



★ FORTRESS ON A HILL

Ep 59 transcript

Tue, 4/7 4:39PM • 1:24:27

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

military, people, sailors, virus, soldiers, troops, day, navy, quarantine, transparency, expose, called, questions, trump, fucking, mission, big, wildcat strikes, wildcat, intellectuals

SPEAKERS

Danny Sjursen, Chris 'Henri' Henrikson, Keagan Miller

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Well, welcome everybody to Fortress On A Hill. We have a really great, somewhat morbid episode for you guys today talking about the Coronavirus, the military's and government's response to it so far and where we see it going as time goes on. However, before we get started, I got a few announcements and one of them begins with Danny talking about his new book is going to be coming out later this year. Anyway.

Danny Sjursen

Yeah, totally excited about this project. The book is available for pre order on Amazon, you know, maybe wait till things calm down to keep your drivers off the road, but it's called Patriotic Sense. America in an age of endless war, and I really liked the title, Bob Scheer from Truthdig. You know, world famous journalist, kind of came up with it. I mean, the concept and we batted around many months ago, and it's been published by Heyday Books up in Berkeley, California. Definitely check it out. You know, it's far less memoir, although I tell some stories about me, but it's really a more philosophical and with a lot of examples, historical and otherwise of why patriots, patriotism, especially in times of crisis can best be manifested through dissent against the powers that be when they become immoral and and illegal as I think we're seeing. So yeah, check it out, pre ordered on Amazon patriotic staff. And thanks a lot.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Alright, sounds good. I'm looking forward to reading it. Um, the next announcement is something we're going to do something as a bigger episode eventually, but it's that Chelsea Manning has finally been released from federal custody from her grand jury confinement and almost Almost as good as that not quite as good, almost as good as the fact that that people in support of her have crowdfunded all of her fines. So she is the massive, massive fines that the Trump administration threw on her for choosing not to speak up have been taken care of and paid. But I just wanted to give a shout out to her to her choice not to speak to make the situation worse, that she was in and but to hold out for what she believed in. And I'm really grateful that she is a part of a part of our community that way. Um, the next one is about just general reviews for the podcast. As podcasters, reviews really, really help us they really give us a chance for people to know more about us in a concise format. And so if you guys have a chance, if you haven't dropped one, please drop us a review. It doesn't have to be any particular amount of long or short, just what what you feel is important for people to know about our podcast. But please do that if you can't. And last, but certainly not least, and I'm really excited about this is that the great Chris Hedges is going to be coming on our podcast here in the next week. We'll be talking to him about his most recent book, America the farewell tour, as well as his career and his thoughts on our our ongoing Coronavirus era. So please, please keep an eye out for that. I know the three of us are all really looking forward to it. And we'll go ahead and get started here. Real quick.

Danny Sjurzen

I just want to add about something about Chris and has to do with Truthdig which many listeners may know I've been a weekly columnist that for a number of years, Chris has been there twice as long as mean he was the lead for the longest time and I just want to plug that Chris, as well as just about the entire staff, and most of the columnists are involved in a labor dispute with with Truthdig. And it involves the move to try to push Bob Scheer who I was just speaking about out of Truthdig. And I don't want to get into all the details. But look, if you're interested in this, in this, you know, free speech issue in this issue of labor relations, you know, check out the posts by the staff, the public posts, they're all posted on popular resistance because they were taken down from truthdig. truthdig is currently on a hiatus. It may be going away forever, but I just really want to plug Chris's role in as the protagonist, one of he would hate to think he was the only one one of the protagonists of this really important labor dispute and really important speech, okay. Free Speech issue. So you have to Got out guys.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Thanks for that, Danny. Yeah, I wanted to mention something about them going on protests and hope that they can get their stuff worked out because Truthdig is an amazing resource for for all of us, but especially in a way that will help them maintain solidarity and get better, better conditions for everybody there. So, I'd like to start today talking about some important stories, some important headlines that I've been tracking with alongside the Coronavirus, and some of them are direct related. Some of them aren't. But I think all of them are ones that we should be asking deep questions about because I would say our militaries only active mission right now should be trying to prevent the outbreak and spread of the Coronavirus, whatever they happen to be doing. But that's not exactly what's happening everywhere. And we'll talk about that more as time goes on. So the first story is about that. A whole all

of the branches are currently sending about 5000 Troops down to South America for a counter drug operation. I believe it's supposed to involve Venezuela. For those keeping up in the news, Nicolas Maduro was recently...what was the rating it was a terrorist drug rating of some kind (he was declared a narcoterrorist) that he was given that he that Venezuela is responsible for certain outbreaks of drug issues. I didn't read about it very deeply. But anyways, I don't know that this is the best use of 5000 troops right now where our country is sitting right now it seems like a pretty fucking big mistake, but something to think about. Next, along with the 5000 troops that are already along the southern border, we're adding 500 more to that. This is another big hole that has been in the news is that the Trump administration, along with many other governments around the world have been tried. To make changes that are favorable to what they want, under the guise of not under the guise of under the cover of the Coronavirus, and so it's really important we see that again, I don't think any of the 5500 troops need to be there at the border period, but is adding 500 to them at this moment, the best choice for all of us. Next, the planning meetings of the Coronavirus ended up being classified by the Trump administration they actually were physically moved into SCIF's is an acronym for the military. They're called sensitive compartmentalised information facilities. And it was a move that even received pushback by the Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, which is part of Trump's team. So if that gives you any idea of how flagrant this was to hide the planning and ensure that the some of the criticism that might be levied on Trump for lack of preparation. Now, we can't even really see those deliberations, so something to think about. Next, the current CDC director Robert Redfield has a really, really deep history of controversial opinions is a little bit from Mother Jones here in the 80s and 90s. As an army doctor at Walter Reed, Redford worked on setting protocols to handle service members infected with AIDS. Even by the standards of the era when much was still unknown by the virus. His suggestions were very controversial. He advocated quarantine infecting soldiers and, excuse me, infected soldiers, spreading their diagnosis across the chain of command with little concern with the privacy and investigating their sexual histories. The following is an intro for a book that Mr. Redfield wrote on the same epidemic, quote, it is time to reject the temptation of denial of the AIDS HIV crisis to reject false prophets who preach the quick fix strategies. condoms and free needles to reject those who preach prejudice. And to reject those who try to replace God is judge the time has come for the Christian community to confront the epidemic. bedfellows. He also named about the breakdown of family values and increasing number of single parent households his key factors responsible for the spread of AIDS. Now, none of that specifically has to do with the Coronavirus, but it's very telling that somebody in Trump's administration, probably not the only one would have this extreme views and would be pushing them forward in a time such as this. And the last headline I have before we talk about a little more meat and potatoes here is about censorship of what's really happening with the military right now in terms of their numbers of infection. Up till I want to say about 10 days ago, maybe two weeks, DOD was giving people fairly relatively clear numbers, you're able to see which commands might have had a soldier to come up positive. They're now only giving infection number by overall service and other demographics, you're trying to see any releases that would show the actual location of a soldier within their combatant command. So all we're going to be able to find out from now on is the army has this many, the Navy has this many, etc. which is makes it very hard for people like us and other journalists to really see where they need where additional help is needed and advocate for it, as well as who's making good decisions. So, to start us off for today, I wanted to talk about USS Theodore Roosevelt. And it for anybody following the news. It is an aircraft carrier that about a month ago, came

