National Security Division Report

Week ending 1 May 2020

Coronavirus: Trends And Landscapes For The Aftermath

(The following analysis, dated April 20, 2020, is courtesy of the Elcano Royal Institute, a think tank specialized in international and strategic studies conducted from a Spanish, European and global perspective.)

Theme

This paper examines several possible trends in the world originating from the coronavirus crisis, the policies implemented and their consequences, in four dimensions: temporal; economic and social; political; and geopolitical. It concludes with three possible scenarios that stand out among the many possibilities.

Summary

In an attempt to peer into the future, this paper analyses a range of trends that are beginning to emerge as a result of the coronavirus crisis and their possible consequences for a world transformed and for Spain. The trends are grouped into four distinct categories, although they interact with one another: (1) the temporal (the duration of the crisis and the different rates at which it is unfolding); (2) the economic; (3) the socio-political; and (4) the geopolitical. By way of conclusion, three possible scenarios (from among many others) are explored: (1) 'every one for himself', the most adverse; (2) the pursuit of an 'international collective intelligence', which would be the most positive; and (3) an intermediate scenario of 'step by step muddling through'. The goal is to provide a foundation for public and private decision-makers.

Analysis

The coronavirus crisis is already changing the world. It is transformative. In the current circumstances, foreseeing the impact of coronavirus and the measures taken to combat it is an impossible task. In an exercise of future-gazing, however, it is important to try to identify trends and to anticipate problems that may lie in store, even if it is only in terms of alternatives, to be able to get ahead of the curve amid the difficult and complex decisions to be taken over the coming days and weeks. It is not possible at this juncture even to hazard what the new normality might be like once the crisis is over. It is not a matter of being alarmist, but it does require flagging up problems that are being caused in order to prepare the policies and institutions needed to respond to them, or, better still, anticipate them, although more questions arise than answers. And it is unrealistic to expect solutions for everything.

Timeframes are important. It is not a matter of divining what the world will be like in 2030 – although we ought to start to think about and know what world we want or might want within 10 years– but rather scrutinising trends over the medium term, for the next two or three years. The utility of the exercise lies above all in providing a comprehensive overview. Four types of factors are examined along with the courses they might take, their causes and their consequences: time, the economy, politics and geopolitics. Their combination could give rise to a limitless number of scenarios, but for the purposes of clarity three will be explored. The aim is also to enable public and private decisions to be taken that are well-informed and operating at multiple scales.

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This Is The Beginning Of The End Of U.S. Energy Independence

The historic collapse of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the reference oil traded most frequently and of major significance for U.S. commodity markets, represents far more than the short-term negative impact of a global oil glut on American energy producers. Rather, it is the beginning of the end of the illusion of American energy independence, the bursting of an economic bubble which was as impractical as it was unsustainable.

Corporate and government greed—one born of profits, the other of tax-based revenue—combined to create a national energy policy driven more by hubris than market realities. As long as there is a demand for oil, there will be a U.S. oil industry. But the COVID-19 pandemic will go down in history as representing the high-water mark of American oil. What will emerge from this global economic crisis will be something far different than what existed.

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Top US spy agency says coronavirus was 'not manmade or genetically modified'

KEY POINTS

- The top U.S. spy agency said for the first time on Thursday that the nation's collective intelligence community does not believe that the coronavirus was manmade or genetically modified.
- The statement from the Office of Director of National Intelligence contradicts reports suggesting that the new coronavirus had been developed by Chinese scientists in a government biological weapons laboratory.

The top U.S. spy agency said for the first time on Thursday that the nation's collective intelligence community does not believe that the coronavirus was manmade or genetically modified.

"The Intelligence Community also concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified," the Office of Director of National Intelligence said in a rare statement.

"The IC will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan," it added.

The statement from the Office of Director of National Intelligence contradicts reports suggesting that the new coronavirus had been developed by Chinese scientists in a government biological weapons laboratory.

