

Ep 302 Links and Notes - Bring to Birth A New World From the Ashes of the Old

- <http://arsenalfordemocracy.com/2020/01/21/lend-lease-20-climate-change-and-the-end-of-the-liberal-world-as-we-know-it-jan-19-2020/>
- <https://twitter.com/BillHumphreyMA/status/1241683505257623554>
 - *the old way of doing things and the old institutions are fundamentally, in their design and structure, incapable of addressing either the climate crisis or pandemics. the options now are a socially just command economy & government or far-right authoritarianism. I choose left.*
- <https://twitter.com/BillHumphreyMA/status/1241706980433113088>
 - *op-ed writers & "journalists" a few weeks ago kept doing bizarre amateur cultural anthropology pieces on South Korea & Covid-19, but oddly they're not hitting publish on all the pieces about the US & UK leaders breaking glass in case of emergency on the Social Darwinism button*
 - *Oh this old thing? Sure it has implicitly undergirded all our leaders' decision-making on resource allocation under austerity & the Invisible Hand of the markets, but they stopped saying it out loud for 75 years after things got awkward with a certain guy in Berlin.*
 - *Now suddenly these monsters feel comfortable telling you out loud that hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) of retirees & vulnerable young adults are going to die years or decades prematurely, unable to breathe without aid they didn't plan for, because a fitter herd continues.*
- <https://twitter.com/BillHumphreyMA/status/1241709762984710144>
 - *We have had years & years to make adequate preparations for a global pandemic. At every step of the way, conservatives and austerity liberals with a fetish for markets and public-private partnerships have stood united in rejecting action.*
 - *Now they blame foreign countries or fate but make no mistake: there are people responsible for how high the pandemic death toll will get. They are not foreigners or other countries' governments. They are our own leaders, wedded to a failed ideology that said an Invisible Hand & slashing budgets could stop viruses.*
 - *The liberals and conservatives cut budgets to the CDC and to pandemic preparation programs. They let rural hospitals go bankrupt and the big hospitals operate with a "just-in-time" optimization with no room for a crisis rather than take them into well-resourced public ownership.*
- <https://twitter.com/BillHumphreyMA/status/1241712139682877441>
 - *The far-right offers to replace a vacuum of inaction with bold cruelty, promising it will make you feel better although it does not bring anyone back and does not protect us in the future.*
 - *The left, unlike liberals or conservatives or fascists, offer you a vision of a world not only where ordinary lives matter but where society and our governance is organized & directed to safeguard & elevate those lives based on their inherent humanity, not net worth or supremacy.*
 - *The left says we all have dignity & a responsibility to one another; that it's possible to organize an economy & a state to act decisively to allocate all of our combined resources –human, natural, productive– for all of us, not a few of us, years ahead, not one quarter at a time*
- What has this crisis taught us about how we organize our economic lives and society?

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/disabled-people-react-to-coronavirus-work-from-home-accommodations>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/business/coronavirus-instacart-strike.html>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/essential-workers-lowest-paid_n_5e7bc7f7c5b6256a7a23e6f5

- What are other countries doing with a centralized, command response?
 - Ireland follows Spain in [at least temporarily] nationalizing all hospitals to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, recognizing that private ownership is incompatible with an urgent equitable distribution of health resources.
<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/03/26/ireland-nationalizes-hospitals-duration-coronavirus>
 - Chinese hospital construction:
<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-china-managed-build-entirely-new-hospital-in-10-days-2020-2>
 - Counterpoint note:
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rainerzitelmann/2019/09/30/state-capitalism-no-the-private-sector-was-and-is-the-main-driver-of-chinas-economic-growth/#659701f727cb>
- Reminder: state ownership isn't always social ownership. Just because the government owns a sector or industry doesn't mean they are making economic decisions based on the greatest social welfare. State capitalism without social objectives and social governance is not better for the people or even necessarily the workers. Like climate change, this crisis requires central economic control but it also needs a social force on the bridge of the ship.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/23/world/europe/coronavirus-economic-relief-wages.html>

The Danish government has promised to cover 75 percent to 90 percent of salaries if businesses do not lay off their employees. Better to pay to keep people employed than to pay for the disruption caused by mass layoffs and unemployment, the government has said.

The Netherlands will pay up to 90 percent of wages for companies hit hard by the pandemic, with extra provisions being developed for restaurants.

What distinguishes the United States from other countries "is not the nature of the bailouts. It's the underlying structure," said Carol Graham, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who studies safety nets. "People are more vulnerable from the get-go, even in normal times. You throw a shock like this at the system? It's about as bad as it could get."

American workers face extra anxiety over medical costs. The United States, unlike most of the developed world, does not guarantee health care.

"For the first time in our history, the government is going to step in and pay people's wages," the British chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said last week. The plan, which is still being developed, will pay up to about \$2,900 a month to workers who have lost hours but are not laid off.

The center-right government in Germany will spend more than \$40 billion to help small businesses cover basic needs to stay afloat during the crisis. That is in addition to a program aimed at larger companies, called “kurzarbeit,” or “short-time working,” that covers lost wages for employees who are sent home, to avoid laying them off. Economists expect about two million workers to receive aid under the program, more than during the financial crisis a decade ago.

“We have a security net, and people don’t fall below the security net,” said Dierk Hirschel, the chief economist of ver.di, one of Germany’s largest trade unions. “But people are going to lose income, and in a traumatic way.”

South Korea’s employee-retention program covers 70 percent of wages or more, and the government recently loosened the rules to make more businesses eligible. But part-time workers, contractors and the self-employed receive fewer protections. Some may be eligible for one-time cash payments. Labor advocates want those workers to have the same benefits as full-time employees.

Elias Calcoen and his partner opened a cafe in Brussels eight months ago. It has been closed for more than a week, but the city’s government is offering small businesses immediate \$4,300 payments, plus \$1,300 a month in federal aid for displaced self-employed workers.

Brenda James-Leong, a florist in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, says she has been burning through savings while her store is closed. The Malaysian government has offered monthly assistance to the unemployed and lump payments to workers in certain sectors. “If the government is doing anything for small businesses like mine, it has not been communicated as of now,” she said.

- Tuberculosis history stats: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbday/history.htm>