THE Global Rise of Authoritarianism AND Social Credit (Digital Surveillance) System

n the first quarter of 2020, when health experts warned of a new virus and an emerging pandemic, they explained that we were "all in this together," and that we needed to do our part for "15 days to slow the spread." At first, the various health and social distancing measures they announced seemed radically foreign to our thinking and American way of life; yet we were assured they were urgently needed and would serve to protect us from a fast-spreading novel coronavirus named COVID-19. Out of an abundance of concern for the health of our loved ones and our fellow citizens, responsible Americans rose to the challenge and dutifully followed the guidelines.

In retrospect, however, millions of American citizens and others around the world are increasingly calling into question what we were told. Is it possible that those initial warnings were simply the opening salvo of a coordinated, strategic barrage of shifting narratives and burdensome, government-imposed restrictions intended to accomplish far more than stop the spread of a new virus?

Now, having navigated the turbulent twists and turns of a tumultuous year that included the coronavirus pandemic and a viciously contested Presidential election, we are finally entering 2021. The beginning of a new year is generally a time of hope and optimism. Yet, we're being told to expect a "dark winter." Big government, big business, big tech, big media, and big pharma continue to propagate the need for more masking, social distancing, and draconian lockdowns. "These measures are based on science and health data," they tell us – and yet a large, growing chorus of highly credentialed scientists and health professionals continue to refute the data and condemn these measures as over-reaching, unhealthy, and detrimental to our nation. If you're unaware of these courageous voices that have been standing against the cacophony of mainstream talking heads, it's likely because they've been silenced by the tech giants in Silicon Valley and ignored by the global media.

Certainly, those who have lost loved ones and have been directly impacted by the pandemic deserve our heartfelt sympathy. But countless others have also been devastated by the inability to get the care they've needed for other serious ailments. And the emotional toll that has resulted from these oppressive measures is incalculable. Millions of children have suffered irreparable harm from a lack of social and educational development due to school closures. Hundreds of thousands of small businesses have been crushed. Big businesses that were deemed "essential" remained open (and lucrative), while churches and religious institutions have been unfairly targeted by authoritarian mandates - and in some cases - shut down.

Several months ago, Operation Warp Speed was initiated and the race was on to develop a vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the process for developing vaccines requires several steps.

The normal time it takes to develop a vaccine is more than 10 years, and yet, we're being told that several multi-billion-dollar rival pharmaceutical companies have all





with David Rosenthal





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The World Economic Forum and The Fourth Industrial Revolution: www.weforum.org

The United Nations Agenda 2030: www.sustainable development.un.org

Decade of Vaccines: www.gatesfoundation.org

Digital Identity Alliance: www.id2020.org successfully developed a coronavirus vaccine in record time – in a matter of months. (Notably, each company released news of their successes to the public within a span of three weeks immediately following the U.S. Presidential election.) According to news reports, over the past month, these companies have been rushing millions of doses throughout the world with the promise that their vaccines will protect us from the pandemic, prevent further spreading of the virus, and allow us to return to life – albeit in the "new normal."

Even with the current vaccine rollout, however, technocrats (unelected experts in various fields that include science and health) are beginning to publicly cast doubt upon a return to normalcy any time soon. Once again, they are moving the goalposts on the American public. This strategy, which has been used repeatedly throughout the past year, belies the real underlying globalist agenda.

Make no mistake, the chaos of the past year has not been by coincidence. It is the tangible evidence of the implementation of a sinister agenda – a so-called global reset – which intends to destroy American sovereignty with the express purpose of installing a new global system run by un-elected bureaucrats. The real collusion taking place in Washington D.C. is between deep state government officials, global banks and corporations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), The United Nations, and elitist billionaires with an insatiable thirst for power.

Global authoritarianism is their intended goal. But the World Economic Forum is couching it in a different way. "Stakeholder Capitalism" is a deceptively innocuoussounding term being touted by these globalists. It is a form of government they insist is desperately needed to bring equality and sustainability to our planet as we enter a so-called Fourth Industrial (Digital) Revolution. This is what lies behind the vision of a "global reset" being propagated by Klaus Schwab, the World Economic Forum, and a host of multi-national corporations and billionaire elites.

Unfortunately, the "Stakeholders" are a cabal of governing agencies, corporate

oligarchs and unelected technocrats using authoritarian methods to control the masses.

This notion of "stakeholder" control is prevalent within the U.N. Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development guidelines. It is also found within globalist organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which poured \$10 billion dollars into an initiative called "Decade of Vaccines" which they began in January 2010, nearly ten years to the day from the first reported case of the Coronavirus pandemic in January 2020. (According to the Gates Foundation website, the former head of the World Health Organization, along with Dr. Anthony Fauci, were both on the Decade of Vaccines Leadership Council).

