

# The continuing Sociopolitical Impact of Covid-19 on the Health Care Spectrum in Germany

Dr. Barun Sarkar

Frankfurt Germany

# Focus



- I brief summary of the pandemic from a German perspective
- II what went wrong ?  
„the silencing of science“ ?
- III strenght of civil society !  
rule of law !

# Focus I

# strategy

- Flatten the Curve
- Trace the Trail
- Social Distancing
- Lockdown
- Fiscal Spending
- Herd Immunity / Vaccination



© picture-alliance/dpa/Bundesregierung/S. Kugler

POLITICS

**Merkel calls Coronavirus  
biggest challenge since  
WWII**

# Focus I

Worldwide fatal cases  
after 3 years:  
7 Mio deaths

## Germany :

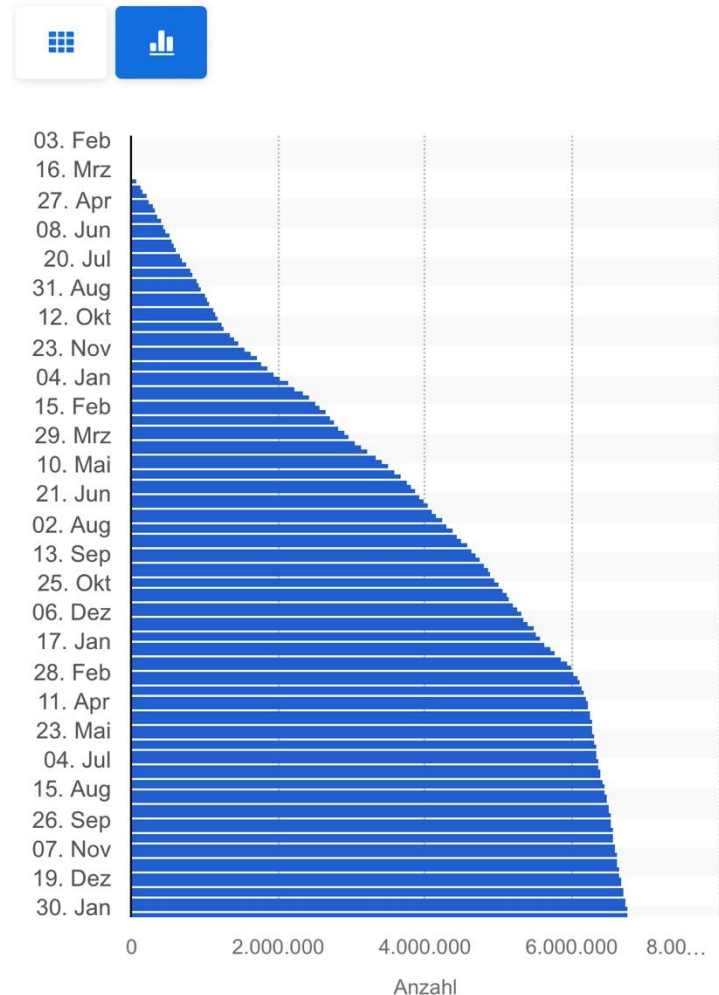
total cases 38 Mio.  
fatal cases 167.000  
fatality rate 0,44 %

## other fatality rates :

Mexiko 4,76 %  
India 1,19 %  
USA 1,10 %  
Worldwide 1,03 %

## Weltweite Zahl der Todesfälle in Zusammenhang mit dem Coronavirus (COVID-19) seit Februar 2020

(Stand: 13. Februar 2023)

