Rethinking Security in the Post-COVID-19 World

For as long as the world can recall, traditional security has been given preference over human security, yet nothing helped when a virus outbreak forced the world to shut down. The COVID-19 outbreak has proved that decades worth of national level investment in security has been useless, as countries irrespective of their military might and power have fallen to their knees as an invisible force clawed its way deep into their territories. The first to be impacted by the pandemic is a front runner for the global power status, the worst impacted is the current global power. China, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, European Union; the forces reckoned by the world due to their military and economic superiority came to a standstill and are bearing irrevocable losses due to a phenomenon none was able to sufficiently prepare for beforehand.

The post-COVID-19 world demands changes in perspective from the security experts. The Coronavirus has proved that every country’s investment priority shall have to be its people. Middle-income countries with better social security programmes and well-equipped health systems were able to tackle and control the spread of the outbreak much better than the security states focused upon accumulation of military power. To explore prospects and possibilities in this realm, this panel will put forward the following key questions for a discussion:

1. What will be the security challenges of the post-COVID world?
2. How has the security apparatus shifted during this pandemic and what are the new essentials of security in a transforming world?
3. Can human security supersede traditional notions of security?
4. In the context of both traditional and non-traditional security, will the measures for securing one’s own borders, territory and inhabitants be enough to eradicate such potential threats in the future?

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