

# Coronavirus: More than ever, the State seeks to take control over our lives<sup>1</sup>

On the one hand: incomplete and shocking information; the definition of an impalpable enemy and images of slaughter. The State spreads panic. On the other hand: relativizations, cf. “this isn’t so serious, hardly more severe than the flu.”<sup>2</sup> The authorities give us the data they want us to have, the numbers that they want, and, most of all, they dictate to us: “continue to work, do not assemble under any circumstances, lock yourselves into your homes, we will take care of everything.” And even more than that, “applaud the State’s initiatives.”

The State plays upon our emotions, plays with our health,<sup>3</sup> in order to make us adhere blindly to its decisions.

The declaration “we are at war,” made in March 2020,<sup>4</sup> strangely recalls the discourse deployed following the attacks of 2015-2016.<sup>5</sup> National consensus. Abandon your struggles against the poverty of your lives, salaried slavery. “Everyone united against the coronavirus!”

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<sup>1</sup> Author unknown, “*Coronavirus: L’État cherche plus que jamais à prendre le contrôle de nos vies*,” date unknown. Published by Indymedia Brussels on 17 April 2020: <https://bxl.indymedia.org/spip.php?article27323&lang=fr>. An email address is provided at the end of the text: [pour\\_un\\_finir@riseup.net](mailto:pour_un_finir@riseup.net). Translated from the French by NOT BORED! on 27 April 2020. Thanks to David Ames Curtis, who made a couple of corrections. All footnotes are by the translator, who wishes to make the following clear, right off the bat: *the person who wrote this is nuts*. He or she is just as nuts as the gun-toting, flag-waving “patriots” in Michigan, Ohio, Colorado, Arizona and elsewhere, who have recently taken to protesting against their respective state’s shelter-in-place orders because they need haircuts, because the virus is “a hoax,” because “the media” is “the real virus,” because shelter-in-place orders are “unconstitutional” and infringe upon their “rights,” because they are desperate to return to their jobs and make more money for the banks, credit-card agencies and big corporations, and maybe a little for themselves, too, etc. etc. But the nut who wrote this text – sent to me out of the blue, via email, by a third party – is not a right-wing pro-Trump nut; he or she is a situationist-inspired ultra-left nut, kind of like Giorgio Agamben, but without the Catholic bullshit. Then why translate and post a translation of what is really a bunch of ill-informed paranoid nonsense? That’s a good question and I posed it to myself many times as I worked on it. I finally came up with an answer: because such nonsense shows us (yet again) that there are nuts on both the extreme right and the extreme left, and because, as people who are also inspired by Raoul Vaneigem’s essays about the coronavirus, but *who aren’t fucking crazy*, we need to know about such nonsense, study it, and make clear how our ideas and approaches to the problem are different from it. (It is also possible that I’m bored – *gasp!* – and have only translated this text so that I could attach snarky footnotes to it and thus amuse myself.)

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Giorgio Agamben, “*L’invenzione di un’epidemia*,” published in *Quodlibet*, 26 February 2020. Translated into English as “The Invention of an Epidemic” (no translator indicated), it refers to “an alleged epidemic of coronavirus,” claims that the epidemic is an “invention” (a fiction), and states that the virus is “something not too different from the normal flus that affect us every year.”

<sup>3</sup> The French used phrase here, *se joue de*, can also mean “to defy” or “make light of.”

In the name of the battle against a foreign enemy (a virus!), the State calls for us to “stick together.” In other words, to place ourselves at the mercy of its aims,<sup>6</sup> to submit to its orders, to accept the “necessary” sacrifices, and, especially, to abandon all [political and/or socio-economic] struggles.

And why place emphasis on the dead people who tested positive for COVID-19 when, all over the world, the number of people who die from the seasonal flu, malaria, dengue, cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, malnutrition, confinement in refugee camps, the hardships of exile, exhaustion from work, etc., etc. is much greater?

What’s being organized today is a pandemic of fear. The World Health Organization (WHO) already tried to do this with Avian bird flu and H1N1. Meanwhile, the criteria that define what a pandemic is have been completely revised, lowering the bar. And so, with current conditions meeting these definitions, the WHO can declare that there’s a pandemic. The call to occupy our battle stations is sounded. The State delights in this kind of situation because it allows the State to test the stratagems that wouldn’t fly in normal times: tightened control of crowds, surveillance of people’s movements, isolation and confinement to quarters. A threat that seems completely external to the system, quite “natural,” tests the docility of the population. The enemy is no longer the dominant class that keeps us enslaved, but a virus that puts everyone on equal footing where the danger is concerned.

