

# World Society 1990 : 2020

## From the end of history to the revival of past?

(Bulletin IV of the Corona serial)

1989



30 years passed since the fall of the wall in Berlin celebrated as the “end of history”, the vision of one-world driven by the transnational and global markets and neoliberal master plans. Since 2020 this utopian outlook crashed by closing borders, restricting freedoms, exchanges and economic performance. How to cope with that loss of the global consumer’s paradise, how to replace the world of *marketisation*? Why not through *covidisation* – a cynical option to respond? Fortunately, the biosphere offered a virus as hidden player of bio-politics; it advanced from a nobody of biosphere to a powerful social construct. Could it help to reset the paradise or to find new alternatives and options? But the dominant leaders are installing new forms of Leviathan and of authoritarian regimes, the radical contradiction to the civil visions 1990.

2021



Bulletin September 2021



- Covidisation and Leviathan 2
- World marketisation 3
- Covidisation – World laboratory 4
- Frames – scenarios 5
- References 6

Prof. em. Dr. Hans-Peter  
Meier-Dallach  
Stadelhoferstrasse 26  
8001 Zürich

[https://  
www.culturprospectiv.ch](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch)  
[hp@culturprospectiv.ch](mailto:hp@culturprospectiv.ch)

# Covidisation and Leviathan

The state strategies evoked by the virus threaten crucial relations in societies from micro-level of households, communes, cities, regions, nations to the worldwide arena. The model illustrates how the Corona-Leviathan evolves to a game of a self-reinforcing system. Thereby, the biological and virological data are used to create and diffuse the imageries of a pandemic between anxiety, uncertainty in majorities opposed by minorities.

Graph 1: The emergence of Corona Leviathan, strategies and measures



## Leviathan

...needs to collect his own food what is guaranteed the best by a state of emergency. Its devise: the non-vaccinated person is the wolf of the vaccinated persons. (homo homini lupus – Hobbes)

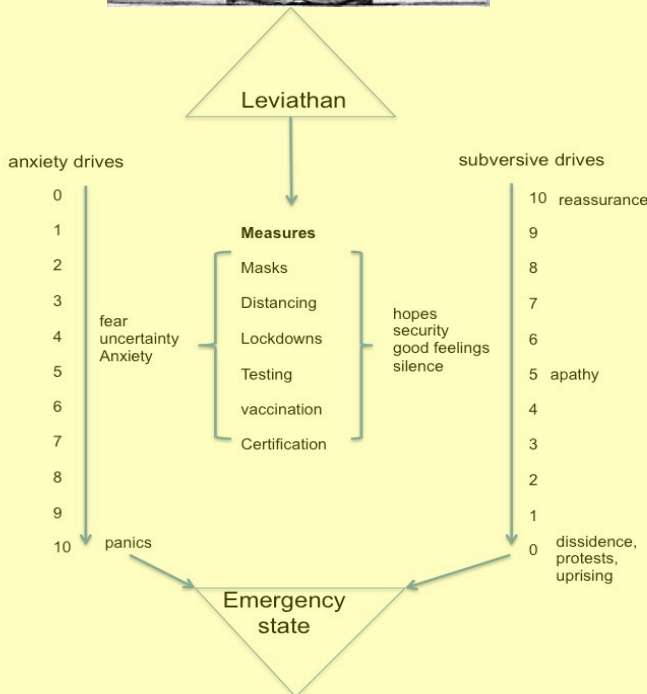
...operates with fears and insecurities moving the population on a scale from zero to the maximal value of 10 – the panics.

....survives and evolves only if tranquilizers of fear induced by the measures do not absorb the fear and uncertainty. In that case he has to take more efforts to push the fears to a higher level of anxiety.

...can very well coexist with indifference of majorities if they tolerate the measures as necessary; they form a “silent majority”, for instance, in the era of decay of Weimar Republic the decisive potential.

...needs dissidence, protests and corona-critical groups in order to strengthen the controlling and coercion from top down to population. In that way the indifferent majority can be used as aliment for the self-reproducing regime.

