

Resistance

'THE SUSPENSION



OF DEMOCRACY'

Britain has left the EU on 31 Jan (but the EU has not yet left Britain. The official light show above indicates what powers were regained, although the 'respect for sovereignty' clause' in the future relationship framework should signal the beginning of the end for EU domination.

Democracy is more than elections suspended due to the coronavirus (CV) panic though. Publication of Resistance will continue, as power hasn't yet come back to the people.

The biggest development of the year has been the 'coronavirus epidemic'. Statistically it might not qualify as a 'pandemic'. Some just call it a panic, others a 'plandemic', as bureaucrats have manoeuvred to seize control.

THE CONTROL AGENDA

In mid-March, PM Boris Johnson was reported to have been swayed by a much-criticised model from Imperial (College) wizard Prof Neil Ferguson predicting 500,000 deaths if he didn't change course. On *The Slog* blog, John Ward asked questions as to why such a serial failure was appointed.

The damage was done - on 19 March, emergency legislation was unveiled (the 'Coronavirus Bill'). But did anyone really believe that 329 pages of legislation were drafted overnight?

In our post-Brexit democracy, local elections have been postponed and restrictions on personal freedom not seen since wartime imposed.

The official line was that even though the daily casualty rate has fallen, restrictions couldn't be relaxed as it might risk a 'second peak'; a 'test' that can **never** be passed, particularly if CV mutates like the influenza virus?

Like other countries', the government's data is flaky; the BBC gives out infection figures without mentioning that these are just **estimates**.

The UK-wide lockdown has been in force for 8 weeks and frustrations are rising. Health minister Nadine Dorries let it slip on 15 April that the plan is that restrictions **cannot be relaxed** until a vaccine is ready.

This mirrors the policy pushed by a government advisor on the SAGE committee. The latter was shrouded in such secrecy that the GOV.UK site only listed the members of one of its sub-groups – this and their registered interests being well out of date.

Those hoping for a short-term vaccine 'fix' might note that nothing is likely to be around for 18 months, possibly until 2022 – and can any vaccine offer unconditional guarantees against any 'second peaks' caused by novel strains?



Businessman Simon Dolan has already set out comprehensive and convincing arguments as to why the government's strategy is wrong and lockdown is excessive. His Pre-Action Letter on CrowdJustice takes no prisoners. The government has just put in a weak response to the prospect of a Judicial Review. Simon's funding appeal is so far on target and is open until 28 May.

CATALOGUE OF FAILURE

Despite the government's professed love for the NHS, the story is one of **serial mess-ups** over epidemic preparations, specification and supply of protective gear, testing and more. The discharge of sick/untested people into care homes is a major scandal, **pushing up** the casualty rate.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Jenny Harries hints that the key measure is not the infection rate ('R'), but the number of cases. However the more testing is done, the more that the number of cases will increase?

The EU referendum blog, run by former Environmental Health Officer and Booker co-author Dr Richard North, takes no prisoners in exposing the government's persistent bungling.



More and more people are asking if, despite some lesser measures being relaxed, the game is to keep repressive measures ('lockdown') going overall? The government has already moved against small businesses ('IR35') and private vehicle owners.

Moves to push cashless payment coincide with a Bank of England consultation on a **digital currency** (CBDC) that "could raise significant challenges for maintaining monetary and financial stability". How long would it be "as a complement to physical banknotes" before it replaced them, requiring a digital identity for all and with it ever more population tracking? The consultation ends on **12 June**

North reported NHS consultant concerns that established approaches for dealing with epidemics based on testing, tracing and targeting were dispensed with. Chief Medical Officer Prof Chris Whitty's claim that the NHS was 'well-prepared' looks thin when it transpires that it was preparing just for a milder 'flu-type epidemic'.

Parts of the press are at least asking questions, but the government seems to have much of the media on a string, spending a fortune on newspaper, radio and TV ads (example below) at a time of plummeting revenues from impacted businesses.



