

Corona Big Book

Main Messages

April 17, 2020

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Summary of message

1. SHORT VERSION

- China caused this pandemic by covering it up, lying, and hoarding the world's supply of medical equipment.
 - China is an adversary that has stolen millions of American jobs, sent fentanyl to the United States, and they send religious minorities to concentration camps.
- My opponent is soft on China, fails to stand up to the Chinese Communist Party, and can't be trusted to take them on.
- I will stand up to China, bring our manufacturing jobs back home, and push for sanctions on China for its role in spreading this pandemic.

2. EXPANDED VERSION

China did this:

- The Chinese Communist Party caused this pandemic. They arrested doctors who tried to warn us. They covered up the number of deaths. They lied and pretended the disease could not be transmitted. China bought up the world's supply of face masks and medical supplies, and then stopped exports out of the country when we needed them.
- China is not an ally, and they're not just a rival -- they are an adversary and the Chinese Communist Party is our enemy.
 - For decades, China has stolen millions of our jobs, they've hacked into our networks, and they've exported plagues and fentanyl to the United States.
 - At home, China forces women to have abortions, they send religious minorities to concentration camps, and they arrest Christians.

We are too reliant on China:

- 97% of antibiotics and many critical pharmaceuticals are now produced only in China -- because China used predatory pricing to drive American manufacturers out of business. They did this to corner the market. They've stolen millions of American jobs.
- We also know that China blocked exports of critical medical products from American companies in China when the world needed them the most. China caused the virus and then made it worse.

My Democratic opponent refuses to stand up to them:

- My opponent is soft on China. He/She's never criticized them, throughout this entire pandemic. He/she opposed tariffs on China even though China has stolen millions of American jobs.
- He/She was silent when Nancy Pelosi delayed aid to the American people to try to pass parts of the Green New Deal. She didn't say anything when Democrats passed money to fund the D.C. opera - the Kennedy Center - which then laid off its employees.
- Democrats blocked money from small businesses when the paycheck protection program ran out. Republicans tried for weeks to pass this unanimously -- and this program had bipartisan support - but Schumer and Pelosi blocked it.

I will stand up to China, bring our jobs back home, and push for sanctions on the Chinese Communist Party

- If I'm elected, I'll fight to move our manufacturing out of China and back home. This will create jobs in the United States, and it is important for our national security. We need to get all of our pharmaceutical production out of China because we can't trust them.
- I will also fight for a strong military. We need to be prepared as China continues its aggression in the South China sea and campaign of cyber attacks.
- Finally, we need to investigate how China was able to keep this pandemic hidden. China should pay a price for arresting doctors who tried to warn about the pandemic. We should impose sanctions on China and treat China like the pariah state that they are.

Key Facts in Brief

China did this:

- That delay from Jan. 14 to Jan. 20 was neither the first mistake made by Chinese officials at all levels in confronting the outbreak, nor the longest lag, as governments around the world have dragged their feet for weeks and even months in addressing the virus.

<https://apnews.com/68a9e1b91de4ffc166acd6012d82c2f9>

- Dr. Li Wenliang shared his suspicions about the coronavirus and was arrested by Chinese authorities.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/02/04/chinese-doctor-has-coronavirus/>
- China destroyed samples of the virus and ordered their doctors to stop testing in December
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/chinese-scientists-destroyed-proof-of-virus-in-december-rz055qjni>
- China is blaming the U.S. military for spreading the virus
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/coronavirus-came-from-china-thats-not-racism-its-a-fact>
- President Trump's China Travel ban saved lives
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/2020/03/19/trumps_decision_to_ban_travel_from_china_saved_lives_505084.html
- U.S. officials suspected China was lying about its numbers in January
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/03/30/national-security-council-sounded-early-alarms-about-coronavirus/>
- In January and February, while the Chinese government was covering up the full extent of the outbreak, they bought up more than \$31 million in American PPE and \$27 million in ventilators. Best estimates are China bought more than 30 million masks and between 560 and 1,360 in ventilators (ventilator prices vary between \$20,000 and \$50,000, depending on the model).
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2020/04/02/us-exports-masks-ppe-china-surged-early-phase-coronavirus/5109747002/>

We are too reliant on China

- 97% of US antibiotics come from China; 95% of Ibuprofen, 91% of hydrocortisone, 70% of acetaminophen, and nearly half our supply of heparin come from China. Many generic drugs including antidepressants, HIV/AIDS medications, birth control pills, chemotherapy treatments, and medicines for Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, epilepsy, and Parkinson's disease are made in China.
<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/coronavirus-disrupt-us-drug-supply-shortages-fda>
- China blocked exports of critical medical products after causing the pandemic
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinas-export-restrictions-strand-medical-goods-u-s-needs-to-fight-coronavirus-state-department-says-11587031203>
- China has been flooding the U.S. with fentanyl causing hundreds of thousands of deaths
<https://wjla.com/news/nation-world/chinese-fentanyl-is-fueling-the-us-opioid-crisis-drug-trade-tensions-escalate>
- The equipment that China sent the world to deal with the pandemic was faulty
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52092395>
- For two decades, the CCP has targeted America's domestic drug manufacturers for destruction, using cartelization, state subsidies and lax safety standards to flood our hospitals and pharmacies with cheap and dangerous Chinese medicine.

<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/sen-cotton-and-rep-gallagher-china-stole-us-capacity-to-make-drugs-we-must-take-it-back>

Democrats are weak on China

- Pelosi attempted to put elements of the Green New Deal -- specifically, carbon neutral requirements for airlines -- into the phase III CARES Act.
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/03/24/trump_no_way_im_signing_pelosis_coronavirus_plan_with_green_new_deal_in_it.html
- The WHO and leading Democrats criticized President Trump's decision to restrict travel from China early in the outbreak. Rep. Ami Bera, who chaired the first House hearing on the outbreak said the travel ban "probably doesn't make sense," and "we shouldn't have an antagonistic relationship with the Chinese. We should be working hand in hand." This was after China covered up the extent of the outbreak
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/02/04/coronavirus-quarantine-travel-110750>
- In September 2019, the entire Democratic presidential field, including Joe Biden, criticized President Trump's tariffs on China.
<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/12/democrats-in-debate-criticize-trump-over-china-tariffs-and-trade-war.html>
- One day after President Trump issued travel restrictions on China, Joe Biden accused the President of "hysteria, xenophobia, and fear-mongering."
<https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1223727977361338370?s=20>
- Joe Biden downplayed China's economic threat to the US. "I mean, you know, they're not bad folks, folks. But guess what, they're not, they're not competition for us."
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/02/politics/joe-biden-china-threat-united-states/index.html>

Likely attacks / questions:

Q: Isn't this Trump's fault?

Note - don't defend Trump, other than the China Travel Ban -- attack China

- This is China's fault. The virus came from China and China covered it up. Because China lied about the extent of the virus, our public health officials acted late.
- I wish that everyone acted earlier -- that includes our elected officials, the World Health Organization, and the CDC.
- I'm glad that President Trump acted early to ban travel to China -- that's something my Democratic opponent did not support and that Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi criticized as xenophobic and racist.

Q: Aren't you being racist by blaming China and causing racist attacks against Chinese Americans?

- No one is blaming Chinese Americans. This is the fault of the Chinese Communist Party for covering up the virus and lying about its danger. This caused the pandemic and they should be held accountable.
- And no one has suffered more from the murderous Communist Chinese Party dictatorship than the people of China. We stand with them against their corrupt government that caused this pandemic.

