

# COVID-19 as a Model for the Climate Change Agenda

Marc Morano

We are now in very strange times. A merging of COVID and climate may just be the left's ticket to a Soviet-style regulatory state.

In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared, "Climate change is the greatest health challenge of the 21st century, and threatens all aspects of the society in which we live."

The climate change movement, explained former Czech Republic President Vaclav Klaus, is the greatest threat to freedom and individual liberty since the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Empire. "As someone who lived under communism for most of his life, I feel obliged to say that I see the biggest threat to freedom, democracy, the market economy and prosperity now is ambitious environmentalism.... This ideology wants to replace the free and spontaneous evolution of mankind by a sort of central (now global) planning."

The climate change agenda involves global governance, the United Nations, the Green New Deal, carbon taxes and essentially regulations on nearly every aspect of human endeavors.

Green guru Michael Shellenberger, once *Time* magazine's "Hero of the Environment," recently issued this apology: "On behalf of environmentalists everywhere, I would like to formally apologize for the climate scare we created over the last 30 years. Climate change is happening. It's just not the end of the world. It's not even our most serious environmental problem."

He was attacked by his former allies and was stripped of his good standing among the environmental activists.

In view of what's happened with the response to COVID-19, I would also like to issue an apology, in the same spirit as Michael Shellenberger: On behalf of all climate skeptics everywhere, I would like to formally apologize for warning that "climate change" was the biggest threat to our liberty over the last 30 years. Climate change "solutions" are a big threat. It's just not the biggest in the world. Now the biggest threat to our liberty are viral fear-inspired lockdowns based on whipped-up fear of COVID imposed by power-hungry politicians and bureaucrats.

I must confess that I didn't see this coming. Public health, with its unelected bureaucracy, has stepped in and made the United Nations look like nothing but farm league amateurs when it comes to expanding power and control and instilling fear in the public.

Let us look at how the climate activists praised the response to COVID with almost palpable jealousy.

In a special report that I did for Climate Depot, I noted that the COVID lockdowns were imposed beginning in mid-March 2020 and displaced calls for addressing the alleged climate emergency. I noted in 2020 that if you like living under coronavirus fears and government-mandated lockdowns,

then you'll love living under a climate emergency.

The climate activists started lusting after all the attention COVID-19 received. Michael Mann, for example, had been on every television outlet that would give him air time, talking about how climate was the greatest health threat. Then suddenly, after all their decades of climate hysteria and media investment, public concern about climate virtually vanished. The CEO of the Harris Poll lamented that in 2020, over a period of 6 months, global warming went from the number one issue of concern among Americans to number 11 out of 12.

"I was personally surprised and discouraged to discover that our devotion to the world around us is flagging," said Will Johnson. "In a survey we at the Harris Poll conducted last December [2019], American adults said climate change was the number one issue facing society. Today, it comes in second to last on a list of a dozen options, ahead of only overpopulation."

"Neither Greenpeace, nor Greta Thunberg, nor any other individual or collective organization have achieved so much in favor of the health of the planet in such a short time," said Spanish scientist Martín López Corredoira. "A miracle happened.... It is certainly not very good for the economy in general, but it is fantastic for the environment."<sup>1</sup>

During this "miracle," children in Spain were not allowed to leave their homes for 2 months. They weren't allowed to go out in the sunshine because of fear of a virus. The entire world shut down. Airline travel ground to a halt. Lives destroyed, cancer screenings deferred, mental health challenges unmet, substance abuse ran rampant.

Peter Frankopan, professor of global history at Oxford University, said: "One beneficiary [of the lockdowns] will be the climate: After all, the world's lungs are already breathing more easily thanks to the collapse of industrial production. Who is to say that this pandemic does not provide a turning point in world history?"<sup>2</sup> This turning point would achieve exactly the same ends as the climate agenda, except this is more potent, more wide-reaching, more scary.

