

ABSTRACT COMPILATION ENGLISH

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Tigray Genocide and the Gadfly of Covid-19

Although COVID-19 cases are increasing in Ethiopia, the epidemic remains neglected as a mere inconvenience. Initially, the government introduced the containment measures of restriction on social gatherings, face masks, and physical distancing which were heeded by the public. The genocidal war that both Eritrea and Ethiopia launched on Tigray targeted economic and health system infrastructures. For the Tigrayans, safety from drone attacks and finding something to eat, not preventing the pandemic, is a priority. For the government, fighting the genocidal war, not COVID-19, is a priority. Thus, the government can cover only 2.54% of the budget needed to prevent the epidemic and donors simply cannot afford to cover the rest of the budget. Thus, not a priority to prevent, the epidemic is willfully considered a gadfly in Ethiopia.

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Narratives and Responses to Covid-19 Pandemic among Religious Communities in Indonesia

The Covid-19 pandemic hits one of the most essential element of religions, that is what scholars of religious studies call communion. Without communion where members of religious communities congregate, religions lost many of its significance from religious authority, market that sustain religious institutions to the social dimension of rituals. It is therefore not surprising that restriction on religious gatherings draw various responses from religious communities. As crisis and pandemic are not new in religious imaginaries, different interpretation of scripture and religious prophecies shape responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. This presentation will discuss different narratives and responses to the pandemic among religious communities in Indonesia, including the later shifts that occurred. Even though Indonesia is predominantly Muslims there are similarities in the responses to the pandemic from different religious leaders and community, which include those perceiving the pandemic as the sign of the end of the day to those looking the crisis as a reminder to be more compassionate to humanity and to be more responsible to the nature. This presentation is based on the research for one of the series of the Indonesian Pluralities project, in a documentary film entitled *Agama dalam Karantina* (2021).

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BRICS and MIKTA: Cooperation or Competition in Global South?

The BRICS and MIKTA are two contemporary international groupings, both of which are made up of G20 members who are global middle powers. Almost all of the countries in these two grouping are considered to be from the Global South. Many observers believe that the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is a powerful grouping which influences contemporary global governance issues. Similarly, MIKTA, a semi-formal grouping of five middle powers (Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey, and Australia), is attempting to assert itself on global issues affecting the global south. Both BRICS, which has been active since 2009, and MIKTA, which has been meeting annually since 2014, share the common

goal of safeguarding the interests of the Global South. Some of the common interests are: (i) to increase trade and economy by removing trade barriers, (ii) sustainable development, and (iii) cooperation and international governance in energy sector. In this context, the goal of this paper is to look into the level and scope of cooperation between the BRICS and MIKTA. Furthermore, the paper will investigate whether these two are competing for aggregating the interests of the Global South and whether they have ever collided while doing so in the context of their activities. The paper will examine their political behaviour primarily from an institutional standpoint.

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Lebanon, Collapsed Failed State facing the Global COVID-19 Pandemic

The emerging SARS-CoV-2 virus disaster comes on the heels of a series of crises that have ravaged Lebanon in recent years, where the political, economic, and moral decline was not just media headlines, but harsh reality.

While the political-economic crisis has mainly hit the state system, especially the central bank (Banque Du Liban), the COVID-19 crisis has left the shock extending to the middle-class and the private sector, then targeting the working class, amid the collapse of the food, retail, tourism, and transport sectors.

Most private companies and enterprises are heading towards bankruptcy, while the unemployment rate is rising. Inflation is now estimated at 40% per year, and currency depreciation in the parallel market has sharply reduced actual wages.

As Lebanon goes through these economic, social, and political crises, which have reached the point of threatening its entity as a state, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world from the Chinese city of Wuhan. In a tight financial space, the government has struggled to cover the cost of modernizing the health system and mitigating the impact of trauma on the poorest populations.

The delicacy of healthcare frameworks around the world was illustrated by the COVID-19 widespread that emerged in 2020. Defensive measures that are basic to a healthcare framework are insufficient for taking care of unexpected occasions. Lebanon suffered multiple synchronous occasions in 2020 – the financial emergency, the Beirut impact, and the COVID-19 pandemic – which woefully tested its capacity to orchestrate recovery endeavors. These occasions have quickened the moderate death of the Lebanese healthcare framework into a disastrous free fall.

In this study, I will try to reveal the deadly impact of a global pandemic on a developing country controlled by sectarian cartels managing the financial and administrative corruption.

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Rebuilding Public Trust Against the Challenge of Selective Exposure: Indonesia's Response Towards the Era of Infodemic

Despite the changing condition compared to when the virus first struck around two years ago, the Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet. Especially following the discovery of the latest Omicron variant, taking protective measures in our daily lives even after vaccination remains crucial as a chance to reinfection is not entirely eliminated. The possibility prevails that quarantine and large scale social distancing will again be enforced. During the pandemic, people rely heavily on technology-based communication such as online news media and

social media to gain information related to the pandemic itself, self-protection measures, and government policies – leading to the possible presence of the infodemic. Infodemic is a term referring to the spread of too much information during a disease outbreak. This condition can result in the disperse of false or misleading information and influence the society's behaviour and undermine the public health response deployed by the government. One of the major factors reinforcing the spread of infodemic is selective exposure, caused by both the development of technology such as algorithms and human's behaviour itself in responding to unverified news. Under the framework of selective exposure, this paper aims to examine the relations between one's exposure to sources of online information with the rapid spread of infodemic and its eventual impact of the public trust towards the government's health measures. It will then also discuss the solutions to suppress infodemic and regain public trust, including the previous effort done by the Indonesian government through the Hoax Buster platform under the Indonesian Covid-19 Task Force.

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Modern economic thought has evolved drastically since the change from golden standards to modern Bretton Woods system of monetary management

The staples of the economic growth has been changing accordingly both with productivity growth and the reasoning behind it. Traditionally for the last 70 years the main factors for productivity are considered: international trade; economy of scale; technology transfer; IT development; marine, arial and land logistics services; low priced energy resources. Yet recently we have faced a major decline for the productivity coming from those sources. As a consequence, economists and politicians around the world are challenged by the world development figures to announce the search for new prospects. A research on the evolution of productivity is due.

ARIMBI Diah Ariani

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Women, Gender and Covid-19 Pandemic in Indonesia

The economic impact of this virus is very dramatic, nothing like this has ever happened in our lifetime. But money, you know, bring the economy back and money, that's more of a reversible thing. We're going to take the pain in the economic dimension, huge pain, in order to minimize the death dimension.

– Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation

If I may add, Gates' quote above definitely needs some extensions, not only that local, regional, national and global economy is dramatically affected by the Covid-19 but also all sides of our life: to include our mental health, our well-being, our view of life and many others. Women, especially are highly affected by this pandemic. The number of domestic violence and violence against women soars high in this pandemic time, according to UN Women. Gender has become a significant contributor to those affected by the pandemic. Accordingly, in this presentation, I would like to discuss the effects of this virus on our life. Everyone is affected by this coronavirus differently depending on their social class, cultural background, countries they come from, different contexts, and of course their gender. Those coming from the upper social class will define different experiences from those coming from the lower social class. My presentation will also discuss in what ways women are affected differently from men? In what ways women and feminist movements will determine the

characteristics of post-pandemic: be it post-capitalist, post-productivity, post-consumerist, or post-patriarchal transformation? What are major changes about women's movements in Indonesia especially concerning the covid-19 pandemic? In this presentation I simply cannot discuss how the Covid1-19 pandemic leaves imprints on all of us, I will only touch on general aspects that I am aware of, in particular, aspects related to women's and gender issues in general, and of course in Indonesia.

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Sexual Fortune Seeking: Debunking the Myth of Nyi Roro Kembang Sore Tomb in East Java, Indonesia

The practice of fortune seeking (in Indonesian language, *pesugihan*) through free-sex rituals is one of the factors driving the increasing prevalence of HIV and AIDS, especially in the Tulungagung region of East Java. Often under the guise of tradition, this practice is maintained without proper supervision from governing agencies. To assess this problem, this study focuses on mapping the origin and distribution of free sex myths in the pesugihan ritual, especially at the burial site of Nyi Roro Kembang Sore. Data are collected from interviews with the burial site caretaker as well as the pilgrims. From multiple discourse and intertextual readings, the study finds that the burial site of Nyi Roro Kembang Sore witnesses a shift from a spiritual-oriented pilgrimage to myth-reinforced sex ritual especially for women who are at the center of the practice. This result will provide the role of women in fortune seeking in the form of sexual rites.

ARLT Herbert
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Quantum technology and the rise of Asia

There are close research connections in the field of Quantum technology between Austria and China. But in the public are only the aspects of Quantum computer, transfer of information with use of Quantum technology via satellite and military aspects (the stealth program of US is now worthless, as China found a way with Quantum technology to detect the stealth airplanes). But more important is the change to a new approach beyond the digital transformation, the world of numeric. This has strategic importance for Internet, for finance systems, for automatic language translations and in other fields.

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Transgender's adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all walks of life in Indonesia, forcing society to adapt. This pandemic has deeply impacted the marginalized communities as well, specifically the transgender community, as they are one of the gender minority groups in a conservative country, such as Indonesia. The purpose of this research was to analyze the transgender individual's adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The result of this research is based on information provided by 10 of our informants from multiple cities and regencies in Indonesia. We used the qualitative research method by conducting in-depth interviews with

the informants. Then, we analyzed the data by sorting them into multiple subchapters and reviewing them based on the existing theories. Our research shows that transgender individuals in Indonesia have faced worse difficulties and discrimination during the pandemic due to some health professionals' insensitivity towards their identity, a decrease in income, and limited employment opportunities. Our informants' coping mechanisms and adaptation strategies vary, e.g., looking for new jobs, financial planning, socializing with friends, consulting with psychologists, etc. We conclude that more advocacy towards the people and government is required to ensure their rights are treated equally despite their gender identity, so they can have better access to health services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A few suggestions to improve their wellbeing start with educating the public to use gender-neutral pronouns, politely asking for people's pronouns, and understanding trans issues from their perspective. Our informants also suggest that the government should guarantee non-discriminatory public access, further acknowledge transgender existence and their rights, and increase social assistance towards marginalized communities impacted by the pandemic.

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Powers of decolonisation in the 21st century

Since the turn of the Millennium the decay of the US-led global capitalism has been accelerated. The launch of the world wide web in 1992 ignited the information technology boom in the US-led capitalist world, but ended in 2001. The next years could bring economic growth only with the help of financialization and the full launch of the eurozone. Neoliberalism has been spread and deepened, allowing capital accumulation to grow, and postponing the crisis that has ripened since 2000. The collapse in 2008, its social and political consequences and the inefficiency of the crisis management revealed the inability of the system in its entirety. Signs of ruptures have begun to show themselves within the capitalist societies (protests and riots, frequent changes of governments, confusion of the political ideologies etc.) and between the capitalist countries (weakening of the EU-US ties, failure of the TTIP, debates and contradictions in the EU, Brexit etc.) The COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the situation. The imperialist powers have tried to mitigate these problems with increasing domestic and international exploitation: autocratic capitalist governments have emerged in many countries and the encroachment of the US and its allies in other countries' internal affairs has been continued or even amplified (Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Mali, etc.).

In the meantime, the communist party-led China has continued its successful socioeconomic development and intensified its presence in the international space. This has given a new impetus to the decolonisation fight of the Global South that has been continuing, albeit with a variable strength, since the end of the WWII. A new anti-imperialist coalition has begun to be formulated between China, with the participation of e.g. Russia, Iran, Syria, and non-state organizations like the Hezbollah, Hamas and also with outrightly socialism-oriented countries like Cuba, the DPRK, Venezuela or Bolivia.

The presentation aims at discussing this unfolding "encirclement" of the Global North by the Global South and the prospects that this new wave of decolonization might offer to the mankind.

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BRICS and Challenging the World Order: Does BRICS presents the bifurcation via the light of the Covid-19 and G20 coordination?

This paper firstly reviews the cooperation between BRICS country and its internal projection. It also analyzes the BRICS-G20 engagement through the global governance and multilateralism policies of BRICS. While it analyzes the objectives of the internal and international projections and coordination of the BRICS, it also indicates the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic process. BRICS cooperation has presented its global political and economic policies and tendency to prove its global goal as more than a regional organization but as a new world-wide new phenomenon against the Western-oriented global institutions and cooperation. Therefore, it raises the question whether BRICS will create the new bifurcation (Wallerstein) and power transition of the world order by challenging the rigid Western-based world order. On the other hand, there is the reality of the BRICS that still has ongoing challenges particularly after the pandemic period. Finally, this paper will conclude by presenting the objectives of the global vision of BRICS and its responses to Covid-19 and other challenges, and the existing world order by indicating the example of BRICS-G20 engagement.

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Global Infrastructure investment initiatives: a new battleground in World Order re-shaping?

On September 2013, the People's Republic of China launched the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with the stated goals of: i) promoting multilateral cooperation across the Eurasian bloc; ii) creating optimal and stable conditions to give its hi-tech industry a western outlet, and iii) drastically reducing China's internal development differentials between rural and coastal areas. The BRI policy continued largely undisturbed until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, following which both the EU and the US launched their own counter-initiatives to the BRI, 'Global Gateway' and 'Build Back Better World' (B3W) respectively. In contrast to the Chinese initiative, the European and US equivalents explicitly contemplate the objective of creating initiatives to contain the People's Republic through infrastructure investment campaigns in low-middle income countries, with above all political objectives of introducing and exporting democratic values in order to create a climate of international stability. Net of political evaluations, it is interesting to note that both the Global Gateway and B3W contain elements of opposition and objectives of containment of the PRC that, on the contrary, are not present in the BRI. In addition, the Indian presidency of the BRICS and the prospect of the future Chinese presidency open up scenarios of high uncertainty for the future structure of the international system, in which two clearly distinct 'narratives' seem to be opposed between a 'belligerently' defensive West and a 'peacefully' proactive East (connected to the Global South). Moreover, the western global infrastructure investment initiatives come late with respect to the Chinese one and are undertaken by countries that are largely suffering economic, financial and (internal) political consequences due to the discontinued (and sometimes contradictory) managements of the counter-pandemic policies. A comparative analysis of the three initiatives can be useful to isolate the salient aspects of these opposing narratives and understand with a greater degree of clarity what are the (real and perceived) challenges are regarding the future of the international order and the stability of the international system.

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Varieties of capitalism and variety of interests in the BRICS coalition: The institutionalist theoretical approach for an adequate understanding of the evolutionary processes

Based on a reconstruction of the evolutionary process, the authors' analysis highlights elements of a progressive decline in the international role of the BRICS coalition. The paper argues that the declining presence and role of the BRICS in international relations and the associated reduced capacity to innovate are to be imputed to the different interests of the member countries that undermine the strength of the coalition as a group. In turn, the diversity of interests of member countries is to be considered as a by-product of the different development trajectories that result from institutional, economic, and cultural features. As the paper points out, the main differences in the development models – and in the interests they generate – are to be observed between China and India, that is, between the two countries that exercise, to a different degree, a substantial political hegemony over the coalition.

The paper explores the reasons for the declining incidence of the BRICS as a group in international relations by means of an institutionalist reading of China and India's development trajectories and their impact on the interests pursued by the two countries. As the authors argue, the difference in their development trajectories has given birth to a variety of interests that do not represent the interests of the coalition as a whole and that are often in conflict with the interests of other member countries. Whatever it might be their source – new patterns of economic integration, as in the case of the Belt and Road Initiative for China, or renewed political alliances, as in the case of India's technological dependence on USA – extra-BRICS interests are at the origin of the conflict of interests and of the downsizing of the common interests that had supported the action of the BRICS so far. These conflicting interests result from the differences between China and India's capitalisms, which cannot be assessed only focusing on the economic performance or keeping into account the different areas of influence in the international scenario. They are the result of the institutional features that in each country are the outcome of culture and history.

To show this argument, the paper is organized as follows. The first section introduces the analytical approach based on Thorstein Veblen's institutionalist theory that shows how development processes are shaped by institutions rooted in history and culture and by the conditioning they exert on individual and social behaviour. The second section traces the evolution of the BRICS coalition starting from its formation. The section pays a special attention to the process of institutional innovation that the BRICS carry out with the creation of new economic-financial instruments (NDB and CRA). The third section reviews the development paths of China and India highlighting the historical and cultural roots of the prevailing interests. So, the economic characteristics of China and India are analyzed, emphasizing the impact of their different international position and of the constraints exerted by the size of the internal market and the social structure. Moreover, it reflects on the ideological and cultural conditioning that contributes to the construction of institutional structures.

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New phase of decolonisation

The Covid-19 Pandemic is a kind of Zero Hour because it brought the whole world affairs to a deep down, when not to a still stand for a while. Since Second World War, no event impacted the world at that level. In that regard, the pandemic revealed itself as a lens through which trends and dynamics in global politics became more visible. One aspect of these trends and tensions at a geopolitical level is a strong desire to achieve decolonization in many countries. Among many cases, one should notice the recent political regimes

changes in West Africa (Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso) strongly accompanied by popular demonstrations of sympathy for alternative partners (Russia, China) and antipathy towards France as a former colonial power.

