

Europe in the Age of COVID-19

MODULE ONE: European Policy Responses to Covid-19



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A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Packet:

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The **College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards** are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.



WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

(1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

(2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

(3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

(4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

(5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C₃ FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C₃ Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

C₃ Framework Organization

DIMENSION 1: DEVELOPING QUESTIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRIES	DIMENSION 2: APPLYING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS AND CONCEPTS	DIMENSION 3: EVALUATING SOURCES AND USING EVIDENCE	DIMENSION 4: COMMUNICATING CONCLUSIONS AND TAKING ACTION
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics • Economics • Geography • History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering and Evaluating Sources • Developing Claims and Using Evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions • Taking Informed Action

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: **(1) Civics; (2) Economics; (3) Geography; (4) History**. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

Four Categories within Dimension 2

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representations: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumentation

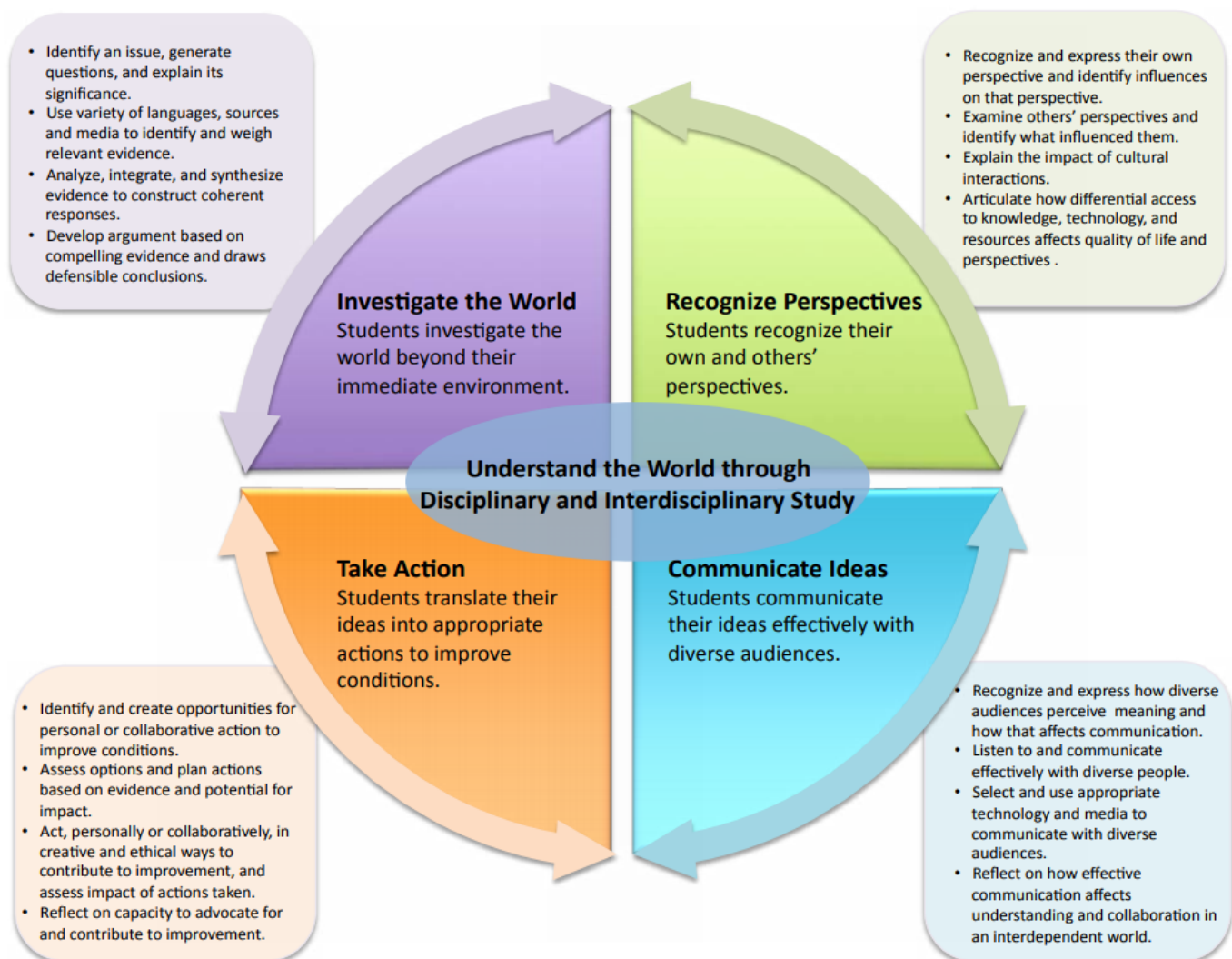
EDUCATING FOR GLOBAL COMPETENCE

Frameworks taken from *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

“Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance” (Chapter 2).

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

1. **Investigate the world** beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
2. **Recognize perspectives**, others’ and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
3. **Communicate ideas** effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
4. **Take action** to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and participating reflectively.



Learning Objectives (all modules)

1. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the European Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students will be able to analyze the role of the EU as a supranational organization and its effectiveness at addressing a pandemic affecting its member states.
2. Students will be able to identify and analyze policy responses (political, economic, and social) created by individual nations such as Germany, Spain, Italy, UK, Hungary, and/or Russia. In addition, students will compare policy responses across nations and assess how these nations worked with the EU to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Students will be able to identify and evaluate EU citizens' expectations of government and the role they play in mitigating crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students may compare these popular expectations with citizen expectations about the role of government in nations outside of Europe (such as the United States).
4. Students will be able to explain and analyze the role of women leaders in the EU COVID-19 response. In addition, students will be able to compare the role of women in EU and national European institutions with other nations outside the region.
5. Students will be able to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the future of the European Union, including possible political, economic, and social consequences.
6. Students will be able to identify and analyze potential limitations to European solidarity and propose future policy responses to address the impact of future crisis (such as COVID-19).
7. Students will be able to analyze data in their assessment of COVID-19 and its impact on EU member states politically, economically, and socially.
8. Students will be able to identify and evaluate how populist leaders (such as Hungary's Viktor Orban) have utilized the COVID-19 pandemic to increase political power.

Guiding Questions (all modules)

1. What strategies has the European Union utilized to address the COVID-19 pandemic? Which of these strategies have been effective and which have encountered challenges in terms of results or implementation?
2. What has been the role of individual EU member states in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic? How have individual member states created their own measures to addressing COVID-19, but also collaborated at the regional level with EU policymakers?
3. How have EU countries addressed testing challenges, rising COVID cases, lockdown procedures, and re-opening measures?
4. To what extent will the EU change (politically, economically, and/or socially) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Will there be limits to European solidarity in the future? Why or why not?
5. How has the EU response (and individual member states) been similar and/or different from the United States?
6. What has been the role of women leaders in addressing COVID-19 within individual member states and across the European Union?
7. How have leaders, such as Hungary's Viktor Orban, utilized the pandemic to increase political power? Should Europeans be concerned with perceived authoritarian policies connected to the pandemic response? Why or why?
8. What are the popular expectations of government (both at the EU level and within individual member states) by European citizens, especially in the context of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic? Does the role of the EU (and individual member states) in addressing the pandemic match citizen expectations? Are these expectations similar or different across nations, including the United States?
9. How can we utilize and analyze data to better understand the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU and other contexts? What might this data analysis help key stakeholders address global health crisis and its consequences?
10. How has the European Union collaborated with other nations or supranational organizations to address the COVID-19 pandemic?

Key Terms (all modules)

Antibodies: A substance produced by special cells of the body that counteracts the effects of a disease germ or its poisons.

Brexit: The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Contact Tracing: The process of identification of persons who may have come into contact with an infected person and subsequent collection of further information about these contacts.

COVID-19: COVID-19, also called coronavirus disease 2019, is the respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, the technical name for the new coronavirus. COVID-19 is part of a family of coronavirus diseases that include the common cold, SARS, and MERS.

Epidemiology: The branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.

Essential Workers: Those who conduct a range of operations and services that are typically essential to continue critical infrastructure operations. Critical infrastructure is a large, umbrella term encompassing sectors from energy to defense to agriculture.

Eurobond: A debt instrument that's denominated in a currency other than the home currency of the country or market in which it is issued. Eurobonds are frequently grouped together by the currency in which they are denominated, such as eurodollar or Euro-yen bonds.

European Green Deal: A set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making Europe climate neutral in 2050.

European Union: An economic and political association of European countries as a unit with internal free trade and common external tariffs.

Eurozone: The group of European Union nations whose national currency is the euro.

Flattening the Curve: When viewed on a graph, a sudden surge in people getting sick with COVID-19 over a very short period (within a few days) can look like a tall, narrow curve, similar to a spike. The United States and countries around the world want to "flatten the curve" if possible, meaning that a smaller number of people are sick with coronavirus at any one time.

Healthcare: The organized provision of medical care to individuals or a community.

Herd Immunity: A form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, whether through vaccination or previous infections, thereby reducing the likelihood of infection for individuals who lack immunity.

Key Terms (all modules)

Immunocompromised: People who are immunocompromised have a weakened immune system, meaning their white-blood-cell counts are low or they have other conditions that make it harder to fight off infections and diseases.

Isolation/Quarantine: If a person has a confirmed case of coronavirus, they are instructed to practice isolation, which may be at home or in the hospital, depending on how sick the person is. It's meant to keep sick people from infecting other people by keeping them away from everyone.

Multilateral Organizations: Organizations formed between three or more nations to work on issues that relate to all of the countries in the organization.

Pandemic: A pandemic is the global outbreak of a disease; pandemics are usually classified as epidemics first, which is when a disease is spreading rapidly in a particular area or region.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment): Protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.

Social Distancing: Physical distancing, commonly referred to as social distancing, is the deliberate increase of physical space between people to keep them from spreading illness. Experts recommend staying at least six feet away from other people to reduce your risk of catching the coronavirus.

Stimulus: In economics, stimulus refers to attempts to use monetary or fiscal policy to stimulate the economy. Stimulus can also refer to monetary policies like lowering interest rates and quantitative easing.

World Health Organization: An agency of the United Nations, established in 1948 to promote health and control communicable diseases.

Vaccine: A biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease.

A Note on Articles and Paywalls

Some of the resources found within this packet require a subscription or other payment in order to be viewed. If you do not have free access to these resources through your home institution, you may be able to access them through the University of Washington's borrowing program for educators. To find out how to utilize this program, please follow the link below:

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/borrow/card/eligible>

About the Speakers



Dr. Niko Switek— *European Policy Responses to COVID-19*

Niko Switek is DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor for German Studies at the Henry M. Jackson School for International Studies and the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington. His research interests focus on political parties and party systems as well as on coalition politics. He wrote extensively about the German green party 'Bündnis 90/Die Grünen' and the green party family in Western Europe. In addition he worked on parties on European level ('Europarties') and just recently compiled a volume on fictional TV series about politics.



Ryan Hauck – *Workshop Facilitator*

Ryan Hauck teaches AP Comparative Government & Politics, Psychology, and World History at Glacier Peak High School in Snohomish, WA. Passionate about international education, Ryan is also the Director of the Global Classroom Program at the Seattle World Affairs Council. In this role, Ryan creates and manages global education resources and opportunities to empower teachers and students to become globally competent. Ryan completed his master's degree in Globalization and Educational Change from Lehigh's Comparative & International Education Department. In this program, Ryan worked with classmates to enhance teacher training and student learning in Cambodia. In addition, Ryan worked on a library project in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria with a local NGO and returned to the area 6 times to develop and implement educational initiatives. Most recently, Ryan participated in the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Teachers for Global Classroom Program to Senegal (2016), Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) to Germany (2017), and National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) to Taiwan. When Ryan isn't teaching or traveling, he's attending his nephew's baseball games, rooting for his hometown Seahawks, and enjoying the mountains and water of the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Switek's lecture was recorded and is available on Soundcloud and iTunes. Find it [HERE](#).

