

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/14/2021

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

Trump Made Us Lose Face

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 232 to 197 to impeach President Trump for incitement of insurrection. Ten Republicans voted for the bill, including the House's number three Republican, Liz Cheney of Wyoming.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "We know that the President of the United States incited this insurrection, this armed rebellion against our common country. He must go. He is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love."

Following the riot, President Trump has not addressed the nation or asked for calm. He has not offered condolences when he visited the Texas border. He said his comments were perfectly appropriate.

In the Senate, the majority leader, Mitch McConnell does not plan to bring the Senate back for an impeachment trial before January 19, meaning that the trial won't begin until Trump is out of office.

One week after the deadly insurrection at the Capitol there are still questions whether some lawmakers and police assisted the pro-Trump rioters so they could easily enter to the Capitol building. House Republican Congressman Ali Alexander said he had hoped his "mob" would pressure lawmakers to block president-elect Joe Biden's victory through the Electoral College. After the riot was quelled, they voted to throw out the Electoral votes and his effort failed.

More than 70 people have already been



charged with federal crimes related to the riot.

Today the nation reported more than 381,000 deaths since the pandemic began. The country also reached a peak level of new infections and hospitalizations for the country that is still reeling from the attempted insurrection at the

nation's Capitol.

Even though President Trump has announced sweeping changes to rollout the vaccine, it is really too little too late.

Mr. President, do you really care about us?



SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP
40th ANNIVERSARY
1979-2019

STV
KVVV15.3
星島國際電視台

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Chairman of International District Houston Texas



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

For Health Care Workers, The Pandemic Is Fueling Renewed Interest In Unions



Nurses at Albany Medical Center picketed on Dec.1, asking for more personal protective equipment. They say they're having to reuse N95 masks up to 20 times. (Photo/Hans Pennink)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In September, after six months of exhausting work battling the pandemic, nurses at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., voted to unionize. The vote passed with 70%, a high margin of victory in a historically anti-union state, according to academic experts who study labor movements. The nurses had originally filed paperwork to hold this vote in March but were forced to delay it when the pandemic began heating up. And the issues that had driven them toward unionizing were only heightened by the crisis. It raised new, urgent problems too, including struggles to get enough PPE, and inconsistent testing and notification of exposures to COVID-positive patients. They're far from alone in their complaints. For months now, front-line health workers across the country have faced a perpetual lack of personal protective equipment, or PPE, and inconsistent safety measures. Studies show they're more likely to be infected by the coronavirus than the general population, and hundreds have died, according to reporting by KHN and The Guardian. Many workers say employers and government systems that are meant to protect them have failed. Research shows that health facilities with unions have better patient

outcomes and are more likely to have inspections that can find and correct workplace hazards. One study found New York nursing homes with unionized workers had lower COVID-19 mortality rates, as well as better access to PPE and stronger infection control measures, than nonunion facilities.



Members of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists went on a two-day strike in November asking for more N95 masks. MultiCare found another vendor for N95s and said it would provide them by mid-December.

"The urgency and desperation we've heard from workers is at a pitch I haven't experienced before in 20 years of this

work," said Cass Gualvez, organizing director for Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West in California. "We've talked to workers who said, 'I was dead set against a union five years ago, but COVID has changed that.'" Labor experts say it's too soon to know if the outrage over working conditions will translate into an increase in union membership, but early indications suggest a small uptick. Of the approximately 1,500 petitions for union representation posted on the National Labor Relations Board website in 2020, 16% appear related to the health care field, up from 14% the previous year. In Colorado, SEIU Local 105 health care organizing director Stephanie Felix-Sowry said her team is fielding dozens of calls a month from nonunion workers interested in joining. Not only are nurses and respiratory therapists reaching out, but dietary workers and cleaning staff are as well, including several from rural parts of the state where union representation has traditionally been low. "The pandemic didn't create most of the root problems they're concerned about," she said. "But it amplified them and the need to address them."



In response to union actions, many hospitals across the country have said worker safety is already their top priority, and unions are taking advantage of a difficult situation to divide staff and management, rather than working together.