to a screeching halt in Guam, because they knew that they had infected sailors aboard and they weren't certain exactly how to handle it. And following that the commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt sent a memorandum to his command, not to the media to his command regarding their current effectiveness, any missions. quote, If required, the USS Theodore Roosevelt would embark all assigned sailors set sail and be ready to fight and beat any adversary that dares challenge the US our allies. The virus certainly have an impact but in combat, we're willing to take certain risks that are not acceptable in peacetime. However, we are not at war, and therefore cannot allow a single sailor to perish as the result of this pandemic, unnecessarily. Now, he acknowledged that he received new guidelines from the Navy and the CDC to quarantine his his his troops in a barracks type setup. He made it clear that no one on Theodore Roosevelt can actually quarantine quote due to a warships inherent limitations of space. The spread of disease is ongoing and accelerate. And quote, and keeping in mind 5000 that's how many people are supposed to be on that aircraft carrier right now. Next is letter he discusses how he feels the Navy is inappropriately focusing on testing when quarantine and isolation is the only way to ensure that it doesn't spread following infection. Quote "testing merely confirms the presence of the virus to the close cores required on a warship and the current number of positive cases. Every single sailor regardless of rank, or the Theodore Roosevelt must be considered close contact testing will only be useful as the ship returns to work after isolation a quarantine to confirm the effectiveness the quarantine period. The COVID-19 test cannot prove a sailor does not have the virus it can only prove that a sailor does as an illustration the first 33 sailors on board the Theodore Roosevelt have the first 33 diagnosed with COVID-19 excuse me 21% seven of those 33 effective sailors were negative on a test. And so later today I've got a little trick about this. So we're going to talk about more. I'm calling it we're on the I didn't name it this but I just found it, calling it Schrodinger's virus but we'll come around to that in a little bit. So they're now trying to work out how this is going to be evacuated, where all these sailors are going to be housed or under quarantine at the time. I have zero idea how that could affect the civilians live and work on Guam along with the indigenous citizens of Guam. Ordinarily, Navy procedures would have sailors remain in the ship for their own protection like having to go to port somewhere dangerous or major combat operations are happening. In this case, that normal instinct to have sailors remain on the ship to protect them as possibly making all of them sick. Now that's to say nothing of Guam has medical capacity. I messaged my younger brother, who was a Submariner stationed in Guam to ask about exactly that. And he said there is a new Navy hospital there given the small number of troops that reside there. It can't have much in the way of ICU units or other major systems like negative pressure rooms and the smaller civilian hospital their most of their staff are rotating in from other areas in the South Pacific. So it's possible that they could be quite quite undermanned. Keagan, would you mind jumping in here a little bit about the the Navy side of this?

Keagan Miller

Sure. It's just really disappointing. I love that you pointed out that part from the the letter saying that testing alone does not mean that we need to have quarantine and isolation procedures just because that like clearly that makes sense, right. That seems to be the like most logical route. But it's hard. It seems to be hard for the Navy. To decide about what needs to be like what is considered essential operations and what isn't. And, I mean, I read a letter from the CNO, which is the Chief of Naval Operations. The other day that he put out yesterday, and he basically just said, the same line that we hear all the time of, you know, we need to be ready to fight any adversary but also continue, you know,

but be aware of like, our vulnerabilities sit as virus. So he basically said nothing, and just a big thing of like, toeing the line, but also like, we need to protect ourselves. And a lot of it was very, you know, individual like what individuals can do to protect themselves and like, what, what, like commanders of ships or bases can do, but we all know the easiest way to stop this is to just stop doing things. And again, the Military never considers that to be an option. Even in the middle of this, and, you know, when, especially when you have like a carrier, like you said, it's 1000 people, you have people in really close quarters because it's a ship and you're trying to cram a bunch of people. So there's no fucking way you can quarantine people inside of the ship. That's correct. So it's just I'm just really disappointed in how, again, the most basic question of what do we actually need to do in the middle of this as far as operations go, and what do we not need to do is still never even be considered that we're continuing to try to act like it's business as usual. When this is clearly not the case.

Danny Sjurson

You know, one of the things that's, you know, you mentioned that there's 5000 folks, you know, give or take on an aircraft carrier this size. The captain Right. Who's in trouble? Right who's who's been relieved? was been relieved. Okay. He's the mayor of a floating city. Right of a small floating city. I mean this this is a profound responsibility to his people. And as you guys know, the military loves its platitudes You know, there's always the debate right? mission first or men first the men are the mission and the military Of course came up with a really good hedge on that right I mean, of course it's the mission from their perspective always but they can't say that outright just this flat out so they say mission first people always right mission first men always Okay, this is nonsense, right. It requires so much taking apart right analysis of the of the language and what I what I mean is Look at another set of platitudes. I was a staff officer just long enough to know that according to army and probably military doctrine, we judge you know, any mission for effectiveness based on two things, measures of performance mpls and measures of effectiveness have always and the best way to describe them is a measure of performance is doing lots. Okay, it's all it's all supply side, you know, this many patrols completed, you know, this many sweeps done this many rocks painted the color of the flag, whatever, right, whatever the military is doing on that day. So it's it's doing lots and then measures of effectiveness is doing well. Okay outputs that, you know, how have we actually affected the mission? To what extent is the mo PS is the doing lots You know doing well is that is it achieving goals? And so this gets to this question of effectiveness or, or readiness. I think it's a cult, by the way. It's a cult just like being a Trump supporter was a death cult today, once and for all this readiness term that the Secretary defense sector, the army and everybody else is using this is a cult of readiness. And no one defines readiness for us. Because I reject the idea that there is any external state based threat today. Not one. Sorry, folks. Not even the Russian bear. Not even the Chinese dragon, not even the bad haircut in North Korea. None of them presents a tangible threat, okay, based on intent and impact, or intent of like unlikely not one of them that warrants these massive exercises that we're seeing 4000 soldiers and Marines in the desert together, side by side attacking cities that look a lot like cities in Iran. That's readiness. That's mission essential. Another fun word of sensuality. I reject it. I reject it outright. And, Henry, I don't know, do you? Do we intend to dig in one by one on on the firing? Or should I say my quick piece on the fact that this guy was fired?

