

A culture of conspiracy and novel corona virus pandemic.

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Abstract: Conspiracy theory is an explanation of an event or situation that evokes a conspiracy by sinister and powerful actor, often political in motivation. The term has a pejorative connotation that refers to or based on prejudice or insufficient evidence. The theory of conspiracy combats falsification and reinforced circular logic; both evidence against the conspiracy and an absence of evidence for it are reinterpreted as evidence of its truth, where by conspiracy has become a matter of faith rather than something that can be prove or disproved. The history of a cultural conspiracy theory has been dated in the middle of 1990s, in which Karl Popper called it “Conspiracy Theory of Society”. According to which the history is a product of conspiring intended by some individuals or groups. Popper argues that this view must be wrong because not everything is intended. On the other hand Brain Keenley (1999) prompted a new phrase in the debate in which he focuses on subset of conspiracy theory called it “Unwarranted Conspiracy Theory”. Novel corona virus as a political conspiracy does not imply that it is irrational to believe it and hence does not imply that it would be irrational to investigate it. As a political and or biological weapon conspiracy, the argument is obviously a dud, but deductive arguments are a dime dozen so why should we worry about this one; The answer is that the argument of this form and everyday bit as bad as this are insinuated and suggested day in and day out by politicians and pundits, often with an intolerable smug air of intellectual sophistications. The influence of the internet has been magnified and played a significant role in recent conspiracy linked violence in the world including the so called bi-weapons war, novel corona virus (covid-19), and political economic conflict among the superpower countries to dominate the world. This article will shed the light on the novel corona virus as a pandemic, catastrophe in relation to conspiracy theory. The article will investigate whether it is a man made catastrophe or coincidence ones as any epidemic happened during the previous two centuries.

Key Words: *Cultural conspiracy theory, covid-19, catastrophe, biological war, superpower countries conflict.*

I- Introduction:

Conspiracy theory and conspiracist subculture has become apart from western society and more visible since 2001, September, 11. Immediately after the terrorist attack on the world trading center a strange reports flourish on the internet and many wade with the mainstream, arraign some groups, countries on it, some of them guess that the attack has been planned by secret society called *illuminati*,(Barkun,p.4), while the others accusing Muslims on the incident. The idea might be attribute simply to make simple people more shaking and anxious. Barkun stated that the purpose of such kind of news is to camouflage the public opinion of what is coming next. He points out that the news and beliefs alert us to existence of significance of subcultures for outside mainstream holding up the wrong attitude during crises and bound up with heterodox religion, occult and esoteric beliefs, radical politics and fringe science in Americans life. Any attack would induce severe disruption and panic. The alarmist reporting of the 2001 anthrax episode in the US exemplified how even a localized threat can affect the mindset of a whole continent. By amplifying fears and fueling hysteria, media coverage would guarantee that even a smallpox epidemic at the less severe end of the spectrum of predictions would disrupt ordinary life worldwide, (Barkun p, 2).

Although much of this escalating can be traced to the traumatic effect of specific events, that seems an insufficient explanation on its own. Conspiracist preoccupations have grown too plentifully to be fully expounded even by events as shocking as the Kennedy assassination or the rapid spread of AIDS. Rather, they suggest an obsessive concern with the magnitude of hidden evil powers, and it is perhaps no surprise that such a concern should manifest as a millennium was coming to a close and the culture was ubiquitous with apocalyptic anxiety. Although much of this burgeoning can be traced to the harrowing effect of specific events, that seems an inadequate explanation on its own. Belief in conspiracies is central to millennialism in the late twentieth and early twenty-first

centuries. That is scarcely surprising millennialists worldviews have always predisposed their adherents to conspiracy beliefs. But millennialists tend to incline toward conspiracism for two specific reasons. First, a millenarian movement without a mass following find hidden evil an attractive way to explain its lack of popularity (Barkun, p.5). Surely the masses would believe if only they knew what the masked malefactors were up to. Second, the more elusive the end times are, the more tempting it is to blame their delay on secret evil powers, whether in the form of a capitalist conspiracy or of the minions of Satan. Conspiracism explains failure, both for organizations and for the larger world. Yet significant though conspiracy is for millenarians, it is a slippery concept.

II- Defining Conspiracy:

According to Jan-Willem Van Prooijen and Mengdi Song, the common definition of a conspiracy theory is an explanatory belief that a group of actors colludes in secret to attain some malevolent goal. But people also differ in their belief in specific conspiracy theories, such as beliefs that climate change is a deception fictitious by scientists, or that the virus causing COVID-19 was created in the laboratory as a bio-weapon. The essence of conspiracy beliefs lies in attempts to delineate and explain evil. At their broadest, conspiracy theories “view history as controlled by massive, demonic forces. The locus of this evil lies outside the true community, in some other, defined as foreign or barbarian, though often disguised as innocent and upright.” The result is a worldview characterized by a sharp division between the realms of good and evil. For our purposes, a *conspiracy belief* is the belief that an organization made up of individuals or groups was or is acting covertly to achieve some malevolent end.

