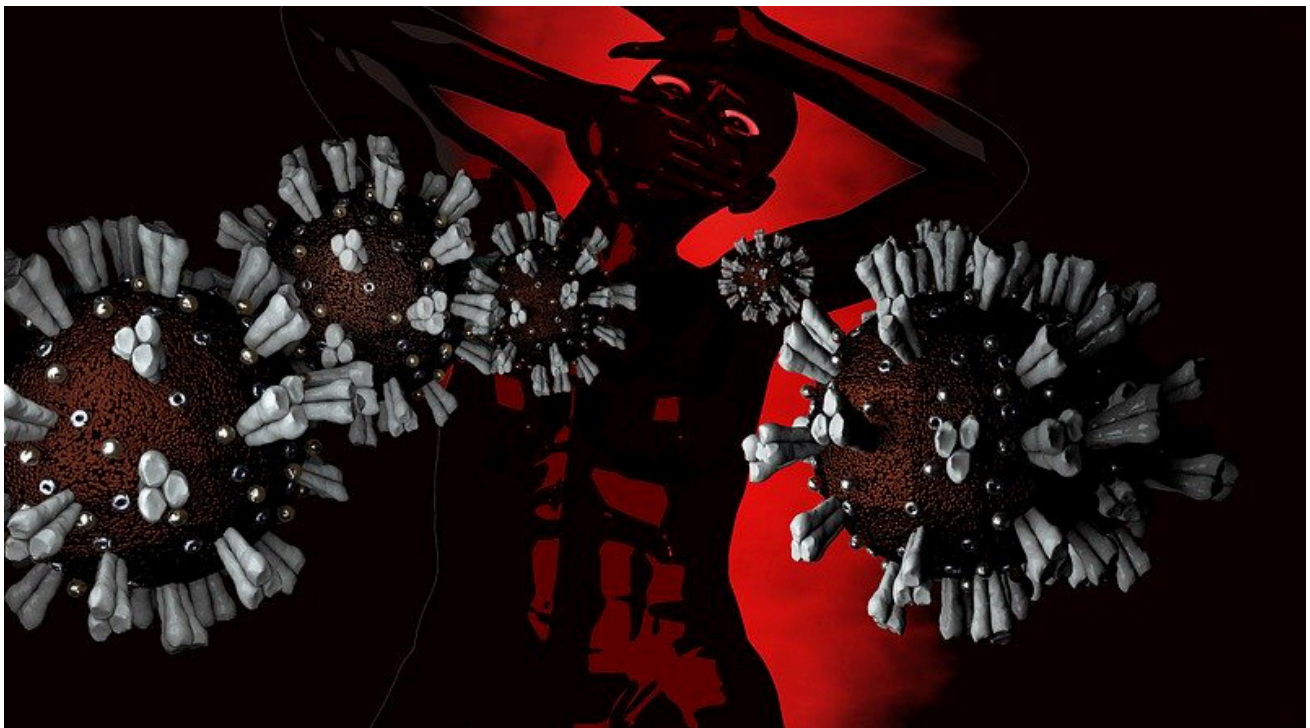


Is the Vaccine a Panacea?

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/30092020-is-the-vaccine-a-panacea-oped/?fbclid=IwAR0A1A6aQRGpC-6SfhcjjtneRU34HGm920joNgHsnZMIO4raEsLWO815Jrs>



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The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious problems for the global health and the global economy. Specifically, for the healthcare systems it is crucial that Medicine be ready to cure the Coronavirus patients with effective therapies. It is equally important to minimize the risk of getting infected with the Coronavirus which can be achieved once a relevant vaccine is developed and distributed widely.

Practically, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized that universal vaccination is a powerful tool to hinder the widespread of the Coronavirus

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgvbQuJb16wIVIM13Ch0iGQWpEAAYASAAEgJ3aPD_BwE).

Both economists and politicians are also hopeful of the universal vaccination opportunity since the economic crisis has developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and is not a ‘typical’ economic crisis which is resulted by the economic causes. This economic crisis stems from the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide. As reducing contacts among the community members, and in the best case, maintaining distance is the mechanism to hamper its spread, many businesses have had to suspend their operations.

Accordingly, this ‘atypical’ economic crisis may be referred to as the Coronomic crisis and it will come to a real end when the field of Medicine defeats the Coronavirus. In other words, today the economy is the hostage of Medicine (<https://www.eurasiareview.com/29032020-coronomic-crisis-when-the-economy-is-a-hostage-to-medicine-oped/>).

Therefore, developing the anti-Coronavirus vaccine is of utmost importance both for the modern Medicine and the economic crisis. The world’s leading research medical centers are working on developing anti-COVID-19 vaccines. Developing a new vaccine is quite cumbersome and its accelerated development is potentially dangerous and can cause serious damage to human health (<https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3209>).

