

## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS AN EXTREME EVENT: EFFECTS, REACTIONS, CONSEQUENCES**

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### **Abstract**

Based on an interdisciplinary approach, the article comprehends the manifestations, deployments, and current consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic through the prism of society's reactions and responses to the effects caused by the pandemic. The spread of the pandemic led to the formation of a new reality that manifests itself on the personal-existential and social levels of human existence. The pandemic causes constitutive signs of the extraordinary state of society, which is illustrated by the economic crisis, reduced efficiency of social institutions, changes in value and regulatory structures, restrictions on the citizens' rights and freedoms. The coronavirus crisis is accompanied by a significant number of deaths and injuries, psychological and somatic risks, disproportionate security resources distribution, social inequality exacerbation, financial and reputational losses. At the same time, the pandemic is a generator of the development of means to combat coronavirus infection, which is manifested in the invention of vaccines and drugs.

**Key words:** *pandemic, event, society, crisis, transformation, challenge, counteraction*

## INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of 2020, the coronavirus pandemic has been an extreme event on a global scale, becoming one of the main factors influencing the course of social processes in most countries. On March 11, the World Health Organization (the WHO) announced a coronavirus pandemic, which resulted in severe quarantine. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the world community to reconsider not only short-term development forecasts, economic and social policies, but also long-term priorities. Unprecedented restrictive measures, despite the periodic easing of bans, have led to significant changes in the lives of mankind. Therefore, the urgent scientific task is the need to understand the phenomenon of the COVID-19 pandemic, to identify its impact on a life of an individual and the functioning of the society.

Researchers agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused profound changes in many spheres of society, led to the transformation of social communications, led to the formation of the new rules of social and biological safety in the world [Stepanenko 2021]. The various dimensions of the pandemic – biological, economic, political, social, cultural, informational – have already become the subject of meticulous attention of scientists.

Thus, the additional issue of the “European Journal of Transformation Studies” for 2020 (Volume 8) is devoted to the study of various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors’ focus, in particular, on the global and national dimensions of the pandemic in the sphere of human rights [Bodnar 2020], the economic, psychological and social consequences of the pandemic [Furmańczyk 2020]. Researchers focus on the impact of the pandemic on the development of culture, media, art projects and, artistic creativity [Golovei et al. 2020]. The authors emphasize the consequences of the coronavirus crisis in the field of international relations [Knutsen 2020], the need for international solidarity to protect and implement the right to health [Widłak 2020]. Analyzing the peculiarities of the coronavirus crisis in Ukraine, scientists from the point of view of sociological approaches articulate some aspects of social issues in the context of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic [Stepanenko 2021]. Scientists elucidate problems of socio-structural dynamics, social inequality through the prism of the current consequences of the pandemic [Makeiev 2020]. Researchers comprehend the position of religious organizations in the conditions of quarantine measures, the experience of their adaptation to new conditions of functioning, predict the consequences of the introduction –of quarantine restrictions, and the degree of their impact on the transformation of the religious practice [Kraliuk et al. 2020].

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic determines a new state of the society, characterized by unusual living conditions and circumstances of the lives of individuals and communities. Extracurricular phenomena, the main feature of which is the unknown in advance duration, method of deployment, and consequences, are commonly referred to as “an event”. However, in the context of our study, an event should be distinguished from a case, situation, incident, adventure that have a different meaning.

A. N. Uajthed considers the event as a “living organism” that is in a state of constant formation in various manifestations. [Uajthed 1990: 47]. At the heart of being, according to the researcher, are the principles of immanence, structure, causal independence. In the process of self-realization of the event, its structure is revealed, which requires a duration due to a certain value of simultaneity. In M. Hajdegger’s concept, an event refers to a duration beyond space and time. Not being the object of perception, the event does not correspond to any active figure, but acts as a sphere of mutual belonging of a man and being, in the way of existence of being [Hajdegger 1993: 269].

According to J. Delyoz, if we do not equate the event with its spatio-temporal realization, the event can be defined as a meaning that does not exist outside the sentence that expresses it and does not merge with it [Delyoz 1998: 199]. Under the concept of “discursive event” introduced into scientific circulation, M. Foucault understands the set of connections and relations between utterances as single events [Fuko 2003]. In the context of the study of the COVID-19 pandemic as determinants of unusual states and situations arising in modern societies, S. Žižek’s approach to the event as an innovation that has a transcendent or ingrained origin and leads to the transformation of habitual lifestyle is important. [Zizek 2014]. An important role is played by the position of A. Badiou, according to which being is the basis for the occurrence of an event that radically breaks ties with everyday life [Badiou 1988].

