect alien pathogens to wage war on the human race any time soon, and my analysis suggests that any real-life domestic microbe reaching an extinction level of threat probably is just as unlikely.

Any apocalyptic pathogen would need to possess a very special combination of two attributes. First, it would have to be so unfamiliar that no existing therapy or vaccine could be applied to it. Second, it would need to have a high and surreptitious transmissibility before symptoms occur. The first is essential because any microbe from a known class of pathogens would, by definition, have family members that could serve as models for containment and countermeasures. The second would allow the hypothetical disease to spread without being detected by even the most astute clinicians.

The three infectious diseases most likely to be considered extinction-level threats in the world today—influenza, HIV, and Ebola—don’t meet these two requirements. Influenza, for instance, despite its well-established ability to kill on a large scale, its contagiousness, and its unrivaled ability to shift and drift away from our vaccines, is still what I would call a “known unknown.” While there are many mysteries about how new flu strains emerge, from at least the time of Hippocrates, humans have been attuned to its risk. And in the modern era, a full-fledged industry of influenza preparedness exists, with effective vaccine strategies and antiviral therapies.

HIV, which has killed 39 million people over several decades, is similarly limited due to several factors. Most importantly, HIV’s dependency on blood and body fluid for transmission (similar to Ebola) requires intimate human-to-human contact, which limits contagion. Highly potent antiviral therapy allows most people to live normally with the disease, and a substantial group of the population has genetic mutations that render them impervious to infection in the first place. Lastly, simple prevention strategies such as needle exchange for injection drug users and barrier contraceptives—when available—can curtail transmission risk.

Ebola, for many of the same reasons as HIV as well as several others, also falls short of the mark. This is especially due to the fact that it spreads almost exclusively through people with easily recognizable symptoms, plus the taming of its once unfathomable 90 percent mortality rate by simple supportive care.

Beyond those three, every other known disease falls short of what seems required to wipe out humans—which is, of course, why we’re still here. And it’s not that diseases are ineffective. On the contrary, diseases’ failure to knock us out is a testament to just how resilient humans are. Part of our evolutionary heritage is our immune system, one of the most complex on the planet, even without the benefit of vaccines or the helping hand of antimicrobial drugs. This system, when viewed at a species level, can adapt to almost any enemy imaginable. Coupled to genetic variations amongst humans—which open up the possibility for a range of advantages, from imperviousness to infection to a tendency for mild symptoms—this adaptability ensures that almost any infectious disease onslaught will leave a large proportion of the population alive to rebuild, in contrast to the fictional Hollywood versions.

#### Actors turn inward NOT outward – covid proves

Ide 21, Tobias. "COVID-19 and armed conflict." World development 140 (2021): 105355. (School of Geography, The University of Melbourne, 221 Bouverie St, Carlton, VIC 3053, Australia Institute of International Relations, Brunswick University of Technology)//Elmer

However, **COVID**-19 might also **shape** **opportunity costs in a way** **to reduce armed conflict risks**, at least temporarily. If a **state’s capability is strained** and there is an **urgent need to deal with a health emergency**, **military offensives are** certainly **unlikely** (Price-Smith, 2009). Furthermore, existing as well as potential **rebel groups** and militias **face similar challenges** in the face of the pandemic. They need to raise money and food to supply to their fighters during an economic recession, convince their members to take part in operations rather than staying at home (to reduce infection risks and support their family or community), and deal with the logistical constraints of lockdowns and border closures. **Starting** or intensifying **attacks** **during** the **COVID**-19 crisis is **likely to decrease** the local (and international) **legitimacy** of armed groups, especially if health infrastructure is affected. The ceasefire declarations by armed conflict parties in several countries can also be interpreted as a sign that COVID-related capability and legitimacy concerns are warranted.

