

THE REAL VIRUS IS CAPITALISM

The crisis of relative overproduction of capital

It is important to start this report contesting a general pretension in the bourgeois media, that is, that the appearance of the SARS-CoV-2 virus at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 is the explanation of the chain of events in which the capitalist world currently in crisis is and will be submerged.

As has been extensively developed in the pages of our review, since 2008 the capitalist world has been in a crisis of relative overproduction of capital of a deflationary type that it is unable to overcome, a crisis of overproduction that occurs in a situation that combines displacement from the epicenter of capitalism to Asia and the disappearance of the premises of the last world distribution (Yalta and Potsdam) with the broader expansion of capitalism to all corners of the planet.

Our current had set for the resumption of the class struggle, after the devastating effects of the Stalinist counterrevolution, a series of conditions that we have recalled so many times. For the moment, it serves this quote from the Dialogue with the Dead that focuses on two key concepts for understanding the current moment:

"The keys to deciphering the painting, eloquent in itself in its meaning as a platform for the future course, are three: Crisis, War and Revolution.

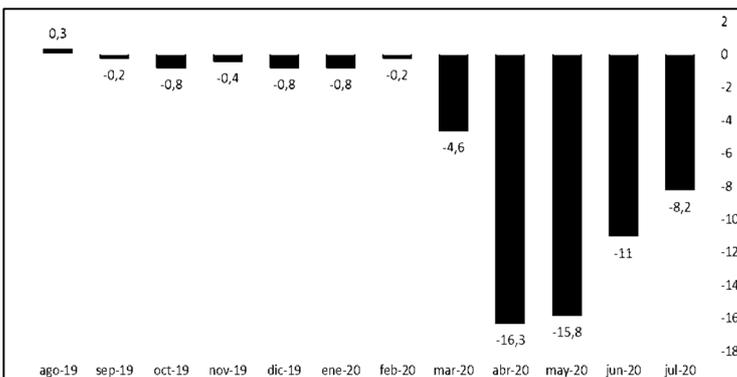
Our work is finished, and his arrival thesis is the route of emulation. The more the riders dismount each other, the more the Revolution becomes possible, with its slogan, a corollary of the original theory: blocking of production.

For more extensive conclusions we will not dare a prophecy, only an auspice.

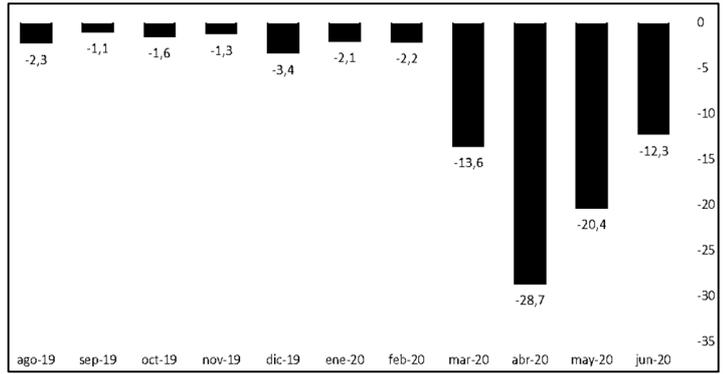
*May the post-war leaping decade of the world capitalist production continue for some years! **Then the interwar crisis, analogous to the one that broke out in America in 1929. Social slaughter of the middle classes and bourgeois workers. Resurgence of a movement of the world working class, rejecting any ally. Brand new theoretical victory of its old thesis. Single communist party for all the states of the world.***

Towards the end of the twenty year period, the alternative of the difficult century: third war of the imperialist monsters or international communist revolution. Only if the war doesn't happen, the emulators will die!" (Dialogue with the Dead, 1956).

As an illustration, we will advance that if we observe, for example, the evolution of the fall of US industrial production, we will see that it has been falling and that it has been negative since September 2019.



If we look at the European Union industrial production, we will see that it has been falling and that it has been negative since before August 2019.



In this review we will try to show how the SARS-CoV-2 virus or the Covid-19 disease, as you prefer, are not only not the reason for the current crisis, but a very convenient method to hide it.

On the contrary, we will find an explanation for Covid-19 and especially for the social effects justified by Covid-19 in the crisis of relative overproduction of capital, in the commercial and military war to which it pushes the great imperialist powers, on the need for capitalism to make an organized social slaughter of the middle classes, on the need to control and militarize the working class for the effort to prepare and carry out war.

How would an epidemic be approached in communism?

Before proceeding to the development of the detailed points, as well as to unravel the contradictions put into circulation by the different fractions of the bourgeoisie, we are programmatically interested in dwelling on a fundamental question: how would an epidemic be approached and what social consequences would it have in a non-mercantile society, without wage labor, or private property or social classes?

