

# The Pass Democrat

Newsletter of the Pass Democratic Club—May 2020

Visit the Pass Democratic Club website: [www.passdems.org](http://www.passdems.org)  
and the Pass Democratic Club on Facebook and Twitter (@DemocraticPass)

## Timeline of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the U.S. Response from January 13, 2017 to Present

What follows is a comprehensive timeline of major U.S. policy events related to the novel coronavirus pandemic. We've focused on the U.S. government's preparation for a pandemic, tracking warning signals of COVID-19, and public and internal responses when the outbreak hit inside the United States.

In our view, the timeline is clear: Like previous administrations, the Trump administration knew for years that a pandemic of this gravity was possible and imminently plausible. Several Trump administration officials raised strong concerns prior to the emergence of COVID-19 and raised alarms once the virus appeared within the United States. While some measures were put in place to prepare the United States for pandemic readiness, many more were dismantled since 2017.

In response to COVID-19, the United States was slow to act at a time when each day of inaction mattered most—in terms of both the eventual public health harms as well as the severe economic costs. The President and some of his closest senior officials also disseminated misinformation that left the public less safe and more vulnerable to discounting the severity of the pandemic. When it came time to minimize the loss of life and economic damage, the United States was unnecessarily underprepared, had sacrificed valuable time, and confronted the pandemic with a more mild response than public health experts recommended. These lapses meant that the United States was ultimately forced to make more drastic *economic* sacrifices to catch up to the severity of the pandemic than would have otherwise been necessary.

<https://www.justsecurity.org/69650/timeline-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic-and-u-s-response/>



**VOTE  
FORWARD**

[votefwd.org](http://votefwd.org)

# Trump is Destroying the Very America He Promised To Make Great Again

from the Irish Times by Fintan O'Toole

US president Donald Trump has claimed he was being sarcastic and testing the media when he raised the idea that injecting disinfectant or irradiating the body with ultraviolet light might kill coronavirus.

Over more than two centuries, the United States has stirred a very wide range of feelings in the rest of the world: love and hatred, fear and hope, envy and contempt, awe and anger. But there is one emotion that has never been directed towards the US until now: pity.

However bad things are for most other rich democracies, it is hard not to feel sorry for Americans...they are locked down with a malignant narcissist who, instead of protecting his people from Covid-19, has amplified its lethality. The country Trump promised to make great again has never in its history seemed so pitiful.

Will American prestige ever recover from this shameful episode? The US went into the corona-virus crisis with immense advantages: precious weeks of warning about what was coming, the world's best concentration of medical and scientific expertise, effectively limitless financial resources, a military complex with stunning logistical capacity and most of the world's leading technology corporations. Yet it managed to make itself the global epicentre of the pandemic.

As the American writer George Packer puts it in the current edition of the Atlantic, "The United States reacted ... like Pakistan or Belarus – like a country with shoddy infrastructure and a dysfunctional government whose leaders were too corrupt or stupid to head off mass suffering."

It is one thing to be powerless in the face of a natural disaster, quite another to watch vast power being squandered in real time – wilfully, malevolently, vindictively. It is one thing for governments to fail (as, in one degree or another, most governments did), quite another to watch a ruler and his supporters actively spread a deadly virus. Trump, his party and Rupert Murdoch's Fox News became vectors of the pestilence.

The grotesque spectacle of the president openly inciting people (some of them armed) to take to the streets to oppose the restrictions that save lives is the manifestation of a political death wish. What are supposed to be daily briefings on the crisis, demonstrative of national unity in the face of a shared challenge, have been used by Trump merely to sow confusion and division. They provide a recurring horror show in which all the neuroses that haunt the American psyche dance naked on live TV. If the plague is a test, its ruling political nexus ensured that the US would fail it at a terrible cost in human lives. In the process, the idea of the US as the world's leading nation – an idea that has shaped the past century – has all but evaporated. Who, other than the Trump impersonator Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, is now looking to the US as the exemplar of anything other than what not to do? How many people in Düsseldorf or Dublin are wishing they lived in Detroit or Dallas? It is hard to remember now but, even in 2017, when Trump took office, the conventional wisdom in the US was that the Republican Party and the broader framework of US political institutions would prevent him from doing too much damage. This was always a delusion, but the pandemic has exposed it in the most savage ways.

