CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP VIGANO EXHORTS THE ITALIAN PEOPLE TO RESIST THE PLANETARY NIGHTMARE

You have gathered today in Rome, in Piazza del Popolo, and in many other squares in Italy, as hundreds of thousands of people around the world manifest their opposition to the establishment of a global tyranny. Millions of citizens of every nation, in the deafening silence of the media, have been shouting their own "No!" For months: No to pandemic madness, No to lockdowns, curfews, the imposition of vaccinations, No to health passports, to the blackmail of a totalitarian power enslaved by the elite.

Almost two years have passed since the beginning of this planetary nightmare. We entered a labyrinth step by step. At the beginning it was the masks indoors; then came the lockdowns with self-certifications; then the curfew… remember? Each time, faced with an abuse that might seem justified by the emergency, we have accepted to let ourselves be deprived of a bit of freedom. Step by step. They prevented us from going to church, leaving the house, working, going to school, visiting loved ones and even dying relatives in the hospital. Step by step. At a certain time of the evening, in our streets, we saw only the riders for the Amazon and JustEat deliveries: new victims of the Great Reset, new slaves of the System, together with many small entrepreneurs, owners of shops, bars and restaurants, forced into bankruptcy by absurd, illegitimate and counterproductive rules. Not to mention the psychological breakdown that has affected many of us, from the youngest to the oldest: some deprived of any social contact, the others confined in the RSA without treatment, condemned to die by a ministerial protocol.

Step by step, we have come to see ourselves forced, in order not to lose our job and to be able to carry out...
We have to get out of this maze, dear friends. But we cannot get out of it by simply protesting against the green pass, which is only the most recent tool of repression, and certainly not the last. Of course: the green pass is a legal aberration, a hateful blackmail, a proof of the pretext of the pandemic alarm; but if also revoking the green pass, there would remain the absurdity of considering a curable virus deadly that has not caused more deaths than those of the past few years; the absurdity of wearing masks that are not only useless - by the very admission of the "experts" - but which, on the contrary, cause serious lung diseases and brain pathologies; the absurdity of considering a "vaccine" as a drug that does not serve to give immunity and that proves to have such serious side effects, to overcome the deaths of all vaccines in the last ten years in just a few months of administration; the absurdity of letting us inoculate an experimental drug that acts on our DNA, making us genetically modified organisms; the absurdity of following directions and protocols that seem written by sorcerers and not by conscientious doctors, given the series of counter-orders that have now reached the pathetic. The absurdity of seriously and calmly refuting statements so scandalous and false that they do not deserve an answer. Draghi's: "Whoever gets vaccinated is saved, whoever doesn't get vaccinated dies" is a lie; to say "The vaccinated do not die from Covid" is false, just as it is false to say that Covid is a deadly disease, since it becomes such only if it is not treated. And it is false that there are no treatments, because those much discredited treatments are now used by the European authorities for preventive purposes on the Afghan refugees we welcomed a few weeks ago. It is all false. False data on deaths from Covid. False reliability of the swabs. False efficacy and non-dangerousness of vaccines. False admissions in intensive care. False "non-correlation" of "sudden illness" affecting the vaccinated. False news alerts, false services of entertainment programs in which the usual "experts" and virostar intervene, false the predictions of statisticians. Let's get out of the maze! We reject the media narrative, perhaps deciding to turn off the television, which today has turned into an infernal tabernacle. Let's break the logical short circuit of those who demand our consent even when they lie shamelessly. And to get out of the labyrinth, dear friends, it is necessary to look at things with a look that is not limited to single facts, but sees them all in a broader framework, in which the pandemic is a social engineering tool artfully provoked with the aim to take us to the green pass, to total control, to the limitation of natural and constitutional freedoms in the name of a Great Reset that none of us want, that no one has ever asked us to vote, which concentrates power and wealth in the hands of a elite - that of the "philanthrocapitalists" like Gates and Soros - and who consider the rest of humanity as a reservoir of slaves and customers, to
whom to give that minimum of money - created out of nothing and which weighs on them as a debt - that it serves to allow them to buy the goods that this elite produces; goods produced with cheap labor, of course, forced to do everything to survive. While he prepares to sell us air, water and sunlight, perhaps under the pretext of the green emergency and under the pressure of Greta Thunberg’s ridiculous Fridays for Future.