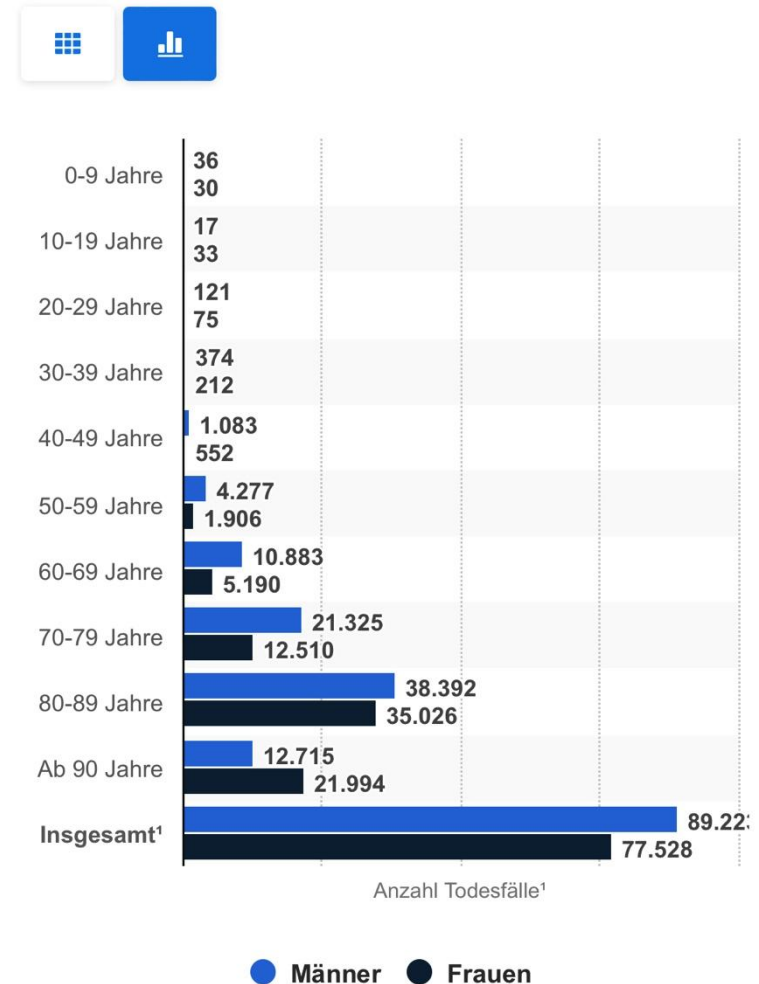


# Focus I

age & gender  
of fatal cases  
in Germany

## Todesfälle in Zusammenhang mit dem Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Deutschland nach Alter und Geschlecht

(Stand: 15. Februar 2023)

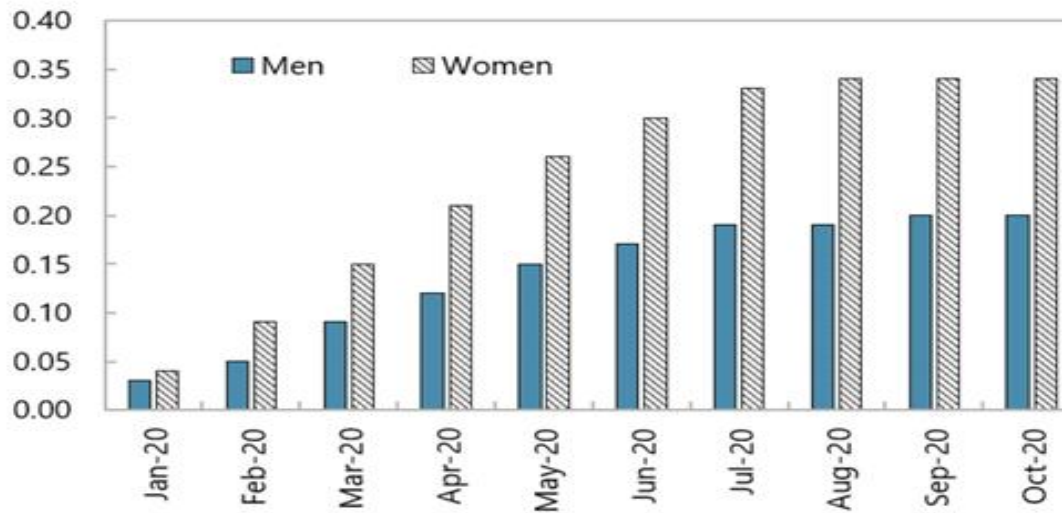


# Focus I women & jobs

## Job losses

The cumulative increase in unemployment for German women has been almost twice as large as that for German men.