Inside Mission Hospital

The nurses at Mission Hospital say administrators have minimized and disregarded their concerns, often leaving them out of important planning and decision-making in the hospital's COVID-19 response. Early in the pandemic, staffers struggled to find masks and other protective equipment, said nurses interviewed for this story. The hospital discouraged them from

wearing masks one day and required masks 10 days later. The staff wasn't consistently tested for COVID-19 and often not even notified when exposed to COVID-positive patients. According to the nurses and a review of safety complaints made to federal regulators, the concerns persisted for months. And some nurses said the situation fueled doubts about whether hospital executives were prioritizing staff and patients, or the bottom line.

In a statement, Mission Health said it has adequate staffing and is aggressively recruiting nurses. "We have the beds, staffing, PPE supplies and equipment we need at this time and we are well-equipped to handle any potential surge," spokesperson Nancy Lindell wrote. The hospital has required universal masking since March and requires staff members who test positive to stay home, she added.



Although the nurses didn't vote to unionize until September, Waters said, they began acting collectively from the early days of the pandemic. They drafted a petition and sent a letter to administrators together. When the hospital agreed to provide advanced training on how to use PPE to protect against COVID transmission, it was a small but significant victory, Waters said. "Seeing that change brought a fair number of nurses who had still been undecided about the union to feel like, 'Yeah, if we work together, we can make change,'" she said.

Old concerns heightened

Even as union membership in most industries has declined in recent years, health workers unions have remained relatively stable: Around 7% of health care and social services workers are in unions. Experts say it's partly because of the focus on patient care issues, like safe staffing ratios, which resonate widely and have only

grown during the pandemic.

At St. Mary Medical Center outside Philadelphia, short staffing led nurses to strike in November. Donna Halpern, a nurse on the cardiovascular and critical care unit, said staffing had been a point of negotiation with the hospital since the nurses joined the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals in 2019.



In Colorado, where state inspection reports show understaffing led to a patient death at a suburban Denver hospital, SEIU Local 105 has launched a media campaign about unsafe practices by the hospital's parent company, HealthOne. The union doesn't represent HealthOne employees, but union leaders said they felt compelled to act after repeatedly hearing concerns.

In a statement, HealthOne said staffing levels are appropriate across its hospitals and it is continuing to recruit and hire staff members. COVID-19 is also raising entirely new issues for workers to organize around. At the forefront is the lack of PPE, which was noted in one-third of the health worker deaths catalogued by KHN and The Guardian. Nurses at Albany Medical Center in New York picketed on Dec. 1 with signs demanding PPE and spoke about having to reuse N95 masks up to 20 times.

"An experience like treating patients in this pandemic will change a health care worker forever," Givan said, "and will have an impact on their willingness to speak out, to go on strike and to unionize if needed." (Courtesy <https://www.npr.org/>)

KHN (Kaiser Health News) is a non-profit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation) that is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

Editor's Choice



Doreen Vickers, 83, waits as a health worker fills a syringe with a dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at the Appleton Village Pharmacy in Widnes, Britain. REUTERS/Jason Cairnduff



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi shows the article of impeachment against President Trump after signing it in an engrossment ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. REUTERS/Leah Millis



Workers unload pallets of boxes at the Executive Office Building on the White House grounds in Washington. ccREUTERS/Erin Scott



