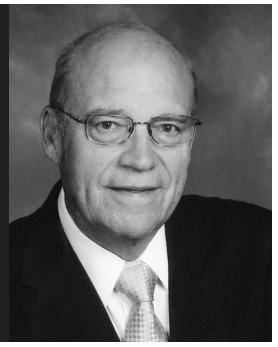




Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report

60 Years Defending Our Christian Faith



Dr. David Noebel

Volume 61, Number 1

January 2021

America Mirrors Rome

by Troy Smith

Toward the end of the 2nd century B.C., the Roman republic had reached a crossroads. The threat of rival superpower Carthage had been extinguished forever. Via extensive conquest, Rome now had to govern lands not just in its own peninsula, but from modern Spain through North Africa, Greece, and beyond. It was this expansion that brought new geopolitical regions to control with military might, economic and cultural conditions to consider as populations of a vast variety entered the Roman world, and internal political division and strife that an abundance of success brought.

If this sounds strikingly similar to the modern American condition to the reader, it should. It was this historical crossroads that led to the fall of the Republic and sent Rome into a dictatorship from which inevitable decay and collapse followed. A study of these events may shed crucial light on how America may avoid the same fate.

In the year 116 B.C., Rome had on its hands an odd military conundrum: the great nation that defeated the Carthaginians and Greeks and was stuck in a military quagmire with the . . . Numidians in Africa. The guerrilla tactics of their leader Jugurtha caused what should have been a mop-up military operation to become a war that dragged on for years. At the same time, Roman citizens began to become restless not only with this, but also with the state of operations altogether. Rome had beforehand always used the citizen-soldier as the core of its military. These property-owning farmers, whose interests tied directly to that of Rome itself, could no longer soldier in the far stretches of the Roman world and maintain their own estates. Many in fact lost their property to the more wealthy while serving abroad. This meant that the foundation of the military could no longer be the citizen-farmer who went on seasonal campaigns. It was Gaius Marius who offered a solution to this dilemma.

Marius, elected to consul in 107 B.C., resolved this manpower problem “by the simple but bold expedient of enrolling the propertyless into the legions” and quickly defeated the Numidians (Nagle, p. 331). It was at that moment that a Germanic threat emerged from the north and threatened invasion of Italy itself. Marius, re-elected as consul despite it being illegal, took his newly formed legions to meet the challenge and decisively won, making him a hero of Rome. He was to the Romans a man who got things done. Further, land was to be granted to all veterans after a fierce political fight in an attempt to unify various structures of the Roman population. But this was not to be. The new power of the military became a potent political tool, and the temptation to use it became too great.

It was the economic and cultural conditions of the time that led to the so-called Social War. Complaints over citizenship and its rights, wealth disparities, and vast feelings of being disenfranchised perpetuated among the people. Perhaps sensing weakness, the King of Pontus, Mithridates VI, invaded the Roman province of Asia in 88 B.C. and massacred 80,000 Romans (p. 333). Something had to be done. The ultra-popular Marius and the current elected consul, L. Cornelius Sulla, both vied to command the army to confront these issues domestic and abroad. To resolve the issue, Sulla did the unthinkable for the Roman world. He marched on Rome; drove out Marius by force; and initiated a reign of terror to remove, or kill, political opponents; redistribute wealth; and most importantly “stack” the Senate after killing 200 of its members and then adding an additional 400 of his choosing to its ranks (p. 334). No more free elections, no checks and balances, and a dictator from 82 to 79 B.C. had emerged in the blink of an eye. The civil wars of Rome would follow, with Caesar emerging as victor until his assassination. From there, Caesar Augustus would take full control and officially transform the once illustrious Roman Republic into an empire that never truly regained its majesty.

The problem for Rome, like America, was never one of the military or its prowess. It was its socio-political conditions. Rome was in the mid-2nd century what America was as the 21st century A.D. began: the economic and military

superpower of the world. Should Rome, like America, have been able to deal properly with its new challenges, it's hard to believe that any other global power could have ever seriously challenged it. Further, it's hard to believe that Rome's fall in later centuries would have ever ushered in the Dark Ages. But Rome was not able to deal with its internal struggles effectively.

