COVID-19, History in the Making

When glancing at the novel Coronavirus, there are plenty of questions that arise. How will the Coronavirus affect our future? How long will this pandemic last? How can we prevent such pandemics from occurring again? According to researchers across the globe, it is unclear how severe the Coronavirus is as it changes consistently. As the world scrambles to find a cure or a possible vaccination, many individuals attempt to flatten the curve by staying at home and only leaving their home for essential purposes.

Over the time being quarantined, many simple everyday tasks like grocery shopping now seem nearly impossible and extremely risky. Many businesses, jobs, and schools are now going virtual. Travel restrictions and curfews are also now set to keep citizens at home and away from large crowds. The daily lives of many have changed dramatically impacting many socially and economically. Many find themselves having to rely off stimulus packages provided by the government and in certain cases even filing for unemployment. Others, like myself, are deeply concerned and fear changes that may result from this pandemic. Common fears and concerns of this pandemic have seen to have effects on psychological reasoning. Common fears can be seen in cultural norms, moral vigilance, and migration.

Changes in cultural norms and attitudes pertaining to others can been seen when a threat of a disease is present. Comparatively speaking, many citizens tend to feel safer around traditional people of their own kind compared to those that are different. According to researcher David Robinson, people tend to believe that "Breaking social norms can have harmful, unintended consequences." Therefore, the pandemic leads many to value conformity and obedience over eccentricity. During pandemics, a shift in vigilance can be seen present throughout a community. Studies have shown that when a contagion is present in a community,

people tend be harsher on those that disobey simple rules or even have different opinions on simple matters.

Furthermore, the fear of a disease has the ability to influence people's attitudes towards thoughts on migration. For many, a "better safe than sorry" approach can be seen when judging those that seem to have a different nationality, ethnicity, or place of origin. According to many current reports, Racism toward people of Asian heritage have surged during the coronavirus pandemic. Such generalizations should not be made. Instead communities should look to change the way they see others during a time of crisis.