European Policy Responses to COVID-19

European Union Response to COVID-19

What's the ECB Doing in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis? June 4, 2020

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/whats-the-ecb-doing-in-response-to-the-covid-19-crisis/>

The European Central Bank (ECB) has responded to the pandemic by pledging to lend freely and purchasing greater government debt. The ECB's policy rate has been negative and did not have any room to lower it during the onset of the pandemic. It has also offered forward guidance on the future path of its key interest rates which puts downward pressure on longer-term rates. It has further purchased assets and launched the €750 billion Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program (PEPP), which will last until the coronavirus crisis period is over.

Overview of the EU Economic Measures in Response to COVID-19 Crisis - April 15, 2020

<https://www.cece.eu/news/overview-of-the-eu-economic-measures-in-response-to-covid-19-crisis>

The European Commission responded to the coronavirus pandemic by adopting a comprehensive economic response, loosening the stability pact criteria and the State Aid rules. It has further launched a new instrument SURE - Support mitigating Unemployment Risks in Emergency, which will provide up to €100 billion in loans to ensure workers receive their income and that businesses keep their staff. The European Central Bank announced a new purchase programme of €750 billion to buy government and company bonds. The European Investment Bank Group proposed a €40 billion response plan designed to alleviate liquidity and working capital constraints.

Coronavirus Response— July 21, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en

The European Commission has been working on all fronts to contain the spread of the coronavirus while mitigating its socio-economic impacts. It proposed a €2.4 trillion Recovery plan which will boost the EU budget with new financing raised on the financial markets for 2021-2024. It has also provided direct support to the public health sector with €3 billion from the EU budget to fund the Emergency Support Instrument and RescUE's common stockpile of equipment. Other initiatives include fighting disinformation by being in close contact with social media platforms and exposing disinformation narratives.

Coronavirus: EU Global Response to Fight the Pandemic - April 8, 2020

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/coronavirus-eu-global-response-fight-pandemic>

The EU will focus on addressing the immediate health crisis and resulting humanitarian needs, strengthening partner countries' health, water and sanitation systems and their research and preparedness capacities to deal with the pandemic, as well as mitigating the socioeconomic impact. The EU's response follows a 'Team Europe' approach, to support partner countries and address their short-term needs and longer-term structural impacts.

EU Chief Backs Investigation into Coronavirus Origin and Says China Should be Involved - May 1, 2020

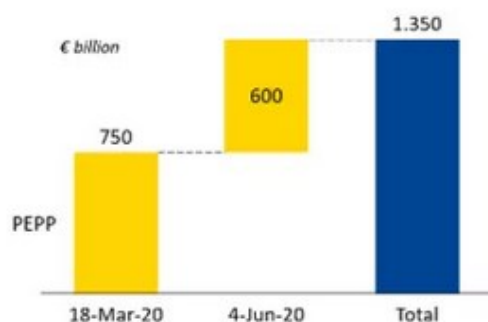
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/01/coronavirus-eu-chief-backs-investigation-with-china-into-origin.html>

Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, backed calls for an investigation into the origin of the coronavirus along with China.

EUROPE'S RAPID MONETARY AND FISCAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

Monetary response

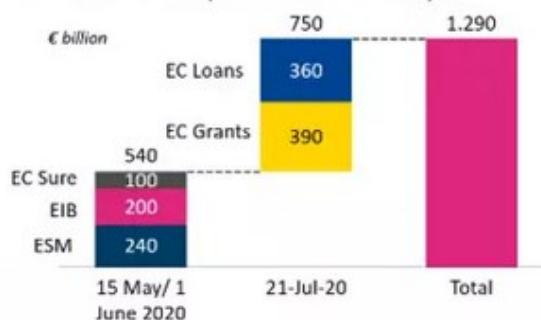
- European Central Bank's Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP)
- €750 billion was announced 18 March and increased to €1.3 trillion in June 2020
- This comes on top of the existing monetary policy



Source: ECB, EIB, EC and ESM

Fiscal response

- A rapid COVID19 response was put in place in 2 months' time: ESM €240bn for medical costs, EIB €200bn guarantees for companies (SMEs) and European Commission €100bn for unemployment support
- In July, an additional €750bn was approved of which €390bn are grants and €360bn loans
- This comes on top of all national fiscal response



THE EURO AREA GROWS – EVEN IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Source: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/history/>

The euro area grows – even in times of crisis.

European Union Response to COVID-19

EU Struggling to Overcome Muddled Coronavirus Response - March 18, 2020

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/03/18/eu-struggling-to-overcome-muddled-coronavirus-response-pub-81316>

Member states' disjointed efforts undermine a coordinated response equal to the scale of the crisis. Some countries, including France, Italy, and Spain, have enacted nationwide lockdowns. Some other countries—notably, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK—have kept shops and schools open. The best hope is for European leaders to scale up their efforts and favor solidarity.

EU Leaders Clash Over Economic Response to COVID-19 - March 27, 2020

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-leaders-clash-over-economic-response-to-covid-19/1781257>

EU leaders are in disagreement over issuing Eurobonds to address the economic consequences of the coronavirus. EU states including Germany, the Netherlands, and Austria are traditionally against mutualizing debt.

Europe's Coronavirus Response: Selfish Member States and Active Institutions - March 18, 2020

<https://rusi.org/commentary/europe-coronavirus-response-selfish-member-states-and-active-institutions>

While supplies have finally been reaching Italy, European health coordination continues to be an issue of concern and a barrier to unity. EU institutions are still faring better as they continue to fight the crisis on behalf of the Union.

EU Offers 'Heartfelt Apology' to Italy Over Coronavirus Response - April 16, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/16/eu-offers-heartfelt-apology-italy-coronavirus-response-herd-immunity>

"Too many were not there on time when Italy needed a helping hand at the very beginning," Ursula von der Leyen told the European parliament. "And yes, for that it is right that Europe as a whole offers a heartfelt apology."

Fighting Pandemic, Europe Divides Again Along North and South Lines - March 30, 2020

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/30/coronavirus-pandemic-europe-north-south-eurobond/>

Southern European countries push for a euro bond while Northern European countries oppose it.

EU Extends Ban on American Travelers- Again -with US COVID-19 Cases Far Outpacing European Countries - July 30, 2020

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/news/2020/07/30/europe-travel-ban-americans-covid-19-rise-eu-to-us/5546206002/>

For the second time in July, the European Union extended its travel ban on Americans on July 30, as COVID-19 infections continued to rise across the United States. The EU first started lifting its travel restrictions outside the bloc on July 1, welcoming visitors from 14 countries, including Canada, South Korea, and Australia.

Lesson Plan

European Union - Class Activities

<https://prodemos.nl/english/activities/prodemos-for-schools/eu-lesson-materials/>

These activating lesson plans about the European Union will energize students to learn about politics in the classroom.

European Union Response to COVID-19

EU Adopts Groundbreaking Stimulus to Fight Coronavirus Recession - July 22, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/20/world/europe/eu-stimulus-coronavirus.html>

The \$857 billion stimulus package includes unprecedented steps to help less wealthy countries, including selling collective debt and giving much of the money as grants, not loans. It was spearheaded by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Emmanuel Macron of France, sent a strong signal of solidarity even as it exposed deep new fault lines in a bloc reshaped by Britain's exit.

EU Strikes Deal with Sanofi for Supply of Potential COVID-19 Vaccine—August 1, 2020

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-strikes-deal-with-sanofi-for-supply-of-potential-covid-19-vaccine/a-54398972>

The European Union has reached an agreement with French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi for the supply of 300 million doses of a potential coronavirus vaccine. The deal will allow all 27 member-nations to purchase the vaccine once it is proven to be safe and effective.

Lesson Plans

Teaching the EU

<https://europe.wisc.edu/outreach-opportunities/european-union-chocolate-simulation/teaching-the-eu/>

Find a list of lesson plans from grades 6-12 and resources to teach about the EU in general by UW-Madison. Helpful links about Anti-EU sentiment and nationalism are included.

EU Toolkits // Lessons and Resources

<https://europe.unc.edu/toolkits/>

EU Toolkits contain lessons and resources for elementary, middle, and high school students to learn about Europe and the EU provided by The Center for European Studies at UNC-CH. Toolkits are grade-specific and are organized by essential questions.

Learning Corner- by EU

https://europa.eu/learning-corner/home_en

Discover the EU in a fun way, in the classroom or at home for all age groups. Teachers will find inspiration for lesson plans. Find games, competitions, and activity books for students and teaching materials and networking opportunities with other opportunities for teachers.

Individual States Response to COVID-19

Russia

Russia's Response to Covid-19 - April 10, 2020

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-response-covid-19>

The impact of Covid-19 on Russia was delayed compared to the rest of the world, and so had been the government response. The coronavirus task force was formed along with the introduction of nation-specific restrictions on the entry of all foreign nationals into Russia. Two national addresses were given by Putin. Further critical questions were addressed about Russian foreign assistance in a Public Relations gesture and disinformation campaigns relating to Covid-19.

Ambulance Jams, Unprotected Doctors, and Mixed Messages From Putin: Inside Russia's Chaotic Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic - April 20, 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-russia-chaotic-response-putin-2020-4>

Russia shut its borders with China and put several cities on lockdown in an attempt to curb the outbreak. These measures were still inefficient as hospitals were overflowing and did not have enough equipment. The Russian government's mismanagement of the problem is evident in the President's mixed messages on the virus shifting from admitting to the country having "a lot of problems" to saying 5 days later that everything was "under full control."

COVID-19: A Reckoning for Russia's Asian Energy Aims - May 21, 2020

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/covid-19-a-reckoning-for-russias-asian-energy-aims/>

The damage to the Russian economy by the pandemic is forcing Russia to depend more on China as the key demand-side energy market driver underpinning Russia's flow of dollars. This continued reliance can be seen as a loss of economic sovereignty.

Putin Is Warping Russia's Pandemic Response - June 4, 2020

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/06/04/putin-is-warping-russias-pandemic-response/>

Russians are left in a fog of doubt about the validity of the data because of authorities' alleged manipulation of statistics. Because of this, the rate of compliance with restrictions is considerably low. This is only a narrow example of the many consequences of the authoritarian regime that cares more about optics than people.

'Rage Is Brewing': Navalny Warns of Public Anger Over Russia's COVID-19 Response - May 21, 2020

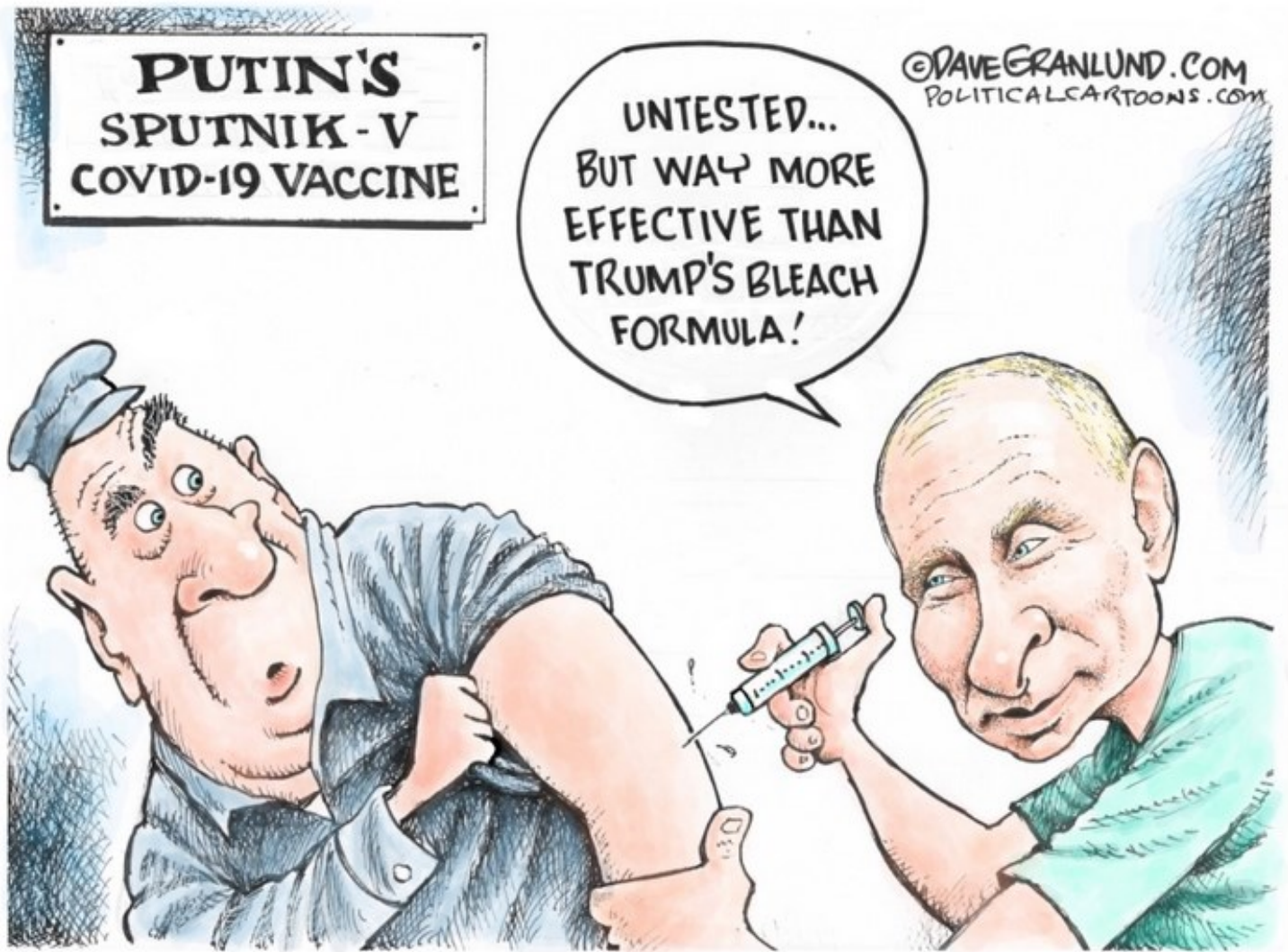
<https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-navalny-protests-coronavirus/30625050.html>