America should take note. What are the lessons to be learned?

First, many readers may note how eerily similar the Roman expeditions into Numidia sound to 21st-century American intervention into the Middle East, or even Vietnam in the 1960s. In the Roman world, this called into question the competency, and even judgment, of the ruling class. Citizens wondered, how can the mighty Roman forces devastate Carthage but struggle so badly with little Numidia? Similar concerns have been raised about America's ability to defeat the German and Japanese war machine but struggle with its own "backwater" countries. It's worth considering the socio-economic effects these wars can have, especially when utilizing resources for domestic use may be more strategically paramount. Should thought, effort, and money have been spent at home for the Romans, it's probable that a lot of its internal strife could have been dealt with satisfactorily and its national debt held in check.

Second, divisiveness creates populism and centralized control that can later be turned on the citizenry itself. The primary goal of the Roman governing world had long been to "Romanize" new populations and to protect its citizens' rights, property, and lives from foreign "barbarians." When that goal began to shift into redistribution of wealth, power politics, and a weakened middle class as wealth disparities grew, populist politics emerged that resulted in an internal us-vs.-them scenario. This reached its first (but not last) pinnacle in the Marius-Sulla contest that nearly ended the Republic then and there. It was this divisiveness that led to the stacking of the Senate, much like current threats of stacking the Supreme Court, which dealt a critical blow to the freedom of Rome. Later factions with Julius Caesar, Pompey, etc. would eventually finish the job of eliminating the vestiges of the Republic.

Simply put, the house divided cannot stand. Not for the Romans. Not for the Americans.

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—*American Thinker*, November 21, 2020

The Authoritarian Roadmap

by Emery Jones

"This time is different."

For millions of Americans, there has been a sense of dread and angst associated with the 2020 election. For years conservatives and independents have felt a gnawing sensation that the core values of country have been changing. Politics was once relegated to the disagreements of a few percentages of the marginal tax rate or the size of social welfare programs. Despite differences, there was always a common foundation among Americans about the basics of civil liberties, free expression, and rule of law. For at least a decade, that common foundation has come under attack. Small fissures in the bedrock of our pillars of liberty have suddenly become deep ravines of civil invasions. It has been coming for some time. Like the proverbial frog in the cooking pot, we have been lulled into a sense of complacency by the slowly increased heat of tyranny. Only now are we sensing that we may be doomed.

For the past decade or so, the left has been creating an authoritarian roadmap. Democratic party operatives, like an effective sieging army, have been testing the defenses of our constitution, rule of law, and cultural institutions to see what violations they could get away with. The process is the same every time: The attack on our liberties starts small and is tested in a place or at a level meant not to raise alarms. If no consequences arise from the violation, then each new violation became more bold and aggressive. Aided by an election and COVID, the process accelerated in 2020, culminating in events not thought to be possible in the US: locking us in our homes, burning down our cities, brazenly rigging our elections, and shutting down even our expression of dissent. Even more shocking, despite executing on a laundry list of tyranny that would bring a tear of pride to Mao's eye, they have faced no consequences. Only now is society realizing the kind of heat it is in.

We can now see the tyrannical road map that has weaponized the administrative state, suppressed our freedom of expression, removed our civil rights, and destroyed our democracy. It is important to review how we got here. The following are examples of how the left broke down our pillars of liberty and constitution.

Weaponization of the administrative state

The weaponization of the administrative state started in earnest under Obama. After the Tea Party swept control of congress away from Obama, the IRS targeted their

funding sources and effectively shut down the movement. Diligent congressmen like Jordan & Gowdy worked hard to expose the scandal, but the Obama administration took another shocking measure of using the DOJ to sandbag an investigation it was likely to be complicit in. Ultimately the investigation accomplished two things: showed liberals a roadmap for administrative oppression of political rivals, and assured them that they would face no consequences. The consequence free environment for tyranny was reaffirmed by Trump's AG Sessions, who vowed not to litigate the past.