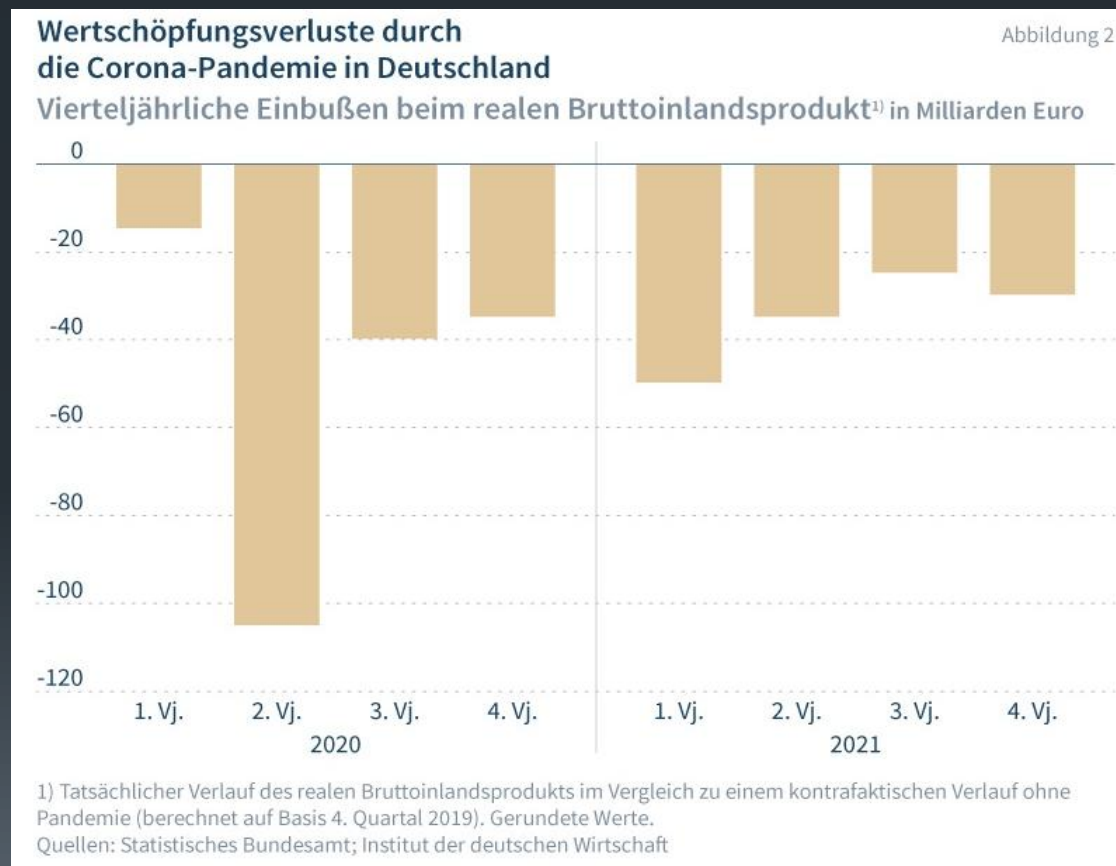
(in million persons, seasonally adjusted, end-2019)



Sources: Destatis (ILO Monthly Labor Force Survey); Haver Analytics; and IMF staff calculations.