What could be more ideal than our “health” to make the population adhere to a vast plan in which essential preoccupations are diverted and our most intimate gestures are reined in: touch, who to touch, and, especially, who not to touch! Embrace and kiss, speak to each other? No! Getting [too] close is dangerous! Keep your distance! Spread doubt and fear. The other person becomes an object of distrust. Stigmatizing the foreigner, the migrant, is no longer enough! Relatives, neighbors, parents and friends become potential dangers.

All this recalls the distrust sown following the abduction of children. Kissing one’s child while in public became suspect. The distrust created by the “anti-AIDS” campaigns [of the 1980s] incriminated amorous relationships that existed outside the bonds of marriage.

Continuous disinformation, rising death tolls. This type of propaganda<sup>7</sup> awakens profound fears and incites strong emotional reactions, with the result that it is, finally, the population that demands “emergency declarations” and “special powers” from the State. Such was the case at the time when cases of pneumonia (subsequently called “acquired

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<sup>4</sup> Cf. statements made by Emmanuel Macron, the French President, on 16 March 2020: [https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2020/03/17/nous-sommes-en-guerre-face-au-coronavirus-emmanuel-macron-sonne-la-mobilisation-generale\\_6033338\\_823448.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2020/03/17/nous-sommes-en-guerre-face-au-coronavirus-emmanuel-macron-sonne-la-mobilisation-generale_6033338_823448.html). See also remarks by Donald Trump, President of the United States, made on 1 April 2020: “We’re at war with COVID-19, we’re at war with terrorists, and we are at war with the drug cartels as well”: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-vice-president-pence-members-coronavirus-task-force-press-briefing-16/>

<sup>5</sup> Coordinated “terrorist” attacks by Islamic militants in France and Belgium.

<sup>6</sup> The French word used here, *visées*, can also mean the sights of a gun.

<sup>7</sup> It seems to me, the translator of this text, that the death tolls are not “disinformation” and are in fact probably kept artificially low to not alarm the public about the insufficiency and ineffectiveness of the authorities’ efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

immunodeficiency syndrome” or AIDS)<sup>8</sup> were increasing in the USA at the beginning of the 1980s. And since then, billions of dollars were spent on “therapies” that killed more people than they cured.<sup>9</sup>

Strict quarantine measures: prohibition of going outside, forced hospitalization, curfews, surveilled and controlled zones, obligatory use of masks, *check-points*,<sup>10</sup> passports granted according to secret criteria, police forces and the army in the streets, *drones*<sup>11</sup> flying over the passers-by, threats of arrest if these orders are not respected, blocked social networks, hundreds of arrests and/or disappearances for having expressed opinions that are critical of the situation: such has been the raging crack-down in different regions in China, including Wuhan, capital of the Hubei province in central China and, more than 1,000 kilometers from there, in Peking. And there have been even more elastic orders of this type: the suppression of spectator sports and cultural events; the closure of universities, schools, childcare centers, libraries, and some forms of commerce; but [also] limited authorizations to come and go while keeping at least a meter and a half from one another (“remember to wash your hands”); suppression of visits to those who are imprisoned, to elderly people, to those hospitalized; “remain at home,” but the subways, buses and trains continue to run<sup>12</sup> (work obligates this); layoffs for some, prolonged working hours for others; the obligation to take vacation days while in confinement, without leaving one’s neighborhood! Etc.

*Our health is at the center of all this? No.* The States<sup>13</sup> are testing how far they can go without provoking revolts and looting. The State only seeks to save the health of its economy!

The recommendations of the WHO lead in the direction of a maximal confinement while protecting commerce! The commodity, exchange, profit: the fundamental values of capitalism are protected. Certain businesses will pay the price for this, but this is also the natural movement of capital: competition always goes in the direction of removing the least profitable<sup>14</sup> in order to

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<sup>8</sup> It seems to me that pneumonia is *a medical condition* and that HIV is *a virus* that causes the human body to become especially susceptible to that condition. Apparently lacking the expertise of the author of this text, I tend to rely on scientific studies where questions such as this are concerned. See, for example, the paper titled “Pneumonia associated with HIV infection,” published in 2005 and available on the website of the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15735422>.