With the added pressure of the pandemic on underfunded hospitals and employment, more and more people are joining protests angry about the slow and inadequate response by the Russian government. Aleksei Navalny, the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation is working against the upcoming vote to approve constitutional changes that could allow President Vladimir Putin to remain in power until 2036.

Russia Starts to Dig Its Way Out of a Coronavirus Economic Hole - June 10, 2020

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/06/10/russia-starts-dig-out-coronavirus-economic-costs-a70530>

The relaxation of quarantine measures will not be enough to restore lost ground. The impact on private sector companies are especially large and aggravated by the policy response focused on supporting the country's largest firms and leaving smaller companies to fend for themselves.



Lesson Plan

Utilize political cartoons as a warm-up activity or as a whole classroom lesson to engage students in the study of COVID-19, including national responses to the virus. Political cartoons provide an opportunities to teach 21st century skills including critical thinking, analysis, and media literacy. For a political cartoon teaching guide, see the U.S.

Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/>

Russia

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Policy Response to Macro-Fiscal Policy in Russia - May 7, 2020

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/brief/covid-19-response-macro-fiscal-russia>

Russia introduced fiscal policy measures such as increasing funding to the healthcare sector and greater social protection but there seems to be a need for a more accelerated response. It has also introduced monetary policy measures by selling foreign exchange reserves and approved a RUB 500 billion package to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Policy Response to Enhancing Institutions for Effective and Transparent Management - June 5, 2020

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/brief/covid-19-response-enhancing-institutions-russia#russia>

To confront the challenges Covid-19 has put on public institutions and businesses, Russia introduced anti-crisis measures including boosting pay for medical workers and raising unemployment payments to equal the minimum wage, and others. There is still room for more work to be done in the face of this unprecedented disruption by inter-governmental coordination, the use of digital technologies, and effective public resource management.

Russia Cuts Interest Rates to a Post-Soviet Union Low - June 19, 2020

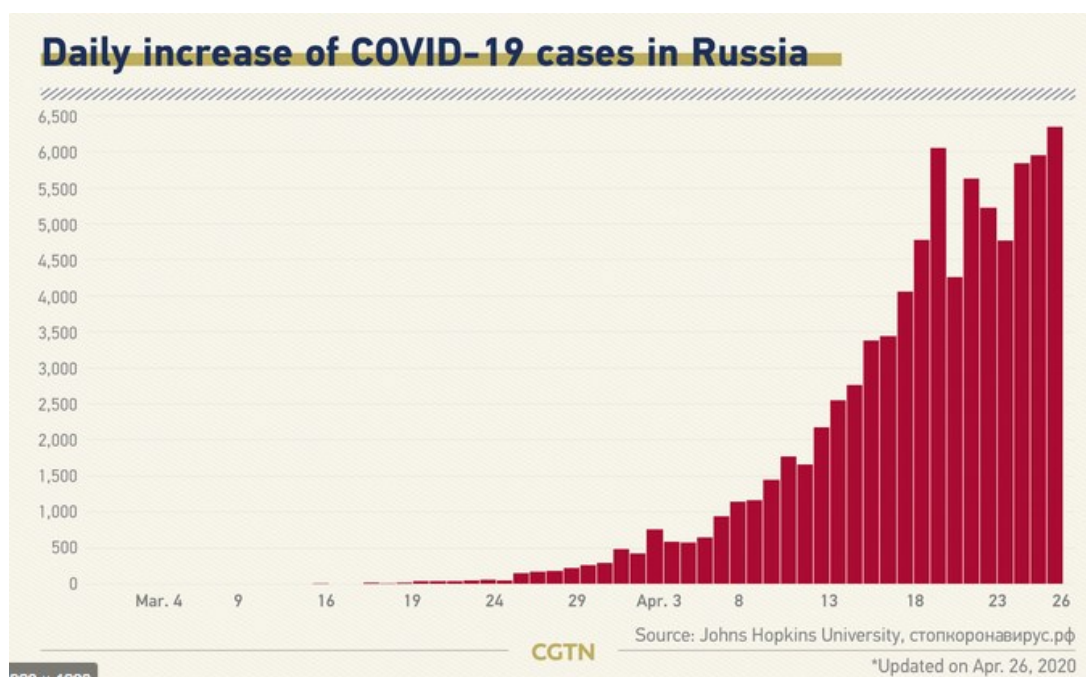
<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/19/russia-cuts-interest-rates-to-a-post-soviet-union-low.html>

After already having cut interest rates by 50 basis points in April, The Central Bank of Russia recently cut interest rates by 100 basis points to 4.5%, their lowest level since the fall of the Soviet Union, as it attempts to reel from the deflationary effects of covid-19.

Russian Coronavirus Aid Delivery to US Prompts Confusion And Criticism - April 3, 2020

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/04/02/politics/russia-medical-supplies-us-propaganda/index.html>

Despite complaints about an underfunded healthcare system in Russia, the United States purchased medical supplies from Russia at a number "below market price" sparking criticism.



Russia

Industry Body Calls Russian COVID-19 Vaccine a Pandora's Box - August 10, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/russian-covid-19-vaccine-is-pandora-s-box-industry-body-warns>

Russia's race to allow civilian use of a potential coronavirus vaccine before clinical trials are complete could put people at risk, according to a local association of multinational pharmaceutical companies.

Russian Deaths Soar 19% in June From 2019 as COVID-19 Toll Rises - August 10, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-10/russian-deaths-soar-19-in-june-from-2019-as-covid-19-toll-rises>

The number of deaths in Russia rose 19% in June from a year earlier, with nearly half of the additional victims diagnosed with Covid-19. The figures are significantly higher than the fatalities initially reported by authorities. Russia has faced questions about the low number of Covid-19 deaths it registers compared to other countries with major outbreaks of the pandemic.

Russia Offers to Supply Philippines with COVID-19 Vaccine - August 7, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-philippines-russia/russia-offers-to-supply-philippines-with-covid-19-vaccine-idUSKCN2531H1>

Russia is willing to supply a coronavirus vaccine to the Philippines, or team up with a local firm to mass produce it, its ambassador to Manila said on August 7, as infections in the Southeast Asian nation surge. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has sought closer ties with Russia, as well as with China, in part due to his dislike for their historic ally, the United States.

Sweden

Sweden's Constitution Decides Its Exceptional Covid-19 Policy - June 18, 2020

<https://voxeu.org/article/sweden-s-constitution-decides-its-exceptional-covid-19-policy>

The Swedish approach to introducing information without legally binding measures in response to the pandemic has drawn international attention. The reason for this is due to the design of the Swedish constitution which mirrors the norms held by the public concerning freedom and the power of the central government.

Sweden: Will COVID-19 Economics be Different? - June 4, 2020

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/01/nao60120-sweden-will-covid-19-economics-be-different>

Sweden's relaxed containment measures may have meant a smaller economic pitfall in the beginning, but uncertainty lingers about the impact this will have in the long run. Most forecasters agree that Sweden will face a recession this year, but the final verdict will depend on whether, as a by-product of its approach, Sweden is closer to achieving herd immunity, thereby increasing its resilience in the event of another wave of infection.

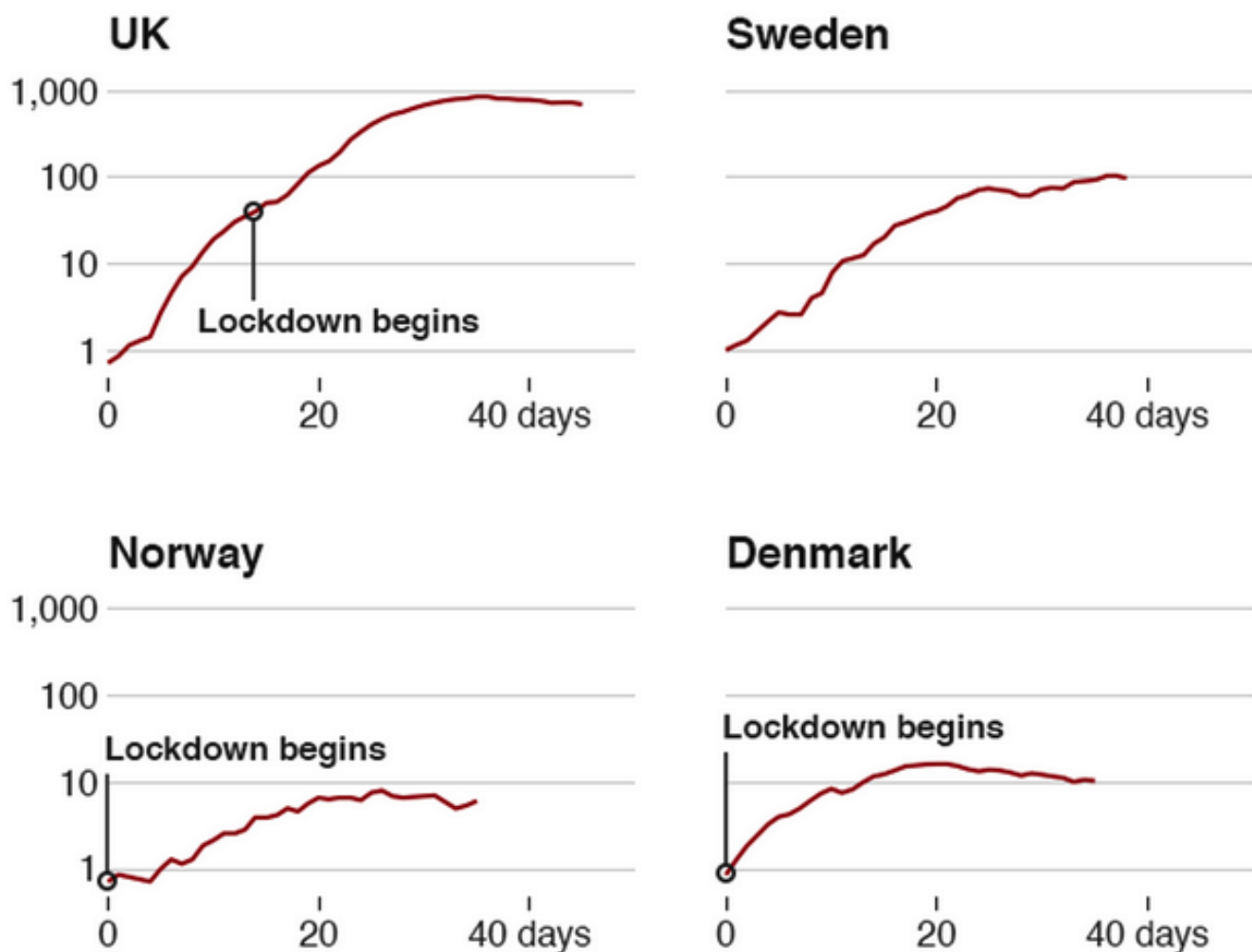
Sweden Sticks With Controversial COVID-19 Approach - May 1, 2020

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200501/sweden-sticks-with-controversial-covid19-approach>

Sweden's approach to the pandemic is to get enough healthy people to get infected to build herd immunity that would prevent them from getting infected again. Measures were however not introduced for the country's most vulnerable as the virus ripped through nursing homes. Despite the public outcry, Anders Tegnell, PhD, an epidemiologist who helped design this strategy defended this system saying its based on individual responsibility and voluntary compliance, rather than legal enforcement.