To illustrate the question, we have to sketch how the question has been posed in capitalism:

- The accumulation of capital and dependence on wages force the accumulation of huge masses of population, real sources of unhealthiness.
- The motor is the profit and the capital accumulation so capital and production cannot stop even if this was necessary to reduce transmission.
- Workers depend on a salary, so the stoppage of production results in the loss of employment for them, a loss that may or may not be temporarily compensated by a subsidy, in any case insufficient.
- In capitalism, workers of a certain age or in certain situations are no longer suitable for exploitation (which does not mean that they cannot do productive and useful things for themselves and for society, but that no one can get out of them anymore the average rate of profit) and its maintenance represents an unproductive expense.
- The distribution of production occurs through trade which cause that, in the event of possible shortages, there will be a stockpiling reaction that accentuates even more the general shortage.
- Health care is a business or is at the service of the business, so it will always be in inferior conditions to its social utility

and will be insufficient when there will be generalized adversities: the continued dimensioning of the health system according to these "overflowing" situations (in capitalism) would make it impossible obtaining a profit and the development of the capital. On the contrary, and for this same reason, the health system in capitalism is condemned to be under-dimensioned even for the effective attention of "normal" situations.

- The pharmaceutical industry is itself a business and subjects scientific research and health decisions to its business needs: the sale of masks, of tests of all kinds, of treatments, of vaccines, with or without guarantees, etc.
- Research efforts are wasted on redundant research in a number of companies and institutions whose sole objective is to get to market before others with a product that is profitable (not useful or effective!) and patentable to get rich with the situation.
- The different fractions and groups of the bourgeoisie have different and opposed interests in relation to the stoppage or not of production, the closure or not of the work centers, the displacement of jobs through teleworking, the subsidy or not from certain sectors, etc.
- The different imperialist powers use Covid-19 to justify and implement their strategies of commercial or military (and biological?) war in their competition for the predominance of the world market.

In this context, all "scientific" explanations and "political" decisions are vitiated by one economic interest or another: *"Men have always been, in politics, foolish victims of the deceit of others and their own, and they will continue to be so as long as they do not learn to discover behind all the phrases, statements and moral, religious, political and social promises, the interests of one class or another."* (Three sources and three integral parts of Marxism, Lenin, 1913).

All the above is determined and is inevitable in a mercantile society. In a communist society (non-mercantile society, without wage labor, private property or social classes), on the contrary:

- The population would be distributed and without large agglomerations.
- No one would stop being able to access the consumer fund due to not working, if this were necessary to avoid transmission.
- Old people and people with other circumstances that would not make them suitable to generate surplus value in a capitalist society, could continue to contribute to society with useful contributions for themselves and for the rest, without being necessary (we say it clearly) to kill them in a planned and massive way as capitalism is doing with Covid-19.
- The health system would be dimensioned for these situations, that is, oversized for normal situations, without this being detrimental to anyone but, on the contrary, a sign of a truly humane society.
- No one could get rich from the situation, or from the sale of treatments, tests, etc. unifying research efforts and directing them to not profitable but effective products.
- For the first time in the humanity history, scientific research would live up to that name, freeing itself from the criminal influence of mercantile interest and commercial secrecy.

But to see this society born, we need the anti-capitalist social revolution; we need to juggle capitalism before, with the

development of wars, pestilences and laboratory or "natural" viruses, it destroys human life on earth. And for this we need the organization of the proletariat in class for itself in the International Communist Party.

Natural origin or laboratory origin?

When the first news of SARS-CoV-2 appeared in Wuhan, China, a scaly mammal commonly referred to as a "pangolin" was quickly accused as the culprit of the transfer of SARS-CoV-2 from a bat to a human.

This leaves the well-thinking and lover of simple explanations philistine calm: the bat and the pangolin, along with the dirt of the Wuhan markets are the responsible, nothing more to say. The mere hypothesis of laboratory creation and deliberate release seems impossible to some people...

However, there are a whole series of circumstances that could suggest a laboratory origin and even a planned launch of the virus.

On October 5th, 2019, the Spanish bourgeois newspaper "El País" published an article entitled *"The world has to prepare itself for the next great lethal pandemic"* in which it reported that *"A committee of experts delivers to the UN an analysis on the risk of a global health emergency and what to do to prevent it. The biggest threat? A massive and deadly flu"*. It refers to the report¹ of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board in which the *"deliberate release of a lethal respiratory pathogen"* is mentioned up to 9 (nine) times and, in fact, requires that before September 2020: *"The United Nations (including WHO) conducts at least two simulation and training exercises in all the system, one of them on the deliberate release of a lethal respiratory pathogen"*. It is interesting to remember that when the attack on the Twin Towers was carried out, a simulation of a very similar attack was also being conducted just at that precise moment that "prevented" the Pentagon from distinguishing between the planes and stopping them in time. Could it be a coincidence?

At the same time, and immediately before the first cases in China, that is, in October 2019, took place a simulation of a global pandemic caused by a new coronavirus with the same characteristics that SARS-CoV-2 later had, in the called "Event 201 Pandemic Exercise" organized by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, the World Economic Forum and the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation.

It is also public and well known that there are a significant number of laboratories investigating viruses, creating hybrids (called "chimeras") with coronaviruses and verifying their ability to infect humans. In November 2015, it was published a study publicly explaining the creation of this type of virus in the journal *Nature Medicine*² and, in an article later that month in the same journal³, the researcher affirms that research will continue with apes.

Capitalism has created and will create puppets capable of carrying out two world wars, of dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (after previously testing them in Arizona against its own soldiers), of carrying out the bombings of Dresden, of using chlorine in the first world war, of the systematic massacres and concentration camps that have characterized the 20th and 21st centuries, of the Napalm bombing in Vietnam, of organizing the attack on the Twin

¹https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/annual_report/GPMB_Annual_Report_Spanish.pdf

² <https://www.nature.com/news/engineered-bat-virus-stirs-debate-over-risky-research-1.18787>

³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985>

Towers, of distributing blankets with smallpox to the American Indians to finish killing them, etc.

