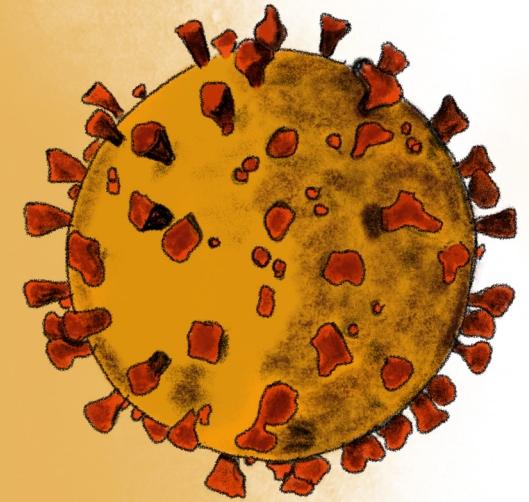


Corona Impact

How the Virus Puts the Functioning of a Society to the Test



On Friday, 14 March 2020, the Federal Council declared a state of emergency because of the increasing number of people infected with orona. The economy was more or less shut down, only the emergency supply was maintained. Shops and restaurants were closed. In order to reduce the number of sick people or to ensure intensive care in hospitals, Switzerland accepted a rising number of unemployed or bankruptcies. Individual sectors such as the hotel and restaurant industry were hit hard by the so-called lockdown.

The massive economic cutbacks were justified by the need to protect the generation over 65 years of age, which is particularly at risk from the virus, and this quickly led to ethical questions such as “economic well-being of an entire society versus ensuring top medical care for all”.

Now we know from the Federal Constitution that the strength of a nation is measured by the well-being of the weak. This is precisely what was put to the test during the Corona crisis. The Corona crisis reflects the extent to which our society is prepared to protect the weakest. The key words here are solidarity, charity and renunciation. The Federal Council regulates with measures and demands this solidarity from society towards the patients at risk. Our lives are severely restricted from one day to the next.



SIMON

24 YEARS

WAITER

HOBBIES: PARTY, FRIENDS

RALPH

75 YEARS

RETIREE

HOBBY: GARDENING



Protagonists

The story is a dialogue. Ralph is 75 years old. The former insurance expert is retired and represents the voice of the older generation. Since Ralph suffered a heart attack a few years ago, he is not only in the risk group because of his age. Simon is 24 years old, single and a waiter by profession. He lost his job during the Corona crisis and has to make ends meet with a little help from the state. Both Ralph and Simon look at their current life, which is marked by the crisis, through their "Corona glasses". The everyday life of the two protagonists is illuminated. Whereby different views quickly emerge.



The view through different glasses

Shortly after the start of the lockdown, voices are already being raised that question the extent of the protective measures. The ethical and moral question "Man or Economy?" becomes the central issue. Concepts such as collective well-being, solidarity or personal freedom have a different meaning for everyone and are evaluated differently. And since everyone is affected by the lockdown or the virus in a different way, opinions drift far apart. One looks at the world as it presents itself in this exceptional situation through different glasses. An actual generation conflict is opening up.



Caffe Eleni - closed until further notice

From one day to the next, people from the most diverse industries have nothing more to do. The closing of restaurants is just one branch that gets hit hard. Although the state provides uncomplicated loans for companies, makes short-time work possible and supports individuals with financial contributions, many people are nevertheless pushed to the edge of their existence.



WITHOUT THE EFFORTS OF OUR POST-WAR
GENERATION, SWITZERLAND WOULD NOT
BE WHERE IT IS TODAY.

Where would Switzerland be without the commitment of the post-war generation?

The current economic crisis is contrasted by the achievements of the post-war generation on which, in particular, today's prosperity is based. Nevertheless, the Corona crisis is costing the state billions. A recession of the century is to be feared. Must and may an economy afford this in order to prolong the lives of the elderly?



Home alone

Stay home, stay healthy. A decisive factor in containing the Corona virus was and remains social distance. Only by keeping a distance can the spread of the virus be stopped. Single people in particular have been forced into isolation. Negative side effects such as loneliness, depression, but also aggression in families became the real side problem through the required "social distancing", which should not be underestimated in its effects.



65 and still go shopping yourself

Especially people from the group of over 65-year-olds, who are at least as much affected by these "side problems" as younger people, felt discriminated against by being asked to stay at home, literally not to move out of the house at all. Increasingly, a rage of the younger generation against the older generation is noticeable. Older people, if they dare to leave the house, often feel hostile and discriminated against. The Corona crisis drives many, young and old, into loneliness, even depression, especially when financial bottlenecks have arisen at the same time. Can and will a society allow itself this? How many fall by the wayside in the end?

The Corona crisis raises many (ethical) questions. The answers or solutions cannot be given conclusively. They remain controversial. This raises the question of whether blame is endangering the relationship between the generations. For in the end, this blame will at most become a catalyst for a poisoned climate. The losers are then not only the people, but the state, society as a whole. The Swiss Federal Council has recognized this and has led through the crisis with sovereignty.