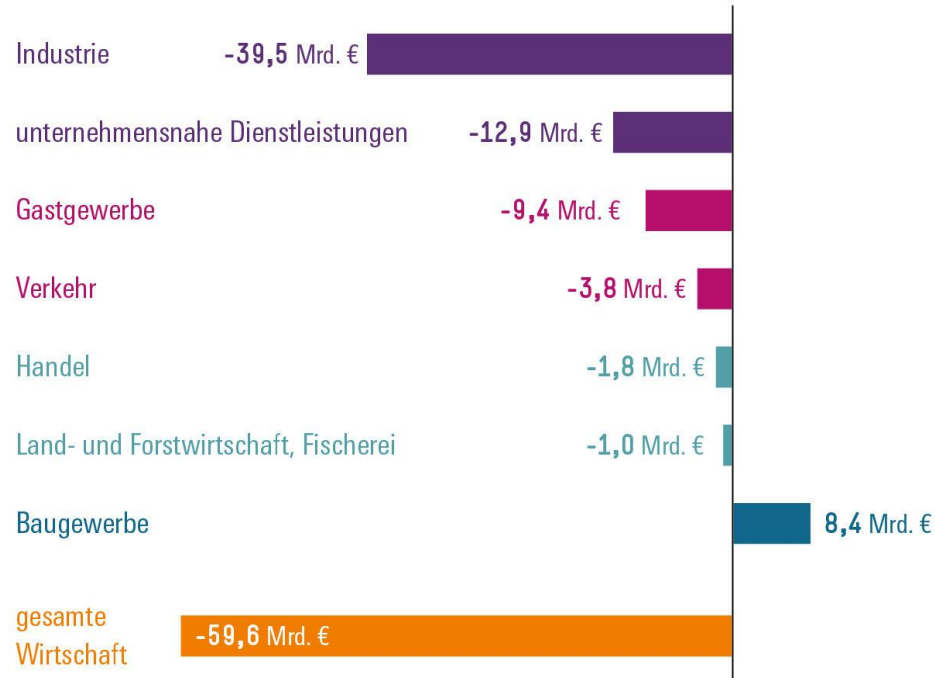
# Focus I gross national product

Quarterly change of national product in 2020 / 21



## Coronakrise: Industrie mit größten Verlusten

So veränderte sich die Bruttowertschöpfung in Deutschland im ersten Halbjahr 2020 gegenüber dem Vorjahr im Bereich ...