Abject surrender

What used to be called mainstream conservatism has not absorbed Trump – he has absorbed it. Almost the entire right-wing half of American politics has surrendered abjectly to him. It has sacrificed on the altar of wanton stupidity the most basic ideas of responsibility, care and even safety.

The US response to the coronavirus crisis has been paralysed by a contradiction that the Republicans have inserted into the heart of US democracy. On the one hand, they want to control all the levers of governmental power. On the other they have created a popular base by playing on the notion that government is innately evil and must not be trusted.

The contradiction was made manifest in two of Trump's statements on the pandemic: on the one hand that he has "total authority", and on the other that "I don't take responsibility at all". Caught between authoritarian and anarchic impulses, he is incapable of coherence.

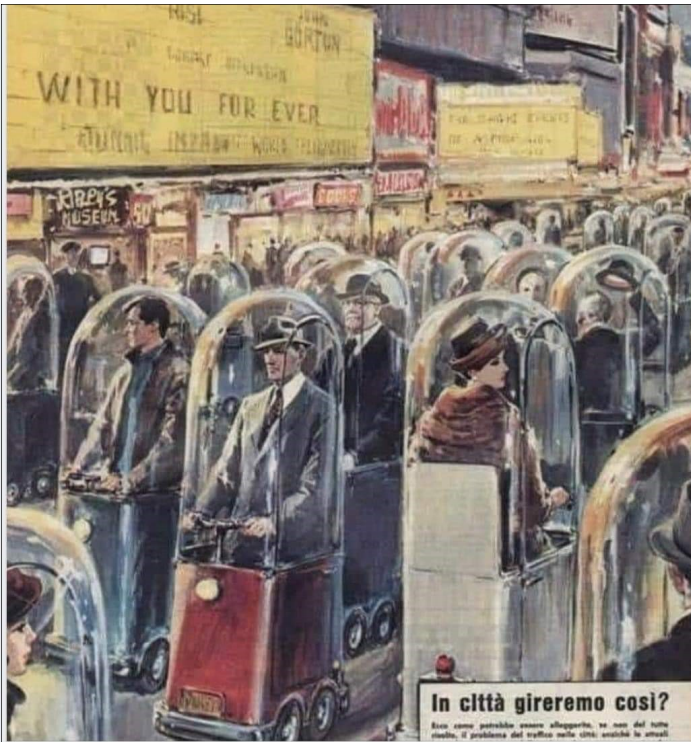
If he is re-elected, toxicity will have become the lifeblood of American politics

That is the mark of how deep the trouble is for the US – it is not just that Trump has treated the crisis merely as a way to feed tribal hatreds but that this behaviour has become normalised. When the freak show is live on TV every evening, and the star is boasting about his ratings, it is no longer a freak show. For a very large and solid bloc of Americans, it is reality. And this will get worse before it gets better. In his inaugural address in 2017, he evoked "American carnage" and promised to make it stop. But now that the real carnage has arrived, he is revelling in it. He is in his element.

As things get worse, he will pump more hatred and falsehood, more death-wish defiance of reason and decency, into the groundwater. If a new administration succeeds him in 2021, it will have to clean up the toxic dump he leaves behind. If he is re-elected, toxicity will have become the lifeblood of American politics.

Either way, it will be a long time before the rest of the world can imagine America being great again.





Mel Fàbregas  
21 hrs

This is a 1962 illustration from the Italian magazine Domenica del Corriere depicting life in the year 2022.



**What part of "STAY AT HOME"  
did you not understand?**



There was a time in history when U.S. workers created 10 cookies. **The rich kept 9 cookies and our economy failed in 1929.**

Then as a Nation we decided that the rich should keep 3 cookies. And workers shared 7 cookies and we became **the greatest country in the world.**

Since 1971 that formula started changing. Nowadays, for every 10 cookies, **the rich keep 9 1/2 cookies and U.S. workers fight over a half a cookie.**



Before Reagan, the very richest paid at least 74% of their income in taxes and CEOs took home just 30 times what their workers did. America's middle class was created.