...emerges and reproduces itself; more in detail we could it analyse on the level of each measure on the two scales (left, right), from the masques, distancing, lockdown, to the vaccination certification.

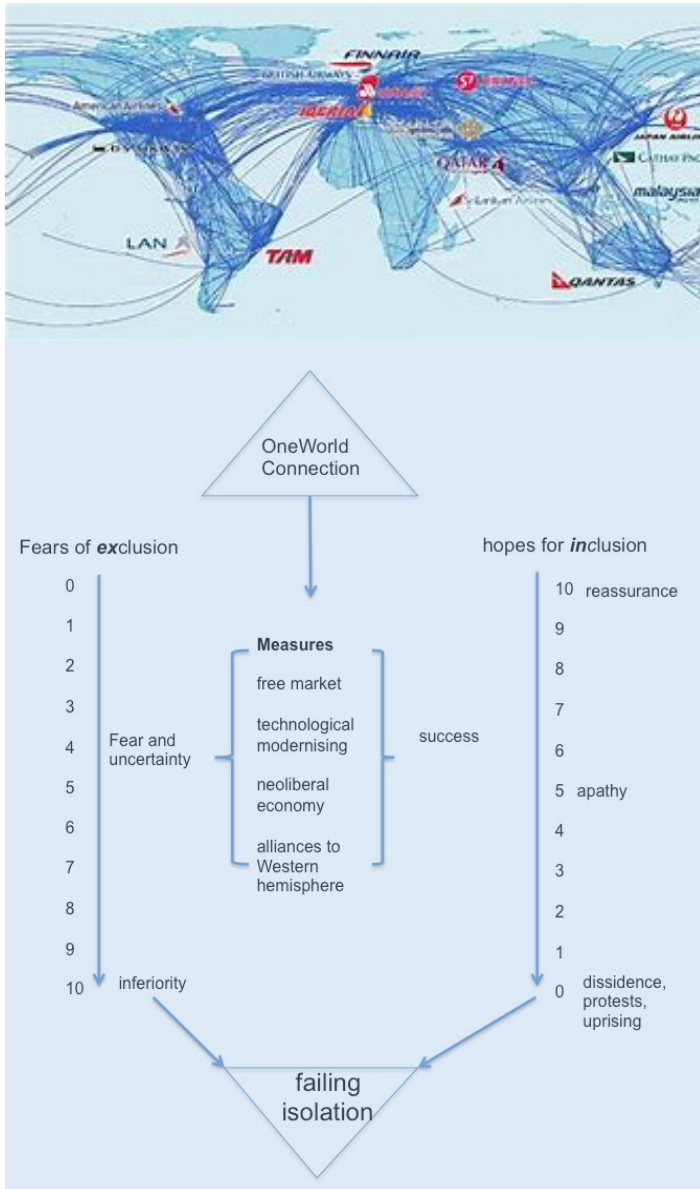


# World-marketisation

## The one-world connections

Nobody could imagine the emergence of Leviathan at the time when the end of history was announced marked symbolically by the fall of the Berlin wall. After this event followed a period of “round tables” seeking consent across the borders by state actors and institutions, stimulating feelings of a communitarian world, for instance, the idea of the “European House”. But it is necessary to take an outlook to the frame of one-world since 1990 until today. The Western Euro-Atlantic power centres dominated the master plans and interests of neoliberal markets as potential for a worldwide commonwealth, but which was interrupted by dys-topian events like the financial crisis, 9/11 and returns to geopolitical rivalries.

Graph 2 the drives to world marketization between fears of exclusion and hopes for inclusion



### OWC (one-world connection)

... is a set of actors promoting and pushing the Western neoliberal power of markets; actors like economic companies, organizations and associations.

...shows similar logics to Corona-dynamics but in a eu-topic period. It was necessary to push the fears of exclusion from the „global club connections“; mainly in the post-soviet parts of Eastern nations the fear of exclusion was one of the principal driver in order to accelerate the free market.