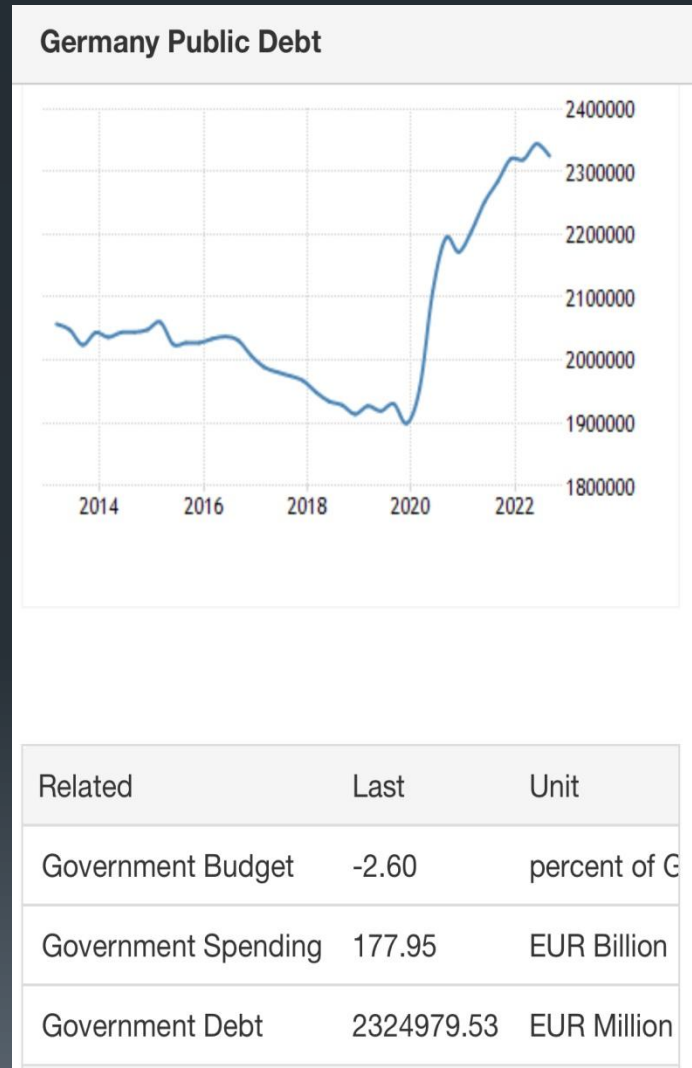


Quelle: Destatis, IMK 2020



# Focus I

# public debt



# Focus II

# science delivered !

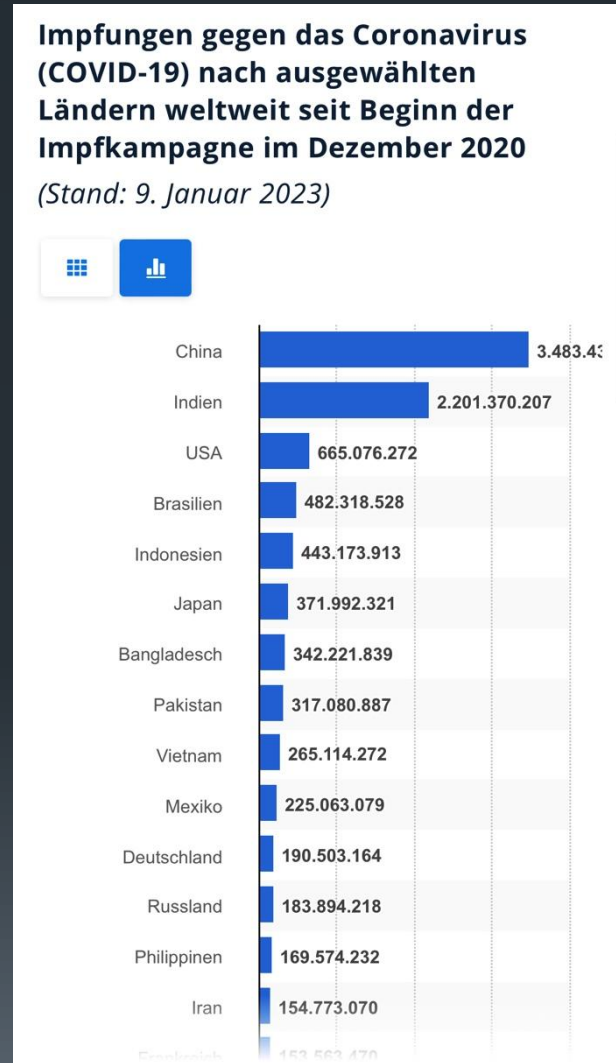
decoding of the virus

identification of the immune response

rapid tests

PCR

vaccinations

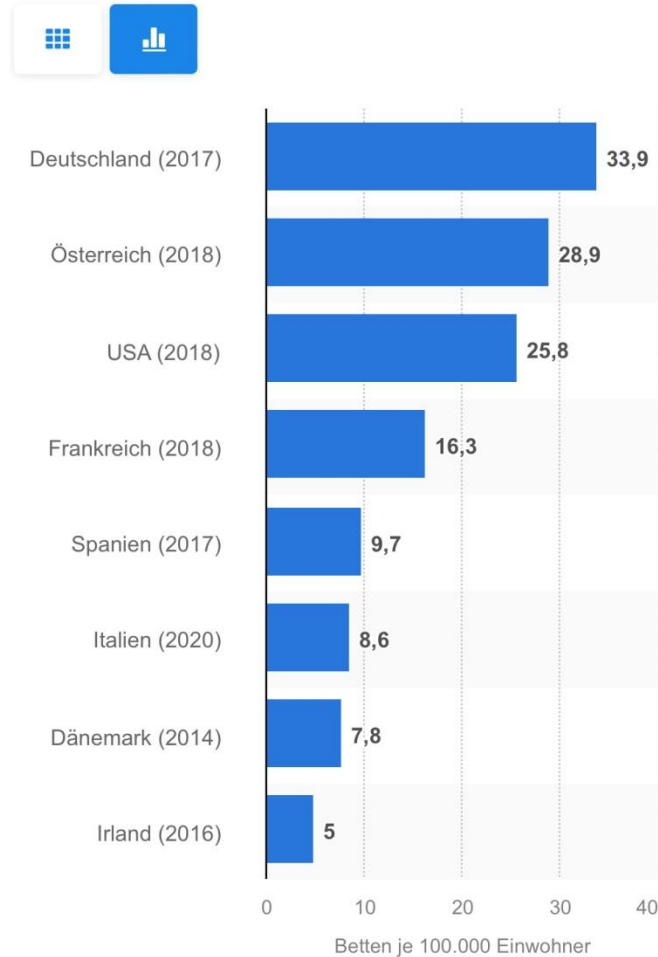


# Focus I

number of ICU beds  
per lakh inhabitants

## Durchschnittliche Anzahl von Intensivbetten in Krankenhäusern ausgewählter Länder bis 2020\*

(Betten je 100.000 Einwohner)



# Focus II

# social media

sometimes  
vicious circles

- loss of orientation
- seducibility /  
populism
- confirmation bias
- echo chambers
- polarization of society
- loss of consense
- social fragmentation

# Focus II

# role of media

Bergamo (Italy) 2020 ?



Focus II

forecast ?



Was the second wave of autumn  
2020 not expectable ?

The elderly care homes were then  
„set on fire“

- in Germany : loss of 183 school days on average
- 35 % reduction of learning during 2020
- closing of schools was even higher in 2021 than 2020
- psychologic impact on children was higher than in adults

# Focus II

# care system

- isolation of elderly care homes
- isolation of patients in hospitals
- loss & shortage of staff and closing of wards
- postponing of cancer and cardio-vascular treatments
- closing of many small hospitals



# Focus II

outcome



pre-existing deficiencies  
(economic, social or political)

are reaching default lines  
sometimes with a point of no return

political leadership ?

political credibility ?

