

August 2020

# Länderbericht

Auslandsbüro USA, Washington D.C.



## Corona Update: USA (20) – aktuelle Studien, Analysen und Kommentare

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Für die Zeit vom 7. bis 13. August 2020

Zusammengestellt von: Sabine Murphy, Jeanene Laird, Elmar Sulk, Syreta Haggray, Dirk Hegen, Paul Linnarz

Die Corona-Krise hat über die erheblichen gesundheitlichen Risiken und Folgen hinaus weitreichende Auswirkungen auf die Wirtschaft, Sicherheit, Forschung, Innen- und Außenpolitik sowie das gesellschaftliche Leben in den Vereinigten Staaten. Namhafte US-amerikanische Think Tanks und Experten setzen sich intensiv mit den unterschiedlichen Aspekten und Herausforderungen dieser in ihrem Umfang und ihrer Schnelligkeit beispiellosen Krise auseinander. Für einen Überblick über den aktuellen Stand der Diskussion stellt das KAS-Auslandsbüro USA mit Sitz in Washington D.C. wöchentlich eine Auswahl an Studien, Analysen und Kommentaren jeweils mit Links zu den Beiträgen zusammen.

### “The COVID-19 Eviction Crisis: An Estimated 30-40 Million People in America are at Risk”

Quelle: The Aspen Institute (August 7, 2020)

Katherine Lucas McKay, Senior Program Manager, Aspen Institute, et al.

This [new research](#) (produced in cooperation by the Aspen Institute, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University and other institutions) outlines the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on housing in the United States. It estimates that due to the expiration of federal, state and local protections and resources, between 30 and 40 million people in America could be at risk of eviction in the next several months. According to the authors, “this article frames the growing potential for widespread displacement and homelessness across the United States.”

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### „Trump’s Executive Order on Evictions Likely Won’t Prevent Any Evictions“

Quelle: City Lab DC, a joint Aspen Institute and Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative (Aug 10, 2020)

Kriston Capps, writer for City Lab DC

In his [article](#) CityLab's Kriston Capps argues that President Trump's claim that his recent executive order protects people from eviction is a false promise as the order itself makes no concrete provisions to extend the federal evictions moratorium and merely instructs federal agencies like HUD to look again at existing funds or options for protecting renters, without promising any specific relief. For the estimated 34% of renters nationwide who may not make rent this month, the executive order would not be enough, states the author.

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### “How is COVID-19 affecting US trade?”

Quelle: The Brookings Institution (August 10, 2020)

David Dollar, Sr. fellow; Anna Newby, Communications Director

In this episode of "Dollar & Sense", a Brookings podcast (download [here](#)), host David Dollar is asked what new data can tell us about how the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated recession are affecting U.S. trade. Dollar shares insights on which industries have been hit hardest, how the recession will alter the U.S. trade deficit and the phase one trade deal with China in his mind, and the likelihood American companies begin reshoring their manufacturing and value chains.

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### **„The Black-White Wealth Gap Will Widen Educational Disparities During the Coronavirus Pandemic“**

Quelle: Center for American Progress (CAP, Aug 12, 2020)

Dania Francis, Assistant Professor of Economics, College of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Christian E. Weller, Senior fellow

According to the authors, less wealth makes it more difficult for African American parents to get reliable access to the internet and devices for remote learning, which puts their children at a clear educational disadvantage during the pandemic. Their [column](#) explains how in further detail.

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### **“Republicans more open to in-person worship, but most oppose religious exemptions from COVID restrictions“**

Quelle: Pew Research Center (August 11, 2020)

Justin Nortey, Research Assistant

Republicans and Democrats have different opinions on many aspects of the pandemic, including their levels of concern about the safety of various activities. These partisan differences extend to views about religious practices during the coronavirus crisis. This Pew Research Center [survey](#) shows that majorities in both parties say that houses of worship should be subject to virus-related restrictions.

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### **"Building American Resilience: A Roadmap for Recovery After COVID-19"**

Quelle: Progressive Policy Institute (PPI, Aug 10, 2020)

Will Marshall, Founder and President of PPI, et al.

In this extensive report, the various authors argue the COVID-19 pandemic has caused traumatic shocks that have frayed the nerves of the American people because of the catastrophic failures of national leadership. But, according to them, not all hope is lost. Their [report](#) lays out a roadmap for confronting various underlying and structural shortcomings and inequities as well as a blueprint for recovery and resilience.

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### **"Where Should the Money Come From?"**

Quelle: Tax Foundation (August 12, 2020)

Daniel Bunn, Vice President of Global Projects

This [analysis](#) discusses possible fiscal responses to pandemic-induced budget gaps and asks "what revenue sources will provide the funds to pay down the bill from the pandemic." Specifically, the author examines revenue resources, such as the wealth taxes, (global) corporate minimum taxes, excess profits taxes, and digital taxes "as opportunities for governments to raise new revenues."