Coronavirus deaths in selected countries

Weekly rolling average of fatalities since fifth death



Log scale.

Note: Denmark and Norway introduced lockdowns before reaching five deaths

Source: ECDC, updated 24 April

BBC NEWS

Sweden

Coronavirus: What's Going Wrong in Sweden's Care Homes? - May 19, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52704836>

Elder people in nursing homes account for nearly half of all Covid-19 cases in Sweden. An increasing number of people have been voicing complaints about institutional reluctance to admit elder patients to hospitals. Ms Löfvenberg, a nurse and local politician explained, "We don't have many older people. It's a lot of younger people born in the 90s, 80s, 70s."

Five Problems With the Swedish Approach to COVID-19 - June 4, 2020

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/five-problems-swedish-approach-covid-19>

The problems named include Sweden's failure at meeting its herd immunity goal and reducing movement, high rates of elderly death, high disease transmission compared to neighboring countries, and the lag in testing.

Sweden Touts the Success of its Controversial Lockdown-free Coronavirus Strategy, But the Country Still Has One of the Highest Mortality Rates in the World

<https://www.businessinsider.com/sweden-praises-coronavirus-strategy-despite-high-death-rate-2020-5>

Experts have been split on whether Sweden's response had been working with some being optimistic about future results and others acknowledging serious shortcomings. Sweden's former state epidemiologist said, "We should have known how underprepared we were in healthcare, and elder care."

Swedish Coronavirus Chief Concedes He'd Change 'Herd Immunity' Covid-19 Response - May 26, 2020

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/swedish-coronavirus-chief-concedes-he-d-change-herd-immunity-covid-19-response-1.1029028>

Anders Tegnell's words about applying tougher measures against a second wave attracted critics. With its high death rate, Sweden accepted that initial high fatalities would put it on the road to building herd immunity against the virus whilst maintaining its economy undisturbed. The success depends on whether the global effort to find a vaccine will fail.

Sweden's PM Hits Back at Criticism Over Covid Strategy - June 14, 2020

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-14/sweden-s-pm-hits-back-at-criticism-over-outlier-covid-strategy>

Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven has faced increasing criticism after the epidemiologist he entrusted with Sweden's Covid-19 response acknowledged the shortcomings of his strategy. Löfven defended the strategy pointing at increased testing to be the reason behind the spike in reported infection rates. "But if you look at people in hospitals with Covid, the number is diminishing, as is the number of deaths," he said.

How Did Sweden Flatten Its Curve Without a Lockdown? - July 29, 2020

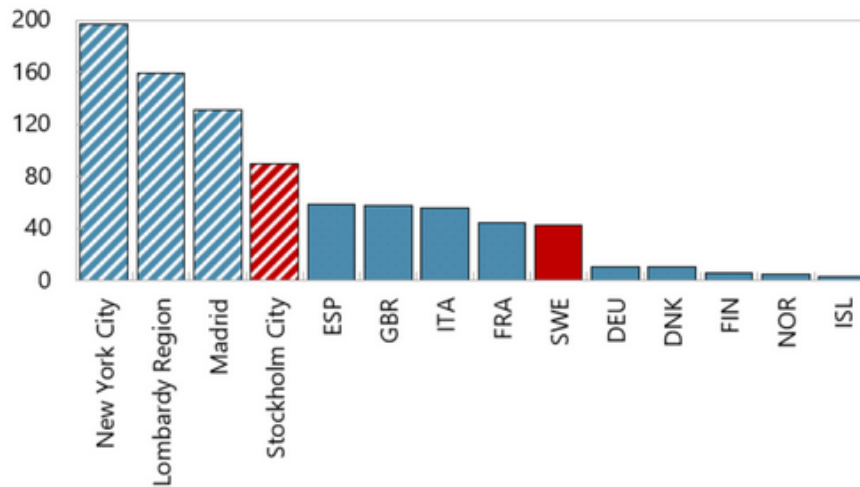
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/87812>

The Swedish Public Health Agency has not openly stated that herd immunity was its goal, though many suspect this was the intention. Instead of mandatory lockdown, behavior changes were supported to control the spread of COVID-19.

Europe: total number of reported COVID-19 deaths

Sweden had a much higher death rate than Nordic comparators.

(Per 100,000 inhabitants; data as of June 1st, 2020, or latest available)

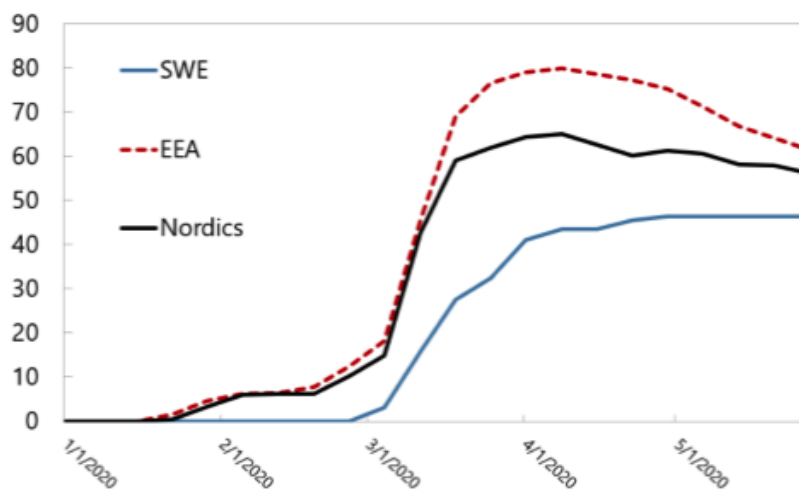


Sources: Johns Hopkins University; WEO; Wikipedia; Smittskydd Stockholm; and Spanish Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare.

Strictness of social distancing measures

Sweden's social distancing measures are less restrictive than in its European and Nordic neighbors.

(Index, data as of May 31)



Sources: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker; IMF Staff calculations.

Notes: Weekly averages. 'EEA' is the average of all countries of the European Economic Area excluding Latvia and Lichtenstein and including the UK. 'Nordic' is the average of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

Sweden

Sweden's No Lockdown Strategy is Beginning to Look Like Less of an Outlier, but Still Doesn't Compare Well to Other Countries - August 8, 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/sweden-coronavirus-rates-fall-but-other-countries-still-fare-better-2020-8>

Although Sweden's numbers of daily deaths and new cases has declined from its own peak, they still compare poorly to its immediate neighbors, which took a harder line on the virus. Their new daily coronavirus cases are, as a proportion of population, more than 1.5 times higher than those in the UK, and around six times higher than in Italy.

Coronavirus: Sweden's Economy Hit Less Hard by Pandemic - August 5, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-53664354>

Sweden, which avoided a lockdown during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, saw its economy shrink 8.6% in the April-to-June period from the previous three months. However, it was still the largest quarterly fall for at least 40 years.

Britain

Britain Unveils \$39 Billion Spending Package as it Tries to Tackle Coronavirus Slowdown - March 11, 2020

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/11/uk-government-announces-12-billion-pounds-to-tackle-coronavirus-in-2020-budget.html>

The fiscal stimulus is expected to mitigate the economic consequences of the virus. The government additionally announced plans to lower taxes for workers, freeze duties on cider, wine and fuel, and introduce a new plastic packaging tax.

Not Perfect but Positive – The UK Response to Coronavirus - March 26, 2020

<https://theconversation.com/not-perfect-but-positive-the-uk-response-to-coronavirus-134824>

Starting out with intensive testing, the measures became heavily restricted almost overnight. Still the UK's £330 billion package of loan guarantees for businesses is a bold step. There is still hope as most people heed public health advice and stay at home.

Britain Drops its Herd Immunity Response to Coronavirus - March 17, 2020

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/17/britain-uk-coronavirus-response-johnson-drops-go-it-alone/>

Imperial College epidemiologist Azra Ghani explained that his team had been "expecting herd immunity to build [but] we now realize it's not possible to cope with that." Thus, The U.K.'s has officially shifted from containment to "epidemic suppression ... [as] the only viable strategy.

Coronavirus Lockdown: Scots' Concerns Over UK Response - May 26, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52795997>

The explanation behind the different opinions in how well the UK and Scottish governments are thought to have handled the coronavirus crisis is thought to be due to long standing differences in attitudes towards the two governments. Voters in Scotland may be more inclined to favor their government more highly regardless of the issue.

Britain

How Brexit Infected Britain's Coronavirus Response - April 20, 2020

<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/brexit-infected-britain-coronavirus/>

How Brexit affected the coronavirus response. An example is how the UK had opted out of various EU schemes that would have allowed it to purchase ventilators and personal protective equipment in bulk failing the expected due course in the coronavirus response.

How Did Britain Get Its Coronavirus Response so Wrong? - April 18, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/18/how-did-britain-get-its-response-to-coronavirus-so-wrong>

At the start of the year, Britain was still distracted by Brexit with the UK finally about to leave the EU on 31 January. It took a "screeching U-turn" after Johnson delivered the news about the grave consequences that were to be expected of covid-19. Many scientists continue to question Britain's slow response to the warnings.

UK Using Dexamethasone to Treat Patients - June 17, 2020

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2244804-covid-19-news-archive-uk-using-dexamethasone-to-treat-patients/>

After a trial found that the drug could save patients by a third for those on ventilators and a fifth for those receiving oxygen, it has been used immediately.

The Comforting and Misleading Political Response to Britain's Coronavirus Disaster - May 5, 2020

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-comforting-and-misleading-political-response-to-britains-coronavirus-disaster>

Despite being cited as prepared for the pandemic by the Department of Health, it hesitated to implement a lockdown to slow the spread of the virus embracing the concept of herd immunity. Johnson's government did not switch to stringent quarantine measures early enough and even abandoned testing for the coronavirus outside hospitals with claims that this method is unsuitable for the UK.

Coronavirus Could Hit the U.K. Harder Than Any Other European Country. Here's What Went Wrong - April 17, 2020

<https://time.com/5823382/britain-coronavirus-response/>

Aside from the clear delay in Britain's response, its consequences of obtaining enough testing kits is adding greater damage to the impact. Hospitals are still dealing with shortages of equipment with a report saying that NHS bosses were preparing to ask doctors and nurses to work without full-length gowns due to being understocked.

Young People's Trust in Government Damaged Long-term By COVID-19 - June 19, 2020

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/News/Latest-news-from-LSE/2020/f-June-20/Young-peoples-trust-in-government-damaged-long-term-by-COVID-19>

A new study shows that the coronavirus pandemic likely will have a lasting impact on generation Z's faith in elections and their own government. This effect was most marked in democracies and less seen in autocracies.

Britain

Discovering the Real Impact of COVID-19 On Entrepreneurship - June 19, 2020

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/how-covid-19-will-change-entrepreneurial-business/>

The UK government has shown support to start-ups with its £1.25 billion rescue package, but the current crisis is showing the importance of other entrepreneurial activity like small businesses.

The UK's Public Health Response to Covid-19 - May 15, 2020

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1932>

SPI-M and SAGE are dominated by modellers and epidemiologists whose experts are not trained in developing and implementing a public health response. Furthermore, the involvement of two influential political advisers with SAGE casts uncertainty on SAGE's claim of independent scientific advice. This paper further works out the needed public health approach in ensuring the protection of lives that are most vulnerable to the spread of the virus.