The U.S. intelligence community was tasked with examining whether the virus that caused the global pandemic emerged accidentally from a Chinese research lab, according to current and former U.S. intelligence officials.

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DoD CORONAVIRUS UPDATES FOR OUR MILITARY COMMUNITY

The Department of Defense is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of State to provide support in dealing with the coronavirus disease outbreak. Check back for the latest information on COVID-19. We will be updating this page regularly.

We urge the military community to follow the guidance of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Task Force at the White House, working in conjunction with the CDC, Health and Human Services and other government agencies. Our primary goals are to ensure the well-being of the entire military community and to assist in force readiness for the national defense and current worldwide military missions.

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DoD Response to COVID-19 - DoD ID Cards and Benefits

Common Access Cards (CAC) & Volunteer Logical Access Credentials (VoLAC)

- CACs and VoLACs which expire on or after April 16, 2020, and are within 30 days of expiration, may have the certificates updated using ID Card Office Online to allow for continued use for logical access through September 30, 2020. The User Guide below provides details on who is eligible, and whom to contact for questions or problems.
- CACs shall not be reissued due to printed information changes (e.g., promotions, name changes).
- CACs that expire on or after April 16, 2020, are authorized for continued use to facilitate access to benefits through September 30, 2020, if the cardholder's eligibility for benefits is unchanged.
- Existing and new Trusted Associate Sponsorship System (TASS) applications will be valid for 180 days, permitting TASS-sponsored cardholders to take advantage of the remote options to update their certificates.
- The policy memorandum allowing transferring DoD civilian employees to retain their CAC will be reissued.

Uniformed Services ID Cards (USID)

- If a cardholder's affiliation is unchanged, USID cards which expired on or after January 1, 2020, are authorized for continued benefit use through September 30, 2020.
- Termination of cardholder affiliation with the DoD or termination of benefit eligibility shall be verified electronically prior to confiscating an expired USID card with an expiration date on or after January 1, 2020.
- Remote USID card renewals and reissuance shall be expanded.
- Remote family member enrollment/eligibility updates are authorized.
- Remote USID card initial issuance for first-time issuance or replacement of lost/stolen ID card is authorized.
- All remotely-issued USID cards shall be issued with an expiration date not to exceed one year from the date of issuance.
- The minimum age for initial USID card issuance is increased from 10 to 14 years.
- Continued use of the Reserve USID card to obtain active duty benefits is authorized for mobilized Reservists and their eligible dependents.

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Defense Commissary Agency COVID-19 New Policies

1. There will be 100% I.D. card checks at the entrance of all stores and no visitors will be allowed entrance. We believe this will reduce the number of people in our stores and help with social distancing.
2. There will be no more "early bird" shopping hours to allow more time for cleaning and re-stocking of our stores.
3. Please note that each commissary location in coordination with their installation leadership may need to implement purchase limitations on products to ensure that DeCA can meet the increased requirements and take care of all of our valued patrons. Our commissary team is working very hard on a daily basis to re-stock the shelves as the supplies are delivered. Once again, we appreciate your support and patience during this period.
4. During this pandemic, we will be limiting the use of reusable bags at the register.
5. Plexiglass shields are being installed in all checkout lanes as a protective measure.
6. Please consider using bank-issued credit and debit, MILITARY STAR or gift cards instead of cash. Cash-back and check-cashing transactions may be limited during this time.
7. Our store employees will be provided with PPE (gloves and face coverings); however, employees can also use their own.
8. Effective April 10, commissaries expanded its face covering requirement to include customers or anyone else entering a commissary. This guidance does not supersede the existing installation policies. It applies to all agency stores and other facilities worldwide where no local directive has yet been issued.

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Military Hospital and Clinic Operations: COVID-19 Myths vs. Facts

You may be wondering how the Military Health System response to the health care demands of COVID-19 impacts the care you may get at military hospitals and clinics. TRICARE resources, FAQs, and these “myths vs. facts” help you separate rumors from truth.

