

The Global Case for Securitizing Pandemics

Why addressing the blind-spots in global security and geopolitics are critical for the world's future

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Abstract- The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc across the globe since its first outbreak in 2019, causing massive disruptions to life, liberty and livelihoods. With more than 4.8 million people now deceased due to COVID-19 ((Reference WHO as on 09 Oct 2021), and a projected cumulative output loss USD 28 trillion through 2025 as per IMF, it is evident that the extant global health security (GHS) infrastructure is grossly inadequate. The current crisis has uncovered critical deficiencies in the way we measure preparedness and respond to epidemics underscoring the need for a new framework.

There is a clear case for the global community to treat pandemics not as a medical or public health problem but as a threat to global security. This would ensure mustering of political will and financial resources for preparedness and to organize appropriate, rapid, and sustained domestic and international response.

COVID-19 will not be the last pandemic. A public-health only approach without commensurate national and global security measures will continue to fail us in preventing local outbreaks from becoming global pandemics. A values-based geopolitical order with resolute global leadership, political will, sustainable financing, and solidarity is critical for the world's future.