

REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

in the Future of the World



TÜRKİYE BİLİMLER AKADEMİSİ
TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Editors

Prof. Muzaffer Şeker
Prof. Ali Özer
Dr. Cem Korkut



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#mask



#keepdistance



#hygiene

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*The people think of wealth and power as the greatest fate,
But in this world a spell of health is the best state.*

*-Muhibbi**

We are grateful to our esteemed scientists who contributed to the book by making extraordinary efforts despite their busy schedules.

Editors

* Suleiman the Magnificent -the Lawgiver (1494 - 1566)

Primum non nocere!¹

The coronavirus pandemic will forever alter the world order.

-Henry A. Kissinger

Human beings have come to today by using the resources provided to them carelessly and damaging to other beings, especially humans, in the world they live in since ancient times. The negative impact of each damaged other beings on the habitat could not be compensated. The process has resulted in the deterioration of the ecological balance, considering the place and contribution of other beings in nature. It is not possible for environmental studies to normalize ecosystem damage in short time because of countries' conflict of interest for many years. The deterioration of the ecological balance has led to a decrease in biodiversity and the unbalanced distribution of resources in the world, as well as excessive consumption. As a result, supply/demand balance has been disrupted in terms of covering the basic needs of the individual, which is the main indicator of human welfare. Disengagement from natural life as a result of industrialization and urbanization has narrowed the production areas. This situation has revealed different production and stocking methods and production techniques that threaten the health of human and other creatures as a result of commercial concerns.

In cases where unemployment increases, healthy nutrition is eliminated and the immune system is weakened, a medium suitable for the spread of serious epidemic diseases that cause the world population to decrease in times of economic crises. There have been developments in many areas following the outbreaks in the world. The recent increase in high-tech products, excessive mobilization due to globalization and the ease of transportation and communication have created a disadvantage in terms of the spread of diseases as well as benefits. The recent increase in high-tech products, excessive mobilization due to globalization and the ease of transportation and communication have created a disadvantage in terms of the spread of diseases as well as benefits. In addition, intercontinental forced migrations, border disputes as well as internal conflicts have increased the risks of societies affecting from crisis and natural disasters.

¹ "First, do no harm! - Hippocrates

The most important difference of the COVID-19 pandemic from past pandemics is the multiplier effect of the speed of transportation and communication in the spread of the pandemic and the implementation of the measures taken. The reflections of the social change created by the global outbreak should be read well when a healthy analysis of past pandemic periods is made, and their differences and impact areas are evaluated. Determining post-pandemic period strategies based on historical evaluation will make it possible to perform the normalization process in a healthier way.

It is expected that the forced quarantine processes that societies go through with the pandemic and the struggle processes in the field of health will have long-term economic, psychological, political, sociological and commercial effects on the normalization process in the post-pandemic period. As a result of the traumatic effects of this period, individuals have had the opportunity to question their attitude to life and their past. Individuals will experience differentiations in family and human relationships, consumption habits and spending practices, expectations from life and career planning in the post-pandemic period.

The countries will need to revise their production and consumption policies, develop strategies to reduce foreign dependency, encourage domestic production and take special measures to use their natural resources efficiently in the new era. Works and measures on this issue will affect, especially the field of health, the agriculture and livestock-based food sector, the employment policies of the country, and potential alternatives learning methods in education. A balanced spread of social welfare and demands for an inclusive social security system, including unemployment insurance, will have an important place on the agenda of politicians. The concept of food safety and sustainable food production, which has an important place in the natural flow of life and is not very aware, has affected the logistics support policies and quarantine decisions during the pandemic. The processing, stocking and balanced consumption of foods, seasonal food production diversity, food economy, consumption management and production balance, healthy and balanced food consumption, national agriculture and animal husbandry policies that cares about domestic and sufficient production which provide independency to external sources will be among the priority issues of all countries in the new era. Similarly, the protection of natural resources, the evaluation of alternative renewable energy resources, the provision of inclusive and qualified health care, health infrastructure and health workforce, fair and equitable social security policies, economic and political-based pacts, cooperation in international relations, reshaping the concepts of the ally/enemy and special strategies for social security in times of crisis will be on the agenda of political decision makers and administrators in the post-pandemic period.

