

COVID-19 coronavirus

The stakes are high.

Sacrifices will have to be made. But war metaphors have their own dangers.

They can create an atmosphere where dissent and criticism of government policy are discouraged, possibly even branded as a kind of betrayal. They emphasize treatment, not prevention. Turning the strategy to tackle a disease into a battlefield could worsen the mental health of those caught in the 'war zone'. And the idea of war also implies victory or defeat — where neither may be the likely outcome with a virus that is here to stay.

Richard Horton, *The COVID-19 Catastrophe*