The rise of Asia in the (post)Covid-era so occurs in a context of protestation against local policies, which have demonstrated their limits in the fight against terrorism, poverty and precarity as well; one visible aspect of this new phase of decolonization is the following: it happens in a context of a breaking monopole, in which the former colonial and neo-colonial/liberal players must redesign their influence in their historical backyards; Asia appears as a game-changer, offering more impetus in the claim of self-determination and alternative ways to grant peoples security, have exchanges based on mutual respect, and live solidarity.

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Digital technologies in education: the main problems of digitalization of education

Every year, modern changes in the education system are more and more focused on digitalization processes and the introduction of modern digital technologies not only in educational activities, but also in education management processes. Meanwhile, the digital transformation of the education system requires a revision of views on the industry management system. In this regard, the study of the experience of digitalization in this industry and the emerging problems are necessary to prevent even greater problems caused by the use of the wrong digitalization model. The purpose of this work is to identify the main problems and determine the prospects for digitalization in the field of education. Within the framework of the study, five main groups of problems of digitalization of the industry were identified: problems of perception; problems associated with the duality of digitalization processes; the spontaneous nature of digitalization; problems related to the interpretation and understanding of terminology; problems associated with the specifics of industry planning. At the same time, some recommendations are given for leveling the indicated problems.

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The pandemic in Brazil: social and political consequences

Data from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, published in 2016 in *The Lancet*, indicated that Brazil and China were among the countries with the highest vaccine coverage rates, with 99.7 per cent and 99.9 per cent of the target population immunised, respectively.

In Brazil the situation has changed drastically since then. Although there is no reliable information, since Jair Bolsonaro's government has practically destroyed the statistical institutes, it is known that there is a major deterioration in this field, aggravated by the Coronavirus pandemic. Not only is there a denialism in relation to the importance of vaccination, but the government's failure in relation to public health has caused diseases previously eradicated, such as measles, to reappear in several states of the Brazilian federation.

The communication will address the public health situation in Brazil and its social and political consequences. The political context of 2022, which is a year in which Brazil will hold a general election (to choose a new president, governors of all states, federal deputies, state deputies and to renew one third of the seats in the Senate) will be analysed.

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Post-Covid-19 Business with South Korea

For several years now, the interest of young people in Korean culture (which is called "Hallyu") has been growing, particularly with the music (K-pop) and film (K-drama) industries and has gradually spread to K-fashion. Since then, Korean fashion, which is quite unique, has become a trend-setter which thousands of young people across the world have been following.

There is a growing community of young French people with an interest in Korean culture and are being inspired by its fashion trends. However, today it is necessary to order online to get these products and there is no way to try on the clothes, test the quality and receive the products quickly.

Our project is to create a company with a premises in France to import quality clothes from South Korea. Thus, our customers have a fast delivery and exclusive clothes of the latest Korean trends. The products will be as a first step available online and as a second step in a shop so that customers can try them on. The clothes we propose will be carefully chosen to blend in with the French trends.

The name of our shop is the Korean word *대박* (*daebak*) which means "Awesome". It is a common word used to express admiration, it is also an easy and well known word among people who are interested in South Korea.

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Covid vs democracy: Indian and Italian cases

"*L'Italia è una Repubblica democratica fondata sul lavoro*" ("Italy is a democratic, labour founded republic"). This is the incipit of the Italian Constitution, part of article 1. During the past two years of COVID pandemic, the Italian Constitution was infringed in several ways, but the most meaningful one is the imposition of the so called green pass over people who are beyond 50 years old. This restriction excludes them from public transport, most shops and, far worse, from work. In these years of health emergency, ministers and prime ministers had special powers and, usually, legislated without previous discussions in the parliament. The parliament was overridden. In the last two years Italy faced a phase of an unprecedented phase of authoritarianism since fascism. The comparison between Italy and India is motivated by the similarity between the political backlashes of the pandemic over both countries, in spite of the differences between the respective governments. India is led by the conservative right-wing BJP, while Italy is led by a national unity technical government, which combines moderate left-wing and right-wing parties, included the Northern League. In India, also Narendra Modi's government has overridden the parliament in several occasions and, in addition, it adopted very radical and unpopular steps, like very strict controls over the social media and censorship. Here also the constitution was infringed in several ways. In both countries the most affected sectors of the population are the workers: in India they have been literally abandoned in the early phases of the pandemic, while in the later phase in several Indian states reforms were introduced which meaningfully limited the workers' rights. This presentation will describe in details the constitutional violations and the limitations of the workers' rights in both countries, in order to prove how the political use of the pandemic emergency represents a serious threat to democracy. The

challenges to the hugest democracy in the world represent a useful case study to understand and interpret similar processes around the world.

CENEFELS Hugo

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Myanmar: A world of its own - An Entrepreneur's Perspective

This presentation will give an overview of the challenges in setting up and operating a business in the little known country of Myanmar; yet a country strategically located between the two most populous nations on earth: China and India.

From the humble perspective of a Le Havre Université graduate, who undertook the unlikely opportunity of starting a wine import and distribution company in a country coming out of a near five decades isolation, the presentation will highlight the hurdles and rewards of such endeavour.

Starting from general facts and figures on Myanmar, the presenter, Mr. Hugo Cenefels, will describe the market his company evolved in; the hotel & tourism industry with hands on experiences detailing the different activities; from import procedures, administrative challenges, human resources, sales, marketing, and distribution. Closing in on the recent development from the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and its ensuing effects on the Myanmar economy, to the recent internal crisis occurring putting the economic and human development perspectives on hold.

As closing remarks, Mr. Cenefels will try to offer positive perspectives for the future of the country and its gentle people.

CHANDRAN Usha

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Unveiling the Gendered Impact of Covid-19: Comparing China and India

The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact bear a critical turning point in the history of humankind, demanding a retrospect on preparedness, a relook on reality and a reset of worldview. It was realised that epidemics tend to put pressure on societies, which in turn exposes otherwise hidden patterns revealing what really matters to a population. One of the most stirring revelations was how half the population of the world is disproportionately bearing the burden of the Covid-19 crisis, reiterating the fact that whether it's a natural calamity, war, financial crisis, or a pandemic followed by a lockdown, women are disproportionately impacted therefore they have to bear the brunt of change. Since the crisis has already let the cat out of the bag, there is no scope in denying the magnanimity of gender inequalities throughout the world with some very little variations. This paper locates its argument in Social Role Theory to study women's social role and Expectation States Theory to study their secondary economic status and explore why women are unfairly affected by the crisis of pandemic and lockdown in both China and India, by drawing some parallels and differences. In order to do this, it analysis women's direct participation in the fight against Covid-19 as caregivers – their sufferings owing to majority of them being migrant workers – as well as the medical, social and economic impact of the pandemic and lockdown on women in China and India. Finally, it views these two aspects through the lens of gender stereotyping; how the pandemic and lockdown has resulted in reinforcement of gender stereotypes in both China and India. The case of China precludes that of India throughout the paper for the very reason that the pandemic originated from Wuhan in China, and it was only later that the Indian cities were also slowly Wuhanized!

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COVID Assessment and Perspective: View from the United States

Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States made clear the deep divisions in American society today. These divisions are not simply ideological – although this is a significant dimension of the divisions – but are also premised on distinct sets of "truths" that different segments of society subscribe to. This presentation will explore the vastly different policies and public responses, as well as the political challenges that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also review how American commentators regard this situation, as a reflection of the United States in the "post-truth" era.

COEN Myrienne
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The BRICS in a renewed dialogue between peoples on the common priorities of peaceful progress

International Conventions and Multilateral instruments are insufficiently effective to meet security growing challenges in the nowadays globalized world. Since the beginning of the third Millenary, neither people, nor States, neither the planet, do any more feel secure.

Globalization of all kinds of capacities, improper use of those, doubled minded pursued aims, have brought the world out of control. Lack of recognition, and of respect, of cultures are close to bring the limited planet into a clash of civilization, not only between States but also between its inhabitants and their respective governments.

The capacities of larger States and non State actors, let's only name financial and digital ones, will still higher this risk in the absence of renewed dialogue on worldwide common priorities to be by all pursued, while not overwhelming the legitimate liberties of citizens as also claimed by ONG.

An effective subsidiarity needs to be designed both to preserve the planet, to ensure equal rights and means for its inhabitants within the respect of the citizens. States, as main organizational structures, have the rights and the duties to organise the balancing of internal and external use of power to achieve those aims.

While the expectation of BRICS for a better world division of political and economic power is legitimate, soft and hard confrontational means to achieve it put the security of all at stake. While weapons have the capacity to destroy both the planet and the mankind, for the sake of the security of all, it is clear that dialogue needs to be renewed not only between but also inside all States. UN Organizations remain the main international forum, and need to be adapted to get the capacities to achieve it effectively.

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Poland during corona-crisis era

I will present quantitative and qualitative aspects of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Poland. The crisis exposes the negative effects of neoliberal health care reforms, the contradictions of human rights ideologies, as well as the phenomenon of Caesarism (A. Gramsci), which marks the transformation of liberal democracy towards authoritarianism.

COLAKOGLU Selcuk
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BRICS in the Post-Pandemic World: How Can the Grouping of Emerging Powers Find Solutions for Global Challenges?

The BRICS, a five-nation grouping consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is an alternative gathering of newly emerging and large-scale developing economies to the G7 (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States), which represents the most developed economies in the world. Members the G7 and BRICS are also represented at the G20. The pandemic since early 2020 has created a situation consisted of enormous problems and uncertainties from health issues to economic and humanitarian crisis. These challenges make countries spend more energy to handle difficulties properly. In fact, no one has a capacity to confront those new or aggravated global challenges individually. International cooperation in the age of global health and economic crisis has become imminent to diminish national and global repercussions. While the G7 tries to find solutions mostly for the Global North, BRICS emphasizes priorities for the Global South. The paper focuses the potential global solutions proposed by BRICS in the post-pandemic period and the possibility of a unified and coordinated approach between the BRICS and the G7 under the G20.

COLLOC Joël
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General laws of life - Why upset them will lead to catastrophes?

The first vocation of any living organism is to survive in a hostile environment and to ensure its metabolism (nourishment) and its sustainability (reproduction).

This work briefly recalls the laws of nature. It describes how the different categories of living organisms are linked by relations of composition, dependence, interaction and competition. It shows the constraints and identifies some adaptation mechanisms necessary for environmental survival. Humanity has taken power on earth with the help of language, science and since the 20th century industrialization.

The domination of our planet by a part of humanity is motivated by the imperative necessity of capitalist growth in order to satisfy more and more profits, ancillary needs by marketing new products and services that have often required the modification and then the patenting of molecules or living organisms, the increase of the human "transhumanist" for the benefit of a tiny part of humanity at the expense of other humans and living organisms on our planet. This work shows with some examples of sudden appearance of new pathologies how these products disturb the environment, generate new infectious agents or toxic effects that require inventing new therapies that recursively cause new disturbances.

Beyond the climatic upheavals, the impact on the fragile biological balances already have serious consequences on the planet that will lead to biological disasters and likely, in the medium term, perhaps, if we do not take care, to the disappearance of humanity.

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(no title)

This study aims to determine the impact of business strategy and human resource management on the competitiveness of small businesses owned by millennial women in

Medan City. Respondents in this study were a list of women who owned and ran businesses located in the city of Medan. In total, 77 respondents were involved in this study.

Based on the results of questionnaire data processing which was conducted by applying data quality test, descriptive statistical analysis, classical assumption test, multiple linear regression analysis, as well as F and t-test, the study shows that the variables of both business strategy and human resource management simultaneously have certain impacts on the competitiveness of small businesses owned by millennial women in Medan City. Partially, the human resource management variable shows a significant impact while the business strategy variable does not show a significant impact on the subject matter.

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Covid-19 Pandemic as a Weapon of the State against the Citizen

In 2020, as the pandemic brought the world to a standstill, the authorities, both in the developed and developing world, responded by imposing lockdowns, mandatory quarantines and social distancing measures. Simultaneously, the dismal performance of a poorly-resourced healthcare system, exposed their utter disregard for social welfare. Not only did the governments curtail the free movement of public goods and people but they also put the lives of medically vulnerable individuals at risk whose survival entirely depended on the access to healthcare facilities.

The Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben criticized the Italian government for its 'techno-medical-despotism', referring to the authoritarian response of imposing quarantines and social distancing rules. By relating the governmental response to citizen's fundamental rights, Agamben invoked irrational fears of the public, new semantics about public health and most importantly, the desire of the modern State to view everything through the prism of national security. He argued that "[i]t is almost as if with terrorism exhausted as the cause for exceptional measures, the invention of an epidemic offered the ideal pretext to uphold them beyond any limitation."

Taking Agamben's thought-provoking analysis as our point of departure, we want to ask if the pandemic provided the State with necessary pretext to expand its reach? And what about the social contract that requires the States to preserve life, liberty and property of their citizens? Thus, this paper aims to critically analyze the desire of the State to be an all-encompassing sovereign by focusing on the Indian government's actions during the first lockdown in March 2020 and the subsequent lockdowns. The objective is to test Agamben's hypothesis in the Indian context by looking at the instrumentalization of a health emergency by the State to enhance the political power in its interactions with the citizenry.

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The Evolution of Indian Media: Pandemic, Politics, People

India's battle with pandemic has been long and devastating but most importantly still not over. Media on the other hand has been a driving force in creating a mass opinion of a country of 1.3 billion people and the time of the pandemic was also not an exception. The idea of bifurcation also creates a resemblance to that of the societal divide during pandemic within Indian society. India's battle with pandemic and the crisis of migrant labour questioned the government whom to save and whom not to from the early stages of the problem. The difference between the spread of wealth, therefore, was more prominent at these trying times. But most importantly we must not ignore how the National Media played

its role to question or to help the government. The term 'Godi Media' by the NDTV journalist, Ravish Kumar, got more popular when India, on one hand, was battling the pandemic and on the other coping up with the economic downfall of the country. This paper wants to study how politics during the pandemic has been shaped by the media not only focusing on the health crisis but also on the economy as well as the elections which occurred within that time period. We also want to examine if the fourth pillar of democracy has created new ways for other independent media to come into the limelight. Lastly, we would like to research how the right-wing populist government has tackled the media to justify how it handled the country's situation.

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Covid19 as a revelation of the impasses of the "European model": the EU's results have shown that its model of "free and undistorted competition" has made it impossible to maintain its effective public health system

The almost complete silence of the Western media on the results achieved in Eastern Asia, Cuba, Venezuela, Belarus or even in sub-Saharan Africa in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic compared to the almost daily comparisons appearing on TV screens and in major newspapers and magazines with EU countries or the US is not only a sign of the "aggravated provincialism" of the Western media and elites but also of their panic in front of uncomfortable facts. All the more so as one notes that the interventions of political leaders as well as scientific advisors to European governments also carefully avoided making any systematic comparative analysis with any country or area outside European Union, except for the USA. Except, of course, when the results were catastrophic, as in Brazil or India at the beginning of the pandemic. The EU countries, with a few minor differences, have generally not managed to avoid an hecatomb and simultaneously the loss of basic civil liberties because the hospital system has not kept up with the shock, due to the absence of local clinics capable of providing a policy of prevention and daily care of the sick, because of the delay and sometimes blockage in the search for drugs and because of a policy of all RNA vaccines which in fact benefited the transatlantic "big pharma" but prevented the global pooling of all vaccines, whereas such a policy could have slowed down the appearance of new variants from the outset and undoubtedly could have helped to contain the disease. These faults are not only due to unpreparedness or incompetence, they stem from the very functioning of the current dominant system, which is out of breath and uncreative, something that had already been noticed during the recent economic crises, but which was exacerbated on the occasion of this pandemic and which thus demonstrated to the whole planet, at best, its sterility and at worst its harmfulness.

Let us note on this occasion that Western countries have, with a few nuances, the same political and social system, whereas the countries that have demonstrated more success against the pandemic may have very different systems, but they all have a few points in common, a strong social discipline, a tendency towards collectivism, and an active role of the state in the fields of economics, social life and health policies. This is worth remembering because Europe was known until the mid-1970s as the homeland of the so-called Welfare state with a strong social policy and a high quality of health care. Today, it is more likely that Eastern Asia and some non-aligned countries in Latin America are much more clearly able to rebuild a social dynamic and a health policy that aims to meet the needs of all.

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Post-Covid-19 Major Changes in Ecology: will it lead to a common future?

Regardless of the origin and epidemiology of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the relevance to ecology has to do with how humans continue to interact with the natural environment. China's decision to ban the trade and consumption of terrestrial wild animals as a direct response to the pandemic was not simply about safeguarding human health but also provided implications on the illegal wildlife trade and protecting threatened species. Global lockdowns resulted in a reduction in the normal vigilance by the relevant authorities and organizations, and an increase in deforestation and poaching. The pandemic resulted in an increase of take away services, home deliveries, sanitation protocols and individualized packaging which caused an increase in plastic use for wrapping and packages, gloves, and face shields which oftentimes ended up in the water ways exacerbating the marine plastics problem. Lessons learned from this current pandemic will be essential to better prepare for future ones and handle them in a more environmentally friendly way. It also brings to the fore the importance of One Health since we interact with the environment through our diet. Our expansionist agenda is bringing us closer to wildlife increasing human-wildlife conflict and making us more vulnerable to viruses. From an ecological perspective, there is little optimism about whether the COVID19 pandemic will lead to a common future. This is so because of the disparity in COVID19 vaccine distribution, the discriminatorily imposed entry requirements and the bad record the world leaders has in relation to combatting climate change and slowing global warming rates. Nevertheless, should we manage to put a damper on the wildlife trade, be more aware of the effects our developmental plans have on the environment, and push ahead to reduce plastics use, this would be a good start to forging a common future from an ecological perspective.

