

# The Defeated and Undefeated in the Battle Against COVID-19

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Reporter

2020 has been dealing with the presence of coronavirus and methodically attempting to prevent it spreading, as it takes on nation after nation. The differing responses to the virus have already begun to define a country's stance in an everyday struggle to stop covid-19 from affecting a vast number of citizens. The pandemic puts an emphasis on the notion that countries should come together to win in the crisis, as it represents an unambiguous assessment of the contending titles of both liberal and illiberal states to better cope with extreme social distress.

António Guterres, the UN secretary general, stated previously,

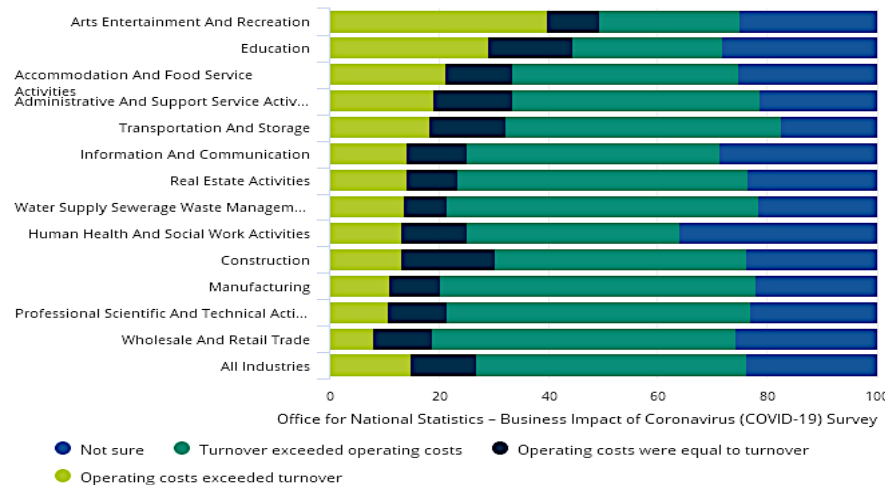
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**“the relationship between the biggest powers has never been as dysfunctional. Covid-19 is showing dramatically, either we join [together]... or we can be defeated.”**

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The pandemic has forced countries to display their development at a faster rate, thereby driving countries to make a play for global

Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey



leadership. It is evident that the countries that efficiently respond to covid-19 hold more of a pull. This is because, naturally, the health of each country's citizens is of great value and displays who is better at protecting their own. States need to be able to possess an independent stance, apart from neighbouring states, in order to capably protect themselves from it.

Currently, several countries such as: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States are considered the world powers, due to both their political and economic domination. The present circumstances,

however, have changed the game and knocked out a couple of the named countries as a world power. After deliberation, debates of whether the United States or China will rise as forerunner for a post-coronavirus world, which at the moment seems distant. Despite, China being one of the first countries to deal with the coronavirus outbreak, 86% still had negative views of the nation, as it was the epicentre for the virus. According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Centre

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**“in Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, South Korea, Spain and Canada, negative views have reached their highest points since the Centre began polling on this topic more than a decade ago.”**

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Nevertheless, it can still be said that neither authoritarian or populist countries are responding early enough or at an adequate rate to label them capable of dealing with the pandemic. The main separating mark in effective crisis response will not position autocracies on one side and democracies on a differing side. The decisive factor in implementation will not be the type of government or administration but will be in a country's ability to trust in that management.