China/WHO Timeline and Key Dates

2002--Bats in the southern Chinese province of Yunan transmit a novel coronavirus to humans, touching off the spread of the first major SARS epidemic.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

2003--Chinese officials covered up the SARS outbreak for weeks until the death toll forced their hand. The disease, which emerged in southern China in late 2002, spread rapidly from south China to other cities and countries in 2003. More than 8,000 people were infected and 775

died.<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-pneumonia/chineseofficials-investigate-cause-of-pneumonia-outbreak-in-wuhan-idUSKBN1YZ0GP>

Post SARS 2003--China implements a “foolproof” system automatically alerting Beijing of any potential infectious disease activity. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

2004--Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Chinese Academy of Science begins collecting bat coronaviruses in Yunan province--will work on them until the present day, funded by China's National Science and Technology Major Project on Infectious Diseases and the National Natural Science Foundation of China

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/>

April 22, 2004--SARS outbreak in Beijing--10 infected and one death. Later revealed to be a leak from the Chinese CDC's National Institute of Virology in Beijing. <https://www.ccn.com/could-the-deadly-coronavirus-actually-be-a-man-made-killer-disease/>

July, 2004--Five officials at the Chinese CDC punished for negligence in accidental release of SARS, and with risky experimentation with live and attenuated SARS-Coronavirus.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2004-07/02/content_344755.htm

2013--Shi/WIV confirm that SARS is from bats in Yunan province, and that Yunan bats are a primary reservoir for SARS/Coronavirus. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature12711> funded by China's National Science and Technology Major Project on Infectious Diseases and the National Natural Science Foundation of China

2015--Wuhan Institute of Virology achieves Biosafety Level 4 status (the highest biosafety lab level): A Wuhan television report from 2015 declares it China's most advanced virus research laboratory...the only site in China capable of working with deadly viruses.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-possible/>

November 12, 2015--Nature News (affiliated with *Nature*, the “world’s premiere multidisciplinary science journal/platform”) warns that Shi’s lab at WIV was bioengineering bat-chimera coronaviruses: “The only impact of this work is the creation, in a lab, of a new, non-natural risk...building chimeric viruses based on circulating strains [is] too risky to pursue...[based on the fact] The latest work shows that the virus has already overcome critical barriers, such as being able to latch onto human receptors and efficiently infect human airway cells.”

https://www.nature.com/news/engineered-bat-virus-stirs-debate-over-risky-research-1.18787?WT.mc_id=TWT_NatureNews

November 2017--Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Shi isolates coronavirus (ACE targeting/SARS-Covid) from bats in Yunan province. funded by China’s National Science and Technology Major Project on Infectious Diseases and the National Natural Science Foundation of China:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5708621/>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus/>

2017-2019--multiple Chinese publications detail the “heroics” of bat researchers. WaPo:

“Separately, I reviewed two Chinese articles, from 2017 and 2019, describing the heroics of Wuhan CDC researcher Tian Junhua, who while capturing bats in a cave “forgot to take protective measures” so that “bat urine dripped from the top of his head like raindrops.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-did-covid-19-begin-its-initial-origin-story-is-shaky/2020/04/02/1475d488-7521-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html

January 2018--US Embassy in China begins sending U.S. science diplomats to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Unusually, the Embassy’s concerns about safety prompt multiple return visits.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

*****January 19, 2018**--First in a series of diplomatic cables from the Embassy to DOS: “During interactions with scientists at the WIV laboratory, they noted the new lab has a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory.” Cables also note risks at BSL-2 Wuhan CDC, which was also working with bat coronaviruses. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

*****March 27, 2018**--last visit by US science diplomats, WIV issued a news release in English. The U.S. delegation was led by Jamison Fouss, the consul general in Wuhan, and Rick Switzer, the embassy’s counselor of environment, science, technology and health. (WIV [erased](#) that statement from its website, sometime during the week of April 5--though it remains archived on the Internet.)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

December, 2018 and March, 2019--WIV/Shi publishes two papers warning of the significant potential for a pandemic if bat-linked covid viruses were released into the human population, based on their ACE2 affinity. funded by China's National Science and Technology Major Project on Infectious Diseases and the National Natural Science Foundation of China

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-018-0118-9>; <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4915/11/3/210>;
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus/>

November 17, 2019--the date, claimed by the South China Morning Post, to which internal documents from the Chinese government back-traced the likely first case active case of Covid-19. According to the SCMP: "From that date onwards, one to five new cases were reported each day. By December 15, the total number of infections stood at 27 – the first double-digit daily rise was reported on December 17 – and by December 20, the total number of confirmed cases had reached 60."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3074991/coronavirus-chinas-first-confirmed-covid-19-case-traced-back>

December 1, 2019--onset of symptoms for the first officially identified case: person has NO EXPOSURE to the Wuhan Seafood Market. (see table 1B--**¾ of the cases between dec 1 and dec 15 also had no exposure**) [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30183-5/fulltext#bib35](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30183-5/fulltext#bib35)

*****November-Mid December 2019**--according to Georgetown MD/ID specialist David Lucey and subsequent work in the NEJM there is clear evidence of active human-to-human transmission beginning sometime around this point. <https://sciencespeaksblog.org/2020/01/25/wuhan-coronavirus-2019-ncov-qa-6-an-evidence-based-hypothesis/>

*****Early-Mid December 2019**--with clear evidence of a SARS like crisis, the Chinese government lets 5 million people leave Wuhan.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-it-all-started-chinas-early-coronavirus-missteps-11583508932>

*****Mid December 2019**---Dr. Li Wenliang shared his suspicions about the coronavirus and was arrested by Chinese authorities.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/02/04/chinese-doctor-has-coronavirus/>

*****December 27, 2019**--a Guangzhou-based genomics company Vision Medicals had sequenced most of the virus from fluid samples from a deliveryman who worked at the WSM, finds alarming similarity to SARS. Wuhan doctors send at least eight other patient samples from hospitals around Wuhan to multiple Chinese genomics companies. the results failed to trigger a response that could have prepared the public, despite being fed into an infectious disease control system that was designed to alert China's top health officials about outbreaks.

<https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

*****December 27/28, 2019--**Vision Medicals shares results of the sequencing with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

December 27-30, 2019--Central Hospital of Wuhan sends samples from a 41 y/o man with no history of contact with the WSM to a Beijing-based lab for study. Test results delivered by the company showed a false positive for SARS. On the evening of Dec. 30, several doctors in Wuhan, including the late Li Wenliang, privately shared CapitalBio's results as a warning to friends and colleagues to take protective measures. Those messages then circulated widely online and sparked a public uproar demanding more information. Several people, including Li and two other doctors who sent the messages that night, were later punished by authorities for "spreading rumors." <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

Confirmation from WaPo: When eight doctors in the city expressed [concern](#) about the new sickness, they were reprimanded for spreading rumors. One of them, Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist, later died of the virus. He had spoken up in an online chat group on Dec. 30. At the time, the Wuhan health commission was telling hospitals not to say anything publicly. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

*****December 30, 2019--**Shi "walks out of a conference in Shanghai" and "hops the next train to Wuhan." Says in an interview that her first instinct was that it was a leak from her lab: "I had never expected this kind of thing to happen in Wuhan, in central China.... the southern, subtropical areas of Guangdong, Guangxi and Yunnan have the greatest risk of coronaviruses jumping to humans from...bats.. If coronaviruses were the culprit, ...could they have come from our lab?" Scientific American reports: "she frantically went through her own laboratory's records from the past few years to check for any mishandling of experimental materials, especially during disposal." Shi subsequently categorically denied responsibility. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/>

December 31, 2019--China goes "public." Beijing admits to 27 cases, says that "the cause is not clear...but an investigation and cleanup were under way at a seafood market in the city, which is suspected to be connected with the cases...No obvious human-to-human transmission had been found and no medical staff had been infected, the commission said-- two weeks before it shared the virus's genome sequence with the world, and n three weeks before Chinese authorities confirmed that the virus was spreading between people. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-pneumonia/chineseofficials-investigate-cause-of-pneumonia-outbreak-in-wuhan-idUSKBN1YZ0GP> <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

December 31, 2019--Taiwan attempted to warn the WHO about the threat of the coronavirus but was ignored due to China's pressuring the WHO not to accept Taiwan as a member or observer state <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2020/03/25/2003733321>