It is truly surprising that with this history record someone is shocked with the possibility that these same elements or their successors could design and manufacture a virus contagious enough to have to stop much of the trade and transport of people, which is it is especially suitable for the part of the population that is most obviously "left over" for capitalism (over 70 years old).

Remember: *"Capital is said by a Quarterly Reviewer to fly turbulence and strife, and to be timid, which is very true; but this is very incompletely stating the question. Capital eschews no profit, or very small profit, just as Nature was formerly said to abhor a vacuum. With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent. will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent. certain will produce eagerness; 50 per cent., positive audacity; 100 per cent. will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent., and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. If turbulence and strife will bring a profit, it will freely encourage both. Smuggling and the slave-trade have amply proved all that is here stated."* (P. J. Dunning, *Trade Unions*)" (Cited in "Capital", Part 8 "Primitive accumulation", Chapter 31, Volume I, K. Marx)

Moreover, in the capitalist system 2.78 million of workers are murdered annually "due to work accidents or work-related diseases" according to the very bourgeois ILO, 800,000 people commit suicide annually, 485,000 die by homicide, 175,000 die in war conflicts, 68,000 for domestic violence... the capitalist system is a human being crushing machine!

For these reasons, we not only do not consider the laboratory hypothesis and the intentional release of the virus to be rejectable, but we also consider it the most probable. Furthermore, we believe that anyone who is opposed to even considering the laboratory hypothesis is simply a believer in the capitalist system. It is not our role to fortify the faith in the capitalist system, quite the contrary.

But independently of whether it was created and released intentionally or was transmitted from another species spontaneously, we sustain that **SARS-CoV-2 is not the real cause of the current overproduction crisis** nor is it the real ultimate reason for the entire series of political and economic actions that the various capitalist states are taking in their struggle for the world market control.

The contradictions about SARS-CoV-2

Since the appearance of Covid-19, a whole series of almost fantastic descriptions of the virus have been combined with a complete negligence of the most basic preventive measures necessary for any earthly virus without batting an eye.

Among the unproven "rarities" of the virus is the asymptomatic transmission (other than the fact of transmission on the day or two days before symptoms begin), the almost telepathic transmission of the virus, the survival of the virus for days on surfaces. If any of these things were proven, it would be rather an additional reason in favor of the hypothesis of the laboratory origin of it, but to date they have not been confirmed.

As we have said, these descriptions put into circulation have been combined with acts of negligence to the most obvious preventive measures with the groups with the most risk: in most countries the elder care homes have become real death camps in which the old people, crammed into them, were isolated and left

to die on morphine without even receiving minor medical assistance.

In many countries, a very high percentage of deaths have been in the population over 65 years old and a highly significant percentage of them in elder care homes. Where is the mortality and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 if we discard these deaths, which on the other hand can only be classified as premeditated massive murder?

The outbreaks, in any case, have occurred in agricultural and meat companies, with tremendously overcrowded conditions, both in the workplace and in living facilities, "homes" to call them in some way.

To cover up this harsh reality, it is very useful to fabricate a series of unexpected behaviors of the virus that would put the entire population in the spotlight and would justify the total number of deaths, as well as the social control measures deployed. When a sufficient environment of fear and oppression is generated, any explanation or directive, any swerve, is accepted with almost religious submission by the population, even against all the evidence: *"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature."* (Introduction to the critique of Hegel's philosophy of right, K. Marx, 1844).

There are at least two additional reasons for the diversity of opinions in circulation: the internal struggle within the various fractions of the petty, middle and big bourgeoisie, on the one hand, and the specific interests of the pharmaceutical industry, on the other.

As we pointed out at the beginning, a characteristic element of the current situation of overproduction crisis is the inevitable "social slaughter of the middle classes". What part of the bourgeoisie itself must be sacrificed in the accumulation for the accumulation altar?

*"A portion of the old capital has to lie unused under all circumstances; it has to give up its characteristic quality as capital, so far as acting as such and producing value is concerned. The competitive struggle would decide what part of it would be particularly affected. So long as things go well, competition effects an operating fraternity of the capitalist class, as we have seen in the case of the equalisation of the general rate of profit, so that each shares in the common loot in proportion to the size of his respective investment. **But as soon as it no longer is a question of sharing profits, but of sharing losses, everyone tries to reduce his own share to a minimum and to shove it off upon another. The class, as such, must inevitably lose. How much the individual capitalist must bear of the loss, i.e., to what extent he must share in it at all, is decided by strength and cunning, and competition then becomes a fight among hostile brothers. The antagonism between each individual capitalist's interests and those of the capitalist class as a whole, then comes to the surface, just as previously the identity of these interests operated in practice through competition.**" (Capital, Volume III, K. Marx)*

A part of the big bourgeoisie sees with satisfaction how a series of small competitors will be eliminated and later absorbed if the situation of alarm and restrictions due to Covid-19 is maintained. A part of the petty and medium bourgeoisie realizes that the funeral is being prepared for it and it resists against the alarm situation and restrictions due to Covid-19. Another part of the petty bourgeoisie maintains its faith in the state and bets on maintaining the alarm situation and restrictions due to Covid-19 that justifies the state aid received (so far). Each of these fractions is interested in an up or down count of cases and deaths,

to justify their contingent interests, adding confusion to confusion.