Extinction Rebellion posted signs: "Corona is the cure. Humans are the Disease." The Paul Ehrlichs of the world—the depopulation enthusiasts—are cheering. A terrible pandemic like the Spanish flu would solve a lot of problems, get rid of a lot of people.

Teen activist Jamie Margolin, a friend of Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg, said in *Teen Vogue* magazine, "If we can shut the world down to stop a virus, that also means it is possible to do the same for climate change. Treat all emergencies like emergencies!" She adds: "What would it look like when the world actually decides to take on the climate crisis? It would look like what we're seeing right now."<sup>3</sup> In case you think it is just about fashions, note that *Teen Vogue* recently condemned capitalism and promoted socialism. *Teen*

*Vogue* is apparently unconcerned about the total collapse of industrial civilization.

Climate activists can celebrate ways in which COVID-19 accomplished their agenda. They hated airline travel. Greta Thunberg took a yacht across the Atlantic. It was made of plastic, which is manufactured from petroleum, and her crew flew back and forth, but they still engaged in flight-shaming. Then, COVID devastated the airline industry. Climate activists hate economic growth. COVID wiped it out. They want to stop meat-eating. The demand for meat decreased as restaurants closed. They want to stop “excessive consumption.” “Non-essential” stores, businesses, movie theaters, vacations, etc., shut down. They wanted children to skip school to protest. Schools closed. They talked of planned recessions to fight global warming, at UN Climate Summits. The Sierra Club promoted economic degrowth.

Lockdowns could help stifle the meat industry and meat consumption, a long sought after goal of the climate agenda. Climate activists are now heavily invested in the meat-substitute industry. Al Gore could become the world’s first fake-meat billionaire.<sup>4</sup>

The result of the lockdowns has been the greatest transfer of wealth from the poor and middle class to the wealthy. According to CNBC financial expert Jim Cramer, if lockdowns continue, the country may be left with only three retailers: Walmart, Amazon, and Costco. Small businesses cannot survive.<sup>5</sup> Cramer explained that the lockdowns led to “one of the greatest wealth transfers in history.” He added, “This is the first recession where big business... is coming through virtually unscathed. A restaurant owner himself, he says, “Welcome to the restaurant apocalypse.”<sup>6</sup> As of July 2020, 16,000 restaurants had closed permanently, and 60 percent of temporary closures were expected to become permanent.<sup>7</sup>

Why do progressives no longer complain about big business and corporations? Because progressives are now in charge of corporate boards. Corporations, national chains, all cower in fear of the woke agenda and cave to any pressure to the cancel culture big government advocates. Large corporations are easy to control. “Mom and pop,” small independent businesses are difficult to control.

To make a world that is essentially under the thumb of government has been the intellectual left’s fantasy for the last 100 years. It is what the 20th century wars were fought over. We won World War II fighting the forces of statism, and we thought in the 1980s when Ronald Reagan was president that we defeated the centrally planned governments. But the progressive agenda of controlling humans keeps coming back, and now they have found that viral fears are the ticket to success.

Steve Milloy of Junk Science explains how the public health bureaucracies have no conservatives or libertarians in them, just as no conservatives are to be found in the National Education Association. As a result, left-wing public health bureaucrats have now essentially taken over the entire public health establishment, and now even conservative governors and senators are afraid to contradict them or question “the science.”

Greta Thunberg said that the societal shutdown from COVID taught us that we can change our habits and “treat the crisis like a crisis.”<sup>8</sup>

Ed Conway, economics editor for *Sky News* and columnist for the *UK Times*, writes: “If you were a young, hardline environmentalist looking for the ultimate weapon against climate change, you could hardly design anything better than coronavirus. Unlike most other such diseases, it kills mostly the old who, let’s face it, are more likely to be climate skeptics.”<sup>9</sup> In other words, a public figure in the UK suggests culling the older population in order to get the climate agenda passed.