We leave the labyrinth, recognizing that there is a problem of authority: civil authority that does not pursue the common good of citizens, and religious authority that has not only stopped caring for the eternal salvation of the faithful, but delivers them into the jaws of an infernal dragon. We get out of the labyrinth by learning to use critical judgment, not to be deceived by those with a record of such abuses, lies and crimes, so as not to let us assume that they will behave differently with us. We leave the labyrinth realizing that a world war is underway, fought not with real weapons, but with unconventional weapons, such as censorship of information, the enslavement of doctors, the complicity of politicians, magistrates and law enforcement agencies; a war that leaves innocent victims in its path, that destroys society, that affects people in the soul even before the body, that has been declared against everything that recalls our civilization, our culture, our faith, the our values. A war between light and darkness, between good and evil. We must recognize that, if we have come to this point, we owe it in large part to our infidelity, to letting others decide for God what is right and what is not, to allowing that in the name of tolerance allowed the violation of natural law and the degeneration of Christian morality, the murder of children in the womb, the killing of the sick and the elderly, and the corruption of children and young people.

What is happening today is the poisoned fruit of decades of dissolution, of rebellion against the Law of the Lord, of sins and vices that cry out for vengeance in the sight of God. Providence shows us how the world can become, when it abandons the Lordship of Jesus Christ and places under the bondage of Satan.

Mine are not apocalyptic words - as some say - but a severe warning, as a Pastor, to return to God, to recognize that where Christ the King and Mary Queen do not reign, the cruel and ruthless tyranny of the devil reigns, which promises universal brotherhood, while he wants only your destruction on earth and your eternal damnation.

Jesus Christ is King and Lord of History, in His hands are the fates and destinies of each of us, of the States and of the Holy Church. He will not allow us to succumb to the onslaught of the enemy of mankind. Return, let us all return to him, with the trust of the prodigal son who humbly asks his father to forgive him and to welcome him back into his home. Let us go back to being Christians, proud of our Faith and of the civilization that Religion has built up in the course of two thousand years of history. Let's go back to defending in civil and political commitment those non-negotiable values that today we see denied and trampled on. But above all - I beg you, I implore you - let us go back to living in the Grace of God, to frequent the Sacraments, to practice the virtues, to be Christians consistent with the promises of Baptism, authentic witnesses of Christ.

To get out of the labyrinth, it is necessary to retrace the path taken backwards: our “Ariadne's thread” is the defense of the family, of the social and religious fabric of the nation, of our culture which is inescapably Christian, Catholic and Roman.

We Italians are not racists! In the name of Charity that over the centuries has represented one of the pride of Christian Europe, we can welcome those who are persecuted and proscribed by their country, but we cannot be responsible for the exploitation of millions of migrants, under the pretext of hospitality. We know that their immigration to Europe was planned by the elite to destroy our civil, cultural and religious identity; it serves the elite to create social chaos, to introduce underpaid labor, to foment wars among the poor and to deprive the countries they come from of their young people.

To get out of the labyrinth, we must resist with courage and firmness, as our fathers were able to oppose the dictatorships of the last century. Civil disobedience, coordination of protest actions, contacts with the movements of other states, union in an anti-globalist alliance that ensures help and support against the authorities subservient to the system. A serene resistance, nourished by the awareness that the world envisaged by the Great Reset is not our world, since it is founded on an ideology of death, on an anti-human and anti-Christic thought, and which is based only on the strength of weapons or on blackmail towards those who cannot rebel.

They forget, these wretched servants of the New Order, that theirs is a utopia, indeed a hellish dystopia, which is repugnant to all of us precisely because it does not consider that we are not made of electromagnetic circuits, but of flesh and blood, of passions, of affections, of acts of heroism and generosity. Because we are human, made in the image and likeness of God, endowed with intelligence and free will. But this, the demons cannot understand: for this they will fail miserably.