Relevant for our study is the conclusion of N. N. Taleb, who substantiates the reasons for the emergence of the “black swan” – a seemingly unintentional event, which is due to a set of mistakes in the economic sphere. Such an event is characterized by unpredictability, anomaly, high impact, retrospective predictability, ie explanation of the event after its implementation [Taleb 2009: 10].

As we can see, scientists consider the phenomenon of the event, based on different methodological positions and based on their preferences and scientific preferences. Thinkers differently formulate answers to questions due to the need to explain reality, so demonstrate different understandings of the phenomenon of the event. As a breaking point and the starting point of an extraordinary event, which includes a set of effects and reactions to them by the society, reveals the constitutive signs of the extraordinary state of the society [Boreiko 2018: 42]. Therefore, the elucidation of the manifestations and consequences of the spread of coronavirus requires an analysis of the social transformations caused by the pandemic as an extreme event.

According to scientists, studies of different states of the society have certain terminological limitations, as science has developed a register of dichotomous concepts such as “statics-dynamics”, “order-chaos”, “stability-turbulence”, etc. [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 21]. Recently, scientists tend to describe the state of affairs in modern society as dubious, unreliable, shaky, risky [Standing 2011]. In this context, the state of the society in almost all countries of the world can be described by the concept of “singularity”, generated by a combination of crisis, emergencies and exclusivity.

Singularity means, on the one hand, deviation, originality, unusualness, on the other – integrity and inertia, can gain positive changes or preserve the current state. If the crisis means the state of the economy, “emergency” fixes the extraordinariness in the value-normative sphere, the state of exclusion concerns politics and public administration. In this case, the category of “state” is interpreted as something modified, re-emerged, in contrast to the event as something that changes, modifies [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 21].

Based on the findings of scientists, we will try to describe the coronavirus pandemic as an extreme event that significantly affected the lives of individuals and communities. Thus, the article aims to study the manifestations, deployment, and current consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic through the prism of reactions to the effects caused by the pandemic.

## **1. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Given the need for a comprehensive analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which are manifested at the personal-existential and social levels of human existence, the application of a systems approach is considered productive. The use of a systematic approach is quite justified given the need for conceptual and theoretical justification of the coronavirus pandemic as an extreme event, to identify interactions and relationships of the studied phenomenon and its relationship with the external environment. Focus on a systems approach allows us to study the phenomenon of the pandemic as a phenomenon that occurs in the society, demonstrates a certain dynamics of development, determines the relationship of conditions and factors, leads to the formation of a new social reality.

The heuristic potential of the socio-cultural approach makes it possible to reveal the systemic characteristics of modern society as a cultural and value complex, taking into account the peculiarities of adaptation of members of the society to new living conditions. Focusing on the socio-cultural approach allows us to determine the consequences of the pandemic in the context of national and cultural specifics, as well as strategic goals of modern society.

To trace the formation of new orderly structures as a result of the reaction of individuals and communities to the manifestations of the pandemic contributes to a synergetic approach, which involves the study of self-organization in the systems of different nature, the vision of the society. The subject field of the synergetic approach includes the mechanisms of spontaneous formation and preservation of the society, which is in a state of stable imbalance, crisis, bifurcation, which involve the multiple nature of the vectors of further development.

The cognitive possibilities of the information approach in the context of this study are the possibility of studying the pandemic phenomenon in terms of numerous manifestations of information. The methodological advantage of the information approach is that the studied processes and phenomena are informative, as they are related to the

production, accumulation, exchange, interpretation, and use of information about the event for social communication, manipulation, etc.

The multifaceted nature of the research topic requires the application of an interdisciplinary approach, which ensures, on the one hand, the avoidance of the subject framework of a particular field of science, on the other – expanding the methodological capabilities of different conceptual approaches focused on studying the problems. The authors take into account the theoretical guidelines of representatives of social philosophy, philosophical anthropology, ontology, epistemology.

Analysis of theoretical approaches and factual data, as well as the formulation of conclusions and generalizations of the article, is carried out using general scientific research methods and principles of cognition. Characterization of pandemic-induced changes at the individual and societal levels of human existence requires the use of structural-functional analysis. Illustration of the quantitative values of the dynamics of the spread of coronavirus infection, the rate of vaccination, the effects of the pandemic, in particular, in the economic sphere requires the use of statistical analysis.

## **2. EVENT AS A DETERMINANT OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

To achieve the goal of the study, it is necessary to analyze the basic concepts by which it is possible to articulate the manifestations and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Conceptualization of the event in the context of transformation of the society caused by the coronavirus crisis allows, on the one hand, to represent the work of scientists in this problem area, on the other – to characterize the challenges of the pandemic and understand ways to neutralize them.