### Democracy

#### Democracy will catastrophically delay action on climate change---authoritarianism is necessary to ensure rapid state-led transformation

Mann & Wainwright ’18 (Geoff, teaches political economy and economic geography at Simon Fraser University, where he directs the Centre for Global Political Economy, Joel *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of Our Planetary Future*, pp. 38-40, ME)

Relative to the institutional means currently available to capitalist liberal democracy and its sorry attempts at “consensus,” this trajectory has some distinct advantages with respect to atmospheric carbon concentration, notably in terms of the capacity to coordinate massive political-economic reconfiguration quickly and comprehensively. In light of our earlier question—how can we possibly realize the necessary emissions reductions?—it is this feature of Climate Mao that most recommends it. As the climate justice movement struggles to be heard, most campaigns in the global North are premised on an unspoken faith in a lop-sided, elite-biased, liberal proceduralism doomed to failure given the scale and scope of the changes required. If climate science is even half-right in its forecasts, the liberal model of democracy is at best too slow, at worst a devastating distraction. Climate Mao reflects the demand for rapid, revolutionary, state-led transformation today. Indeed, calls for variations on just such a regime abound on the Left. Mike Davis and Giovanni Arrighi have more or less sided with Climate Mao, sketching it as an alternative to capitalist Climate Leviathan.35 We might even interpret the renewal of enthusiasm for Maoist theory (including Alain Badiou’s version) as part of the prevailing crisis of ecological-political imagination.36 Minqi Li’s is arguably the best developed of this line of thought, and like Arrighi he locates the fulcrum of global climate history in China, arguing that Climate Mao offers the only way forward: [U]nless China takes serious and meaningful actions to fulfill its obligation of emissions reduction, there is little hope that global climate stabilization can be achieved. However, it is very unlikely that the [present] Chinese government will voluntarily take the necessary actions to reduce emissions. The sharp fall of economic growth that would be required is something that the Chinese government will not accept and cannot afford politically. Does this mean that humanity is doomed? That depends on the political struggle within China and in the world as a whole.37 Taking inspiration from Mao, Li says a new revolution in the Chinese revolution—a re-energization of the Maoist political tradition—could transform China and save humanity from doom. He does not claim this is likely; one need only consider China’s massive highway expansions, accelerated automobile consumption, and subsidized urban sprawl.38 But he is right that if an anticapitalist, planetary sovereign is to emerge that could change the world’s climate trajectory, it is most likely to emerge in China.

#### Warming guarantees extinction

Specktor 19 [Brandon Specktor] “Human Civilization Will Crumble by 2050 If We Don't Stop Climate Change Now, New Paper Claims.” Live Science. June 4, 2019. <https://www.livescience.com/65633-climate-change-dooms-humans-by-2050.html> TG

[According to the paper](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/148cb0_b2c0c79dc4344b279bcf2365336ff23b.pdf), climate change poses a "near- to mid-term existential threat to human civilization," and there's a good chance society could collapse as soon as 2050 if serious mitigation actions aren't taken in the next decade.

Published by the Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration in Melbourne (an independent think tank focused on climate policy) and authored by a climate researcher and a former fossil fuel executive, the paper's central thesis is that climate scientists are too restrained in their predictions of how climate change will affect the planet in the near future. [[Top 9 Ways the World Could End](https://www.livescience.com/36999-top-scientists-world-enders.html)]

The current climate crisis, they say, is larger and more complex than any humans have ever dealt with before. General climate models — like the one that the [United Nations' Panel on Climate Change](https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/) (IPCC) used in 2018 to predict that a global temperature increase of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) could put hundreds of millions of people at risk — fail to account for the sheer complexity of Earth's many interlinked geological processes; as such, they fail to adequately predict the scale of the potential consequences. The truth, the authors wrote, is probably far worse than any models can fathom.

How the world ends

What might an accurate worst-case picture of the planet's climate-addled future actually look like, then? The authors provide one particularly grim scenario that begins with world governments "politely ignoring" the advice of scientists and the will of the public to decarbonize the economy (finding alternative energy sources), resulting in a global temperature increase 5.4 F (3 C) by the year 2050. At this point, the world's ice sheets vanish; brutal droughts kill many of the trees in the [Amazon rainforest](https://www.livescience.com/57266-amazon-river.html) (removing one of the world's largest carbon offsets); and the planet plunges into a feedback loop of ever-hotter, ever-deadlier conditions.

"Thirty-five percent of the global land area, and 55 percent of the global population, are subject to more than 20 days a year of lethal heat conditions, beyond the threshold of human survivability," the authors hypothesized.