The editorial staff of the *UK Guardian* writes: “The brakes placed on economic activities of many kinds, worldwide, have led to carbon emission cuts that would previously have been unthinkable.... What was once impossible (socialist, reckless) now turns out not to be, at all.”<sup>10</sup> This is a key viewpoint because the *Guardian* is the paper of record for the entire climate movement, particularly throughout Europe and even in the U.S.

These hard-core activists are in awe of this outcome. I predicted in the summer of 2020 that the climate movement is never going to be the same again. We’re already hearing Al Gore and activists like Jane Fonda saying that climate change is going to make future viruses worse, and the WHO is already on record as saying climate change is the greatest health threat. Climate may get demoted permanently to a subset of public health.

### Science in Support of Policy

Since early 2020, journals have been cranking out COVID papers. The funding has changed. So has the “science.” The science was overturned in 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WHO, and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) head Dr. Anthony Fauci changed their minds about masks. So, overnight the “consensus” promulgated by the media changed. Then several modeling studies over a couple of months claimed that if people would wear masks, we could save tens of thousands of lives.<sup>11</sup>

The process is exactly that used by the National Climate Assessment, which picks years and data points as needed to justify a policy. With COVID-19, the public must be kept in fear in order for the public health bureaucracy to exert the kind of control they have wanted for decades—which is far more extreme than anything that has been proposed for climate.

We were worried about the climate bureaucrats controlling our home thermostat or destroying our dishwashing appliances or affecting our meat or gas prices. Now we have people telling us to put on a mask or taking measuring tapes to the beach and yelling at people if they are not covering their face. I was in line for ice cream with my son, and someone turned around and said, “Could you please socially distance?”

This level of obedience and authoritarian control is something we climate skeptics did not see coming, and for this we must apologize.

But climate activists are still trying to scare with climate. A *Washington Post* reporter claimed that climate change affects “everything—even the coronavirus.” Climate change is described as a threat multiplier. “No aspect of life on this planet has been untouched by climate change—viruses included,” the *Post* claimed.<sup>12</sup>

## The Great Reset

At the January 2020 meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, President Donald Trump gave a speech in which he compared climate alarmists to the fortune tellers of yesteryear.<sup>13</sup> But the global elite who meet there call what is happening the global reset. UN Secretary General António Guterres said the pandemic “could create an opportunity to rebuild the global economy along more sustainable lines.”<sup>14</sup>

I predict that climate change is going to shift to being part of the public health crisis. Now we have the chance for a white lab coat dictatorship to dictate public policy. Governors are beholden to the medical science bureaucracy telling them what they must do.

Net Zero is going to be part of a global lockdown, a permanent one. The hope originally was that the lockdowns would last 2 to 3 weeks, to “flatten the curve,” and then would end. Some people said they would end after the November 2020 election. Wrong. It’s a global phenomenon. It is bigger than Trump, bigger than Biden, bigger than any U.S. election.

Have we ever had a country in the history of the world that has shut itself down completely to try to keep a virus from entering, so they have zero cases all the time? The media and the medical health bureaucracy praised the lockdowns, despite the destroyed livelihoods, the delayed cancer treatments, higher suicide rates, psychological problems, and endless disruptions from screening procedures. Why?

Politicians tell us that “we’re all in this together.” Politicians, government bureaucrats, media cheerleaders, public servants, academics, all get their full salary during lockdowns. Amazon has record profits, as all the mom-and-pop shops get closed. We are NOT all in this together.

Do you remember when President Donald Trump and other Republicans have tried to shut the government down during budget negotiations? Front page news issued ominous warnings about the loss of essential government services. In reality, the government never actually shut down. It has only closed certain parts, such as the Parks Service and other things that are the most visible.

The *New York Times* wrote: “As the government shutdown persists, Americans feel the bite.”<sup>15</sup> It mentioned delayed mortgage payments, missed paychecks, and stymied farmers. How many stories have we seen about how Americans felt the bite of endless lockdowns and mask mandates? It did not happen.

