

outlet, wrote for every major media platform, and was a columnist for outlets ranging from The Guardian to the Soros-funded Project Syndicate to The Sunday Times of London.

In addition to these professional validations, I was privileged to be part of the cultural “scene” made up of influencers on the progressive left. It was a satisfying lifestyle: film premieres and art openings, book parties and galas. All these events reassured those of us attending that we were at the center of the universe, and for good reason, and that our worldview was the right one—indeed, the only one.

I had been treated as a media fixture for those 35 years, for doing what I had always done—speaking up for civil liberties and the Constitution and reporting on women’s health issues—especially on sexual and reproductive health issues, my beat.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns, then, I did what I have always done; I investigated the myths and narratives that I saw forming online and in news outlets and asked public questions about them. For me, this was nothing new. By doing so, I realized that many of the diktats of the period were untrue. I saw quickly that the COVID-19 maps on the front pages of The New York Times and other news outlets and the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 map cited by almost every other news outlet in the United States were all produced without giving the reader any access to the underlying datasets, for example. As a tech CEO whose website specializes in presenting the same kind of government data (application programming interfaces, or APIs), I saw immediately that there was no way to trust these COVID-19 maps.

I knew from having written “The End of America” that the fact that we were, in July 2020, already at Step 10 of the 10 Steps to Fascism—emergency law—represented a very dangerous situation. I knew from having read my way, as a former graduate student, through many of the past 400 years’ worth of English memoirs and novels, that waves of infectious diseases, ranging from yellow fever to typhus to cholera, had passed over both Britain and America but that these diseases had never been treated as we were treating this purportedly serious infectious disease, COVID-19.

Never had multiple generations been advised to crowd together into