Twitter Thread by David Thunder



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—TAKEAWAY LESSONS FROM PANDEMIC 2020-21: A THREAD—

Below, a few basic lessons I have drawn, as a political philosopher and informed citizen who has made it my business to closely follow political, social, economic, clinical, & epidemiological aspects of the pandemic:

1/ Most mainstream journalists cannot be relied upon to critically uncover, & impartially convey, the facts surrounding a complex & unfolding crisis. If you watch RTE, BBC, or CNN, you are fed naively one-sided stories laced with fear-mongering, misleading use of statistics, etc.

2/ If you wish to inform yourself about a public crisis like this pandemic, you must find commentators who have limited access to mainstream media, good credentials, & arguments that consider a wide range of available evidence. You need to be pro-active about diversifying sources

3/ Reliance by govts upon advisory committees with a clearly one-sided take on the pandemic (eg suppression at all cost) has led to catastrophic outcomes. Govts must diversify their scientific sources & encourage ROBUST scientific debate among their advisors.

4/ Hyper-centralised management of public health is ineffective. Decision-making power must be decentralised so that it can adapt quickly to local conditions. Care homes were badly hurt by top-down mandates that were sluggishly responsive to evolving conditions on the ground.

5/ The trust-based model of public health was ditched in 2020. Govts have turned to a “command & coerce” approach, unleashing widespread distrust & resentment toward public authorities. More coercive health policies have not been shown to be more effective than less coercive ones

6/ Locking down healthy populations has had catastrophic repercussions on health & well-being with very small returns if any as a method of disease control. We must NEVER repeat this reckless experiment ever again.

https://t.co/bzsdKI3kae

7/ Future public health crises must be handled with efficient, targeted policies driven by detailed risk assessment. We knew from March 2020 which populations were most & least at risk, but most govts foolishly chose to treat EVERY social interaction as a high risk scenario.

8/ Public fear has been fed daily by media & politicians focusing on remote possibilities rather than probable outcomes. Public officials & journalists need to inform the public with facts & evidence, not feed their fears with IDLE SPECULATION about potential disasters.

9/ Many Western nations are now prepared to jettison basic civil liberties like freedom of movement & patient consent in the pursuit of an unrealistic “zero Covid” utopia. Widespread civil disobedience & protests may be the only effective antidote to these totalitarian tendencies

10/ This pandemic has offered us a poignant illustration of the dangers of highly centralised States. In a highly decentralised State local & municipal authorities could push back against civil rights violations & destructive stay-at-home orders imposed by national govts.