Emboldened by the lack of consequence, the liberal administrative state concocted the Russiagate scandal. It swayed the 2018 election and decreased support for Trump's measures. More importantly, the key figures have not only not been prosecuted, they have become wealthy celebrities of the press. Liberals now know that they can fully weaponize the administrative state and be rewarded for it.

Suppression of our freedom of speech

Since I can remember, freedom of speech has been the most celebrated and foundational pillar of what it is to be an American. The radical idea that you can express dissent with your rulers without consequence is without a doubt one of the key components of American exceptionalism. Liberals had to tread gingerly at first to destroy it. They introduced the concept of hate speech was created and confined it to only the most heinous racial insults that were universally rejected by civilized society. We have been aware of its gradual expansion to include anything college professors and their woke minions disagree with, but it seemed confined to college campuses. Recently those collage grads have come into positions of power, especially in the youthful management suites of tech companies. They began to enforce speech and opinion laws on their own employees, like the Google engineer who circulated an unapproved opinion.

In the past year, the gatekeepers of modern speech—those same tech titans—have cracked down on everyone using their universal information utilities. Liberal politicians have taken the baton and run with it. Recent hearings meant to address their brazen modern book burning practices showed senators like Chris Coons asking for more limitation of speech on their platforms. The left will not be out-Stalined by industry. . .

While our free expression of conservative views has been under assault by fascist politicians and their corporatist allies, the free speech rights of the left have been

expanded to include violent riots and property damage. If you had told anyone that roving bands of socialist activists would be allowed to burn down cities without any consequence like in Venezuela or 1930's Germany, no one would have believed it. But it was actually worse, because those who defend themselves against the violence are the ones who face prosecution. There have been no consequences for this unprecedented trampling of our freedom of expression or the left's Brownshirt version of political expression.

Removal of our civil rights

COVID offered a unique opportunity for the left to test the mettle of our basic constitutional rights. We have been able to watch the erosion of our rights first hand in rapid time. Liberal politicians have rapidly learned that there is no limit to what they can do to us if they declare "emergency." We now have proof of their fascist intentions.

We are 10 months into understanding the disease and for a variety of reasons the mortality has declined by 85% to and is less than that of the flu in a large part of the population. Most of the scientific community has now come out against lockdowns, including the WHO. A week after the election, a top journal reported a study that lockdowns may actually increase the spread of the disease. What has been the reaction? Much more draconian lockdowns. Liberal governors are putting forward laws that would make Stalin embarrassed—going so far as to tell people the volume of discourse and how many family members they can invite over for dinner. For an extra dose of humiliation and dominance posturing, they openly disregard their own rules and call their whims "essential." The roadmap is clear, any declaration of emergency, no matter how thin, allows them to rule without limitation. The Reichtag Fire part of the roadmap works like a charm.

Destruction of our Democracy

But what about elections? Isn't that the ultimate judgement in the US democracy—that we can vote the bums out if they overstep? It seems they have that roadmap in place too.

In the "safe space" of liberal overreach that is California, the democratic machine perfected the art of ballot harvesting. During the election of 2018, in the reliably Republican territory of Orange county, voters saw their republican candidates win expected victories for Congress. . . and then slowly watched their victories drain away after election day. Votes kept coming in that overwhelmingly went for the democratic candidate until the

gap was closed and the victory effectively reversed. Harvesting occurs when democratic operatives canvass neighborhoods and collect votes for their preferred candidate. COVID gave them the opportunity to roll the practice out on a national scale. Republicans saw it happen in Orange county. They knew it was coming. Trump said it was going to happen. . . and no one did anything. As predicted, the harvest was good this year for the democrats and spectacular voting leads on election night were surgically closed by ballot harvesting operations in liberal districts.

For the past ten years, each consequence-free tyrannical step, irrespective of the immediate impact of that act, was a victory for the left. It created a new path forward on an authoritarian road map. We had a fleeting hope of stopping the progression when Trump promised to lock up Hilary for her crimes, but it never came to pass. When the reigns of power are passed to Biden & Harris, nothing will be there to stop them. It is highly likely that there will never be a Republican voted in for president again. Tyranny is on the verge of reaching a boiling point in our nation. We all sense it. Let's hope it isn't too late.