Last year, I would have shown pictures of Al Gore, Greta Thunberg, and climate hockey stick inventor Michael Mann as our most frightening future, but the new most frightening future is a world run by medical health bureaucrats. I think calling them epidemiologists is much too generous; they are health bureaucrats. Bill Dunne at the *American Thinker* put it this way: “The danger of letting lab coats run the world” is palpable. “It should be clear by now that most of the world’s leaders were stampeded over the lockdown cliff like so many lemmings. What caused the stampede is even more remarkable: a tiny coterie of obscure, soft-spoken epidemiologists in white lab coats playing with numbers.... The aim was to cause panic.” Dunne added: “We were plunged into the grandest of experiments in authoritarian paternalism,

whereby we plebeians—i.e., those without government jobs—are deemed incompetent to judge if it’s safe to take a dip in the ocean or a walk in the woods. We can, though, crowd into a Walmart or the local supermarket.”

Over the years I have watched polling data. The public may say they believe in global warming, but they don’t want to spend any money and don’t really care enough to do anything about it. But a viral fear cuts across ideology and party line. People fear viruses for all kinds of reasons: age, a preexisting condition, vulnerable loved ones at home. This is why a pandemic is so much more effective to control human industrial civilization than anything the climate fears could ever hope to achieve.

French President Emmanuel Macron said early on, “We must all limit the number of people with who we’re in contact with every single day.”<sup>16</sup> Why? Macron said, “Scientists say so.”

In the sequel to the film *Climate Hustle*, President Dwight Eisenhower’s 1961 farewell address is featured. Eisenhower warned that “public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific-technological elite.” A government contract could become a substitute for intellectual curiosity. We have arrived at the point he predicted. As economist Sanjeev Sahnlok said, “The problem with science today is that it is effectively just another branch of government.”<sup>17</sup>

## Mutating Governance

The medical community knows about mutating viruses. The response to COVID-19 has mutated into totalitarianism.

So, climate fears are no longer needed. The left has achieved everything it wanted overnight. Steve Milloy of JunkScience.com warned that the government response during COVID revealed that “the incompetent, corrupt and politicized public health bureaucracy...wants to create a precedent for permanent control of society via ‘public health.’” It will not let the crisis end. Actress Anna Camp believes in “the science.” Camp explained how she believes she got COVID-19. “One time the world was starting to open up, I decided to forgo wearing my mask in public. One time. And I ended up getting it.”<sup>18</sup> That is a cautionary tale for America. People look at the mask as though it is a magical medical device and a symbol that you care.

Constantly publishing death tolls is one tactic climate activists would like to mimic for the climate debate. “Climate change is a killer, but we don’t acknowledge it on death certificates,” stated experts from the Australian National University Medical School. “There is a second component on a death certificate which allows for preexisting conditions and other factors.”<sup>19</sup>

We have never done this for any other virus. Imagine if we had the seasonal flu with death tolls. Well, now they’re going to talk about climate death tolls. Daily, monthly, yearly counts. That is what they’re trying to do. I don’t know if it is going to work, but it is a brilliant idea.

For a special report I did for Climate Depot, I found many things that could be included in the climate change death toll.<sup>20</sup>

- Fatal car crashes. The United States Transportation Department funded studies to look at fatal car crashes and global warming. It “found” that global warming caused

more deadly car crashes. If a teenager goes out drunk driving and kills a couple, they died somehow because of climate change. It may have been a hot, humid day.

- Cancer. This is one of the leading causes of death. Why not capitalize on that? As with COVID, people are dying with COVID, not because of COVID. So, why not make climate a part of it? A new peer-reviewed study in the American Cancer Society journal stated that climate change is already increasing cancer risk. Moreover, if you're getting treatment for cancer, you should feel guilty because you're increasing your carbon footprint.
- Organ failure. Al Gore says, "Every organ system can be affected by climate change." So, now organ failure can be on the climate change death toll.
- Cannibalism. That can now be blamed on climate change. Climate change is going to "force humans to eat the bodies of dead," according to Paul Ehrlich.

