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İÇİNDEKİLER

COVID: TOP 10 CURRENT CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Mark Lynas, April 20, 2020

ESTABLISHING A BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL MODEL FOR CONSPIRACY THEORY IDEATION

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THE CONSPIRACY THEORY HANDBOOK

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COVID: TOP 10 CURRENT CONSPIRACY THEORIES

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As the COVID-19 crisis worsens, the world also faces a global misinformation pandemic. Conspiracy theories that behave like viruses themselves are spreading just as rapidly online as SARS-CoV-2 does offline. Here are the top 10 conspiracy theories making the rounds.

Blaming 5G

This conspiracy theory should be easy to debunk: it is biologically impossible for viruses to spread using the electromagnetic spectrum. The latter are waves/photons, while the former are biological particles composed of proteins and nucleic acids. But that isn't really the point — conspiracy theories are enticing because they often link two things which at first might appear be correlated; in this case, the rapid rollout of 5G networks was taking place at the same time the pandemic hit. Cue a [viral meme linking the two](#), avidly promoted by anti-vaccine activists who have long been spreading fears about electromagnetic radiation, egged on [by the Kremlin](#).

It's worth repeating, as the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) points out](#), that viruses cannot travel on mobile networks, and that COVID-19 is spreading rapidly in many countries that do not have 5G networks. Even so, this conspiracy theory — after being spread by celebrities with big social media followings — has led to cellphone towers being set on fire in the UK and elsewhere.

Bill Gates as scapegoat

Most conspiracy theories, like the viruses they resemble, constantly mutate and have several variants circulating at any one time. Many of these plots and subplots seem to involve Bill Gates, who became a new target of disinformation after gently criticizing the defunding of the World Health Organization. According [to the New York Times](#), anti-vaxxers, members of QAnon and right-wing pundits have seized on a video of a 2015 Ted talk given by Gates — where he discussed the Ebola outbreak and warned of a new pandemic — to bolster their claims he had foreknowledge of the COVID pandemic or even purposely caused it.

A recent variant of this conspiracy theory, particularly beloved by anti-vaccination activists, is the idea that COVID is part of a dastardly Gates-led plot to vaccinate the world's population. There is some truth in this, of course: vaccinating much of the world's population may well be the only way to avoid an eventual death toll in the tens of millions. But anti-vaxxers don't believe vaccines work. Instead some have spread the myth that Gates wants to use a vaccination program to implant digital microchips that will somehow track and control people. The spread of misinformation has meant that [ID2020](#), a small non-profit that focuses on establishing digital IDs for poorer people around the world, has had to call in the FBI. (The Cornell Alliance for Science is partly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.)

The virus escaped from a Chinese lab

This one at least has the benefit of being plausible. It is true that the original epicenter of the epidemic, the Chinese city of Wuhan, also hosts a virology institute where researchers have been studying bat coronaviruses for a long time. One of these researchers, Shi Zhengli, a prominent virologist who spent years collecting bat dung samples in

caves and was a lead expert on the earlier SARS outbreak, was sufficiently concerned about the prospect that she spent days frantically checking lab records to see if anything had gone wrong. [She admits](#) breathing a “sigh of relief” when genetic sequencing showed that the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus did not match any of the viruses sampled and studied in the Wuhan Institute of Virology by her team.

However, the sheer coincidence of China’s lead institute studying bat coronaviruses being in the same city as the origin of the COVID outbreak has proven too juicy for conspiracists to resist. The idea was seeded originally via a [slick hour-long documentary](#) produced by the Epoch Times, an English-language news outlet based in the United States with links to the Falun Gong religious cult that has long been persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The Epoch Times insists on calling COVID “the CCP virus” in all its coverage. The theory has now tipped into the mainstream, being reported in the Washington Post, the Times (UK) and many other outlets.

COVID was created as a biological weapon

A spicier variant is that COVID not only escaped from a lab, but it was intentionally created by Chinese scientists as a biowarfare weapon. [According to Pew Research](#), “nearly three-in-10 Americans believe that COVID-19 was made in a lab,” either intentionally or accidentally (the former is more popular: specifically, 23 percent believe it was developed intentionally, with only 6 percent believing it was an accident).