A conspiracist worldview implies a universe governed by design rather than by randomness. The emphasis on design manifests itself in three principles found in virtually every conspiracy theory:-

> *Nothing happens by accident.* Conspiracy implies a world based on intentionality, from which accident and coincidence have been removed. Anything that happens occurs because it has been willed. At its most extreme, the result is a “fantasy world, far more coherent than the real world.”

> *Nothing is as it seems.* Appearances are deceptive, because conspirators wish to deceive in order to disguise their identities or their activities. Thus the appearance of innocence is deemed to be no guarantee that an individual or group is benign.

> *Everything is connected.* Because the conspiracists’ world has no room for accident, pattern is believed to be everywhere, albeit hidden from plain view. Hence the conspiracy theorist must engage in a constant process of linkage and correlation in order to map the hidden connections.

In a peculiar way, the conspiracy theorist’s view is both frightening and reassuring. It is frightening because it magnifies the power of evil, leading in some cases to an outright dualism in which light and darkness struggle for cosmic supremacy. At the same time, however, it is reassuring, for it promises a world that is meaningful rather than arbitrary. Not only are events nonrandom, but the clear identification of evil gives the conspiracist a definable enemy against which to struggle, endowing life with purpose.

According to Martin Rees 2002 on his regarding the future of the humankind, he asserted that the coming threat in the coming two decades is not the nuclear weapons or the so called weapons of mass destructions but a biological weapons or what he proclaims *The Bioterror* which could kill millions of people, (Rees, p. 41).

As what happened in 9/11 in the world trading center in New York, western people never look deeply to the problems and the cause of it. They instead devoted their effort to exploit the incident to their own benefits. This is what is called the Conspiracy Theory. For an instance the 9/11 terrorist attack is evidence that the U S administration used the incident to attack some regimes and invade the others. The tool for doing that is fighting terrorists from one hand and from the other finding out the weapons of mass destructions (example Iraq and Libya). Lets start with the envision of Iraq in 2003. For the superpower countries like U S, *The end justifies the means*, and the nuclear weapons they proclaimed that Iraqi regime produced are no more but a conspiracy. The result is five million people get killed and more than five million refugees. Another example is the territory of Israel and the fear and outraged of Israeli people because of the Palestinian attack in 2004, the result is devastation of Gaza and blockade the city. Thousand of Palestinian civilians in Gaza get killed or injured, the majority of them are women and children because of the brutally attack of the Israeli army in 2006 and millions of Palestinian people have become hungry and thousands of them are homeless. Rees tried to justify the points of view of the westerners that all the liberation movements around the world are terrorists. While he refrained to claim the Europeans groups like Irelands groups a terrorists as he called al-Qaida or any other liberation groups in the third world countries. He used the rational, political aims as a

term to all western terrorist groups while he described the third world groups as radical, bloodshed, bloodthirsty forgotten their struggle for their right for independence in their home land.

Martin Rees noted that “The al-Qaida terrorists who crash the plants on the world trading center and pentagon had no such inhibitions. If such groups were to obtain nuclear weapons, they would willingly to detonate it in a city center; killing tens of thousands along with themselves and millions around the world would acclaim them as heroes (referring to third world and Muslim community).

The consequences could be even more catastrophic if a suicidal zeal or were to become intentionally infected with smallpox and trigger an epidemic, in future there could be viruses ever more lethal (without antidote, novel corona is an example). This argue about future has indicate the culture of conspiracy and organized crime created by superpower countries like US and China to exploit not only particular countries but the whole world :

“Viruses and bacteria are themselves superbly engineered nanomachines, and an omnivorous eater that could thrive anywhere would be a winner in the natural selection stakes. So if this plague of destructive organisms is possible, Drexler's critics might argue, why didn't it evolve by natural selection, long ago? Why didn't the biosphere self-destruct "naturally," rather than being threatened only when creatures designed by misapplied human intelligence are let loose? (Rees. p 58-59).

A reply to this argument is that human beings are able to foist some modifications that nature cannot achieve; geneticists can make monkeys or corn glow in the dark by transferring a gene from a jellyfish, whereas natural selection cannot bridge the species barriers in this way. Likewise, nanotechnology may achieve in a few decades things that nature never could.

Rees added:

After 2020, sophisticated manipulations of viruses and cells will become commonplace; integrated computer networks will have taken over many aspects of our lives. Any forecasts for the mid-century are the realm of conjectures and "scenarios." By then, nanobots could be a reality; indeed, so many people may try to make nano replicators that the chance of one attempt triggering disaster would become substantial. It is easier to conceive of extra threats than of effective antidotes (Rees. p 60).