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The Malaysian and Indonesian automotive industry, origins, perspectives, innovations and development

What strategy have Indonesia and Malaysia chosen for the development of their automotive industry? How are these two countries positioned in the electric and hybrid vehicle sector? How has their automotive industry developed in terms of sales, production and exports. This study is based on key historical data and events in the development of the Indonesian and Malaysian automotive industries.

The development of a domestic car industry is an excellent way to understand the mindset and relevance of a country's policy decisions in this regard. The automotive industry is generally seen as a symbol of economic prosperity and positive human development index due to the freedom and empowerment that cars provide to a country's citizens.

From the American origins of the Southeast Asian automobile, through national revolutions and declarations of independence, to the development of green vehicles, this report highlights the adaptations and strategic choices of both countries. A synthesis of several studies by international economists such as Shakila Yacob, Jomo Kwame Sundaram or Richard F Doner was also mobilised in order to provide a purely factual view of the economic relevance of the strategies employed. In addition to economic decisions, political decisions made by the historical leaders of Indonesia and Malaysia will also be gathered, as they have generally had a considerable impact on the development of their respective automotive industries.

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Establishing a Franco-Chinese company to import European vehicles into China

Due to the recent covid-19 pandemic and the chip shortage, the Chinese used car market is booming. China, a country known for its self-sufficiency, is about to open its domestic market to the world.

By opening up its market, China is also opening up to foreign cultures, including foreign car culture. Recent studies have shown a growing interest among Chinese consumers for classic, cult and unique European cars.

Following this logic, how to meet the demand for unique European cars in China, how to choose which vehicle to import and how to establish yourself in China as a legal and sustainable business?

To answer this question, we had to look at various social and economic studies to better understand how China reacts to the demand for used cars. In addition, we had to learn about the definition of a vehicle of interest and what is relevant to car enthusiasts and non-enthusiasts in China. Finally, we had to find out about Chinese legislation on the import and export of used vehicles and the establishment of foreign companies on Chinese soil.

Our main observation is that Chinese consumers are starting to be interested in unique European cars, but the typical Chinese consumer is looking for quality, reliability and aesthetics. Following this point, we have to combine attractiveness with quality and reliability if we want to penetrate the Chinese market.

In conclusion, China is a very special market. Its consumers react to different elements than Western consumers and we have to adapt our strategy to these elements to accurately meet the demand and establish a sustainable Franco-Chinese business.

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Digitalization of the economy and the green course: the main threats of implementation for humanity

The digitalization of the economy, along with the green course, is considered among transnational political and intellectual elites as a panacea for the global socio-economic crisis in which the modern capitalist world economy is located. At the same time, the process of digitalization of the economy becomes a prerequisite for the implementation of the strategies of the Biden administration, Brussels and international organizations to achieve the goals of the green course to create a carbon-neutral economy and a closed-loop economy. However, the current development of the processes of digitalization of the economy is not aimed at improving the efficiency of the distribution of public goods in society and solving environmental problems, but only represents a change in the environment of interaction between economic agents, the introduction of electronic document management, the use of big data for narrow purposes of companies and uncoordinated areas of public policy. At the same time, the monetary instruments of the green exchange rate also do not represent mechanisms that can save humanity from an increase in the level of environmental pollution.

This article proposes an alternative strategy of digitalization aimed at a more efficient allocation of economic resources based on the principles of economic cybernetics and the introduction of artificial intelligence technology within the framework of cost and output coordination of economic agents in order to ensure proportional socio-economic development, the founder of which is the Soviet economist Nikolai Veduta.

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The development trend of China's digital economy in the post-epidemic era

The growing threat of COVID-19 as a global crisis is forcing governments of all countries to develop anti-crisis measures. The digital economy based on the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence and other new generation information technologies plays an irreplaceable role in preventing and combating epidemics, stabilizing economic growth, stimulating consumption, maintaining people's living standards and increasing the capacity of public administration. Currently, China has made outstanding progress in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic and is gradually entering a "post-epidemic period." This article takes the "post-epidemic period" as a background for the study, and explains the current development of China's digital economy and briefly analyzes future development trends in the context of China's 14th Five-Year Plan and 2035 Vision. The study presents a new theoretical perspective on the development of the national digital economy in the "post-epidemic period".

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The Pedulilindungi Application: An Overview of Digital Society by Kurt Lewin

Covid-19 has brought changes to Indonesian society including the implementation of a digital application platform namely the *Pedulilindungi*. This apps carried out pros and cons since its premiere on April 2020. This condition has led changes into the overview of Indonesia digital society and became a new normal. This study aims to find out whether the Indonesian people are ready for changes in digital adaptation behaviour through the *Pedulilindungi* application even though it has a series of shortcomings that still leave a trail of dilemmas in terms of its use and benefits due to Covid-19. The method that used for this study is descriptive qualitative study by using the theory of Kurt Lewin and data collection such as textbooks, virtual resources and internet access. According to Kurt Lewin, the new normal is directly proportional to the process of change by associating them with the stages of change in Lewin's theory: unfreezing, changing/moving, and refreezing.

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India's interests in Africa

This presentation questions the postulate of the increasing interests of India in the Maghreb. Indeed, many African countries, Nigeria, Angola, Libya... etc. to a lesser extent, seem to have attracted the attention of India in the last two decades because of their abundant natural resources and strategic assets, especially petrol. These countries are well endowed with large oil and gas reserves as well as mining riches such as bauxite, chrome, uranium, helium.

India's interests in the Maghreb go back to the 1950s when this country declared its support to the liberation movements against western colonialism in Africa and called for the increase of South-South solidarity and cooperation during the Afro-Asian conference that was convened in Bandung, Indonesia in April 1955.

After the end of the Cold War and the emergence of India as a world power, the interests of this country in Africa have grown thanks to a combination of many factors such as: demographic boom of this Asian power, its growing trade capabilities, search for markets shares, particularly in Africa which represents more than a billion of potential consumers as

well as the need of Delhi for energy supplies. Indeed, India imported more than 14% of its energy from Africa.

However, the Indian presence in Africa is challenged by the links of the countries of this region with their former colonial powers (France, United Kingdom and Italy), as well as by the substantial economic presence of China in Africa. Indeed, China has been regarded as one of the major partners and investors in Africa, overwhelmingly exceeding India's interests.

This presentation will scrutinize the reality of India's relations with Africa continent and the reasons behind this country's interests in Africa. It will see also if India has really developed a strategy interest in these countries and what are the challenges the Asian power may face in Africa.

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Women as Migrants in India's Growing Economy and Impact of COVID 19

This paper will discuss the issue of women's migration in India in the background of the COVID 19 crisis. Thousands of women migrants whose work places were closed down had to return home walking thousands of kilometres across the country. The most powerful images of the exodus were of women with headloads, without footwear and bleeding feet, and of a woman dead on a platform with a child trying to wake her. These visuals briefly turned the gaze on to a hitherto unrecognised reality: the existence of millions of internal women migrants – homeless, invisible, and unrecognised, on whose intense labour the story of India's double-digit growth has for long been written. The presentation will discuss the human rights implications of those graphic visuals and based on it two questions will be posed. The first is, health – the range of concerns around the right to health generally, and policies for the containment and treatment of COVID-19-affected persons. The second set of women questions pertain to our understanding of the intersections of caste, community, tribe, and class, each intersecting with gender. At a political moment that sees a stark rise in violence and dispossession against marginalised groups, and a rise in violence against women how did the pandemic-lockdown impact concerns of human security informed by gender?

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Covid Crisis Management in North Africa

Long before the advent of Covid in March 2020 the North African region has been suffering from long-term structural challenges – low GDP, poor participation in the global value chain, low employment, rising debts, large informal sector with the ensuing poverty, inequality and social instability, amplified in some cases by armed conflicts (Libya). These impediments were only magnified and intensified by the pandemic. The effects of Covid, which differed across countries, exposed the vulnerabilities (and strengths) of each country and finished to establish the region's diverse social, economic and political make-up. My brief presentation will focus on the various governments' approaches to the "health emergency", how each country went about controlling the pandemic and the factors which made for the success or failure of the crisis management, so far. For, the pandemic is not over and its socio-economic consequences are enduring and will be long-lasting!

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Can Trade alleviate Poverty: Evidence from BRICS countries

BRICS countries differ in social indicators with substantial disparities (Iqbal, Rahman, & Hasan, 2019). Among social indicators, poverty is one that needs special attention. Though, BRICS countries have shown tremendous improvement in absolute poverty indicators, the figures are still behind the global average (Rahman et al., 2021). In terms of relative poverty, the problem persists, invariably (Bhagwati, & Srinivasan, 2002). As a multilateral organization aiming to reform the international economic system, BRICS countries have been targeting regional and international trade policies, minimizing the discrimination by developed countries. There are early evidences of linkages between trade and poverty (Fauzel, 2020; Winters, 2000). BRICS policies for trade and poverty will be examined in the study while comparing it with G20 policies. However, the study will only focus on evidences from BRICS countries. The study will also delve into the lessons to be learnt by G20 countries from the progressive policies of BRICS. The study will be causal with the application of Granger causality along with panel regression for hypothesis testing.

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Neo ruralization: a sustainable plan to meet urban and rural challenges

For a period in our history, a better future lay in migration to the cities, just as agriculture dominated the world economy. However, the only constant in our world is change and this is no longer true. The belief that a better future lies in cities and, moreover, that cities are the future of humanity, as argued by the United Nations, has perpetuated the myth and encouraged unsustainable migration to cities. Moreover, this discourse has degraded the lives of many migrant families, who have made the internal journey from rural populations to their overburdened urban ecosystems. Today, 1 billion people who migrated to cities live in urban areas in conditions of poverty and limited social development. There have been examples of sustainable migration to cities in the past, while most cities today cannot accommodate further migration. And, before pandemics, 6 million people per week migrated to urban overcrowded areas. Many migrants have risked their lives and others have lost their own or their family members. And yet, discourses on solutions focus on outdated examples of sustainable migration, and fail to point out that these flows were not at their breaking point. The burden on transportation, housing and social systems can overwhelm these services. It is important to consider what is the best solution today for today's problems. There is no solution in cities if overpopulation is not addressed, as overpopulation will always bring socio-economic problems. We must assume that demographic imbalance and overpopulation in cities is a factor that collapses any system. And instead of ruminating on solutions within cities, we must adopt new models, such as neo-ruralization. We can harness the potential of technology to decentralize cities and balance population distribution, thus promoting sustainable development and peace. We can foster a socioeconomic revitalization of rural villages that goes beyond agribusiness. We can co-create healthy ecosystems that coexist on our planet.

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Post-Covid geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: Implications for India

Post-covid geo-political and geo-economic developments have accentuated the transformation of Indo-Pacific as the most vital strategic theater in world politics. Though basically a nontraditional security challenge, Covid-19 has become the cause of immense strategic shifts – with some analysts connoting the inception of a new world order centered around the Indo-Pacific. In addition to intensifying the systemic rivalry between China and the United States, the current developments have punctuated the role of middle level powers like India, Australia and Japan in the broader geopolitical context of the region. China's hawkish behaviour in the region, both in the oceanic and terrestrial fronts, is indicative of the changing security dynamics of the region. The reinvigoration of the QUAD with the addition of "Quad plus" that includes New Zealand, South Korea, and Vietnam is indicative of more focused and purposive alignments against China. The formation of a new trilateral security partnership-AUKUS (Australia-U.K.-U.S) further cements the rivalrous formations in the region. The increasingly conflictual relationship between India and China especially at its terrestrial borders underscores the strategic importance of India's alignments with US and its allies. Obviously, the post-covid context provides fresh momentum to India's engagement in the Indo-Pacific in both traditional and nontraditional security realms. This paper examines, changing dynamics of the Indo-Pacific and India's engagement with the region and its ramifications.

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The Context and Meaning of BRICS for the Sino-Indian Rivalry: a Neo-Kautilyan Account

Much of western understanding of international politics / IR is based on readings of such classics as Peloponnesian War, The Prince and Leviathan. Yet, by examining other analogous classics from other parts of the world, we can benefit from the accumulated knowledge of distinct cultural and historical contexts. This is what the Neo-Kautilyan Perspective attempts to do. Building on an ancient Indian Classic Political Theory, Kautilya's Arthashastra, it responds to the acclaimed contextual biases of the so called Western International Relations. It thus contributes for a comprehensive and pluralistic approach to Realism from within the emerging debate of Global International Relations.

This paper employs a Neo-Kautilyan perspective to conceptualize IR dynamics in the context of the Rise of Asia and the power shift from the Transatlantic to the Indo-Pacific. In this context, its particular focus is on the Sino-Indian rivalry and the meaning of the BRICS cooperation for it. It considers BRICS as a case of the neo-Kautilyan constellation of foreign policy dynamics and thus offers a competing model for the Hobbesian thesis of international anarchy.

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K-quarantine

During the semi-lock-down phase in March 2020 when the opening of the school was suspended, I was alarmed at the speed of the spread of the COVID-19 cases as much as the inundation of emergency text messages sent by the central Disaster Relief Center. The entanglement of rapid virus infection and media virality permeates the membrane of the human body and the social at full speed. The present government apparatus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in particular, must have learned a lesson from the previous

government's failure coping with disasters like MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and Sewol Ferry disaster which contributed to the impeachment of the former president.

When South Korea was struck by the outbreak of the coronavirus, the general election was on the horizon. On the National Assembly Election Day (15 April 2020) during the epidemic, many voters turned up with face masks. It was not a short queue, but voters patiently waited. The voters had their temperature taken and wore plastic gloves to cast their ballot. The election results were favorable for the ruling party. It won in a landslide.

The government tries to take the COVID-19 crisis as a perilous platform consolidating hegemony. The COVID-19 is a catastrophe, literally overturning the oppositional conservative power in the national assembly. I argued elsewhere that the modern South Korean society spanning from Korean War to the IMF crisis and from the candlelight vigil to impeachment is driven and sustained by states of emergency entangled with states of fantasy in which popular culture like K-pop and Korean cinema are precisely produced in this captivity and captivation (Kim S. 2013).

"K-quarantine" spurred on by the coronavirus crisis is pushed for global recognition as usual, but the enmeshment is less intense this time when the economic growth and development are in check and the government tries to deal with the emergency on both local and global, domestic, and international levels. The following illustrates it: The Korean government will submit 18 different measures for testing, tracing, and treating the COVID-19 outbreak to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as it works to promote the "K-quarantine" response model ... The Korean government hopes to propose all 18 measures to the ISO, one by one, through 2022. By enhancing Korea's global reputation and branding itself as a "developed nation in the realm of preventing the spread of infectious diseases," Hong said he hopes to see the ISO's approval help Korean companies make new forays into the overseas market ... Local government officials said Thursday that the nation's drive-thru and walk-through systems are already in the first among six stages in the ISO process to be recognized as an international standard.

Given South Korea's state-of-emergency mode, it is rather extraordinary that the crisis is neither suppressed nor exaggerated but moderated although it might be somewhat excessive with the pervasiveness of surveillance technology. Contagion has been contained and controlled by the state apparatus quite effectively until August 2020

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Post-contact zones: Covid-19

The new imprint of COVID-19 is found in everyday life. With increasingly excessive virality, without face to face encounters, within social distancing, one comes across the notion of "untact zone" countering contamination but bracketing the contact zone and the critical zone at the horizon of Anthropocene. The contact zone is a well-known concept proposed by Mary Louise Pratt. Noting the postcolonial critical endeavour attentive to archival materials, she throws Guaman Poma's letter into a relief and locates it in "contact zones", social spaces where disparate cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other, often in highly asymmetrical relations of domination and subordination — like colonialism, slavery, or their aftermaths as they are lived out across the globe today". When the elastic boundaries of contact zones are unsustainable at the moment and the travel writing is limited, it will be useful to take a look at the critical appropriation of contact zone

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The Covid-19 epidemic and its main consequences to Southeast Asia: the cases of Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam

As in other parts of the world, over the past two years the coronavirus epidemic has caused a serious health crisis in Southeast Asia, while the long-term economic and social consequences should be kept in mind as well. Of course, the countries of the region have not been equally affected by the pandemic, and there are significant differences in the way the pandemic has unfolded, how the governments have responded, and the epidemic has been managed. As most countries of the region were still facing a very serious situation in autumn 2021, a comprehensive analysis of the course of the epidemic and, above all, the consequences, can be far from complete, though the main conclusions can be drawn.

The aim of this presentation is to take an interdisciplinary approach, to present the details of the cases of the three most populous ASEAN states, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, and to compare the lessons learned from the epidemic management strategies of these countries, while also highlighting the complex situation in the region as a whole. Given the different political, economic and social contexts, the response of the above-mentioned countries deserves special attention, in particular also considering the global geopolitical role of ASEAN countries in the post-pandemic era. The presentation pays emphasized attention to key government decisions, trends in economic indicators, social reactions, as well as foreign and domestic policy implications. The positive and negative experiences may also serve as lessons for European countries in the future, and they are therefore worth to explore.