Reagan cut taxes on the richest down to 28%. He also gutted unions, and now CEOs make 373 times more than workers. The middle class is gone and there are 10 million "working poor."





## Blue News

Positives Of The Black Plague: Labor Shortages Empowered The Working Class  
*The Great Plague actually created opportunities for Europe's poorest people.*

The Black Death—the great waves of the bubonic plague that swept across Europe in the Middle Ages—killed more than one-third of the population, profoundly changing medieval society. While the catastrophic loss of life was devastating, it created opportunities that had significant effects on Europe and the rest of the world forever. The end of feudalism, opportunities for entrepreneurs, and the rise of the middle class all occurred in the wake of the Black Death.

<https://historydaily.org/black-plague-labor-shortages-empowered-working-class>

Trump funneling donor money into his children's households builds on his practice of funneling it into his own pocket, which began in 2016, right after he became the presumptive Republican nominee and began raising large amounts of GOP money. Trump immediately quintupled the rent he was charging his campaign at Trump Tower, from \$35,458 per month to \$169,758. He also began billing the campaign five- and six-figure sums for use of his hotels and golf courses for hosting fundraisers.

Those practices continued after his election and through to this day. His campaign still pays Trump Tower \$37,542 a month in rent, even though it is based in a high-rise office building in Arlington, Virginia. The campaign and the RNC continue to host fundraisers at Trump's properties, putting hundreds of thousands of dollars at a time into his own cash registers.

All of those entities are owned by the Trump Organization, which in turn is owned by a trust that Trump created after his election and of which he is the sole beneficiary.

### **The wealthy should welcome an opportunity to reduce inequality**

<https://www.ft.com/content/832877b6-80b9-11ea-8fdb-7ec06edeef84>

Jimmy Kimmel: "I can think of no better metaphor for this presidency than Donald Trump not wearing a face mask to a face mask factory while the song 'Live and Let Die' blares in the background."

Tomorrow is the National Home-school Tornado Drill. Lock your kids in the basement until you give the all clear. You're welcome!

I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.

2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.

The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

You think it's bad now? In 20 years our country will be run by people home-schooled by day drinkers...

This virus has done what no woman had been able to do...cancel all sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home!!!

Do not call the police on suspicious people in your neighborhood! Those are your neighbors without makeup and hair extensions!

Since we can't eat out, now's the perfect time to eat better, get fit, and stay healthy. We're quarantined! Who are we trying to impress? We have snacks, we have sweatpants — I say we use them!

Day 7 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands???

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!

Me: Alexa what's the weather this weekend?

Alexa: It doesn't matter — you're not going anywhere.

Can everyone please just follow the government instructions so we can knock out this corona virus and be done?! I feel like a kindergartner who keeps losing more recess time because one or two kids can't follow directions.

I swear my fridge just said "what the hell do you want now?"

When this is over... what meeting do I attend first... WW or AA?

Quarantine has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides....r

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/08/opinion/sunday/us-denmark-economy.html>

The golden age of American capitalism, from 1945 to 1980, was a period of high tax rates (up to 91 percent for the very wealthy), strong labor unions and huge initiatives, such as the G.I. Bill of Rights to help disadvantaged (albeit mostly white) Americans. This was a period of rapid growth in which income inequality declined — and in some ways it looked like today's Denmark.

Danes pay an extra 19 cents of every dollar in taxes, compared with Americans, but for that they get free health care, free education from kindergarten through college, subsidized high-quality preschool, a very strong social safety net and very low levels of poverty, homelessness, crime and inequality. On average, Danes live two years longer than Americans.