Meanwhile, droughts, floods and wildfires regularly ravage the land. Nearly one-third of the world's land surface turns to desert. Entire ecosystems collapse, beginning with the planet's coral reefs, the rainforest and the Arctic ice sheets. The world's tropics are hit hardest by these new climate extremes, destroying the region's agriculture and turning more than 1 billion people into refugees.

This mass movement of refugees — coupled with [shrinking coastlines](https://www.livescience.com/51990-sea-level-rise-unknowns.html) and severe drops in food and water availability — begin to stress the fabric of the world's largest nations, including the United States. Armed conflicts over resources, perhaps culminating in nuclear war, are likely.

The result, according to the new paper, is "outright chaos" and perhaps "the end of human global civilization as we know it."

#### Democracy backsliding and third wave autocratization means democracy is on the brink—but high protests means there’s still hope.

Kalberer 20 Stefan Kalberer [studies European Global Studies (Master) in Basel and is a member of Democracy Without Borders Switzerland], March 25, 2020, “V-Dem: Autocratization continues but resistance grows”, Democracy Without Borders”, Date Accessed September 3, 2020, <https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/13023/v-dem-autocratization-continues-but-resistance-grows/> // ep

V-Dem: Autocratization continues but resistance grows

For the first time since 2001, a majority of all states worldwide are no longer under democratic rule. This is one of the key findings of this year’s report of the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project which was presented last week.

The new report thus confirms the trend of recent years that many countries are on the way towards autocracy. According to the latest results of the Swedish research institute, 92 nations worldwide are classified as autocracies, meaning that 54% of the world’s population now lives in autocratic states. This is eight nations more than in last year’s report and with Hungary there is for the first time an EU member state classified as autocratic. This compares to 87 states worldwide that are classified as democratic. At the peak in 2010, the number was 98.

Two factors are remarkable. On the one hand, all regions of the world are affected by this “third wave of autocratization” and on the other hand, powerful G20 countries with a significant economy, such as the USA, India or Brazil, have slipped down the democracy index.

Number of countries per regime type, 1972-2019. Source: V-Dem 2020 report (p. 13)

How individual world regions and states are affected

According to the report, 35% of the world’s population currently live in countries with governments that are moving towards autocracy and only about 8% of the world’s population live in nations that are in the process of democratization. Eastern Europe and Central Asia are the regions most affected by this development: in eight countries a significant deterioration of the situation over the last 10 years has been observed. In total, 26 nations are in autocratization in 2019, compared to 11 countries worldwide at the beginning of the century. An extent that was last seen in 1978. Hungary, Turkey, Poland, Serbia, Brazil and India are most affected by this trend.

If one takes a closer look at the different world regions, one can see that Sub-Saharan Africa is the only world region where the majority of the population lives in countries whose systems of government are on a positive trajectory. Although only a few countries in the three world regions Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Western Europe and North America are in an autocratic phase, the share of the population affected in these regions, nevertheless, is close to 40%. In Western Europe and North America this concerns only one country. But because this is the United States, this development should not be underestimated. The research team emphasizes that especially such large countries like the USA can have an effect on the development in smaller nations.

Countries substantially democratizing or autocratizing, 2009-2019. Source: V-Dem 2020 report (p. 10)

Restrictions on freedom of expression are increasing

As the Swedish researchers found, the restriction of freedom of the media and freedom of expression are the first signs of a process of autocratization. This makes it all the more thought-provoking to note that attacks on freedom of the media and freedom of expression are increasing globally. Furthermore, the data also show a decline in the quality of free and fair elections. In 16 nations, the situation has deteriorated, while at the same time only 12 countries have seen an improvement, which leads to a negative balance in terms of free and fair elections. It should also be noted that polarisation within society continues to increase.

Pro-democracy protest movements at an all-time high

However, positive conclusions can also be drawn from the study. In almost half of all countries, sustainable pro-democratic protest movements have emerged, fighting for more democracy and fair elections. According to V-Dem, there were pro-democracy mass protests in 29 democratic countries and 34 autocratic states. Their number thus reached an all-time high and can be seen as a ray of hope for further development.