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Gender inclusion and Special Economic Zones (SEZs): contextualizing Sino-African project sustainability amidst the fourth industrial tech-revolution.

Renewed emphasis on SEZs as engines of cross-border trade amidst the fourth industrial revolution has given rise to the UN's SEZ development ladder through to tech-zone concept — yet an associated fetishization of tech-zone growth has jarred uncomfortably with Silicon Valley's sexism and racism over the 2010s. This analysis locates resumption of SEZ investment strategy, paused during the anti-sweat shop labor movement, to Robert Zoellick's East Asian neo-liberal reform agenda (Zoellick was US Deputy Secretary of State and Trade Envoy under George W. Bush, then World Bank President 2007-2012). It contextualizes the historical, policy, and theoretic underpinnings of the SEZ-investment-policy sustainable-development nexus, laying groundwork for further research into how Zoellick era Sino-African project synergies might be leveraged to enhance female inclusion. The analysis loosely aligns to the Conjunctural Analytic Framework, or CAF.

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COVID 19 as an accelerator of the crisis of our world

We will begin by examining the three main possible origins of COVID (disturbance of ecological equilibrium, accidental leak from laboratory, leak in purpose).

The epidemic has strained international relations and led to a war of vaccines, of masks etc. and to mutual accusations. It has contributed to the intensification of the debt problem and to the destruction of the world supply chain and it had had a paralyzing effect concerning Western social movements, for example the Yellow Vests and other social movements in France.

The Far Right has invested massively in attacking every measure for the protection of public health and in spreading irrational conspiracy theories and anti-China propaganda. It has arisen a situation where the Far Right has confiscated, "abducted" a lot of the justified and necessary contestation of the establishment to turn it into a contestation of reason and of science and, ultimately, of the possibility of societies to govern themselves, well serving the purpose of turning people into an amorphous mass ready to be used by neo-Fascist demagogues. Thus, the Far Right has used the covid crisis to prepare itself for the catastrophic global counter-revolution is it prepering.

The COVID crisis is probably only one of a series of new types of crises (technological, ecological) which will come to be added to the classic ones (geopolitical, economical). It underlines the imperative of international cooperation and of deep systemic transformation for Mankind to be able to survive the enormous threats it is facing. It underlines the extremely important and urgent need for a transition program to begin the necessary deep transformation of the world system and the formation of an intellectual, political and scientific avantgarde which will try to help forming a global alliance to fulfill this gigantic task.

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Chinese Virus (Covid-19) and Global Politics

The spread of Chinese Virus in different corners of the world following its inception in Wuhan Province of the country has severely impacted the global politics, with first case appearing in China in November 2019. But Politburo Standing Committee's harsh stand towards the cause made it the problem of all human civilization. The virus impacted each and every human being without any discrimination in terms of any national boundary, race, caste, ethnicity, color or religion. The Chinese handling of the Sars Corona virus with its subsequent desires to weaponize the virus following rivalry with USA has brought the world to near its end. The role played by the virus impacted all governments that battled the virus. Moreover, its impact raised the question mark against the efficiency of various world Organizations especially WHO. Following the pandemic countries such as Italy and Serbia even raised question over the relevance of European Union. Despite all this, the global politics witnessed a setback since USA blamed Beijing for this pandemic which raised the aggressive rhetoric's between both the countries that had huge risk to the global security since both are powerful countries. Alarms were also raised soon after the Chinese aggression over the Indian borders following the Indian support to the resolution of World Health Assembly to find out the origin of the virus. Countries also witnessed Chinese initiation of wedging strategy. Following the pandemic China opted aggressive strategy in the neighborhood against the countries which were in the forefront of pandemic. Many of these states did not have a proper strategy to counter the danger posed by virus; manufactured in labs of Wuhan provinces. The proposed paper seeks to outline the role of China in the emergence and rise of Covid-19 pandemic. While analysing this it would also analyse Beijing's aggressive behavior in the neighborhood.

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The Trigger of the Pandemic and Capital-Climate Dissonance: Forging the Road Ahead

The way we understand the world that we inhabit has changed drastically under the pandemic, as it unified the world in its effect. This new lens has not only helped start new conversations but has also enabled us to perceive old conflicts differently. The capital-climate

dissonance is not an issue unheard of heretofore but has regained steam recently. This paper, thus, seeks to understand this dissonance in the context of COVID-19. It initially seeks to answer questions like whether the pandemic made us realise our priorities; how it has impacted the environment and the way we think about it; and how it has affected the current discourse of climate change.

Since times immemorial, capital's relationship with the environment has been imperialistic and centred around accumulation. Due to this, competition is an inherent part of capitalism. However, as Harris points out, competition, which is amplified during periods of crisis, plays an inherently destructive role herein. As retaining profit during recession is difficult, more competition leads to more environmentally harmful practices. The pandemic being the proof of Harris's theory, this paper seeks to evaluate the viability of the two possible solutions advocated to deal with this dissonance, namely, Green Capitalism and Ecosocialism. This paper seeks to understand whether capitalism with a human face is a meaningful choice or merely a gimmick; whether ecosocialism is a utopian ideal or a necessity, using Polanyi and McBrien's observations; and the need to explore the expressions of post-capitalist ambitions (as advocated by Goldstein).

The dream of a post-capitalist world, where the capital-climate dissonance has reached a resolution, might still be out of reach; nonetheless, the pandemic has pushed us to move in that direction.

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The Politics of Human Rights in North-South Relations: A Case Study of the EU-ASEAN Relations

The divide between the global North and South, is not just in terms of development and wealth, but also of norms and principles. The North constantly promotes certain norms internationally, Human Rights (HR) being one of them. This study aims to find out just how effective such norms promotion is using the case study of the EU and ASEAN, who are perfect representations of the North and the South respectively. Having analyzed the human rights dimension of their relations from the vantage point of the Cold War, its end, September 9/11 attacks and in the last decade, the paper concludes that the human rights promotion by the global North is common but not consistent. Instead, it is contingent upon changing international context, domestic developments, and most importantly, national interest of the member states. It is important that the global HR order is made more inclusive and plural with representation from different regions like Asia, Africa, and Latin America. A claim for such representation has already been made by ASEAN which gets manifested in its relations with the EU.

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The BRICS China's Chairmanship 2022 and the Global South Cooperation

The coming of China's chairmanship in the BRICS grouping in 2022 is likely to provide a fresh impulse to the BRICS+ initiative that was launched during the Xiamen summit in 2017. A lot has changed in the course of this 5-year period and, if anything, these developments have reinforced the need for BRICS countries to reach out to the Global South economies and to advance their vision of a more balanced global governance. The various modalities of the BRICS+ framework discussed in the preceding years increasingly point to the relevance of a regional approach that prioritizes greater cooperation between regional integration

arrangements where BRICS economies are members as well as their respective regional development institutions.

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Living with Covid from/and China: A Taiwanese Immigrant on Endgames

To turn on its head the opening to *The Remains of the Day* (1989), it seems increasingly unlikely that I will undertake the expedition back home, Taiwan, after my imminent retirement from nearly half a century of service in US universities. If the American Century ended abruptly with September 11, 2001, then the Chinese Century rose with its Godsend or China-send of Covid-19. Without Covid from/and China, I can conceive of a comfortable endgame in withdrawing to Taipei to contribute my surplus value after a lifetime in US academe, helping to train in whichever form possible the next generation of Taiwan scholars. The good thing about intellectual labor is that, unlike physical labor, one continues to work until one drops or goes senile. If I were deemed irrelevant to Taiwan, even a nonentity by some Taiwanese colleagues, I can at least witness "who's in, who's out" from afar, at a remote mountain village in northern Taiwan and a safe distance from Trumpian anti-Asian xenophobia and Taiwan's anti-mainlander ethnic essentialism. Admittedly, this is no sentimental "old soldiers" fading away; General MacArthur's white privilege I have not. Such an endgame, however, manages to dodge the fade in of the horror over Taiwan coastal blockade, telecommunication and power grids hacking, war planes, and, eventually, the PLA landing crafts. Such a doomsday scenario has long been foreshadowed by cross-strait incursions. The Taiwan Strait and the surrounding ocean constitute the island nation's skin, into which Chinese fighter jets, warships, and even long-range missiles have made constant sorties with impunity under the pretense of Taiwan being an indivisible part of the "motherland." Concurrent with the hardware and software intrusions, Covid-19 from Wuhan, China, takes point for the surgical phalanx in the coming "unification" of China. The skin of the shoreline is to be skinned; Taiwan is to be flayed, turned inside out, like Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Given Taiwan's history as what Wu Zhuoliu terms *The Orphan of Asia* (1946), given its repeated adoptions and abandonments by various colonial masters, how does the island foundling find its own identity by founding a safe space amid precarity? Getting personal, contrary to a lifetime of scholarly protocol, is the first step to breathe new life into a retiree-to-be's endgame, or into the fish of an island gasping for air, as foul as it is with airborne viruses of SARS, avian flu, Covid, and more to come. There is no other way out of this Taiwan problem, where private survival and collective consciousness, life of Taiwanese culture and its passing, interweave into a net. To be caught in it, just as catching Covid originated in the hotbed of southern China, flips discursively herein into catching China in its cover-up of a homemade pathogen and its sleight of hand of neocolonial hubris.

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COVID-19 in Indonesia: Preventive Measures and The Impacts

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. In Indonesia within two months, the virus has spread to 496 districts in 34 provinces. Then, the government adopts and implements Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) as WHO guideline to prevent COVID-19. The government has done some efforts to break the COVID-19 transmission chain, especially by establishing the social distancing protocols such as PSBB (Large Scale Social Distancing), PPKM (Restrictions on

Community Activities), PPKM Mikro (Micro PPKM). Because of the preventive measures, plenty of businesses had to lay off their employee, and thereafter followed by a looser scheme of social distancing which was named PPKM Micro, where lockdowns were implemented per 'Rukun Tetangga' (smallest part of the neighborhood unit in Indonesia).

The COVID-19 pandemic, besides giving an adverse effect on all sectors of living, also has a positive impact for human lives in a variety of sectors such as the development of online shopping, long distanced health consultation services (telehealth or telemedicine). Given the large population, the availability of large numbers of diagnostic test, drugs, and vaccines becomes a must. This is what awakens the public that Indonesia does not always have to depend on other countries and take a role to realize 'global health'. Since the beginning of the pandemics, research institutions and universities have collaborated in the research to overcome COVID-19 such as synergies carried out by UNAIR, UGM, and Hepatika in creating rapid tests for COVID-19. Furthermore, UNAIR became a leader in the Merah Putih Vaccine development team and conducted drug development research. At the global level, collaboration among universities in Indonesia and in ASEAN in organizing an international webinar namely International Teleconference on Technology and Policy for Supporting Implementation of COVID-19 Recovery Plan in Southeast Asia.

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Human Cloning and Genetic Editing

The Global science brings constant challenges to the law, be it national or international, as it exposes the fractures that the legal building often has, transcending the current omissions of the international legal community.

The speed of changes in the technological society translates into the acceleration of time and the destruction of the current ethical limits of human rights, transforming customs, attitudes, ways of life and the very ontological essence of what is a human being.

The theme that permeates all the interfaces between different fields of knowledge and possesses almost infinite potentialities for the progress of human society or its failure is human cloning.

The constant interactions between reality and science fiction comes true with the complete mastery of human DNA mapping technology, with almost daily evolutions in the possibilities of organ cloning, 3D tissue printing, artificial blood and the total cloning of a human being for a variety of uses.

These new frontiers of human knowledge transform the very identity of the human being, generating legal controversies that range from healing to a range of diseases to the possibility of the individual identity of the cloned being and its legal and philosophical implications. The concrete possibility of new forms and methods of organ, animal and human cloning should be at the center of the international community's concern, given its high destructive potential, already widely covered in different movies, books and science-fiction stories.

Reality gives way to fiction, and the possibility of a cloned human being already exists is very high, since there is no legal binding discipline on the subject. There is no international treaty that prohibits, in a compulsory and global way, the cloning of the human being for any purpose.

The absence of such international norms produces a highly dangerous limbo for the development and full respect for human rights already embodied in history and reproduced in what is understood as IUS COGEM in International Law. This hole opens a real portal for unimaginable cloning experiences involving animals, humans, plants or any other element that can penetrate the scientist's creativity.

The performance of large economic conglomerates, monopoly companies and even governments, outline the gloomy picture that international society currently lives, without knowing what its fate will be in the next few years. The extreme speed of technological change requires urgent treatment for this issue, with the resumption of a global negotiation for an International Treaty aimed at human cloning.

In this way, this work traces the problems related to human cloning, personal identity and personality, bringing to light the urgent need for a new international discipline, occupying the current normative vacuum on the subject.

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Experiences from Serbia and the region of South-Eastern Europe

Pandemic effects in Serbia had a slow start but eventually took its claims. Geographically located at the terrestrial crossroads and being an air-traffic hub and accordingly deeply interconnected with its neighbours, but also far located countries, Serbia experienced some unavoidable costs, and by government introduced different measures, with diverse bonuses and painful consequences all mixed together. As one of a few countries that could offer all major available vaccines, which also remained open towards the world for the whole period of the pandemic, Serbia offered visitors free vaccination with the desired vaccine and later introduced "vaccine tourism". Like others in the region, left alone by the EU at the beginning of the pandemic, Serbia managed to equip its public health system with protective equipment, ventilators, drugs and other necessities and even built several Covid-focused new hospitals.

Relying on cooperative countries and corporations from the East and the West, Serbia even managed, to some extent, to buffer the economic impact of the pandemic with the second biggest GDP growth in 2021 in Europe by introducing government support to businesses and individuals, as well as by relatively strong FDI, and expending agriculture export. The public remained sensitive to anti-covid restrictive measures and expressed both: discipline and irresponsibility, mostly depending on the generation in question.

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Covid-19 in India: Challenges, Responses and Lessons

The Indian story of coping with the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic, in Asian and global perspective illustrated not only the crisis of the unfolding development experience of the so-called fourth Industrial Revolution worldwide, but its all-encompassing consequences causing massive sufferings of the marginalized, especially workers, women, children and the minorities and the way the ruling elites had used modern technology (AI etc.) to carry on with their agenda.

Challenges

1. Health challenge
2. Economic challenge
3. Political challenge

Responses

The responses of the regime to the crisis had two diverse streams. One was to unite with the provincial governments to make the Covid responses such as lockdowns, treatment and

vaccinations work. The other was to carry forward its neoliberal agenda of economic reforms such as largescale privatization of public enterprises and enacting Farm Laws and Labour Codes to facilitate corporate expansion and BJP's political agenda of consolidating its electoral base on the Hindutva platform. But India's people's movements which stood by the farmers and launched many campaigns to defend rights of the marginalized pointed out throughout this period that Covid-19 was yet another result of a development process that caused destruction of nature, generated social inequalities and created much alienation leading to outbreaks of violence and social tensions.

Lesson

The greatest lesson from Covid-19 for India and the world is perhaps to comprehend why the global elite is determined to pursue the path of techno-capitalist development despite such shocks as from the manifold losses during Covid-19 which caused havoc in the developed countries as well as developing countries. For the Bandung community this lesson has to be analysed in-depth.

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Notes on demography and pandemic

The actual COVID 19 pandemic has been taking the general attention in the last two years, and the overall debate of the global scenario and sustainable development faded. In fact many other factors are to be considered to foresee what can be expected in the next future. Surely demography is a main element to take in account, together with the huge migration flows that are ongoing all around the world in the last decades.

Also if the growth of global population is now slower, a peak will be reached in the 2060 about, for then stabilize and perhaps decrease. mainly due to a lower fertility rate, the trends are different in the continents. Meanwhile we will assist a decrease in Europe, Oceania and other developed countries, and a stand-by in Latin America and some Asian, as China, a real demographic explosion is expected in sub-Saharan Africa, whose population will have doubled by 2050.

To these phenomena, that are not substantially affected by the pandemic, and will continue if there are not some unexpected catastrophes, have to be added the huge migration flows that are moving millions of persons from marginal areas and poorest countries to other continents, determining further changes in the local demographic structures. Most of global population is expected to be urbanized, and also the migrant flows are concentrated into the big metropolitan areas, mostly of Asia and Africa, living in significant quota in slums or precarious settlements with a unacceptable quality of life. Therefore, is necessary a profound shift of global vision and change in the global model to maintain as much as possible population in their native areas, and mitigate the urbanization process, issues that will be deepened in the ecology session.