Like any extreme event, a pandemic has significantly affected the functioning of societies, leading to the transformation of everyday life, habitual rules of conduct and communication, economical consumption, and so on. Society perceives this state as a set of unusual individual and collective situations that require externally conditioned reactions expressed in everyday practices. These situations involve habituation, adaptation, adjustment, cause attempts to approach the imaginary norm, contribute to the final removal of carefreeness beyond everyday experience. In other words, there is an objectification of the “special, unusual spatio-temporal, event-procedural nature of the society” [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 27, 29].

As a new structure capable of modifying the social spatio-temporal structure, the event causes a division into what happened and what became. At the same time, the event marks an action that can not only destroy, but also create, decompose orders and structures, as well as collect elements of the society, creating a new balance between stability and turbulence. The action unfolds in certain cycles, reaches a maximum, and fades, remaining in the consequences. By producing consequences and thus attracting attention, the event forces societies to spend resources to compensate for its effects [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 17].

Social structures are vulnerable to the appearance of gaps, folds, which mostly disap-

pear, but have certain consequences. Folds can exist in an open form, which produces tension in society and tests social institutions for the degree of capacity. According to J. Deleuze, folds have a certain shape, simple or complex character. Folds are characterized by heterogeneity, as they are formed from numerous elements that act as other folds. In particular, the individual's perception of reality, point of view, and perspective of vision appear in the form of socialized stable modes of feeling, thinking, evaluation, expressed in affects, beliefs, assessments of the situation [Delyoz 1997: 25–47].

Thus, events materialize in certain deformations – folds, boundaries, margins, gaps, thickenings, which indicates the beginning of an indefinite period during which a new texture of social matter will be reproduced – a set of heterogeneous associations of individuals with many their preferences, orientations, interests, practices. New formations of social structure exist, are recognized, and fixed in public life.

Thus, the social fold of suffering caused by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic includes victims of the disease, as well as the families of those who died of coronavirus. The fold of suffering is manifested in the fact that in quarantine the activities of social institutions and organizations are disrupted, people are shocked by the new reality, dissatisfied with the restrictions, oppressed by isolation, violation of established habits and patterns of behavior that causes emotional imbalance. The new circumstances of life are not affected by the old norms, rules, qualifications, experience, which also cause some social tension.

Events transform the traditional mechanisms of folding through the intervention of social institutions and organizations, various inventions, etc. It is as if the social system is being cut and stitched together, thanks to which social structures are being enriched [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 43]. Social folds are not removed from public life, but are in the care of the state, which directs them to political, ideological, and financial resources.

It is noteworthy that a global event, which is both a generator and context of smaller-scale events, structures situations at different levels of the society, manifesting itself in many effects and reactions to them at the personal and social levels. By modifying social relations, the event becomes a constitutive sign of the state of affairs in the society, which can be seen as a combination of crisis, “emergency” and exclusion. In most scientific studies, the crisis is interpreted as a sharp break, acute shortage, inconsistency, difficult transition, the extreme point of decline and has pronounced connotations in the economy, meaning stagnation of production, declining welfare, declining social programs, reducing spending on culture, education, science, etc. Any attempt to implement significant changes in the society, which would relate to the changes in state, public and everyday life, often face intentions, habits, stereotypes that are conservative in nature.

Although the category of “crisis” is more relevant for application in the economic context, this concept is widely used in the meaning of the crisis of society as a whole,

characterized by disruption of social relationships, sustainable interactions in the functioning of social institutions. Researchers analyze the crisis as a state of the society, which not only means decline, uncertainty, lack of vision of the direction of development, but also the possibility of changing the fallen by the new [Bauman 2014]. According to scientists, the crisis expresses discord in all spheres of society, which hinders the establishment of a system of state and commercial organizations [Walby 2015].

The definition of “emergency” includes a state of systemic turbulence, characterized by the transformation of social norms, lifestyle changes, accompanied by pronounced uncertainty in the society. C. Žižek uses the concept of “emergency” to express the state of emergency as isolation from everything unacceptable and declaring new priorities for social development [Zizek 2014]. Thus, the state of “emergency” necessitates adaptation to new conditions, while providing, on the one hand, counteraction to negative phenomena in all available ways, on the other – avoidance of interaction with them. The latter is implemented, for example, in the form of individual or collective participation in anticipation of partial or significant changes to prevent unwanted deformations and transformations.

In other words, the state of “emergency” encourages the production of actions that are perceived as a way to reduce uncertainty, an obstacle to potential deterioration, or indicate a departure from real conditions and focus on personal problems. A certain set of uncertainties, layered in the state of “emergency”, cause the presence of a variety of events, things, subjects [Kostenko 2016]. Under such conditions, social structures, criteria, standards are modified, various expectations and experiences are updated.