January, 2020--Chinese government suspends Lunar New Year travel--puts a virtual “lockdown” on information about the virus. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

January 1, 2020--Chinese government closes Wuhan Seafood Market. <https://sciencespeaksblog.org/2020/04/09/covid-19-day-100-since-the-wuhan-market-closed-where-are-the-animals-and-their-virus-test-results>

January 1 or 2, 2020--Caixin Global reports (Feb. 29) that on or about Jan 1, and after several batches of genome sequence results had been returned... genomics companies receive phone calls from an official at the Hubei Provincial Health Commission, ordering companies to stop testing samples from Wuhan related to the new disease and destroy all existing samples. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

January 3, 2020--China’s National Health Commission (NHC), the nation’s top health authority, ordered institutions not to publish any information related to the unknown disease, and ordered labs to transfer any samples they had to designated testing institutions, or to destroy them. One virologist told Caixin that even the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences was not qualified for the tests and told to destroy samples in its lab. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

January 5, 2020-- WHO reports “no evidence of human-to-human spread,” and no transmission to healthcare workers--also identifies the likely source as WSM <https://www.who.int/csr/don/05-january-2020-pneumonia-of-unknown-cause-china/en/>

January 5-17, 2020-- two weeks the national Center for Disease Control does not register any new cases, internal bulletins obtained by the AP confirmed. [Yet during that time, from Jan. 5 to Jan. 17](#), hundreds of patients were appearing in hospitals not just in Wuhan but across the country.

January 7, 2020--Xi acknowledges the virus in an internal speech to the politburo standing committee, announcing a lockdown to begin on Jan 23. http://www.qstheory.cn/dukan/qs/2020-02/15/c_1125572832.htm
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/15/world/asia/xi-china-coronavirus.html>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

January 9, 2020--Chinese authorities finally announced that a novel coronavirus was behind Wuhan’s viral pneumonia outbreak. Even then, the transmissibility of the virus was downplayed, leaving the public unaware of the imminent danger. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

January 11, 2020--Shanghai lab publishes nCoV-19 genome. Almost immediately it is shut down by Chinese authorities for “rectification”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

*****January 11-January 18, 2020--**Wuhan Municipal Health Authority repeatedly posts deceptive notices in lead up to upcoming communist party meetings, alleging: only 41 cases; no human-to-human transmission; and that all had contact with the Wuhan Seafood Market (while not specifically identifying the market as the cause). According to Georgetown MD/Infectious Disease Specialist, Daniel Lucey, this is an intentional lie, given China had tested and taken case histories for the 41 and many more.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/01/wuhan-seafood-market-may-not-be-source-novel-virus-spreading-globally>

Jan 12-17, 2020--A pair of annual CCP meetings were held in Wuhan from Jan. 12 to 17, and a huge potluck supper for 40,000 families was held Jan. 18. This is the period that the WMHA, issued public statements that no new cases were detected, and there was no human-to-human transmission.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

January 14--The head of China's National Health Commission, Ma Xiaowei, assessed the local situation in Wuhan in a confidential teleconference with provincial health officials, saying that the situation was "severe and complex," that "clustered cases suggest that human-to-human transmission...and...the risk of transmission and spread is high. All localities must prepare for and respond to a pandemic." The National Health Commission issued a 63-page document on response procedures, but it was labeled "internal" — "not to be spread on the Internet," and "not to be publicly disclosed." A memo obtained by the AP states that the teleconference was held to convey instructions on the coronavirus from **President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Sun Chunlan**, but does not specify what those instructions were.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

January 16-18ish--Millions of people travel from Wuhan to locations inside China in preparation for the celebration of the Lunar New Year.

<https://apnews.com/5aa3549e8b70fdbb0a934539688ec794>

*****January 20, 2020--Six Day Delay:** President Xi Jinping warned the public on the seventh day, Jan. 20. But by then, more than 3,000 people had been infected during almost a week of public silence, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press and estimates based on [retrospective infection data](#).

<https://apnews.com/5aa3549e8b70fdbb0a934539688ec794>

January 20, 2020--Zhong Nanshan, a leading authority on respiratory health who came to national attention in his role fighting SARS, confirmed in a TV interview that the disease was spreading from person-to-person. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

January 21, 2020--Chinese government admits virus may be spreading human-to-human, but is equivocal about the transmissibility. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

January 22/3, 2020--Wuhan and select other cities locked down. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2020-02-29/in-depth-how-early-signs-of-a-sars-like-virus-were-spotted-spread-and-throttled-101521745.html>

January 27, 2020--China reports 2800 official cases, 81 deaths. Despite those low figures, it pledges 9 billion USD of funds to the corona fight, and quarantines cities over 60 million. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-spending/china-allots-nearly-9-billion-to-contain-spread-of-virus-idUSKBN1ZQ0IY>
https://www.cnn.com/asia/live-news/coronavirus-outbreak-01-27-20-intl-hnk/h_c355beae419759093990747b8dac0c08

January 29, 2020--China claims virus contained, 2800 official cases. Modelers in Hong Kong release report that puts number infected in Wuhan at almost 45k. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3047813/china-coronavirus-hong-kong-medical-experts-call>

*****January 23-30, 2020**--While claiming the virus is contained, China purchases more than 56 million masks in a single week, most of the global supply. China also prohibited the export of all domestically made masks, including those made in factories owned by American companies. According to Trump advisor Peter Navarro, China opted to “nationalize effectively 3M, our company.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/business/masks-china-coronavirus.html>

*****February, 2020**--In February China bought more than 30 million masks and between 560 and 1,360 in ventilators (ventilator prices vary between \$20,000 and \$50,000, depending on the model). The masks China bought were more than enough to supply the 28.5 million masks that mayors of nearly 200 U.S. cities said they need to combat the coronavirus outbreak. These numbers are minimums--they do not account for smaller shipments sent by friends and family to China. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2020/04/02/us-exports-masks-ppe-china-surged-early-phase-coronavirus/5109747002/>

*****February 3, 2020**--Shi and WIV are first to press to report that NCoV was a bat-derived virus. They identify the Wuhan wet market as the source, citing the Wuhan Municipal Health Authority--i.e. *no additional scientific validation* funded by China's National Science and Technology Major Project on Infectious Diseases and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (<http://wjw.wuhan.gov.cn/front/web/showDetail/2020012709194>) <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7>

*****February 3, 2020**--China -- and the WHO -- opposed travel restrictions, even on citizens from Hubei province. (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-who/who-chief-says-widespread-travel-bans-not-needed-to-beat-china-virus-idUSKBN1ZX1H3>)

*****February, 2020--**Professor Botao Xiao and Doctor Lei Xia, of the South China University of Technology and MD at Union Hospital, Wuhan publish preprint of a paper that claims that leaks from the WIV and/or the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention were the only possible source of the covid-19, repeating the Lancet's claim that the majority of the early cases had no link to the WSM, and claiming that:

- The virus is a bat-linked coronavirus;
- The market did not serve or sell bats;
- That the closest bats that were likely candidates for covid were 800 miles away in Yunan province--citing "bat lady" Shi's claim that the virus was only present in Yunan.
- That their investigation of tissue samples (put in city garbage bins 280 meters from the wet market, adjacent to union hospital) from the WCDPC and the nearby WIV **contained animal tissue positive for covid.**

February 14, 2020--President Xi pushes major new biosecurity reforms, framing pandemic response as a "national security issue," "centralizing the chain of command," and dramatically limiting transparency.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1745270.shtml

February 28--China and WHO release a joint report 100 days after the closure of the WSM

([https://www.who.int/publications-detail/report-of-the-who-china-joint-mission-on-coronavirus-disease-2019-\(covid-19\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/report-of-the-who-china-joint-mission-on-coronavirus-disease-2019-(covid-19))). Report:

- Does not disclose results of animal testing in WSM.
- Despite investigating, Does not identify types of animals sold at WSM
- Claims "source of the infection" is unknown, including "site of human-animal interface."