...tolerates no tranquillizers, indifference in competition for access, for instance into the EU is not welcomed; opposition, protests or riots as well as the return to own-world are suppressed.

...is an offensive network of actors; the passivity or distancing to one-world risks inferiority and turning back to isolation.

... sees itself periodically in a not-normal situation like in the financial crisis 2008, or catastrophes and events with durable impacts.

...networks and platforms seem to be open and democratic but the power relations and games, mainly in financial affairs are often disguised. Leading actors of Leviathan are interested to be included into the OWC i.e. the sectors of pharmacy, IT, medical markets, financial systems.

*Politics of events.* Events overrun structures and the politics of events outstrip rules, norms and regulations. In crises such transitions affect the private as well as public life and the practice of actors responsible for order. Anderson (2021) discerns the “the politics of events from politics of norms and rules” addressing unexpected situations in history. Noteworthy, that the crisis of Covid illustrates the flow of events posing question marks to established structures, norms and regulations. Ad hoc decisions and actions in uncertain situations replace the routines of rules. Actors are challenged by steady changing situations like clouds in storm.

*Sociology of events.* Our contribution focuses on the events and developments driven by pandemic. It challenges a sociology of events demanding concepts like innovation, anomy, preservation to be reconsidered. This essay looks back to roots. P. Heintz dedicated an essay “Events in the mirror of World Society” (Ereignisse im Spiegel der Weltgesellschaft) as guideline of the World Society Foundation Act, which was founded 1982. He sketches how the structured world orders changed by a slowly and partially tacit process to states of entropy. During 40 years research projects and conference projects have been realized, available in an archive at the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WSF (2022). “After Globalization – the Future of World Society” the international community is challenged to give answers in a online conference next year.

*Epistemic pandemic.* Covidisation embraces (i) all those events and episodes, which the Covid viruses evoked by penetration and diffusion into societies of each level, individual, local, regional, national and macro regions of the earth. Essential is (ii) that the Lab appears as a worldwide hall of resonances, sounds and voices, fears, hopes, emotional energies due to the pandemic. The implosion of social media reinforces (iii) an “epistemic pandemic”; the uncertainty of virus-pandemic multiplied by overflows of information varying from high to low validity, rational to irrational, scientific to ideological forms, abstract to authentic voices.

Essential is the *voice of biosphere* in waves, events, states of entropy and ad hoc measurements. But it is evidently the *voice of biopolitics* construed by the actors in offices of virology, in headquarters of politics, centers of medical industry and police stations and in everyday dialogues.

The virus proceeded to a social agent – an enemy, an idiot, a partner? Indeed covidisation is a battle field. Can we expect a victory of anthropos using its technical capacities, a Pyrrhus victory or a defeat? Is it possible to approach a durable peace – a new deal between Anthropocen and biosphere as the younger strata of Geocen, which we could name: the planet turns back to the mother Earth (Toynbee) on a world societal scale.

*Six Frames and faces of crises.* Corona moves through six frames as lenses for describing the waves and events since the beginning of the crisis:

Strong fears and alarming signals  
THREATENED-WORLD  
Events and trends lead societies and the globe into catastrophic future. (Cassandra as an antique figure like in the public arena Greta's role in regard to the climate-problems)

World without borders and as an all-embracing space  
ONE-WORLD  
Events and trends shape the international society as one globe, mainly in terms of mobility, economic performance and affluence. (Smith as pioneer of welfare by market principle)

Trust to universal values, identities and law  
CIVIL-WORLD  
Events and trends reveal the international society as civil society, mainly in terms of immaterial values. (Kant: categorical imperative and the question of a peace)

The power fights for order and domination in society  
DOM-WORLD  
Events and trends reflect the international society as pyramid from concentrated power at the top to powerless actors at the bottom. (Hobbes: Leviathan pacifying "homo homini lupus")

Return to the  
OWN-, HOLY-WORLD  
Events and trends let appear the international society as space of coexistence or rivalries between imperia, nations and regions based on strong identities and traditions. (Leontjew: society as an intangible body of history)

