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### Comment by Michael Andregg

Michael Andregg  
*ISCSC*

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**Prof. Michael Andregg**, a scholar of biology and long-time activist for global peace and international amity, is the Vice President of the ISCSC and a veteran member of the Board of Directors of our organization. Here is his view of the civilizational consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic:

We have already determined that global civilization is experiencing a flurry of interrelated crises that challenge many things we hold dear, in *extremis*, human survival.

Therefore, many biologists around the world interpret the latest pandemic as a warning shot across the bow of human civilization and all the smaller civilizations that it embraces.

In aggregate, we are slowly destroying the living system of the earth that sustains all civilizations. Many scientists have reported on the folly of that for at least two generations. Mostly they have been ignored. Derivative symptoms, like climate change or the “sixth great extinction” get worse each year despite these warnings, while the forces of denial are much better funded than the forces for positive change.

The simplest farmers know that only fools fool with Mother Nature. Collective elite leaders do not seem to understand this experience-formed observation despite their lofty educations. So, every year we destroy more virgin forests and eat more exotic animals from the wild — like bats and chimpanzees. Nature threw us Ebola (origins in chimpanzees) not once but fourteen times. It keeps coming back and will eventually escape containment if we keep begging it to. Nature threw us SARS and MERS, both coronavirus variants, and we contained them too ... barely.

Now, Covid-19 comes with the ideal combination for viral predators of high transmissibility with low enough lethality that undetected “asymptomatic” carriers spread it faster than most testing and remediation can follow.

Scholars might revisit civilizational classics like “Collapse,” by Jared Diamond (2005), “The Collapse of Complex Societies,” by Joseph Tainter (1988), or “The Collapse of Ancient States and Civilizations,” edited by Norman Yoffee and George Cowgill (1988).

They show how often ancient elites had ample warning of impending crises but chose to ignore them for short-sighted reasons.