

Back cover summary

Behind the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic—over 600 million infected, almost 12 million dead—looms a larger breakdown: CoVID, i.e., the Crisis of Vision^[1] into which humankind drove itself. When this all started, it felt as though somebody pulled the plug on the machine of never-ending progress. The magic of continuous progress was gone; the hour of anguish began. Robbed of its sovereignty, society got sucked into the whirlwind of woke-isms of all kinds: rage, justifiable or not, accumulated over time, against real and imaginary expressions of privilege, including that of science. Cancel culture and the obsequious acceptance of the tyranny of the few revived the dictatorship of political correctness. Newly concocted prejudices replaced those of the maligned past. Reaction, to which our civilization is conditioned, metastasized. Within CoVID the real cannot be distinguished from the opportunistic fake.

The pandemic is around two hundred trillion dollars lost worldwide; even more, lives ended or made miserable. Almost two years were wasted in sub-mediocre online educational improvisations. Technology facilitated remoteness to the detriment of any sense of solidarity. Social, political, and moral breakdowns piled up. Built-in vulnerabilities resulting from sacrificing the future for the sake of immediate gratification revealed themselves through the reality of pain and loss—which could have been prevented. In the name of the science that actually led to the breakdown, the pandemic became the tale of costly reactions, like so many before this crisis—blind, ineffective, expensive. Under the pressure of the crisis, Covid-19 morphed into the fastest and largest transfer of wealth. People heard (and not from enemies of science): “Scientists are going to kill us all!” And wondered: After replacing religion, wasn’t science, an investment never questioned, supposed to save us? Heroic efforts of physicians notwithstanding, medicine, by now more a business than a sacred vocation, failed society. In the embrace of a science adequate for guiding rockets but not for healing, medical science ended up scoring for physics but not for life.

^[1] CoVID: VID from the Latin *vid*, to see.

CoVID is a self-inflicted wound. Within the broader context of CoVID, the pandemic was approached, in full disregard of the fact that reaction is more expensive, by many orders of magnitude, than anticipatory action. And in the long run, it is unsustainable.