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Go for it, Danny.

Danny Sjursen

I mean, some people are gonna say, Well, some people are going to say, Well, this is the Navy acting out in a time of crisis, right? The crisis brought this out, right? This is an exceptional case. It's wrong they'll say. There are also people who will say it's right that we need to follow the chain of command. Stop, unfollow those people, make them social. pariahs I don't care. I don't care how Manichaeian that sounds. They're dead to me. They're dead to me pick aside, we'll get to that. But the point is there are people who will say that, that the Navy's wrong, but they'll act like it's almost like the Trump phenomenon that like, Oh, it's this is unique, this is unprecedented. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, this is the Navy. This is the military exposing what it has always been. This is the Navy exposing itself. This is the military industrial complex, this is the national security state operating precisely according to design, because it is time to pick aside on this issue. Are you with the company men, the company men, you know, the type, right, the mid level or even high level bureaucrats who put loyalty to institution over human beings and god there's not if there Goddamnit there's not millions up. Are you? Are you with the company men who are more scared of exposure and bad press, although this has backfired, who are more scared of exposure and bad press more than they love human beings? You got to pick aside. I'm not usually for binaries and some people will easily point out that I'm contradicting so many of my arguments for nuance but there are certain times where it's really hard not to say that you have to pick sides. I just posted I'm sure it's going to go viral if it hasn't already, not mine. But in general this video about 25 seconds worth although there are longer versions of the the crew cheering and chanting this captain's name Captain Crozier, I believe as he ignominiously walks down the proverbial plank to the SUV that's going to take him you know, to the end of his career, right to career's end, because this is a death sentence career wise. And it should have been an ignominious thing and yet, and it's in the night, of course. There's something profoundly beautiful about it. He's like a conquering Roman Roman Emperor, except he's walking in reverse away from the troops and they're cheering him the whole way. I'll tell you, God helped the company man that they put in to replace him. Because I wouldn't want to try to win the loyalty of those guys after Crozier has been fired. And I'll kind of end with that for now. I'm angry guys. I'm angry.

Keagan Miller

It's interesting. I'm actually Mary, who we interviewed a while back. Her husband was on the ship and a couple of Mary's friends you know, that were on the ship. And so they're all really excited and glad that they're back. But I just like, like you said, Danny, it's just the cover your ass mentality on steroids right now. And you have those people that I am I truly want to try and understand that mentality. Like, I understand that you give like a portion of your life to an institution. And so you feel some kind of ownership, some kind of, like identity with that with that institution. But, and like, when do you make those choices of, you know, do I protect the thing that I have given my life to? Or do I prep text the people that are also with me on the in this, you know, the people that I'm responsible for as a leader, right? Like, I just don't I really don't get it. I don't get those people that can make that calculus and think that by doing this, they're somehow bettering the Navy, they're bettering the experience of America, you know, by doing something like this. It just really it makes no sense.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

I think it's got me reminded of those those videos from SECDEF Mattis, drinking venom when he was in Thailand, I don't know, maybe two years ago now. And you know that when I saw him do that, that really bothered me because again, I understand he's trying to show what he sees his solidarity with his Marines. At the time he's doing something that's horrendously stupid. And so there's never a good point in the military to be anything close to an intellectual. In fact, there's we texted about it yesterday that it's in fact shied away from at so many places. And once you get far enough up the chain because you spent all that time not asking those active questions, not asking the bigger Danny type big picture questions that they're just closed off. There's there's no way that they can offer anything close to to leadership but but that's the thing is that it's it's it's a duality part because you know Mattis being what was he the fucking warrior monk right the guy that was supposed to be really really learned and everything he did which we learned through experience was obviously false that it's such a ravenous community against anything that looks like being an intellectual and it gets snapped off and part of that is in here you know Trump's the Trump's the strong man Trump's the guy that said you know that they they go to war with the the troops that they have or excuse me that was from hell. Sorry. I'm mixing up my my neo-con dumb asses. Um Okay, I think I got my thought out there.

Danny Sjursen

Well, you know, I mean, I agree with you. Let's be honest. Intellectualism is a liability for a professional military career. It's a liability. You advance as an intellectual type in spite of not because of your intellectual rigor and the people that, look, there is a great, profound post pulling of the collective wool over America's eyes. There is snake oil being sold to us ever since David Petraeus became a national household name. And that is, we are supposed to believe the sleight of hand that intellectuals are running the army, that something profound happened something remarkable happened in 2006 and seven were the intellectuals want, right? This is the Petraeus. But you know, myths, story, origin story, but people like madness, the warrior monk and McChrystal, the Spartan monk, I just came up with that because, I mean, look it up and he ran like eight miles a day and he looks like Skeletor. But anyway and betray us and all these guys, the the, the idea was that they're intellectuals. They are foe intellectuals. They are smart, they are educated. Okay? That does not mean that they are a true intellect or that they're deep thinkers. Matt is brags about his books. He doesn't have much of a personal life. Okay, in the traditional sense, which is totally fine. But his books are supposedly like the love of his life, like mine are right in a way outside of my kids. But he's reading the wrong books, folks. He's reading the wrong books. They masquerade grand tactics, which isn't even a thing. I'm being facetious they're masquerading tactics as grand strategy. They only ask how questions, not if or should questions How questions not if or should questions? Right, so how question for the fo intellectuals that are supposedly running our military is how do we defeat the Taliban? Just for one example? Should questions or if or Ken questions go like this. I'm a four star general in charge of an entire war in a inherently political position. Whether we admit it or not, always is always will be. Right. I'm the governor of a province of the Empire. I am a Governor General. In the Lord Mountbatten role. Okay. Inherently political a, an IF question is, or a Ken question is, can we defeat the Taliban going a step further? is should we be in Afghanistan even trying to defeat the Taliban you is a existential enough or real enough threat? Right? Those questions don't get asked. And so I the only reason I divert to this and I digress a little bit is to show that if an institution sells us the snake oil of madness, intellectualism, right,

I think I made that word up. All right, then we should expect nothing less than bureaucratic company man mediocrity. Which of late has manifested in this you know, singular story of the captain of the of the floating city. I mean, I sit at home thinking about this until 340 in the morning, so I understand if it comes off a little esoteric, but but I, I think it's inherently important to even ask these questions. And then I guess that's my point.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

No, this is one thing I thought of and I'm sure you guys both have great amounts of experience with this is that the The military and especially the army and the Marine Corps have a kind of the market cornered on dirtiness will say, and by dirtiness, I just mean lack of general cleanliness because soldiers fucking stink. It's just a reality of life we live in and also that they come to the military without having any good grooming habits and the military certainly doesn't give them any but in terms of that in terms of you know, get Danny think about the stinky guys that you dealt with you know, we had a guy on my first deployment that he had to sign out on a log and go shower every single night and sign back in with both with his with his team leader. But our is anybody looking at the the very basic parts and saying to them, we can't be this right now. Like what we're talking about Danny, we even if we thought we could do the mission before right now, we can't They're not even going to ask basic questions like that they're not even good at you know that that are these assholes actually going and washing their hands thoroughly that they're, you know that those that might have symptoms might throw on a mask, you imagine how much hell an ordinary marine or soldier or even sailor, even UK and for wearing a mask and caring about your health that is it's that far down. That's the lack of logic that all of these guys have to live with and their and their leadership as the same, the same deficiencies as well.

