

## How Covid-19 Impacts our World

Through recent news and stories, the novel coronavirus, commonly referred to as COVID-19, has brought attention to many countries and regions across the world. Currently, people have been developing symptoms of dry coughs, fevers, and pneumonia before actually being diagnosed with the virus. Without much thought, it is evident that those who have contracted the virus, have the capability of unknowingly spreading it to others as symptoms are not clearly present at first. This in return, is what makes the virus so dangerous.

In order to understand how the virus came about, experts attempt to trace the origins to a likely source. Many have come to believe, that the origin of place is a known food (wet) market located in the province of Wuhan, China. Although there is no conclusive evidence that supports this belief, the Chinese Government took action and closed down the market temporarily.

What makes this case interesting is the fact that we have seen this before in a very similar place. In 2003, SARS, a similar virus to that of coronavirus, also originated from mainland China. SARS, like COVID-19, spread to numerous countries killing nearly 800 people. However, when comparing the two, it is clear that COVID-19 is quickly becoming deadlier as alarming rates of cases are on the rise.

From a historian's perspective, it is clear that history is doomed to repeat itself. In past viruses and diseases, research shows that many viruses originate from animals directly leading to the idea that wet markets are responsible for the creation of this virus. Now one may ask, how can we as people prevent pandemics like this one from happening again? The answer is simple. People can help spread awareness and support laws that help ban markets like those in China and in order to prevent consumption of wildlife animals.

However, the ban will not be easy to enforce as countries like China depend on the trade of wild animals. According to the Chinese Academy of Engineering, wildlife trade is believed to be worth more than 73 billion dollars and has employed roughly over a million people. Annie Huang a student from southern Guanxi province states in an interview conducted by CNN “the trade might lay low for a few months...but after a while, probably in a few months, people would very possible come back again.” (Westcott, 2020) Furthermore, the trade of these exotic animals will be difficult to contain as China not only uses animals for food but for traditional medicine, clothing and even ornaments. Due to the high demand of wild animals, chances are these wet markets will only be temporarily closed.