The state of exclusion means the gap between codified social norms and actual political life; when it becomes the norm to restrict the rights and freedoms of citizens [Agamben]. In addition to the combination of crisis phenomena in economic life, extremes in values and meanings, the state of exclusion demonstrates the weakness and instability of democracy, social institutions, the party system. In some cases, the state of exclusion involves restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms, corruption, and so on [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 21–36]. In the state of exclusion, social matter is non-standardly formatted, and relevant in the usual conditions definitions, distinctions, differentiations have a low level of recognition. For example, the gap between established norms and real politics is caused by decrees and orders that respond to armed conflicts, terrorist acts, migration crises, and so on. According to J. Agamben, against the background of the constant challenges of modernity, the state of exclusion in politics is increasingly becoming a dominant paradigm of power [Agamben 2005: 2].

As we can see, the event symbolizes the day of changes or lost criteria, standards, the end of a certain era without the certainty of another. Unexpectedly gaining significant scale, the event causes significant trauma at the individual and community levels of

the society. For this reason, large-scale events that cause disorder, unrest, distortion of public life, and have unpredictable consequences, are marked by scientists with capital letters (“Ereignis” in M. Hajdegger’s).

### **3. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS A GLOBAL EVENT**

Based on the indicated methodological guidelines and the considered concepts that reflect the transformation of spheres of public life, we will try to trace the specifics of changes in the functioning of the society caused by the pandemic COVID-19. Without a detailed analysis of the situation in a particular country, we will focus on identifying general trends in confrontation with the pandemic.

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant changes in the life of society in almost all countries of the world, one of the most important effects of which is the production of significant inequalities in social development. These are pandemic-related difficulties, risks, and costs that are unevenly distributed and layered on traditional issues. This is manifested in a significant number of deaths and casualties from the coronavirus disease, as well as in financial, reputational, qualification losses. In this situation, the security resource has a pronounced disproportionate distribution between countries and segments of the population.

In response to the spread of the pandemic, the governments of many countries have declared a state of emergency in certain areas, regions, or the country as a whole. Compulsory observance of sanitary and epidemiological measures was introduced, which meant declaring quarantine zones, checking body temperature, canceling mass events, closing educational and cultural and entertainment events, restricting travels, and moving around the country, restricting labor activity, strengthening the role of public administration in emergency conditions, the introduction of remote forms of work and education.

In other words, because of the threat of a COVID-19 pandemic, most countries have imposed restrictions that prevent crowds. The severity of quarantine measures is determined by several factors, including the number of patients, the rate of spread of the virus, political regime, the experience of other countries, the WHO recommendations. Undoubtedly, the introduced quarantine measures demonstrate a response to an extreme event in some countries at the beginning of the coronavirus epidemic. Thus, on March 10, 2020, at a meeting of the Polish government, it was decided to cancel indefinitely all mass events, including sports competitions, concerts at stadiums, but the ban did not apply to theatrical performances and concerts at the Philharmonic. It has now been decided not to introduce the abolition of classes in educational institutions. The day before, the introduction of sanitary control at the borders was announced, which should apply to all border crossing points. Wider restrictions applied only to the city of Poznan, where local authorities decided to close schools, kindergartens, nurseries, cultural and sports facilities for two weeks [Drachuk 2020].



To counter the pandemic, the German federal government and the federal states in March 2020 agreed to limit social contacts. Restrictions apply to the movement of groups of more than two people, except those who live together, most shops have closed, as well as schools, universities, sports clubs, libraries, etc [Obmezhuvalni zakhody 2021].

In Ukraine, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 211 of March 11, 2020 “On prevention of the spread of acute respiratory disease COVID-19 caused by coronavirus SARS-CoV-2” in Ukraine has been repeatedly amended and supplemented. Authorities imposed nationwide quarantine, which was to last until April 3, but was extended until April 24. This included closing borders for foreigners for up to two weeks, temporarily banning church services and ceremonies. The state of exclusion means the gap between codified social norms and actual political life, when it becomes the norm to restrict the rights and freedoms of citizens.

From April 6, the new restrictive measures meant a ban on visiting parks and recreation areas, the mandatory wearing of masks in public places, it is recommended to stay at home over 60 years [Koronavirus v Ukraini 2020]. However, in May public transport was allowed to operate, as well as children were allowed to attend kindergartens. On June 5, 2020, quarantine was once again relaxed in some regions, as a result of which, in compliance with anti-epidemic measures, cafes were opened, services were held in temples, and domestic flights of airlines were carried out. The new outbreaks were influenced by contempt for the virus, which was observed on public transport, on beaches, summer cafes, etc. As a result, part of the society in Ukraine, after three months of restrictions, perceived quarantine as easing as its end.