Keagan Miller

And I mean you know those people because they get like, like people just laugh at them right? They don't really like try to help them change their habits. I mean if they have, like maybe some good NCOs, you know, or somebody like a peer that's like, "Hey dude, like, fucking shower." You know, like we had a kid like in my school in my trading school like my roommate or my My friends were roommates with this kid that didn't shower at all. And like, he would just come from PT and like change from PT into his, into his uniform, and then go to class like that. Like, what? And then I mean, I've heard some really nasty stories of people on ships, and like, some really, really gross stuff that like, I will not repeat here, but like needless needless to say, like, nasty shit happens all the time. Especially when you have young people that maybe don't like some people don't think about that stuff, you know, where they haven't had to. And yeah, like you said, it's no one asked him that question of, you know, are we ensuring people are following these guidelines? You know, like, should people have to mandate you know, times if they're going to be on a ship, I think everybody should have like, bathroom breaks and like washing hand time, you know, on the middle of a watch It's like, Alright, we've got this amount of time to get your job, but like, you have to go wash your hands at this point, like, I mean, just, if we're going to have people continuing to do operations, then we need to have things in place, like firm slps in place to be like, Alright, you know, we're gonna follow these guidelines, but it doesn't look like they're really doing that they're just kind of, I was just looking through the, the nav admin about the virus and like what they're trying to do. And it's basically just the same shit that they've been telling everybody else but

there's no real like, benchmarks for how to make it better. And there's no real specific things that they're saying okay, we're gonna do this and we're all going to do that. So I don't know I mean,

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

There's no...there's no "Come on guys. We have to be clean right now." It's that you fuckers don't know how to be clean in the first place. And And granted, the cleanliness is always the thing for soldiers, but in an epidemic, it just becomes something different. But when people they think, if they're willing to break quarantine, if they're not willing to maintain space, which we're hearing stories about, they're still doing full formations of physical training for people on post. Big coughing and sweating together and sharing whatever whatever germs they happen to have. You know, and and troops share a lot of stuff, they share cigarettes, they share spitters we share cars with each other. I saw another article that talked about that, it might have been the guys in the hundred and first (101st Airborne) because they sent a whole bunch of out to the field. And the immediate question I had is how the fuck is the field cleaner than being back at post? Yes, it might allow them to isolate a certain extent. And have you create anything close to a quarantine, you know, out there. It just, there is no thought process for these kind of situations. Other than the shit that is nailed into somebody over and over again. You know, center mass on the target shooting your rifle, there are other things that just get nailed in view.

Danny Sjursen

Well, you know, and and a lot I mean, it's one thing if there's already a problem if they're sharing a small tent, but relative, you know, relatively small in size tent or whatever, but, I mean, think about this, you know, when the army reversed its order to cease most training. It reversed that order. And then it went ahead the military because it was a joint with the Marines went ahead and did this 4000 soldier and Marine, you know, mock war with Iran along with the Emirates in the UAE, right in the desert, like and then one of the the culmination of what I read of that exercise was seizing, you know, an Arab world city or Persian world city because I'm sure that Iran is the target. Yeah. Well, those of us who were in ground forces, right and re I mean, the four man stack that clears a room, of which I'm sure there were Hundreds are scores in this mock city. You literally four men stand touching one another, you know as SLP to charge into these buildings to clear the most, you know, the most dangerous every mission clearing a building, or clearing a trench is just as dangerous. But you know what I mean? I mean this, the whole concept is ludicrous. But what the military is done in response to all this, rather than take, rather than follow their own early guidance, which was reasonable for a minute, I have to admit, I mean, they were reasonable things coming from the top. Yeah, but then they reversed most of them but what they've done instead four days ago, the Pentagon ordered all military bases and combat combatant commands to withhold Coronavirus case numbers. Okay. So now we're not telling you, we're not telling the public how many soldiers have now, we know why they say that and we'll get to that then we'll know their justification. It's always the same one. But operational security but isn't it interesting that that happened that announcement was made? Right after, you know, a half dozen of us who write about this published the data showing that the infection the positive rate of Corona was higher in per capita in the active duty force than it was in the civilian world. It was it was immediately on the heels of that on that report. I'm nothing I caused it but the the report being released and the Firestorm are caused among a few writers. That's when they did so of course what the statement said, Okay. Our friends over in public affairs, Alyssa for all right, remember her name? The spokeswoman

said, quote, about not releasing the numbers. We will continue to do our best to balance transparency in this crisis, with operational security or well, full Orwell come to life, Newspeak, Newspeak, they're gonna balance transparency with operational security. Explain to me how they're going about shop, what transparency Are we going to get? I mean, besides telling us the the level of sickness, right, the the level of sickness within the military, what, what what they're going to get with, they're going to say, there are some people who have it. I mean, what what would transparency look like? Can't we admit, just admit to us? Stop lying, stop obfuscating. Tell us the truth, that transparency, and your Pentagon definition, which is inherently flawed. Your Pentagon definition of operational security and transparency are mutually exclusive. They are opposing concepts. They won't tell us that. Instead, they're going to lie. They're going to use Newspeak, they're going to balance transparency offers free, give me a break. Instead of changing behavior. They're going to change the name That's what they do. That's how they do, folks, that that's what they do. They don't change behavior. They change what they report. And in case you think, in case folks think that that this is a Corona specific problem, rather than the system operating as designed as I propose, then I point you to the fact that two years ago, the Pentagon ordered its own Inspector General for Afghanistan, to cease releasing the numbers of Afghan soldiers and police officers killed in the war with the Taliban, one could argue the single most instructive statistic in that war Why? Because that statistic tells us whether the government that we have propped up can sustain itself and win because the whole myth, the whole mission or the or the whole concept or strategy, I should say to hand over to the Afghans, right. And it's a question of how long that's going to take. We will only know if the Afghans can win or maintain the status quo, even if they're not losing more soldiers than they can produce simple math problem. Now, what we knew is that for the two years previous to that change of policy, the Afghans were losing more than they could produce significantly. So instead of changing strategy, they classified the data. Right, they classified defeat folks, and they're doing it again. It's of a piece with the institution's design. That's my point.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Sorry, I just stuck in my thought.