Mid-March, 2020--Ai Fen, head of Emergency Medicine at Wuhan Central Hospital says authorities prevented her and her colleagues from warning the world. As per Australian 60 minutes: "Just two weeks ago the head of Emergency at Wuhan Central hospital went public, saying authorities had stopped her and her colleagues from warning the world,"

<https://twitter.com/60Mins/status/1244211674439016449>

March 12, 2020--Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lijian Zhao charged the US army with releasing Covid at the World Military Games in Wuhan in October of 2019 [tweet](#), linking to this article.

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/covid-19-further-evidence-virus-originated-us/5706078>

March 22, 2020--Chinese officials walk back the "US Army" covid claim in an interview with Axios, saying accusations of intentional release or leaks on either side were "crazy."

<https://www.axios.com/china-coronavirus-ambassador-cui-tiankai-1b0404e8-026d-4b7d-8290-98076f95df14.html>

March 25, 2020--Chinese place severe restrictions on any publication relating to the origin of covid--requiring central party approval before any research institution publishes anything on the origin of the novel coronavirus. First revealed on a website at Fudan University

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20200409053204/http://www.it.fudan.edu.cn/Data/View/3657>) and

subsequently pulled down after western media outlets reported on it.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/12/asia/china-coronavirus-research-restrictions-intl-hnk/index.html>

March 30, 2020--Countries start pointing out that medical equipment sent by China to deal with the pandemic is broken and unreliable

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52092395>

April 1, 2020--Radio Free Asia, Australian 60 Minutes, and the New York Post report that Ai Fen has “now disappeared, her whereabouts unknown,” and that eight of her colleagues were reprimanded.

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/01/whistleblowing-coronavirus-doctor-mysteriously-vanishes/>

April 5, 2020--China flooded facebook with propaganda ads blaming President Trump for his handling the virus

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2020/04/05/china-floods-facebook-instagram-undeclared-coronavirus-propaganda/>

April 10, 2020—Despite low reported infection and death rates, China begins to claw back medical equipment and PPE bound for export by ratcheting up customs checks.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-tightens-customs-checks-for-medical-equipment-exports-11586519333>

Hit—China

Key Points:

- **Coronavirus was a Chinese hit-and-run followed by a cover-up that cost thousands of lives:**
 - First, their terrible biosafety standards and long track record of playing fast and loose with bat viruses likely created a devastating accidental release.
 - Second, they tried to cover their tracks by floating a scientifically improbable cover story--one denied by the basic facts of the epidemic.
 - Third, they moved to destroy all the evidence and lock down any information about the virus--forcing labs to destroy samples and making naysayers and whistleblowers disappear.
 - Fourth, they pressured the medical community and captured the WHO, making them serve as a mouthpiece for deadly claims about the scope of the virus, the speed of its transmission, and tragically, about the prevalence of human-to-human spread.
 - Then, they waited a full month to take action, allowing 5 million potentially infected people to leave Wuhan--and then they ran interference on global responses to the virus while buying up all the spare international stocks of PPE. China even blocked the exports of critical PPE from American companies based in China.
 - Finally, China hoarded the world's supply of critical medical equipment, and then sent faulty equipment around the world -- making the pandemic that they created even worse.
- X number of people [to date] are infected, and Y number have died [to date]: of course we wish everyone could have acted earlier--but china worked like mad to make sure that that couldn't happen.

Key Facts:

*****See Timeline/Specific Hits Below for Backup*****

China Release

Key Points:

- The coronavirus is likely the result of an accidental release by a Chinese research facility--decades of haphazard experimentation with viruses and negligence in biosafety made the release of a bat covid virus a likely source of the coronavirus..
- The Lancet proved that the first infected patients had no link with the Wuhan Seafood Market--it was a cover story about people eating bats and pangolins to shield the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Wuhan Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (both of which are near the market) from scrutiny.
- Researchers from Wuhan and the South China University of Technology published a paper that showed that animal tissue samples taken from outside these research labs contained covid: they also showed that natural bat transmission would have been impossible, and that the market did not serve bats. The paper was taken down by the chinese government, and they have since banned any discussion about the origins of the virus.
- Shi Zhengli--the world's most prominent expert in bat coronaviruses--works at the WIV. She has a large library of coronaviruses, and admits that it was impossible for an ACE2 targeting bat coronavirus to infect Wuhan naturally, since only bats from Yunan province--800 miles away--carry SARS Covid viruses that target that receptor.
- Shi's first response when she heard that Wuhan was beset by an ACE2 targeting bat coronavirus was that it was "impossible" in central China, and that it must have been a leak from her lab. She was also the first to confirm that wuhan pneumonia was a SARS-Covid Bat virus.
- State Department Cables prove this is the most credible scenario for the release of covid--in 2018 they warned repeatedly that the WIV and the WCDPC were testing ACE2 targeting bat coronaviruses, and that a release would be catastrophic.
- 'The historical record proves it was a Chinese release--they accidentally released (and covered up) SARS, Brucellosis, and had a slew of biosafety violations, including warnings in 2015 about genetically engineering ACE2 targeting coronaviruses.
- Evidence indicates that accidental release due to negligence is the best explanation--the alternative explanations are farcical. It is time to admit that the Chinese accidentally released the virus and then covered it up, killing tens of thousands of people, and wrecking the global economy.

Key Facts:

- Withdrawn Chinese Study from Wuhan/South China University of Technology/Chinese Natural Sciences Academy--Concludes accidental release was the only real possibility.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-did-covid-19-begin-its-initial-origin-story-is-shaky/2020/04/02/1475d488-7521-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html

- And then there's the Chinese study that was curiously withdrawn. In February, a site called ResearchGate published a brief article by Botao Xiao and Lei Xiao from Guangzhou's South China University of Technology. "In addition to origins of natural recombination and intermediate host, the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan. Safety level may need to be reinforced in high risk biohazardous laboratories," the [article](#) concluded.
- The original study from Xiao and Xiao, (South China University of Technology and Tian You hospital in Wuhan) concludes that all things considered, accidental release was the only possibility--and discarded tissue samples discovered by the authors prove it.
<https://img-prod.tgcom24.mediaset.it/images/2020/02/16/114720192-5eb8307f-017c-4075-a697-348628da0204.pdf>

Was there any other possible pathway? We screened the area around the seafood market and identified two laboratories conducting research on bat coronavirus. Within ~280 meters from the market, there was the Wuhan Center for Disease Control & Prevention (WHCDC) (Figure 1, from Baidu and Google maps). WHCDC hosted animals in laboratories for research purpose, one of which was specialized in pathogens collection and identification 4-6. In one of their studies, 155 bats including *Rhinolophus affinis* were captured in Hubei province, and other 450 bats were captured in Zhejiang province 4. ...In addition to origins of natural recombination and intermediate host, the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan. Safety levels may need to be reinforced in high risk biohazardous laboratories. Regulations may be taken to relocate these laboratories far away from city center and other densely populated places. Surgery was performed on the caged animals and the tissue samples were collected for DNA and RNA extraction and sequencing 4, 5. The tissue samples and contaminated trashes were source of pathogens. They were only ~280 meters from the seafood market. The WHCDC was also adjacent to the Union Hospital (Figure 1, bottom) where the first group of doctors were infected during this epidemic. It is plausible that the virus leaked around and some of them contaminated the initial patients in this epidemic, though solid proofs are needed in future study.

- Fox News Report: Likely originated from a lab
FOX NEWS EXCLUSIVE: There is increasing confidence that COVID-19 likely originated in a Wuhan laboratory not as a bioweapon, but as part of China's effort to demonstrate that its efforts to identify and combat viruses are equal to or greater than the capabilities of the United States, multiple sources who have been briefed on the details of early actions by China's government and seen relevant materials tell Fox News.
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/04/16/bret_baier_sources_tell_fox_news_t_here_is_increasing_confidence_that_coronavirus_originated_in_wuhan_lab.html

- Shi/WIV had a huge library of bat coronaviruses from Yunan.