Like any extreme event, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused unexpected and unusual changes that have a significant impact on human society. During the pandemic, humanity is experiencing permanent lockdowns, the need to wear masks in public places, take PCR tests when the appropriate symptoms appear. At the same time, the pandemic shows that the social experience of physical distancing exacerbates the problems of social responsibility. Quarantine tests civil society for the ability to solidarity, social assistance to vulnerable categories of the population. On the other hand, quarantine is an experience of confronting the threats of social distancing, manifested in xenophobia, aggression, finding the culprits, stigmatizing the infected. Thus, the reason for the protests in the village of Novi Sanzhary in the Poltava region in February 2020 against the temporary isolation of citizens evacuated from China was the natural anxiety of people for their own lives and safety, fear of unknown and new virus at the time [Stepanenko 2021: 37].

The suffering and despair caused by the coronavirus pandemic is are vividly illustrated by daily reports of new cases and victims. In particular, coronavirus infection was first diagnosed in Ukraine on March 3, 2020, and the first fatal case was registered on March 13. According to statistics, the number of victims of coronavirus in the world at the end of September 2020 was over one million. Half of the death toll came

from four countries: the United States, where the death toll was more than 20% of the total death toll, Brazil – more than 14%, India – almost 10%, Mexico – almost 8% [Kilkist zhertv 2021].

Restrictive measures led to a crisis in the economy, which was accompanied by a fall in the gross domestic product in the Eurozone by 3, 6% in the first quarter of 2020. Educational institutions have been relocated remotely, and a state of emergency has been introduced in several regions. An even worse situation was observed in the second quarter of 2020, when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, the decline in GDP in Germany was 11, 7%, Spain –22, 1%, France – 19, 3%, Austria – 12, 8 %. According to the US Department of Commerce, the country's economy in the second quarter of 2020 fell by 32, 9% in annual terms [Ukraina: vplyv 2020: 4–7]. The easing of quarantine restrictions since May has helped reduce the depth of the decline in most economic activities and the gradual resumption of business activity.

The pandemic has exacerbated the problems of social inequality, which can manifest itself in varying levels of access to quality health care, treatment, and vaccination. The socio-economic opportunities of citizens to ensure a proper existence during quarantine restrictions should also be taken into account. It is important to remember that the poor and the rich, both individuals and countries, have varying degrees of vulnerability to the effects of the pandemic. In particular, one of the manifestations of social inequality is the challenge of digital inequality. In particular, one of the manifestations of social inequality is the challenge of digital inequality [Stepanenko, 2021: 35].

Against the background of concern about reports of new strains of coronavirus, the question of who is to blame for the appearance of coronavirus is periodically raised. Because the chain of causes of an event is often not clearly visible, it is difficult to establish the preconditions for the occurrence of the event. That is, in almost all cases there is some doubt about the sufficient level of persuasiveness of certain causes of the event. After two years of the pandemic, there is still no answer as to where SARS-CoV-2 comes from, although according to the official version, the virus passed to humans from one species of bats. However, there are several other versions, including the bat infection of another animal that transmitted the infection to humans; on the transmission of the coronavirus through the food chain; on the accidental or deliberate spread of infection from a laboratory where scientists have studied or modified the virus [Bevza 2021].

The US government is constantly trying to find out the causes of coronavirus and trace the origins of the outbreak to prevent the recurrence of such cases. It is speculated that the virus most likely appeared in China in November 2019 and was not developed as a biological weapon. President Joe Biden said the source of the pandemic was in China, but despite the growing number of pandemic victims, government officials rejected calls for transparency, preventing international researchers from searching for the origins of the global tragedy. China is required to comply with sci-

entific norms and standards, which provide for the exchange of information and data from the first days of the pandemic, as well as protocols on biosafety, information on animal populations [Baiden perekonanyi 2021].

During 2021, five variants of the coronavirus were circulating, which from the end of May, according to the WHO, began to be called the letters of the Greek alphabet. In particular, the “British” strain is called Alpha, the “South African” – Beta, the “Brazilian” – Gamma, the “Indian” – Delta, another “South African” – Omicron. Each subsequent strain spreads faster, causing a more severe course of the disease, more resistant to available vaccines. The rate of spread of coronavirus is evidenced by data as of December 21, 2021, according to which for the entire pandemic it was recorded 275,815,930 cases of infection, resulting in 5,377,168 deaths [Kilkist vypadkiv 2021]. It should be noted that the fourth wave of the coronavirus pandemic has been going on since December 2021, caused by a new strain of Omicron, which was discovered in November in South Africa.