This theory that the Chinese somehow created the virus is particularly popular on the US political right. It gained mainstream coverage [thanks to US Sen. Tom Cotton](#) (Republican, Arkansas) who amplified theories first aired [in the Washington Examiner](#) (a highly

conservative media outlet) that the Wuhan Institute of Virology “is linked to Beijing’s covert bio-weapons program.”

This theory can be easily debunked now that there is [unambiguous scientific evidence](#) — thanks to genetic sequencing — that the SARS-CoV-2 virus has entirely natural origins as a zoonotic virus originating in bats. The Examiner has since added a correction at the top of the original piece admitting the story is probably false.

The US military imported COVID into China

The Chinese government responded to the anti-China theories with a conspiracy theory of its own that seeks to turn blame back around onto the United States. This idea was spread initially by Chinese foreign ministry [spokesman Zhao Lijian](#), who Tweeted “it’s possible that the US military brought the virus to Wuhan.” These comments, [according to Voice of America](#) news, “echoed a rumored conspiracy, widely circulated in China, that US military personnel had brought the virus to China during their participation in the 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan last October.” For China, [as the Atlantic reported](#), this conspiracy theory, and an accompanying attempt to rename COVID the “USA virus,” was a transparent “geopolitical ploy” — useful for domestic propaganda but not widely believed internationally.

GMOs are somehow to blame

Genetically modified crops have been a target of conspiracy theorists for years, so it was hardly a surprise to see [GMOs blamed](#) in the early stages of the COVID pandemic. In early March, Italian attorney Francesco Billota [penned a bizarre article](#) for Il Manifesto, falsely

claiming that GM crops cause genetic pollution that allows viruses to proliferate due to the resulting environmental “imbalance.” Anti-GMO activists have also tried to blame modern agriculture, which is strange, since the known path of the virus into the human population — as with Ebola, HIV and many others — was through the very ancient practice of people capturing and killing wildlife.

Ironically, GMOs will almost [certainly be part of any vaccine solution](#). If any of the ongoing 70 vaccine projects work (which is a big if), that would be pretty much the only guaranteed way the world can get out of the COVID mess. Vaccines could be based on either GM attenuated viruses or use antigens produced in GM insect cell lines or plants. If GMOs do help save the world from the curse of COVID, maybe they'll stop being a dirty word.

COVID-19 doesn't actually exist

According to professional conspiracy theorists like David Icke and InfoWars' Alex Jones, COVID-19 doesn't actually exist, but is a plot by the globalist elite to take away our freedoms. Early weaker versions of this theory were prevalent on the political right in the notion that the novel coronavirus would be “no worse than flu” and later versions are now influencing anti-lockdown protests across several states in the US. Because believers increasingly refuse to observe social distancing measures, they could directly help to spread the epidemic further in their localities and increase the resulting death rate.

The pandemic is being manipulated by the ‘deep state’

Some believe that a “deep state” of America's elite is plotting to undermine the president — and that Dr. Anthony Fauci, the face of the US coronavirus pandemic response — is [a secret member](#). Fauci's

expression of disbelief when the deep state was mentioned during a press briefing supposedly gave the game away.

COVID is a plot by Big Pharma

Many conspiracy theory promoters are in reality clever actors trying to sell quack products. Alex Jones, between rants about hoaxes and the New World Order, urges viewers to buy expensive miracle pills that he claims can cure all known diseases. Dr. Mercola, a quack anti-vax and anti-GMO medic who has been banned from Google due to peddling misinformation, claims that vitamins (and numerous other products he sells) can cure or prevent COVID. NaturalNews, another conspiracist site, sells all manner of pills, potions and prepper gear. These conspiracists depend for their market on getting people to believe that evidence-based (i.e. conventional) medicine doesn't work and is a plot by big pharmaceutical companies to make us ill. Big Pharma conspiracies are a staple of anti-vaccination narratives, so it is hardly surprising that they have transmuted into the age of the coronavirus.

COVID death rates are inflated

Another far-right meme is the idea that COVID death rates are being inflated and therefore there is no reason to observe lockdown regulations or other social distancing measures. Prominent in promoting this myth is Dr. Annie Bukacek, whose speech warning that COVID death certificates are being manipulated has been viewed more than a quarter of a million times on YouTube. Bukacek appears in a white lab coat and with a stethoscope around her neck, making her look like an authoritative medical source. Dig a little deeper, however, as [Rolling Stone magazine did](#), and it turns out she's actually a far-right anti-vaccination and anti-abortion activist,

previously noted for bringing tiny plastic fetuses into the Montana state legislature. Her insistence that COVID death rates are inflated has, of course, no basis in fact. More likely the current death toll is a serious under-count.