After the process of animal cloning and the progress in the creation of the first human cloning in Europe and America during the first year of the 20th century, Hisham Barakat and Farooq Al-Bazz, biological scholars and professors comment on the crucial phase of human existence and describing it as “the century of genetical cells and tissue”. They are trying to do mortal and immortal to make inartificial human cloning(Barkun p 21). Researchers and expertise envisage that the genetic biological field has been created a very dangerous bioterror not only to the human biology but also to environment as well, they called it *biological terrorism*. Dr Rees mentioned the term *Terror and Error* in his book *Our final hour: a scientific warning book*. In this book he described the western biological cloning as the most dangerous and big error human beings had ever committed. He called it the Doomsday.

The genetic engineering and biological modification that Refican Gergy (53) proclaimed is the most challenged in the late 21st century. He modified it as the real biotechnology revolution that may change out live in all wakes of life. The genetic engineering of creating a new being is the main purpose of his study. He is trying to make out of his experiment, the first human cloning in which the genetically modified human being is able to be adopted in all circumstances even in space due to the new genetic features. This and other attempts led many scholars and interests to think deeply on the dangerous of the biological labs which design on the basis of technology but considered very risky on human existence on the earth. The science of genes is considered as dangerous as play with an active nuclear bomb. The development of genes will led to distortion of human race which finally led to defect in the human biological composition, in addition to the appearance of different kinds of dangerous viruses, as a result to such experiments in their labs. This is exactly what happened in 2020 with novel corona virus and before ten years what happened in Africa with Ebola virus.

III- The Bioterror Victims

Scholars warned in the result of “genetic engineering, biological modifications and human cloning”. The study indicates and forecasting the biological terrorism and huge number of victims caused by bioterror attacks and viruses spreads in the future. The nuclear weapons war during the 2nd world war was only the beginning of a dark age for the coming generation in the third millennium. According to the study , the result of this war is the death of millions civilians along with the production of distortion genetic human cloning. On the other hand, animal cloning

is also the main sources of transmitting different types of germs, viruses and diseases to humans. It is because of the great differences between the human and animal genetic features and this is due to the nonconformity harmonies of the two species.

Dr Hisham Taleb in his book cosmological and the human destiny (Big Bang Theory), mentioned in chapter 9 the term bioterror and the rule of scientists of creating the new life for humanity by dependent on the genetic engineering and human/animal cloning...etc. In his book, Taleb investigates the ability of science to change the surface of this planet. He refers to astronomer Martin Rees book *the final hour* 2003 by eliciting that science and technology are progress unexpectedly and dangerously in which unpredictably ever before, (Talib p. 671, translated). Dr Taleb also mentioned and confirmed strongly the biological conspiracy and or approximately the disasters is so close to happened just a couple of years and that what exactly happened in 2020 with novel corona viruses. Taleb says that the destruction will cover the whole world with no exceptions and approximately 20% to 50% of the populations will be affected. On the other hand Rees has also suspected the development of science in the field of genetics and biology as the cause of the catastrophe particularly the process of genetic engineering and cloning. He come under fire / harshly criticized the outcome of new technology and sciences and implemented that humanity is in danger more than any other time ever before. He asserted that nuclear terror, biological terror, fatal viruses genetically modified, genetic engineering all had a bad impact in human nature.

Dr. Taleb asserted and predicted that this disastrous event will take place in 2020 by the devils without mentioning the who are exactly the devils (?????). In his book he proclaimed that the year 2020 is the year of “biological mistake” and he prognosticated the death of millions of people by the pandemic. The question which came to the mind of all is that the things happened coincidentally or unintentionally or is there a conspiracy beyond that. Let’s go back to Taleb investigation in chapter ten when he warned from the chemical terror by using viruses and bacteria from the scientific labs transmitting it to human mentioning the name of the western devils. At the same time he depreciated the panic of using the nuclear weapons like that of fifties and sixties from the last century,(Taleb, p, 671).

This and other information led us to grasp and think deeply of what Dr Taleb and Dr Rees said in their books and compare it with what happened nowadays is not instantaneous and coincident with what has written in 2003 and what has taken place in 2020. The connections of 2003 and 2020 prove that there is a conspiracy behind the sudden outbreak of novel covid19. Let’s go back to the war between US and China and we may find that it is not just a conspiracy but a battlefields between the two superpower countries and this dirty war is more dangerous than the traditional techniques of wars in the past (traditional weapons has been replaced by biological weapons). It could be said today that “the risk that now loom just as large”. Rees has figure out the twenty-first century technology confronts us with diverse array of lethal prospect or disease that were not on the horizon in the previous days” cold war example”. Moreover perpetrators are also diverse and unknown and more elusive. Rees concluded his chapter warning and asking more precaution and pay more vigilant by saying that, “the prim new threats are asymmetric, they came not from the nation states but even from individuals” (p .42).

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