# Focus II prospect & challenge



- increase of global debts & deficit spending
- inflation & larger wealth gap
- rise of nationalism & populism
- de-globalization & polarisation
- rise of conflicts (social & militant international)

## Focus III

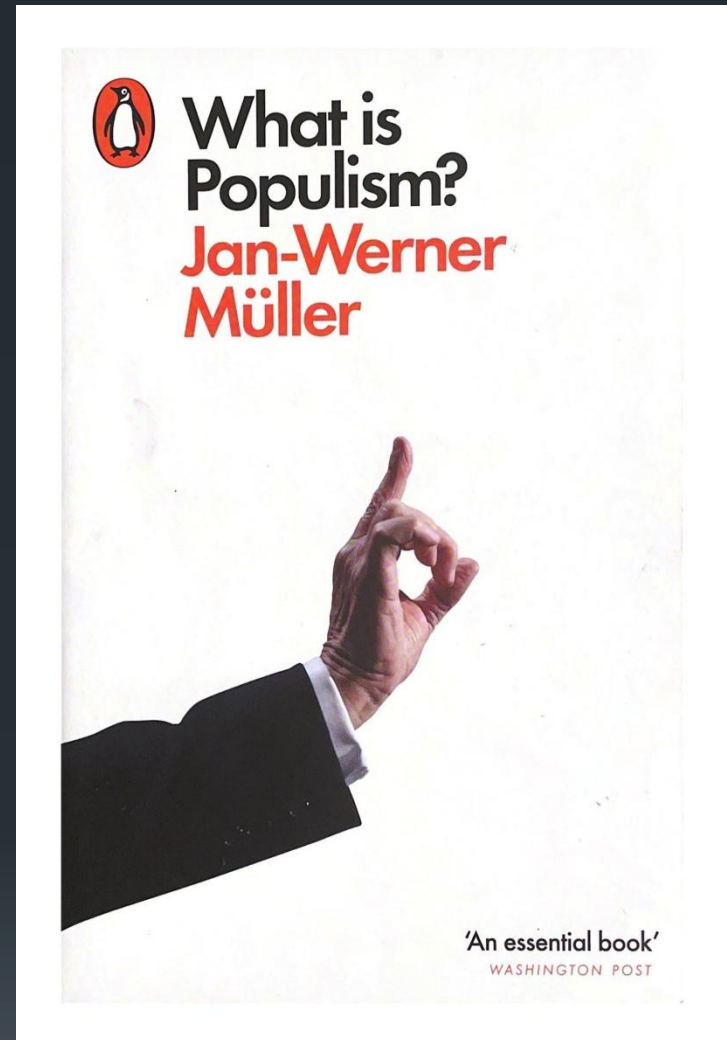


What shall we do to  
improve „public health“ ?

# Focus III

„Populism is not a path to more participation in politics.“

„Populism is something like a permanent shadow of modern representative democracy and a constant peril.“



## Focus III

Habermas  
articulates a  
perspective on  
morality based on  
communicative  
rationality

discourse ethics

The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is a solid, vibrant red color. At the top, the author's name 'Jürgen Habermas' is printed in a large, white, sans-serif font. A thin black horizontal line is positioned below the author's name. In the lower right quadrant, the title 'Ein neuer Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit und die deliberative Politik' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. On the left side, the publisher's name 'Suhrkamp' is printed vertically in a black, sans-serif font. The entire book cover is framed by a white border.

Jürgen  
Habermas

Suhrkamp

Ein neuer  
Strukturwandel  
der  
Öffentlichkeit  
und  
die deliberative  
Politik