MYTH: All routine appointments at military hospitals and clinics are cancelled.

FACT: Your appointments may not take place in person, but you still have options. You may postpone your appointment. Also, you may be able to make a virtual appointment. You can still get high quality care through telemedicine.

MYTH: Military family members can show up at a military hospital or clinic for COVID-19 testing.

FACT: Military family members should call their provider or the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line for screening first. The nurse will tell you what to do if you need additional evaluation or testing. Testing is authorized based on the clinical judgment of a provider, exposure, travel history, and symptoms.

MYTH: You pay a copaymentClick to closeA fixed dollar amount you may pay for a covered health care service or drug. for COVID-19 testing.

FACT: TRICARE waived copayments for COVID-19 testing and related appointments.
Consider sharing Myth vs. Fact infographics and spread the truth, not the virus. And for more myths vs. facts, check out ones on pharmacy options and cyber awareness. Stay safe and learn more about COVID-19.

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POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Click on the links to read more:
News Releases

April 23, 2020
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Alumbaugh, L.)

April 24, 2020
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Jeffers, O.)

April 27, 2020
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Gillen, J.)
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Hayden, H.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Wright, D.)
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Tuhey, R.)
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Fricks, H.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Mullins, B.)
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Brotherton, C.)

April 28, 2020
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Collins, G.)
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Blanton, R.)

April 30, 2020
Marine Accounted For From World War II (Miller, H.)

Staff Activity:

- On Monday, April 27, National Security Policy Advisor (NSPA) Jeff Steele attended a virtual public roundtable discussion hosted by The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission on *A 'China Model?' Beijing's Promotion of Alternative Global Norms and Standards*. It assessed the intentions behind China's efforts to revise international governance institutions, norms, and values and examined Beijing's vision for a revised global order, attempts to identify whether a distinguishable "China model" exists, and assesses the extent to which Beijing is seeking to export such a model to other countries. More information and video of the event is here.
- On Monday, April 27, NSPA Jeff Steele attended an online event hosted by the Center for American Progress which assessed U.S. policy in the Middle East and analyzed the new Israeli government announced this past week. The discussion focused on the likely impact of the new Israeli government on regional dynamics in a time of increased uncertainty due to the coronavirus crisis, and the speakers offered their perspectives on next steps for U.S. policy. More information and video of the event is here.

- On Monday, April 27, NSPA Jeff Steele attended an online event hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on *Covid-19's Impact on the Defense Budget and Defense Supply Chain*. Discussed was the effects of the Covid-19 crisis on the defense supply chain and its implications for the defense budget. More information and video of the event is here.
- Monday, National Security Division staff participated in a conference call with a representative from the Society of Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to discuss plans to honor the Tomb's 100th anniversary in November 2021.
- On Tuesday, April 28, NSPA Jeff Steele participated in the Conservative Working Group weekly teleconference hosted by Republican leadership in the Senate.
- On Tuesday, April 28, National Security staff had a video call with DC Executive Director Chanin Nuntavong to discuss division activities.
- On Tuesday, April 28, NSPA Jeff Steele attended an online event hosted by the Hudson Institute on *Democracy and Authoritarianism in the Age of Pandemic*. Discussed was what the ongoing crisis means for the future of global democracy and what the United States and allies can do to protect freedom around the world. More information and video of the event is here.
- On Thursday, April 30, NSPA Jeff Steele attended a public webinar hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) which examined the innovation occurring with Grid Modernization, including physical infrastructure, grid management software, and efforts by all actors to increase the resilience and security of the grid. More information and video of the event is here.
- Staff participated in a conference call with senior defense officials from the Pentagon to discuss the release of the fiscal year 2019 annual report on sexual assault.
  The report can be reviewed here:
  https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2170913/department-of-defense-releases-fiscal-year-2019-annual-report-on-sexual-assault/
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Rhonda Powell, Director, National Security Division