—*American Thinker*, November 21, 2020

Teaching Anti-Americanism

by Dennis Prager

Regarding race and much else, America's students are not taught history. In fact, they are not taught; they are indoctrinated. With anti-Americanism.

The purpose of all teaching about race in American schools is to engender contempt for America. They are, therefore, "taught" the lies of *The New York Times*' "1619 Project"—that the United States was founded to preserve and protect slavery—and of such works as Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*.

So, then, what should American schools teach about race?

They should, of course, teach students about slavery and racism.

But, if truth and moral clarity are to matter, students must also learn that slavery was universal. They would therefore learn about Muslim-Arab slavery, slavery among Africans, slavery among Native Americans and Native South Americans, and slavery in Asia and India.

They would learn that it was the West, beginning with England and America, that abolished slavery. And

they would learn that the abolitionists were overwhelmingly religious Christians, animated by the Bible and Judeo-Christian values.

They would learn that, unlike the slaves under Arab-Muslim rule, most black slaves in America were allowed to have children and form families. They would read Herbert Gutman's *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*, about which *The New York Times* wrote when it was published in 1976: "Gutman has performed an immense service in burying the idea that slavery destroyed the black family." For the record, Gutman was a professor of the left and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

They would learn that the tens of millions of African slaves under Islamic-Arab rule were not allowed to form families (most males were castrated). They would learn that while about 340,000 African slaves were transported to America, 12 million were transported to Brazil. They would learn that far more blacks—about 3 million from Africa and the Caribbean—have come to America willingly than came as slaves. They would read a 2005 article from *The New York Times* called "More Africans Enter US Than in Days of Slavery," in which they would also learn how much less racist America is than any other country: "Agba Mangalabou, who arrived from Togo in 2002, recalls his surprise when he moved here from Europe. 'In Germany, everyone knew I was African,' he said. 'Here, nobody knows if I'm African or American.'"

They would learn about white slavery, too, from one of the greatest economists of the last half-century, Thomas Sowell, who wrote: "More whites were brought as slaves to North Africa than blacks brought as slaves to the United States or to the 13 colonies from which it was formed. White slaves were still being bought and sold in the Ottoman Empire, decades after blacks were freed in the United States."

None of that would be taught to diminish the evil of the transatlantic black slave trade, let alone to justify it. America's schoolchildren should, of course, be taught about the horrors of the slave auctions, of the separation of many families, of the rapes, the beatings and the lynchings. But nothing in history is understandable without perspective.

As regards the Arab-Muslim slave trade, students should read Ghanaian professor and minister John Azumah's book *The Legacy of Arab-Islam in Africa* in which he said:

While two out of every three slaves shipped across the Atlantic were men, the proportions

were reversed in the Islamic slave trade. Two women for every man were enslaved by the Muslims.

While the mortality rate of the slaves being transported across the Atlantic was as high as 10%, the percentage of the slaves dying in transit in the trans-Saharan and East African slave market was a staggering 80 to 90%.

While almost all the slaves shipped across the Atlantic were for agricultural work, most of the slaves destined for the Muslim Middle East were for sexual exploitation as concubines in harems and for military service.

While many children were born to the slaves in the Americas, the millions of their descendants are citizens in Brazil and the United States today, very few descendants of the slaves who ended up in the Middle East survived.

While most slaves who went to the Americas could marry and have families, most of the male slaves destined for the Middle East were castrated, and most of the children born to the women were killed at birth.

They would read some of the left's favorite "America-is-racist" books, such as the national bestseller *White Fragility*. But, unlike any school in America that assigns that book, they would also assign a black professor's review of it. In *The Atlantic*, John McWhorter, a Columbia University professor of linguistics, wrote that *White Fragility* "is actually a racist tract. . . . the book diminishes Black people in the name of dignifying us. . . . White guilt and politesse have apparently distracted many readers from the book's numerous obvious flaws. For one, DiAngelo's book is replete with claims that are either plain wrong or bizarrely disconnected from reality."