# Focus III

# discourse ethics



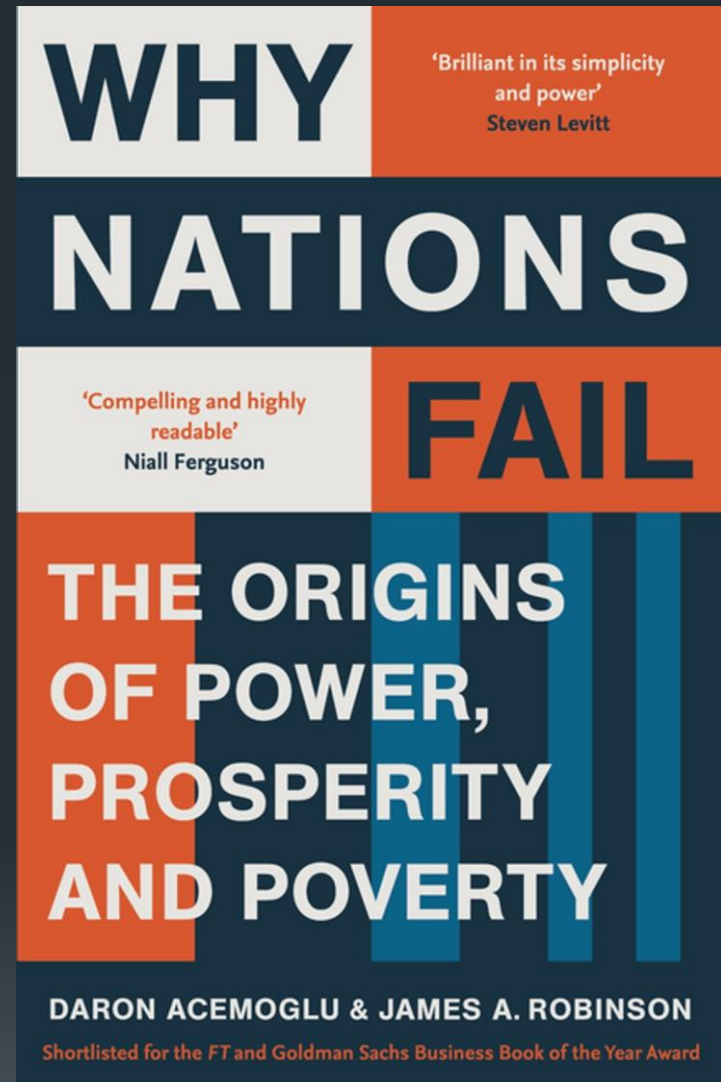
## Five steps

- Telling the story about the situation
- Reflections and dialogue concerning the emotions involved
- Formulation of the problem / dilemma
- Analysis of the situation and the dilemma
- Searching for a choice of action or approach