How to recognize and debunk conspiracy theories

It is important to speak out and combat online misinformation and conspiracist narratives, whether on COVID or climate change or anything else. [This handbook](https://allianceforscience.cornell.edu/blog/2020/04/covid-top-10-current-conspiracy-theories/) (PDF) by John Cook and Stephan Lewandowsky, both of whom have extensive experience in combating climate denialism, is an essential tool.

<https://allianceforscience.cornell.edu/blog/2020/04/covid-top-10-current-conspiracy-theories/>

ESTABLISHING A BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL MODEL FOR CONSPIRACY THEORY IDEATION

Linus Backström

Biopsychosocial Underpinnings of Conspiracy Theory Ideation Biological/Neurological Correlates

This section provides a selection of possible neurological correlates for CTI. Extensive search for neurological correlates for CTI did not provide any neuroimaging studies, for example through functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) or repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) done on conspiracy theorists, perhaps

due to their tendency to distrust the scientific community (Douglas et al., 2017; Franks, Bangerter, Bauer, Hall, & Noort, 2017; Grimes, 2016; Lewandowsky et al., 2013). Therefore the author has decided to include selected reports regarding neural correlates for religious belief/disbeliefs since there appear to exist some similarities between religious believers and individuals who believe in conspiracy theories, for example a lack of epistemological understanding of the physical world in teleological reasoning (Willard & Norenzayan, 2013) and conspiracy theorist ideation (Barron, Morgan, Towell, Altemeyer, & Swami, 2014; Dagnall et al., 2015; Prooijen & Jostmann, 2012; Sunstein & Vermeule, 2009) as well as feelings of moral concern (Jack, Friedman, Boyatzis, & Taylor, 2016; Leone et al., 2017), and the tendency to perceive intentional causes to things that occur around them (Banerjee & Bloom, 2013; Tempel & Alcock, 2015). Religious individuals have been shown to score lower on tests regarding analytic reasoning (Jacket et al., 2016; Pennycook, Ross, Koehler, & Fugelsang, 2016; Westman & Alexander, 2004) which is also true for conspiracy theorists (Barron et al., 2018; Prooijen, 2016; Ståhl & Prooijen, 2018; Swami et al., 2014), and religious individuals have been shown to be more open to conspiracy theories than non-religious individuals (Galliford & Furnham, 2017). Douglas et al. (2017) suggest that part of the temptations of CTI rely on its ability to give clear answers to ambiguous questions, the connection one feels to others when ideas of how the world functions concur, and a feeling of control and certainty. Franks et al. (2013) have gone on to propose that CTI relies on similar cognitive components as religion, and Silva et al. (2017) has proposed CTI to be a monological worldview, e.g. a belief system that withstands on its own: the convictions coherently support each other, just like religious explanations tend to do. It is important to note however that this limited, proposed connection is not intended to be used in order to draw conclusions regarding teleological reasoning as a phenomenon, nor to draw conclusions regarding religious individuals. This paper does not concern

religiousness. This comparison merely acts as a proposition for the possible neurological underpinnings of CTI. Inferior frontal cortex and the inferior frontal gyrus. Research shows that one area of importance for rational reasoning might be the right inferior frontal cortex (IFC) and the right inferior frontal gyrus (IFG) (Goel & Dolan, 2003). Tsujii and Watanabe (2010) studied the difference between heuristic and analytic reasoning in the brain under chronologically challenged conditions by asking participants to answer whether the presented chain assertion –one statement, followed by a second and then a third which served as a conclusion of the two previous –was true or false within a set time limit (10 seconds). They used near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) to observe changes in brain activity and those measurements indicate that the limited time factor reduced activity in the right IFC ($F = 18.02$, $p < 0.01$), leading to difficulties in logical reasoning. In comparison, when time span was increased (from 10 s. to 20 s.) participants were more prone to assess the statements correctly, which concur with findings by Rosset (2008). In another research article by Tsujii and Watanabe (2009) participants were asked to decide the validity of the same chain of statements, only this time they were asked to simultaneously perform one out of two secondary tasks, one easier and one more difficult. The neural process was once again observed through NIRS which provided further data that activation in the right IFC was reduced when participants were asked to simultaneously perform the more difficult task ($F = 24.57$, $p < 0.01$), inhibiting participants' ability to determine whether statements were true or false. Lastly, in a third research article by Tsujii, Masuda, Akiyama and Watanabe (2010) the researchers used rTMS to inhibit activity in the right IFC. To control for results obtained in the rTMS measurement, participants were asked to perform the exercise twice, once having the procedure being done with legitimate rTMS and once with a fake device that looked and sounded exactly like the real one. Test results showed that participants had a harder time determining whether a false chain