They would read and listen to a variety of black thinkers and authors, not just those who detest America. Here is a partial list, including one of their books:

Larry Elder, *What's Race Got to Do With It?*
 Ward Connerly, *Creating Equal*
 John McWhorter, *Losing the Race*
 Deroy Murdock, any of his many columns
 Candace Owens, *Blackout*
 Jesse Lee Peterson, *The Antidote*
 Jason Riley, *Please Stop Helping Us*
 Thomas Sowell, *Intellectuals and Race*
 Shelby Steele, *White Guilt*
 Carol Swain, *Abduction*
 Clarence Thomas, *My Grandfather's Son*

Walter Williams, *Race and Economics*

That these brilliant thinkers are unfamiliar to most Americans is proof of the bias and superficiality that pervades American academic and intellectual life.

If they read these books and are taught the truths about race outlined in this article, it is perfectly acceptable for them to read black and white leftists on race. In fact, it would be advisable.

—*FrontPageMag.com*, November 19, 2020

An Anti-Covid Strategy by Jay Bhattacharya

Jay Bhattacharya is a Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, where he received both an M.D. and a Ph.D. in economics. He is also a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a senior fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and director of the Stanford Center on the Demography and Economics of Health and Aging. A co-author of the Great Barrington Declaration, his research has been published in economics, statistics, legal, medical, public health, and health policy journals.

My goal today is, first, to present the facts about how deadly COVID-19 actually is; second, to present the facts about who is at risk from COVID; third, to present some facts about how deadly the widespread lockdowns have been; and fourth, to recommend a shift in public policy.

1. The COVID-19 Fatality Rate

In discussing the deadliness of COVID, we need to distinguish COVID *cases* from COVID *infections*. A lot of fear and confusion has resulted from failing to understand the difference.

We have heard much this year about the "case fatality rate" of COVID. In early March, the case fatality rate in the US was roughly three percent—nearly three out of every hundred people who were identified as "cases" of COVID in early March died from it. Compare that to today, when the fatality rate of COVID is known to be less than one half of one percent.

In other words, when the World Health Organization said back in early March that three percent of people who get COVID die from it, they were wrong by at least one order of magnitude. The COVID fatality rate is

much closer to 0.2 or 0.3 percent. The reason for the highly inaccurate early estimates is simple: in early March, we were not identifying most of the people who had been infected by COVID.

“Case fatality rate” is computed by dividing the number of deaths by the total number of confirmed cases. But to obtain an accurate COVID fatality rate, the number in the denominator should be the number of people who have been infected—the number of people who have actually had the disease—rather than the number of confirmed cases.

In March, only the small fraction of infected people who got sick and went to the hospital were identified as cases. But the majority of people who are infected by COVID have very mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. These people weren’t identified in the early days, which resulted in a highly misleading fatality rate. And that is what drove public policy. Even worse, it continues to sow fear and panic, because the perception of too many people about COVID is frozen in the misleading data from March.

So how do we get an accurate fatality rate? To use a technical term, we test for seroprevalence—in other words, we test to find out how many people have evidence in their bloodstream of having had COVID.

This is easy with some viruses. Anyone who has had chickenpox, for instance, still has that virus living in them—it stays in the body forever. COVID, on the other hand, like other coronaviruses, doesn’t stay in the body. Someone who is infected with COVID and then clears it will be immune from it, but it won’t still be living in them.

What we need to test for, then, are antibodies or other evidence that someone has had COVID. And even antibodies fade over time, so testing for them still results in an underestimate of total infections.

Seroprevalence is what I worked on in the early days of the epidemic. In April, I ran a series of studies, using antibody tests, to see how many people in California’s Santa Clara County, where I live, had been infected. At the time, there were about 1,000 COVID cases that had been identified in the county, but our antibody tests found that 50,000 people had been infected—i.e., there were 50 times more infections than identified cases. This was enormously important, because it meant that the fatality rate was not three percent, but closer to 0.2 percent; not three in 100, but two in 1,000.

When it came out, this Santa Clara study was controversial. But science is like that, and the way science tests controversial studies is to see if they can be repli-

cated. And indeed, there are now 82 similar seroprevalence studies from around the world, and the median result of these 82 studies is a fatality rate of about 0.2 percent—exactly what we found in Santa Clara County.