As required in science diplomacy, the responsibility of science academies is to guide decision-makers by producing studies that include reports, predictions, projections and big data analysis. One of the first reports in Turkey on the

pandemic was the “TÜBA Assessment Report on COVID-19 Global Outbreak”. The report was periodically updated and shared on the internet, and in its 6th version was published in Turkish and English and distributed to the relevant institutions and organizations.² Likewise, the report titled as “TÜBA COVID-19 Global Outbreak Report on Judicial Changes and Interactions” which includes suggestions for the determination of legal problems that may arise or may arise in the national or international arena due to the global outbreak, and potential solutions, was published in Turkish and English and shared with the relevant parties.³ The historical evaluation on pandemics, the effects of the COVID-19 global outbreak, the sectoral-based interactions of the individual and society after the pandemic are examined under different titles with a future perspective in this book, penned by Turkish scientists and published by Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA). This book is a kind of updated version of the comprehensive book previously published under the title “Küresel Salgının Anatomisi: İnsan ve Toplumun Geleceği”.⁴ Different articles have been added to this book and also some previous articles have been revised with updated data and developments. There are a lot of subjects and predictions for post-pandemic period in the different fields, from health to education, from information technologies to political science, from economics to international relations, from trade to philosophy, from artificial intelligence studies to sociological analysis, from environment and agriculture to space and polar studies.

Certainly, the spread and interaction of the pandemic is still not very clear in the light of the developments, and it creates a picture of anxiety in individuals in the form of a blurry ball of expectations that includes serious concerns for the future. This picture is not a long-term sustainable social situation. All segments of the society, especially healthcare workers, are at risk of burnout syndrome. Accordingly, commercial, sectoral (private and public), political, international, and local breakdowns may cause global peace threatening consequences. The pandemic has been a reminder by showing the importance and vital necessity of the “One Health” concept.

It will not be possible to make an exact analysis of the pandemic in a specific field because the results are multi-dimensional and multilateral, by confining them to a single discipline. In this context, although more than one point is touched in each chapter, the content of the book is built on five basic chapters without separating them with precise lines in the book. In the first part, the role of epidemics and pandemics in history is mentioned, while predictions are made about the transformations expected to occur within the framework of health systems, education, R&D studies, judicial changes, and academic

² TÜBA Assessment Report on COVID-19 Global Outbreak can be reached on <http://www.tuba.gov.tr/tr/yayinlar/suresiz-yayinlar/raporlar/tuba-assessment-report-on-covid-19-global-outbreak> in English and <http://www.tuba.gov.tr/tr/yayinlar/suresiz-yayinlar/raporlar/6.versiyon-tuba-covid-19-kuresel-salgin-degerlendirme-raporu> in Turkish.

³ TÜBA COVID-19 Global Outbreak Report on Judicial Changes and Interactions can be reached on <http://www.tuba.gov.tr/tr/yayinlar/suresiz-yayinlar/raporlar/tuba-covid19-global-outbreak-report-on-judicial-changes-and-interactions> in English and <http://www.tuba.gov.tr/tr/yayinlar/suresiz-yayinlar/raporlar/tuba-covid-19-kuresel-salgin-hukuki-degisim-ve-etkilesimler-raporu> in Turkish.

⁴ The book “Küresel Salgının Anatomisi: İnsan ve Toplumun Geleceği” can be reached on <http://www.tuba.gov.tr/tr/yayinlar/suresiz-yayinlar/bilim-ve-dusun/kuresel-salginin-anatomisi-insan-ve-toplumun-gelecegi>

research & publications. The world international politics is discussed in the context of states and developments in the global system in the second part. The changes in the fields of economics, trade, tourism, logistics, employment patterns, and analysis of business transformation are included in the third part. In the fourth part, the philosophical, psychological, sociological and religious dimensions of the new normal period after the global outbreak are mentioned and theo-political evaluations are made. In the fifth and last part, the future of the media, sports and entertainment sector was discussed while drawing attention to the developments in various science disciplines such as environment, information technologies, food security, agriculture, energy, space studies, polar studies during and after the global outbreak.

It should not be forgotten that the information technologies, artificial intelligence studies, a sustainable economic ecosystem, a qualified education and investments for the future of health will shape the future of societies in the new era. As a result, individuals and societies have to get used to this process and set up their precautions and future plans against these and similar epidemics and pandemics. In addition, struggling with such chaotic processes in life will develop human and make them resistant as a result of the lessons they have learned. We would like to state that it is valuable and important to reconstruct life on a healthy ground based on human values, moral issues, and social security accompanied by scientific studies, with the awareness of self-criticism and review of responsibilities to the global matters.

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