<sup>9</sup> That would be news to someone like Erwin “Magic” Johnson, who, despite being diagnosed as HIV positive in 1991, is still very much alive and active.

<sup>10</sup> English in original.

<sup>11</sup> English in original.

<sup>12</sup> But see Yuhuan Xu, “Public Transport in Wuhan Suspended in Wuhan Due to Coronavirus Concerns,” published on 22 January 2020 by National Public Radio:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/01/22/798602296/public-transport-in-wuhan-suspended-due-to-coronavirus-concerns>.

<sup>13</sup> Since the author of this article seems to believe that what’s been taking place in China (an authoritarian Communist country) is taking place or will soon take place here in the West, he or she might perhaps be interested in a recent text by Gianfranco Sanguinetti, “Western Despotism,” published in translation here: <http://www.notbored.org/western-despotism.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> One of the businesses that is “paying the price for this” is the oil industry (the price of oil has plummeted, even collapsed), but it can hardly be considered to be one of “the least profitable.” It will surely not disappear. Cf. Matt Egan, “Oil prices turned negative. Hundreds of oil companies

favor concentration, monopolies, and the businesses that, moreover, have electronic means at their disposal. Automation, robotization, factories that use 5G technology<sup>15</sup> to function. The orders to isolate oneself, to work from home, to avoid contact between workers, and to restrict the use of cash make things so that only the businesses that have already used technology to the maximum in their chains of production and sale can continue to function.

The collapse of the stock market is attributed to the so-called “healthcare crisis”! This is not so. The collapse has been predicted<sup>16</sup> for years. Back in 2018, the majority of the stock-market indicators ended the year in the red. The stock market itself is only the reflection of what takes place at the level of production and the realization of the rate of profit. For years, the rate of growth has only followed the requirements of capitalist accumulation. 2019 was a “difficult year”: China, the flagship economy that, since 1992, had multiplied its GNP by 40 times, saw its rush to growth clearly slow down; Germany, the stronghold of European capitalism, where production dropped! 2019 was also the year of vast mobilizations against the high cost of living in many countries: Algeria, the Sudan, France, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Chili. . . . In 2020, the coronavirus came at the right time [*tombe à point nommé*] to divert attention and camouflage the inexorable: the intrinsic catastrophe of the capitalist system, the fact that this system can only survive by expropriating and impoverishing, always more massively. The scenario was ready; the opportunity finally arrived. The awakening will be difficult. Massive layoffs, the organization of shortages, soaring prices, and surely increasing surveillance and control, restrictions upon movement, the obligation to give in to anything and everything electronic, which implies an even-more total control over our lives.

The State permits itself to take on the mantle of the Good Samaritan and to trample upon our life spaces, our needs for relationships, solidarity, reuniting, embracing, discussing and acting.

Above all, this “healthcare crisis” aims at preventing us from resuming battle against the precariousness of our lives and making sure that the new mobilizations do not precipitate the bankruptcy of the economy.

To make the unacceptable accepted, to render banal the close surveillance of our lives, and, even more, to tighten our belts so that great ones of this world can continue to enrich themselves! To behave like robots that are docile and incapable of rebellion.<sup>17</sup>

*It is up to us to have things be otherwise.*

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could go bankrupt,” *CNN Business*, 20 April 2020:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/20/business/oil-price-crash-bankruptcy/index.html>.

<sup>15</sup> I’m a little surprised (and maybe a bit relieved) that the author didn’t claim that 5G technology caused the pandemic or that the pandemic is a smokescreen to allow the further penetration of 5G technology into everyday life. Cf. Rebecca Heilweil, “How the 5G coronavirus conspiracy theory went from fringe to mainstream,” published by *Vox* on 24 April 2020:

<https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/4/24/21231085/coronavirus-5g-conspiracy-theory-covid-facebook-youtube>.

<sup>16</sup> The French word used here, *prévu*, can also mean “planned.”

<sup>17</sup> Apparently the writer has not yet seen or heard about the movie *Blade Runner* (1982), in which five “replicants” (synthetic human beings) revolt, leave an “off-world colony” and return to Earth. Perhaps significantly, this movie is set in the year 2019, about which the writer has said both a great deal and nothing at all.

