

EDITORIAL

Covid 19: A Lesson for the History

Pandemics and global outbreaks of infectious diseases always have been a great challenge for human survival and life throughout history. The following three are clear examples of global outbreaks of plague. First, the outbreak started from Egypt in 541 CE and less than two years spread to the Middle East, Europe, Persia and north Africa; the second started in Central Asia; India, China and eastern Russia, but it not only affected Asia but also spread to Europe. Both pandemics had several waves during centuries and killed millions of people. In the middle of the 19th century, the third plague outbreak occurred in Yunnan, southwest of China, reaching Hong Kong in 1884. The last outbreak was limited to China, India, subtropical regions and some coastal cities (Cohn, 2008, pp. 74-100). In addition to these well-known outbreaks, archeological evidence on mummies, showing infectious caused by smallpox, dates back to at least 1580 BCE in ancient Egypt. There are several outbreaks in Europe, Persia,

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Syria, Ethiopia, etc. between the 4th to 10th centuries. Rhazes, the Persian physician, was the first person who identified this disease and differentiated it from measles in 910 CE. There are other outbreaks that appeared around the world. Even in New World, the outbreak of smallpox was firstly appeared in Massachusetts, from 1617 to 1619 (Thèves, et al, 2016). There are many other examples of outbreaks that killed millions of people by various infectious agents during the history. The last pandemic occurred in the early 20th century called Spanish Flu (Spinney, 2018, p. 2552). After this, it was assumed that infectious diseases are under the control of humans because of the advancement of technology. Even some limited outbreaks, like SARS, MERS and Ebola, did not cause serious challenges and were controlled rapidly. Prior to the emergence of COVID 19, especially in the 21st century, human beings maltreated nature and tried to bring it under his/her control. The global pandemics, i.e. COVID 19, resulting in the massacre of the people, unprecedented through history, woke up human beings from the dreams of controlling nature and showed them the power of nature. It showed that how a small piece of RNA and a simple capsid can disable humans, equipped with technological advancements. And this has paralyzed the world for more than one year. It is hoped that this makes us reflect more on our actions, reminding us that we are just part of nature. This also reminds us to be aware of the power of nature and our weakness and that if we maltreat nature, it will react correspondingly, in return. In addition, as a prerequisite of our survival on the planet, we should learn to be more compatible with nature.

References

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