## The State of Climate Science

As they "follow the science," it is convenient that if the "science" predicts both of opposite outcomes, they will always be right. Here is a rundown on the how "the science" has been manipulated to push the climate agenda:

- Rainfall. Climate change causes less rain, according to a study in *Nature*. Another report says it causes more rain, but less water.
- Snow. Climate change means snowfalls are a thing of the past. But global warming means more snowstorms. Scientists say both.
- Ice. Climate change causes Antarctica to lose land ice, but it also causes Antarctica to gain land ice.
- Leaves. Some say climate change causes duller autumn leaves; others that it causes more colorful autumn leaves.
- Salinity. Climate change makes for saltier seas, but also for less salty seas.
- Diseases. Climate change increases the spread of malaria, except when it decreases the spread of malaria. Dengue fever outbreaks increase with climate change, but climate change could decrease dengue fever risk.
- Lightning. The U.S. will see more lightning strikes, thanks to global warming, but the U.S. could also have a lightning strike drop of 15% due to climate change.
- Fog. Climate change makes San Francisco foggier, but also makes San Francisco less foggy.
- Hurricanes. Climate change causes more hurricanes, except when climate change causes fewer hurricanes.
- Stability. The *New York Times* said a "cooler earth produces climate stability." It suggested that we "tax ourselves to better weather. A carbon tax would result in climate stability." So, cool temperatures bring stability now, but in 1976, the same paper stated that "a warmer earth produces climate stability."
- Fertility. Climate change will both increase and decrease fertility. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* said, "A growing body of studies suggests climate change could have impact on human fertility, both increasing it and decreasing it."
- Beavers. Some say that beavers may be making the effects of climate change worse, but others call them "humanity's

natural ally in combating climate change." Take your pick.

- Trees. Planting a million trees could be a good and effective solution to climate change, one study says, but wait, another explains why planting trees could make global warming worse! After we are urged to plant a billion trees, we are told that we can't just plant a billion trees to stop climate change. This is just back and forth. President Trump, Republicans on Capitol Hill, and conservative Western Caucus Republicans are adopting the carbon-capture-and-storage solution to climate change and the one trillion trees initiative: by 2050, we're going to plant one trillion trees around the world to fight global warming, they promise.
- Crime. Global warming causes more crime. "Climate change will become one of the major forces driving crime as the century progresses," claimed a peer-reviewed study done by one of the UN scientists, who looked at car thefts and rapes. But on the other hand, the *New York Times* said that lowering crime causes global warming. It explains: "Inmates generally consume less than an average citizen in the country, so fewer prisoners might mean higher overall energy consumption." In other words, lock people in prison to lower their carbon footprint. But that was in 2016. In 2020, we learned that we don't need to lock everyone up. We can lock everyone down at home and collapse industrial civilization. Four years ago, these prophets didn't foresee the extent to which the compliant public would go along.

Those who disagree with the above are called "climate deniers," and some like environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., have literally called for jailing climate "deniers."

## Identity Politics Invades Climate-Change Debate

Popular media reveals a number of alleged environmental culprits:

Old people are blamed for causing global warming by using more energy. "Toxic masculinity" could be a reason for climate change. And whiteness is coming to the fore.

The "overwhelming whiteness" of U.S. environmentalism is blamed for hobbling the fight against climate change. Sierra Club founder John Muir's statue was taken down because of racist comments he made back at the turn of the century, but they're blaming the whiteness of the environmental movement for stopping the fight. White America has voted for climate deniers. Environmentalists accuse Leonardo DiCaprio's HBO documentary of promoting "white supremacy" and say he has a "white savior complex." The environmentalists are now eating their own.

"Science" says that white people are primarily the cause of the disproportionate amount of pollution inhaled by black and Hispanic communities. Tropical cyclone Idai is blamed on white people, and the African version of Black Lives Matter, the Black First Land First (BLF) movement, is demanding that African unions seek reparations from the West for the hurricane.

Is there racial science stating who created the hurricane and therefore must pay? The president of this BLF movement in Africa talks about the "white man's science." So is there now

black science, Hispanic science, and white science?