Everything is done so that we know the least possible about the origins of the coronavirus, its role in the development of the illness, its importance, its virulence, its contagiousness. As with many other scourges<sup>18</sup> – famine, pollution, flooding, drought, epidemics, war – the State seeks to attribute the responsibility for them to factors that are extraneous to its own system: the climate, the animals, viruses, or even the “barbaric morals of certain populations,” when they aren’t presented as “natural disasters”! “Nature”! Which the current system has made into an enemy to be combated and dominated. “Nature”! Which the system only considers as an ensemble of resources to be used for its own ends, even if this means compromising the very life of the planet and all the species (including human beings) that inhabit it! It has made “nature” into a convenient scapegoat [*Elle a bon dos la “nature”*].

Why such [a high rate of] mortality<sup>19</sup> in Wuhan or in Northern Italy or even in Iran? Wuhan, the hyper-industrialized megalopolis, endowed with the most *high-tech*<sup>20</sup> laboratory for virology in the world (!), has problems with pollution commensurate with the industrial gigantism that has corrupted [*gangrené*] the region. Among other factors, there are incinerators whose highly toxic fumes spread according to the direction of the wind. The air quality there is indisputably noxious and acute respiratory symptoms were already commonplace there before the advent of pulmonary illnesses more recently attributed to COVID-19. Not only the robotized industries in which everything works thanks to particularly intense 5G-type waves, which insinuate themselves into the very depths of our cells and destroy our skeletons,<sup>21</sup> immunological systems, and microbotics, but also the entire city is equipped with 5G: internet, telephones, meters, and public lighting systems equipped with directional cameras running face recognition software. This is sufficient to explain the vulnerability of Wuhan’s population, the fragility of their health. In Northern Italy, Lombardy, whose capital is Milan: one of the most important industrial basins in Europe is also equipped with 5G. Iran, an economic power, it too was one of the first to be equipped with 5G.

And what do we know of the treatments that the patients in these regions are subjected to?<sup>22</sup> Does the [high rate of] fatality come after one or more vaccination campaigns? Does it more specifically concern the patients who were already strongly medicalized? Were the patients already suffering from other illnesses? Diabetes, hypertension, obesity? Were they used to test new medications? Did they die from pulmonary infection or from the treatment against the infection? These elements are obviously not communicated to us.<sup>23</sup> It is necessary that the coronavirus remains *the* sole factor responsible for all ailments, the [only] enemy to be

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<sup>18</sup> The French word used here, *fléaux*, can also mean “curse” or “plague.”

<sup>19</sup> Please see the objection I raised in my seventh footnote, which challenged the author’s idea that the “rising death tolls” were a “type of propaganda.”

<sup>20</sup> English in original.

<sup>21</sup> This phrasing (“our cells and [...] our skeletons”) suggests the writer lives in Wuhan.

<sup>22</sup> I don’t know about China, but here in the USA, there is no “treatment” for the coronavirus other than using respirators to allow the patients afflicted with it to breathe freely while they try to recover.

<sup>23</sup> One might ask Marianne Faithful, among others, because she recently recovered from COVID-19 without any special “treatment,” that is, other than isolation in an ICU, where she was on a respirator for two weeks.

combated. All this data<sup>24</sup> puts back into question the weakness of official medicine and shines a light on its lucrative ambitions; its goal is nothing other than patching us up so as to allow us to reintegrate ourselves as quickly as possible into the circuitry of work.

Our very health is considered to be a capital from which to profit.

And this so-called mutant virus: possibly come from laboratory manipulations? We cannot ascertain this and, finally, it isn't that important.<sup>25</sup> Some people who test positive do not develop the illness. Others become sick and recover; others die from it. Still others die from pulmonary infections without there being any trace of the virus. Why is this?

The illness is more the result of our general state and, in particular, the state of our immune systems. Our immune systems are our capacity to respond and an affirmation of our needs. In this campaign, have we seen the State give advice on supporting these systems? Such as: take Vitamin C, D3, magnesium, thyme and other non-toxic remedies? Have you ever seen the State block the production of junk food, which weakens our defenses daily? Have you ever seen the State block the production of the pollutants that saturate our lungs and, that every single day, eliminate diverse vegetal and animal species? Have you ever seen the State block the production of the weapons that feed wars and makes the fear of dying prevail? No, on the contrary. Anti-viral medicines, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, anti-depressants, anti anti anti. The State only knows how to inundate us with anti-life.<sup>26</sup> To wipe out our fighting force is its goal.