This explains the lurches and changes in the criteria to count infected and dead people.

On the other hand, we have the interests of the pharmaceutical industry that have well matched with the interests of the governments of at least pretend that they were doing something about the spread of the virus.

Tests on the basis of data and approximations have rapidly begun to be produced and sold, which make it possible to test positive for cross-reactions with a multitude of other viruses, which make it possible to be undetected if it has suffered slight mutations, etc. But the important thing is to sell and sell now. Most of the leaflets of these tests contain the warning of the possibility of false positives, of the possibility of false negatives, of the scarcity of previous tests carried out, that they should not be used as a diagnostic method, etc. but... they are sold and used for this: to diagnose even in people without any symptoms and who never develop them. One of the most notorious cases has been in Tanzania where the samples of a goat and a papaya have tested positive (¡!). (Canarias News, 08-05-2020).

We will return to this question later.

The problem (for capitalism) of the aging of the (working class) population

In 2012, Christine Lagarde, who at that time was the president of the International Monetary Fund and currently the president of the European Central Bank, stated:

*"The Fund demands, among other measures, that benefits be cut and the retirement age delayed due to **the risk that people will live longer than it is expected.**"* (El País, 11-04-2012)

These signs of sincerity from the representatives of the bourgeoisie must never be forgotten. Indeed, the retirement age has been delayed in many countries and benefits (and health budgets) have also been cut, but it has not been enough and the bourgeoisie has continued to cry at the risk that the "people" (the working class) live more than expected.

It cannot be denied that SARS-CoV-2 is the perfect fit for the international bourgeoisie for this particular "little" problem. The more the virus spreads among the elderly population, the more ballast each bourgeoisie will get out the way of the commercial and military war that lies ahead.

The following table shows deaths from Covid-19 in the elder care homes in various countries, in June 26th 2020⁴.

Country	Date	Total number deaths linked to COVID-19	Number of deaths of care home residents linked to COVID-19	%
Austria	5/6/2020	646	222	34%
Belgium	20/6/2020	9.696	6.213	64%
Canada	1/6/2020	7.326	6.236	85%
Denmark	15/6/2020	598	211	35%
Finland	23/6/2020	327	147	45%
France	16/6/2020	29.547	14.341	49%
Germany	23/6/2020	8.895	3.491	39%
H.Kong	22/6/2020	4	0	0%
Hungary	2/6/2020	532	127	24%
Ireland	22/6/2020	1.717	1.086	63%
Israel	24/6/2020	307	137	45%
Norway	19/6/2020	244	144	59%
Portugal	9/5/2020	1.125	450	40%
Slovenia	22/5/2020	105	85	81%
S.Korea	30/4/2020	247	84	34%
Spain	23/6/2020	28.318	19.553	68%
Sweden	15/6/2020	4.810	2.280	47%
Engl.& Wales	12/6/2020	48.538	19.700	41%
N.Ireland UK	12/6/2020	795	412	52%
Scotland UK	14/6/2020	4.070	1.896	47%
U.States	18/6/2020	240.138	50.185	45%

To achieve this result, a very special virus is not necessary, a new virus for which there was no vaccine and a special "negligence" to keep the elderly in care homes and deny them basic medical care (which arises spontaneously from care mercantile criteria) was enough and is enough, instead of immediately vacating the residences or drastically reducing their capacity by transferring the elderly people to hotels or other medicalized infrastructures.

The "specialty" of the virus, at least in the media, is more useful in controlling the population and hiding the underlying economic processes.

Pharmaceutical sector

One of the facts that the Covid-19 "pandemic" has most clearly shown in the bourgeois press and in general, is the range of the pharmaceutical business, which make from health and mankind wellness (or of the part of it that can afford it) its field

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⁴ <https://tccovid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Mortality-associated-with-COVID-among-people-who-use-long-term-care-26-June.pdf>

of action. We are not surprised that in capitalism also health and wellness are a business, but we however think that it is important to study its reach and above all to acquire several argumentations to fight against it and denounce its "social" or "neutral" pretensions.

In the field of pharmaceuticals, it can be very obviously observed the clash between the pretension of contributing to "mankind's" wellness and the real purpose that this industry, as well as all the rest, pursue: business. Specifically, a business that reached last year a global volume of more than a thousand billion US dollars (Público, 06-05-2020) and that will most probably substantially increase given the current situation, and that as a sector it is only outranked by sectors such as oil or weapons⁵.

The logic of mass production at the lowest price to obtain maximum profit results in the production of drugs for an "average" individual, that inevitably result in excessive or insufficient doses for any given real person, with specially damaging consequences for certain individuals. This must be added up to the fact that the real business in several occasions comes from the chronification of the disease and not its solution, hence the industry is interested in finding and promoting treatments that pretend to offer an immediate improvement, even if it is merely partial, but that in any case maintains (or even increases) the problem, with the aim to maintain the business.