And so that this day on which you publicly and courageously manifest your opposition to the impending tyranny does not remain sterile and devoid of supernatural light, I invite you all to recite with me the words that the Lord has taught us. Let us do it with fervour, with an impulse of charity, invoking the protection of Our Lord and His Most Holy Mother on all of us, on our families, on our homeland and on the whole world: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

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**MICROBIOLOGIST EXPLAINS COVID JAB EFFECTS** by Dr. Joseph Mercola

German microbiologist Dr. Sucharit Bhakdi sifts through the facts and fictions of the coronavirus pandemic. Together with Karina Reiss, Ph.D., he’s written two books on this subject, starting with *Corona False Alarm? Facts and Figures*, published in October 2020, followed by *Corona Unmasked: New Facts and Figures*. The second book is currently only available in German, but you can download a chapter of *Corona Unmasked* here FiveDoves.com.

**Bhakdi’s Medical Credentials**

Bhakdi graduated from medical school in Germany in 1970. After a year of clinical work, he joined the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology, where he remained for four years as a post-doc.

There, he also began researching immunology. Eventually, he ended up chairing the department of medical, microbiology and hygiene at the University of Mainz, where he worked for 22 years until his retirement nine years ago. During that time, Bhakdi also worked on vaccine development, and says he’s “certainly pro-vax with regards to the vaccinations that work and that are meaningful.”

Much of his research focused on what’s called the complement system. When activated, the complement system ends up working in such a way that it destroys rather than aids your cells. Interestingly enough, SARS-CoV-2 uses this very system to its advantage, turning your immune system toward a path of self-destruction.

The same self-destructive path also appears to be activated by the COVID shots, which is part of why Bhakdi believes they are the greatest threat humanity has ever faced. “It is our duty to aggressively inform people about the dangers that they are subjecting themselves and their loved ones to by this ‘vaccination,’” he says.

**How Effective Are the COVID Shots?**

While the COVID injections have been characterized as being somewhere around 95% effective against SARS-CoV-2 infection, this claim is the product of statistical obfuscation. In short, they’ve conflated relative risk reduction and absolute risk reduction. The absolute risk reduction is actually right around 1% for all currently available COVID shots.¹

In "Outcome Reporting Bias in COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Clinical Trials"² Ron Brown, Ph.D. calculates the absolute risk reduction for Pfizer’s and Moderna’s injections, based on their own clinical trial data, so that they can be compared to the relative risk reduction reported by these companies. Here’s a summary of his findings:

- **Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine BNT162b2** — Relative risk reduction: 95.1%. Absolute risk reduction: 0.7%
- **Moderna vaccine mRNA-1273** — Relative risk reduction: 94.1%. Absolute risk reduction 1.1%

In a July 1, 2021, commentary in *The Lancet Microbe*,³ Piero Olliaro, Els Torreele and Michel Vaillant also argue for the use of absolute risk reduction when discussing vaccine efficacy with the public. They too went through the calculations, coming up with the following:

- **Pfizer/BioNTech** — Relative risk reduction: 95%. Absolute risk reduction: 0.84%
- **Moderna** — Relative risk reduction: 94%. Absolute risk reduction: 1.2%
- **Gamaleya (Sputnik V)** — Relative risk reduction: 91%. Absolute risk reduction: 0.93%
- **Johnson & Johnson** — Relative risk reduction: 67%. Absolute risk reduction: 1.2%
- **AstraZeneca/Oxford** — Relative risk reduction: 67%. Absolute risk reduction: 1.3%

**What Kind of Protection Do the COVID Shots Provide?**

Aside from providing insignificant protection in terms of your absolute risk reduction, it’s important to realize that they do not provide immunity. All they can do is reduce the severity of the symptoms of infection. According to Bhakdi, they fail even at this.

“They showed absolutely zero [benefit in the clinical trials],” he says. “This is the ridiculousness. People don't understand that they're being fooled and have been fooled all along. Let's take the one of these Pfizer trials: 20,000 healthy people were vaccinated and another 20,000 people were not vaccinated. And then they observed, over a period of 12 weeks or so, how many cases they found in the vaccinated group and how many cases they found the non-vaccinated. What they found was that less than 1% of the vaccinated group got COVID-19 and less than 1% in the non-vaccinated group also got COVID-19. The difference was 0.8 to 0.1%, which is nothing, considering the fact that they were not even looking at severe cases. They were looking at people with a positive PCR test — which as we all now know is worthless — plus one symptom, which could be cough or fever. That is not a severe case of COVID-19. Any vaccination that is going to get authorized must be shown to protect against severe illness and death, and this has definitely not been shown. So, forget authorization. It can't be authorized, not by any normal means.