of statements was true or not when activity in the right IFC was decreased ($F = 3.99$, $p < 0.05$), once again displaying the importance of this area's importance during logical reasoning tasks. Mendez and Fras (2011) hypothesize that lower activity in the right IFC might play a crucial role in people who are prone to suggestion, who tend to experience false memories and made-up narrations as truth, and this area might also serve a social purpose. When, in a study by Kapogiannis et al. (2009), religious participants were asked questions regarding their teleological beliefs, activity in the right lateral IFG would increase in participants reporting that they believe in a passive God who does not intervene in events occurring in the world. The same study also indicates that the right lateral inferior frontal gyrus (IFG) is activated when we try to understand the behaviors and reactions of others, as well as when we try to interpret things that we observe and the probable reasons as to why the thing/things we observed actually happened. Regarding corresponding areas in the left hemisphere, results are conflicting. Tsujii et al. (2010) found that rTMS in the left IFC area did in fact impair logical reasoning, but not in as apparent way as inhibition of the right IFC. However, Luo, Tang, Zhang, and Stuppel (2014) found that activation in the left IFG during logical reasoning tasks can be increased through training. In differentiating between pre- and post-test participants showed significant increase in logical reasoning after logical training, from $< 25\%$ correct answers to $> 79\%$ ($p < 0.001$). Further, Harris, Sheth, and Cohen (2008) found activation in the left lateral IFG in people who do not believe religious claims.

These differences between the left and right IFC/IFG have been hypothesized to stem from the different assignments of the right respectively the left part of the PFC, where the left is generally more engaged in creating possible causal explanations and in distinguishing events which defy established benchmarks, and the right is more engaged in prohibiting motor responses (Luo et al.,

2014). Precuneus Gonsalves et al. (2004) studied whether individuals who merely visualized an object would be able to differentiate on whether they had actually seen the object or not at a later time. With the help of fMRI participants neural activity was scanned whilst they were asked to distinguish whether they had seen a specific image or if they had only visualized it. Results show increased activation in precuneus when participants were convinced that they had seen a certain image, even if they had only visualized it. Another research team found an increased level of activity in the right precuneus in non-believers when asked questions regarding God, and an increased level of activity in the left precuneus in believers when asked the same questions (Kapogiannis et al., 2009). It has been suggested that this might be because the precuneus plays a part in an integrated memory network in the left hemisphere, which engages in finding and converging previously encoded epistemological information. As an example, this network appears to be activated when individuals evaluate religious, in contrast to non-religious, claims (Harris et al., 2009). Further, Luo et al. (2014) found that logical reasoning practice appear to increase activation in the Precuneus as well as the previously mentioned IFC and IFG.

Medial prefrontal cortex. Harris et al. (2008) found that the ventromedial prefrontal cortex (VMPFC) appears to play a crucial role in creating a comprehensible understanding of the world. Individuals with damage to their VMPFC have trouble integrating affective responses into their perception of the world, yet are still able to feel fear and bring to mind memories that rely on emotional encoding. This concurs with results from Goel and Dolan (2003) which further states that there is an increase in the VMPFC whenever people answer according to their prejudices, even if such beliefs go against rational reason. When studying the neurological differences between self-esteem obtained by self-evaluation versus being obtained from social feedback, Yang, Xu, Chen, Shi, and Han (2016)

discovered increased activation in the medial prefrontal cortex in participants when they evaluated the feedback of other people. This concurs with results from Somerville, Kelley, and Heatherton (2010) who found increased activity in the medial prefrontal cortex in individuals with low self-esteem as they received positive and negative social feedback, in comparison to individuals with high self-esteem. The lastly mentioned also tended to exaggerate the positive feedback they received from others.

