Title: **Geopolitics In the Time of Corona**

Subtitle: *How the Coronavirus Might be a Watershed Moment Marking the End of the Current Global Order*

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We currently live in the Pax-Americana Epoch, a period of historically unprecedented international stability and cooperation led by American leadership and global diplomacy. Or at least we did. Now the Coronavirus—and its geopolitical ramifications—threaten the very global order that has maintained international peace ever since World War II.

While it might not seem obvious to the casual observer, the novel Coronavirus has attenuated and accentuated the numerous underlying political and economic forces that have the power to rip apart the international fabric holding global stability together. The trends in leadership around world demonstrate the rise of dangerous demagoguery; country-level politics show alarming rates of nationalism; the ordinary citizenship has moved towards populism; and global interconnectedness through trade and investment has fallen to some of its lowest levels in a century. These developments were not caused by the Coronavirus, but its tumult has thrown these movements into a fever pitch.

**How Did We Get Here?**

* End of World War II, Bretton Woods Conference in a small town in New Hampshire created the institutions to maintain international stability (the World Bank and the IMF) and, in doing so, established the new world order.
* American leadership: The Marshall Plan, etc. establish American credibility
* The only threat was Soviet: US-USSR Cold War

**The Pax-Americana**

* US ‘defeats’ the USSR
* Peace right?
* The lack of a collective enemy has led to a weakening of our national identity and international cohesion.
* Rising inequality and bad policies (racial, education, healthcare, access, manufacturing, competitiveness, etc.) made many to feel left behind.

**The Rise of Nationalism, Populism, Demagoguery and International Isolationism**

* Since the 2000s, rising economic inequality, etc. have led to powerful undercurrents
  + Nationalism
  + Populism
  + Demagoguery
  + International Isolationism
* Give examples …

**Why This Is So Dangerous**

* < Same factors led to World War I >
* < Start with an opaque introduction to the factors that led to WWI, then say this isn’t know, it was 1914… >

**The End of an Epoch: A New World Order?**

* Risings threats:
  + US – China Cold War?
  + Multipolar World: Emerging Markets, Russia and New Threats
  + Climate Change and Increasing Natural Disasters
  + Lack of trust – in the international system, our elected leaders and our neighbors
* This election might be pivotal
  + Donald Trump: continued retreat from the Pax Americana into isolationism
  + Joe Biden: Who knows?

In conclusion, we are potentially at a watershed moment. Just like World War II marked a transition in global leadership from the United Kingdom to the United States, perhaps the Coronavirus will offer a new reckoning in global supremacy. Only time will tell.