What makes us sick: states of exhaustion, exposure to pollution in the air, food and elsewhere, the intensity of work that is required day after day, generalized precariousness, the humiliating process of obtaining lodging, having identification papers, passports, all the battles necessary to not let ourselves be crushed by everyday life or to simply remain alive while guns are firing all around [us] and forcing [us] into exile. The diverse pressures to march straight ahead while wearing blinders, without asking questions, [with] accumulated physical and emotional traumas, our bodies bruised for lack of love, isolation, solitude, the negation of our needs, the repression of our desires to struggle – all this is what makes us sick.

It is the very nature of the system that is deadly. The dictatorship of profit rules over all of our relationships, to ourselves, to things, to other beings. Capital put us on the market as a work force, in competition with all the other work forces. It is this each-against-all that makes us sick. It is the obligation to sell ourselves for a salary, the market or death, the rhythm forced, the environment more and more toxic. The weighing scale grows heavier and heavier. And all this to enrich a world that doesn't ever turn for us.

*Virus-carriers . . . to be avoided?*

What makes us sick isn't this or that virus, bacterium or fungus. Our organism permanently hosts billions of them<sup>27</sup> and they are indispensable to us. Without them, there would have been no history of living beings on earth. Long before human history began, they preexisted us. What is commonly called illness is the phase in which symptoms appear: fever, rashes,

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<sup>24</sup> But the author hasn't provided *any* "data"; indeed he or she has said such data is "obviously not communicated to us" and has contented him- or herself with asking loaded questions.

<sup>25</sup> Because, after all, there is no difference between a naturally occurring virus and a deliberately created biological weapon, right?

<sup>26</sup> Yes, penicillin: *it's a real killer*. People were much healthier before it was discovered by that evil scientist, Alexander Fleming.

<sup>27</sup> *There is no fungus growing on or in me*, thank you very much.

coughing, discharges, and inflammations; the emunctories are hard at work; there are toxins to be eliminated. Illness is the body expressing itself. It carries out a cleaning out and needs to put out the trash. It is a crisis of elimination. Current medicine sounds the alert at the slightest symptoms and is determined to suppress them, to muzzle them, to fight them. It bombards, butchers and amputates. It goes off to war against illness. But by wanting to put an end to the illness at any cost, the treatments [it employs] obligate the body to hold back its toxins. The body accumulates them, places them elsewhere, in the joints, in cancerous growths, in accumulations that lead the body to new crises of elimination. And if, from illness to illness, the process of elimination is impeded, blocked or killed off, then the clogging of the body becomes always deeper, always more disabling: difficulties in breathing, in moving; atrophied senses; heart fatigue; liver overload; failing kidneys; sluggish intestines; failing nerve connections; an open door to all the chronic, degenerative, auto-immune and other so-called rare diseases because [modern] medicine, with its repeated chemical bombardments, creates new ones each time.<sup>28</sup> What is the role of bacteria, viruses, and mycobacteria in all this? All these microorganisms have the function of assisting the digestion, sorting out, assimilation, packaging and/or elimination of everything that the body no longer needs. Even inflammation is a process of cleaning out. If the body has embedded toxins, it is inflammation – thanks to bacteria, viruses, mycobacteria, etc. – that aids it in getting rid of them, etc. Illness is profoundly salutary.<sup>29</sup> But if we have, in a repeated and ever-more violent fashion, quieted these indispensable processes of cleaning out, it can happen that the next crisis of elimination finds us too weak to face it and we cannot recover from it. Especially if there is also emotional distress, terror at the idea of being attacked by a virus, knowing that the lungs are at the center [*le siège*] of the fear of dying.

*It is up to us to do what is necessary to break this chain of events, to no longer let the pharmaceutical industry take possession of our health, to no longer let the world of money consider our bodies to be machines that must be made to function, to be disciplined, to submit, to produce.*

Several indications (to be developed) impose themselves if we want to undermine this apocalyptic vision of the virus' existence, on which the State relies to terrify the population. Many people no longer dare to leave their homes; they are truly panicked at the idea of entering into contact with this accursed (badly named) virus [*ce maudit (mal-dit) virus*]. In the streets, people avoid each other, no longer dare to speak to each other, even flee from sight as if to look at each other or even smile at each other would already be too compromising. Passing by someone becomes a source of anxiety.

