

Freedom TO and Freedom FROM

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ABSTRACT

This meditation on the 2020-2021 viral holocaust examines how certain elements in the Land of the Free have led to excessive numbers of cases and deaths that could have been prevented by public health measures, as proven by several countries around the world. What is it about our America and about our human species that lures us into actions and inactions that are not scientifically logical and rational? What lessons can be learned that will help our species survive emerging existential challenges associated with unchecked population and climate changes?

During the *four* years from 1941 to 1945 Americans went to war both in Europe and in the Pacific region. Bloody battles such as Normandy and Iwo Jima are seared into our cultural memory. More than **405,000** American warriors were swiftly killed, with millions more wounded physically and/or psychologically by their visible enemies. They all were heroes, not suckers and losers.

During the spring of 2020 through the spring of 2021, or *one* year, the CDC predicts *more* than the WWII total of Americans will be killed or wounded by an invisible viral enemy. On top of the immediate viral holocaust number, there will be thousands of innocents left with Long Haul Syndrome, and approximately one

in five will exhibit mental symptoms months or years later. The appearance of vaccines won't blunt the first year's total, but will only make the rest of year #2 increasingly less catastrophic.

Pundits have marveled at how the world's most advanced country, with just four percent of the world's population, could have twenty percent of global Covid-19 cases. The answer is found by comparing our freedoms TO with our freedoms FROM.

There is a total separation between science with facts, and hard core belief with fake facts. The initial federal administration has chosen to pursue a bogus strategy of fake "herd immunity." If followed to its logical end for this uniquely evil virus, there could be one million or more American fatalities.

All of the economy (what's left of it) would remain "open." All eyes would be urged to focus on the booming stock market, while the haves increasingly separate themselves from the have-nots. This cold strategy reminds us of Stalin's most famous cold quote: "One death is a tragedy. A million deaths is a statistic." It is what it is. Winners live, and losers die. We can choose to do better, much better, but how? It will take a lot more than the appearance of vaccines. Even now rabid vaccine resistance is taking on a circular-firing-squad [QAnon flavor](#). How sad.

*We need to examine how Freedom To and Freedom From are fundamentally related. They seem separate, but in fact are two sides of the same cultural coin. **Many potential virus victims flaunt their Freedom To – without considering how basic Freedom From actually protects their Freedom To.***

*For example, we may imagine that our freedom **to** make a fist and jab it fast toward another's nose is a fundamental freedom. Remember that the "recipient" of a nose punch also has the same freedom **to** do likewise. In practice, neither of us, outside a real fight, usually gets our nose broken. That is because we both have a freedom **from** getting our nose punched. The "from" is enforced by laws civil society has made to protect ourselves from our foolish selves.*

It is obscenely ignorant to claim that it is OK to expose our youthful bodies to covid infection, because we will only get a flu at worst. Maybe, if you ignore long-term effects. This virus is particularly evil, as so many spreaders are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. Then we go to our extended family gatherings, or to hedonistic bar scenes, or motorcycle rallies, caring not at all for the trail of tears we are creating in our wake. That's how thinking *only* about Freedom To, and not Freedom From, works.

This short-term Covid-19 crisis is a mini-drama compared to the real species-killing drama that is unfolding: It seems like a small thing to imagine the average world temperature going up only four degrees centigrade. Just four degrees. [Here below is a picture](#) of what the world could look like after another century or two of Malthusian procreation and heedless pollution, yielding just those four degrees. That's only the start, as by then the world will have accelerated toward much hotter average temperatures, a process that will continue long after the last human perishes.