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### **"US unemployment rate falls again but still little progress for people who have not been temporarily furloughed from their jobs"**

Quelle: Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE, August 7, 2020)

Jason Furman, Nonresident Senior Fellow;  
Wilson Powell III, Research Associate, Mossavar-  
Rahmani Center for Business & Government at  
the Harvard Kennedy School

In this [report](#), the authors analyze the future labor market in the United States. They predict that a “partial bounce back” phase will only get harder, especially if the virus remains a widespread concern. Based on the data one of the conclusions they make is that the temporary labor problems are very deep and that even if individuals on temporary layoff returned to work very quickly, the U.S. would still have a recessionary level of unemployment for some time to come.

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### “Financing Drug Development: What the Pandemic Has Taught Us”

Quelle: Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR, August 11, 2020)

Dean Baker, Senior Economist

According to the author, Covid-19 has gone against common popular assumptions that federal government funding of later stages of research and testing of new drugs is a waste of money. Instead Operation Warp Speed is directly funding research on vaccines. For example, the U.S. government paid \$483 million to Moderna for pre-clinical research and Phase 1 and 2 testing with an additional \$472 million to cover the cost of phase 3 testing. In the [study](#), he concludes that publicly funded, open-source research is likely to be more efficient on a per-dollar basis and would lead to better health outcomes.

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### “Comparing the Heroes and HEALS Acts”

Quelle: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (August 7, 2020)

No specific author

This [blog entry](#) compares and contrasts the two current bills: The Senate’s ‘Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and School’ (HEALS) Act and the House-approved ‘Heroes Act’. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the Heroes Act would cost \$3,4 trillion through 2030, while the HEALS Act would cost \$1,1 trillion. The blog post provides tables that summarize the different spending categories.

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### “Elevating Women Peacebuilders amidst COVID-19”

Quelle: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, August 10, 2020)

Erol Yayboke, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Project on Prosperity and Development, Project on U.S. Leadership in Development; Hareem F. Abdullah, former research intern

According to the authors of this [analysis](#), the Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating conditions for women and girls around the world, especially in conflict and fragile settings. A shadow pandemic of gender-based violence is growing. Women are being excluded and marginalized from all areas of decision-making, including Covid-19 response and recovery efforts. "Despite this, women are showing exemplary strength as they combat Covid-19 within their communities. Women peacebuilders and peacekeepers are educating local communities about containing and preventing the spread of Covid-19 and are providing life-saving services to men, women, and children," write Yayboke, who has long-term field experience working for organizations in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and the Somali Region of Ethiopia, and Abdullah.

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Weitere Kurzbeiträge:

### “Financial regulation in the face of COVID-19: Resilient but complex clockwork”

Quelle: Atlantic Council (August 11, 2020)

Emilie Giraud-Bel, European and  
International Affairs expert

In this [commentary](#) for the Atlantic Council, the author writes about the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and calls it "an unprecedented crisis". For the first time since the Great Depression both advanced and developing economies are in recession. Yet, "regulations set up in the aftermath of the last downturn have helped economies weather the COVID-19 storm."

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### **„How racism undermines the COVID-19 response and recovery“**

Quelle: University of Southern California, Center  
for Health Journalism (August 11, 2020)

Georges Benjamin, executive director of the  
American Public Health Association

According to the author of this [article](#), a public health expert with government experience, the impact of racism is front and center of policy discussions about the devastating toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color. "Early in the outbreak it became clear that African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans had a higher incidence of this disease", writes Benjamin. He states that, "[...] to understand how racism is at play in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and why so many people have been spurred to gather publicly and protest despite potentially increasing their risk of infection, it's important to understand the three forms of racism: structural racism, personally mediated racism and internalized racism."

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### **“No Fair! COVID-19 Disrupts Tradition and County Revenue“**

Quelle: The Pew Charitable Trusts  
(August 12, 2020)

April Simpson, Staff Writer, Stateline

This [article](#) describes the effects of the numerous cancellations of county fairs across the United States due to the coronavirus pandemic. According to Simpson, the future of these traditionally significant fairs with their cultural and commercial value is threatened by the virus. According to the article, the overall economic activity from U.S. fairs is about \$4.7 billion annually.

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### **“Closed schools are a national emergency“**

Quelle: American Enterprise Institute  
(AEI, August 11, 2020)

Michael R. Strain, Director, Economic Policy Studies

In this [op-ed](#) for the American Enterprise Institute, the author advocates for in-person instruction for students this fall, at least for children in elementary and middle schools. The COVID-19 emergency calls for "bold" steps and "audacious ideas" to open schools. The author suggests Congress should address this "National emergency" in a "bipartisan, cooperative spirit and with the same urgency and creativity it showed in March."

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### **Für die aktuellen Zahlen zur Corona-Krise in den USA:**

The Centers for Disease Control:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Johns Hopkins University:  
<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

The New York Times:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

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