## How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur

With a nod to Dr. Seuss ☐

Twas late in '19 when the virus began  
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.  
People were sick, hospitals full,  
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.  
As winter gave way to the promise of spring,  
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.  
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.  
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.  
April approached and churches were closed.  
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.  
"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.  
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."  
Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.  
The world was focused on masks and on tests.  
"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.  
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."  
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.  
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.  
The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.  
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.  
"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.  
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.  
"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!  
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,  
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.  
"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."  
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.  
And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.  
It started down low, then it started to rise.  
But the sound wasn't depressed.  
Why, this sound was triumphant!  
It couldn't be so!  
But it grew with abundance!  
The world stared around, popping its eyes.  
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!  
Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,  
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!  
It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!  
Somehow or other, it came just the same!  
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine  
Stood puzzling and puzzling.  
"Just how can it be?"  
"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,  
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."  
Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.  
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store."

Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?

Well....the story's not done.

What will YOU do?

Will you share with that one

Or two or more people needing hope in this night?

Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,

And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,

As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.

May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.

May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,

May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.

May 2020 be known as the year of survival,

But not only that -

Let it start a revival.



**Calm down, everyone. These white dudes are just waving confederate flags, carrying assault weapons, and putting others' lives at risk protesting their right to eat at Wendys... it's not like they're black athletes peacefully kneeling during a song protesting their right to live.**

## STIMULUS RELIEF FUND

Australia: \$1993 a month

Canada: \$1,433 a month

Denmark: Up to \$3,288 a month

France: Up to \$7,575 a month

Germany: Up to \$7,326.78 a month

Ireland: Up to \$1793.44 a month

UK: Up to \$3,084 a month

U.S.: \$1,200 to last for 10 weeks





#### If Trump were Captain of Titanic:

"There isn't any iceberg. There was an iceberg but it's in a totally different ocean. The iceberg is in this ocean but it will melt very soon. There is an iceberg but we didn't hit the iceberg. We hit the iceberg, but the damage will be repaired very shortly. The iceberg is a Chinese iceberg. We are taking on water but every passenger who wants a lifeboat can get a lifeboat, and they are beautiful lifeboats. Look, passengers need to ask nicely for the lifeboats if they want them. We don't have any lifeboats, we're not lifeboat distributors. Passengers should have planned for icebergs and brought their own lifeboats. I really don't think we need that many lifeboats. We have lifeboats and they're supposed to be our lifeboats, not the passengers' lifeboats. The lifeboats were left on shore by the last captain of this ship. Nobody could have foreseen the iceberg

## Join or Renew Invite a Friend

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Banning CA 92220

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Employer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Must be a registered Democrat.  
Enclose \$30 individual  
or \$50 for two at same address

#### Important Contacts:

**Senator Diane Feinstein:** DC Office (202) 224-3841  
L.A. Office (310) 914-7300  
**Senator Kamala Harris:** DC Office (202) 224-3553  
San Diego Office (213) 894-5000  
**Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-36)** DC Office (202) 225-5330  
Palm Desert Office (760) 424-8888  
**CA State Senator Mike Morrell (R-23)** State Capitol Office (916) 651-4023  
Rancho Cucamonga Office (909) 919-7731  
**CA Assembly Member Chad Mayes: (R-42)** State Capitol Office  
(916) 319-2042 Rancho Mirage Office (760) 346-6342  
**Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Hewitt (5)**  
Riverside Office 951-955-1050 Perris Office (951) 210-1300

#### PASS DEMOCRATIC CLUB E-board Meetings TBD

##### Executive Board Members:

PRESIDENT - Sylvia Carrillo, syllycarr@verizon.net  
1st VP MEMBERSHIP - Jim Mercado  
2nd VP VOTER REGISTRATION AND  
POLITICAL ACTION - Monica Rice  
RECORDING SECRETARY - Jazmine Colon  
CORRESPONDING/LOGISTICS - Emma Hernandez  
TREASURER - Leeann McLaughlin

##### Committee Chairs:

COMMUNICATIONS—Leeann McLaughlin, casakel@msn.com  
PROGRAM—DeniAntoinette Mazingo  
PARLIAMENTARIAN - Pelton Teague  
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