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Changing Perspectives of Post-Pandemic Urban Development

Resuming the considerations expressed in the previous Conferences I underline the necessary change of the actual paradigma. After another year of confinement, curfews, travel restrictions, and limitations applied all around the globe, the impacts of the pandemic are more profound of what then supposed, determining relevant and permanent shifts in

many sectors of activities and social behaviors. While in 2021 the emergency seemed to be over after a few months and was considered a transitory phenomenon, the persistence of the health crisis and the forecasts of further pandemic waves globally, not yet fully predictable, now a whole series of life behaviors is bound to change irreversibly. The habits and rhythms of daily life are substantially changing, giving back the centrality to the quality of housing, to the proximity of basic services and above all to the accessibility to connectivity networks, fundamental element for the development of every activity, both working and private ones. These changes, in my opinion, are destined to remain even after the Covid 19 emergency. The pandemic has shown how vulnerable the metropolitan areas are to contagion, and there is a unique opportunity to reduce territorial inequalities, taking into account the closer interrelation between urban settlements and natural environment. But still the discussions are mostly focused on "smart cities, compact cities" as the best future option, little attention to the negative environmental impacts! Must instead start a process of profound change in the urbanization and settlement schemes, as part of a wider radical review of the existing obsolete and imposed financial, economic and social sectors. This shift towards a new urban development model can be promoted and applied especially in the emerging countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In fact this new approach is in line with the NAM principles, more valid in the actual fast changing context, and can define a "post" pandemic shared sustainable development model, based on values centered on the people.

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The BRICS countries' social and cultural exchange in the post-pandemic world

The pandemic has forced geopolitical shifts at the domestic and global levels that are reshaping the current world order. One of the most predictable changes includes the increasing role of the BRICS countries at setting the agenda in official institutions, like the United Nations, and informal ones, like the various "G-summits," where global issues are discussed. Therefore, looking for common interests within the BRICS group is getting more important as well as expanding the cooperation in all strategic areas. This report deals with issues concerning social and cultural exchange within BRICS countries and the potential of its expansion. What are the advantages of multilateral scientific and technical cooperation within BRICS countries in comparison to bilateral track? What measures can be taken by the member countries to enhance their soft power in the international arena? Are there synergy effects of combining efforts in the promotion of common interests and values? The authors of the report pursue to find answers on these questions and offer numerous perspectives on the potential of deepening social and cultural cooperation between Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

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Venture Capital in South-East Asia

Based on her experience in Quest Ventures - a Singapore-based VC firm, Michelle Ng will cover the startup ecosystem in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Additionally, she would present the current Investment landscape and priority sectors for venture capital (VCs). There will also be a focus on global macro changes and what we can look forward to in 2022.

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Mechanization Analysis and Industrialization in Africa and South-Eastern Asia, 1970-2020

This work discusses industrialization process in South East Asia and Africa. Contrary to Bandung Spirit that is the industrialization in the region, South East Asia and Africa have experienced slow industrialization process compared with other regions such as China, Japan, and South Korea. By employing economic approaches that includes the ratio of capital to employment, this work uses the notion of mechanization to ensure the degree of industrialization process in the areas. As observed, although most regions experience deindustrialization, the trajectory between regions are different. The analysis is divided into growth rate at aggregate level, growth rate at sectoral level, and mechanization analysis. The analysis in Africa is applied into northern Africa, eastern Africa, middle Africa, and southern Africa. Data shows that while growth rate is observed in eastern Africa, western, and middle Africa, it has declined in northern and southern Africa, and also south-eastern Asia. As for sectoral analysis, data demonstrates that all regions are dominated by primary and services industry except in eastern Africa, where secondary industry has sharply increased. Sharp fluctuation in primary industry is recognized in south eastern Asia. Although it is not the main responsible, but mechanization can explain this trend, including the secondary industry trend. Finally, government in the regions should consider to stay inline to the Bandung strategy.

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Israel's African Union Observer Status and the Palestinian-Arab Political Gamble: Between Diplomacy of Self-Interest and Collective Aspirations

There is no doubt that in the midst of the pandemic a lot of changes within international politics and diplomacy evidently took the world stage by storm. Some of these episodes of Global politics it is assumed might not have taken place under the pre-pandemic Global political environment without strong forces of opposition. Among these episodes was the Abraham Accord that witnessed a new phase of Arab-Israeli Détente, which was adopted against the background of institutionalized belligerent postures of the League of Arab Nations, as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), whose conditionality for establishing any form of détente with the State of Israel has always been based on the Palestinian question. The second episode was the not quite long admission of the State of Israel into the African Union as an observer, which unlike the former generated a storm of opposition that centers on the Palestinian question. The fundamental question which the present paper intends to raise and attempt to provide answers to is what informed the Arab acquiescence to the Abraham Accord, which did not inform the decision to grant the State of Israel the observer status of the African Union, particularly bearing in mind that the Palestinian question does not form part of the fundamental objectives and principles of the African Union since Palestinian people are not part of the Continent of Africa?

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International Relations in the Post-Covid Era

Although the COVID-19 epidemic is not over, it has brought some obvious changes to the world: the inequality in Western society has increased, the differentiation between classes, races and different countries has become more serious; the system is more unavoidable, and the ideological competition is more intense; human beings are on the verge of life and death, the boundaries of the rights of the state and the individual, the interdependence and independence of the economy, the two-sided effects of freedom and democracy are prominent. The epidemic has had a certain impact on international economic relations, international political relations and international security relations, and the most important thing is that the game of major powers has become more intense. If the nations of the world do not coordinate, the international order may be at risk of chaos and collapse. In the face of the complex international issues of the post-epidemic era, China's plan is to promote common prosperity by building a larger free trade area and a community with a shared future for mankind.

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Opening for Omnilateralism

After a century of western-dominated multi-lateralism and its much criticised 75-years old stronghold, the United Nations, we need a new narrative to counter Anglo-Saxon hegemony and to open up to the rise of Asia. The right post-multilateral vehicle is omni-bus – for and by all –, firstly, to widen the way for input of more ideas and good practices of non-Western origin, and secondly, to include non-state actors as legitimate stakeholders in governance.

Some trends already signal an overture towards such omni-lateralism: enhancing global governance on climate change in the COP by adding Eastern understanding of cycles in nature to protect the environment (e.g. in circular economies) and a wider appreciation of 'holism' beyond the rather linear individualistic thinking of Western societies. Also, accountable groups of civil society – more trusted than officials driven by narrow national interest – increasingly enrich wider deliberations about environmental harm and other global problems. These require East-West as well as North-South cooperation as currently obvious in the urgent cross-border exchanges among experts, among other things to combat the pandemic and save lives and livelihood worldwide. Globalisation has contributed to elevate millions out of poverty, but it increased economic and political polarisation worldwide. However, narrow-minded politicians still claim national 'sovereignty' and parochial interests against necessary global solutions for the common good while the Westphalian 'nation' is becoming a historic aberration.

Almost all governments nowadays claim democracy, but respect for its basic principles is falling. Democracy must adapt to each level of governance, from local, national, regional to global. More direct democracy may suit the directly informed local stage. The higher the stage and the wider the impact, the more expertise and stakeholder responsibility is needed to reach the common global good, i.e. omni-laterally.

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Competing patterns of diplomacy during pandemic

Although many scholars agree that the 21st century is the "Asian Century", the most debated aspect is how this century will be. It was believed that promoting economic interdependence and integration in Asia will limit incentives for conflict and facilitate a stable and cooperative environment. Yet, China's rapid and ambitious march toward the status of global power and

the recent shift of Japan toward a proactive leadership role in regional governance create new areas of competition and make the regional situation more complex. Both China and Japan are promoting different visions of regional integration, are actively engaged in reshaping or creating economic institutions and are competing in offering assistance in Asia and beyond. In their endeavours, they have been widely making use and readjusting one of the non-military tools of their statecraft, specifically diplomacy. Using a comparative perspective, the article seeks to understand how competing patterns of diplomacy pursued by the two biggest Asian economies, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic, are shaping regional relations and the factors facilitating or impeding deeper cooperation.

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Countering the Threats to Psychological Security Posed by the Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence: Possibilities of BRICS Strategic Communication

The paper identifies the main risks and threats related to national and international psychological security (PS) in BRICS countries (particularly China, India, and Russia) and posed by the malicious use of artificial intelligence (AI). The authors maintain that PS threats, both national and international, created by the malicious use of AI should be considered at three levels. At the first level, a false negative image of AI is spread. The second level of PS threats is directly related to the malicious use of AI (MUAI), but an attack on public consciousness is not its main goal. The MUAI designed primarily to cause psychological damage belongs to the third, and highest, level of PS threats. The main methods of destructive impact through MUAI are illustrated by the examples China, India, and Russia. BRICS policy documents state readiness for joint action against the MUAI. At this point bilateral agreements play the leading role in the development of AI cooperation of BRICS member states, but their declarations clearly state the intention to join forces against the misuse of information and communications technology. BRICS's potential in this sphere is still very far from being fully tapped. The alternative models of social development based on AI technologies and possible risks for BRICS are analyzed too. It seems that in order to effectively synchronize measures to combat MUAI, it is advisable for the BRICS group to develop its strategic communication (SC), including communication provision of the incorporation of AI in member states. The authors analyze the main content of BRICS SC and assess its prospects amid the changing world order, as well as identify the main problems and trends in its development.

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BRICS, civil society and multilateralism: challenges and opportunities in the post-Covid world

Since its birth, the BRICS has been growing its scope and its achievements. Among others achievements, the BRICS has strengthened policy coordination, the promotion of growth in the world economy, the development of cooperation among its members, and has become a representative of the emerging world. Thus, broadly speaking, its strengthened involvement in the system of Global Governance has resulted in benefits that it can provide by promoting multilateralism within the current world order. However, as the recent Covid-19 pandemic has upset the international system, many questions arise about the future. Above all, many questions arise about the future of multilateralism.

In this presentation, we will analyze the role that the BRICS could play in the future of multilateralism. In our opinion, one of the key areas in which the BRICS could give an

important contribution is represented by their engagement in promoting a more concrete involvement of civil society in decision-making processes.

However, in the BRICS countries this aspect has several limitations. At the same time, civil society in BRICS countries could play a fundamental role in many aspects: for example, by bringing to the center of the global agenda, with particular reference to the 2030 Agenda, the problems that concern the Global South; or by acquiring/sharing practices and narratives in the cooperation/development field, overcoming divergences between global North and South, especially in a post-Covid perspective.

Thus, our aim is to analyze the current situation of civil society in BRICS countries, underlining its limits and the perspective future importance it may have in order to promote multilateralism and give a (real) impetus to the future of Global Governance.

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Business with Indonesia

Baik Batik is a French company that imports traditional Indonesian fabric to the French market. The traditional Indonesian fabric, known as batik, is a hand-dyed cotton and silk fabric. The fabrics are decorated with designs suitable for everyday life and are commonly worn in professional and academic settings; during weddings; in puppet theaters and other forms of artistic expression. The batik is dyed by craftsmen, who take pride in drawing patterns on the fabric by tracing lines and dots with hot wax. It is resistant to dyes, which allows the craftsmen to select different colors by dipping the fabric in a dye, then removing the wax with hot water and renewing the operation with another color as many times as desired. The great diversity of motifs reflects the variety of influences, from Arabic calligraphy, to Japanese cherry blossoms including European floral arts. Passed down from generation to generation, the creation of Batik fabrics is a symbolic art of Indonesia. This art is now listed in the Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Nowadays, the West has a growing interest in different Asian cultures and more and more Europeans are attracted by their traditions. By combining the growing interest of European consumers for traditional and cultural Asian products, as well as the desire for Indonesians to make their culture known internationally and to develop their growing textile industry, it is entirely relevant for a company like *Baik Batik* to emerge. Through this presentation, we will explore the opportunities presented by this market for a French importer, but also the threats that it can face. We will also develop the set-up of this project, the offers, the target customers, French and Indonesian partners, as well as the marketing strategies, and the financial aspect of the project.

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AI in economics and education: what kind of jobs the future economy demands

The presentation gives an answer to the question: what kind of jobs does the future economy demand? The answer is: it demands the professions provided by the vocational education that guarantee the leading position in industry, Space and information technology to the state. To gain such leading position, it is necessary to reconstruct and to develop industrial production, including automation and robotics. If the state sets such a goal, it has to make a plan for its economy. The proper and scientific planning which gives an opportunity to get the trajectory of public goods growth can be carried out only using the dynamic Model of interbranch-intersectoral balance. Such planning will completely satisfy the

business entities with workers of the required qualification, and will satisfy young specialists who in high-quality jobs and future security.

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Female Reyog of Plunturan: Quest for Gender Equality

Female reyog is a reyog art whose players are all female. Female reyog in Ponorogo, the origin of reyog dance, is rare. With the emergence of female reyog, it raises the pros and cons of the community. This research has the title "*Female Reyog of Plunturan: A Quest for Gender Equality with the study of the 'Ki Onggopati Putri' reyog community in Plunturan village, Pulung district, Ponorogo Regency*". The purpose of this study is to find out how female reyog is seen from the perspective of gender equality. The method used in this study is qualitative method. This study apply theory of gender equality in analyzing reyog "Ki Onggopati Putri". In collecting data the researchers used interview techniques with the number of informants 5 female reyog players. The results of this study indicate that the female reyog which was established to fill the free time of stay at home mom, became a women' s emancipation movement that fought for the rights of a woman. Women do not only stay at home as housewives but also want to do artistic activities to participate in maintaining and preserving the art of reyog Ponorogo.

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India - Africa Relations in the 21st Century

India and Africa enjoy a long standing historical relationship. Contacts and trade between India's western part and Africa's eastern part has been going on for centuries. The new rush to Africa is not just for its economic resources but also for its growing political importance. India claims its advantage from its old and shared relationship with African countries. This relationship is multidimensional and grew by accommodating the sensitivities and interests of each other. The key to understand India's Africa policy is to understand its engagements with African countries in the post-cold war period and vis-à-vis traditional powers and new Asian competitors.

Historically speaking, in the pre-colonial period Indian traders were present in the eastern coast of Africa. The common subjugation of India and Africa to colonial rule gave common experiences and legacies. It also led to massive movement of Indian indentured workers to various African territories to replace slave workers. Resistance and fight against colonial and racial domination brought them together. In this regard Gandhiji's contribution is immense. After India's independence decolonization and anti-racialism became the key rallying point for India and Africa.

During 1960s India restructured its policies towards Africa. It started new policies under ITEC, South-South cooperation and collective self-reliance. Through these policies India again regained its lost ground in Africa. In this process, India realized that Africa is diverse. It is a continent and cannot be treated like one country. In the 1980s it became selective engagements with African states and issues. In the post-cold war period, there was a growing perception that Africa was being neglected and marginalized both politically and economically. There is a feeling that they are now of little strategic importance to the big powers in the post cold war period.

During the cold war period India's foreign policy was more inward looking due to the regional and domestic pressure. In the post cold war period due to the economic

liberalization in the 1990s, India gives more emphasis to trade and economic relationship with new countries especially African countries. This is mainly due to the oil and other strategic minerals required for the rapid economic growth of India.

Both India and Africa witnessed economic reforms under globalisation during 1990s. The globalisation process also changed the relationship among nations. The rapid economic growth of India threw new challenges to Indo-African relations. India needs a huge amount of oil, gas and other minerals for the sustained economic growth. In the last decade the race for Africa minerals and land put India-Africa relationship in a different perspective.

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Understanding some Behavior Changes of Consumers during Pandemic

Pandemic COVID 19 has stayed for more than 1 year. Some of products and companies have problems to survive, but some of them have growth of demand. Especially for some products such as hand sanitizer, masker and vitamin. But during pandemic, what consumer bought are not on static condition, based on tracer with google analytic/trends, there is interesting condition of the volume dynamics of some product.

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How Developing Halal Industry: An Opportunities for Entrepreneur

The halal industry is the fastest growing industry in the global economy with an annual growth rate of 20 percent. In 2016 the size of the global halal market is estimated to reach US\$5.73 trillion and reach US\$6.53 trillion by 2024 (Data source: www.reportbuyer.com/). In addition, the development of the halal industry is also seen when more and more researchers are interested in this field. Halal Industry that represents the global Islamic economy, is the fastest-growing market in the world. Halal entrepreneurs (*Halalpreneurs*) are the main contributors to this achievement as they constitute a significant portion of the total establishments in most Muslim countries (Abdullah and Azam, 2020). Currently, halal products are not only focused on Muslims but also non-Muslims. The halal industry needs to develop a public understanding of halal values to provide benefits to consumers through the introduction of halal potential and the need for value identification (Ratnasari, 2020). The halal industry requires support from the government and technology to develop further.

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Bioethics Perspective in Preparing an Inclusive, Elderly-Friendly Society

Aging society will soon become an inevitability phenomenon in the society around the globe. Aging Society is a mega trend in the world resulted from a blessing from medical advances that extend human life expectancy, from an average of 80 years, to 90-100 years.

The most important thing that needs to be prepared from now on is the readiness of all components in the society to facilitate the elderly to be able to live a noble, high-quality life, and become a component that supporting the development. The principles of Bioethics can be used as a guidance for the community, including the Government, in designing community systems and structures that provide space for the elderly to live a quality life.

There will be at least three things that will become societal phenomena in the future, namely: adaptation to AI and IT; the use of big data as a means of determining public policy by the government; and create jobs that can involve the elderly in it. The elderly should live their old age with dignity and respect. This can be achieved when, from now on, the younger generation, the community, and the government build inclusive values and community structures, that is, provide space for the elderly to be able to live and interact well in an atmosphere of mutual respect and mutual service.