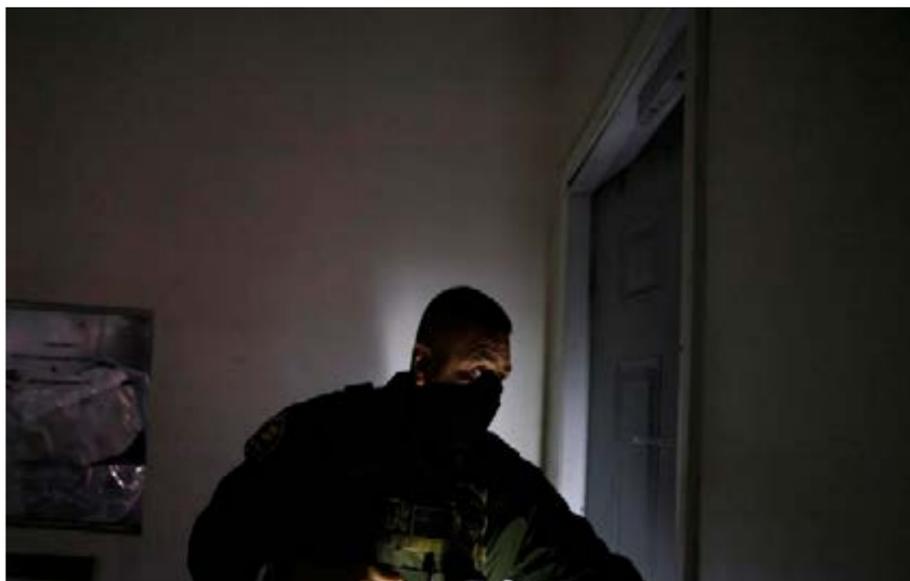
A missile is launched by Iran's military during a navy exercise in the Gulf of Oman. Iranian Army/WANA



An Indonesian Military aircraft CN-235 is seen during the search and rescue operation for the Sriwijaya Air flight SJ 182 off the Jakarta coast. Antara Foto/M Risyal Hidayatn



People perform fire breathing on their rooftop during Sakrain festival in Dhaka, Bangladesh. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain

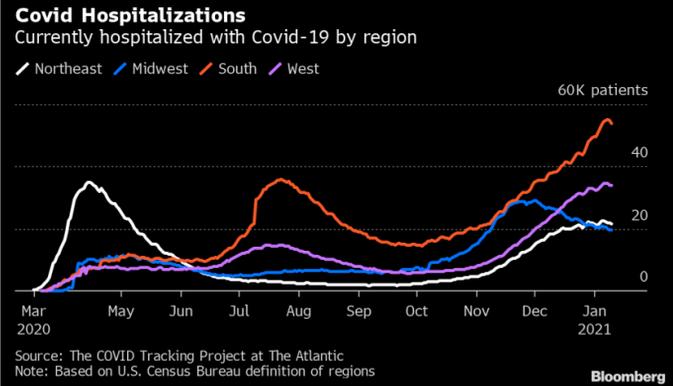


Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy Armando Galvan searches a commercial building as he carries out an eviction in Los Angeles, California. REUTERS/Lucy Nicholson



Voters queue to cast their ballots in the presidential elections outside a voting center in Kampala, Uganda. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

Northeast Sees Signs That COVID Hospitalizations' Pace Is Easing



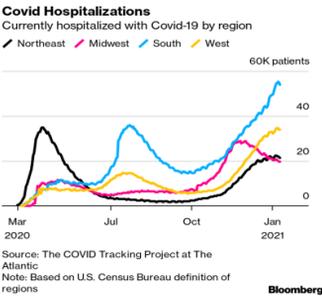
Covid a Public Health All-Hands-on-Deck Moment: Johns Hopkins Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The pace of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the Northeast is showing some preliminary signs of easing, adding to hopeful indicators in the Midwest, where the latest viral wave began. In the Northeast, the number of people currently hospitalized with Covid-19 was 21,494 as of Sunday, up 0.8% from a week earlier...



Even if hospitalizations start to retreat in

some areas, they're still at dangerously high levels. And the pandemic by many measures has never been worse. The U.S. added 272,087 COVID-19 cases on Sunday, pushing the seven-day average to a record 253,420, according to Johns Hopkins University. As of early Monday, at least 374,572 have died, Johns Hopkins data show.



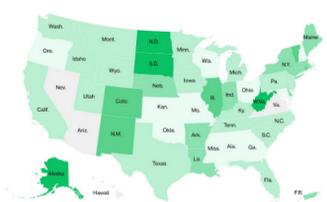
Virus: Update N.Y. Cases Slow After Record; New Strain Now In Japan



New York state's new Covid-19 cases fell for a second day, after reaching a record since the start of the pandemic. California's average daily deaths rose to a new high. U.S. lawmakers may have been exposed to the virus while they were held in a secure room during Wednesday's attack on Congress...