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientist Kate Marvel in May 2020 linked climate change to white supremacy. “We’ll never head off climate catastrophe without dismantling white supremacy.” She calls for “racial and climate justice.” She is one of NASA’s lead global warming scientists. Also in May 2020, another NASA climate scientist Peter Kalmus said, “Race justice and climate justice are one and the same. Oppressive extractive plutocracies that colonize and kill black people and colonize and kill our planet are one and the same.” By the way, NASA is getting rid of Siamese twin references and has a whole diversity division that is renaming any galaxies and stars that could be considered racially offensive.

As warmist meteorologist Eric Holthaus said, “Climate emergency isn’t about science, it’s about justice.” So, they admitted it. It is not about science. It is about politics, or their word, “justice.”

It’s about canceling capitalism.

The deeper motive was revealed in 2019 by George Monbiot, Greta Thunberg’s key advisor in Europe, who writes for the *Guardian*: “We’ve got to go straight to the heart of capitalism and overthrow it.”<sup>21</sup>

In the U.S. we have the Green New Deal. I call it, BAN and Centrally PLAN. Its advocates propose bans on essentially everything from plastic straws, fracking, coal plants, lightbulbs, oil drilling, meat, etc., but these measures are still not as obtrusive as COVID lockdowns.

Climate change may require the elimination of car ownership. You may not even be able to drive your car to another state during lockdown 2.0. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat from Massachusetts, proposed heavy restrictions on single-family homes.

## A Solution?

Climate change, eco-anxiety, and COVID-19—or more accurately put, the constant media pounding of hysteria and fear—is damaging our mental health. Radical, frightening things have been proposed.

“Scientists” are said to be looking into psychedelics: “If everyone tripped on psychedelics, we would do more about climate change. In the 1960s and 1970s, frequent use of psychedelic drugs coincided with widespread environmental movements.”<sup>22</sup>

Also proposed is adding lithium to drinking water to prevent suicides.<sup>23</sup>

Paul Ehrlich suggested putting a sterility drug in food as an “option.”<sup>24</sup>

They have redefined the evidence for climate change that they advanced previously. They no longer look at temperatures, polar bears, and sea level. Do you want to know how global warming is faring? You look at airline turbulence, rape statistics, crime statistics, and vehicle theft statistics.

They have redefined good health habits. No longer do healthy habits mean to get good sleep, eat healthy, maybe cut down on carbs, get the right amount of protein, minimize your stress, drink water, go out in the sun, get exercise. No. Today it’s wear a mask, socially distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay inside.

Is there any hope for overcoming the symbiotic public health/climate agenda? Huge amounts are invested in it. Is electoral shock, from the bottom up, possible? Where is the leadership to take on the challenge?

President Trump fell for far too much of the COVID hysteria and so-called solutions. Trump continued to use Neil Ferguson’s discredited models of projected deaths, saying that, we ruined the greatest economy in 60 years, but we saved millions of people. Nor did Trump ever really insist on an administration-level change in the scientific narrative on climate or COVID.

Despite the devastation of the lockdowns, some are saying we didn’t go far enough, praising New Zealand and its aim for zero COVID.

Vaclav Klaus explained that the climate agenda amounted to “masterminding from above.” And now with the white lab coat technocrats wanting to impose long-term lockdowns, that is the problem we face on an even larger scale than climate.

Is there a silent majority that will awaken and fight back against climate and COVID hysteria? Are there elected officials in either party ready to lead?

True Americans never surrender. Nobody would have given General Washington and the American Revolutionary Army a snowball’s chance in hell in 1776, but they prevailed over the most powerful empire in the world.

The Berlin Wall didn’t fall because the East German government said, “Let’s pass a bill. We’ll finally tear down this wall. The people deserve freedom.” The wall fell because people no longer gave their consent to live under tyranny.

We have reason, logic, and science on our side. We need only courage, resolve, and hard work, and we will prevail.

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