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Developing Women-Friendly Tourism

The tourism sector opens up the most employment opportunities for women and at the same time places women in the most vulnerable and risky positions in that sector. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2019 stated that the tourism sector was dominated by women, amounting to 55%.

It is undeniable that the involvement of women in the tourism sector can have a positive connotation. It is common for us to meet owners and even hotel managers who are women. The domination of women in the tourism industry is real, as real as the potential threat of sexual harassment and exploitation toward females working in the tourism sector.

The understanding that the service sector is based on customer satisfaction has been so widely promoted. This has made the position of women increasingly cornered. Women-friendly tourism should be carried out while still providing the best service to consumers. Service to consumers must be carried out by providing protection for the dignity and physical safety of women.

This protection effort is not enough just to equip women with the ability to protect themselves, but there needs to be a change in the service of excellence paradigm in the tourism sector. Here the government is at the forefront of providing protection for its citizens and businessmen in the tourism sector also need to give a real commitment to the protection of the women they employ.

This paper discusses what synergy efforts need to be made by the government, industry, educational institutions, and the community in increasing the protection of women working in the tourism sector.

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Colonialism, Climate Change, and COVID: Double challenges and quintuple response needed

Palestine, like other developing countries, suffers from the five main global threats: climate change, overexploitation, habitat destruction, invasive species, and pollution. Yet, our environmental situation was made worse by socio-political situation and the COVID-19 pandemic. The bright spots are in environmental education, research, and conservation efforts. More and more people realize that politicians will not save us and that only grassroots actions in a revolutionary fervor will help avert this catastrophe. We in Palestine and activists around the world are thus not satisfied with the progress to address this existential crisis. And we certainly cannot go back to "pre-pandemic" business as usual. In writing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), we work using five main principles:

- 1) Liberating ourselves from mental colonization (empowerment), developing RESPECT (for ourselves, for others, for nature).

- 2) New economic system must be reinvented based on caring, empathy, and collaboration both across borders (which eventually should be dismantled) and within borders.
- 3) We must use our indigenous knowledge, practices, and value systems: Indigenous knowledge includes traditional ways of production and consumption. Using new technology can work together (e.g for food sovereignty) while protecting the environment.
- 4) We have to have environmental justice. People should be entitled to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment all around. [see also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for basic rights
- 5) We need human capacity building especially in developing countries including restructuring of educational systems at all levels. For example, schools and universities should not kill creativity & innovation and create conformist consumers. They should help young people become better innovative citizen activists who protect the environment!

In this presentation we will review these issues briefly focusing on lessons learned in Palestine.

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Strategies for sustainability of human and natural communities in a stressed developing country (Palestine)

Palestine, like other developing countries suffers from the five main threats: climate change, overexploitation, habitat destruction, invasive species, and pollution. Yet, our environmental situation is made worse by socio-political situation including the Israeli occupation/colonization. The few bright spots in terms of things like environmental education, research, and conservation efforts are localized and spotty and are not "system wise" to turn the corner and stem the environmental deterioration. We believe it is possible to use the opportunity of building the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2022), currently led by joint effort of our institution, the Environment Quality Authority and stakeholders, to truly make a radical transformation in the society to achieve sustainable human and natural communities in Palestine. To do this, it is incumbent on us to get maximum participation and energy from ALL sectors of our society (governmental, local authorities, NGOs, CSOs, academia, religious communities, media, and public at large). There is a huge global commitment in the next ten years to finance and logistically support conservation and to halt, mitigate and adapt to climate change in developing countries. Palestine is showing it can be a leader in this while also achieving environmental justice.

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Determinants of Venture Capital Investments in Emerging Asia Pacific countries

Since the 1980s-90s, Venture capital has grown to be widely considered as an effective source of funding for creative operations and long-term growth and it is continued to flourish and still playing a major role in the development of economies. To comprehend its intricate mechanisms and activity, it is necessary to examine it with new dynamism. Therefore, using a unique country-level panel dataset, this study depicts the dynamics of venture capital investment while empirically analysing major macroeconomic, entrepreneurial, and institutional drivers that play a major role in attracting investments primarily in Asia-Pacific countries. The study's unique feature is that it is based on Venture Capital determinants in 23 Asia-Pacific countries over the period 2006-2019, which coincides with the peak of

venture capital investment in emerging economies. The study uses Panel regression analysis with Fixed and Random effects. The study provides a deeper understanding of Asia-Pacific venture capital market's distributional and operational characteristics, as well as highlighting a significant implication for entrepreneurs and policymakers on how to arrange venture capital activities efficiently in emergent economies.

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Is Covid the blow at the mercy of the fragile health system in Mozambique?

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 during early 2020, all world nations felt that they were globalized. There is no other way of thinking of globalization besides how Covid impacted nations regardless of their GDP or HDI. From Global North to Global South, all countries are affected. Covid and varied numbers of infected and deceased people are unnumbered in the world. Covid is creating physical, moral, cultural, and economic pain with lesser intensity to solid intensity, and worst in low developed countries, it negatively impacts the economy, particularly tourism and how social distancing has changed their culture dramatically regarding concentrations for burials, weddings and church services attendance. The first actions taken by countries were to limit people's movements and produce a series of instructions aiming to minimize the degree of contamination. In a short period, countries were in lockdown, curfew, or mobility limitations, and suddenly all people were demanded to mask up. While Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries, is still fighting traditional diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, HIV, and other environmental diseases suddenly must deal with Covid, a disease that seems to have knocked out even countries with robust health systems and economies. Up to the first week of January 2022 were registered in the country 203.2411 out of 1,132,400 collected. The 202,872-community transmission and 369 imported cases. In the meantime, there were recuperated up to now 165.271 cases. The number of deaths registered by Covid is 2,077. The numbers are not enough to explain why the Covid rate of infection is still low after two years, despite the rapid increase. Also, why the numbers of death are still low considering the fragile health system, many hypotheses have been advanced, namely: i) low rate of Covid testing and determination of causes of deaths; ii) curfew and travel restrictions; iii) longstanding period of malaria preventing, especially people over 50 years of age; iv) treatment of malaria was it believed that the medicine of malaria used to treat Covid; v) the weather where temperatures are over 20-degree average per year. However, the low administration rate of vaccines against Covid, fragile health system, and teeming transports would constitute the vehicle for transmission. Nevertheless, this is not the case. The paper aims to discuss the discourses, assumptions, and narratives about Covid in a country ravaged by a fragile health system.

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Digital aspects of financial globalization.

The process of globalization is imperative to the modern structure of the world's economy: its dynamically developing financial component has become a conductor of multidirectional impulses to national economic systems, spatial development and all spheres of social life through transnational capital flows. Economic globalization appears as an evolutionary stage of the economic organization of society, when financial parameters set the goals of economic entities, and the mechanisms of their interaction are determined by financial relations. That is why the concept of "financial globalization" has been formed in Russian and Western

economic literature. The development of international finance has long outstripped the growth of both the world's industrial output growth and the volume of exports and imports, because the flows of cross-border capital grew at high speed. Financial globalization has become the core of globalization processes, their most dynamic component.

Financial globalization lead to a new competitive environment, contributed to the restructuring of the world economy, increased the differentiation of states and led to the fact that national economies found themselves in a conflict of interests: under the influence of globalization and the need to protect national interests.

The process of financial globalization is a phenomenon of both historical and diverse evolution. The evolutionary development of modern financial globalization, can be summarized by two phases, depending on the dynamics of the process, characteristic trends and special event series:

- 1) Expansion phase (1990-2008);
- 2) Compression phase (2008-present).

Each of those phases has its own economic trends. The second phase, the phase of contraction of financial globalization, is characterized by an intensifying of competition between countries for the redistribution of global financial capital, which leads to the use of dirigiste strategies to protect national sovereignty, giving rise to deglobalization processes. The dominant trend in modern finance is the phenomenon of rapid reduction in the share of the real-world component of the global financial system and the expansion of size and scale of its virtual subsystem. The trend of digitalization and openness of national economies makes them more and more vulnerable to external influences, which necessitates state regulation measures.

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BRICS and G20 for the Regulation of the Digital Economy: The Challenge of a Universal Digital Code of Ethics

The more the world enters the heart of the digital revolution, the more commitments and the related initiatives for an adequate and shared regulation of the innovative processes in progress multiply in international bodies. A regulation, the Author adds, which finds its basis in the definition of a "Universal Digital Code of Ethics" for the digital world, proposed by UNESCO in the Ugra Memorandum (June 2021). The paper analyzes the value of this fundamental step and illustrates the strategies approved on the subject in the summits of the BRICS and G20 international coordinations, which took place in the second half of 2021. The criterion adopted in the evaluation of this priority international commitment is linked to the prospects for organization of a new world economic order that is more equitable, inclusive, balanced according to the principles and guidelines approved by the states on the goal of sustainable development.

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The Economic Impact of Covid-19 on the International Female Migrants and their Left-behind Family in Indonesia

This study aims to (1) describe economic activities of Indonesian female migrants based on the regions and age; (2) describe the economic situation of the left-behind families; (3) examine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to the women in the working place; and (4) examine the impact on the left-behind. The research used a mixed method of quantitative

and qualitative approaches. The quantitative data was collected through the household survey of 605 households and the online survey of 2827 Indonesian female migrants who work overseas. Simultaneously, the qualitative data was gained through in-depth interviews with 31 international female migrants and 30 left-behind families. The research site was primarily done in Malang Regency, Indonesia. The results of this study show that economic activities, regardless of the region, presents a common pattern that most migrants work as a housemaid (97%) with ages ranging from 41-50 years old. Mostly, the left-behind families are extended families which consist of a nuclear family with an additional family member be it parents (in-law) or other relatives and earn mostly IDR 1-3 million monthly. The pandemic did not severely impact female migrants in terms of the salary cut, salary delay, working hour changing, borrowing money, remittance, and economic concern for the left-behind. The economic impact at home is highlighted by income loss. The chosen strategy to overcome this issue is working extension by other family members and the use of remaining savings.

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Trace, e-Health and Ethics: The Case of Health-Tech in Indonesia

Health is one of the areas shattered by digital culture long before the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated its transformation. Based on computing processes, the information derived from the communication between the user/patient and the (para)medical representative is shaped by algorithmic calculations as well as social practices produced by the set of intertwined technologies. According to the World Health Organization (2015), many countries in the South-East Asia region have implemented various projects in the area of e-health (Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Maldives, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka). Indonesia is one of the countries witnessing a growing development of their digital health services. A 2020 (1) study shows that the e-health universe in Indonesia comprises on the one hand, companies that disseminate information intended for the general public on health, (diagnosis, practical advice, addresses, etc.); and on the other, tools allowing remote consultations, video conferences, purchase of drugs, etc. This kind of information and communication displaces, redefines and reshapes the form of knowledge, formats and methods (Doueihy, 2011) and questions the viability and the legitimacy of some well-established social and cultural norms together with their legal frameworks.

How is the health technology system changing communication? What happens to the complexity of the "body-trace" (Galinon-Mélénec, 2011, 2017) when it turns into "digital traces"? How are digital traces highlighted in the e-health process and how do they affect the relationship between patient and doctor? What is the role of Artificial Intelligence in improving public health while remaining ethical? How do users participate in the health online culture in Indonesia, and how can we measure/evaluate their participation? How could the use of digital media be efficient in marketing and public relations strategies? This cross-cultural round table, that gathers academics from France, Indonesia and the Philippines, aims at discussing the topics of health, information and communication from different backgrounds and approaches.

(1) This study is conducted by Dorien Kartikawangi and Hadi Saba Ayon started in 2020 in Jakarta and is still in progress. It aims at analyzing the reality and organization of the Health-tech in Indonesia to forward availability-map of services, usage, content, and performance.

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China's Belt and Road Initiative and Central Asia in the Era of Covid-19

This study focuses on China's involvement in the Central Asia through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China is making huge gains by strengthening its economic, political and transportation links in this strategic, resource-rich region. It argues that China with its Health Silk Road has secured the place of Chinese vaccines in the markets of all Central Asian states, which creates additional opportunities for Chinese medical production sector. Promoting its Digital Silk Road, China has secured its place in technological market of the region, where its companies actively take part in digitalization of economies of Central Asian countries. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) plays an important role in contributing to the stability and security of Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, however China created also "China+Central Asia" cooperation mechanism, that it develops its relations with Central Asian states in multilateral level without any other Great powers involvement, as it is in SCO. It concludes that China through its BRI has mostly kept its advancement in Central Asia in pre-and post-Covid-19 eras, although the outbreak made some problems for the trade.

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West Africa: Covid Response, and the Need to Build Forward Better

West Africa has been hardly hit by successive waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on the health systems, on the economies, and on the social protection systems has been severe. The initial responses of the states were slightly different from one another but, on the whole, they were hardly different from those of other regions of the continent: encouraging physical distancing and other safety measures, distribution of masks, border closures, lockdowns, curfews, school closures, provision of emergency relief to communities and to the travel, hospitality and entertainment industries, etc. In Senegal, the government succeeded in rallying, for a time, all the political parties, religious leaders, major civil society organisations and the business sector behind it to wage the 'war against COVID'. However, here, as elsewhere, the consensus was short-lived, and the enthusiasm and creativity displayed by artists, musicians, and social movements of women and youth in the fight against COVID had begun to subside by the end of the first year of the pandemic. Vaccination rates are still quite low across the region and, although the rates of infection and mortality were much higher in the third wave (with the Delta Variant) than during the first and second waves, lockdowns and curfews were excluded from the official responses. How has the pandemic impacted on the problems of the health sector, poverty rates, the inequality, and the economic, and governance challenges that existed before the outbreak of the pandemic? How truly adapted to the socio-economic and cultural realities of our part of the world have the responses to COVID-19 really been? We are safe from COVID only when everybody is safe: were the communities really engaged and allowed to play active roles in the search for solutions that ensured the safety and security of all groups and communities? Has COVID-19 led to any change in the priorities of the governments, in the thinking about economic and social issues, and in development strategies of the region? How are the needs to re-build the health systems and push for economic recovery being balanced with the urgent need for the advancement of sustainable, people-centred transformation and African integration agendas? These are some of the questions that the paper will be focusing on.

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The Era of Covid Diplomacy: Crouching Tigers and Hidden Dragons in Asia in Pandemic Times?

The Covid-19 pandemic crisis has been subject of a focus of unprecedented strength by international institutions. While some institutions were slow in adopting policies in response to the crisis, some were, on the contrary, quite fast, which is the case of some regional institutions in Asia. An interesting feature of policies adopted in the face of the pandemic involved financial mechanisms. This paper analyses the cases of two such mechanism: the ASEAN Covid-19 Response Fund and the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

It is observed that states, be it members of these organizations or non members, contributing to these mechanisms as well as the amounts contributed are directly correlated to their current diplomatic goals. In the case of the SAARC, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan contributed amounts that seemingly reflect their ambitions in South Asia. In the case of ASEAN, China and Australia contributions are at the level of their current interest in Southeast Asia and contrast greatly with the timid contribution of Japan, despite this state's past interest in this area.

While the two cases studied display significant differences, in particular when considering the respective role of member and non member states, the diplomatic relations they arguably reflect appear in conformity with the original purpose of the organizations concerned. Members participation in the SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund corresponds to the original role assigned to SAARC as well as the current power balance among its members. Contributions to the ASEAN Covid-19 Response Fund seem to be in harmony with the original outward oriented role of ASEAN and current interest of the states involved.

It is concluded that these financial mechanisms, while confirming the place in the design of these organizations of the balance of powers and interests among their participants, show the central role of these institutions in regional governance and diplomacy in Asia.

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Is Covid-19 just a sanitary issue?

Since the Covid-19 pandemic spread from China in late 2019-early 2020, in order to prevent the same problems faced at that time, in the last few months, China decided to pursue a "Zero Covid Policy", which means that not a single local virus transmission is acceptable. For this reason, the government suggests Chinese population to always have essential goods stocks, because sudden lockdowns are always round the corner. But what does this strict policy consist of? For example, if one person out of more than thirty thousand people in Disneyland Shanghai tests positive for Covid, like it happened at the beginning of November 2021, none is allowed to go back home until everyone gets tested. Most Chinese seem to agree with this policy, since official statistics show that the country is managing quite well the virus' spread, according to the Party's narrative.

Furthermore, many citizens have been quarantined for Covid-19 despite testing negative. They were Chinese activists and people who "spread rumors" about the health crisis. Many of them did not even criticize the government guidelines, but simply spread possibly useful information about the pandemic.

In the last two years, CPC showed how its priority remains stifling of dissent and the health crisis became a perfect opportunity to tighten up control measures. It is the case in Tibet, where personal chat on WeChat are spied, many monasteries are closed and prayers are forbidden. The situation is even worse in Xinjiang, where Uyghurs are imprisoned in so-called "re-education-camps", where cells are overcrowded and hygiene conditions are poor.

In this situation, a single case of Covid could cause the infection and possibly the death of thousand people.

Moreover, the system of personal and social tracking and control tested throughout the years on Tibetan and Uyghur minorities are now applied not only to control Covid infected citizens and to contain the pandemic, but also to politically control and repress people. In facts, coronavirus crisis has reignited debates on the lack of freedom of speech and expression. It is the case of the new "non-release release" policy: political prisoners who had already served their sentences are constantly tracked through geolocated phone apps to contain the spread of the virus. In the case of the famous lawyer Wang Quanzhang, who served four and a half years in prison for subversion of state power, PCC went even further: he was put into precautionary quarantine and will not be able to move freely without having his phone constantly tracked, making the pandemic a pretext for prolonged house arrest.