The current panic is also only possible because of the centuries-old consent to hold out one's arms and let them inject all sorts of poisons<sup>30</sup> without asking any questions; because of this habit of bowing down before the white lab coats, this vision of the mechanical body in which we replace the pieces<sup>31</sup> when it is not functioning as planned; because of centuries of submission of the living to the narrow-minded and morbid vision of science; centuries of repression of ancient knowledge, holistic medicine, and energetics; centuries of always more expert negation of our

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<sup>28</sup> And this is why the life expectancy in the West has dramatically *decreased* since, say, the Middle Ages, right? People are dying younger than they ever did back then, right?

<sup>29</sup> I'll take a case of cholera, please.

<sup>30</sup> Like the vaccine for polio, for example, which is clearly much worse than the disease itself.

<sup>31</sup> Easily replaceable pieces of the human body include the kidneys, the liver and, of course, the brain.

needs, of our senses, emotions, intuitions – all this to bring us into line as [members of the] work force.

Official medicine is one of the pillars of the State, a zone of oppression and alienation, an area of profit.

Amphetamines in the morning, sleeping pills in the evening, tranquilizers, opiates, cocaine. . . . How long will we drug ourselves in order to tolerate the intolerable?

This pandemic exists much more because of the media's hype concerning the coronavirus than because of the real importance of reported cases of pneumonia.<sup>32</sup> Everything is done to maintain the ambience of war. Hour by hour, the news from the front, the number of deaths, of contaminated people (with the criteria for these counts different from one country to the other and more than questionable<sup>33</sup>). The parade of specialists: physicians, emergency room doctors,<sup>34</sup> virologists, epidemiologists, philosophers, journalists using and abusing metaphors for war: thus, there are those who, on "the front lines," are flattered as "heroes" of the battle,<sup>35</sup> and, especially, those who are required to be good little soldiers and possibly sacrifice themselves (see the lack of equipment, of personnel),<sup>36</sup> in order to save the image of the State as devoted and protective. Forceful language, powerful imagery with underlying themes, the demand for unconditional support from the population, the stigmatization of recalcitrant people,<sup>37</sup> who are defined as "irresponsible," and the repression of those who deliberately do not get into line.<sup>38</sup> The demand for a united front sweeps from the landscape the class gap between rich and poor, owners and expropriated, possessors and the dispossessed, dominant and dominated.

*Let's stop letting ourselves be given the runaround and manipulated.*

One of the only industries whose shares are rising on the stock exchange: the pharmaceutical industry, for which all the laboratories are racing to find a vaccine. To obligate the entire world to get inoculated with this new cocktail of poisons,<sup>39</sup> an incalculable source of profit for those who will gain control over it. Will the refusal to be vaccinated be considered as an act of desertion?

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<sup>32</sup> If only "the media" would just stop hyping the virus, it would just go away on its own – it wouldn't really exist at all. C'mon! *It's just a case of the flu.*

<sup>33</sup> The French word used here, *discutable*, can also mean "dubious." If the death tolls are "more than dubious," does that mean they are flat-out lies?

<sup>34</sup> What the fuck do *they* know? It's not as if they're actually watching people die!

<sup>35</sup> Shit! It's not as if *they themselves are also dying.*

<sup>36</sup> There is in fact plenty of equipment / there's no equipment because these depraved nurses and doctors sold it all to make a quick buck / no equipment is in fact needed because the whole thing is hype.

<sup>37</sup> The French word used here, *récalcitrants*, can mean people who are "stubborn," "uncooperative" or "difficult," even "rebellious."

<sup>38</sup> At least in America, the people who are openly disobeying and/or protesting against the shelter-in-place orders are *Jesus freaks, gun-toting, flag-waving, Trump-supporting Nazis and other fucking idiots.* And the nurses who stand there in complete silence, not moving, wearing gloves and masks (none of the protesters wear gloves or masks, of course), blocking the protesters from blocking the approaches to the hospitals? *Those are the most courageous, heroic people I have ever seen in my life.*

<sup>39</sup> It hasn't even been developed yet, but *we* already know that it's just a new cocktail of poisons!

Against this black tableau of the always more dictatorial aims of the great ones of this world, there are glimmers of hope.

The first to react against confinement have been the most confined: prisoners. In Italy, as elsewhere, the prisons are overpopulated, the prisoners are mistreated, often suffering pulmonary attacks and, more generally, immuno-deficiencies from the very fact of detention. And, moreover, they can't have any visitors and have restrictions placed on their movements; they are abandoned. Mutinies, refusals to go back to their cells, jailbreaks.<sup>40</sup> Support for families that assemble outside the prisons.