Danny Sjurson

Oh, no worries. I mean, sometimes I just sometimes I just, you know, I'm so eloquent that there's really nothing to say so drop the mic moment. I get it, guys.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

So um, Let's move on to talking about tracking down potential cases here in the States. We haven't seen specifically, you know, the tail there. Right now, we don't have the telltale signs that the military or the Trump administration through the military wants to take over law enforcement and do those kind of things. There are activities that they don't border on, you know, violating Posse Comitatus or anything like that, but they do certainly present questions. The case of point I'm thinking of is what's going on with the governor of Rhode Island sending National Guard troops with their state patrol door to door to track down cases. Now I understand that the tracking needs to get done. But as people are already pretty scared and lots of people are already who are unfamiliar who are ignorant of anything about martial law or policy comment on us are a whole bunch of other stuff. They understandably have questions. And so my my thought is, pick a recommendation that doesn't scare the shit out of people

like sending the National Guard door to door at this particular moment. Now if that's the only solution they can think of something has to be done for them to track down those cases. But I think that they instead should do what they're doing in Kaiserslautern, Germany, which is one of our army posts there, that they're calling people on the phone, they determine somebody they think has been exposed, they contact them, they inform them, they say go into quarantine. And then they asked them who have you been exposed to? And I would imagine getting a phone call and helping somebody over the phone would be much much easier than having people show up at my door possibly with with armed State Patrol to tell me that I need to do that. And of course, it also, Keagan pointed this out earlier when we were talking about it that It removes any chance for infection between those two groups. So if anybody is, has some has no symptoms but still has been exposed to the virus. They're not unnecessarily sharing it. I have seen in a couple of articles and there's not much info on it. I wish I was in Rhode Island right now. Armed army MPs I assumed their national guard guys, but they were helping at a checkpoint on I 95 there. See that to me much more to I think what to the average person would scream martial law of some kind if you saw armed army MPs, you know, checking IDs or whatever they're doing, and I'm sure they're just doing exactly what they've been told to say patrols there, right, I doubt that they would, would make any poor choices, but it does raise the hair on people's necks and so that the psychological use of these forces and how they're used needs to be seen. This needs to be more understood.

Danny Sjursen

You know, sorry to cut you off. I mean, I just brief on this issue I think transparency and real transparency is is the best possible thing. I mean, how do you avoid conspiratorial thinking, stop acting conspiratorial, I mean, even if I mean I don't actually believe that we're facing you know, some sort of you know truly Orwellian totalitarian use of the military and opposition to POS comments on us mean all upset some of my you know some some of my own followers. I don't think we're there yet I think we need to be cautious about throwing that label around. But, you know, one of the ways you avoid the perception of that is, you know, take some of your advice, Henry, and then tell us what you're doing ahead of time. clarify it provide the caveats explained How serious you take the use of any military, even National Guard force within the borders of the United States to you know, explain how serious you take that, how cautious you are about it precisely what they're going to be used for the limits you're going to place, you know, and be cautious in your actions. You know, one of the problems with these stories is that when, when people are blindsided by someone at their door, in a uniform, it, it drives the social media frenzy of conspiracy theory, you know, like, I don't believe in 911 truth like I don't I don't think we put charges on our own buildings. I don't believe that. But I completely understand why there are so many 911 truthers, because there has been a lack of transparency about so many aspects, right, the Saudi papers for example, so many aspects of The 911 attacks and also we acted so conspiratorially ever since 1979 in Afghanistan, in terms of working with these people, and then lying about it, and working with the people who became Taliban, Al Qaeda, we created a situation where people are going to be conspiratorial, and I think we should apply that same logic to, you know, using the military within our own borders.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Absolutely. Absolutely.

Keagan Miller

I want to bring up the Defense Production Act. I didn't know you're talking about that. But I feel like it's important. So it basically it came out in 1950. And it's the idea is that the government can force quote, unquote, companies to produce things that are needed, deemed necessary for, you know, national security or whatever. So, like, this is really powerful for us to be using right now. We force our companies to ventilators and building mass and all the things we need that are critical in the United States. I, so far the only thing that's happened is that Trump ordered specifically GE, and I think maybe one other company took like a couple of thousand ventilators. So well, like that's it and just one or two companies, not every fucking company that can, which is honestly would be the best option. And I'm just I don't know, I think this is a good it's a it's a it's a tool that could help us, you know, confront this better. And it's really frustrating to see how this administration is just doing everything and half measures. And we, we, you know, he had initially he only had the lock, like, locked down basically for 15 days, you know, and then he extended it till the end of the month, and then now is extending it until May, you know, and it's like, if we just tried to think about this in the long term, like other countries indoors where we say six months of doing, you know, nothing, four months of XYZ, like we could really, we can have a real impact on this instead of doing all this stuff, say, okay, in two weeks, we'll see how it is, you know, we're just, it's, it's annoying, because it feels like we're always having to restart the process, then if we're not coming up long term plan. And if this is our new normal, like, if having the virus be with us for a while is what's going to happen, then, we need to adjust our fucking reality. You know, we can't consider this. We can't keep thinking that we're going to go back to business as usual, when that's clearly not the case anymore. And we either need To adapt to it, or we're gonna suffer. And unfortunately, it looks like we're in the latter case because Trump will the administration and the federal government has left so much of the ability to react on the states and then they're also having to compete for resources. It's like we're doing this in the worst fucking way possible. And we're, you know, it might come down I don't know, I don't want to be alarmist I, I'm actually trying to feel optimistic about where we might go with this. But, you know, if things get worse and things deteriorate, then we're gonna see even more drastic actions taken and it's definitely not going to be to protect people.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

I think part of the part of the piecemeal response has been that one Trump doesn't have a the attention span longer than a firefly. So there's certainly that, but that this response is a capitalist response. It is a response to, you know, the for over the first four Coronavirus relief bills that were entirely helping out corporate corporations versus helping ordinary people that we don't our country does not know of a situation where we don't take every asset we have, including human lives and throwing them at the bottom line of Wall Street. And so, you know, everybody you know, is like, okay, two more weeks and we'll be okay. And then two more weeks, and we'll be okay. And those people are still thinking that way, where the intellectuals in the room, you know, Dr. Fauci and the other people that are actually trying to encourage our government to act sensibly about this. They're just they're either being ignored or they're listened to for two weeks and it's thrown in the garbage. And, you know, like the fact that that any kind of a public health system to respond to this that America just doesn't have it. We don't have anything like that. We have little vestiges of it here and there. But it's it's, it's just not there. And that is entirely by design.