The *UK Column* website has some fascinating insights into this and the workings of a SAGE committee (SPI-B) in encouraging a siege mentality amongst the public. The website also traces links between gloom-mongering Prof Ferguson and the vaccine lobby. It also details IT billionaire and vaccine promoter Bill Gates' links with the ID2020 project, which looks at extending biometric digital identity.



Exposing the control agenda

SUSPENSION OF DEMOCRACY...

The government's control freak behaviour has extended to ordering the media regulator, Ofcom, to push online media companies to remove disapproved-of CV-related content even faster. (Ironically the 2019 Conservative Manifesto pledged to "defend freedom of expression")

Funny, it didn't show the same ardour for dealing with national dailies re: their wild reports on how lockdown would be lifted. In contrast the Internet Watch Foundation charity warns of an 'epidemic' rise in openly-available child porn that the media companies have been slower to remove!



Compulsory vaccination would appear to be ruled out by current legislation

The government's blueprint *Our Plan To Rebuild*, has attracted comment more for its confusions than any bankable commitments. It maintains "It is clear that the only feasible long-term solution lies with a vaccine or drug-based treatment" then sighing "we may never find a vaccine".

"It is likely that COVID-19 will circulate in the human population long-term, possibly causing periodic epidemics. In the near future, large epidemic waves cannot be excluded". This long-haul approach is at odds with the PM's earlier jest that "we can send the virus pacing within 12 weeks". Now Number 10's message is: "people will have to prepare for a different type of normal".

Not everyone agrees with the government. French virologist and Nobel Prize winner Luc Montagnier feels 'what is not harmonious with nature tends not to survive' and that CV might self-destruct or lose its pathogenic power.

A group of academics from London and Edinburgh published a paper arguing restrictions could be lifted significantly if the most vulnerable were completely shielded.

Dr David Halpern independently added. "There's going to be a point, assuming the epidemic flows and grows as it will do, where you want to cocoon, to protect those at-risk groups so they don't catch the disease," "By the time they come out of their cocooning, **herd immunity** has been achieved in the rest of the population."

US researcher Arthur Firstenberg noted that CV could travel airborne across oceans, explaining how sailors on the Navy ship, USS Kidd, could have contracted it after over a month at sea without any contact with land.

In a rare show of common sense, the BBC departed from the government's gloom agenda. Arguing that CV is a risk to live with, it quotes evidence from Cambridge University statistician Prof Sir David Spiegelhalter showing the risk of dying from CV is very similar to that of all age groups from early 20s upwards dying anyway.

Richard Horton, editor of the *Lancet*, complained that SAGE appeared to have little input from public health experts and doctors. "There is evidence on modelling and on behavioural science, but I don't see the evidence from the public health community or from the clinical community," Horton has also accused the government of "**deliberately rewriting history in its ongoing Covid-19 disinformation campaign**" after it claimed that his journal had likened the more moderate CV outbreak to the more extreme Spanish Flu pandemic!



To paraphrase a former PM, we can't roll back the frontiers of the Euro state only to have our freedoms taken away by bureaucrat and corporate interests.

Managing Brexit saw a rare show of EU unity. However, in managing CV, EU members took a national approach, even suspending free movement of people. Now Germany is fighting an ECJ decision over ECB actions, claiming that its own Constitutional Court should hold sway. Last time this happened (in a 1970 case) West Germany dragged its heels before caving in.



On a more positive note, the UK has opened trade discussions with the USA and Japan. EU negotiator Michel Barnier's demands that the UK bows to EU rules in a future relationship have (so far) been rejected. There is a new wave of national confidence despite other recent events.

Formerly a designer and buyer for top brands, Kate Hills first started a blog on promoting British brands that manufacture their products in the UK

Make it British has now grown to include a British brands directory and features on British craftsmanship and help for designers wanting to find manufacturers to make their products.

Kate also runs the manufacturing trade show *Make it British Live!* which attracts over 5,000 visitors from 17 different countries, all looking to make their products in the UK.



The Commission is still lecturing us on economic policy, and making 'UK-specific' recommendations as part of coordinating 'a common European response' to CV..

References and notes for this issue <http://www.newalliance.org.uk/ref520.htm>
Also links to a Glossary of terms used.



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