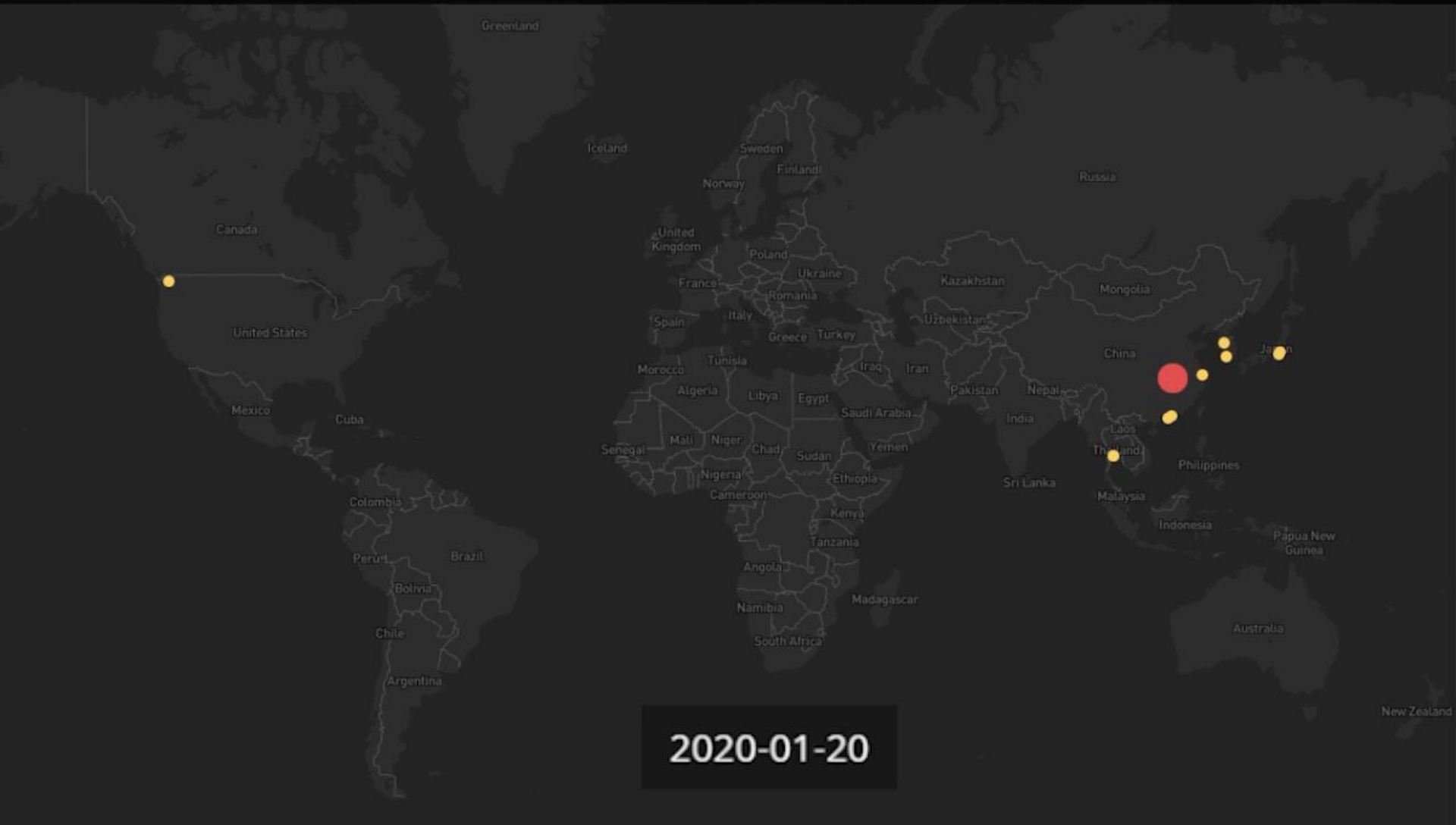
7 Levels of Coronavirus Attack

and How We Can Fight Back



7 Levels of Coronavirus Impact

1. Biological & Medical (Life & Death)
2. Psychological (Emotion – Fear & Love)
3. Economic (Employment, Productivity & Financial Burden)
4. Political (Partisanship & Policy)
5. Social (Collective Cognition, Panic & Conspiracy)
6. Existential (Civilization-Level Extinction)
7. Philosophical (Meaning of Life)

Level 1: Biological & Medical

- Pain:
  - 100K to 10M+ may die
    (estimated annual mortality burden of influenza: 290-650K [10])
- Challenge:
  - **People:** Social distancing, wash hands (don't infect & don't get infected)
  - **Infrastructure**: Healthcare and service workers fight on the frontline
  - **Medical**: Test, treat, and trace
  - **Science**: Antiviral drugs, vaccines
  - **Manufacture & logistics:** Ventilators, test kits, protective equipment
- Hope:
  - **Minimize loss of life:** Flatten the curve – avoid overwhelming resources
  - **Dress rehearsal:** Prepare for a much worse future pandemic – invest in science, healthcare infrastructure
  - **Technology:** Discuss role of technology for managing spread pandemic that balances privacy and health.