UK COVID-19 Daily Death Count Could Be Scrapped

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-infections/uk-covid-19-daily-death-count-could-be-scrapped-telegraph-idUSKCN2550X2>

Britain paused its daily update of the death toll in July and the government ordered a review into how Public Health England reports coronavirus deaths, after academics said the daily figures may include people who died of other causes.

The Psychological Toll of Coronavirus in Britain- a Visual Guide - July 22, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/jul/22/psychological-toll-coronavirus-britain-visual-guide-anxiety-mental-strain>

The psychological impact of the pandemic is an evolving and complex picture that is unlikely to be fully understood for some time. To help navigate the emerging landscape, the Guardian has collected data on five issues faced by the population to measure what life has been like in Britain over the past four months.

UK Halts Easing Coronavirus Lockdown Measures in Response to Rising COVID-19 Cases - July 31, 2020

<https://time.com/5874222/uk-halts-easing-covid19-lockdown/>

Prime Minister Boris Johnson put some planned measures to ease the U.K.'s lockdown on hold on July 31st, just hours before they were due to take effect, saying the number of new coronavirus cases in the country is on the rise for the first time since May. The affected region has a large Muslim population, and the restrictions coincide with the Eid al-Adha holiday, where many people would normally gather in each other's homes.

More Than a Million People in the UK Have Quit Smoking Since the Start of the Coronavirus Pandemic, new study shows - August 8, 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-smokers-quit-record-numbers-study-2020-8>

According to a recent survey by the UK charity Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), conducted between April 15 to June 20, more than one million people in Britain have given up smoking. Of those people, almost half (41%) said it was a direct response to heightened health concerns during the coronavirus pandemic, the study added.

Hungary

Hungary's Troubling Coronavirus Response—April 6, 2020

<https://freedomhouse.org/article/hungarys-troubling-coronavirus-response>

Freedom House's Zselyke Csaky answers key questions about the state of emergency and what other actions we can expect from the newly empowered government.

Is the Hungarian Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic a Move to Cement Authoritarianism in Europe?

Video – 26 minutes - May 20, 2020

<https://www.dw.com/en/is-the-hungarian-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-move-to-cement-authoritarianism-in-europe/av-53514162>

Budapest's response to COVID-19 has been to suspend parliament and give Prime Minister Viktor Orban open-ended powers to rule by decree. Will this latest move by the ruling Fidesz cement authoritarianism in Europe?

The Shocking Coronavirus Coup in Hungary was a Wake-Up Call, - March 31, 2020.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/31/viktor-orban-hungary-coronavirus-coup/>

This article discusses how Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orban, has used the Coronavirus to justify a consolidation of power including the power to rule by decree. Concerns over the rise of authoritarian measures in Hungary and other nations are highlighted.

Hungary Moves to End Rule by Decree, but Orban Powers Might Stay—June 16, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/world/europe/hungary-coronavirus-orban.html>

This NY Times article discusses legislation to drop the state of emergency prompted by the coronavirus and seen by some as effectively codifying Prime Minister Viktor Orban's extended authority.

Coronavirus: Is Pandemic Being Used for Power Grab in Europe? - April 18, 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52308002>

This BBC article discusses the pandemic and the possible maneuver of specific leaders, such as Hungary's Viktor Orban, to consolidate power. Also briefly discussed is President Putin of Russia and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

How Authoritarianism Has Spread Since the Coronavirus Pandemic Began (Video – 9:31) —August 4, 2020

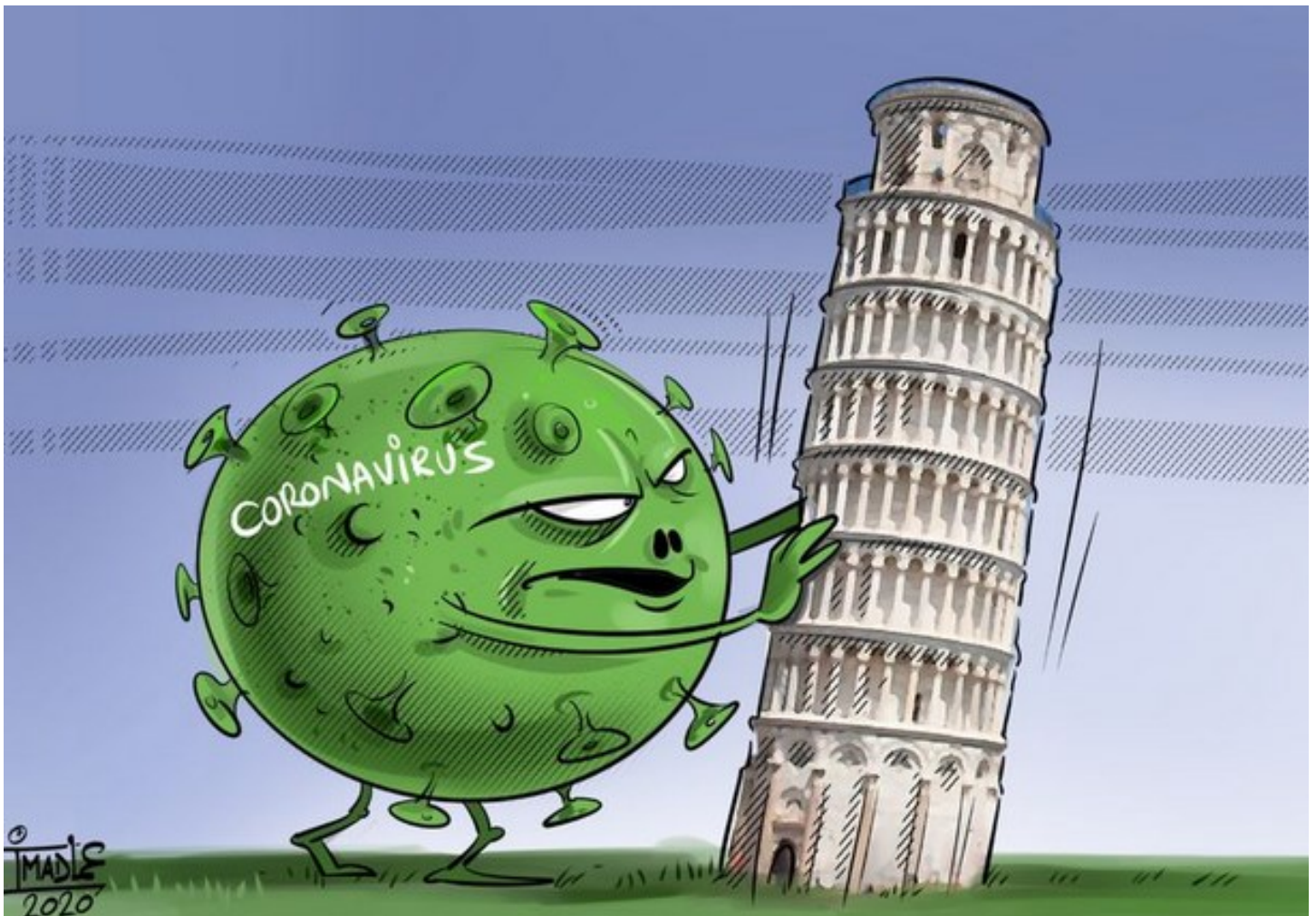
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-authoritarianism-has-spread-since-the-coronavirus-pandemic-began>

According to pro-democracy institutions, authoritarianism was on the rise globally even before the coronavirus pandemic hit. But experts say the distraction of the crisis has allowed some leaders to indulge their dictatorial impulses without attracting much attention from the people they govern. Nick Schiffrin reports and talks to The Atlantic's Anne Applebaum about this dangerous global dynamic.

Death By a Thousand Cuts: Press freedom in Viktor Orban's Hungary (VIDEO - 26 minutes) - August 1, 2020.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/listeningpost/2020/08/death-thousand-cuts-press-freedom-viktor-orban-hungary-200801072700157.html>

This video discusses the decline of the free press in Hungary.



Italy

Italy's Inspiring Response to the Coronavirus - March 26, 2020

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200325-italys-inspiring-response-to-the-coronavirus>

The empty piazzas in Italy due to the lockdown is an eerie sight to many who are used to its typically bustling atmosphere. This emergency measure taken in early March was an attempt to slow the virus. Italians boosted morale by singing Italian songs from their windows.

Italy's Coronavirus Response is a Warning From the Future - March 8, 2020

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/italy-coronavirus-covid19-west-europe-future/607660/>

The dramatic steps taken to slow the virus caused a lot of chaos and uncertainty. Even officials were uncertain about how the new measures would work. The world watched as Italy's health care system was strained by the virus, and wondered if Italy's adjustment would soon become the new normal for them as well.

Six Takeaways For Policymakers From Italy's Response to Covid-19 - April 14, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jiese/2020/04/14/six-takeaways-for-policymakers-from-italys-response-to-covid-19/#5e5ef99443b8>

The six best practices for policymakers mentioned are to prioritize citizens' health and well-being, emphasize transparent communication, focus on flexibility and taking an integrated approach, develop an effective emergency logistical system, emphasizing professional responsibility, and urging a coordinated international response.

Italy, Pandemic's New Epicenter, Has Lessons for the World - March 21, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/world/europe/italy-coronavirus-center-lessons.html>

The tragedy of Italy quickly gave lessons to its European neighbors. Measures to slow the spread of the virus must be taken early, with complete clarity, and strict enforcement.

How Italy Turned Around its Coronavirus Calamity - July 31, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/31/world/europe/italy-coronavirus-reopening.html>

Despite having bore the brunt of the virus early this year, Italy's hospitals are basically empty of Covid-19 patients. Parliament voted to extend the government's emergency powers through October 15th, which would allow the restrictions to remain in place. "Even if the situation is better than in other countries, we should continue to be very prudent," said Dr. Rezza of the National Institute of Health.

Italy's Pandemic Plan 'Old and Inadequate', Covid Report Finds - August 13, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/13/italy-pandemic-plan-was-old-and-inadequate-covid-report-finds>

A report investigating alleged errors by Italian authorities calls its pandemic plan outdated and holds it culpable for the country's thousands of Covid-19 deaths. The claim is that the pandemic plan was not updated according to the new guidelines established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)'s guidelines.

Italy Imposes Mandatory Covid-19 Testing on All Arrivals for Four Countries - August 13, 2020

<https://www.thelocal.it/20200813/italy-imposes-mandatory-covid-19-testing-on-all-arrivals-from-four-countries>

Italy has imposed mandatory testing for travelers arriving from Croatia, Greece, Malta, and Spain in an attempt to prevent another wave of infections. The Health Minister Roberto Speranza said, "We must continue to be cautious in order to protect the results obtained thanks to sacrifices made by all in recent months."

How the EU Deals With Matters of Public Health

Improving Public Health: EU Measures Explained—August 6, 2020

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20190705STO56307/improving-public-health-eu-measures-explained#:~:text=The%20EU%20works%20to%20promote,always%20been%20an%20EU%20priority.&text=It%20causes%20about%2033%2C000%20deaths%20per%20year%20in%20the%20EU.>

The EU works to promote health and prevent diseases in areas such as cancer, mental health and rare diseases, and provides information on diseases via the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Public Health: Fact Sheet on the EU

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/49/public-health>

The Treaty of Lisbon has enhanced the importance of health policy, stipulating that 'a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities'. Primary responsibility for health protection and, in particular, healthcare systems continues to lie with the Member States. However, the EU has an important role to play in improving public health, preventing and managing diseases, mitigating sources of danger to human health, and harmonising health strategies between Member States.

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About European Union Health Policies But Were Afraid to Ask

https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/259955/Everything-you-always-wanted-to-know-about-European-Union-health-policies-but-were-afraid-to-ask.pdf?ua=1

This book gives an in depth explanation of EU health policies. They are complicated and can be difficult to understand due to the complex nature of the EU and different relevant treaties/policies that have been established over the years. There is no single strategy with a neat body of legislation implementing it; rather, there are many different objectives and instruments, some of which appear in surprising places.

Does Health Matter in the European Parliament Elections? - March 29, 2019

<https://epha.org/does-health-matter-in-the-european-parliament-elections/>

With health considered to be one of the issues resonating most with Europeans (in a recent Eurobarometer survey, 70% of European citizens wanted more action on health) it can be argued that strong leadership on health from the European institutions will bring the EU closer to them, and can help to restore their trust in them. EPHA has carried out an initial analysis of the manifestos or publications setting out the groups' positions for the elections in May 2019. Visit this link to see these positions.