Japan has found a variant of the coronavirus similar to strains discovered in Britain and South Africa. The U.K. is on course to meet its target for vaccines, but faces pressure on the health service due to surging cases, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said. Switzerland's drug regulator may give the green light to Moderna Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine by Jan. 13...

More Than 29 Million Shots Given: Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker The U.S. has administered 9.27 million doses as Europe's rollout begins



The largest vaccination campaign in history has begun. More than 29 million doses in 43 countries have been administered, according to data collected by Bloomberg. Delivering billions more will be one of the greatest logistical challenges ever undertaken. Vaccinations in the U.S. began Dec. 14 with health-care workers, and so far 9.27 million doses

have been given, according to a state-by-state tally by Bloomberg and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At least 379,862 people have completed the two-dose vaccination regimen.

Vaccines Across America Across the U.S., 2.8 doses have been administered for every 100 people, and 36% of the shots distributed to states have been administered

Note: Data gathered from government websites, official statements and Bloomberg interviews. Local governments and the CDC sometimes report different totals for the same jurisdiction; in these cases Bloomberg uses the higher number. It can take several days for counts to be reported to databases.

The U.S. rollout fell short of federal projections as vaccinations proceeded unevenly across the states. The initial round of shots through early January has been doled out primarily through hospitals and other institutional health-care settings. The next phase will draw more on pharmacies and health clinics—places where vaccines are more traditionally administered—and will broaden the pool of people eligible to get the shots.

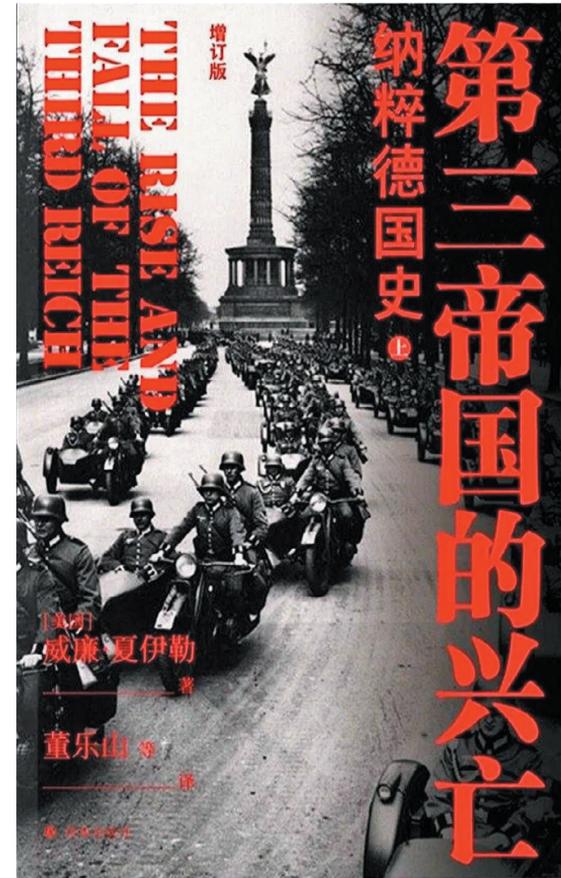


Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster. Your donation can help impact lives.

American Red Cross logo and a red button that says 'HELP NOW' with the website redcross.org below it.



好書閱讀 Daily News



《第三帝国的兴亡》希特勒“发迹”的历史省思

趣。这一点正是通常历史学家缺乏的向度。

夏伊勒常常向我们提出疑惑：希特勒独断专权，狂妄自大，虽排除异己，但又特别能容忍“人的品行”。他招揽收容了各种社会残渣：皮条客、杀人凶手、寻衅滋事者、讹诈骗子等。“德国任何其他政党都没有像纳粹党那样吸收了这么多来历可疑的角色。”这恰恰说明，希特勒从不讲究正派和体面，他是彻头彻尾的唯目的论、实用主义和投机主义者。事实上，他自己的出身和劣迹，也同那些附庸者一样，毫不体面。在全书开篇，作家花费了很多笔墨介绍了希特勒的家庭出身，家庭成员和早期求学生活。