In some places, of course, the fatality rate was higher: in New York City it was more like 0.5 percent. In other places it was lower: the rate in Idaho was 0.13 percent. What this variation shows is that the fatality rate is not simply a function of how deadly a virus is. It is also a function of who gets infected and of the quality of the health care system. In the early days of the virus, our health care systems managed COVID poorly. Part of this was due to ignorance: we pursued very aggressive treatments, for instance, such as the use of ventilators, that in retrospect might have been counterproductive. And part of it was due to negligence: in some places, we needlessly allowed a lot of people in nursing homes to get infected.

But the bottom line is that the COVID fatality rate is in the neighborhood of 0.2 percent.

2. Who Is at Risk?

The single most important fact about the COVID pandemic—in terms of deciding how to respond to it on both an individual and a governmental basis—is that it is not equally dangerous for everybody. This became clear very early on, but for some reason our public health messaging failed to get this fact out to the public.

It still seems to be a common perception that COVID is equally dangerous to everybody, but this couldn’t be further from the truth. There is a thousand-fold difference between the mortality rate in older people, 70 and up, and the mortality rate in children. In some sense, this is a great blessing. If it was a disease that killed children preferentially, I for one would react very differently. But the fact is that for young children, this disease is less dangerous than the seasonal flu. This year, in the United States, more children have died from the seasonal flu than from COVID by a factor of two or three.

Whereas COVID is not deadly for children, for older people it is *much* more deadly than the seasonal flu. If you look at studies worldwide, the COVID fatality rate for people 70 and up is about four percent—four in 100 among those 70 and older, as opposed to two in 1,000 in the overall population.

Again, this huge difference between the danger of COVID to the young and the danger of COVID to the old is the most important fact about the virus. Yet it has

not been sufficiently emphasized in public health messaging or taken into account by most policymakers.

3. Deadliness of the Lockdowns

The widespread lockdowns that have been adopted in response to COVID are unprecedented—lockdowns have never before been tried as a method of disease control. Nor were these lockdowns part of the original plan. The initial rationale for lockdowns was that slowing the spread of the disease would prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed. It became clear before long that this was not a worry: in the US and in most of the world, hospitals were never at risk of being overwhelmed. Yet the lockdowns were kept in place, and this is turning out to have deadly effects.

Those who dare to talk about the tremendous economic harms that have followed from the lockdowns are accused of heartlessness. Economic considerations are nothing compared to saving lives, they are told. So I'm not going to talk about the economic effects—I'm going to talk about the deadly effects on health, beginning with the fact that the U.N. has estimated that 130 million additional people will starve this year as a result of the economic damage resulting from the lockdowns.

In the last 20 years we've lifted one billion people worldwide out of poverty. This year we are reversing that progress to the extent—it bears repeating—that an estimated 130 million more people will starve.

Another result of the lockdowns is that people stopped bringing their children in for immunizations against diseases like diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and polio, because they had been led to fear COVID more than they feared these more deadly diseases. This wasn't only true in the US. Eighty million children worldwide are now at risk of these diseases. We had made substantial progress in slowing them down, but now they are going to come back.

Large numbers of Americans, even though they had cancer and needed chemotherapy, didn't come in for treatment because they were more afraid of COVID than cancer. Others have skipped recommended cancer screenings. We're going to see a rise in cancer and can-

cer death rates as a consequence. Indeed, this is already starting to show up in the data. We're also going to see a higher number of deaths from diabetes due to people missing their diabetic monitoring.

Mental health problems are in a way the most shocking thing. In June of this year, a CDC survey found that one in four young adults between 18 and 24 had seriously considered suicide. Human beings are not, after all, designed to live alone. We're meant to be in company with one another. It is unsurprising that the lockdowns have had the psychological effects that they've had, especially among young adults and children, who have been denied much-needed socialization.

In effect, what we've been doing is requiring young people to bear the burden of controlling a disease from which they face little to no risk. This is entirely backward from the right approach.