Danny Sjursen

Yeah, I mean, absolutely. I mean, it's the radical in me. But, you know, Keagan, you said you're hopeful and I think there are reasons to be because besides exposing the venality and the unpreparedness, and the structural, inherent weakness of our hyper capitalist system, that what this is also exposed is the extent to which we the people, the working class, have an enormous leverage, enormous leverage. And it won't be our political leaders who are going to vote for these bills, anything put in front of them 96 to nothing, regardless of what's in it because they're going to feel political pressure to do so because if they don't, or if they hold it up, they'll be told that they're keeping the cheese and the trap, as Jimmy Dore called it. The cheese in the trap, which is the \$1200 dollars or \$2400 checks, like you're holding it up the people need it now the economy needs it now. True, true, true. But in the in the, you know, people will vote for things that end up being big corporate giveaways in the process. We did the same thing in 2008. We haven't learned the lesson because no one wants to learn that lesson. I mean, that's that's just the reality. But this, this leverage of ours is demonstrable. There's been Wildcat strikes across the country. Okay. That means unauthorized by the union. Sudden strikes with no announcement, or little announcement or little notice. I love Wildcat strikes. They were very prominent in the 1930s. And then again in the late 1940s, right after the Second World War. Power structures fear wildcat striking more than anything else, more than anything else. That's why the Taft Hartley Act, which took away powers that had been granted by FDR in 1935. In the Wagner Labor Act, they were reversed in Taft Hartley by a newly elected conservative Congress. A lot of that was in response to the Wildcat strikes in the 30s. And the 40s. They fear that if they'll tolerate unions, if unions play the role of the obedient, the obedient dissident, right? The faux dissident, right. what they'll do is they'll co-opt the union leadership. So Wildcat strike makes them here, but I want to see a general strike for everything that's not essential. I want to see a general strike because we have the leverage. And this is possible now and the strike should go like this. We will not work for you, Jeff. Bezos, we will not work for you with your hundred billion dollars any longer unless our representatives in Congress demand universal health care, take it, not ask for it. Right. And all of these other things that are in for example, Bernie's platform, Bernie will not win in the system, he will not win in the system, we must fight outside the system. Nothing has ever been given. No civil This is the myth. This is the myth of great white man history. This is the myth of white savior LBJ Kennedy history. Nothing has been given to an oppressed class of Americans in history. It has always been taken, always been taken. It has been forced upon our leaders who then acquiesce only under pressure, only out of necessity and then take credit for it and then write the history books. Right and That's how it works. It's always been pressure from the bottom in the civil rights movement in the in the in the fight for feminism and the rights of vote when women picketed President Wilson every day in front of the White House for years, even during World War One being jailed, under the pretense of you know, that they were affecting the war effort or whatever. I mean, this is the time this is the time general strike Wildcat strikes that start blending into one another coordinating coordinated Wildcat I know that some might say that those are also opposing concepts and they are in a sense, but it becomes something bigger if you do begin to coordinate the Wildcat strikes nationwide. I will forego my books from Amazon that I love dearly that are like crack when I see them at my door. I will stop clicking as of today as of a few days ago. I will stop Clicking by now, you know, unless it's something like, you know, I don't know toilet paper or something, you know what I mean? I'll forego that in the name of support for the general strike or the Wildcat strikes and

Jimmy Dore just had on the leader from my city from my borough of my city, Staten Island, Christian smalls, Google and please, guys, Google invokes listeners I mean, Christian, small Staten Island 5000 employees, the largest single employer on the borough's that island has half a million people. Amazon facility that's the size of like 27 NFL fields. look at why he strikes look at why he held it was really more of a rally than a strike a protest rally look at why he did it. Look at the failures of cleanliness and quarantine and all the things the risk that these middle managing company men, just like in the military, these company man put his workers under and this supervisor lead this lead this sort of strike against it and was fired within two hours. And and and he This is not a rich guy. He was crying on Jimmy Dore and it was you could tell it was authentic, he does not know if he will be paying his rent. And for anybody who knows New York City, even the shittier borough of Staten Island, it's expensive as hell. And he called a Wildcat and he was fired two hours later. And this is the system operating as designed. I'm just gonna keep emphasizing that but I do think Kagan that you're right there is there is reason for optimism. But that reason is in the streets. It's not on Capitol Hill.

Keagan Miller

Definitely. And I don't know I I'm just I get really frustrated like my my wife's mom works at a Trader Joe's and, you know, they're trying to do social social distancing. They're doing better than some of the other grocery stores. I just I don't know, like I can't help think about the people that don't like that are fortunate that are not fortunate enough to like, have a house, you know, because I work with those people every day. So it's like, and it's unfortunate because there's a lot of homeless people that are like not taking any precaution. And it's hard because they don't have like, they don't have a lot of resources to do so. But we're still we're seeing cities kind of scramble and try to find ways to fix to help but like, I don't know if you saw the thing in Vegas where they had taken the event center parking space, and created like, social distancing blocks for their cots, basically for them to sleep outside. And meanwhile, there's 150,000 fucking hotel rooms that are empty completely. And it's it just So frustrating that like, we can't, I maybe like people can sort of put some pressure and try to get them to do something. But like, you think the owners of those hotels are going to be like, I mean, we tried to do that here in my county where we were, we were going to any of the motels that have outdoor doors, right. So like they're all their doors are outside. I mean, that's that seems to be the more cleanly option, I guess, right now. And so we went around to all of them to try and find, you know, who is going to allow us to because we have these vouchers to put homeless people into motels, and only one or two of them accept it. And it's like, what the fuck like you have no business right now. And you're still saying no, like, what does it take for people to fucking care like for people, especially right now, it's like you're hurting for money. So Take the money that is being offered. Sure, there might be some liability on one end, but it's like, What do you care about? Do you fucking care about making money? Or protecting your business or whatever? I don't know, I don't get it. And it's it's been really hard for us to try and get people to, you know, break outside of these boxes, right? I think it's like if this drags on for another month, which it will, you know, we're really going to have to start to make some of these bigger changes, and we're going to hear the same stuff that we always hear of, Oh, we couldn't have we couldn't have perceived this. We couldn't have expected that this was gonna happen. It's like, Look, we always gonna have we always knew there was gonna be another pandemic. And it was gonna be bad, but people don't want to listen to that, especially when their bottom line is on the tape.

Danny Sjursen

I mean, I like the idea of just taking the rooms I'm not saying you should do this but think about what

Keagan Miller

Yeah.