我们发现希特勒的童年是在一种“母性”环境里度过的。他更依恋母亲，与姐姐较为亲近。相较而言，男性成员对他则是冷漠空洞的形象。父母家庭的“重组”给希特勒成长造成的影响不容小觑。我们会从作者的“考述”里，发现精神分析的兴趣，这

是否也是俄狄浦斯情结的压抑？学生时代的希特勒，阴郁乖僻，沉默寡言，他丝毫没有显露出未来演讲和表演天赋。他有的是一般少年鲜有的仇恨和顽固，以及近乎幻觉的“自恋人格障碍”。他不容老师批评和否定，他的意志是要推翻所有阻碍之人。从书中，希特勒的矛盾与复杂，有时正如精神病例的难以理解。

比如他对绘画执着，但又缺乏天赋，只能拙劣模仿，画一些呆板僵硬的宣传画。在维也纳，他宁愿蓬头垢面，穿别人救济的脏衣服，也不愿从事任何体力劳动。但他的脑袋丝毫没有倦怠，他在疯狂学习，观察社会底层矛盾，各色政治人物的优劣，各个政党暴露的弱点。他的极端民族主义使他离开奥地利，为德国而战，事实证明，他并非一个逃兵，反而立下军功，获过勋章。或许，我们从戈培尔的上位，也能发现某种有趣的参照。从某种角度看，戈培尔或许是纳粹早期领导人中的一个例外。他绝非群氓，而是一个受过极好教育，身有瘸腿缺陷，颇有才华，并不得志的年轻人。他就像一个“高配学霸”的希特勒，不仅有绝佳口才文笔，还上遍了德国各大名校，研修哲学。这或许是希特勒不计前嫌，甚至妥协拉拢，规劝戈培尔回到自己阵营的原因。他通过那种特有魔力（已超人格魅力的范畴），重新捕获了戈培尔——这个日后最忠诚的追随者。

从身陷囹圄到重见天日，我们看到希特勒的某种变与不变。不变的是，他那种近乎“非人”的意志，非但没有衰减，反而在绝望里得到硬化加强。出狱后的第一次群众集会，在贝格勃劳凯勒酒馆旅行。他的往日信徒不是已死，就是逃亡，不是决裂，就是躲避。“希特勒请安东·德莱克斯勒主持这次集会，但这个老锁匠、党的创始人叫他见鬼去。”也许，只有夏伊勒这类作者才会在历史著作中，写出如传记文学的“叙述”，新闻现场似的“报道”。他把孤军奋战和众叛亲离，视作独裁的难得机遇，“我单独负责领导我们的运动，只要我单独负责一天，就沒有人能对我施加条件。”“我再一次承担起我们的运动所发生的一切事情的全部责任。”

事实证明，他策略上的变化，变得更加隐秘，更善于沉潜。他想要通过宪法框架下的政党竞争来攫取政权。原有那套搞武装改变的企图，在他看来有致命软肋：没有合法外衣，又太过招摇树敌，轻易就会遭到剿灭。希特勒出狱向巴伐利亚总理保证，纳粹党将在宪法体制内进行活动，说明了他的妥协。然而，这绝非变得驯顺，而是希特勒懂得“潜龙勿用”的道理，伪装迷惑，伺机而动。并且，他也做好长久徐图的心理准备，“哪怕在选票上要超过他们比在动武上压倒他们所花的时间更长，至少结果能够得到他们自己的宪法的保证。任何合法事情的过程总是缓慢的……迟早我们会得到多数选票——下一步就是得到德国了。”

夏伊勒将希特勒的复出，喻为“野兽”复活。政府当局和一些政客，对他估计不够，未加重视，完全属于“放虎归山”。他的煽动吓吓，不仅把犹太人和马克思主义者视为敌人，还公开仇视共和政体。虽然，巴伐利亚政府对他进行“禁言”（禁止他在公开场合演讲），但这种限制徒有其表。因为希特勒除了有演说表演天赋，更是行动派，天生的“组织者”。从书中，我们领会到了纳粹起家的两大法宝：一是宣传工作，二是组织建设。前者是演说时的“虚假”，后者是机构系统化设置布局的“实干”。“他打算把它组织得像陆军一般——成为一个国中之国。”