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COVID-19 Pandemic and Mental Health among individuals in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: A Social Cognitive Analysis

This study aimed to examine the impact of COVID-19 on mental health in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Using a survey questionnaire, the study collected data from a sample of 258 respondents. The study found that COVID-19 impacted the individuals differently, with fewer symptoms of substance-use disorders, depression, and schizophrenia experienced by the respondents interviewed. Overall, there was high symptoms of obsession and bipolar disorder. For instance, more than a half (59%) had disturbing feelings or memories about COVID-19; over half (64.7%) were obsessed with hand-washing practices against germs or contamination; and over half (61.6%) feared to die. On the other hand, 54.9 % and 78.8% neither experienced difficulties in falling asleep nor experienced frightening dreams at night respectively. Additionally, the majority, (i.e. 92.2%, 96.5% and 98.0 %) neither consumed more alcohol, smoked more cigarettes nor consumed more drugs than usual because of COVID-19, respectively. Over half (57.6%) did not avoid reading and listening to news about the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the changing nature of the virus globally, this study, recommends for a country-wide survey to determine the trend and magnitude of mental disorders in the country.

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Pandemic Mediatization as a Transgression: 'Transnarratives' for a Global New Normal Future?

The COVID-19 pandemic sweeps through politics, economics, societies, cultures (Žižek, 2020) — and mass media (Hepp, 2021). Paradoxically, in times of "a cease-fire" (Khudori, 2020) the pan(demic)media is not only collapsed but sweeps its own traditional professional, industrial and social boundaries to become a normative condition of our existence in this New Normal.

Data colonialism (Couldry, Mejias, 2019) and pandemic create the ground for a mediatized transgression (Shilina, Simons, 2021). It is a fundamental characteristic of human existence, since the transgressive separation of man from nature, and pandemic is a sort of it.

In New Normal, the experts foresee significant change that will worsen economic inequality, enhance the power of big technology firms, authoritarianism and polarization

(Pew Research, 2021). People's relationship with technology and tech determinism will deepen, especially due to media platform owners as normative subjects.

All of the actors of panmedia are influenced by data-driven mediation, provoked directly and indirectly by media platform owners and their specific media logic.

The aim of our study is to analyze communication situations (Simondon, 1958) and narratives provoked by media platforms (2021) to find the main ideological, political, economic, and cultural topics of agenda setting essential for a global New Normal future.

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Covid-19, Literacy, Library, Digital Transformation

There is a big change that happened in almost every country in the world. That big change is called the rapid human population development. It will be a challenge for many people to take role or responsibility to follow this big change. One of the many important factor for society development is advancing in information, knowledge, and technology, because these three things are connected in order to develop the society. Indonesia, one of the many developing country always concerned about this development, focusing on education and literacy which become the main focus of Education and Culture Ministry. Inserting the literacy culture into the education module from preschool to high school is one of their responsibility. They also build and develop library as the centre of information access for society. Surabaya, the capital of East Java, Indonesia, also take part of improving literacy by building and developing the *Taman Bacaan Masyarakat* (Society Reading Garden) in urban areas. This *Taman Bacaan Masyarakat* are well facilitated to provide information and improve the literacy for every Surabaya residents. Indonesia needs a real action especially during COVID-19 pandemic. People who suffers from depression need something to distract their pain. Library can provides the information needed that will help them to fight and survive the depression due to the pandemic. An action needs to be planned and executed quickly is building a new reading corner near communities that supported with many digital information facilities so they can use and access it easily.

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ASEAN's Health Diplomacy and Coronavirus.

It is assumed that multilateral and regional institutions are necessary actors and play an important role in combating transnational diseases like coronavirus. The nature of this disease, which infects all nations of the world relatively at the same time, and causes health problems, economic losses, and changes in sociopolitical security in states all over the world, has prompted countries to cooperate. The state cannot manage transnational disease on its own. States lack domestic resources and capacity to ensure their citizens' health when facing a threat from coronavirus. The role of regional institution crucial in the current global structure. The regional organization like ASEAN can serve as a bridge between global initiatives for health cooperation and national health policy implementation. In order to explain the character and dynamic of regional policies and respond to combating coronavirus, several issues and questions will be raised in this study, such as 1) What is the nature of ASEAN's Health diplomacy in dealing with coronavirus? What are the countermeasures that have been conducted by member states of ASEAN to manage this pandemic? 2) To what extent are ASEAN member states successful in combating coronavirus? 3) What role can regional cooperation like ASEAN play in handling transnational

disease like coronavirus? This study employs qualitative and quantitative approach methods as well as tracing studies. It is argued that while ASEAN has demonstrated their commitment and developed instruments to combat coronavirus, however, there are still gaps, and weakness that prevent them from fully fulfilling their role as a meaningful regional organization in dealing with the threat of coronavirus.

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Local Solutions of the Global Problems: A Platform for the Sustainable Development in the Dreadful Shadow of Covid-19

“Without decisive action, we are gambling away our last chance to, literally, turn the tide”

These words of UN secretary general Antonio Guterres summed up the criticality of COP-26 UN Climate Conference in a world shaken by the pandemic. As countries across the world grapple with twin challenges of economic loss and the loss of human lives, the opportunity window for a large-scale investment to avoid climate catastrophe is fast closing. The questions which demand urgent attention in this backdrop include: How should the climate plans and policies be restructured to accommodate the challenges thrown by the pandemic? Do we have viable alternative paths to save and supplement our efforts at dealing with the climate change and its ramification? An answer to this question can be seen in a localized approach in the name of ‘Climate Cafes’. Initiated in the Indian state of Kerala by a social activist. In these climate cafes people living in a particular region come together, debate the changes in the climate and formulate plans to tackle the challenges in their vicinity.

This localized approach of tackling climate change can also be found in the traditional ways of tribes living in different regions of India. How they utilize and manage their natural resources for the benefits of their people. The aim of this paper is to integrate the concept of climate cafes and the traditional ways of handling climate changes found in the life styles of various tribes in India to propose a bottom top approach to the climate related policies. With this integration the paper intends to present region specific, citizen centric model for addressing the challenges posited by the climate change. This model becomes significant in the light of the civilizational crisis exacerbated by the pandemic and climate change we are facing today.

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The Indigenous Health & Hygiene Practices for the Sustainable Development amidst Pandemic Fears: A Holistic Roadmap

This pandemic has left no stone unturned to disrupt and destroy the well-knit fabric of human life in this world. The groaning scars of this blow will be remembered for a long time. Could have it been avoided? Could have the human lives been saved out of its deadly attack? Did our system fail to manage it? Was it technologically orchestrated or divine deluge or biological warfare? Unfortunately, history won't respond honestly. Health, education and employment sectors have been fully paralyzed. Social and family connections are being redefined and restructured. Political establishments are playing the role of the dreamer and the redeemer. The western castle of power, pride and pelf are being tumbled down one after the other. People are dying and children are crying, yet we are literally hypnotized in the blind race of economic development and modernity.

Now the burning question is how to save the expectations of life for the generations to come? What new model of world order in future should we adopt for the peaceful co-

existence. Will science translate the history of mystery of Covid- 19 into global action? Experiences of the past proclaim that, usually, pandemic covered a particular geographical region and climate because it could not survive itself beyond the specific area but this virus along with different dominant variants attack everywhere with the same intensity. Nevertheless, the chain of infection and causalities may be blurred after adopting local health and hygiene practices. It may vary from place to place but these practices will have a sound impression against it. In this paper my primary objective is to highlight the local (in Indian context) health and hygiene practices to grapple epidemic, endemic and pandemic and to curb our dependency on modern medical system.

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Anti-COVID Vaccination as symbol of development from resistance to social change. A case of Ghana.

The idea proposed herein takes inspiration from a larger grounded theory followed for more than 4 years of research, on aspects of resistance and social change in the context of the continued or discontinued power relations or signs and archetypes of the colony. It constitutes an application of it, as unfortunate example of the ways development is perceived on African grounds and if this perception is still linked or compared to colonial past, means and symbols. But this example is specifically related to the process, perception and facts of anti-COVID Vaccination in Ghana. The applied method is the content analysis and the application of online semi-structured interviews with researchers, professors, journalists, students and professionals from aviation and tourism in Ghana or studying about or being inside the knowledge production's space of it. The choice of the informants is not casual but related to the possibility of these to be means for the transfer of information, knowledge, perception models and trends in the society, on aspects concerning the limitations, frustrations, partial truths and desperation caused by the COVID pandemics and their meaningful extension related to the Anti-COVID Vaccination's continuities and disruptions in expressing the narrative of the balancing of the world. Talking about perceptions, the analysis herein is not only focused to reconfirm a theoretical contribution to the explanation of development on an axis from resistance to social change, but it is also concerned with identifying an alternative of a half-way solution to the worldwide polemics on COVID and anti COVID vaccination, partly discussing the re-balancing of the world, partly announcing an unprecedented fragmentation of the international relations in the favor of an individualistic dichotomous re-de-globalization. The example analyzed would show us that the case of Ghana is not singular at all and it plays the role of representation to such a half way solution to conceptualizing the well being, harmony and balancing in a new post-pandemic possible world.

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Accompaniment Role of Agricultural Extension Worker in an Attempt to Increase the Food Consumption Pattern of Coffee Farmer's Household: Case Study at Dampit Subdistrict, Malang Regency

The present study is focused on (1) identifying the consumed food elements in an attempt to meet ideal food consumption pattern for coffee farmers, (2) describing the accompaniment level of agricultural extension workers, (3) analyzing the correlation between accompaniment level of agricultural extension and the food consumption pattern of coffee farmers in

achieving energy adequacy ratio (EAR), (4) analyzing the correlation between accompaniment level of agricultural extension and the food consumption pattern of coffee farmers in achieving protein adequacy ratio (PAR), and (5) analyzing the influencing factors of food consumption pattern of coffee farmers. This study was a quantitative study using the 7x24-hour food recall method and Likert scale to measure the accompaniment role of agricultural extension. The data analysis used Rank Spearman correlation analysis and multiple linear regression analysis to analyze the influencing factors of the consumption patterns of coffee farmers. The food consumption pattern was measured from energy/protein adequacy ratios and the quality based on the hope food pattern score (HFP). Results demonstrated rice is the main food element, while tofu and tempeh are the main side dish consumed by coffee farmers in Dampit Subdistrict. The average EAR and PAR reached 1,643.42 kcal/capita/day and 52.54 grams/capita/day. The results implied that the ratio was below standard. Moreover, the uneven accompaniment role of food consumption pattern caused no relationship except in the education aspect toward EAR. Last, the influencing factors of EAR were the number of family members, expenditure on food, and the frequency of eating and the actual AKP was determined by the number of family members and the farming experience.

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Covid-Phase Hasn't Spared Indian Democracy!

With due respect to steps taken by Indian government to tackle Covid-19, it is pertinent to reflect on certain communication lapses on this front. If a little more attention had been paid to taking timely steps, in the interest of Indian democracy, Covid-phase may not have spelt an economic crisis for majority in the country, particularly those hailing from poor and middle classes. This proposal shall briefly outline these, which shall be further deliberated upon in the paper. Initially, little importance was given to announcing needed steps to check spread of Covid-19 despite there being reports of Coronavirus being in the air. During the early phase of 2020, even the vaccine for increasing immunity against it had not been developed. Secondly, the lockdown was suddenly announced. Again, little concern was displayed for suffering people would go through because of sudden announcement. Democracy demands paying due attention to interest of the people. Of course, a lockdown may be viewed as essential but not without giving people sufficient time to prepare themselves for the same. In retrospect, it may be appropriate to analyse whether nature of this measure was appropriate or not. Thirdly, Covid-phase in India has been reflective of bias against certain minorities and also the poor. Certain members of a community were also arrested on ground of their being "responsible" for spreading Covid-19 in India. The paper aims to further analyse the points mentioned here in context of communication lapse subjecting Indian democracy to a bias, which could have been avoided. The saving grace is that majority of Indians rose above bias of communal nature. Nevertheless, country is still reeling from adverse impact of measures taken without adequate preparation. Covid-phase has certainly held Indian democracy at stake!

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Women's Mental Health and Adaptation Strategies to The Covid-19 Pandemic: Study in Kampung Cempluk Kalisongo Village Malang Regency

The present study aims to (1) describe women's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Kampung Cempluk, (2) describe women's mental health and pain due to Covid-19, and (3) analyze women's adaptation strategy in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The research used a qualitative approach with a case study research design. The research setting was in Kampung Cempluk Kalisongo Village, Dau subdistrict of Malang Regency which is the border of Malang city. The area of the study was chosen for its relatively high possibility infected by the virus due to the dense population and high mobility to the Malang city. The results of the study indicated that women respond differently to Covid-19. At the beginning, a group of young women working outside the village was panicked to face Covid-19, perplexed to decide because they worked in Malang City as beauticians, industrial workers, and peddlers, and terminated due to large scale social restriction. In contrast, young women who work as food vendors, shop owners, and seamstresses felt lucky to live and work at home. However, they also experienced stress when go shopping in Malang City. A similar condition is also experienced by middle-aged women and above who work in the village as peddlers, shop owners, and stalls. They tended to accept the condition even though have to be breadwinners as their husband was dismissed. Lastly, the worst experience was perceived by housewives when the husband was laid off, so they need to spend savings for daily shopping needs, and the young mother had to provide educational assistance to children who were in elementary school. Dealing with the problems, women adapted to have online shops. Peddlers also adapted to sell their goods by having strict health protocols. All in all, the women helped each other in their activities and perceived positively Kampung Tangguh Program from the government, especially young women who worked inside and outside the village and women members of Karang Taruna.

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The Role of Local Government and the Social Resiliense of Poor Women at Coastal Villages during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The living conditions of poor women in coastal villages that have been difficult become increasingly difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic. This article based on empirical studies focuses on the role of local governments in dealing with problems faced by poor women in coastal villages during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, this study aims to reveal the social resilience of poor women in coastal villages in facing various problems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study was conducted in coastal villages in the province of East Java, namely: 1) Tuban Regency with the Javanese culture, 2) Bangkalan Regency with Madurese culture, and 3) Situbondo Regency with the Pentalungan culture. Data collection had been conducted for 3 (three) months using a structured interview technique (questionnaire) to 185 respondents and applying in-depth interview technique to 30 women and local leaders. There were no local government policies specifically aimed at meeting the needs of poor women in coastal villages. Local government assistance was more aimed at medical problems of the covid-19 pandemic. Women in the coastal villages working hard almost all day while taking care of the household and social life of the neighbors – multi burdened roles. During the COVID-19 pandemic, women develop social networks in an effort to increase their social resilience capacity. The role of women in the poor coastal villages was very important in maintaining family health, actively seeking information and assistance in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and meet income shortages for family life needs. In a strong patriarchal culture, women in coastal villages was the key to social resilience that provides a way to survive during COVID-19 pandemic.

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Rethinking Global City: Lessons Learned from Early Covid-19 Pandemic Transmission

Global City is often described as the relation between world cities and globalization. As Covid-19 evolved into global pandemic; cities, or rather countries around the world, were actively closing their borders. And as trade routes were starting to be either deglobalized, or at the very least significantly disrupted; perhaps it is time to requestion the very concept of Global City. Was it the thriving of few world cities that had ignited prosperous free trade globalization for all? Or was it the not-so-free trade and rather monopolistic globalization that had left only few world cities – and therefore countries – to thrive? Utilizing WHO Situation Reports, this presentation will present quantitative analysis on how Covid-19 pandemic had spreaded around the world; and mapping its connection with the globalization status of today's world cities.

Based on the report's first 125 days data sets recorded since January 20th 2020; the presentation will focus on 3 aspects. First is to provide transmission sampling on 4 different geographical settings (China, EU, USA and Indonesia) to highlight the presence of various different transmission models. Second is to use these models and furtherly traces global pandemic transmission pattern in 6 different regions of the world (Asia, Europe, North & Central America, Middle East, South Africa and Africa) down to its national levels. And third to compare the generated pattern with current 'global city indicators' which includes Annual Airport Traffic Report from Airports Council International, and Alpha Cities classification from Globalization and World Cities Research Network.

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The disproportionate effect of COVID in the participatory planning process: Common interest Vs. Self-interest

The spread of the COVID-19 has impacted the mode of participatory practices in Nepal. In this context, the study focuses on the structure and function of Nepal's municipal planning process, which is a process led by local elected leaders to plan development programs and policies by citizen participation. The study underlines the challenges of participation amid pandemics. It reveals that various forms and scales of lockdowns, coupled with new norms of social distancing, have limited the participation of the ordinary citizen in the annual participatory planning and budgeting process in Nepal. However, the pandemic had an uneven effect on different groups of people, as those who were affected the most were the people from marginalized communities. My research shows that favoring political speeches for common good can undermine the self-interest of the subordinate groups. I will use the evidence from the local budget planning process in two municipalities of Nepal, amid the COVID pandemic. This is a qualitative study. The findings of the paper are based on semi-structured interviews and observations in selected local units conducted between February to April 2021.