In France, a physician posed nude to express the fact that the caregivers are treated like "cannon fodder."<sup>41</sup>

In Bristol, in Great Britain, young people from the streets refused the imposition of confinement: there were riots and looting.<sup>42</sup>

Actions are carried out in the sectors where the personnel must continue to work in order to ensure business goes on as usual: Amazon,<sup>43</sup> supermarkets (Carrefour,<sup>44</sup> Delhaize<sup>45</sup>). While the State's campaign clamps down and promises punishment for those who do not respect the rules of confinement, the workers at these firms must continue to work without protection.<sup>46</sup>

In China, protests are growing against the criteria that discriminate between those who have the right to luxury care and everyone else. And no, we are not all equal in the face of confinement! It is obviously much more tolerable in a villa with a garden than in a cramped apartment.

Beyond the medical question, the real game for the State is maintaining social cohesion while all the parameters of the capitalist system of exploitation explode. The bourgeoisie (the

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<sup>40</sup> Cf. Christina Carrega, "Inmates revolt after Italian prisons restrict visitors due to coronavirus concerns," *ABC News*, 11 March 2020: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/inmates-revolt-italian-prisons-restrict-visitors-due-coronavirus/story?id=69539760>.

<sup>41</sup> But if the death tolls are mere propaganda, and "the war against the virus" is fake, then this action was not "a glimmer of hope," but yet another propaganda campaign. For who dies from a shot fired by a fake cannon?

<sup>42</sup> I can find no confirmation that this is true. Cf. for example the entry for "Bristol riots" on Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol\\_riots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_riots).

<sup>43</sup> Cf. Aaron Holmes, "Defiant Amazons workers are planning to strike again at the same warehouse where a strike organizer was fired last week," *Business Insider*, 6 April 2020: <https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-warehouse-workers-plan-second-strike-organizer-fired-2020-4>.

<sup>44</sup> See Zosia Wanat, "Workers strike at Belgian supermarkets amid coronavirus crisis," *Politico*, 3 April 2020: <https://www.politico.eu/article/workers-strike-at-belgian-supermarkets-amid-coronavirus-crisis/>.

<sup>45</sup> See unsigned news report, "Four Delhaize on strike this Wednesday and the movement could spread," 1 April 2020, *Web24 News*: <https://www.web24.news/u/2020/04/four-delhaize-on-strike-this-wednesday-and-the-movement-could-spread.html>.

<sup>46</sup> I don't see what the problem is. According to the author, the coronavirus is just the flu, the media has overhyped everything to induce unwarranted fear, the death tolls are "more than dubious," illness and death are completely natural, and so *there's actually no need for any protection at all*.

class that owns the means of production)<sup>47</sup> can no longer manage to profit from its investments, to increase the rate of profit. This highlights the fundamental contradictions of the capitalist system, in which everything is only the production of value, the accumulation of all the wealth in the hands of a few, and the always more extreme expropriation, dispossession, enslavement and pauperization of everyone else. A disaster for the property-owning class and a boon [*une aubaine*] for those who have only their chains to lose.<sup>48</sup>

So, let's seize upon this breakdown in order to make sure that the capitalist mode of production cannot recover from this new phase of intense crisis.

Let's remember that this society is constructed upon rapacious wars, the looting of resources, massacres, exterminations and the enslavement of the entire planet.

Will we continue to allow ourselves to be crushed by this infernal machine and each time find ourselves more isolated and caught tighter in its vise?

Let's get out of our homes, let's dare to raise our voices. Let's express our anger! Let's affirm our needs! Let's assemble, discuss things, and take our lives back into our hands. Let's dare to put everything into question and envision another world! A world in which the other won't be treated like a stranger, a danger, but like one of us. A world without the obligation to sell oneself for a salary and without production for profit. A world without war, without prisons, without borders. A world without money. A world without exchange because everything will belong to everyone.

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<sup>47</sup> Rather old-fashioned, if not obsolete, this definition of the bourgeoisie doesn't take into account those who do not own any means of production, but who make money by speculating on currency exchange rates and the stock market, by the buying and selling of debt, by making loans and extending credit, and so forth.

<sup>48</sup> "Everything under heaven is in utter chaos; the situation is excellent" (Mao Tse-Tung).