

Bolsonaro's Little Flu

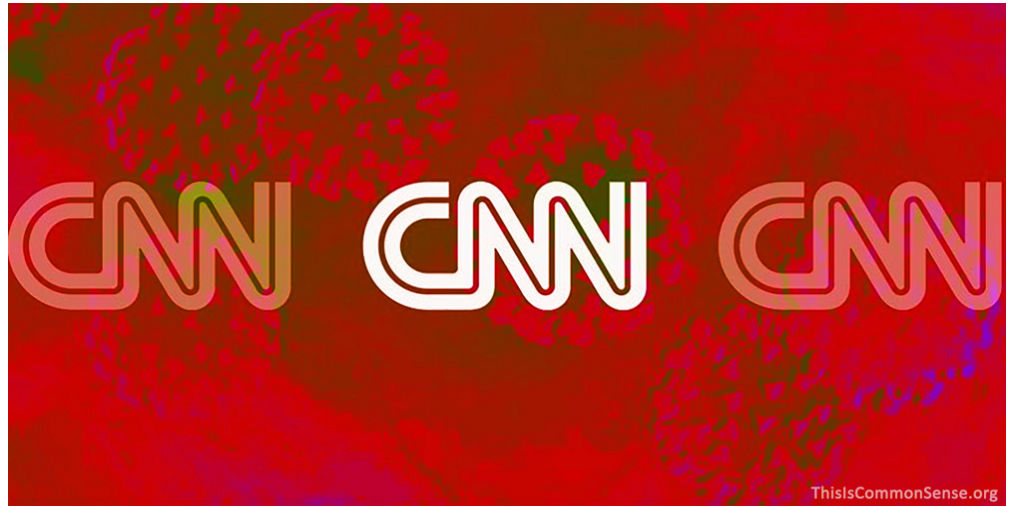
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"I know that nobody can recover from dying, but the economy not working leads to other causes of death and suicide," said Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro regarding his reopening of his country's economy. "We have suffered very harsh criticism in this regard, but today it shows that we are right. The fact that I am infected shows that I am a human being like any other."

Some of that strikes this reader as not well put, but there are two important points: shutting down commerce does lead to horrendous consequences, especially for the poor, and

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... President Bolsonaro — who is often characterized as a Brazilian Trump-like figure — has been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and has COVID-19, if in mild form.



He has taken hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, the much-disputed treatment.

The news report from CNN mentions his diagnosis and immediately follows it up with "after months of downplaying the virus."

Now, downplaying threats is one way of handling them, for psychological reasons: sometimes the worst thing to fear is, as FDR said, "fear itself." In the beginning, Bolsonaro called the virus a "little flu."

"More than 65,000 people have now died of the virus in Brazil, according to figures released by the country's health ministry on Monday," CNN explains. "So far, 1,623,284 cases have been confirmed."

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Like so many major news reports, CNN does not describe the curve of coronavirus deaths, just says they're up.

Apparently, good reporting has a high lethality rate.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.