Encouraging statements about the anti-COVID-19 vaccine in progress (<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/experimental-coronavirus-vaccine-safe-produces-immune-response>), as well as serious warnings about its side effects (<https://www.wired.com/story/covid-19-vaccines-with-minor-side-effects-could-still-be-pretty-bad/>), which should be excluded to the highest possible extent, should be highlighted. The biggest concern was expressed regarding the anti-Coronavirus vaccine that was hastily created by Russia (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/health/russia-covid-19-vaccine-safety.html>).

All in all, it is a dominant opinion that high vaccination coverage is ‘omnipotent’ and will defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and end the Coronomic crisis as well. In any event, numerous health professionals and politicians mention it in their argue that creation of the anti-COVID-19 vaccine will certainly be followed by mass vaccination as if there are no other alternatives.

In other words, without any critical evaluation it is assumed that upon producing the anti-Coronavirus vaccine, its universal application is guaranteed. In reality, the question must be answered as whether the universal vaccination will be carried out automatically without any delay.

In other words, we should ask if the vaccine is a panacea? Such questions stem from to the circumstance that at the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, information that this virus was artificially created to reduce the number of the world population, has been widely spread.

More specifically, the number of the world population will be reduced not so much by the Coronavirus pandemic, but as a result of the universal vaccination against this virus. This approach is

based on so called Theory of Golden Billion (<https://utopiaeducators.com/posts/the-golden-billion-theory/>) which was developed for Russia and the East European countries and according to which it is in the interest of the Western Countries to reduce the number of the world population as the current resources in the world are not enough for more than 7 billion people in the world and it is necessary to reduce the world population to 1 billion.

This can be achieved not through wars but by causing a pandemic and afterwards providing for the universal application of the vaccine, which would be developed against the pandemic, in the developing countries and later this will result in increased mortality among the people vaccinated.

However, the Theory of Golden Billion clearly can be ascribed to the conspiracy theories (<https://en.myvadesigns.com/3303356-what-is-the-quotgolden-billionquot>). Unfortunately, the statements made by the world-famous billionaire Bill Gates were used to boost the popularity of this theory with some extent. Namely, he predicted the threat of a pandemic back in 2015 (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/25/coronavirus-bill-gates-predicted-pandemic-in-2015/>) and later publicly expressed his negative attitude towards the significant role poor African countries play in increasing the world population (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/09/africas-rapid-population-growth-puts-poverty-progress-at-risk-says-gates/>).

It also needs to be noted that Bill Gates made a substantial investment in the vaccine development and expressed his readiness to spend 150 mln dollars in order to make the anti-Coronavirus vaccine available for the poor population around the globe (<https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/8/8/21359227/bill-gates-foundation-coronavirus-vaccine-serum-astrazeneca-novavax>), even though he thinks that the first group of anti-COVID-19 vaccines “will not be ideal” (<https://observer.com/2020/08/bill-gates-warn-covid19-vaccine-timeline-efficacy-pandemic/>).

It is not surprising that such statements increase the popularity of Theory of Golden Billion to some extent, that contributed to the skepticism developed among some part of the community towards a potential anti-Coronavirus vaccine.

This situation raises a logical question as to how realistic it is that even if an eventual COVID-19 vaccine turns out to be the best vaccine, it will be possible to achieve the universal vaccination.

The easiest way to achieve the universal vaccination is applying the principle of mandatory, some experience of which the world has, and the application of which is under consideration for COVID-19 (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/08/how-coronavirus-covid-vaccine-mandate-would-actually-work-cvd/>).

Enforcements of the mandatory principle will be relatively easy for instance, in case of air transportation as passengers will be obliged to submit a relevant certificate confirming that its holder has been vaccinated against COVID-19. Yet, the mandatory vaccination might not be easily achievable in a democracy. At present, Australia is a clear example of this situation (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-53840086>).

Taking into account the above issues, and in parallel to mandatory vaccination, it is expedient to find ways for carrying out mass vaccination on a voluntary basis. Certainly, voluntary mass vaccination is related to large scale educational campaigns for the population which take time and expenses.

Thus, it should be considered a very important and an effective way to persuade the population that Bill Gates and its associates do not have the above mentioned 'evil' intentions and the Theory of Golden Billion is far from the reality and is created just to exacerbate the anti-Western sentiments. This is not an easy objective to achieve, given that there have not been any serious steps taken yet in this regard.

Besides, it will take some time and efforts to persuade the skeptical portion of the population that the Theory of Golden Billion is a sheer propaganda that aims to reinforce the anti-Western sentiments.

Considering the above mentioned, there is a relatively high probability that creation of an effective anti-Coronavirus vaccine may not be sufficient to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant Coronomic crisis.