Danny Sjursen

I mean think think about what you can accomplish. I like I really like when stuff is out in the open. I prefer totalitarianism to be. I prefer totalitarianism to like Brave New World Huxley stuff right? So I prefer Orwell to Huxley, I don't want either, but I like it better when they expose themselves. And I also like that when you expose the inhumanity of systems, you have the potential at least that can be bloody but you can which is horrible, but you can you can expose the system and and in the process, you can challenge it and sometimes overturn it. And so that's what getting the dogs sicked on those African American teenagers in Birmingham accomplished, right it forced, they went in the streets and refused to not sit at the counters and refused to follow the polite laws of segregation and they knew that They knew I mean, the documents are there. They were martyring themselves, knowing that Bull Connor would fall for the bait. Right? He was the police chief and a monster of Birmingham. They knew they chose Birmingham. Yeah, because there was a Trump type. And over course type in charge of the police and they knew Bull Connor couldn't resist sticking the dogs in the fire hose on them. And it forced every one of those cops to make the decision to actually stick the dogs in them. And so what I mean is using the hotel example, if we start taking rooms, taking them, occupying them by force, the police will be called. And then I love the idea of putting the cop, cops plural, in the position in front of the cameras of having to decide whether they forcibly removed people in the interests of private property over individual human well being. I do think that at least initially The they will do that the power structures and their, you know, their their water carriers like we used to be will do that they will sic the dogs metaphorically or literally on those people. But the great thing about it is that when you expose it, and you publicize it, it eventually eventually one of the National Guard soldiers is going to let the hippie put the rose pedal in their rifle and not use the bayonet. That always happens eventually, even in the most military totalitarian societies. Eventually a national guardsmen refuses to shoot for all the Kent State's where they do open fire. Eventually, the water carriers and the servants of empire they are still human beings. And and one of them and then lots of them and then lots and lots of them are going to let the daffodil go into They're the muzzle of their rifle. And and and that's when the system breaks down because Bezos and McConnell and you name them. I mean, they are few and we are many, they are few and we are many. And they can only operate if the people who make \$60,000 maximum a year. Right wearing the the jack of boots, they only can do what they they can only maintain power so long as we so long as the police and the soldier and you name it for 50 grand a year. It allows himself forever. And I know why we do it. I mean there are good reasons. I mean, it's you have to pay your rent. I'm not naive. But eventually, if you if we stopped saying if we stopped being officers if we stopped being soldiers, we stopped being police lieutenants and start being human. That's the basis of the world. All that virtual money that they have up in the cloud is not worth a goddamn dime. Just like you stop being an officer, you stop being a platoon leader, the minute your soldiers refuse to go on patrol, you're in charge of shit. We found that out in the late part of the Vietnam War, when they started rolling hand grenades in the tents, I don't condone that. And more often when they started saying, No, no, no, we're

not going on this patrol, not 1971 not when the war is already over. And we've already lost. What does that what does that gold bar mean? Once your soldiers do that, it means a buck 99 in the in the in the PX. That's what it means. And I'd argue it goes the same for the CEOs and the politicians.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

So I was thinking we should move on to talking about a bit of the fear and anxiety of the moment and how people can deal with it, how they can handle the stress that is, is the current, the current state that we're living in right now the current era. The first thing I wanted to say was I wanted to share a neat, neat meme that my wife sent me the other day, and it was, it's called Schrodinger virus. And I'm sure most most of you are familiar with Schrodinger's cat, the physics experiment where by that there's a cat in a shoe box, you know, that they could both be dead and alive simultaneously, because you don't know what's actually happening inside the box. So. So the virus it says, you know, we all have now have Schrodinger virus, because we cannot get tested. We can't know whether we have the virus or not. We have to act as if we have the virus so we don't spread it to others. And we have to act as if we've never had the virus because if we didn't have it, we're not immune. Therefore, we both do and do not have the virus, Schrdinger's virus. I share this because I think it's the best way to remind people, especially if you're at a point where you're concerned about whether or not you're potentially spreading the virus or not that you have to look at it both ways. You know, you have to understand that if you have the virus, you don't want to give it to anybody else. But because testing is so poor, there's no way to accurately determine for people that don't have the virus, they don't have it at all. And so it's important to act to if you've never had it, because if you don't, you have zero immunity. So I found that I thought that would be just a good simple way for people to look through the lens of the situation and have an understanding as to why you're trying to deal with the situation with two potential outcomes, neither of which are fully understood or ones that you want.

Danny Sjursen

Yeah, it's a great, it's a great way to look at it like,

Keagan Miller

Oh, just, I mean, the, there's a lot of cities and communities that are coming up with this mutual aid networks, you know, where people are basically like a co op, you know, where people are coming together and pooling their resources to help the greater community at large and like, Fuck, like, that's what we want, right? Like, we want people to be coming together. And, um, I mean, if people are struggling for supplies, you know, basic stuff, like try to find one in your area, because there's probably, you know, and it's hard right now when people are, you know, like, for me anyways, like, as a county employee, like, I feel. I feel like I can't do a lot right now. You know, like, I there's only so much I can do and I feel About that, like, especially for the people in my program, you know, the vets in my program that need help, and like, there's not a lot that I can do other than, you know, try and get them groceries here and there. And it's, it's like hard. It's it I, I think about them a lot because a lot of them are, you know, older and they're were chronically homeless. So they're dealing with a lot of compounding health issues. And I mean, I've already had like a couple people in my program pass away, but like, I'm expecting that more of them are gonna pass away because of this. Um, and that that like, I mean, you guys know it never It's never good when, when that happens, and you don't really know how to deal

with it. You always think about Could you do more or less? I think a lot of us are going to have that experience like as a country. And I hope that through this like shared tragedy, you know that we'll be able to come together more and like so those aid networks, they're not just going to go away. When this starts to recede, you know, that we, we are going to have these changes, even if they're small, but like small, but fundamental changes into how we interact with each other, and how we just talk to each other, like, just the other day, I was going to take my garbage out, and like, Oh, my hands are full. And this guy was getting his bike. And he like, was like, hey, let me get that for you. You know, and it's just, like something little like that, that. That was really nice. It was really profound was like there are people like, especially when we're also isolated. There are people still wanting to make like small connections. And I think that those little things are really going to mean a lot to us as humans growing forward.