Call for Action: Time to Strengthen the EU's Public Health Policy Powers - May 8, 2020

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/opinion/call-for-action-time-to-strengthen-the-eus-public-health-policy-powers/>

Europe is going through an unprecedented challenge caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a health crisis, an economic crisis, and, potentially, a social crisis. It is abundantly clear that during the Covid-19 crisis, our citizens are asking the European Union to do more, but the hands of the EU institutions are tied. The Union can only operate on the basis of powers allocated by the Treaties. Accordingly, the European Commission has no legal basis to strengthen its own resources to address public health crises.

European Education Policy and COVID-19

Europe's Schools Face New Test: Teaching Safely in a Pandemic - May 14, 2020

<https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2020/0514/Europe-s-schools-face-new-test-Teaching-safely-in-a-pandemic>

Two months after most countries in Europe began closing down in response to the coronavirus, many are cautiously reopening schools alongside their economies, welcoming tens of millions of students back into the classroom in staggered shifts. European governments have been unrelenting with logistical and sanitary requirements. But most countries have otherwise allowed schools to make their own decisions about how lessons should be delivered and physical space partitioned.

Europe Learning the Dangers of Going Back to School After Coronavirus - May 20, 2020

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/20/coronavirus-back-to-school-272592>

It is essential to weigh the risks of opening schools again against the potential damage done by keeping them closed, whether to economic recovery or mental health. Even more challenging may be convincing anxious parents that now is the time to send their children back to school. It's not just the risk of transmission increasing, but also there's a danger of children being cut off from all social life and being deprived of the structure that school gives them.

Schools Reopening Has Not Triggered Rise in COVID-19 Cases, EU Ministers Told - May 18, 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/18/french-minister-tells-of-risks-of-missing-school-as-more-pupils-return-covid-19>

The reopening of schools in 22 European countries has not led to any significant increase in coronavirus infections among children, parents or staff, a videoconference meeting of education ministers from around the EU has heard.

We Need to Reopen Schools- but How? - June 8, 2020

<https://prospect.org/coronavirus/we-need-to-reopen-schools/>

The news from the more than 20 European nations that have reopened schools has been extremely encouraging, and the urgency of duplicating that achievement in the US is indisputable. We cannot have a functioning economy, or any hope of reducing economic inequalities, without a functioning educational system. But key questions need to be answered to get schools back in session in the fall, and this country has not yet taken the necessary steps to resolve those issues.

School Reopenings in Europe Reduce Virus Concerns- Mostly - June 10, 2020

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/10/european-school-reopeningsreduce-virus-concerns-for-most-312595>

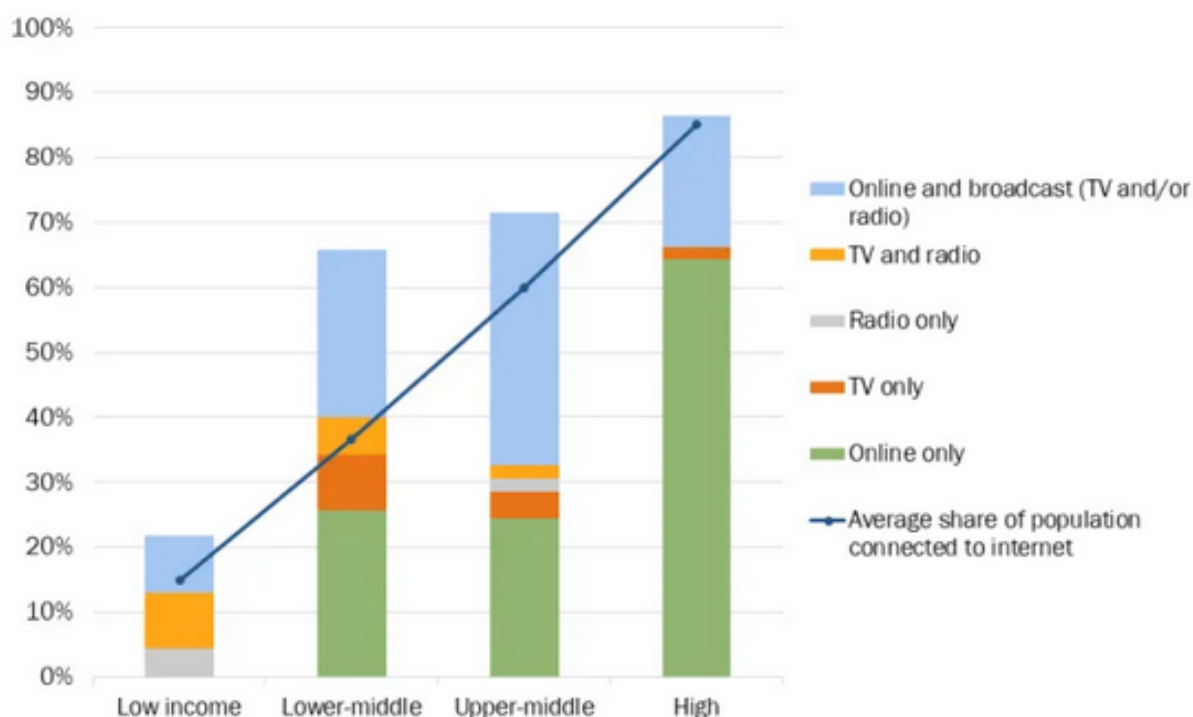
Incremental returns to school and robust infection control measures have been part of the game plan in those countries that have reopened classrooms successfully. With big questions around the virus still hanging in the air, some experts are issuing plenty of caveats.

Risks as Germany Reopens Schools in Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://www.dw.com/en/risks-as-germany-reopens-schools-in-coronavirus-pandemic/a-54507732>

As the summer holidays end, the number of new COVID-19 infections is rising again in Germany, as in many European countries. Despite this, kindergartens, schools and educational institutions are being reopened, partly, officials say, to take the burden off of working parents, but also for the children — even as fresh outbreaks have swiftly shut schools back down.

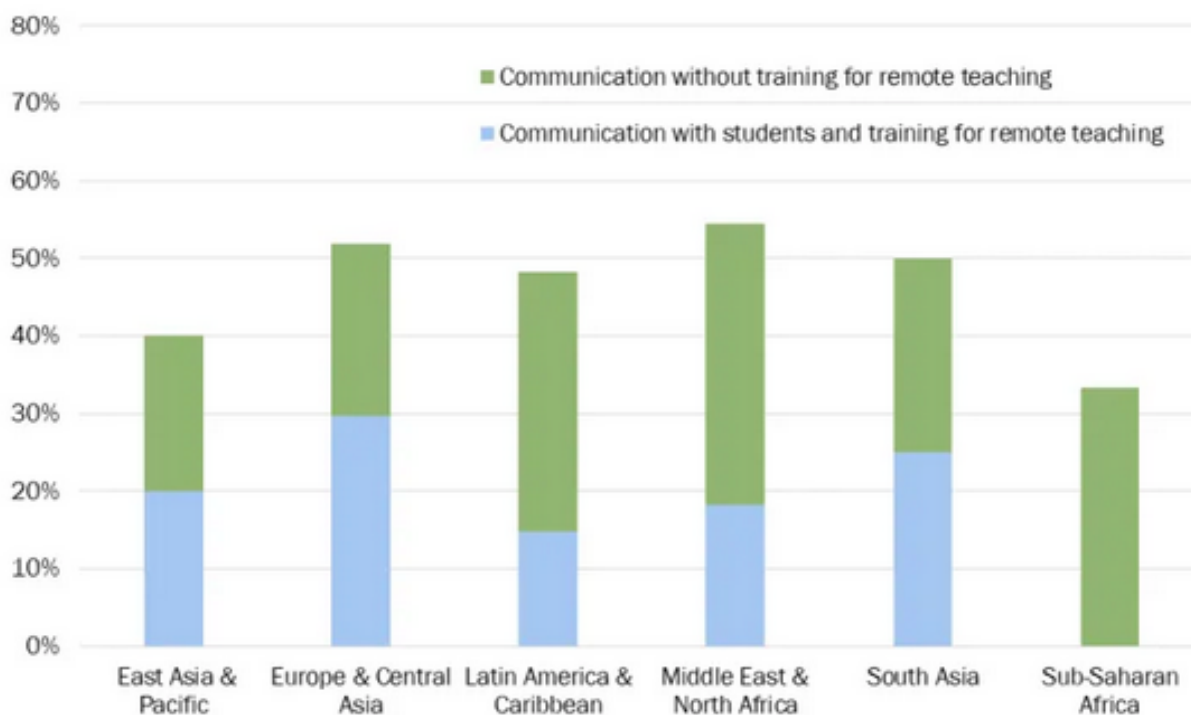
Figure 1. Share of countries responding to school closures with different forms of remote learning, by income group



Source: Center for Global Development and the World Bank

BROOKINGS

Figure 4. Share of countries providing official guidance and training to teachers for remote teaching, by region



Source: Center for Global Development and the World Bank

BROOKINGS

European Education Policy and COVID-19

**The Achievement Gap, Widened by COVID-19, Calls for a Greater EU Role in Education Policy—
July 22, 2020**

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/the-achievement-gap-widened-by-covid-19-calls-for-a-greater-eu-role-in-education-policy/>

The Covid-19 pandemic has made obvious a disconcerting truth in the EU – namely that a child’s socio-economic background is determinative of their access to quality education. Factors include the unequal availability of educational resources at home, access to preschool, and resources devoted to schools.

Pints or Primers? UK’s Push to Open Schools May Force a Choice - August 10, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/10/world/europe/UK-schools-pubs-coronavirus.html>

Prime Minister Boris Johnson calls it a “moral duty” to open Britain’s schools, but with cases already rising slightly, that might mean closing pubs and restaurants. Mr. Johnson cannot order schools to open or close;

Lesson Plans

Coronavirus: Online Learning Resources

https://ec.europa.eu/education/resources-and-tools/coronavirus-online-learning-resources_en

This online platform for teachers and educators has teaching materials and training opportunities in European school education available in 23 European languages.

Resources For Teachers- by EU

https://europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/teachers_en

Find information on European history, citizenship, or something as specific as reducing individual energy consumption tailored to age group.

Lesson Plans and Classroom Resources

<https://euro.indiana.edu/outreach/k-12/lesson-plans.html>

This is a resource for the K-12 educator to prepare lessons on all aspects of European culture and society, government and politics, and current topics including immigration and the economy.

Cooperation with the United States

First Regulatory Workshop on COVID-19 Facilitates Global Collaboration on Vaccine Development - March 18, 2020

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/first-regulatory-workshop-covid-19-facilitates-global-collaboration-vaccine-development>

The first global regulatory workshop on COVID-19 was convened under the umbrella of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA). The virtual meeting brought together delegates from 17 different countries, representing more than 20 medicines regulatory authorities globally, as well as experts from the World Health Organization and the European Commission, to discuss the development of vaccines against COVID-19. The event was co-chaired by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The goal of the meeting was to encourage exchange of information about the global efforts towards developing new vaccines against COVID-19.

Transatlantic Cooperation on COVID-19 - May 12, 2020

<https://useu.usmission.gov/transatlantic-cooperation-on-covid-19/>

In addition to the leadership of the US President and Secretary of State with their G7, G20, NATO and other counterparts, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun has led weekly deputy minister-level coordination calls with Transatlantic Allies and partners since March 19, including the European Commission. These calls have allowed the United States and Transatlantic Allies and partners to share ideas and best practices in responding to the unique and complex challenges presented by the global pandemic and plan for safely reopening US economies and commerce.

EU Leads (an almost) Global Effort to Fight Coronavirus—May 5, 2020

<https://www.politico.eu/article/world-leaders-pledge-to-fight-coronavirus/>

An EU-led fundraising event for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and diagnostics fell just short of the European Commission's €7.5 billion goal- even after organizers decided to count money already spent or allocated. Russia and the United States, one-time superpower rivals in science as well as politics, pointedly did not participate, highlighting the real risk that some wealthy countries could look to control vaccines or treatments to benefit their own citizens first.