Additional neurological correlates

When asking blasphemy and non-blasphemy questions to Christians and non-Christians, Harris et al. (2009) found that the neural reactions differed between the two groups. When believers responded to blasphemy questions which were deemed false, a significant increased signal change occurred in the paracingulate gyrus (PC) ($\sim 0.08 - 0.2\%$), the middle frontal gyrus (MF) ($\sim 0 - 0.06\%$), and the ventral striatum (VS) ($\sim 0.07 - 0.15\%$). At the same time there was a significant decrease in the inferior parietal lobe (IP) ($\sim -0 - -0.05\%$) and the frontal pole (FP) ($\sim -0.01 - -0.07\%$). When the question were instead presumed true there was a significant increase in the PC ($\sim 0 - 0.12\%$) and the VS ($\sim 0.08 - 0.11\%$), but also a significant decrease in the MF ($\sim 0 - -0.08\%$), the IP ($\sim -0.06 - -0.11\%$), and the FP ($\sim -0.01 - -0.09\%$). For non-believers, questions deemed false elicited increased activation in the PC ($\sim 0 - 0.14\%$) and the VS ($\sim 0.02 - 0.14\%$), and decreased activation in the MF ($\sim 0 - -0.09\%$), the IP ($\sim -0.02 - -0.12\%$), and the FP ($\sim -0.04 - -0.16\%$). For questions presumed as true there was increased activation in the PC ($\sim 0.06 - 0.21\%$), the MF ($\sim -0.02 - 0.07\%$), and the VS ($\sim 0.1 - 0.2\%$), and decreased activation in IP ($\sim 0.03 - 0.07\%$) and FP ($\sim 0.03 - 0.09\%$). The PC appears to be important during cognitively demanding executive tasks (Fornito et al., 2004). The MF seems to be engaged in episodic memory retrieval, attention, understanding the world, and when making

decisions (Euston, Gruber, & McNaughton, 2012; Wirt & Hyman, 2017). The striatum is believed to be important in determining and learning proper social conduct and mediates rewards connected to behavior (Báez-Mendoza & Schultz, 2013; Graybiel & Grafton, 2015). The IP is thought to respond to new information and lesions to said area cause difficulties in responding to and incorporating new information (Singh-Curry & Husain, 2009). And the FP is hypothesized to give us the ability to be able to put actions “on hold” in order to quickly change strategy if needed to, and is also believed to play a role in generating goals (Koechlin, 2011; Tsujimoto, Genovesio, & Wise, 2011).

An evolutionary psychological approach

Prooijen and Douglas (2017) propose that CTI is a psychological phenomenon that has probably always existed in human societies, although regarding different subjects. Bost and Prunier (2013) found that people tend to accept conspiracy theories based on the extent to how its ultimate goal might affect them or their in-group. This could provide reason as to why parents who are anti-vaccine have a tendency to continuously oppose any logical explanations regarding the advantages of vaccination (Grimes, 2016). When on the topic of our tendency to be cautious towards the intention of others, Willard and Norenzayan (2013) proposed that anthropomorphism (e.g. the tendency to adapt human-like characteristics on animals and nature) might have been an evolutionary advantageous trait since the benefits of such an ability would outweigh the detriment; someone who is constantly prepared to take action would be more ready if an action would be necessary. It has been shown to occur in lonely individuals, thus perhaps serving a socio-psychological need, and also when entities behave in a way which was unpredictable such as a book falling off a shelf supposedly “on its own” (Willard & Norenzayan, 2013). Regarding the neurological underpinnings of our tendency to

accept teleological explanations there are conflicting results. Banerjee and Bloom (2013) argue that children who give teleological explanations to questions have been shaped by cultural values. However, research by Evans (2001) show that children aged 5-7 (n= 185) brought up in a secular environment still partly gave teleological explanations, and Kelemen and Rosset (2009) found that when put under stressful conditions adults tend to deem teleological claims as correct (e.g. “ferns grow in forests because they provide shade” and “the sun radiates heat because warmth nurtures life”, p. 139). Even though it is un-rational to do so our brain is unable to intercept such beliefs when forced to give an answer within a limited timeframe. Dunbar (2018) suggests that social connections are of utmost importance to our level of happiness, and other researchers have also found indications that higher level of happiness correlate with a longer lifespan (Danner, Snowdon, & Friesen, 2001). As people with CTI tend to feel socially alienated and seek social connections with others (Douglas et al., 2017) it could well be that susceptibility to the ideas of others as a mean to become socially anchored to a group might serve a valuable evolutionary purpose as well. Psychological Correlates Freeman and Bentall (2017) have previously proposed a model regarding how CTI is formed from a psychological perspective which has been implemented in the one presented in this paper.