# Focus III

Rule of Law

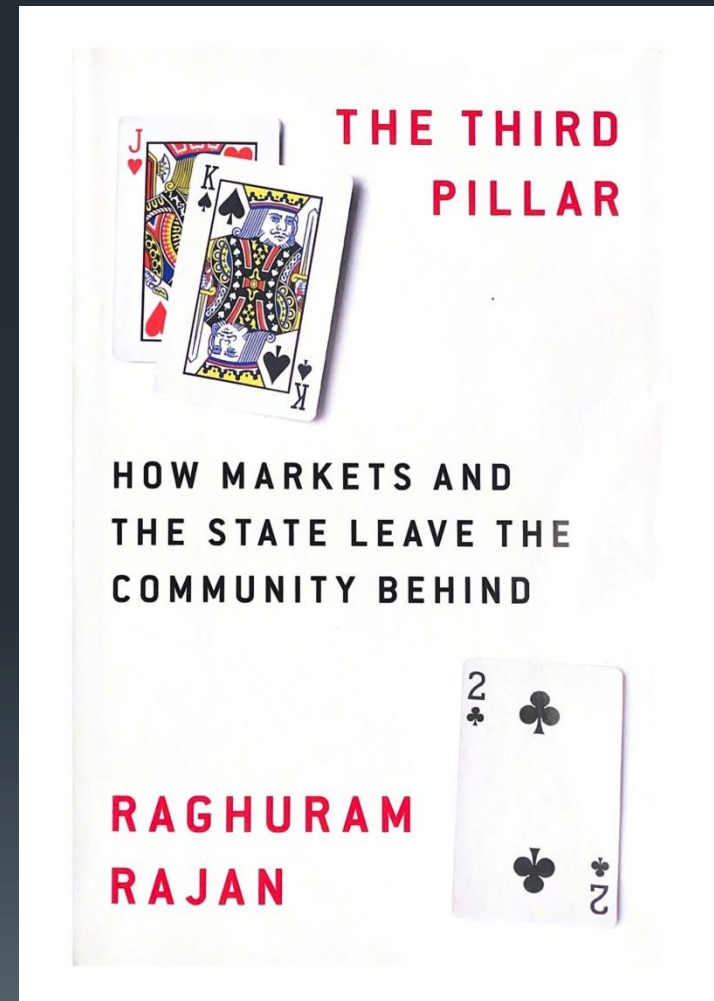
Strong Civil Society



# Focus III

# subsidiarity

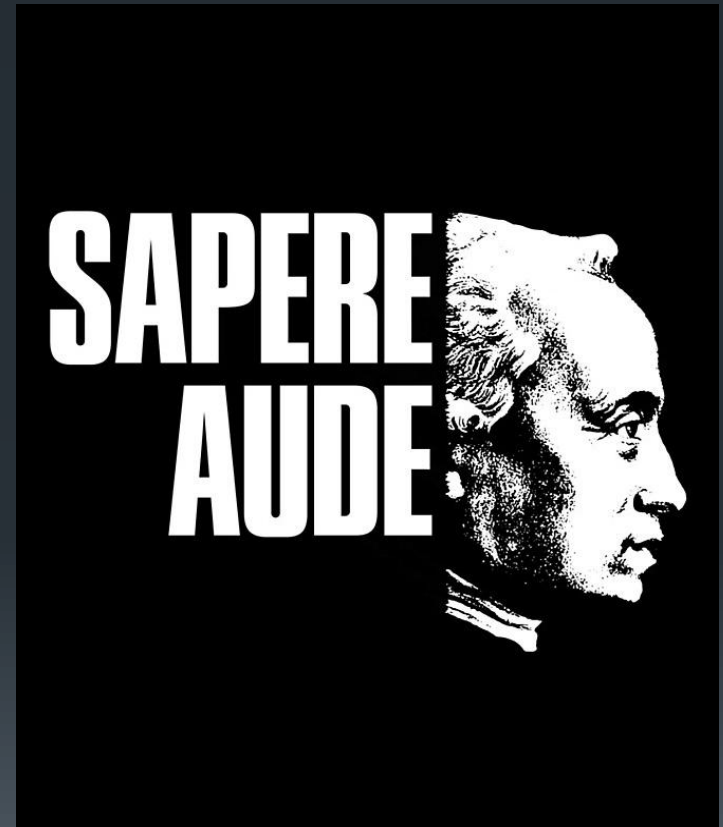
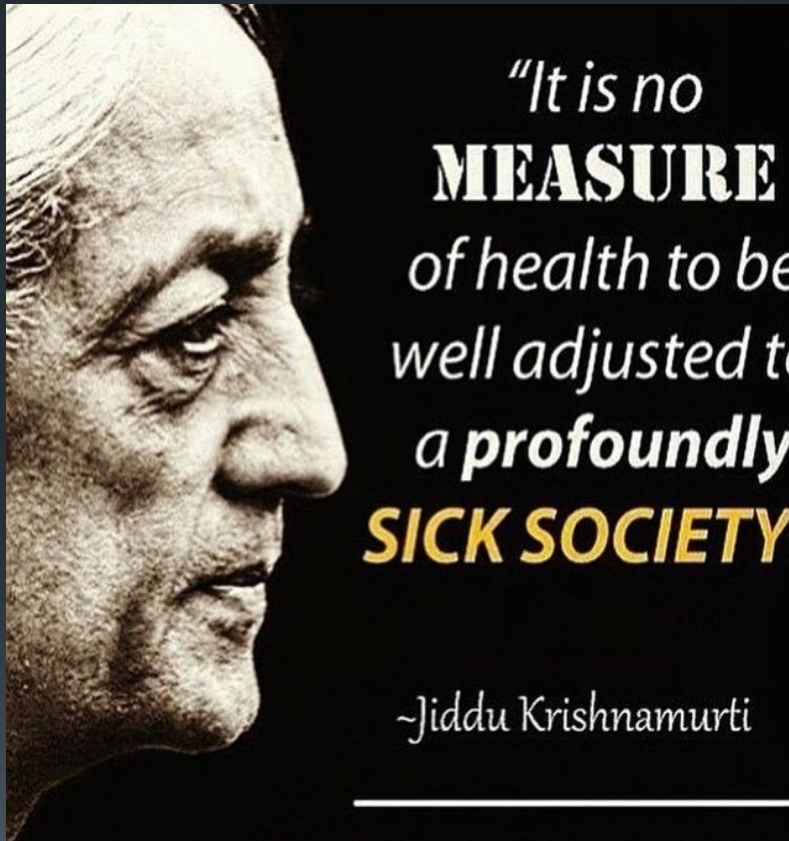
The central question in this book is how we restore the balance between the pillars in the face of the ongoing disruptive technological and social change.





Facit

public health ?



community matters  
and does not mean uniformity



„ If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.“

Carl von Clausewitz  
- On War - 1832