Now [the COVID injections do not have] full authorization, it's an emergency authorization, which again is absolute bullshit, since we know the infection fatality rate of this disease or virus is not greater than that of seasonal flu. John Ioannidis has published these numbers, which have never been contested by anyone in the world and cannot be contested. If you are under 70 years of age and have no severe pre-existing illness, you can hardly die [from SARS-CoV-2 infection]. So, there is no fatality rate that can be reduced. And for people who are elderly and...
have pre-existing illness, as we know from Dr. Peter McCullough and his colleagues’ work, there are very good means and medicines to treat this virus so that the fatality rates go down another 70 to 80%, which means there is no ground for emergency use whatsoever. This means the FDA should be able to be forced to retract this emergency use authorization — unless they are in league with whoever wants to do this.”  
I neglected to follow-up on his comment about 40,000 people being equally divided between the injection and no injection groups in the COVID injection trials. A few months ago, they actually abandoned the non-injection arm of the trial, so no, there is no control group anymore. The justification was that the injection was too important to deny it to the control group. It’s just another sneaky way to skirt around reporting all the adverse effects occurring in the injection group. That said, it’s worth repeating that the FDA can only grant emergency use authorization for a pandemic drug or vaccine if there’s no safe and effective pre-existing treatment or alternative. Since there are several such alternatives, the FDA is legally required to revoke the emergency authorization for these shots.

Evidence of Increased Infection Risk After Injection  
Presently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention claims some 95% of SARS-CoV-2 infections resulting in hospitalization are occurring among the unvaccinated. This too is a statistical fiction, as they’re using data from January through June 2021, when most of the American public were unvaccinated. Looking at more recent data, we’re finding that the majority of severe cases and hospitalizations are actually occurring among those that received the COVID jab. Unfortunately, as noted by Bhakdi:

“It’s all manipulated. And, if someone wants to manipulate something and are in a position to then propagate it, you have no chance of analyzing it and telling people because we have no voice in this affair. When we stand up and tell people this, they just turn around and say that’s not the truth.”

Disturbingly, we’re now starting to see the first indications of antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE), which many scientists were concerned about from the very beginning. India, for example, where 10% of the population has been “vaccinated,” is now seeing very severe cases of COVID-19. Bhakdi says: “What we’re witnessing in India and probably also in Israel is the immune dependent enhancement of disease ... It's bound to happen. So, the people who are getting vaccinated now have to be fearful of the next wave of genuine infections, whether it's [SARS-CoV-2 variants] or any other coronaviruses, because they’re all related and they will all be subject to immune dependent enhancement, obviously.”

Antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE), or paradoxical immune enhancement (PIE) refers to a condition where the vaccination results in the complete opposite of what you’re looking for. Rather than protect against the infection, the vaccine augments and worsens the infection. ADE can occur through more than one mechanism, and Bhakdi is of the opinion that the enhancement is primarily due to over-reactive killer lymphocytes and secondary complement activation, both of which cause severe damage.  

Antibodies Versus Lymphocytes
Bhakdi explains: “There are two major arms of defense against viral infection. One is the antibodies that, if they are present, may prevent the virus from entering your cells. These are so-called neutralizing antibodies, which the vaccination is supposed to [produce]. But the antibodies are not at the place that they are needed, which is on the surface of the airway epithelium. They are in the blood, but not at the surface of the epithelium where the virus arrives. The second arm of immune defense then comes into play, and these are the lymphocytes. There are different types of lymphocytes and I will simplify matters by saying the important lymphocytes are the so-called killer lymphocytes that sense whenever a virus product is being produced in the cell. They will then destroy the cells that harbor the virus and thus the factory is closed and you get well again. That is the mechanism for how we can survive viral infections of the lung, and this happens all the time. So, the lymphocytes, in contrast to the antibodies, recognize many, many, many parts of the proteins. So, if a virus changes a little bit, it doesn’t matter, because the waste products that are recognized by the killer lymphocytes remain very similar. That is why all of us, and this is now known, all of us have memory lymphocytes in our lymph nodes and lymphoid organs that are trained to recognize these coronaviruses. And whether or not a mutant is there, it doesn’t really matter, because they will recognize a mutant or variant.”