Yazının tamamı için;

<http://www.diva-portal.se/smash/get/diva2:1225307/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

THE CONSPIRACY THEORY HANDBOOK

Stephan Lewandowsky, John Cook

<https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ConspiracyTheoryHandbook.pdf>

Toplumlar koronavirüs pandemisi nedeniyle değişiyor, yeniliklere ve kısıtlamalara uyum sağlıyor. Peki salgından sonra bizleri ne bekliyor? 2 Mayıs 2020,

Prof. Yuval Noah Harari, Deutsche Welle'nin sorularını yanıtladı.

“Dünyanın neredeyse tamamını kontrolü altına alan koronavirüs krizi, dünya toplumları açısından bir dönüm noktası olma özelliği taşıyor. Yaşam, çalışma, beslenme ve eğlence biçimlerimiz pandeminin dayattığı koşullar nedeniyle değişiyor. Peki salgından sonra bizleri ne bekliyor?

Kurduğu Sapienship organizasyonu aracılığıyla Dünya Sağlık Örgütü'ne (DSÖ) 1 milyon dolarlık bağışta bulunan Prof. Yuval Noah Harari, COVID-19'e ilişkin alacağımız kararların geleceğimizi nasıl etkileyeceğini anlattı.

DW: Sayın Harari, küresel bir salgının ortasındayız. Dünyanın değişimine dair sizi en çok ne endişelendiriyor?

Yuval Noah Harari: En büyük tehlikenin virüs olmadığını düşünüyorum. İnsanlık, bu virüsün üstesinden gelmek için yeterli bilimsel altyapıya ve teknolojik araca sahip. Bizim en büyük problemimiz doğamızda yer alan nefret, açgözlülük ve cehalet.

Maalesef insanlar bu krize küresel dayanışma ile değil, diğer ülkeleri, dini ve etnik azınlıkları suçlayarak, nefret dili kullanarak karşılık veriyor. Umuyorum ki nefret değil, şefkat ve cömertlik ile yardıma muhtaç insanlara, küresel dayanışma ruhuyla yardım edebiliriz. Bir de komplo teorileri ve gerçekler arasındaki farkı ayırt edebilmeliyiz. Eğer bunu yaparsak, bu krizi kolayca atlatacağımızdan şüphem yok.

DW: Sizin de ifade ettiğiniz gibi, totaliter gözetleme sistemleri ve bireylerin güçlendirilmesi arasında bir seçim yapmak gerekecek. Eğer dikkatli olmazsak, bu salgın gözetleme mekanizmalarında bir dönüm noktasına yol açabilir. Peki kontrolümüzde olmayan bir duruma karşı nasıl dikkatli olunabilir?

YNH: Durum tamamen kontrolümüz dışında değil, en azından demokratik ülkelerde. Sonuçta bu politikaları belirleyen siyasetçilere oy veriyoruz. Böylece siyasi sistem üzerinde kontrol kurabiliyoruz. Şu anda seçimler olmasa bile, siyasetçiler hala toplum baskısına duyarlı. Halkın salgından korkması, güçlü bir liderin yönetime geçmesini istemesi ve bir diktatörün bu durumdan yararlanarak gücü eline alması oldukça kolay. Ancak siyasetçiler ileri gittikleri zaman güçlü toplumsal tepkiler ile karşılaşılırsa, tehlikeli gelişmelerin yaşanmasına da engel olunabilir.

DW: Kime veya neye güveneceğimizi nasıl anlayacağız?

