

# Review of: "[Commentary] Global Governance and Sustainable Development: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript provides a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on democratic and authoritarian regimes, highlighting issues like discrimination against minorities and widening wealth gaps. It offers valuable insights into the challenges these regimes faced during the pandemic.

However, there are several areas where the article could be enhanced.

1. Firstly, while criticizing capitalist systems is a vital part of the thesis, it occasionally comes across as being viewed from one lens. The discussion tends to focus only on the negative aspects of capitalist systems without fully exploring their potential benefits or how they might be adapted to promote more sustainable and equitable outcomes rather than overhauled. A more balanced debate could strengthen the manuscript by considering both the advantages and limitations of capitalist frameworks. Can you provide specific examples of capitalist systems' benefits and discuss how they might be adapted for sustainability?
2. While the paper advocates for systemic changes, it needs more detailed proposals for how they can be realistically implemented. Including more concrete examples and a more precise plan for these transitions would significantly improve the paper's practical relevance, especially for policymakers and practitioners.
3. Lastly, the manuscript primarily focuses on social inequalities in Western countries, which might limit the applicability of its conclusions globally. Including case studies and data from various countries across continents would help widen the discussion's scope and make the proposed solutions more relevant across different socio-economic contexts.