**The Mismanagement of COVID-19: Neoliberal Underpinnings of the Deepening Political Crisis in the United States**

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The United States possessed numerous advantages in responding to the SARS-Covid-19 pandemic, including its overall wealth, leadership in absolute and per capita health care spending, and unrivalled scientific and epidemiological expertise. Yet, the United States’ record of management of the pandemic has been among the worst in the world. It is not simply reducible to “culture wars,” ideology, or the incompetence of the Trump administration, but rather reflects a broader crisis resulting from the impact of decades of neoliberalism on U.S. society and the health care system and the increasingly polarized and dangerous political and ideological environment to which it has given rise. The pandemic has also provoked a significant further deepening of social and economic stratification. Fiscal and monetary policies designed ostensibly to cushion society from sickness and recession imposed a disproportionate share of the burden of adjustment on the poorest American, further impeding efforts to contain the virus and accelerating the political crisis.