

СЕКЦІЯ 11. ІСТОРИЧНІ НАУКИ

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SPANISH FLU AND COVID-19. HOW IT WAS AND HOW IT WILL BE?

“.....It knows no boundaries and wanders around the globe uncontrollably. India, China, Europe, both Americas fell under its heavy hand... It devastates not only the ranks of the weak and the sick: on the contrary, it tends to hit the strong and healthy. Young people are dying in their prime, no matter the gender [2]”.

That is how medical scientists were writing about Spanish flu back then, hundred years ago, when the world was suffering from that terrible illness.

The official date of “birth” of epidemic is on March 11, 1918. The null patient was an army cook called Albert Gitchell and then, literally after few hours, there were already more than hundred infected soldiers. It is believed that Gitchell got the strains of the H1N1 virus that caused the Spanish flu. It could get into his body in contact with the meat of an infected pig from China, which he butchered the day before. So everyone who was in infirmary that day had the same symptoms: severe sore throats, chills, cough.

The insidious disease spread rapidly. On that military base, where was that unlucky cook, a day later, the number of cases reached more than five hundred people. However, a few days later, most of the patients seemed to have recovered, and therefore the army generals without any hesitation sent these soldiers to fight in France by sea. And it was a horrible mistake. They pulled a trigger, which, probably, caused a disaster about what we can read nowadays in the history books.

In front-line conditions, where by definition it is impossible to provide normal sanitary and hygienic conditions for crowds, the notorious “cold” manifested itself with renewed power. Infection mowed down soldiers and officers by hundreds. As a result, 1/4 of the entire American army relocated to Europe became ill.

People suffered from temperature, which in an hour rose to 40 degrees Celsius, from very painful headache and painful cough with haemoptysis. That is why mostly because of frequent pulmonary complications this disease was so fatal.

Throughout the year, the epidemic raged across Europe and Asia, not reaching only Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia but not for long. Already in February 1919, the third wave went, before which these remote territories also could not resist. Spanish flu continued to torment people until the summer of that year. And in some places its outbreaks were noted even in the fall. Statistics is just terrifying. For the years 1918-1919 the virus infected more than a quarter of the population of the Earth then – more than half a billion people. According to various sources, from 50 to 100 million of them became victims of the disease.

What kind of infection is this? How to deal with it? There are no answers, even now, with all researches that are in process from those days. The reason why it ended is still unknown too, only guesses.

And today, in 2020, humanity is facing with a new virus – Covid-19. Pandemic began with the discovery at the end of December, 2019 in the city of Wuhan, central Hubei province, China. It is believed that it takes its start from the local animal and seafood market.

A distinctive feature of the current pandemic, which makes it difficult to resist, is a long incubation period. Another adverse feature is the large number of asymptomatic patients. That is, persons who, having become infected with a coronavirus infection, do not show clinical manifestations, although they are able to infect others. As of May 18 (05:05 GMT), 4,805,177 infections were confirmed in 213 countries; 316,730 deaths; 1,860,036 people recovered [1]. The regions most affected by the pandemic in terms of deaths are the USA, Europe and Iran.

People suffer from SARS, there is no vaccine and no single way how to stop it also. According to various virologists from the UK and Germany, a pandemic can last from one to two years.

So, now we can compare these two pandemics, they are looking really similar in some points, and for the most part proceed according to similar scenarios, both taking start on the first 20 years of the century.

Maybe we can predict and correct some mistakes of the past with knowledge of Spanish flu history, but maybe it will be much worse, I just hope that the world will deal with it. But for now be safe and don't forget to wash your hands!

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АМЕРИКАНСЬКА ТА БРИТАНСЬКА ОКУПАЦІЙНІ ЗОНИ ДО УТВОРЕННЯ БІЗОНІЇ

Американську та британську окупаційну політику в економічній сфері потрібно розглядати разом. По-перше, США та Велика Британія отримали потужні економічні райони з перспективним розвитком. По-друге, їх політика є схожою у своїй послідовності, проте має і свої особливості. На відміну від французької окупаційної влади, американська та британська розглядали Німеччину як майбутню економічно стабільну державу.

Проте на початку 1945 року американська військова адміністрація мала інший курс — на суттєве послаблення економіки післявоєнної Німеччини. Згідно з вищезазначеною директивою JCS / 106757, післявоєнна Німеччина розглядалася не як “звільнена”, а як “переможена” країна, в якій слід було встановити безкомпромісне управління, основа якого була у демілітаризації [5], денацифікації, децентралізації, демократії [4]. Подібні принципи управління не надавали перспектив для економічного процвітання. Так, в документі йшлося: «Головна мета союзників полягає в тому, щоб перешкодити можливості Німеччини коли-небудь знову стати загрозою для всього світу. Найважливішими кроками для досягнення даної мети є винищення нацизму і мілітаризму в будь-якій формі, негайний арешт військових злочинців з метою несення ними покарання, промислове роззброєння і демілітаризація [9] Німеччини з подальшим довгостроковим контролем німецького