According to Bhakdi, coronaviruses can only undergo point mutations, meaning only one nucleotide at a time can be changed. The influenza virus, meanwhile, can undergo more radical mutations. For example, a flu virus can completely change its spike protein by swapping spike proteins with another virus that is simultaneously present. This sort of shift is not possible with coronaviruses. Therefore, you will never have leaps in antigenic changes either for antibodies or for T-cell killer lymphocytes. That’s why the background immunity that evolves during the lifetime of a human being is very broad and solid.

Natural Immunity Is Far Superior to Vaccine-Induced Immunity
One of the most egregious nullifications of medical scientific truth is the claim that COVID “vaccination” confers superior protection compared with the natural immunity you get after you’ve been exposed to the virus and recover. The reality is that natural immunity is infinitely more [sic! -ed] superior to the vaccine-induced protection you get from these shots, which is both narrow and temporary.

The COVID shot produces antibodies against just one of the viral proteins, the spike protein, whereas natural immunity produces antibodies against all parts of the virus, plus memory T cells. As noted by Bhakdi:

“The very fact that the World Health Organization has changed the definition of herd immunity ... is such a scandal. I'm at a loss of words to describe how ridiculous I find this all, that this is being accepted by our colleagues. How can the physicians and scientists of the world bear to listen to all this nonsense?”

How the COVID Shot Causes Damage

As explained by Bhakdi, when you get a COVID shot, genetic instructions are being injected into your deltoid muscle. Muscle drains into your lymph nodes, which in turn can enter your bloodstream. There may also be direct translocation from the muscle into smaller blood vessels.

Animal data submitted by Pfizer to Japanese authorities show the mRNA appeared within the blood within one or two hours of injection. The rapidity of it suggests the nano particles are translocated from the muscle directly into the blood, bypassing the lymph nodes.

Even microclots that don’t completely block the blood vessel can have serious ramifications. You can check for presence of microclots by performing a D-dimer blood test. If your D-dimer is elevated, you have clotting somewhere in your body. Those that don’t stop the blood vessel can have serious ramifications. You can check for presence of microclots by performing a D-dimer blood test. If your D-dimer is elevated, you have clotting somewhere in your body.

How Vaccine-Induced Antibodies Can Cause Harm

But that’s not all. The anti-spike protein antibodies can also be harmful. Bhakdi explains:

“The other thing that has now emerged is just as frightening [as the clotting problem]. One to two weeks after the first jab, you start making antibodies in large amounts.

Now, when the second jab is done, and the spike proteins starts to project from the walls of your vessels into your bloodstream, it is not only met by the killer lymphocytes, but now the antibodies are also there and the antibodies activate [the] complement [system].

That was my first field of research. The first cascade system is the clotting system. Turn it on and the blood will clot. If you turn on the complement system with the antibodies that bind to your vessel wall, then this complement system will start creating holes in the vessel wall.

And you see these patients who have bleeding in the skin. Ask, where does that come from? Well, if you go around riddling your vessels with holes, you [get bleeding]. If the holes riddle vessels of the liver, or the pancreas or the brain, then the blood will seep through the vessels into the tissues ...

[The COVID injections] are in your bloodstream for at least a week, and they will seep into any organ. And when those [organ] cells then start to make the spike protein themselves, then the killer lymphocytes will also seek and destroy them [in that organ, creating more damage and subsequent clotting].

What we are witnessing is one of the most fascinating experiments that could lead to massive autoimmune disease. When this will happen, God knows. And what this will lead to, God knows.”

COVID Jab May Trigger Latent Viruses and Cancer

The COVID jabs can also decimate your lymph nodes, as your lymph nodes are full of lymphocytes and other immune cells. Some of the lymphocytes will die immediately upon contact, causing inflammation.