The efforts paid off. The pathogen hunters discovered hundreds of bat-borne coronaviruses with incredible genetic diversity. “The majority of them are harmless,” Shi says. But dozens belong to the [same group](#) as SARS. They can infect human lung cells in a petri dish, cause SARS-like diseases in mice, and evade vaccines and drugs that work against SARS. In Shitou Cave—where painstaking scrutiny has yielded a natural genetic library of bat viruses—the team discovered a coronavirus strain in 2013 that came [from horseshoe bats](#) and had a genomic sequence that was 97 percent identical to the one found in civets in Guangdong. The finding concluded a decade-long search for the natural reservoir of the SARS coronavirus.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/>

- Even Shi and the WIV admit that the outbreak potential was high.

About a year ago, Shi’s team published two comprehensive reviews about coronaviruses in [Viruses](#) and [Nature Reviews Microbiology](#). Drawing evidence from her own studies—many of which were published in top academic journals—and from others, Shi and her co-authors warned of the risk of future outbreaks of bat-borne coronaviruses.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/>

- Shi/WIV’s first instinct was that Covid was an accidental release from her lab.

On the train back to Wuhan on December 30 last year, Shi and her colleagues discussed ways to immediately start testing the patient samples. In the following weeks—the most intense and the most stressful time of her life—China’s bat woman felt she was fighting a

battle in her worst nightmare, even though it was one she had been preparing for over the past 16 years. Using a technique called polymerase chain reaction, which can detect a virus by amplifying its genetic material, the first round of tests showed that samples from five of seven patients contained genetic sequences known to be present in all coronaviruses. Shi instructed her team to repeat the tests and, at the same time, sent the samples to another laboratory to sequence the full viral genomes. Meanwhile she frantically went through her own laboratory's records from the past few years to check for any mishandling of experimental materials, especially during disposal. ... "I had not slept a wink for days."

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-chinas-bat-woman-hunted-down-viruses-from-sars-to-the-new-coronavirus1/>

- Shi—the world's foremost bat coronavirus expert—admits that next coronavirus pandemic would have had to come from bats from Yunan—800 Miles away from Wuhan; the ACE2 targeting variant is found only in Yunan—it is near scientifically impossible that the outbreak was born in Wuhan.

During the past two decades, three zoonotic coronaviruses have been identified as the cause of large-scale disease outbreaks—Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and Swine Acute Diarrhea Syndrome (SADS). ... They have common characteristics, such as they are all highly pathogenic to humans or livestock, their agents originated from bats, and two of them originated in China. Thus, it is highly likely that future SARS- or MERS-like coronavirus outbreaks will originate from bats, and there is an increased probability that this will occur in China... The S protein in certain strains is capable of using human ACE2 as a receptor and thus poses a direct threat to humans [69]. Interestingly, all the SARSr-CoVs that are capable of using human ACE2 were found in *R. sinicus* in Yunnan Province [7,22,27,62]. Other SARSr-CoVs that cannot use human ACE2 were distributed in multiple provinces, from north Jilin, Shaanxi, Shanxi to south Hubei, Zhejiang, Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangdong (Figure 1).... These studies revealed that various SARSr-CoVs capable of using human ACE2 are still circulating among bats in China, highlighting the possibility of another SARS-like disease outbreak. Certain areas in Yunnan Province are hotspots for spillover. To support this hypothesis, we provide serological evidence of bat SARSr-CoV infection in humans in Yunnan Province where no prior exposure to SARS-CoV was recorded [70]. The majority of the SARSr-CoVs appear not able to use ACE2, but their infectivity or pathogenesis to humans are still unknown.... all the human-ACE2-using SARSr-CoVs were found in Yunnan Province...

<https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4915/11/3/210>

- Bulletin of Atomic Scientists: circumstantial evidence indicates accidental release.

... circumstantial evidence that supports the possibility that a lab release was involved. That evidence includes [a study](#) “conducted by the South China University of Technology, [that] concluded that the coronavirus ‘probably’ originated in the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention,” located just 280 meters from the Hunan Seafood Market often cited as the source of the original outbreak.

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/03/experts-know-the-new-coronavirus-is-not-a-bioweapon-they-disagree-on-whether-it-could-have-leaked-from-a-research-lab/>

- B.A.S: China has a long history of pathogen release accidents: SARS 2004, Brucellosis in 2019; and violations by Li Ning in 2020

Still, lab safety has been a problem in China. “A [safety breach](#) at a Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention lab is believed to have caused four suspected SARS cases, including one death, in Beijing in 2004. A similar accident caused [65 lab workers](#) of Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute to be infected with brucellosis in December 2019,” Huang wrote. “In January 2020, a renowned Chinese scientist, Li Ning, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for selling experimental animals to local markets.

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/03/experts-know-the-new-coronavirus-is-not-a-bioweapon-they-disagree-on-whether-it-could-have-leaked-from-a-research-lab/>

- BAS/Ebright--Highly probable that Wuhan BSL-2 was working on bat-corona viruses like SARS Covid: huge risk for release, and none of the alternative models can rule out accidental lab release.

But Ebright thinks that it is possible the COVID-19 pandemic started as an accidental release from a laboratory such as one of the two in Wuhan that are known to have been studying bat coronaviruses. Except for SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, two deadly viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past, coronaviruses have been studied at laboratories that are labelled as operating at a moderate biosafety level known as BSL-2, Ebright says. And, he says, bat coronaviruses have been studied at such labs in and around Wuhan, China, where the new coronavirus first emerged. “As a result,” Ebright says, “bat coronaviruses at Wuhan [Center for Disease Control] and Wuhan Institute of Virology routinely were collected and studied at BSL-2, which provides only minimal protections against infection of lab workers.”... Virus collection, culture, isolation, or animal infection at BSL-2 with a virus having the transmission characteristics of the outbreak virus would pose substantial risk of infection of a lab worker, and from the lab worker, the public”

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/03/experts-know-the-new-coronavirus-is-not-a-bioweapon-they-disagree-on-whether-it-could-have-leaked-from-a-research-lab/>

- WAPO: coronavirus origins “shaky”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-did-covid-19-begin-its-initial-origin-story-is-shaky/2020/04/02/1475d488-7521-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html

- DOS cables sounded alarm about Wuhan labs’ work on bat-coronaviruses in 2018

“The cable tells us that there have long been concerns about the possibility of the threat to public health that came from this lab’s research, if it was not being adequately conducted and protected,” he said. There are similar concerns about the nearby Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention lab, which operates at biosecurity level 2, a level significantly less secure than the level-4 standard claimed by the Wuhan Institute of Virology lab, Xiao said. That’s important because the Chinese government still refuses to answer basic questions about the origin of the novel coronavirus while suppressing any attempts to examine whether either lab was involved. Sources familiar with the cables said they were meant to sound an alarm about the grave safety concerns at the WIV lab, especially regarding its work with bat coronaviruses.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

- 2018 US embassy warned that the Chinese were working on bat coronaviruses at a facility with significant biosafety issues

Two years before the novel [coronavirus](#) pandemic upended the world, U.S. Embassy officials visited a Chinese research facility in the city of Wuhan several times and sent two official warnings back to Washington about inadequate safety at the lab, which was conducting risky studies on coronaviruses from bats. The cables have fueled discussions inside the U.S. government about whether this or another Wuhan lab was the source of the virus — even though conclusive proof has yet to emerge. In January 2018, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing took the unusual step of repeatedly sending U.S. science diplomats to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which had in 2015 become China’s first laboratory to achieve the highest level of international bio research safety (known as BSL-4). WIV issued a news release in English about the last of these visits, which occurred on March 27, 2018. The U.S. delegation was led by Jamison Fouss, the consul general in Wuhan, and Rick Switzer, the embassy’s counselor of environment, science, technology and health. Last week, WIV [erased](#) that statement from its website, though it remains archived on the Internet. What the U.S. officials learned during their visits concerned them so much that they dispatched two diplomatic cables categorized as Sensitive But Unclassified back to Washington. The cables warned about safety and management

weaknesses at the WIV lab and proposed more attention and help. The first cable, which I obtained, also warns that the lab's work on bat coronaviruses and their potential human transmission represented a risk of a new SARS-like pandemic. "During interactions with scientists at the WIV laboratory, they noted the new lab has a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory," states the Jan. 19, 2018, cable, which was drafted by two officials from the embassy's environment, science and health sections who met with the WIV scientists. (The State Department declined to comment on this and other details of the story.)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

- Safety concerns included an ACE2 targeting Covid virus.