YNH: Öncelikle geçmiş tecrübeleriniz var. Eğer son yıllarda size yalan söylediğini düşündüğünüz siyasetçiler varsa, acil bir durumda onlara güvenmek için de pek bir sebebiniz yok demektir. İkinci olarak, insanların size aktardığı teorilerle ilgili sorular sorabilirsiniz. Örneğin, biri size koronavirüsün kaynağı ve yayılma şekli ile ilgili bir komplo teorisinden bahsederse, bu kişiden bir virüsün ne olduğunu ve nasıl hastalıklara sebep olabileceğini açıklamasını isteyin. Eğer hiçbir fikri yoksa, bu kişinin koronavirüs salgını ile ilgili söylediği hiçbir şeye inanmayın çünkü temel bilim altyapısı yok demektir. Biyoloji alanında

doktora yapma zorunluluğu yok. Ama asgari bir bilimsel anlayışa sahip olmak gerekiyor.

"İnsanlar bilime muhtaç"

Aslında son yıllarda, birçok popülist politikacı bilime saldırıda bulunuyor. Bilim adamlarının halktan kopuk elit bir grup olduğunu ya da küresel iklim değişikliğinin yalan olduğunu iddia ediyorlar. Onlara inanmamalısınız. Zaten kriz zamanlarında, insanların bilime her şeyden daha muhtaç olduğunu görüyoruz.

Umuyorum ki bunu sadece kriz süresince değil, kriz bittiğinde de hatırlarız. Ve çocuklara virüslerin ne olduğunu ya da evrim teorisini açıklayan kaliteli bilimsel eğitim vermeye önem gösteririz. Ayrıca bilim insanları bizi iklim değişikliği veya ekolojik çöküntü gibi salgın dışındaki başka tehlikeler hakkında uyardığında da, şu anda koronavirüs konusunda olduğu gibi onları ciddiye alırız.

DW: Birçok ülke salgının yayılmasını önlemek amacıyla dijital gözetleme mekanizmaları inşa ediyor. Bu mekanizmalar nasıl kontrol edilebilir?

YNH: Vatandaşların gözetimin arttırılması, hükümetlerin de aynı oranda gözetiminin arttırılması anlamına gelmeli. Hükümetler kriz zamanlarında parayı su gibi harcıyorlar. Örneğin ABD 2 trilyon dolar harcadı. Almanya da birkaç yüz milyar euro harcadı. Bir vatandaş olarak, kimlerin bu kararları aldığını ve paranın nereye gittiğini bilmek istiyorum. Bu para salgından önce bile yöneticilerin aldığı kötü kararlar yüzünden batmak üzere olan büyük şirketleri kurtarmak için mi kullanıldı? Yoksa küçük işletmeler, restoranlar veya dükkânlara yardım etmek için mi?

Eğer bir hükümet daha fazla gözetleme yapmak için çok istekli ise, bunun iki yönlü olması gerektiğini bilmeli. O hükümet tüm finansal hareketleri açıklamanın zor olacağını söylerse, "Hayır bu karmaşık değil. Her gün nereye gittiğimi bildiren devasa bir gözetleme sistemini

yaratabiliyorsanız, vergilerimin nereye gittiğini gösteren bir sistem yaratmanız da elbette kolaydır” diyebilmemiz lazım.

DW: Bu da güç ayrımı ve gücün sadece bir kişide veya otoritede bulunmamasını sağlamaktan mı geçiyor?

YNH: Kesinlikle. Örneğin şu anda herhangi bir koronavirüs hastasının yanına gittiğinizde, bunun alarmini verecek bir sistem geliştirilmeye çalışılıyor. Bunu yapmanın iki yolu var. Birincisi, merkezi bir otoritenin herkes hakkında bilgi toplayıp, COVID-19’a sahip birinin yanına gidildiğini belirmesi ve bunun üzerine sizi uyarması. Diğer yol ise merkezi bir sistem kullanmadan, telefonların birbirleriyle doğrudan iletişim kurmasından geçiyor. Eğer ben COVID-19 virüsü bulunan birine yaklaşırsam, ikimizin telefonu birbiriyle iletişim kurarak bizi uyarabilir. Merkezi otoritelerin de hakkımızda bilgi toplayıp bizi takip edebilmesi engellenir.

"Distopik totaliter rejimler yaratılabilir"

DW: Gözetleme sistemleri bu krizle birlikte bir adım daha ileri gidip deri-altı-gözetim sistemine geçiş sağlanabilir mi? Derimiz, yani vücudumuzun dokunulmaz yüzeyi "çatlamak" üzere. Bunu nasıl kontrol edeceğiz?

