

Covid is a Racket

You might be wondering why I've titled this essay after the famous book, *War is a Racket*, by former general, Smedley Butler. Well, turns out COVID and WWI have much in common. In both cases, the rich and powerful corporations such as weapon sellers, and pharmaceutical companies reaped the benefits, while the general public face the consequences of WWI or COVID. Why must we, the citizens, have to suffer due to the greed of the rich? This has repeated throughout history many times, and will continue unless we speak out.

Who is benefitting the most from COVID? You? Me? Probably not. Let's take a quick glance at the profits of big companies during the pandemic. Over the past year, Amazon has doubled its profits, and Uber Eats bookings have tripled. Pharmaceutical companies are also generating large amounts of profit from vaccines, and patients. Pfizer is estimating to make 19 billion from COVID vaccines during 2021, around $\frac{2}{3}$ of their yearly profits.

As large corporations profit off of COVID, the rest of the world is forced to stay at home, unable to see their friends, or family. Many companies are closing due to the lack of customers, causing many to lose their jobs.

And what about the artists? How do they perform? How do they make money at a time when Covid regulations require social distancing, masks and no performances in small restaurants and bars? Obviously, they can't make a living during COVID. Aspiring singers are also unable to achieve their dream due to COVID regulations preventing them from practicing in class. Why do artists have to suffer? What did they do?

And what about students? Why are some forced to stay at home unable to meet and see their friends? Socializing is important to help people stay positive and psychologically healthy. Being quarantined at home results in playing video games, and scrolling through social media all day. How would students learn and get a good job if many are unable to attend school in person? And why must students wear masks inside of school? Study shows that masks and the lockdown are killing more children than COVID.

While small businesses and the average citizens are suffering due to the lockdown, who else is benefitting from COVID other than big companies or corporations? Whose income has not changed, maybe increased while doing less? The answer is politicians. During the pandemic, they were all at home relaxing, and having zoom calls. A perfect example of that is Doug Ford. He's made outrageous statements such as "Paid sick days are a waste of taxpayers money" during a pandemic. Obviously he doesn't understand the struggles of others since he has only benefited from COVID.

As you can see, COVID is very similar to WWI. People are dying, losing their jobs, and everyone is miserable. Except obviously during COVID, no enemy countries are attacking us. Our own leaders and people are causing all this suffering and death that is making the rich richer. Well, aren't we clever?