"Most importantly," the cable states, "the researchers also showed that various SARS-like coronaviruses can interact with ACE2, the human receptor identified for SARS-coronavirus. This finding strongly suggests that SARS-like coronaviruses from bats can be transmitted to humans to cause SARS-like diseases. From a public health perspective, this makes the continued surveillance of SARS-like coronaviruses in bats and study of the animal-human interface critical to future emerging coronavirus outbreak prediction and prevention."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

- Accidental release is a significant possibility--bad chinese biosafety is the best explanation.

[Richard Ebright](#), a Rutgers microbiologist and biosafety expert, told me in an email that "the first human infection could have occurred as a natural accident," with the virus passing from bat to human, possibly through another animal. But Ebright cautioned that it "also could have occurred as a laboratory accident, with, for example, an accidental infection of a laboratory worker." He noted that bat coronaviruses were studied in Wuhan at Biosafety Level 2, "which provides only minimal protection," compared with the top BSL-4.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-did-covid-19-begin-its-initial-origin-story-is-shaky/2020/04/02/1475d488-7521-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html

- Real bad bat/covid Biosafety in Wuhan--there was a pattern of neglect and negligence.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-did-covid-19-begin-its-initial-origin-story-is-shaky/2020/04/02/1475d488-7521-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html

Ebright described a December video from the Wuhan CDC that shows staffers “collecting bat coronaviruses with inadequate [personal protective equipment] and unsafe operational practices.” Separately, I reviewed two Chinese articles, from 2017 and 2019, describing the heroics of Wuhan CDC researcher Tian Junhua, who while capturing bats in a cave “forgot to take protective measures” so that “bat urine dripped from the top of his head like raindrops.”

- The Chinese have a long track record of creating and experimenting on hybrid bat SARS: history of taking huge biosafety risks that threaten a pandemic.

An experiment that created a hybrid version of a bat coronavirus — one related to the virus that causes SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) — has triggered renewed debate over whether engineering lab variants of viruses with possible pandemic potential is worth the risks. In an article published in *Nature Medicine*¹ on 9 November, scientists investigated a virus called SHC014, which is found in horseshoe bats in China. The researchers created a chimaeric virus, made up of a surface protein of SHC014 and the backbone of a SARS virus that had been adapted to grow in mice and to mimic human disease. The chimaera infected human airway cells — proving that the surface protein of SHC014 has the necessary structure to bind to a key receptor on the cells and to infect them. It also caused disease in mice, but did not kill them. Although almost all coronaviruses isolated from bats have not been able to bind to the key human receptor, SHC014 is not the first that can do so. In 2013, researchers reported this ability for the first time in a different coronavirus isolated from the same bat population².

https://www.nature.com/news/engineered-bat-virus-stirs-debate-over-risky-research-1.18787?WT.mc_id=TWT_NatureNews

- The US stopped this kind of research because of the risks.

The findings reinforce suspicions that bat coronaviruses capable of directly infecting humans (rather than first needing to evolve in an intermediate animal host) may be more common than previously thought, the researchers say.

But other virologists question whether the information gleaned from the experiment justifies the potential risk. Although the extent of any risk is difficult to assess, Simon Wain-Hobson, a virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, points out that the researchers

have created a novel virus that “grows remarkably well” in human cells. “If the virus escaped, nobody could predict the trajectory,” he says

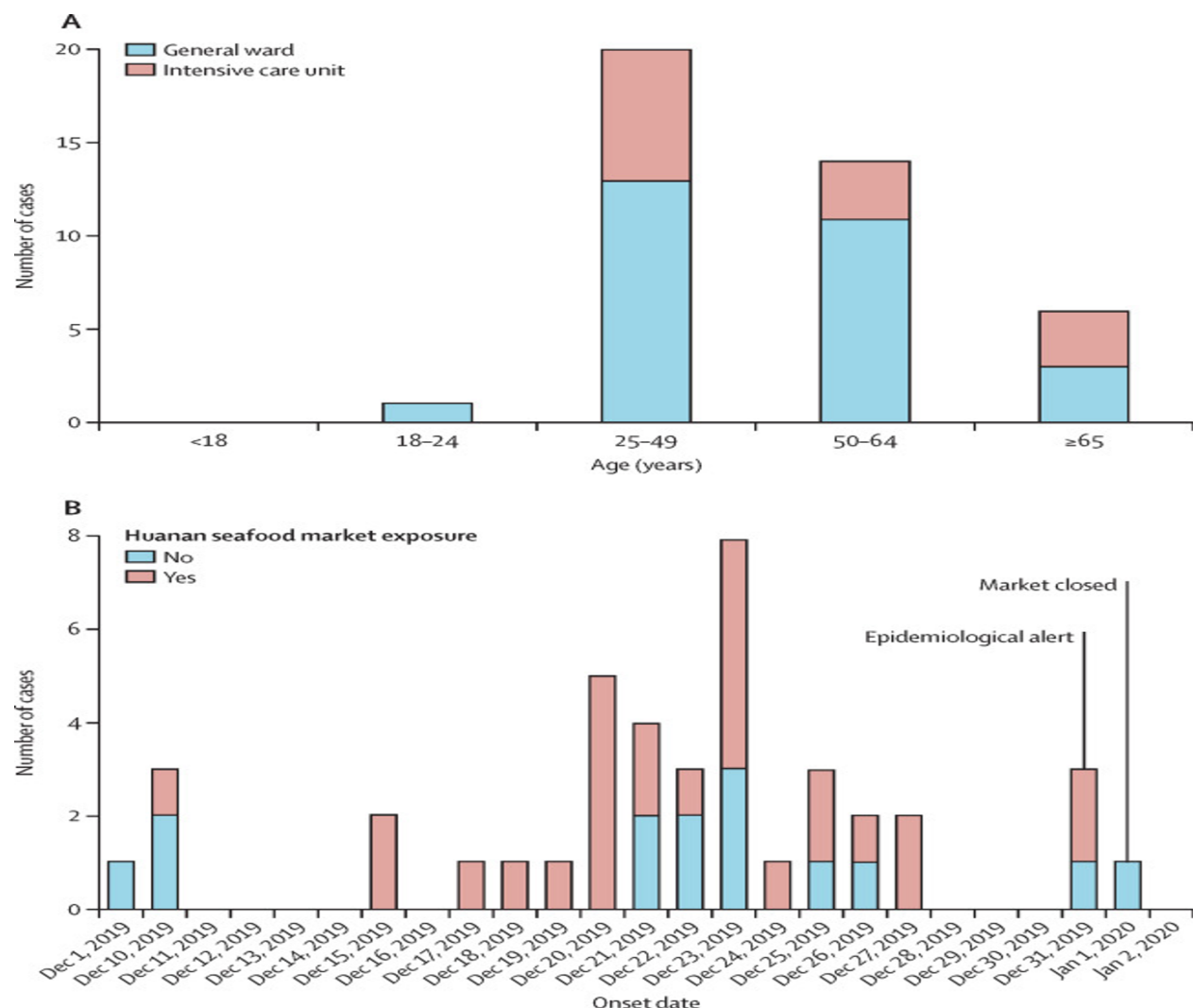
Answers To Likely Arguments:

Answer to: Didn't this start in the Wuhan Wet Market? Why are you pushing conspiracy theories?