Danny Sjursen

See, I mean, it sounds small, but I, I mean, Bobby Kennedy called the ripples of hope, you know, and I know how. I know I'll try it That all sounds but I mean, it's it's real. folks are saying hello to each other folks are being decent on, you know, in small ways that I've been seeing every day and something strangers have I'm happy these days I mean, not not not because I don't take what's happening seriously. But I'm a can be a dark person and I've had some really just rough patches in my life where I was down on the human race and it's come out in the pot a number of times, and I do believe intellectually a lot of that stuff, but I've been happy recently and I think a big part of it, besides having my kids around me is just sort of like seeing some of this goodness in the world. And, you know, I've been using him a lot recently because I've always been obsessed with him and he just said are appropriate than ever. But you know, Kambou said in his book, The plague, his very famous novel that he wrote, you know, in the late 1940s. He said that it may say, I'm paraphrasing, but he said it may it may sound ridiculous or it may sound like illogical but the only it goes to this point of what you're saying, since you never know in an absurd world because he was the absurdist philosopher since you never know if you have if you're going to get the plague in his book, or if you have Corona today, since you never know that and you can't control it and all that. He says the only way to fight the plague goes with decency. And I believe that the only way to fight Crone is with decency because most of it, we can't control but we can control whether we're decent to one another. And what we're seeing from the power structures, military, corporate political, is that they are not choosing decency. And they are not choosing decency. That Same way that the people on my block are because not because of just power corrupting and absolute power corrupts No, because systemically these institutions are are built. They're designed not to be decent to the common person even to their own employees or soldiers or sailors. I mean, but there is decency in the world people are fighting with that. Kagan you're doing it in a real way, well beyond what I am and probably what Henry is. And and I think that that's important and I do think that can lose rejoinder applies very well to that mean, Henry, you know, act like you've got it act like you haven't had it all that and then Okay, well, how do you respond? Well, you respond with the medical prudence of trying not to spread it and you respond with the human prudence of being decent, and that's, that's the best thing that any of us can do. And if we model that behavior at the bottom, and we demand that behavior from the top and we take that if necessary, you know not through shooting cops in the street but if we take that by moral and physical force of our bodies and nonviolent protest then then then something will come out of this something positive.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

So I made a I made a quick little list here of just a couple ideas I had for things people can be doing right now, even at home to both handle the situation to help with your own mental health but also to do something to to change our outcome here and one is that I'm going to start this myself is I'm going to start advocating for better government in different ways that send more letters and emails, things that are non non physically required to talk about talk about the things that we're talking about today. But do it as much in our you know, our online capacity you know, Twitter, Facebook, etc. I'm going to do my best to protect my loved ones. But also try to be there for people that are just nearby. Like your neighbor helping you with your garbage garbage kicking. That's a really cool thing. Very simple human thing and it helps people so much. If you see troops if you if you deal with any troops, if any troops come to your door, ask them questions, basic questions. Who are you? Where are you stationed? How's it going? They don't want to be there any more than you guys want them there. If you happen to see them. I'm not trying to say that something worse could with our military couldn't happen down the line. But the vast majority of troops on the street National Guard guys are away from their families, and they're probably is afraid of as you are of contracting this, if not more so because of their additional exposure. I don't know that their presence will be entirely positive, but I think that we should give them at this moment, a little bit. The benefit of the doubt. Um, but yeah, just just keep positive, keep your loved ones close help somebody if you can, and as those troops about what they're up to.

Keagan Miller

And then, when I do have to go outside, I still my, I'm really grateful that I still have, you know, my creative outlet of playing guitar, I still am taking lessons. So it's nice because that my teacher can still be open. So I've been giving him more money because I can, you know, I, my wife and I are both fortunate to be able to work remotely. So we're trying to like help out our friends and the community and like people that need it because we're fortunate to continue to have a paycheck. So when I go to my lesson, like I take Lyft there because I want to give somebody some money, because I know that they're, you know, drivers are like their ridership is way down. So it's like, Hey, you Like I have money, you know, I want to help the people that I can because I'm fortunate enough to be able to, but I, it's like, I feel like, I feel like that's the sentiment that a lot of people have right now. And I think that's going to continue as well. It's not just going to go away.

Danny Sjursen

Those of us who are more fortunate, there are small ways we can help each other. I would never tell people what to do with their checks. We don't know when the next one is coming. It is obviously related to income on some level, right. So it's already got some of that built into it. But you know, I mean, you know, if you're, I know for me, I'm in a position where you know, I do have a lot of bills and collect ex wives and child support, like baseball cards. But at the same time I, you know, I know that a good chunk of that check I don't need, and I'll find some outlet for it. And that's just one tiny financial thing. But if you multiply it by a million fall, it's, you know, we need big distribution from the top redistribution. But if we're not getting it, there are little things that we can do. And it matters. It matters, because we don't know. We don't know. I mean, life is extraordinarily short. And I hope that my last actions are reasons reasonably in line with decency rather than, you know, selfishness. So while I am flawed, and selfish, and self righteous, like any other human, I really hope that I can model the right behavior or

however long My life is, you know, and I think you know, I'm young and healthy, and it probably will be long but there's always a boss with your name on it. And I think that You know, theoretically and I think you need to live to some extent in accordance with that.

Chris 'Henri' Henrikson

Um, there's one subject that we should go over real quick just before we close up here for today, and that is what is happening in hotspots around the globe. As far as the weight of sanctions and the weight of destroyed infrastructure is making for places like Yemen that is already dealing with an outbreak of cholera. Places like Somalia, for Afghanistan, for Iraq. Keep these people in your thoughts, keep them if you're in your prayers if that's if, if that's your thing. Because what little we do have here in the States, they don't have over there. You know, we're choosing right now, Iran is just absolutely wrecked with Coronavirus right now and yet we're dialing up our sanctions instead of dialing down at a time when I think mercy and peace would be called for more than any other and hats off to all the anti war organizations, different ones that have come out saying that this is the time for a global ceasefire. This is a time to say, we're going to stop at least for now and let people deal with the horror of the virus by itself because while it certainly horrific in its own right, having to deal with living in a warzone, surviving with your children, having no food to eat, having whatever downfall that may have come from American activities there that they certainly need our thoughts and prayers if we can offer them.

Danny Sjursen

Yeah, I wrote extensively too much in terms of word count for popular resistance. I called the article epidemic exacerbation and it's like a history of, you know, the United States. It's not alone. Other countries have done up with the United States profoundly affecting previous virus epidemics through It's sanctions and through its bombing and blockades and you know that the Empire is being tested. It's being given the empathy test, as we speak, and sanctions are the litmus test. And and we've been found wanting as would be expected, but it doesn't have to be that way. Because again, we can collectively demand within this United States but also globally through solidarity, like you said, an immediate moratorium on sanctions. And I think that in addition to the basic decency of it, which is the main reason to do it, something really interesting would come out of this. And it's a test that it's an experiment I'd like to see a strike because we've never tried it before. cease all sanctions and blockades against suppose Enemy states, and watch how nothing changes. Watch how we're no less safe. Watch how there are no more terrorist attacks than before on American soil. Because what that will do is it will ever it will forever deflate the myth that these were enemies in the first place. That these really were existential threats when nothing comes, because we're always told we can't drop sanctions, we can't drop our military posture because that we can't take the risk. Well, let's take this profound pandemic and take the risk for reasons of decency. But then let's benefit from the strategic information we receive as output which is that these and it's conjecture but I'm so sure I'm right. I mean, I'm always sure i'm i'm really sure I'm right, that nothing will change, which will demonstrate once and for all, with so many of us in the anti war movement saying that these threats of has been inflated or made up. And when nothing bad comes of it. Maybe then we can rethink our entire posture towards these supposedly enemies. And I think that that would be a really, really remarkable thing. I don't have optimism, but I have hope. I'll say that