

Some thoughts by the end of 2020!!

Date: December 13, 2020

Still some weeks to go before the end of the year. And the last weeks of the year are the time of the year that we stand still for a moment and reflect on what the year has brought us. It goes without saying that 2020 will be remembered as the year in which mankind was facing a worldwide pandemic that escalated over time into disastrous proportions in terms of cases and deaths. It also impacted heavily and, in many ways, the geopolitical constellations on various continents as well as economic relations among countries.

The number of covid-19 cases and deaths due to the new virus have skyrocketed at the time of writing. And forecasts predict further increases in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths because of the further spreading of this virus. Some countries were successful in stopping the outbreak due to their willingness to take drastic measures – i.e., lockdowns, tracing, and quarantines amongst others - that inflicted pain and momentary economic hardships but proved to be efficient in the long-run. In other countries, lack of 'common sense', lack of leadership, and 'calamitous' social behavior of leaders and citizens resulted in the pandemic resurging wave after wave, and thus causing country-wide hard measures over longer periods what strained the economic and social fabric of these countries. Tools and means of the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 proved to be the most efficient means to battle the pandemic before vaccines were distributed.

Elections took place in some countries and they ended up being major catalysts for deepening alterations in the political environment. What has become evident in the context of these elections is that widely accepted values and norms have been weakened, abandoned, or questioned. What were once the building blocks for political, social, and judicial systems have been depreciated. Basic principles that leaders should adopt in their governing of countries have been undermined. The same principles have been challenged as the basis of social, political, and judicial structures in these countries.

Confrontation among world powers have intensified as a new world order is taking shape. And existing powers and their allies do not feel at ease in accepting the rise and growth of new powers that challenge the existing and widely accepted norms, standards, and institutions. The question on everybody's mind is how that evolution will work out.

The coming year will be impacted by the crucial trends and challenges that emerged in 2020. But, what do you think to be crucial in the new year.