- Scientific studies have shown that the early cases were not linked to the Wuhan Wet Market. The Lancet reported experts from the Chinese academy of Medical Sciences: majority of early Covid spread not linked to the WSM

27 (66%) patients had direct exposure to Huanan seafood market ([figure 1B](#)). Market exposure was similar between the patients with ICU care (nine [69%]) and those with non-ICU care (18 [64%]). The symptom onset date of the first patient identified was Dec 1, 2019. None of his family members developed fever or any respiratory symptoms. No epidemiological link was found between the first patient and later cases.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30183-5/fulltext#bib35](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30183-5/fulltext#bib35)



- The Xiao Study--which was subsequently taken down by Chinese Authorities--and the Lancet concluded that only 27 of the original 41 cases had contact with the WSM, and the amount of covid found in sampling was low.

An article published on The Lancet reported that 41 people in Wuhan were found to have the acute respiratory syndrome and 27 of them had contact with Huanan Seafood Market³. The 2019-nCoV was found in 33 out of 585 samples collected in the market after the outbreak. The market was suspicious to be the origin of the epidemic, and was shut down according to the rule of quarantine the source during an epidemic .

- Chinese made no evidence available of the Wuhan market hypothesis, even though it would be easy to prove.
- There have not been public comments about whether specimens from animals and seafood were obtained and tested before January 1st. This part of the investigation would be essential to confirming if there is a zoonotic source and why the outbreak occurred now (i.e., the “One Health” approach to outbreaks). No. Testing of animals from the seafood/live animal market in Wuhan before it was closed and disinfected January 1st should be feasible now that a diagnostic test is available for the new coronavirus. If animal samples are positive for the virus, then such animals in other markets in Wuhan and far from Wuhan will be tested. Perhaps this outbreak is not the first one due to this virus, but only the first one that has been recognized (“discovered”). Testing animals and the marketplace itself would be essential to confirming if there is a zoonotic source and why the outbreak occurred now in Wuhan (i.e., the “One Health” approach to outbreaks).

<https://sciencespeaksblog.org/2020/01/07/an-id-physician-addresses-frequently-asked-questions-on-pneumonia-of-unknown-cause-in-wuhan-city-china/>

- Not Wuhan Seafood—China and WHO deceived

As confirmed cases of a novel virus surge around the world with worrisome speed, all eyes have so far focused on a seafood market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the outbreak. But a description of the first clinical cases [published in The Lancet](#) on Friday challenges that hypothesis. The paper, written by a large group of Chinese researchers from several institutions, offers details about the first 41 hospitalized patients who had confirmed infections with what has been dubbed 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). In the earliest case, the patient became ill on 1 December 2019 and had no reported link to the seafood market, the authors report. “No epidemiological link was found between the first patient and later cases,” they state. Their data also show that, in total, 13 of the 41 cases had no link to the marketplace. “That’s a big number, 13, with no link,” says Daniel Lucey, an infectious disease specialist at Georgetown University.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/01/wuhan-seafood-market-may-not-be-source-novel-virus-spreading-globally>

-
- The virus came into the marketplace before it came out of the marketplace

Lucey says if the new data are accurate, the first human infections must have occurred in November 2019—if not earlier—because there is an incubation time between infection and symptoms surfacing. If so, the virus possibly spread silently between people in Wuhan—and perhaps elsewhere—before the cluster of cases from the city’s now-infamous Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market was discovered in late December. “The virus came into that marketplace before it came out of that marketplace,” Lucey asserts.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/01/wuhan-seafood-market-may-not-be-source-novel-virus-spreading-globally>

- Chinese experts now admit that it is not the Wuhan Seafood Market

Georgetown’s Dr. Lucey made no reference to a biological warfare laboratory as a possible source of the virus, but his hypothesis is that the first appearance of the [Wuhan](#) virus did not come from the seafood market and that it was spreading from person to person in October or November “Thus, the presumed rapid spread of the virus apparently for the first time from the Huanan seafood market in December did not occur,” Dr. Lucey said. “Instead the virus was already silently spreading in [Wuhan](#) hidden amidst many other patients with pneumonia at this time of year.”...One of the Chinese authors of the study published in The Lancet, Bin Cao, told the newsletter ScienceInsider that he welcomed criticism by Dr. Lucey. “Now it seems clear that seafood market is not the only origin of the virus,” he said. “But to be honest, we still do not know where the virus came from now.”

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/27/china-silent-coronavirus-origins-amid-wuhan-seafoo/>

Answer to: “This was just natural animal spread--bats. We shouldn’t blame China”

- The best data from the censored Xiao study says that natural bat spread could not have been the cause of Covid in Wuhan: Covid carrying bats are from a province 800 miles away; there is no chance they would have flown and/or landed in urban Wuhan; and the WSM did not serve bats. <https://img-prod.tgcom24.mediaset.it/images/2020/02/16/114720192-5eb8307f-017c-4075-a697-348628da0204.pdf>
- The bats carrying CoV ZC45 were originally found in Yunnan or Zhejiang province, both of which were more than 900 kilometers away from the seafood market. Bats were normally found to live in caves and trees. But the seafood market is in a densely-populated district of Wuhan, a metropolitan of ~15 million people. The probability was very low for the bats to fly to the market. According to municipal reports and the testimonies of 31 residents and 28 visitors, the bat was never a food source in the city, and no bat was traded in the market. There was possible natural recombination or intermediate host of the coronavirus, yet little proof has been reported.
- The virus may have come from Bats--but those bats are from the Yunan province 800 miles away.

So far, the closest match to the human coronavirus has been found in a bat in China’s Yunnan province. A study⁵ published on 3 February found that the bat coronavirus shared 96% of its genetic material with the virus that causes COVID-19. Bats could have passed the virus to humans, but there are key differences between the RBD sites in the two viruses.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00548-w>

Answer to: “Natural animal spread--Pangolins or some other creature”

- It's not very likely that it was a pangolin--the Chinese government has not released any of their animal studies of the Wuhan market, and subsequent peer review of the Pangolin study demonstrates it was based on an “embarrassing mistake”

“The researchers said they had found a coronavirus in smuggled pangolins that was a 99% genetic match to the virus circulating in people. But the result did not actually refer to the entire genome. In fact, it related to a specific site known as the receptor-binding domain (RBD), say the study’s authors, who posted their analysis¹ on the biomedical preprint server bioRxiv on 20 February. The press-conference report was the result of an “embarrassing miscommunication between the bioinformatics group and the lab group of the study”, explains Xiao Lihua, a parasitologist at the South China Agricultural University and a co-author of the paper. A whole-genome comparison found that the pangolin and human viruses share 90.3% of their DNA. The RBD is a crucial part of coronaviruses, which allows them to latch on to and enter a cell. Even a 99% similarity between the RBDs of the two viruses is not necessarily enough to link them, says Linfa Wang, a virologist at Duke–National University of Singapore Medical School who was part of the team that found the origin of the SARS virus.”
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00548-w>

- Three studies disconfirmed it, despite the Chinese still hawking the poor pangolin as a scapegoat for their cover-up.