The study reveals that the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic worsened the already existing gender and socio-economic inequalities. Amid pandemic, the budgeting process of 2020, overly emphasized the common good, which not only contributed to illegitimatize the self-interest of the poor, but also amplified the inequality. The paper also questions the planners' capacity to ensure participation of the marginalized communities, to address the uneven effects of the pandemic. It brings new social realities of participatory practices during health crises like COVID-19. The result shows that poor are more likely to participate for self-interest. It questions the common understanding of the common good.

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Evolving Geopolitics of Indo-Pacific: Critical Evaluations of India's Policies in the region

The Indo-Pacific region, in the 21st century, has emerged as a centre of power politics due to its geopolitical and geostrategic significance. The Indo-Pacific region has geostrategic and geopolitical significance due to its volatile position in the Asian political theatre. The new regional dynamics in the area are building the new regional security architecture due to the convergence of interests in such fields as economic, strategic, and maritime security interests between India, ASEAN, and other global powers. The region is a spectator of the paradigm shift towards the Trans-Atlantic to Indo-Pacific region. The study emphasizes how the regional framework of the Asia-Pacific is shifting to a larger geopolitical construct of the Indo-Pacific, which in turn has posed fresh implications and challenges for the region. There is a confluence of interest in India's economic and security interests in the Indo Pacific as both are closely interrelated. India's security perspective in the Indo-Pacific started with an aspiration for a more significant presence in the region as well as to give a framework for regional order. The economic might of the Indo-Pacific and evolving security dimension is pertinent to shifting the centre of gravity towards the region.

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The Abraham Accords as one of the cornerstones of the rise of the Middle East

Since the establishment of Israel in 1948, the Jewish state was recognized by only two Arab countries by 2020: Egypt and Jordan. All this changed on 13 August 2020, when the Abraham Accords were concluded, which was a joint agreement between the State of Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. Afterwards, the term was used to refer jointly to agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. More than a year has passed since the signing of the Abraham Accords, during which many changes have taken place in relations between the countries involved in the normalization process and experts agree that this important diplomatic initiative is key to maintaining and strengthening peace and stability in the region. While Israel and the UAE have long recognized each other in business areas, including the diamond trade, as well as high-tech industries such as artificial intelligence, the convention has opened a much wider door for economic cooperation and investment. Thanks to the Abraham Accords, collaboration has developed in areas of common interest. However, let's not forget that the coronavirus pandemic has significantly hampered the involvement of new countries in the normalization of relations. Nonetheless, Israel has expressed its intention to normalize its relations with other Arab countries. The strengthening of these links will clearly increase the economic recovery in the region and may also reduce the negative effects of the coronavirus. Can the extension of the conventions really be the basis for the rise of the Middle East?

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New Communication Skills for Tough Times: A Study

Every generation poses new issues and finds proper solutions needed. This is in tune with theory of evolution and survival of the fittest as evidenced from time to time. Tough times

caused much apprehension, loss of life, depletion in revenue of nations and posed severe threat to the very existence of humankind. Social distancing became a necessity for survival of communities and countries. Institutions closed down and attending various requirements of men and organisations remotely paved way for new mode of life structure. Technology came to the rescue of humanity across the globe. Physical distancing demanded remote communication and every sphere of activity needed updating skills for survival. Interpretation acquired prominence in the changed scenario. In medical, legal and education fields honing one's interpretation skills has become imperative. Ability to interpret is innate to human-world and non-human world. Tough times needed special training to impart skills to interpret and carry on communication. Simultaneous, consecutive, whispered, relay modes helped people establish liaison to function effectively. Interpreters cannot be replaced by technology. Interpretation beyond boundaries is imperative. Location, support system, accuracy, spontaneity, ability to face challenges and find remedial measures, clarity in thought and expression are essential for a person to become an expert in interpretation. Resolute mind and emotional stability help in establishing effective communication. Stress related issues can be handled by retaining composure and radiating confidence among people around. New inputs in educating people in formal and informal situations to train the trainers first and then trainees creates a sound system of preparing new generation of communicators in the prevailing scenario. This presentation seeks to focus on preparing a suitable platform for the purpose.

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Leveraging Cooperation: Asia's Response to COVID-19 in Africa.

Culminated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global health crisis has brought to the forefront the creaking status of the African healthcare systems and the vulnerabilities of their economies. This very pandemic has far-reaching impacts on developing countries as the spread of the virus and its mortality rate proves to be intense. In a bid to combat the pandemic and alleviate its multifaceted implications, international solidarity and collaboration proves to be primordial. The paper examines the burgeoning importance of leveraging the South-South and Triangular cooperation to combat the ongoing pandemic in Africa and guarantee a more equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The core consideration of this analysis is to critically study the role of Asian nations, with a specific focus on China, in consolidating the international efforts to fight coronavirus in the African continent and maintain robust economic and trade cooperation despite the crisis. Easing Africa's health and economic burden through "mask diplomacy" and "vaccine diplomacy" will be examined not only from a humanitarian and cooperative perspective but also from a pragmatic and political standpoint.

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Post-Covid-19 Russia: economic assessment and political issues

The intervention will address two subjects: it will talk about Russia's economic balance sheet following the health crisis, which has turned out to be quite positive despite the very pessimistic forecasts issued from the start, and the major challenges for the Russian Federation 30 years after the decomposition of the USSR. The Russian economy has shown itself to be quite stable, which makes it possible to speak of an established economic policy in the medium and long term. The sanctions have had a significant impact by allowing the

development of several sectors. The three decades of existence of the new Russian state have clearly defined the priorities and the objectives to be achieved in the decades to come, not only from an economic point of view but also from a geopolitical point of view. The events of the beginning of this year are eloquent proof, which leads to think that Russia has evolved in its ambitions and prerogatives on the international scene. The intervention will address the main points of these changes which should herald a new stage in the evolution of relations between Russia and the international community.

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The Moral Middle-Class in Market Socialism: an Investigation of the Personhood of Women working in NGOs in Vietnam

The middle-class, in Weber's notion, is characterised by the status its members acquire from consumption. With the middle-class status that is neither rooted in the structure of labour nor capital, they are uncertain of their middle position, which often evokes anxieties of falling behind socially if they fail economically. This uncertainty illustrates the situation of the new middle-class in Vietnam's post-socialist market economy, where people accumulate the symbolic values of consumer goods to make a distinction in a society which is not built on a capitalist structure. This paper looks at the performance of NGO salaried women in Vietnam who exemplify a middle-class whose status derives from commoditised goods symbolic of their moral distinction as women who sacrifice for the collective good of the family and society. These women, who accumulate status in part from the perceived morality of their sacrifice, illustrate how the notion of middle-class is negotiated through moral, gender and class divisions under the rule of the socialist state. The way morality has been aspired to by the women working in NGOs also illustrates a mode of governmentality operated by the socialist state to shape the person for the sake of governance in the free market.

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Government change and cultural divergence during the pandemic

Cultural reactions to the pandemic and its effects have been divergent in Bolivia and may have cost an unnecessary number of lives. As the pandemic started all around the world Bolivia was in the middle of the greatest political turmoil in 39 years. A political situation that left a vacuum in government, international condemnation of electoral fraud, and an unstable new government with questioned legitimacy.

The political situation, as the first lockdowns were suggested by the WHO, led to an unfortunate situation in which a political division was turned into incredulity of the reality of the pandemic. The disbelief of the pandemic and more importantly of the motivation for the lockdown led to civil unrest and ultimately roadblock that impeded the distribution of vital medical supplies.

Once the reality of the disease was made obvious, by the deaths of hundreds of people, the lockdowns were more effective. However the idea that: "covid is a political hoax", was, and in some cases still is, predominant in many areas of the population, especially in rural areas of the eastern highlands.

The end of 2020 and the end of the first waves of the pandemic coincided with a new political event, in the way of a new election, that led to a new government, with new and different ideas as to how to deal with the pandemic. By 2021, just like in the rest of the

world, the new government had the economic agenda of recovery run parallel to the health agenda. The results, just like in the rest of the world, are mixed.

Vaccination was almost subjected to the same kind of suspicion and mistrust as the first news of the disease. Private imports of vaccines were outlawed, and vaccine supplies were once again questioned for political reasons, especially when supplies failed and vaccination was delayed.

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Digital technologies and economy

The proposal proposes to discuss the goals and implications of the introduction of digital technologies. Particular attention will be paid to Industry 4.0. regarded by many as a world-changing industrial revolution. Let us find out how the massive introduction of information technologies into industry, large-scale automation of business processes and the spread of artificial intelligence contribute to an increase in the efficiency of social production today. Consider an alternative vector of digitalization, based on the principles of economic cybernetics, and assuming the automation of economic management (introduction of an economic robot). Let us discuss the main characteristics of an economic robot that coordinates the activities of all industries and sectors of the economy, all technical robots to ensure economic development towards a prosperous future and cultural development of the individual.

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Cyber economic planning is the key to solution the problems of the non-capitalist economy

The concentration and centralization of capital, which began after the first industrial revolution in the late 18th century, led in the early 20th century to the dominance of the transnational corporations (TNC), which launched the First and Second World Wars, the Cold War with the USSR. After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, the world became unipolar, dominated by TNCs. It uses monetary instruments, institutional reforms, color revolutions and military actions to redistribute the generated incomes and assets of all states in its favor. A contribution was made by post-image digital transformation in 2020, aimed at using the achievements of the digital revolution to establish global digital governance of people in order to preserve the capitalist economy. The article argues that within the framework of the capitalist economy, where everyone is guided by profit maximization, it is impossible for civilization to get out of the global crisis. Using old tools and digital technologies to manage people does not eliminate the main cause of the global crisis – the disproportionate economic development. The only project aimed at solving economic problems by planning the national economy was the project of the USSR.

The use of the method of successive approximations (iterations) with the feedback, allowed the country to become the pole of the post-war bipolar world. However, the departure of the party nomenklatura from democracy and its preference for manual control over automated, determined the USSR's defeat in the Cold War. It is proved the need to use in state (global) management an economic robot based on cybernetic planning of the interaction of all industries and sectors of the economy in order for civilization to enter the trajectory of the growth of the quality of life, the cultural development of the individual.

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Domestic French cuisine services in Japan

Our project focuses on creating a domestic French food/beverage service and event making company called O'France based in Japan. This company will help people with their event project (weddings, celebrations and conferences...) by defining and coordinating a project with them to fulfil their needs and providing them with advice and material assistance such as decorations, furniture, silverware... And also prepare dishes or cook directly at their homes. Responsibilities may include not only providing and preparing food but also serving it and cleaning up afterwards. The main goal is to satisfy the needs of our clients and to provide them with the best offer by passing on the French art of living and the art of the table. Japanese consumers are fond of new experiences and new flavours. Thus, we could for example imagine a company offering traditional French cooking services in the home at home, highlighting the art of the table and the finesse of the cuisine of a region of France. This is an exciting time to begin a career in food domestic service especially after COVID. Interest in dining and curiosity about new foods are greater than ever. Japanese consumers are fond of new experiences and new flavours. So, offering a traditional French cooking services at home, highlighting the art of the table and the finesse of the French cuisine is the ideal idea.

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Communications Strategy for Handling Covid 19 in Toddlers of Surabaya City

Background: Since the covid 19 (C19) pandemic broke out, health protocols for children under five tend (toddler) to be ignored. Toddlers who will enter preschool and kindergarten certainly has to be our focusing. Naturally, we have some difficulties to talk or to communicate with toddlers. That's why they tend to be difficult to obey the health protocol. Moreover, they have to wear masks that make it difficult for them to breathe, or they also have to keep their distance from their playmates.

Method: From September 2021-January 2022, as many as 362 students and 11 lecturers, we went to the field to assess how to properly communicate with toddler so that they would comply with health protocols. Assessments as well as interventions were carried out in 20 urban villages (district) in the Surabaya City.

Result: The results obtained are different conditions in each district. The assessment that we carried out using the P Process theory showed that each district has uniqueness and specific compatibility with different media. The results of the communication media that we have developed, we upload on the PKIP FKM Unair YouTube channel. There are 60 audio-visual media and 20 visual media and 20 audio media.

Conclusion: Overall, on average, toddler want to communicate using audio visuals with children's language and cartoon or animated characters and flashy colors. For audio, most of them like songs to remember the health protocols they have to do. Audio media, audio visual and visual media are effective in increasing toddler's knowledge and attitudes.

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BRICS economic partnership: financial aspects

According to the intergovernmental Declaration of 2020, trade and economic cooperation of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are the priority areas of the BRICS Partnership Strategy. In this respect, financial institutions have an important role to play in providing free access to open stock markets with the variety of financial instruments. The financial intergovernmental support of BRICS trade cooperation, along with other areas, are designed to strengthen balanced and inclusive economic growth, as well as to increase the level of international competitiveness of the BRICS economies, which account, actually, 21% of global gross domestic product (GDP).

To accelerate international cooperation and simplify the access of entrepreneurs to credits and industrial goods, as well as to direct and indirect financing, harmonization of economic relations is of a need to solve strategic problems effectively. The conducted analysis confirmed the need for new tools and methods of financing BRICS sustainable development within negotiated short-and long-term strategy.

The evaluation of BRICS stock markets indices confirmed the need of a long-term strategy, which is important for accumulation of the resources and reaching the goals. It seems appropriate to expand the usage of infrastructure and green bonds in national currencies, related to the BRICS national economies and increase participation of development banks as well as institutional investors in stimulating partnership.

Actually, the majority of BRICS member states are involved in achieving the goal of the usage of national currencies in trade relations based on new technologies. Mutual Concept of BRICS cross-border cyber platform, as well as secure information interaction and software roster contribute to the project. Liberalization of trade relations, harmonization of e-trade, improvement of hardware and software security accelerate trade operations and enlarge services to customers, backed by WTO principles and Declarations.

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Digitalization of strategic planning in the context of Industry 4.0

The world exists in the era of digitalization, which means the comprehensive penetration of the products of the digital revolution into the life of society. It is impossible not to notice the changes that have occurred in the world in a relatively short time. Under the influence of digital technologies, science and technology have transformed. Soon economic relations were transformed in a similar way. Digital technologies have given people the opportunity to create completely new means of production, as well as modernize existing capacities.

Digitalization actually means further comprehensive improvement of any kind of processes based on the use of new unique digital solutions. Back in 2016, the world expert community called such a trend the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It is argued that this period is characterized by the massive introduction of cyber-physical systems into production, in particular big data, the Internet of Things, blockchain and other technological solutions. The main question is how useful such digital management tools can be. Of particular interest is how industry 4.0 will change the entire concept of governance in the state, as well as how the strategic planning system will be transformed due to digital innovations. Since it is quite obvious that the products of the Fourth Industrial Revolution can both become an engine of real economic growth and slow down or freeze the development of the state's economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the initiatives of individual groups to introduce a whole set of digital solutions into public life and government activities as soon as possible. Is it possible to adapt them to solve real strategic tasks within the framework of the national development goals of the state?

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Infodemic: The Peculiar Death of the Public in Anglo-American Democracy in the COVID Era and a Comparative Perspective from China

This paper looks at the spread of COVID related conspiracies. It tries to understand how the parliamentary democracy system heavily relies on bourgeoisie media campaign insinuates the spread of conspiracy theory and the decline of the public sphere. This paper also uses China's case as a comparison to understand the role of the state in the developing world in resisting against the information hegemony by the Western bourgeoisie media companies.

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South Africa's Response to Covid-19 and the return of the state

Despite lower figures than global averages, African countries battled the Covid-19 crisis in 2020 and 2021 in terms of impact on public health systems, harm to systems of social resilience against long-standing epidemics of poverty and despair and the deleterious impact on the political economy further deepening these structural deficits. Countries like South Africa, Egypt and Morocco registered quite a high rate of infections and deaths. As a result, they also felt the social and economic impacts also sharply. Unlike the other countries with a high incidence of Covid in 2020, South Africa continued to feel the heavy impact of three waves of Covid crises driven by three different well to the end of 2021. On the African continent general and in South Africa specifically, the incidence of Covid led to questions about whether there was a return of the state to the centre of the provision of public good, whether this did not carry with it a swing from human security to state security, from popular sovereignty to state sovereignty with corrosive effects on the consolidation of democracy. The question was occasioned by the fact that for a long time the state in Africa and in South Africa has either diminished its capacity or lost public trust as a result of incompetence, corruption and excessive elitism. This had led to growing pressure on the second and third sectors of governance (private sector and the non-profit sector) to improve their involvement in delivering public goods in partnership with the state. The structural adjustment programmes of the 1980s and the mantra of the lean state of the 1990s all helped weaken the capacity of the state to address the aspirations of the majority of the people.

But the responses to Covid-19 required the state to take the lead in organising society including these social partners to shield already fragile societies from a calamity the scale of which had not been seen in about a century. The WHO guidelines required a capable, developmental and democratic state as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP) of South Africa, but whose emergence has remained deferred for a while. This paper analyses the formal South African responses to Covid-19 from March 2020 to December 2021 to understand the extent to which there has been a return of the state in this particular state, whether the state centrality was as envisaged in the NDP and what implications this has for the realisation of the NDP vision 2030 in the remaining 8 years.