Of major concern is the growing collusion between global governments and corporate behemoths to use advancements in technology, personal data collection, and surveillance to dismantle individual rights, destroy free speech, and gain complete control of the system.

The Coming Social Credit (Digital Surveillance) System

Consider the fact that China, with a massive population of 1.4 billion people, rolled out a new social credit system in 2020 that had been in the planning stages since 2009. That may not seem particularly concerning due to the fact that as Americans, we are already familiar with the idea of having a credit score based upon our income level, financial obligations, and payment history.

China's new social credit system, however, is something vastly different – and much darker. Though several pilot programs have been tested over a period of years, the underlying system is based upon blacklisting and whitelisting. Through continuous digital surveillance, individuals are evaluated based upon every aspect of their behavior – and then issued a social reputation score.

Get caught by a traffic light camera running a red light, or jaywalking across a street, and you'll have to pay a fine. But in China, your social credit score will also be lowered.

Fail to properly sort your garbage waste and your score will be reduced. Stand up on

a city train when the automated announcer indicates you should be seated, and you'll lose additional points. If facial recognition software sees you socializing with a friend who has been tagged with a lower social score, you will be considered untrustworthy, and you'll be penalized further.

Conversely, if you follow the governmentmandated protocols, your score will remain steady. Donate to a government-approved charity, and your score will improve.

And what are some of the penalties and practical implications of carrying a low social credit score in China? You may have limited access to basic necessities. You may wait longer for your healthcare needs. You may be denied access to travel. You may be "disqualified" to ride on trains or purchase a plane ticket. If you don't fall in line with the state-mandated social contract for behavior, you may be denied the ability to get a loan or purchase property.

Obviously, the implications for religious minorities are staggering. It is no secret that China severely persecutes ethnic Muslim Uyghurs within its borders. Even beyond China's infamous iron-fisted persecution of Christians and churches, Bible-believers can now be targeted in various ways by a nameless, faceless, authoritarian system that seeks to target them for their faith.

Large corporations and small businesses are also scored by the system. Many are fearful of being fined or shut down by the government. Whether or not they wish to be willing collaborators with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), they have little choice but to provide vast quantities of customer data to the CCP. As a result, the new system of social credit scoring is enforced, in practical terms, by businesses and companies who fear retribution if they don't comply with government requirements.

During the recent lockdowns here in the U.S., you may have seen someone walk into a restaurant to place an order without wearing a mask (if you live in an area with open indoor seating). Most likely, they were confronted by a restaurant manager, and were told to put on a mask or they would be refused service.

In most cases, it is probably not the manager's intent to be confrontational. He

or she is simply following the directive of the restaurant's owner. The owner is likely fearful of being fined, losing their business license, and being shut down if they don't enforce the mandates.

Through the use of fear, propaganda, scientific socialism (read more on this in the May/June 2020 issue of *Zion's Fire*), manipulated data, public shaming, and forced business acquiescence, the heavy-handed pandemic response by world leaders is preparing the playing field for the implementation of social credit systems to be rolled out in various forms and fashions around the world.

From a geopolitical perspective, it seems clear that we are witnessing a global coup to wrest control of our God-given freedom and liberties. From a biblical perspective, it is nothing less than a Luciferian plot to enslave humanity under the guise of humanistic socialism.

As Christians, these things shouldn't surprise us. Satan is the Prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), and he is manipulating people and events associated with the current global system to achieve his evil plan. The stage is being set, and the clock is counting down toward the final showdown between God and Satan for the ultimate control of Planet Earth.

Whether or not the powerbrokers of our day are able to pull off a global reset in the near term remains to be seen. But ultimately, we know that the evil schemes of men will not succeed. Jesus Christ will triumph over all. Hear the words of David, the Psalmist:

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices [schemes] to pass (Psalm 37:7).

If you are a citizen of heaven through faith in Christ alone, this world is not your home. As believers, we are simply sojourners passing through on our way to a far better place. But for now, as we seek to navigate the pitfalls of this world system, may we remain faithful to our God, and rest in the sovereignty of His good hand. ◆

A Word About Vaccines

There are many varying views as to the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Many believe they have been crucial in the fight to protect health and eradicate diseases. Others have serious questions relating to their long-term impact on health. Some harbor concerns over their compounds and their potential to adversely impact human DNA.

There are also those who have deep concerns about the technological means that may eventually be used to administer future vaccines, such as quantum dot technology that could potentially be used for the purpose of controlling large populations through personal data collection and tracing. Still others believe that vaccines are being used as a tool for political control on the path to implementing digital IDs and social credit scoring.