An obvious example of it has been the promotion or prescription of new opioids such as Tramadol and Fentanyl in the US (and every time more in other places too), that has brought a big epidemic of addiction (with its consequent deaths due to overdose) and at the same time a big business for the producers: "Fentanyl replaced heroin as the main drug linked to the death by overdose in the United States, (...) Moreover, it is remarkable that deaths by overdose with heroin tripled between 2011 and 2016, as well as the rate of deaths due to methamphetamine overdose. Researchers found that overdose-related deaths increased 54% between 2011 and 2016, from 41,340 to 63,632. This fact, added to the increase of 3.7% of suicides, has brought life expectancy in the US to a reduction for the third consecutive year, being 78.6 years on 2017, according to a report that CDC published two weeks ago." (La Vanguardia, 12-12-2018). Treatment chronification is very convenient also to cover the real origin of the overwhelming majority of illnesses of the working class: excess of work and the conditions in which we are forced to live.

All that we've exposed was compiled by Engels on 1845 in "The Condition of the Working Class in England", that still describes with precision the reality of the working class also nowadays: "The centralisation of population in great cities exercises of itself an unfavourable influence; the atmosphere of London can never be so pure, so rich in oxygen, as the air of the country; two and a half million pairs of lungs, two hundred and fifty thousand fires, crowded upon an area three to four miles square [imagine the effects of the current urban agglomerates], consume an enormous amount of oxygen, which is replaced with difficulty, because the method of building cities in itself impedes ventilation. The carbonic acid gas, engendered by respiration and fire, remains in the streets by reason of its specific gravity, and the chief air current passes over the roofs of the city. The lungs of the inhabitants fail to receive the due supply of oxygen, and the consequence is mental and physical lassitude and low vitality. For this reason, the dwellers in cities are far less exposed to acute, and especially to inflammatory, affections than rural populations,

who live in a free, normal atmosphere; but **they suffer the more from chronic affections.** (...)

Another source of physical mischief to the working-class lies in the impossibility of employing skilled physicians in cases of illness. It is true that a number of charitable institutions strive to supply this want, that the infirmary in Manchester, for instance, receives or gives advice and medicine to 22,000 patients annually. But what is that in a city in which, according to Gaskell's calculation, three-fourths of the population need medical aid every year? English doctors charge high fees, and working-men are not in a position to pay them. They can therefore do nothing, or **are compelled to call in cheap charlatans, and use quack remedies, which do more harm than good.** An immense number of such quacks thrive in every English town, securing their clientele among the poor by means of advertisements, posters, and other such devices. Besides these, vast quantities of patent medicines are sold, for all conceivable ailments: Morrison's Pills, Parr's Life Pills, Dr. Mainwaring's Pills, and a thousand other pills, essences, and balsams, all of which have the property of curing all the ills that flesh is heir to. These medicines rarely contain actually injurious substances, but, **when taken freely and often, they affect the system prejudicially;** and as the unwary purchasers are always recommended to take as much as possible, it is not to be wondered at that they swallow them wholesale whether wanted or not.

It is by no means unusual for the manufacturer of Parr's Life Pills to sell twenty to twenty-five thousand boxes of these salutary pills in a week, and they are taken for constipation by this one, for diarrhoea by that one, for fever, weakness, and all possible ailments. As our German peasants are cupped or bled at certain seasons, so do the English working-people now consume patent medicines to their own injury and the great profit of the manufacturer. One of the most injurious of these patent medicines is a drink prepared with opiates, chiefly laudanum, under the name Godfrey's Cordial. (...)

The result of all these influences is a general enfeeblement of the frame in the working-class. There are few vigorous, well-built, healthy persons among the workers, i.e. among the factory operatives, who are employed in confined rooms, and we are here discussing these only. They are almost all weakly, of angular but not powerful build, lean, pale, and of relaxed fibre, with the exception of the muscles especially exercised in their work. Nearly all suffer from indigestion, and consequently from a more or less hypochondriac, melancholy, irritable, nervous condition. **Their enfeebled constitutions are unable to resist disease, and are therefore seized by it on every occasion.** Hence they age prematurely, and die early. On this point the mortality statistics supply unquestionable testimony." (The Condition of the Working Class in England, F. Engels, 1845)

All that is described has done nothing but increase and twist for the working class nowadays. Food that we are able to access, rotative and never-ending shifts, the environment in which we are forced to live, the lack of time and space for regular and healthy exercise, etc., are the true cause of the various diseases and sicknesses that the working class specially suffers (obesity, diabetes, fibromyalgia, menstrual pains, infertility, cancers, cardiovascular and endocrine problems, etc.), and there is nothing to be surprised of that, as Engels said, worker organisms are not "able to resist disease, and are therefore seized by it on every occasion". With the incidence of Covid-19, even the

⁵ <https://www.rankia.com/blog/bolsa-al-dia/3534358-top-11-ranking-industrias-que-mas-dinero-mueven-mundo-como-invertir-ellas>

research studies of the health institutions can do nothing but acknowledge this reality, as does for example the Instituto Hospital del Mar de Investigaciones Médicas (IMIM) of Barcelona by making explicit that the neighborhoods with lower incomes have been the most heavily affected⁶.

At the same time, keeping an exclusive market niche is the only base for the existence of patents (based in the so-called "intellectual property", the worst of the properties), with which bourgeois legislation allows more modern developments with less side effects not to be made available to most part of the working population after several years have passed, with the only aim of enriching even more the alleged developers of the improvement with the maintenance of a monopoly over it, and forcing the majority of the working class to access the so-called generic drugs, euphemism used to refer to treatments already overcome by other better ones that are kept subject to patents.