YNH: Bu konuda çok ama çok dikkatli olmalıyız. Fiziksel gözetleme sistemleri dış dünyada ne yaptığımızı, nereye gittiğimizi, kiminle buluştuğumuzu, televizyonda ne izlediğimizi veya internette hangi siteyi ziyaret ettiğimizi izliyor. Vücudumuzla bir bağlantısı yok.

Ancak deri-altı-gözetim sistemleri vücudumuzda olup biteni takip ediyor. Sıcaklık gibi değerleri ölçmekle başladı ama kan basıncı, kalp ritmi veya beyin aktivitelerine de hakim olabilir. Bunlar aracılığıyla da insanlar hakkında hiçbir zaman olmadığı kadar fazla şey öğrenmek mümkün.

Böylelikle daha önce hiç görülmemiş boyutta totaliter rejimler ortaya çıkabilir. Okuduğumu ya da televizyonda izlediğimi biliyorsanız,

bunlar size benim sanatsal zevklerim, politik görüşlerim ya da karakterim hakkında fikir verebilir. Ama bu hala kısıtlanmış bir bilgidir. Bir de bunları yaparken vücut sıcaklığımı, kan basıncımı ya da kalp ritmimi bildiğinizi düşünün. Artık her saniye ne hissettiğimi bilebilirsiniz. Bu da distopik totaliter rejimlerin yaratılmasını kolaylıkla sağlayabilir.

Bu durum kaçınılmaz değil, gerçekleşmesini engelleyebiliriz. Ama bunun için öncelikle tehlikenin farkına varmamız gerekiyor. Sonra da içinde bulunduğumuz bu acil durumda neye izin vermemiz gerektiği hakkında dikkatli olmamız.

DW: İçinde bulunduğumuz kriz, 21'inci yüzyıl insanının kafanızdaki imajını güncellemenize yol açtı mı?

YNH: Bilemiyoruz. Çünkü her şey şu anda alacağımız kararlara bağlı. Şimdiki ekonomik kriz ortamı, gereksiz bir sınıfın ortaya çıkma tehlikesini de giderek arttırıyor. Otomasyonun arttığı bir çağdayız. Çünkü insanlar enfekte olabiliyor veya evlere kapanmak zorunda kalabiliyorlar. Ama robotlar ve bilgisayarlar için bu mümkün değil, dolayısıyla birçok işi artık onlar yapıyorlar.

Ayrıca bazı ülkelerde, yurtdışındaki fabrikalara bağlı kalmak yerine, bazı endüstrileri yeniden canlandırmaya karar verildiğini görebiliriz. Dolayısıyla küreselleşme ve otomasyon süreci sonucunda, ucuz iş gücüne bağlı olan gelişmekte olan ülkelerde, bir anda işlerini kaybeden ve ekonominin parçası olamayan insan topluluklarının ortaya çıkması muhtemel.

Bu zengin ülkelerde de olabilir tabii. Kriz iş piyasasında devasa değişimlere yol açıyor. İnsanlar artık evlerinden ve internet üzerinden çalışıyorlar. Eğer dikkatli olmazsak, en azından birkaç endüstri sektöründe, örgütlü işgücünün çökmesi de olası. Ama kaçınılmaz bir durum değil bu, daha çok politik bir kararlara bağlı. Tüm dünyadaki ve kendi ülkelerimizdeki işçilerin haklarını korumak doğrultusunda da kararlar alabiliriz. Hükümetler, endüstrilere veya firmalara kurtarma

paketleri sunuyorlar. Bunu yaparken işçi haklarını koruma şartı da getirebilirler. Her şey bizim alacağımız kararlara bağlı.

DW: Şu anda içinde bulunduğumuz durum hakkında geleceğin tarihçileri ne diyecektir?

YNH: Bence gelecekteki tarihçiler, bu krizi 21'inci yüzyılın dönüm noktası olarak belirleyecekler. Ama buradan nereye varacağımız, aldığımız kararlara bağlı. Hiçbir sonuç kaçınılmaz değil.”

<https://oggito.com/icerikler/yuval-noah-harari-pandemiden-sonra-dunyayi-ne-bekliyor/65290>