Cells that don’t die and take up the mRNA and start producing spike protein will be recognized as virus producers and get attacked by the complement system. It essentially creates a war between some immune cells against other immune cells. As a result of this attack, your lymph nodes swell and become painful.

This is a serious problem, as the lymphocytes in your lymph nodes are lifelong sentinels that keep latent infection such as shingles under control. When they malfunction or are destroyed, these latent viruses can activate. This is why we’re seeing reports of shingles, lupus, herpes, Epstein-Barr, tuberculosis and other infections emerge as a side effect of the shots. Of course, certain cancers can also be affected.

“As we all know, tumors are forming every day in our bodies, but those tumor cells are recognized by our
lymphocytes and then they're snuffed out,” Bhakdi says. “So, I am worried sick that the world is being goaded into taking something into the body that is going to change the whole face of medicine.”

**Informed Consent Is Virtually Impossible**

After giving this issue a great deal of thought, Bhakdi is convinced that the COVID injection campaign must be stopped.

“Gene-based vaccines are an absolute danger to mankind and their use at present violates the Nuremberg codex, such that everyone who is propagating their use should be put before tribunal,” Bhakdi says.

“Especially the vaccination of children is something that is so criminal that I have no words to express my horror ... We are horribly worried that there's going to be an impact on fertility. And this will be seen in years or decades from now. And this is potentially one of the greatest crimes, simply one of the greatest crimes imaginable ...

As we all know, it is laid down by the Nuremberg codex that in case experiments are to be conducted in humans, this can only be performed with informed consent. Informed consent means that the person to be vaccinated has to be informed about all the risks, the risk benefit ratios, the potential dangers and what is known about side effects. This cannot be done with children, because children are not in the position to understand it. Therefore, they cannot give informed consent. Therefore, they cannot be vaccinated. If anyone does that, he should be set before a tribunal. If grownups have been informed and want to get the shot, that’s all right. But don’t force anyone to get the shot. It has to be by informed consent only.”

**DEMONCRACY ELIMINATED BY LEAVING RESTRICTIONS by former foreign minister Alexander Downer**

Normally, Australia enjoys excellent publicity in Europe and has a sky-high reputation. But over the past couple of weeks, our country has taken a hammering. Cancelling Australia’s participation in the Rugby League World Cup and raising questions about whether England’s cricketers can play in the Ashes series next summer hasn’t helped. But the flurry of lockdowns by state chief medical officers has been welcomed with ridicule. How is it, the Poms ask, that the once tough and resilient Aussies, the standard bearers of egalitarianism and democracy, have been reduced to quivering in their homes by unelected medical officers because of a handful of positive COVID-19 tests?

It plays into a question about Australia’s mores and zeitgeist. How much do Australians care about civil liberties and democracy, and are they like-minded on those issues with the British and the Americans?

Of course, informed consent is also virtually impossible even for adults, as they’re only given one side of the story. All side effects and risks are censored virtually everywhere and discussions about them are banned. The U.S. government is even pushing to criminalize discussion about COVID injection risks.

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

If you’ve already gotten one or two shots, there’s nothing you can do about that. Certainly, do not get a booster, as each booster is undoubtedly going to magnify the damage.

“In the end, I predict that we're going to see mass illnesses and deaths among people who normally would have wonderful lives ahead of them,” Bhakdi says. The question on people’s minds is, can anything be done to reverse the damage from these shots? As yet, we do not know.

However, if you have received one or more shots and develop symptoms of an infection, Bhakdi recommends treatment with hydroxychloroquine and/or ivermectin, such as the Zelenko protocol,

> 4 The Lancet Microbe July 1, 2021; 2(7): E279-E280
> 5 Zelenko protocol
> 6 Covid19criticalcare.com

and the MATH+ protocols, which have proven their effectiveness. It’s important to realize you may actually be more prone to serious infection, not less. Nebulized hydrogen peroxide can also be used for prevention and treatment of COVID-19, as detailed in Dr. David Brownstein’s case paper and Dr. Thomas Levy’s free e-book, *Rapid Virus Recovery*. Whichever treatment protocol you use, make sure you begin treatment as soon as possible, ideally at first onset of symptoms.