4. Where to Go from Here

Last week I met with two other epidemiologists—Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford University and Dr. Martin Kulldorff of Harvard University—in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The three of us come from very different disciplinary backgrounds and from very different parts of the political spectrum. Yet we had arrived at the same view—the view that the widespread lockdown policy has been a devastating public health mistake. In response, we wrote and issued the Great Barrington Declaration, which can be viewed—along with explanatory videos, answers to frequently asked questions, a list of co-signers, etc.—online at www.gbdeclaration.org.

The Declaration reads:

As infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists we have grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused Protection.

Coming from both the left and right, and around the world, we have devoted our careers to protecting people. Current lockdown policies are producing devastating ef-

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade's address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at www.schwarzreport.org. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com.

fects on short and long-term public health. The results (to name a few) include lower childhood vaccination rates, worsening cardiovascular disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings, and deteriorating mental health—leading to greater excess mortality in years to come, with the working class and younger members of society carrying the heaviest burden. Keeping students out of school is a grave injustice.

Keeping these measures in place until a vaccine is available will cause irreparable damage, with the underprivileged disproportionately harmed.

Fortunately, our understanding of the virus is growing. We know that vulnerability to death from COVID-19 is more than a thousand-fold higher in the old and infirm than the young. Indeed, for children, COVID-19 is less dangerous than many other harms, including influenza.

As immunity builds in the population, the risk of infection to all—including the vulnerable—falls. We know that all populations will eventually reach herd immunity—i.e., the point at which the rate of new infections is stable—and that this can be assisted by (but is not dependent upon) a vaccine. Our goal should therefore be to minimize mortality and social harm until we reach herd immunity.

The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this Focused Protection.

Adopting measures to protect the vulnerable should be the central aim of public health responses to COVID-19. By way of example, nursing homes should use staff with acquired immunity and perform frequent PCR testing of other staff and all visitors. Staff rotation should be minimized. Retired people living at home should have groceries and other essentials delivered to their home. When possible, they should meet family members outside rather than inside. A comprehensive and detailed list of measures, including approaches to multi-generational households, can be implemented, and is well within the scope and capability of public health professionals.

Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as normal. Simple hygiene measures, such as hand washing and staying home when sick should be practiced by everyone to reduce the herd immunity threshold. Schools and universities should be open for in-person teaching. Extracurricular activities,

such as sports, should be resumed. Young low-risk adults should work normally, rather than from home. Restaurants and other businesses should open. Arts, music, sports, and other cultural activities should resume. People who are more at risk may participate if they wish, while society as a whole enjoys the protection conferred upon the vulnerable by those who have built up herd immunity.

I should say something in conclusion about the idea of herd immunity, which some people mischaracterize as a strategy of letting people die. First, herd immunity is not a strategy—it is a biological fact that applies to most infectious diseases. Even when we come up with a vaccine, we will be relying on herd immunity as an end-point for this epidemic. The vaccine will help, but herd immunity is what will bring it to an end. And second, our strategy is not to let people die, but to protect the vulnerable. We know the people who are vulnerable, and we know the people who are not vulnerable. To continue to act as if we do not know these things makes no sense.

My final point is about science. When scientists have spoken up against the lockdown policy, there has been enormous pushback: “You’re endangering lives.” Science cannot operate in an environment like that. I don’t know all the answers to COVID; no one does. Science ought to be able to clarify the answers. But science can’t do its job in an environment where anyone who challenges the status quo gets shut down or cancelled.

To date, the Great Barrington Declaration has been signed by over 43,000 medical and public health scientists and medical practitioners. The Declaration thus does not represent a fringe view within the scientific community. This is a central part of the scientific debate, and it belongs in the debate. Members of the general public can also sign the Declaration.

Together, I think we can get on the other side of this pandemic. But we have to fight back. We’re at a place where our civilization is at risk, where the bonds that unite us are at risk of being torn. We shouldn’t be afraid. We should respond to the COVID virus rationally: protect the vulnerable, treat the people who get infected compassionately, develop a vaccine. And while doing these things we should bring back the civilization that we had so that the cure does not end up being worse than the disease.

—*Imprimis*, October 2020