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Exactly a century ago, the so-called Spanish Influenza caused between 20 and 40 million deaths, maybe more, in three successive waves between 1918 and 1919. But when a new disease, called "COVID-19" began to appear in China at the end of 2019, triggered by the "SARS-CoV 2" virus, this was initially looked upon with disdain around the world. Governments and populations had only retained the memory of two recent similar viral outbreaks, namely the first SARS-CoV, in 2002–2004, and the H1N1 flu in 2009–2010. Likewise starting in Asia, these two outbreaks had ended up needlessly alarming the rest of the world. The second scare was even seen as money badly spent organizing large, but useless, vaccination campaigns, as in France in 2009–2010.¹ But today, this ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has undeniably established that the exponential expansion of humanity in all its aspects since the industrial era, allowing it to conquer the Moon, also left it vulnerable to a microscopic virus in the twenty-first century, just as it had occurred with the Spanish Influenza epidemic a hundred years before.

¹In France, the then Health Minister Roselyne Bachelot organized a national vaccination campaign costing about 1.5 million Euros, which was very quickly rejected, since the virus had not in fact caused a world pandemic as feared; it was disastrous for her political career at the time (see for instance <http://www.politique.net/2009101201-mont-de-la-grippe-a-jam>); the COVID-19 pandemic gave her credit retrospectively—and she was even again part of a Government.

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