Mass mobilization for democracy, 1972-2019. Source: V-Dem 2020 report (p. 21)

In 22 countries all around the world such protests have also contributed to a sustainable democratization and examples like Sudan, Gambia or Ecuador give hope for a positive future development.

The studies of the Varieties of Democracy Project are based on the assessment of over 3,000 local experts around the world, who together compile nearly 30 million data points concerning democracy, human rights, civil society and others.

#### Autocracies solve emerging pandemics – studies prove democratic failure

Kavanagh & Singh 20 – (Matthew M. Kavanagh, assistant professor of global health and visiting professor of law at Georgetown University, where he directs the Global Health Policy & Politics Initiative at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Renu Singh, fellow at the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University Law Center, “Democracy, Capacity, and Coercion in Pandemic Response—COVID 19 in Comparative Political Perspective,” 5-28-2020, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, Duke University Press, <https://read.dukeupress.edu/jhppl/article/doi/10.1215/03616878-8641530/165294/Democracy-Capacity-and-Coercion-in-Pandemic>)

Is Democracy Good or Bad for Health in a Pandemic? In general, social scientists have tended to agree, albeit with caveats, that democracy is beneficial for public health. COVID-19 is raising important questions about this contention as high-profile cases show authoritarian countries winning praise for their response while leading democracies have struggled to respond. This complicates, perhaps in helpful ways, the exploration of health and of democracy. A wide literature has long debated the value of democracy for health. Electoral pressures and political freedoms of democratic regimes, it is argued, contribute to improved health and longer lives (Ruger 2005; Sen 1999). These claims have empirical support in political science (Gerring, Thacker, and Alfaro 2012; McGuire 2010; Przeworski et al. 2000; Wigley and Akkoyunlu-Wigley 2017), economics (Kudamatsu 2012), and public health (Bollyky et al. 2019)—though not without challenge, as some have shown weak or no connection (Ross 2006). A range of mechanisms have been proposed and tested for how democracy improves health including incentives—median voters desire redistribution, and a norm of equality increases support for accessible health services; information—open media and opposition ensure that information both flows to the public about health and from the public to government about how to calibrate policy; accountability—enabling voters can punish leaders who fail; and association—enabling knowledge networks and interest groups to drive good policy. The narrative of Chinese success and U.S. failure has led to concern that COVID-19 represents bad news about the value, and future, of democratic governance (Diamond 2020). Initial studies have already been conducted showing a correlation between democracy and worse outbreaks as well as less effective policy responses (Cepaluni, Dorsch, and Branyiczki 2020). Pandemic response is different from much of population health—with effective responses requiring the ability to act quickly, implement effectively, and gain public compliance. With the exception of HIV (e.g., Lieberman 2009), disease outbreaks and political institutions have been under-studied in comparative politics—with much of the literature focused on infant mortality or life expectancy, long-running trends that have far different mechanisms from a pandemic. Here, the accountability mechanisms that help democracies perform better may not be as beneficial. Political leaders with short time horizons may have relatively weak incentives to invest in pandemic preparedness and response (Dionne 2010; Healy and Malhotra 2009). And some of the benefits of associational networks and civil society can be shut down in the face of an emergency—facing, for example, stay-at-home orders. Democracies also have the added challenge of managing competing political factions and institutions, some of whom may have political incentives to undermine response. Once the outbreak broke into the public and Beijing was moved to act, China was able to quickly shut down the Wuhan market, shut down the movement of tens of millions of people, screen and isolate the sick, and even build two hospitals in a matter of days. Singapore is another autocracy that has gained praise for its quick response. The U.S., on the other hand, has struggled to respond. The Trump administration focused on travel bans to keep the “foreign” virus out rather than on mobilizing public health capacities to detect and respond—a message that aligns with the Trump administration’s election-year antiimmigrant and anti-China political frame. The President’s incentive structure has been clear, as his administration has tried to label COVID-19 the “Wuhan Virus,” continuing a trade war with China, the largest producer of medical goods needed by the U.S. Perhaps these incentives were clearest in early March when Trump resisted allowing a cruise ship with COVID-19 cases to dock because “I don’t need to have the numbers double because of one ship” (The White House 2020).