It is obvious that subjects and communities react to shocks, ruptures, and related problems in different ways. The interpretation of the event is accompanied by a special aggravation, which changes its modality depending on the attitudes of the observer or commentator [Boreiko 2020a: 6]. Due to communication technologies, extreme events cause the spread of inaccurate information. Not surprisingly, a huge number of experts offer a retrospective look at the causes of the event or express their own vision of the future development of the event. It is clear that a significant number of different forecasts are accompanied by mixed public sentiments.

Numerous scientific attempts to explain the dynamics of the pandemic, in particular, based on mathematical modeling, attract attention. Thus, in Ukraine, using world experience, consultations with experts on basic medical parameters, with the involvement of open data, scientists analyzed possible scenarios for the spread of the pandemic. The mathematical model, according to scientists, provides certain levels of complexity of the disease for patients with symptoms, allows you to calculate the number of patients in hospitals, takes into account the presence of asymptomatic patients [Prohnoz rozvytku 2020].

Already in the middle of 2021, the World Bank predicted that the fastest post-crisis recovery since World War II will take place by the end of the year. According to this forecast, the peculiarity of economic recovery will be its uneven nature. From 2022, 90% of developed countries and only 30% of developing countries will recover per capita income from the beginning of the pandemic. As a result, the pandemic offsets the previous economic achievements of poor countries. Instead, according to the results of 2021, the leaders of economic growth should be China, where GDP will increase by 8, 5%, India – 8, 3%, USA – 6, 5%, Argentina – 6, 3%, Turkey – 5%, Mexico – 5%. During 2022, according to forecasts, the world economy will recover at a slightly slower pace – at 4, 3% of global GDP, lagging behind 2% of 2019 [Masnyi 2021].

At the same time, the WHO Director-General T. Ghebreyesus compared the effects

of the pandemic to the post-war devastation, predicting the bleak prospects of the post-pandemic world. According to the head of the WHO, humanity is experiencing hunger, poverty, inequality, etc., so it is necessary to fully promote economic growth, which is based on human health and well-being. The world must renounce ruthless exploitation of production and consumption, as well as policies that cause discord, further fueling the pandemic [Hordiienko 2021].

Restrictions on being in a team, a group that provides new safety rules in a pandemic, deprive the opportunity to meet, communicate, attend joint events. Various social connections are maintained through virtual communication with the help of the latest technologies, which, however, cannot replace live contacts between people, filled with emotional meanings. It should be borne in mind that the observance of the quarantine rules, which is expressed in physical exclusion, wearing masks - not only a way to show concern for loved ones, but also evidence of social responsibility for strangers. Compliance with quarantine rules is an indicator of public health [Stepanenko 2021: 38].

Against the background of the economic consequences of quarantine restrictions, which dominate in public discourse, the socio-psychological aspect of the pandemic is of derivative importance. It should be recognized that quarantine rules create a basis for stress, especially for the elderly and those with health problems. Scientists believe that forced social isolation causes loneliness, is characterized by significant psychological and somatic risks, which are manifested in mental disorders, depression, aggression, decreased immunity, high blood pressure [Etzioni 2020].

As a sign of protest against the quarantine restrictions imposed by the authorities, protests are constantly taking place, which escalate into mass riots with clashes with the police. In particular, new restrictions in the Netherlands were introduced in mid-November 2021 due to the growing incidence of the disease. Several cities are in a state of emergency, which provides greater freedom of action for law enforcement, including blocking streets and banning gatherings [U kilkokh mistakh 2021]. Implemented measures mean that shops and restaurants must be closed earlier, sports competitions will be held without spectators, on New Year the use of fireworks is prohibited. Protesters have expressed dissatisfaction with restrictions on mandatory COVID-19 tests for those who have been vaccinated against or recovered from the coronavirus. As we can see, quarantine restrictions in the pandemic have exacerbated the problem of finding a balance between rights, freedoms, and security, which is expressed in many countries in protests aimed at removing restrictions, protection of civil rights and freedoms, freedom of enterprise.

#### **4. VACCINATION AS A TOOL AND A CHALLENGE**

The main task of mankind at the present stage is seen not only in trying to curb the rapid spread of the coronavirus, but also in further adaptation to new realities. With this in mind, at the end of 2020, the world's attention was focused on the start of the

immunization campaign. In just a few months, vaccination has started in 82 countries, led by Israel, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Instead, the beginning of 2021 is marked by a shortage of vaccines, so in almost all countries it was decided to vaccinate people at risk – doctors, the elderly, people with severe chronic diseases, patients with immunodeficiency. After the increase in vaccine production, vaccination has become available to anyone, the age limit for vaccination has been reduced to 12 years, and it is recommended to receive a booster dose of the vaccine.