E.U. May Bar American Travelers as It Reopens Borders, Citing Failures on Virus - June 23, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/23/world/europe/coronavirus-EU-American-travel-ban.html>

European Union officials are racing to agree on who can visit the bloc as of July 1 based on how countries of origin are faring with new coronavirus cases. Americans, so far, are excluded, according to draft lists seen by the New York Times.

The U.S. Can't Defeat Coronavirus Alone

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-05-19/covid-19-vaccine-will-require-u-s-china-europe-to-collabo>

The Trump administration has launched an unprecedented drive to speed domestic development of a vaccine, but remains aloof from international efforts to coordinate funding and distribution of any successful candidates. Although China also declined to contribute to a European-led pledging conference earlier this month, President Xi Jinping joined European nations on Monday in promising that any vaccine developed by his country would be treated as a "global public good," in theory available to all.

Cooperation with the United States

U.S. Stirs Sharp Divisions Between Old and New Europe in Cynical Strategy—August 11, 2020

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1197348.shtml>

For the Eurasian continent where geopolitical competition and cooperation are intertwined, the US geo-strategy aims to ensure the balance of power in the region and prevent the emergence of regional powers. Against the background of major-power competition and the return of geopolitics, Washington is looking for new strategic pivots and Central and Eastern Europe has become its target.

Europe's Digital Sovereignty: From Rule-Maker to Superpower in the Age of US-China Rivalry—July 30, 2020

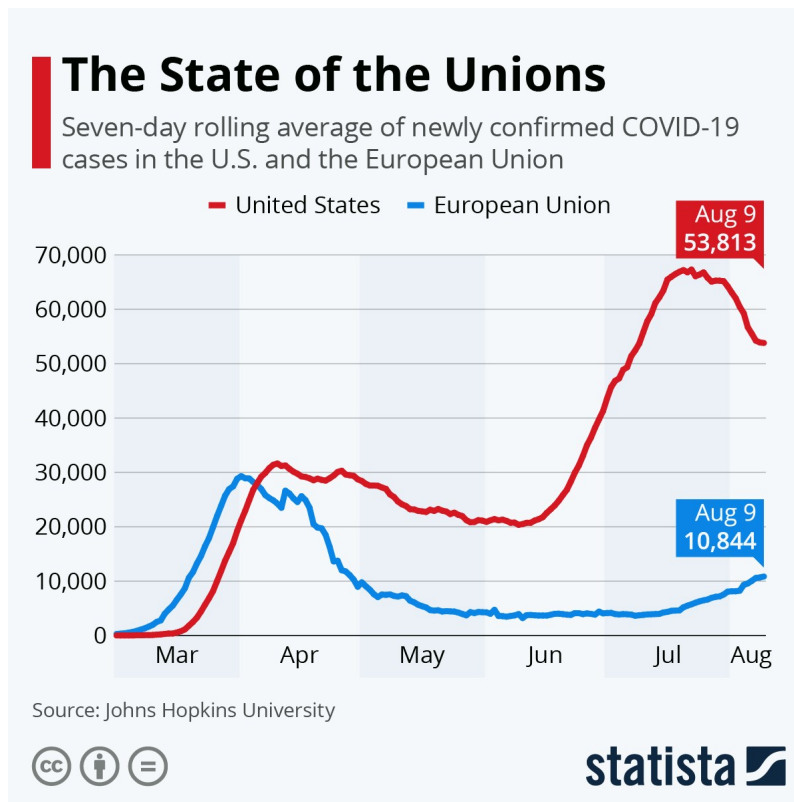
https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/europe_digital_sovereignty_rulemaker_superpower_age_us_china_rivalry

Covid-19 has revealed the critical importance of technology for economic and health resilience, making Europe's digital transformation and sovereignty a question of existential importance. Rising US-China tensions are an additional incentive for Europe to develop its own digital capabilities; it risks becoming a battleground in their struggle for tech and industrial supremacy.

EU in Talks with Moderna, BioNtech, CureVac to Secure Possible COVID Vaccines - July 17, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-vaccines-exclus/exclusive-eu-in-talks-with-moderna-biontech-curevac-to-secure-possible-covid-vaccines-idUSKCN2411HA>

The EU is negotiating advance purchase deals of potential COVID-19 vaccines with drugmakers Moderna (US), Sanofi (French) and Johnson & Johnson (US) as well as biotech firms BioNtech (German) and CureVac (German). The multiple talks confirm the bloc's more assertive stance on procuring potential COVID-19 shots and drugs after early U.S. moves in securing promising treatments and vaccines.



<https://www.statista.com/chart/22102/daily-covid-19-cases-in-the-us-and>

Covid-19 and the EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal - May 19, 2020

<https://fsr.eui.eu/the-european-green-deal/>

The European Green Deal presented by the EU commission in 2019 presents a dedicated roadmap for economic stability. The goal is for Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This would require movement away from coal, oil and natural gas including comprehensive restructuring of the economy. Eight policy areas are at the heart of the Deal.

Why Europe's Green Deal Still Matters - March 24, 2020

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-europes-green-deal-still-matters>

The deeply familiar details of the ECB come with a few big bets. These bets are: the issue of a Just Transition, Industrial Policy for Green Growth, the turning of the European Investment Bank (EIB) into a "climate bank," Trade for a Low-carbon World, rules and methodologies for measuring the carbon-intensity of goods., and The idea of the "circular economy".

A European Green Deal

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

The goals of the European Green Deal are that there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth is decoupled from resource use, and that no person and no place is left behind. Reaching this target will require action by all sectors of the economy.

The Relevance of the EU Green Deal in a Post-COVID-19 World - May 11, 2020

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/the-relevance-of-the-eu-green-deal-in-a-post-covid-19-world/>

Swift economic support programs will allow recovery in the shortest time possible. Despite the primacy of the moment, it is important that decarbonisation plans in the EU be balanced with the need to create jobs. Infrastructure projects are often drivers of employment. Building new green energy infrastructure projects can have multiple benefits including furthering economic growth, increasing energy access, replacing aged infrastructure, providing jobs and meeting national carbon dioxide reduction policies.

Leaked Document Lifts Lid on EU's Green Deal 'Recovery Package' - May 21, 2020

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/a-green-hydrogen-cfd-and-eu-wide-renewables-tenders-leak-lifts-lid-on-eus-green-deal>

The European Union is planning a 15-gigawatt renewable energy tender and auctions for green hydrogen projects as part of a trillion-dollar Green Deal package, according to draft proposals leaked recently. It will have a string of near-term policies added to act as an economic stimulus and will be an early indicator of policymakers' willingness to act on promises of a "green recovery."

Europe's Moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation - May 27, 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_940

The Press Release for the updated Green Deal highlights the significant efforts being made to invest for the next generation and build a more resilient EU. To ensure the recovery is sustainable, even, inclusive and fair for all Member States, the European Commission is proposing to create a new recovery instrument, Next Generation EU, embedded within a powerful, modern and revamped long-term EU budget.

Covid-19 and the EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal Must be at the Heart of the COVID-19 Recovery - May 14, 2020

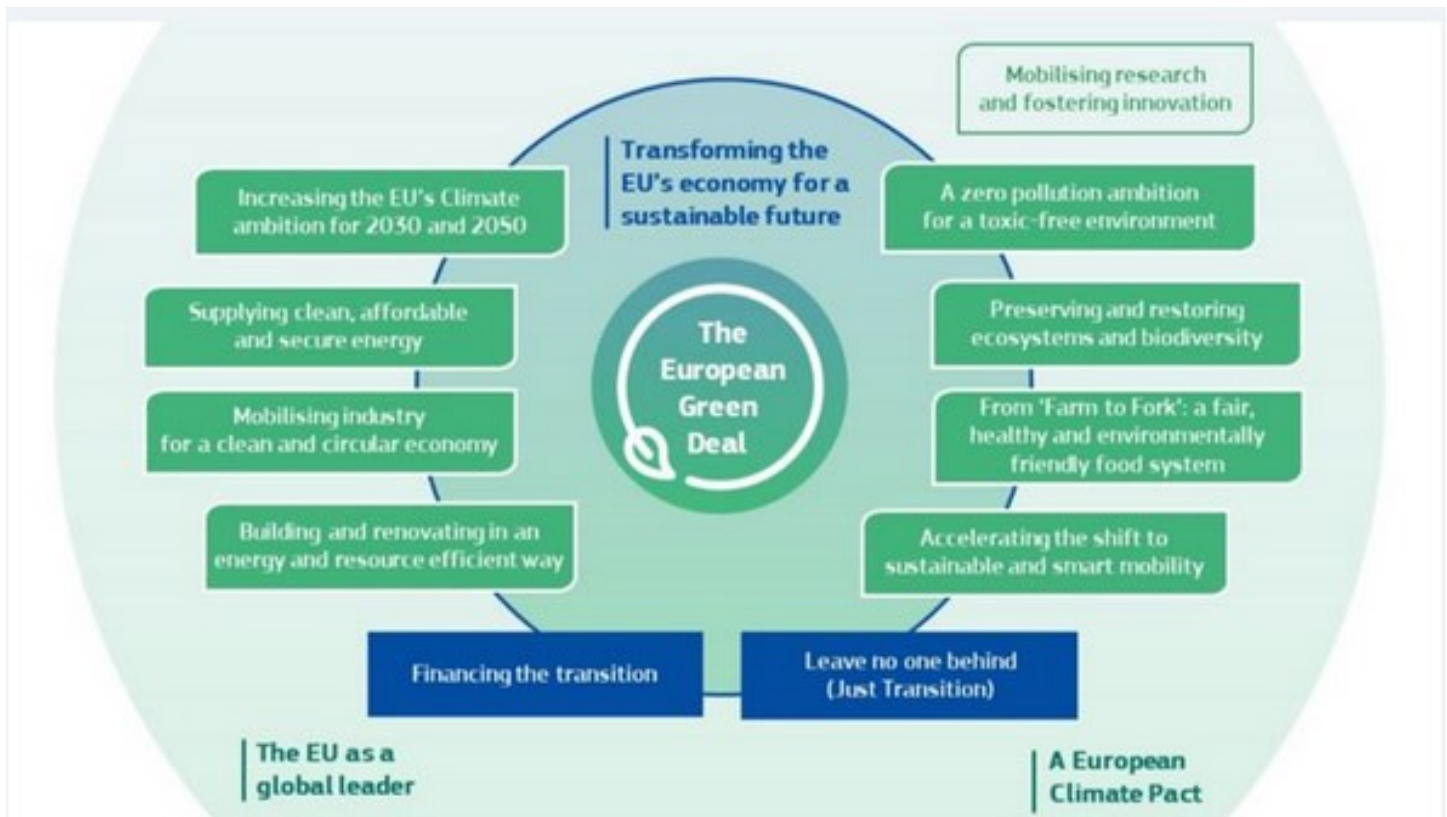
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/the-european-green-deal-must-be-at-the-heart-of-the-covid-19-recovery/>

Business and industry leaders are joining forces to make the coronavirus recovery a chance for a reset to build a sustainable, inclusive economy, revitalizing industry, preserving vital biodiversity systems and increasing economic growth in Europe. The European stimulus packages will shape Europe's economies and societies for decades to come – we should make sure these lead to a greener, more resilient and inclusive future.

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn728_jN6K4

The EU is hosting debates with prominent leaders, such as from the Parliament, trying to determine how to link both – the fight against climate change and the Covid-19-recovery plans. Their mission is having a greening of the recovery being the main priority. Huge synergies are possible to strengthen and modernise the economy, whilst leaving no-one behind.



Privacy Issues - Apps and Contact Tracing

EU Privacy Body Urges Anonymization of Location Data for COVID-19 Tracking - April 22, 2020

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/22/eu-privacy-body-urges-anonymization-of-location-data-for-covid-19-tracking/>

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) has published guidance for the use of location data and contacts tracing tools intended to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Europe's data protection framework wraps around all such digital interventions, meaning there are legal requirements for EU countries and authorities developing tracing tools or soliciting data for a coronavirus related purpose.

Contact Tracing Apps: A Test for Privacy in the EU - April 24, 2020

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/contact-tracing-apps-privacy-in-europe/>

Developed by EU states with the Commission, the guidelines contain guidance for member states navigating new methods of data collection in a public health crisis, while reminding them of their existing human rights obligations. This 'common European approach' of standard-setting and oversight, if rolled out properly, could help foster movement of people between EU member states and stimulate economic growth.