Business is therefore the real background of all studies promoted by the pharmaceutical industry (directly or indirectly, through their direct funds or through their participation in "research" institutions, universities, etc.), and the institutions themselves openly admit it: "Afterwards, in order to favor transference, we make a prove of concept of the projects granted with a scholarship. **There, no scientific evaluation is made, but only if what they propose is viable as a product.** It is taken into account that it has a social or commercial application and it is granted another 100,000 or 150,000 euros for two years" (Interview of Núria Sebastián, vice-president of the European Research Council, Expansión, 13-01-2015).

The fact that, in capitalism, research is directly tied to the possibility of business has, among others, two main consequences.

As the Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848) already stated, bourgeoisie is pushed to the development by competition, and therefore, on the one side, research itself becomes a business by its own (since it has as customers the companies that pursue these innovations or discoveries, or the papers that justify or support the benefits of their products). This ends up making the research papers themselves a product of its own, generating research papers over the same topics, with any needed preestablished conclusions, and which will overwhelmingly end up being useless: "According to an analysis, (...), **85% of the effort dedicated to biomedical research "ends up being wasted"**. "We are talking about studies that are never applied in clinics or that do so in a negative fashion, and several other that are abandoned in early stages", explains Ioannidis. "Most of the times experiments are not well designed", denounces the researcher. "For example, only between 10% and 20% of the studies with animals are randomized in order to avoid unconscious biases of scientists", he highlights. In the case of clinical essays with patients, "only 5% follow the right steps correctly", he denounces. **The problem affects "almost all disciplines of science"**, he assures. In 2013, Stanford doctor published a paper that asserted that up till 95% can be not yet disputed fallacies." (El País, 10-01-2017).

On the other side, consequently, the alleged studies end up being biased data compilations that seek to justify some previously reached "conclusions" in a pretended scientific way at the lowest possible cost, with the implications that this has when groups of individuals are subject to tests of medical

developments, a field which many NGO's that allegedly do "cooperation" are specially keen to. This fact has become so true that even the bourgeoisie itself distrusts the conclusions of their own "studies". From a general point of view, what is behind this situation is the fact that these studies respond to the needs of the various industries that promote them, among others the pharmaceutical one, that however has the interest to hide this fact: "52% of the analyzed studies did not reveal where the money for the research came from. And only 6% of the articles included a declaration of interest conflicts, an amount that is "most probably an underestimation" of the reality, according to Ioannidis's team." (El País, 04-01-2016).

The business perspectives that many companies see in the Covid-19 "pandemic" have brought this situation to its paroxysm: "The biggest avalanche of scientific studies that has ever been seen. "This volume of publications in a fraction of three months is unprecedented", points Daniel Torres, researcher of the University of Granada, that has calculated that the exponential rhythm of publications about the virus is doubled every two weeks. Since 2004, an average of 3,000 articles about coronavirus were published every year. Right now, 700 are published every day. That has added up to 20,000 in three months." (El País, 05-05-2020).

Putting aside the issue of its origin, what is clear is that, after the media impact generated, the pharmaceutical industry has a big business field in the sale of eventual treatments and tests for the famous coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, and in the development and sale of eventual vaccines, once again regardless of their real effectivity. Notwithstanding the production and distribution of face masks, in which the application of various standards (FFP1 and FFP2 in Europe, KN95 in China, N95 in the US, etc.) is a clear example of an attempt of maintaining the control over certain markets that has no other background than making the access easier for certain producers and more difficult for others. And the struggle for primacy in these business fields is reflected in the support of the various governments to certain studies that support certain treatments and their opposition to others.

As a matter of fact, regarding treatments, completely contradictory studies about the benefits or defects of the various treatments have not ceased to appear ever since the beginning of the so-called pandemic: chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine (with or without azithromycin), Lopinavir/Ritonavir vs Remdesivir, dexamethasone, favipinavir, the alleged positive effects of anticoagulants and a long etcetera of drugs that the various producing companies attempt to sell with the support of pretended studies that the theoretically scientific publications have no problem in publish, but the defense of their own imperialistic interests.

Let's see an example. "French health minister, Olivier Véran, ordered yesterday the immediate revision of the protocol used for hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19 sick people. The decision was taken after the scientific review The Lancet published an extended international study in which it warned of the inefficiency of the drug and its cardiac risks" (La Vanguardia, 24-05-2020). "No signs of alarm to stop the essays with hydroxychloroquine. Doubts over the study of 'The Lancet' grow, nuanced by the publication itself." (La Vanguardia, 03-06-2020). "The general director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced yesterday that the Solidarity essay, promoted by this organism, will retake the

⁶ <https://academic.oup.com/ijpubhealth/advance-article/doi/10.1093/pubmed/fdaa136/5881845>

researches with the drug hydroxychloroquine, after they were cancelled last week facing a possible increase of the risk of death and coronary diseases." (La Vanguardia, 04-06-2020). "The review 'The Lancet' retracted from the study critic with hydroxychloroquine." (La Vanguardia 05-06-2020). "Hydroxychloroquine does not prevent Covid, according to a study of Mitjà" (La Vanguardia, 12-06-2020). And we could keep on going.