The vaccine shortage has highlighted the problem of social inequality, which is manifesting itself nationally and globally. There is a noticeable polarization in access to vaccines between rich developed countries and poor, mostly developing ones. Nationally, this problem is reproduced through various vaccination opportunities and access to quality vaccines, which was especially evident at the beginning of immunization [Stepanenko 2021: 36].

In Ukraine, the immunization campaign against COVID-19 began on February 24, 2021, almost three months later than in the countries named above. The pandemic demonstrated the exclusion of the central government in Ukraine from its responsibilities, which manifested itself in institutional dysfunctions (inability to purchase vaccines), the presence of general and local areas of arbitrariness (refusal of quarantine at places). The opposition and the public accused the leadership of the Ministry of Health of trying to use corruption schemes in the procurement of drugs to combat COVID-19, which led to delays in the purchase of vaccines, immunization rates, and distrust of much of the society to vaccination.

This is a fold of legislative and executive power of various levels formed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which expresses the social structure of power. This fold is heterogeneous in terms of political preferences and attitudes, characterized by an unstable configuration of interests of parties and groups that have unequal access to power, material, and financial resources. Under the influence of extraordinary events, the government faces problems that are incredibly difficult to solve, so the need to reform not only central, but also regional government structures is urgent. Insufficient mastery of events and situations leads to increased attention to the actions of the authorities by opponents and the public [Stan synhuliarnosti 2017: 44–45].

Extraordinary events not only determine the formation of social structure through the formation of folds, but also lead to a reduction in pleasure, entertainment, and recreation. Against the background of the fight against the coronavirus, there is a significant proportion of people who do not believe in the existence of the pandemic, considering it a conspiracy of global financial players, Freemasons, pharmaceutical companies, or the World Health Organization. Conspiracy theories are spreading through social networks that the coronavirus does not exist, but there is an intention to chip humanity. For example, protests against quarantine are taking place in Germany, Great Britain, and the United States, where similar conspiracies are also

spreading. According to protesters, behind the coronavirus outbreak are secret organizations. With this in mind, the WHO has launched a website to disprove unsubstantiated opinions about the spread of coronavirus, provide recommendations for the prevention and cure of the disease [Rekomendatsii 2020].

Another challenge for the governments of many countries has been the attitude towards vaccination and the organization and course of immunization processes. In the second half of April 2021, at the initiative of the WHO, World Immunization Week was held to draw public attention to the need for vaccination as a preventive measure against infectious diseases. However, distrust of COVID-19 vaccination has divided societies in many countries, fueled by the spread of manipulative information about the coronavirus, 92% of which experts say comes from the Russian Federation and China. Among these narratives, the most common are conspiracy theories - global conspiracy, chipping, secret laboratories, substandard vaccines, mutations as a result of vaccination, and so on [Holovnym vyklykom 2021].

It is noteworthy that distrust of vaccines against COVID-19 and mass refusal of immunization are combined with simultaneous meticulous attention to the course of vaccination and are accompanied by strong misinformation. In addition to these narratives, there are fakes about the risk of coronavirus infection due to vaccination, the American Red Cross's ban on donating blood to vaccinated individuals, Pfizer vaccination disorders and menstrual infertility in women, and impotence in men. The consequences of vaccination include multiple sclerosis, increased risk of blood clots, death of vaccinated persons within two years due to antibody-dependent increase in infection [Naiposhyrenishi feiky 2021].

Apparently, information from unverified sources is one of the factors that influenced the results of a sociological survey conducted by the Razumkov Center in Ukraine in May 2021. The survey found that 43% of respondents do not believe in being vaccinated against coronavirus, 19% have already or intend to be vaccinated shortly, 19% are going to be vaccinated later, 15% will be vaccinated when a formal need arises (eg, a trip abroad). Respondents who do not intend to be vaccinated often justify their decision by the ineffectiveness of vaccines used in Ukraine, while other vaccines are ready to vaccinate [Stavlennia hromadian 2021].

It is noteworthy that the disharmonious rhythm of social life, characterized by the ability to permanent perturbation, produces new structures that, demonstrating topicality, modify the social environment. Attracting the attention of the society, these phenomena push to the background elements inherent in the previous functioning mode of the society. In these circumstances, as a result of the termination of several laws, the government is strengthened, which undermines the legislative protection of citizens, opening the way to violence by the state [Boreiko 2020b: 5]. This means that the state begins to manage the lives of citizens, and the possibility of individual or collective opposition to the state mechanism is nullified.