Level 2: Psychological

- Pain:
  - Fear of uncertainty at all levels (health, job, food, water, power, internet)
  - Existential dread & social/family tensions
- Challenge:
  - **Stay calm, stay informed:** reason over emotion
  - **Re-evaluate your life journey:** Ask yourself “Am I living my dream, my passion?” and if I'm not, “What personal revolution can start that will change that?” Now is the time for a revolution. Starting writing. Start planning. What business do you want to create? What new career do you want to pursue?
- Hope:
  - **Improve:** Re-evaluate your life and start a personal revolution if needed.
  - **Compassion:** In the face of great uncertainty, love conquers fear.

Level 3: Social (Collective Cognition)

- Pain:
  - Social distancing has led to a reliance on social media for connection and gradual replacement of individual thought with collective cognition
  - Panic (magnification of Level 2 through social media)
  - Misinformation and conspiracy theories
- Challenge:
  - **Meditation:** Do not connect to the hive mind of social media. Listen to your inner voice.
  - **Facts:** Read source scientific material not opinions on the material
  - **Think:** Think critically on your own.
- Hope:
  - **Tool:** Social media and the internet becomes a useful tool for gathering scientific findings and well-reasoned opinions (from many opposing perspectives).
  - **Connection:** Social networks grow up to be a place that encourages friendships, real human connections and not dopamine-fueled drama.

Level 4: Economic

- Pain:
  - 2020 global GDP growth **-2.0%** to **+2.7%** (**+3.1%** originally predicted) [4]
    - Some economists predicting a depression (-24% GDP drop in Q2) [6,8]
  - 3-7 million US jobs may be lost by summer (service industry, hotels, restaurants, travel industry) [5]
  - 50% of US small businesses may go bankrupt [7] in 3 months (or be forced to completely reinvent themselves, slashing costs and jobs)
- Challenge:
  - (As Citizen) **Stimulus**: Hold politicians accountable. Stay informed on the details of the fiscal stimulus. Make sure it benefits people who need it.
  - (As Consumer) **Spending:** If you can, keep purchasing things you need, especially supporting small and local businesses.
  - (As Business) **Reinvent:** Add online component, diversify, pivot, etc.
- Hope:
  - **Financial Burden is Universal:** We are in this together. You are not alone.
  - **Fast Recovery (V not U):** Fiscal stimulus works to empower consumers to resume spending, businesses restart, unemployment drops back

Level 5: Political

- Pain:
  - Partisan divide (impeachment, elections) lead to politicization of the virus
  - Diminishment of our rights and freedoms for slowing spread of pandemic
- Challenge:
  - **Democracy:** Do not let a few charlatans in government (of any party affiliation) capitalize on our fear (see level 2) with an overreach of power (surveillance, martial law, detaining people w/o trial, cancelling elections)
  - **Unity:** Do not look at the coronavirus through a political lens
  - **Stimulus:** $1+ trillion stimulus package in US
- Hope:
  - **Government**: Federal infrastructure that responds to global threats
  - **Reinvigorated Citizenry:** Reminder that we can accomplish more on big issues if we don't engage in cheap political bickering
  - **Don’t Politicize Science:** Allow everyone to do their part with experts leading the way (doctors, scientists, engineers, etc).

Level 6: Existential

- Pain:
  - Dress rehearsal for global catastrophes and existential threats: engineered and natural enemies
- Challenge:
  - Investment in large-scale scientific research
- Hope:
  - Learn to worry about a problem before it's to late to stop it from killing 1+ billion people

Risk	Estimated probability for human extinction before 2100
Overall probability	19%
Molecular nanotechnology weapons	5%
Superintelligent AI	5%
All wars (including civil wars)	4%
Engineered pandemic	2%
Nuclear war	1%
Nanotechnology accident	0.5%
Natural pandemic	0.05%
Nuclear terrorism	0.03%

Table source: Future of Humanity Institute, 2008.[16]

Level 7: Philosophical

- Pain:
  - Life is full of suffering
- Challenge:
  - Love for fellow human beings
- Hope:
  - Greater sense of community