Of course, none of these studies, neither in favor nor against, can be considered "objective", and they all respond only to the need of promoting or attacking the use of a drug that may have positive or negative effects depending on the person, situation and dose. Marxism has always defended that research in a rational way will only be able to be performed when mankind overcomes being subject to the mercantile-capitalist logic:

*"The first truth that man can master is the notion of the future communist society. This notion makes no borrowings from this repugnant capitalist democratic or Christian society, and **it absolutely does not seek a human heritage on which to base itself in the so-called positive science elaborated by the bourgeois revolution: for us it is a class science which has to be destroyed and replaced in its entirety, like the religions and scholastic creeds of previous production forms.** With regard to the theory of economic transformations enabling us to go from capitalism – the structure of which we know quite well, whereas the official economists are incapable of understand – to communism, **we also go without the contributions of bourgeois science, and we have the same contempt for bourgeois technique and technology**, which everyone, driving opportunistic traitors foremost, proclaims to be headed for great discoveries. We have built the science of society, its current existence and future development, in an absolutely revolutionary way. When this work of the human mind is complete – and it cannot be until after the demise of capitalism, of its civilization, its schools, science and its **technology of thieves** – man will also, for the first time, write the science and history of physical nature and solve the great problems of the life of the Universe from its origins (which scientists reconciled with the dogma continue to call "creation") to its developments on the infinitely large and infinitely small scales in the most distant and today undecipherable future. (Thesis of Naples, 1965).*

*"In machinery, the appropriation of living labour by capital achieves a direct reality in this respect as well: It is, firstly, the analysis and application of mechanical and chemical laws, arising directly out of science, which enables the machine to perform the same labour as that previously performed by the worker. However, the development of machinery along this path occurs only when large industry has already reached a higher stage, and **all the sciences have been pressed into the service of capital.**" (Fixed capital and circulating capital as two particular kinds of capital. Fixed capital and continuity of the production process. – Machinery and living labour. (Business of inventing)).*

As Marxists, in order to try to understand what is behind the biasness of all these "studies" we have to inquire over the material, economical background. Who produces Remdesivir? Gilead Sciences, with headquarters in California. Who is the main producer of hydroxychloroquine in the world? Sanofi-Aventis and Sanofi-Pasteur, with headquarters in France. Who is the first producer of components to produce hydroxychloroquine? India: "(...) In the US 24% of the medicines and a third of its ingredients come from India." (La Vanguardia, 08-04-2020). Those are the material facts that take the various governments

to defend in an imperialistic way their business, in which the trustworthiness, side effects, or effectivity of the treatment is a completely secondary topic. The same can be stated regarding the rest of the treatments in race.

All those pharmaceutical companies and the different states have also turned the development of an eventual vaccine or vaccines in a kind of emulating space race, trying to be the first ones to distribute it and consequently to occupy the market with THEIR product, evicting the rest and resulting even in clashes between the various governments. *"In total, **currently 167 vaccines against Covid-19 are under development**, 28 of which are doing tests with humans. Among the most advanced ones, we can find the ones performed by the Oxford University together with AstraZeneca, the one of Moderna pharmaceutical company, the one developed due to the collaboration between BioNTech and Pfizer or the candidate of Sinovac that has just started its clinical essay in Indonesia. The Russian vaccine is not found in this group."* (La Vanguardia, 12-08-2020). *"The biopharmaceutical BioNTech and the Pfizer lab also present encouraging results. Like Moderna's vaccine, the group works with sections of messenger ARN. They have four candidates. One of them, BNT162b2, is currently in the last phase of clinical essay, which will count with 30,000 participants scattered in countries such as the United States, Argentina, Brazil or Germany."* (La Vanguardia, 16-08-2020). And all that in order to access a part of the already existing yummy business (we only need to recall the annual "standard" flu vaccination campaigns) and that they foresee to increase: *"Four big labs produce now two thirds of the vaccines that are administered in the world: GSK, MSD, Pfizer and Sanofi. "It is a sector that has become more specialized" explains Silvia Ondategui-Parra, partner of Global Life Sciences of E&Y consultants. **The world expenses in vaccines accounted for some 41 billion US dollars in 2018 (35 billion euros)** (...) The governments of big countries, however, are doing an effort to advance to the companies the funding they need. (...) Experts of the industry explain that this funding is structured in a way similar to the venture capital ones: it is provided on a step by step fashion and it is conditioned to the vaccine fulfilling development milestones."* (La Vanguardia, 03-08-2020). As a matter of fact, the following purchase agreements have been disclosed for the following amounts: *"The United Kingdom already counts six big agreements that assure it almost 400 million doses of different vaccines, after the ones reached with the British GSK and the French Sanofi (60 million doses), with the Oxford University and AstraZeneca (100 million doses and 72.5 million euros for research), with the American Pfizer and the German BioNTech (30 million doses) and the French Valneva (up till 100 million doses that will be produced in Scotland). In addition, the Indian pharmaceutical company Wockhardt will do in Wales the process of filling and finishing of millions of doses of several vaccines of Covid for the United Kingdom. The United States has also accelerated contracts in the last days, after Russia announced that it has finalized its vaccine (Sputnik V), a process which the scientific community and the WHO are suspicious of, the latter preferring not to evaluate its security and having asked the Government of Vladimir Putin to inform about its development process. For the time being, Vietnam, that also works in its own vaccine, announced the purchase of between 50 and 150 million doses of Sputnik V. The last agreement of Donald Trump has been with Moderna, that will receive **1.53 billion dollars** to manufacture and deliver 100 million doses of its vaccine once it is approved. Trump's Administration has bought 100 million doses to Pfizer-BioNTech for **1.9 billion dollars**; 300 million to AstraZeneca (to whom*

