

COVID-19: Test Results and their implications

by Phillip W. Weiss

Recently I took the COVID-19 test and received the results. The test detected no COVID-19. I will share the results with my medical providers. But that will not change anything as to the stigmatizing effect of the virus. Three solid months of hysterical reports from the Fake News media spurting forth their propagandistic politically driven drivel has embedded in the collective psyche the belief that EVERY PERSON is a potential if not actual carrier of the COVID-19 virus. It will take years or even decades to reverse that belief. The social distancing laws are based on the wacky presumption that everyone is a potential carrier of a disease that they do not have but are presumed to have or SHOULD be presumed to have.

Yet, talk continues to ramp up about lifting restrictions. The pressure is mounting, just as I predicted it would in my first essay I wrote back in March. The marketplace will not be denied satisfaction, but neither will government, which now, legal precedent now established, will NEVER voluntarily give up its newly found and newly expanded dictatorial powers.

So, a struggle will ensue. This struggle will be political and will further polarize the country. Anyone who favors the lifting of restrictions will be automatically considered a Republican, even if they are not, and those who want to continue restrictions will be considered a Democrat, even if they are not. The name of our country is the United States, but the American people are anything but united.

Please understand that I am not a spokesperson for business or commercial interests. They can speak for themselves. In fact, I like the fact that because of the shutdown, my neighborhood is quieter, the air cleaner, and the streets less congested. I am good with that, but I also realize that a wrecked economy puts me at risk too. A wrecked economy means a disruption of basic services and political and social disaster.

However, there are some elected officials who are willing to risk pushing the economy to the brink of disaster. This is not surprising. A lot of people are terrified that they will contract COVID-19 and want the restrictions to continue. If that was not the case, then every elected official in every state would lift restrictions immediately. People are AFRAID of contracting an incurable disease that both the media and government has incessantly insisted exists and kills. On this basis, can the economy ever truly recover?

The results of my test will do nothing to convince anyone that they have no need to maintain a safe distance from me or presume that I harbor the disease. This presumption is evidence of the severe damage inflicted by this crisis. We want to re-open the economy but maintain awkward, contrived, and unnatural social restrictions that make substantive economic recover all but impossible to fully realize.

Humans are social creatures. We create social institutions to bring people together and not keep people apart. Now, however, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, a new set of social rules have emerged that keep people apart and erodes social cohesion. While there are times when people do need to isolate, for

instance, when they engage in anti-social behavior that threatens public safety or when they have medical conditions that must be isolated, for which we have created institutions such as prisons and hospitals, those are exceptional situations. The COVID-19 crisis will make such exceptional situations the norm for EVERY social institution.

To achieve this imposition of mass self-restrictive behavior will require a level and intensity of social engineering that could open the doors to outright totalitarianism. This form of government has been tried before and has failed, but at a huge cost in money and human life. Dictatorships come and go, but the legacies of destruction they leave linger on for decades. The wholesale forfeiting of civil liberty can happen anytime and anywhere if people feel insecure and lose confidence in the ability of the government to keep the people safe and secure.

Out of these conditions emerge demagogues who promise solutions and for a while may deliver what they promise before their lust for power produces the havoc that becomes the food for historians who try to make sense of the wreckage left behind. Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin are not historical fabrications. They existed and were embraced by the people who had lost confidence in their governments' ability to deal with crisis. Today, decades after their deaths, both are discredited but when they were in power, they were hailed as heroes who were accomplishing great things, but at a price.