In particular, on the example of Ukraine, we can observe similar actions of the au-

thorities regarding the situation with the spread of coronavirus infection and immunization of citizens. To increase the level of vaccination, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the procedure for dismissal of unvaccinated workers and civil servants from November 8, 2021, if they refuse or evade vaccination from COVID-19 in accordance with the List of professions, industries, and organizations whose employees are subject to mandatory vaccination. Exceptions are persons who have contraindications to such vaccinations and have provided a medical opinion from a health care institution.

Undoubtedly, together with the educational activities of the authorities, these actions have become an important factor in improving the vaccination situation. Thus, as of December 24, 2021, the number of fully vaccinated people in Ukraine was 13,374,911 people, which is more than 40% of the adult population [Aktualna statystyka 2021]. The first coronavirus vaccines began to appear in late 2020. At the beginning of 2021, the markets reacted positively to the appearance of the first effective vaccines, which was the impetus for the recovery of the world economy. At the end of 2021, we are talking about the first medicine from COVID-19, the manufacturers of which receive state certificates. In countries with low levels of vaccination, the use of these medicines will not reduce the incidence; but will reduce the number of hospitalizations and deaths. The WHO has suggested that the pandemic could end in 2022 if the world manages to minimize the spread of coronavirus. Thus, despite the rapid spread of the "Omicron" strain, the pandemic can be stopped primarily through the emergence of new vaccines and innovations [Shevchenko 2021].

In addition to vaccines, scientists are developing medicine to fight the coronavirus, which can stop the virus before symptoms appear or help cure the seriously ill. Leading pharmacological companies such as Pfizer, Merck & Co, Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, etc. are working on the production of these medicines. Experts note that the emergence of medicine against coronavirus has an indirect effect on the spread of infection, but can relieve medical systems and reduce the number of hard lockdowns. Available medicines prevent severe coronavirus disease, but do not affect mutations in the virus, so the spread of the disease will depend on the level of vaccination [Shevchenko 2021].

As the new medicines do not reduce the number of patients, but only improve their condition, it is not yet a question of turning COVID-19 into a seasonal disease such as influenza. At the same time, on December 14, 2021, the American pharmaceutical company Pfizer announced the effectiveness of anticoronavirus pills by almost 90% in preventing hospitalization and death of high-risk patients [Pfizer zaiavyly 2021]. However, vaccination in the presence of at least 70% of the immunized adult population will obviously help to stop the pandemic, which will allow the formation of collective immunity.

Thus, from the beginning of the pandemic, awareness of the need for adaptive practices is accompanied by hopes of inventing an effective remedy against the coronavi-

rus. The development of vaccines against COVID-19 is considered not only the only effective way to overcome the pandemic, but also the most pressing challenge today.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

For two years, the focus of research has been on social processes and phenomena caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The causes, manifestations, consequences, experience, and lessons of the coronavirus crisis are studied by scientists through the prism of various fields of knowledge and research. As an extreme event that expresses the unexpected manifestation of heterogeneous forces, emotions, interests, and aspirations, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected almost all countries of the world. A pandemic is a factor that produces deformations in society at the personal and social levels of human existence.

The state of modern societies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic is characterized by significant changes that do not meet the established standards. Deviations in the development of society are reflected in the effects and formats of individual and group worldviews, determine human behavioral reactions. Quarantine measures have led to the transformation of the usual rules of communication and behavior, the recession in the economy, changes in policy and public administration. Therefore, it is appropriate to identify with emergency changes in values, meanings, assessments observed in all areas of modern societies. The crisis is expressed in a recession in the economy, which is accompanied by a decline in production, falling living standards, lowering standards of welfare and consumption. The state of exclusion means the weakening of basic social institutions, the unconvincing nature of government action in extreme conditions, restrictions on the rights and freedoms of citizens, unequal access to security resources.

The global consequences of the pandemic lead to changes in societal values and regulations, including freedom, security, equality, trust, responsibility, and solidarity. Against this background, the role of the authorities in the fight against the pandemic is growing, as evidenced by not only quarantine restrictions, but also several other measures - from fines to dismissal of unvaccinated workers. If coronavirus infection is accompanied by numerous human losses and a significant number of victims of illness and death of loved ones, quarantine restrictions, especially social isolation, distancing have led to deteriorating physical and mental health, exacerbation of social inequality, economic and financial losses.

From today's point of view, it is difficult to assess the next changes and predict the likelihood of new waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dynamics of the economic recession, the behavior of people in the post-war period. Despite fears of significant changes in human social behavior, models of economic development, and public administration, there are clear signs of future overcoming of the coronavirus crisis, as evidenced by advances in vaccination and the search for alternative medicines.



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