借鉴模仿是希特勒的思维方法的一个专长。我们能看出他是如何提前操演——微缩化一个国家治理的模式，在其中他如何把德国政府组织分别模拟移植在党内机构。这就是类比化，建模（组织模型）思维的运用。如分区以及任命，中央对基层的权力直轄，都让人联想到始皇帝“郡县制”的方案。“全国划分为若干区，其范围大致相当于德国国会原来的34个选区，每一个区有一个希特勒任命的区领袖……每个区又分为分区，由分区领袖领导。再底下的党内单位是分部，在城市里各分部又进一步分为街道支部和小组。”

作者敏锐捕捉到纳粹组织的纵深性和集权本质。正是这种权力的“毛细血管”网络，才能确保权力

的“供血系统”永远渗透，持久输送。希特勒的权威也得以在每个层级，开始极度骤增。甚至，你会从纳粹党的组织架构，预感到希特勒的疯狂自信——表现为完全按国家职能来设立党内政治组织。如它分设了农业、司法、经济、劳工、内政和外交，还为未来掌权设置种族、文化和新闻等部门。它单独设置的宣传部更为复杂。这一切印证了希特勒的真实想法，他曾说道：“推翻旧国家是不够的，必须在事前先建立起新国家，并且随时准备好……在1933年，问题已不再是用暴力行动来推翻国家的问题，在这期间，新国家已经建立起来，留下来要做的不过是摧毁旧国家的最后残余了——这只要几个小时就行了。”

在夏伊勒看来，希特勒是没什么原创思想的人，他有的只是各种观念的混乱杂碎，洞察缺陷弱点的能力，以及拿来主义的移植。在早期，他考虑问题全面系统，甚至有发展眼光——重视基层力量、后备队伍，以及看似“无关紧要”的后援储备。“希特勒青年团”、“德国少年团”、“德国少女联盟”、“纳粹党妇女会”等一系列群众团体的成立，即是明证。无论从何种角度看，希特勒善于抓住潜在的矛盾，都毋庸置疑。这些少女妇女未来正是纳粹军人的妻子、母亲，少年青年则是整个帝国未来的中坚力量。甚至，他在每个行业阶层里，都建立了组织，吸收知识分子和艺术家加入。又如冲锋队改组为武装团体，发挥破坏吓吓其他政党，保卫纳粹集会的功能。

希特勒左右逢源，用各种“空头支票”，“幸福允诺”不仅给在经济萧条，失业绝望，对魏玛共和政府软弱无能极度不满的民众打了“兴奋剂”。同时，他通过打击犹太人，承诺摧毁“凡尔赛和约”煽动民族主义者的狂热情绪；通过打击共产主义，争取大资产阶级，各大垄断财团的支持资助。他对陆军的承诺，则让军队将领认为纳粹党执政会代表自身利益。可以说，希特勒几乎争取到了最大的选票支持，他的蒙骗表演，简直是叹为观止。这种顺风顺水，让希特勒产生极大幻觉：当局和群众是如此愚蠢，政敌是多么不堪一击，而上天的机遇，总是站在自己的意志一边。两相结合之下，就是在一系列不可思议的漏洞空子里，蒙混崛起的。

《第三帝国的兴亡》有一种叙事态度，那就是对纳粹兴起的强烈反讽。它集中呈现为一种怪诞反差：一方面高度精密化、系统化和仪式化的政治设计与“高妙操控”。另一方面却是非理性错乱的、施虐狂虐症般的掌权者，以及一堆罪犯、打手和暴乱分子组成的拥趸。“它的许多高级领袖，以冲锋队头子罗姆为首，都是臭名远扬的同性恋者。”“其恶劣程度，只有患性变态病症和因之而争风吃醋的人才做得出来”。两相结合之下，是一种诡异纳粹的现象：权力被精神病态错乱所攫取，人民被虚假谎言所“政治催眠”，一起变得疯狂。