Under these conditions, people will have to co-exist with the Coronavirus for some more time and gradually open businesses by observing the imposed restrictions to prevent further transmission of this virus.

Even in the above scenario it may not be possible to overcome the Coronomic crisis within the short period of time after the anti-COVID-19 vaccine is produced. In the situation of co-existing with the Coronavirus, it is impossible to reopen the economy in full. This shows that the optimistic scenario of overcoming the Coronomic crisis and the economic growth may not be realistic since a V-shaped economic recovery (https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/v-shaped-recovery-marches-on-by-jim-o-neill-2020-09?utm_source=Project+Syndicate+Newsletter&utm_campaign=d894e10a78-sunday_newsletter_13_09_2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_73bad5b7d8-d894e10a78-93567601&mc_cid=d894e10a78&mc_eid=e9fb6cbcc0) is based on the above referred assumption that the universal and mass vaccination will be carried out relatively fast.

Under these conditions strengthening the economic security of any country is of utmost importance, which should be a top concern for the national Governments. Among the economic safety issues the greatest attention should be paid to food security which will certainly become the greatest priority in case of prolonged Coronomic crisis.

Finally, in order to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and the Coronomic crisis, it is indispensable that not only a safe and highly effective vaccine be developed, but also to persuade the population at large of its safety. This will be a precondition to overcome the Coronomic crisis entirely.

It is commonly believed that Moscow is interested that openly pro-Russian political parties come to power in the former Soviet countries. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are the best examples of this trend in the post-Soviet space. Russia united these countries in the Eurasian Economic Union which has no economic prospects but instead is driven by political goals. (<http://cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/13296>).

In my opinion, it is to oversimplify the actual situation to think that the only goal of Moscow is to have political parties with openly pro-Russian orientation govern the post-Soviet countries. In reality the situations that have developed in various post-Soviet countries are not homogenous and, therefore, it is necessary that the situations in each post-Soviet country be examined individually.

In this regard, the situation in Georgia is of particular interest. Despite its clearly Euro-Atlantic orientation (<https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/162767/52b05938ffcd3ea8b9c6d499e1515b35.pdf>), Georgia is not free from the so-called “Pro-Russian” phenomenon. As a result, not only the main opposition parties (United National Movement (UNM) and the European Georgia–Movement for Liberty (EGML), which were separated from the UNM, blame the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party to be pro-Russian, but the ruling party also considers that the key opposition parties play into the hands of Russia and thus are of pro-Russian orientation as well. (<https://caucasusedition.net/nationalism-and-hegemony-in-post-communist-georgia/>).

Notwithstanding the political ‘divorce,’ the UNM and its splinter-party EGML easily find a common language, especially in order to oppose the GD. For instance, the UNM supported Grigol Vashadze as the joint candidate in the second round of the 2018 presidential elections together with the EGML and alongside other smaller political parties (<https://www.france24.com/en/20181128-georgia-second-round-presidential-election-zurabishvili-vashadze>). This means that it is not excluded in the future that the UNM and the EGML will be able to be united again either in an electoral bloc or in a parliamentary coalition.

A key argument brought up by the opposition parties to prove that the GD is pro-Russian is that its founder and Chairman, Bidzina Ivanishvili, became a billionaire in Russia (<http://www.tabula.ge/en/story/70418-ivanishvilis-business-interests-in-russia-what-thou-givest-away-is-thine>) and that he is still ‘managed’ by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The opposition was effective in its criticism of the mistakes the GD made in reforming the judicial and electoral systems. The opposition is quite successful in persuading even American politicians, friends of Georgia, in the pro-Russian orientation of the GD’s party leader (<https://www.georgianjournal.ge/politics/36175-bidzina-ivanishvili-is-vladimir-putins-puppet-says-congressman-olson.html>).

The GD’s accusation of the UNM and its splinter parties of being pro-Russian is based on the support Vladimir Putin provided to Saakashvili in carrying out the Rose Revolution in 2003 (https://www.rferl.org/a/Bloom_Off_Rose_In_Georgia/1351943.html) and solving the problem in Achara in 2004 (<https://www.rferl.org/a/1052653.html>) and in transferring Georgia’s strategic

facilities to Russia (<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/russia-s-economic-imperialism?barrier=accesspaylog>), as well the GD party's references to the mistakes made during the Russia-Georgia war in 2008 (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/sep/30/georgia-attacks-unjustifiable-eu>).

Taking into account that Georgia, which adopted a Parliamentary Republic model by its Constitution, is to hold parliamentary elections in the fall of 2020 and it is very important to find out what the expectations of Moscow are vis-à-vis these upcoming elections and what kind of political forces it wants to come to power in Georgia.