Contact Tracing Apps: Why Tech Solutionism and Privacy by Design are Not Enough - May 7, 2020

<https://iapp.org/news/a/contact-tracing-apps-why-tech-solutionism-and-privacy-by-design-are-not-enough/>

As it becomes apparent, privacy issues are being addressed in the design of the contact tracing apps (no centralized location data monitoring, but decentralized contact tracing processing), we suddenly see, for example, the French government requesting Apple and Google facilitate centralized processing. According to this opinion piece, it is important to not only focus on the app itself and its privacy issues, but also address relevant behavioral issues.

Perspective: EU Contact Tracing Should be Enabled by Default - May 27, 2020

<https://iapp.org/news/a/perspective-eu-contact-tracing-apps-should-be-enabled-by-default/>

This opinion piece explains why the European Commission's focus on consent may not be the best avenue to take with the apps going forward. "Leaving it up to individual users to choose to opt in to such an app would be a mistake," they write. "The only way this type of mobile app will reach a critical mass is if it is enabled by default."

Cyberwatching.eu Online Survey on Cybersecurity and Privacy in the COVID-19 Period Published—August 9, 2020

<https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/421841-cyberwatching-eu-online-survey-on-cybersecurity-and-privacy-in-the-covid-19-period-published>

On July 22nd, Cyberwatching.eu launched an online survey on cybersecurity and privacy (CS&P) in the Covid-19 period. The online survey asks for the input of CS&P communities and beyond to understand the change in social interactions and at the same time to understand society's acceptance of the social good of people giving up some of their privacy.

Passport to Privacy: Lessons From EU Guidance on COVID-19 and Personal Data - August 4, 2020

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/passport-to-privacy-lessons-from-eu-82740/>

Attempts by U.S. legislators to address the privacy issues raised by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have stalled. But for companies seeking to balance the goals of furthering public health and protecting individuals' privacy, the European Union is providing policy guidance that may be exportable.

Privacy Issues - Apps and Contact Tracing

Coronavirus Tracing Apps: Is Privacy Protection to Blame for Few Downloads in the EU? - July 28, 2020

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/07/28/coronavirus-tracing-apps-is-privacy-protection-to-blame-for-few-downloads-in-the-eu>

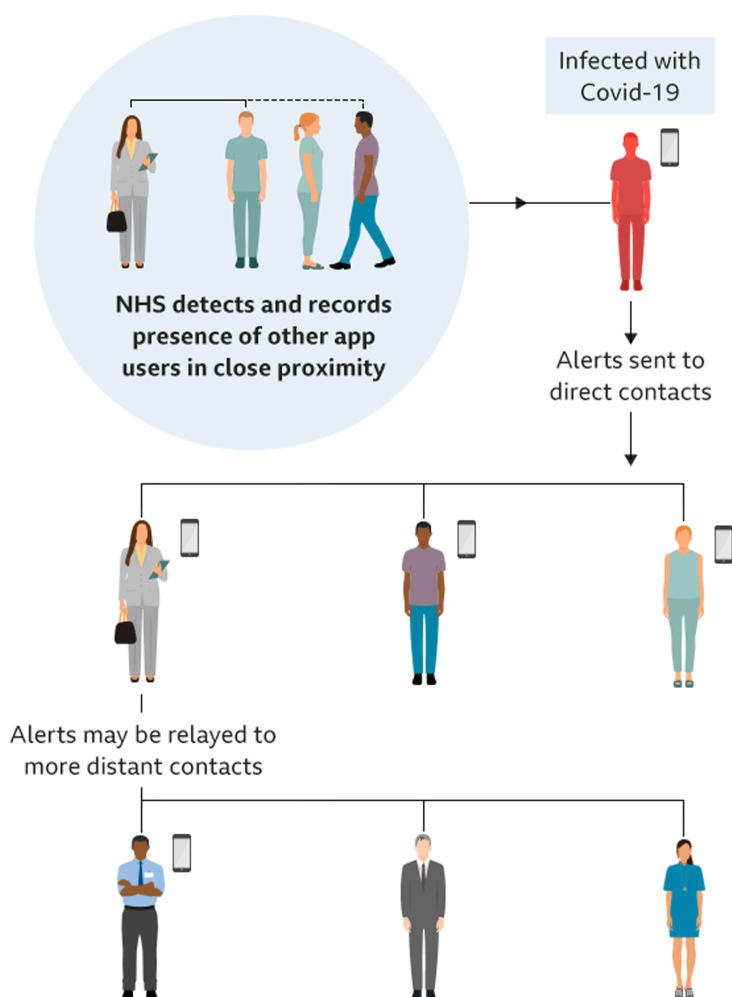
Track and trace apps once promised to be the technological solution to slow the spread of coronavirus. Yet the software is complicated, and privacy issues have held up rollouts. Italy, France, and Germany have released such apps in recent weeks, but privacy advocates have voiced concern they're putting nations on a slippery slope towards a new kind of surveillance state.

The Privacy Mindset of The EU vs The US - July 29, 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/07/29/the-privacy-mindset-of-the-eu-vs-the-us/#1479f357d013>

It's become the norm in the US that online behavior gets tracked and used for a slew of subsequent manipulation. U.S. legislation isn't even close to providing adequate protection of consumer privacy interests. In contrast, in internet privacy rankings, 14 of the top 20 countries demonstrating the highest commitment to digital privacy are European (the U.S. placed 18th).

How app contact tracing works



<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-52938660>

BBC

Curriculum Resources (all modules)

Coronavirus Lesson Plans and Resources

<https://sharemylesson.com/collections/coronavirus>

Sample lesson Plans discussing Coronavirus and other infectious diseases.

COVID-19, Coronavirus, and Pandemics

<https://www.nctm.org/Coronavirus-and-Pandemics-Math-Resources/>

A developing set of resources for teachers and the community for all age groups to teach about the COVID-19 pandemic through math.

Teaching Our World: The Coronavirus

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/coronavirus.html>

Resources to teach young learners about what germs are and how they spread. There are also links to other organizations with their own listed tools and resources.

Pandemic Lesson Plan

<https://www.aidr.org.au/media/5273/aidr-pandemic-lesson-plan.pdf>

The pandemic lesson plan provides teachers and students with an opportunity to investigate pandemics through individual classroom activities

Student Journal Assignment During Covid-19 Pandemic

https://docs.google.com/document/d/116FGQAow7uAbu1vJLAx2jnHeWljyrMoGvH4h1tRH7uA/edit?fbclid=IwARoHdX3G_stpH4ncvsoROAhmYd8gpaXSdvkD5aykmczYvJ55MX2dy7mpDXQ

Note: This assignment was created for a high school history class, but it could be used across content areas and adapted across grade levels. We hope you are inspired to make a copy and revise it for your context.

Lesson Plan—(Password to access= “fruitfly”)

<https://www.scienceandmathwithmrsLau.com/free-resource-library/>

In her molecular genetics class, Ronstadt plans to introduce a lesson by the popular curriculum developer Bethany Lau that looks at how the virus replicates and dives into the viral RNA genome. (The lesson is being offered by Lau for free; the password to access it is “fruitfly.”)

Coronavirus Worksheets

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:coronavirus/>

COVID-19, Coronavirus, and Pandemics – Math Resources: Teaching and Using Mathematics to Understand our World

<https://www.nctm.org/Coronavirus-and-Pandemics-Math-Resources/>

A developing set of resources for teachers and the community to teach through the mathematics associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and learn math. Discussion also in the MyNCTM community.

Epidemiology: Solve the Outbreak

<https://www.common sense.org/education/lesson-plans/epidemiology-solve-the-outbreak>

This is a middle school science lesson for students on the field of epidemiology and the dissemination of diseases.

Curriculum Resources (all modules)

How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus

<https://www.meetthehelpers.org/meet-the-helpers-coronavirus/>

How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus

G3-4 - Google Doc

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nXPsuaz3ghXfTY1ZPuJk1SoVkYAtmEIRg>

A document for teachers to access and teach grades 3-4

G5-6 - Googledoc

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_7lW_rDHjKmjeWZMOJ4qF83ZwTP8ub1S

This document includes quizzes and a class sheet to teach about the pandemic for grades 5-6.

What is a Pandemic?

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/What-is-a-Pandemic-Freebie-5331387>

For Kindergartners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. Free ebook (20 pages) on What is a Pandemic?

As Coronavirus Spreads, Racism And Xenophobia Are Too

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/09/813700167/as-coronavirus-spreads-racism-and-xenophobia-are-too>

As Coronavirus Spreads, Racism And Xenophobia Are Too - 13 minute listen for kids.

Coronavirus Syllabus - File of Resources

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTkJmhWQ8NcxhmjeLp6ybT1_YOPhFLx9hZ43j1S7DjE/edit

An open access crowdsourced cross-disciplinary resource since 12 March 2020 with articles, books, videos, syllabi, teaching resources, and more.

Pandemic: A Lesson Plan

<https://www.mathalicious.com/lessons/pandemic>

In this lesson, students use exponential growth and logarithms to model how a virus spreads through a population and evaluate how various factors influence the speed and scope of an outbreak.

The Flu in Context: Epidemics, Vaccines and Prevention

https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/flu-epidemics-vaccines-science.shtml

For grades 5-12, students learn about epidemics and pandemics, as well as vaccines and other precautions that can help prevent infections such as influenza.

Best Instructional Videos: Pandemics Through the Years

https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/best-instructional-videos-pandemic-plague.shtml

This video lists three videos with links on smallpox, the black death, and the Spanish Flu.

Pandemic & Epidemic Lesson Plan

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/pandemic-epidemic-lesson-plan.html>

To unlock this lesson you must be a Study.com Member. This lesson plan familiarizes students with past and present pandemics and epidemics through a video and a text lesson.

Curriculum Resources (all modules)

Viruses and Outbreaks

<https://www.discoveryeducation.com/corona-virus/>

Discovery Education has created a special channel within Discovery Education Experience—the Viruses and Outbreak Channel—featuring digital content that helps educators discuss the Coronavirus outbreak with students.

From My Window: Children at home during COVID-19

<https://issuu.com/unpublications/docs/from-my-window>

This United Nations book for young readers looks at the lives of housebound children during the coronavirus epidemic.

Comic Series: Baffled Bunny & Curious Cat

<https://sph.nus.edu.sg/covid-19/public-education/>

In the midst of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, Baffled Bunny and Curious Cat seek advice and clarification from Doctor Duck in this comic series.

A Comic Strip On Coronavirus For Kids – Kids, Vaayu & Corona: Who Wins The Fight?

<https://countercurrents.org/2020/03/a-comic-strip-on-coronavirus-for-kids-kids-vaayu-corona-who-wins-the-fight/>

A comic strip on coronavirus for kids.

My Hero is You: Story Book for Children

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-04/My%20Hero%20is%20You%2C%20Storybook%20for%20Children%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>

This is a story developed for and by children around the world.

Oaky and the Virus

<https://www.oaky.co.za/>

Free Download picture book for children in many languages.

Explaining Covid-19 to Kids

<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/category/explaining-covid-19-to-kids/>

Explaining covid 19 to kids through these short cartoon videos

Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>

This comic explaining the coronavirus is also available in chinese and Spanish

Coronavirus: A Book for Children

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>

free audio edition of the book, read by Hugh Bonneville.

Curriculum Resources (all modules)

Covid-19 Comics

<https://www.graphicmedicine.org/covid-19-comics/>

Graphics/comics tailored towards adults

The Class That Can: Coronavirus

<https://www.citizensofcan.com/>

This book will teach children in grades K-4 about coronavirus and what they can do to stay safe.

A kids book about COVID-19

<https://akidsbookabout.com/pages/covid-19>

English, Spanish, and Printable versions available for kids to learn more about covid-19.

Film - The Seventh Seal (1957) - *one resource says 14+

<https://www.criterion.com/films/173-the-seventh-seal>

About: Returning exhausted from the Crusades to find medieval Sweden gripped by the Plague, a knight (Max von Sydow) suddenly comes face-to-face with the hooded figure of Death, and challenges him to a game of chess.