Solidarity – Communitarian movements  
OUR-WORLD  
Events and trends mirror the international society as a communitarian entity, a society close to nature and earth enabled to communicate and negotiate. (Rousseau: vision of "liberté et volonté générale" )

**There are several shifts evident during the crisis affecting the one-world frame. In the course of the crisis the civil-world turned to hard measures leading to the beginning of the scenario Leviathan. Thereby societal spaces reveal appointed affinities to frames inherited from particular past. Although we can discern dependency paths along the time axis, the world society is shaped by simultaneousness of frames and scenarios; they merge to a complex patchwork.**

*World Society Foundation motivates the international community of social sciences to participate in the online conference "After Globalisation – The Future of World Society".*

[https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/wsf\\_call\\_fot\\_papers\\_a4\\_07.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/wsf_call_fot_papers_a4_07.pdf)

**The notices base on the bulletins: “Corona is searching us in a new world.”**

Bulletin II [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/corona\\_2\\_engl\\_2.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/corona_2_engl_2.pdf)

Bulletin I [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/bulletin\\_maerz1red.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/bulletin_maerz1red.pdf)

Bulletin III [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/bulletin\\_corona-Schweiz1.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/bulletin_corona-Schweiz1.pdf)

## **Sociology of Events**

World Society Foundation, Archive of 40 years of research and conference projects:

[https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:archive\\_draft\\_2.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:archive_draft_2.pdf)

[https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:archiv\\_table\\_3.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:archiv_table_3.pdf)

Perry Anderson (2021), Operation Europe, London Review of Books, [www.LRB.CO.UK](http://www.LRB.CO.UK). In German: Lettre International, Frühjahr 2021 (From politics of rules to politics of events)

## **Financial crisis 2007/8**

• 2009, **Lehman's Serpent throughout the World** - Impacts of financial crisis on people between South, North and emerging economies and member states of EU, paper presented at the 4th Informational Forum in Minsk, 6-7 of May 09

[https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:minsk\\_meier\\_fin.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:minsk_meier_fin.pdf)

• 2009, **Cataclysms and Change of World Society**: The financial crisis as paradigm, World Drives, Zurich, Bulletin April 2009

[https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:wo\\_financ\\_cris1.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/de:wo_financ_cris1.pdf)

## **AKW catastrophes**

• 2006 **Chernobyl**, comparison of societal impacts between Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine, Summary, Zurich

<https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/documents:chernkurz.pdf>

• 1990, **Grosskatastrophe im Kleinstaat**. Zur Früherkennung sozialer, politischer und kultureller Auswirkungen eines KKW-Unfalls in der Schweiz, Zürich: edition cultur prospectiv

<https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/media/grosskaktastrophe.pdf>

• 1994, **Tschernobyl. Erfahrungen und Einsichten einer Schweizer Hilfsaktion**, Zürich: edition cultur prospectiv

## **Risk society**

• 1996, Risiko und innere Sicherheit in der Wahrnehmung der Bevölkerung – eine Gesamtsicht für die Schweiz, in: V. Preuss (Hrsg.), Risikoanalysen, Heidelberg: Roland Asanger Verlag, 214-321. Gleichnamige Publikation als FER Studie 154/1995, Schweiz. Wissenschaftsrat, Bern

• 1996, (zus. mit Hohermuth, S.), Lokale Chancen für Nachhaltigkeit. Wintertourismus aus der Sicht der Bevölkerung, edition cultur prospectiv, Zürich

• 1994, Subjektive und objektive Risikowahrnehmung, Bern: Schweiz. Wissenschaftsrat (vgl. auch 'Der 'Stoffkistenansatz', Futura 1/94, 9-14)

• 1993, Die Alpenapotheke. Eine Betrachtung zum 500. Geburtsjahr von Paracelsus, Zürich: cultur prospectiv

• 1992, Risiko und Gesellschaft. Daten und soziologische Überlegungen, Bericht zuhanden der SUVA/SATW, Bern