Moscow's 'political menu' of opposition parties in Georgia is diverse: there is an openly pro-Russian party, the United Georgia–Democratic Movement (UGDM), and the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia (APG) which was founded as a patriotic party and at the same time it is in favor of active cooperation with Russia. On the other hand, there are publicly pro-Western parties which have a relatively large number of voters; that is, the UNM and the EGML. It is noteworthy that the ruling GD party is also publicly pro-Western.

It is to be underlined that a newly established political party, Lelo, stands out from this political 'landscape.' Its public statements are pro-Western and the party is not burdened by its prior political experience either. However, its founders and leaders are the leaders of one of the largest banks in Georgia (<https://jam-news.net/founder-of-georgias-largest-bank-creates-political-party/>) which is perceived in the country as the main 'culprit' in bankrupting many people in the country. Therefore, Lelo probably will find it difficult to achieve significant success in the approaching parliamentary elections.

Given the widespread opinion that Moscow favors an openly pro-Russian party come to power in Georgia, it can be inferred that the Kremlin made a serious mistake by failing to promote the UGDM at the end of 2019. Namely, the Chairwoman of this party, Nino Burjanadze, visited Moscow in December in regard to setting free Vazha Gaprindashvili, a Georgian medical doctor who was illegally detained for crossing the 'Russian occupation line' in South Ossetia in November 2019 (<https://civil.ge/archives/327860>). Upon returning to Georgia, she announced with great confidence that Russia would release the doctor from the illegal detention no later than December 13, 2019. (<https://www.interpressnews.ge/en/article/104959-nino-burjanadze-insists-georgian-doctor-will-be-released-no-later-than-this-friday/>). If he had been released, Nino Burjanadze's image and popularity would have been certainly significantly increased among voters.

In fact, it was not the case and the doctor who was detained by the occupation regime was set free only on December 28, 2019 (<https://www.rferl.org/a/prominent-georgian-doctor-released-in-separatist-south-ossetia/30348946.html>). In other words, the release of Vazha Gaprindashvili from illegal detention on December 28 cannot be credited to Nino Burjanadze's effort.

What, then does this interesting case, full of drama, indicate?

If it were in Moscow's interest to support an openly pro-Russian political party, Nino Burjanadze would not have been lied to and as she was promised, Vazha Gaprindashvili would have been released no later than December 13, 2019.

This development should not come as a surprise if we take into consideration the following circumstance. If an openly pro-Russian political party comes to power in Georgia, then Moscow will have to make some compromises with Tbilisi and, first of all, this would be restoring the territorial integrity of Georgia which is not definitely in the interest of Moscow. Russia occupies 20% of Georgia's territory (<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/22/russia-is-still-occupying-20percent-of-our-country-georgias-leader-says.html>) and it is quite sufficient for Russia to cause destabilization in Georgia, if necessary.

Thus, Moscow prefers that openly pro-Russian parties be represented in the Parliament of Georgia only in relatively small factions but if it is not the case, it will be of little concern to the Kremlin.

For Moscow, it is much more important to maintain a consistently unstable political situation in Georgia in order to hamper the strengthening of its statehood and economic development. As a result, it will be practically impossible for Georgia to access Euro-Atlantic structures given the persistent instability in the country.

Moscow's goal is that notwithstanding the outcomes of the 2020 parliamentary elections in Georgia, they should exacerbate the political situation in the country and lead to an irreconcilable confrontation among the country's political parties. To achieve this goal, Moscow will use any means available (<https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/paul-knott-on-vladimir-putin-brexit-and-politics-1-6450371>), including its already traditional cybercrimes (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/07/06/deter-russian-cyber-attack-cold-war-column/1587711001/>).

The most recent cyberattack, which was carried out against Georgia in the fall of 2019 (<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/02/20/politics/russia-georgia-hacking/index.html>), can be considered to be a 'dress rehearsal' to interfere with Georgia's upcoming parliamentary elections.

The former President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, can be regarded among the instruments available for the Kremlin to destabilize the situation in Georgia. He was successfully used as an instrument for destabilization in Georgia (<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/1741/Gvaramia-Confirms-Conversation-Had-with-Saakashvili>) as well as in Ukraine (<https://www.unian.info/politics/1623096-weeks-milestones-saakashvili-acceleration-russias-destabilization-plan-for-ukraine-and-complications-in-interior-ministry.html>).

For Georgia to escape from the 'political trap' set by Moscow and thus avoid further destabilization in the country, it is indispensable that the Government of Georgia conduct the 2020 parliamentary elections in a maximally democratic and fair manner without any rigging and the opposition parties should bear in mind that the destabilization in Georgia only serves the interests of the Kremlin. In

this regard, the agreement reached between the parties with the active participation of some embassies (US, EU, Germany, etc.) on the system for the parliamentary elections of 2020 should be considered as encouraging (<https://civil.ge/archives/341385>).

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