**References:**

1. The BMJ Opinion November 26, 2020
2. Medicina 2021; 57: 199
3. The Lancet Microbe July 1, 2021; 2(7): E279-E280
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5. Covid19criticalcare.com
Australians have embraced the British approach with more gusto than even the British. The public couldn’t care less about civil liberties.

The British approach has essentially been a reaction to public opinion. Although the British are pretty tough people, they have certainly been frightened by reports of people dying with COVID-19. They’re not as terrified as Australians, and in the end they had enough of lockdowns as they came to realise such restrictions wouldn’t succeed in eliminating the virus.

What is more, England’s Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, wasn’t deified. It was Boris Johnson who made the decisions. He, after all, was elected to make decisions, not the Chief Medical Officer.

The reluctant and partial acceptance of the stripping of civil liberties in Britain stands in stark contrast to the furious reaction similar policies unleashed in the US, where the COVID-19 response is a state-by-state matter.

Some states, such as Florida and Texas, regard lockdowns and other restrictions as an unacceptable betrayal of the country’s basic principles, built around the broad concept of freedom of the individual. Other states, such as New York and California, have adopted a more restrictive approach.

Interestingly, in terms of health outcomes the evidence is unclear as to which approach has proved more effective. But in terms of people’s overall quality of life, the less restrictive approaches of Florida and Texas – and other states – are infinitely preferable to living in a society where civil liberties have been stripped from citizens.

The point is, this is fiercely debated in the US. State governors and the White House are continually asked questions by a curious media as to the efficacy of policies, their appropriateness in terms of civil liberties, and their long-term sustainability.

There hasn’t been as much debate in Britain – at least not on that scale. The media has quibbled with the government, but essentially it has broadly gone along with lockdowns and restrictions. So, which of these models has Australia embraced?

You don’t need to be a professor of political science to know that Australians generally and their governments have totally rejected the American approach. They have embraced the British approach with more gusto than even the British. The public couldn’t care less about civil liberties. The media never asks questions about them. It just seems so normal to be locking down whole communities, and who cares where the money comes from to pay compensation to businesses and other affected people.

You would think the media would aggressively be asking questions about whether this strategy works, whether it is sustainable in the medium term and what it says about our society. But no, they compliantly go along with medical officers whom they have begun to deify.

Simple questions go unanswered

Take the South Australian Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrer. In early July she was asked at a press conference by a Sydney-based journalist about the level of vaccination needed in the population before lockdowns and restrictions could be abandoned. That’s a very simple, threshold question. Incredibly, she refused to answer the question but expressed outrage that it had been asked, and talked about people around the world who are dying from COVID-19. And that was it. The South Australian media pack thought the question was entirely unreasonable and that it was fair enough for Spurrer to lose her rag over it.

Imagine if there were a genuine debate in Australia about how best to balance the response to COVID-19, rather than leaving it to “medical experts”. After all, it’s pretty obvious that to stop a communicable disease, people should not meet each other. If no one met another person, no one would ever get a transmissible disease. Brilliant. But, by the way, society wouldn’t exist either.

That’s the problem with leaving the whole issue in the hands of chief medical officers. They don’t weigh up anything else but how to stop the transmission of COVID-19.

At the moment, Australia is in an impossible position. The state governments, and in particular the chief medical officers to whom they have ceded authority, think that COVID-19 can be eliminated. It can. If no one ever meets anyone else again. But Australians need to ask themselves this question: what will come first, the total elimination of COVID-19 in Australia or the bankruptcy of all of Australia’s governments? At the moment, the latter is winning the race. And it will win.

COVID-19 can’t be eliminated. As Boris Johnson has told the British public in no uncertain terms, we have to learn to live with COVID-19 and protect the vulnerable as best we can. Just as we live with flu and other transmissible diseases, many of which can kill people.

One day, someone will tell the Australian people that no one is immortal. We are all going to die. Even the current chief medical officers will be dead and buried one day!

In the meantime, the response of Australians and their governments to the COVID-19 crisis has shown the huge cultural difference between the US and Australia. We are much more British than we are American. But at the moment we’re looking like a scared version of the British. Maybe we don’t like that, maybe we do. But it is the truth, so we need to learn to live with it. ***

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