Oxford licensed the vaccine back in April) for **1.2 billion dollars**; 100 million initial doses to J&J for 1 billion dollars; 100 million with the option to other 500 to Sanofi-GSK for **2.1 billion dollars**; and 100 million to Novavax for **1.6 billion dollars**. The UE has also performed some steps. Yesterday Friday it closed the purchase of 300 million doses of the potential vaccine of AstraZeneca and Oxford, with option for 100 million more doses, for an unrevealed price. It turns out to be, according to the Community Executive, which negotiates in the name of the 27 States, the first agreement of anticipated purchase. On Thursday the possible purchase of 200 million doses to J&J, with the option to other 200 million, if the vaccine shows to be secure and efficient, was announced. In July the negotiations with Sanofi to reserve 300 million doses of its vaccine were concluded. On the meanwhile, it negotiates the access to those of Pfizer, Moderna and CureVac. The pact with AstraZeneca comes after the one reached in June by the British pharmaceutical and the Inclusive Vaccines Alliance (IVA) of Europe, a group formed by France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, open to other countries, to supply 400 million doses. Other countries have also negotiated to acquire the treatment. It is the case of Switzerland, that has bought 4.5 million doses to Moderna, assigning to it a budget of 270 million euros. Japan's Government has bought 120 million doses to Pfizer-BioNTech, that would be supplied on the first semester of 2021, as well as other 120 million doses to AstraZeneca, while it keeps negotiating with Johnson & Johnson. Regarding the Japanese pharmaceutical Takeda, it will manufacture and sell annually up to 250 million doses of the Novavax vaccine in Japan. AstraZeneca has agreed with the governments of Argentina and Mexico to fabricate there up till 400 million doses of its vaccine for Latin America. Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech will supply, as well, millions of doses of its vaccines to Canada in case they are approved. Israel was one of the first countries to sign a supply agreement with Moderna, as well as another with the Californian pharmaceutical company Arcturus Therapeutics." (Expansión, 15-08-2020).

The US alone plans to pay a total of 9.38 billion dollars in the vaccine auction (as of today), that is, 22% of the year turnover in vaccines of 2018. The rush to be the first one and the secrecy of the various developments are one more sample of capitalist anarchy of production that cannot but result in worse developments, with more side effects, etc. Notwithstanding the tests performed with the same rush upon distinct groups of individuals, officially or unofficially, and the military control of the developments: "China approved this Monday the use among the soldiers of its Army of the coronavirus vaccine developed by the Military Scientific Institute and the Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics." (La Vanguardia, 29-06-2020). "Thousands, but not tens of thousands, of

"volunteers" -the term Guinea pig is politically incorrect and has disappeared from the sanitary terminology even if it is useful to understand each other – already participate all over the world in the essays to find a vaccine. (...) The first volunteers in Oxford were compensated with £390 –according to the rates stipulated by the center webpage -. The 155 people selected by the National Institutes of Health in the US (better known as NIH), in Bethesda, close to the federal capital, were applied the usual compensations: US\$200 for vaccination –general treatments usually include from one to four– and US\$175 for each visit. Oppositely, according to The Telegraph, British Imperial College NHS Trust has paid between £190 and £625 to its first 1,112 volunteers." (La Vanguardia, 14-06-2020). The bourgeois press does not inform about it, but of course we can be positive that many developments might have been initially tested upon prison inmates, marginal neighborhoods, "cooperation" missions, etc.

Finally, another big business field of the pharmaceutical companies in the current situation, that we cannot fail to mention, is the manufacturing and sale of tests. Once again, their trustworthiness is absolutely secondary, the important thing is to sell, relying in this case on promoting the irrational fear to infection and to the false security that can be provided by tests that define themselves as having little reliability in asymptomatic cases. An example of this has been given by the government of Andorra, that has performed two waves of serological tests to all its population (a total amount of 138,000 tests) with completely different results that do not allow to come down to any conclusion, besides the attempt of the government of the country to present it as "secure" for the visitors, with the only aim to try to keep them going there to spend their money. In this race, one of the companies that is taking most advantage of the situation is the Spanish Grifols, that has even created an own test, called TMA, that expects to compete with the spread PCR tests (La Vanguardia, 06-05-2020), in addition to acquire part of the concurrence, even the Chinese one: "Grifols, the Catalan multinational of blood products, closed yesterday the agreement that turns it into the first shareholder of its Chinese homolog Shanghai RAAS, the biggest Asian company in the production of plasm-derived drugs and blood diagnostic tests." (La Vanguardia, 28-03-2020).

As Marxists we must denounce any pretension of objectivity of all the studies and products of the pharmaceutical industry, as well as of all the rest, and search in the material sphere the root cause of the various clashes, always riveting that in a class society the "objective truth" does not exist and that only by means of the proletarian revolution and the abolition of the classes will we be able to reach the rational application and objective improvement of the pharmaceutical and any other kind of knowledge.



"Alternativa al sistema mercantil capitalista"

Documentary (in spanish): <https://youtu.be/chHHqCdlkHw>