Three similar comparison studies were posted on bioRxiv last week. One of those papers — by an international research group, posted on 18 February — found² that coronaviruses in frozen cell samples from illegally trafficked pangolins shared between 85.5% and 92.4% of their DNA with the virus found in humans. Two other papers published on 20 February, from groups in China, also studied coronaviruses from smuggled pangolins. The viruses were 90.23%³ and 91.02%⁴ similar, respectively, to the virus that causes COVID-19. The genetic similarity should be higher than reported in these studies before the host can be identified, says Arinjay Banerjee, who studies coronaviruses at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. He notes that the SARS virus shared 99.8% of its genome with a civet coronavirus, which is why civets were considered the source. If pangolins are the origin of the current outbreak, says Banerjee, it is not the pangolins in these studies.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00548-w>

- Pangolin spread would have meant earlier spread in other countries--it is epidemiologically improbable.

This suggests that this specific bat coronavirus did not directly infect people, but could have been transmitted it to people through an intermediate host, say researchers. The papers raise more questions than they answer, says Jiang Zhigang, an ecologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Institute of Zoology in Beijing. He asks, if pangolins are the source of the virus, and they came from another country, why haven't there been reports of people being infected in that location?

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00548-w>

China Coverup/Delay

Key Points:

[timeline very important here]

- Not only did China accidentally release covid--they worked around the clock to cover up their tracks at every level:
 - First, they delayed action for more than a month--the government knew about the spread in late november, but did not take significant action until January--allowing the virus months to spread, hidden in seemingly high seasonal pneumonia totals.
 - Second, on January 14th, at a secret party meeting arranged by the Chinese Government--from Xi downward--the National Minister of Health --announced the crisis to regional health officials. Though documents from the meeting claimed the need for immediate action, Chinese officials delayed a week, allowing a banquet in Wuhan that fed 40k families, and giving more than 5 million people from Wuhan time to leave the region for the Lunar New Year
 - Third, they fabricated a story about the Wuhan Seafood Market to cover their tracks around the accidental release, hindering early contact tracing and running the early response down a rabbit-hole.
 - Fourth, they stonewalled information about the size and rate of the spread, and about the origins and dynamics and epidemiological profile of the virus, confusing the global public health response.
 - Fifth, they also destroyed samples, intentionally underestimated both numbers of infected and fatalities, and actively blocked efforts to hold them accountable.
 - Sixth, while they were denying human-to-human spread, they were covertly buying up massive amounts of PPE, strangling access for western nations.
 - Finally, when we tried to hold them (and the WHO) accountable for their actions, they blamed the US Army for spreading covid in Wuhan.
- This isn't a typical partisan question of how you feel about China. Say what you will about their politics and economy--in this instance they (albeit accidentally) released a

virus, covered it up, and then actively frustrated global efforts to come to terms with the consequences of their actions. China delayed, China Lied, Millions were infected and thousands died.

Key Facts:

DELAY:

- Lucey: China delayed a month before making it public.

When did the outbreak begin and when was the most recent case? The first case was December 12, 2019. The most recent case was December 29. (according to the [January 5 report from the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission and Health Committee's Report on Unexplained Viral Pneumonia](#).) UPDATE: Was Dec. 1, 2019 the earliest date of symptom onset for any of the 41 laboratory-confirmed patients reported in yesterday's Jan. 24 paper by Huang C et al. in *The Lancet* titled: "[Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China](#)"? Yes. December 1. (This is new information. The prior earliest dates were Dec. 12, or Dec. 8). When was the outbreak first made public? December 31, 2019. (Chinese health authorities reported 27 patients with 7 in critical condition, according to the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission on its Weibo social media account (12/31/19 Reuters "[Chinese officials investigate cause of pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan](#)")

<https://sciencespeaksblog.org/2020/01/07/an-id-physician-addresses-frequently-asked-questions-on-pneumonia-of-unknown-cause-in-wuhan-city-china/>

- SARS part 2: Covid began in November or December—just like mishandling of SARS The virus outbreak, scientists say, is now believed to have begun in November or early December — weeks earlier than initial Chinese health officials' claims about the first reported case in mid-December. A senior State Department official told reporters last week that Chinese secrecy surrounding the new virus is similar to the mishandling of the 2003 outbreak of SARS, a similar coronavirus.
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/27/china-silent-coronavirus-origins-amid-wuhan-seafoo/>

SEAFOOD/WET MARKET COVERSTORY

- Experts conclude that Wet Market Hypothesis was a cover-up: covid was spreading in November; the earliest cases had no contact with the Wuhan Seafood Market; China

made no attempt to account for where non-market cases came from; and the Chinese promoted it with full knowledge that it was dead wrong.

Did this earliest of the 41 patients have any exposure to the Huanan seafood market?

No. (See article, page 3 **Figure 1B** timelines of illness onset for all 41 patients).

Was any explanation given for how this patient became infected?

No.

Did this initial patient have any epidemiological link to the 40 later cases?

No. (see article page 4 “Results” section paragraph 2, lines 7-8).

On what date did the next 3 patients of the 41 patients have onset of symptoms?

December 10. (see article Figure 1B: 2 of these 3 patients had no exposure to the seafood market).

What explanation was given for the source of infection for these 14 patients with no exposure to the seafood market?

No explanation for 13 of the 14 patients was given. One of the 14 patients was the wife of the man who was the first fatality and who had “continuous exposures to the market (article, page 4, results section lines 8-13).

Based on the above data what hypothesis can be formulated?

Infection must have occurred in November, 2019 for the earliest reported patient with onset of symptoms Dec. 1. (Whether this patient was infected from an animal or another person in November, directly or by fomites, his infection occurred at a location other than the Huanan seafood market.

Does this hypothesis propose that person-to-person transmission was occurring and/or animal-to-person transmission occurring, in November or earlier in 2019 in Wuhan?

Yes.

What are some of the potential major implications of this hypothesis?

If initial and potentially repeated animal-person transmission, followed by subsequent person-to-person transmission, could have begun in October-November or earlier in 2019, then patients with pneumonia due to infection with the novel coronavirus (“2019-nCoV”) could have started to spread across Wuhan, and by infected-travelers leaving Wuhan to other locations.

<https://sciencespeaksblog.org/2020/01/25/wuhan-coronavirus-2019-ncov-qa-6-an-evidence-based-hypothesis/>

- Not Wuhan Seafood—China and WHO deceived

As confirmed cases of a novel virus surge around the world with worrisome speed, all eyes have so far focused on a seafood market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the

outbreak. But a description of the first clinical cases [published in The Lancet](#) on Friday challenges that hypothesis. The paper, written by a large group of Chinese researchers from several institutions, offers details about the first 41 hospitalized patients who had confirmed infections with what has been dubbed 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). In the earliest case, the patient became ill on 1 December 2019 and had no reported link to the seafood market, the authors report. “No epidemiological link was found between the first patient and later cases,” they state. Their data also show that, in total, 13 of the 41 cases had no link to the marketplace. “That’s a big number, 13, with no link,” says Daniel Lucey, an infectious disease specialist at Georgetown University. Earlier [reports from Chinese health authorities](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) had said the first patient had onset of symptoms on 8 December 2019—and those reports simply said “most” cases had links to the seafood market, which was closed on 1 January.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/01/wuhan-seafood-market-may-not-be-source-novel-virus-spreading-globally>

STONEWALLED/ LIMITED INFO

- WaPo Editorial Board: China's authoritarian system and lack of transparency made things worse.

SOMETIME IN November or December of last year, a novel coronavirus infected a person in Wuhan, China, leading to [an outbreak that became a global pandemic](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html) and exposed huge weaknesses in governance and leadership. In the case of China, the weakness was the system. A closed, authoritarian government repeatedly deceived and covered up the truth as the virus spread. It is wrong to accuse China, based on present evidence, of willfully releasing a plague on the world. It is right to point out that China's system and its deceptions made the situation worse, and the proper remedy would be more transparency and full disclosure.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

- Litany of actions to suppress information and cover up the infection

But even as Beijing seeks to project an image as a responsible global leader, it has struggled to restore its credibility after early reports emerged that it had [silenced whistle-blowers](#), [delayed informing the public](#) that the virus could be transmitted among humans and [rebuffed offers of help](#) from foreign scientific experts.

Since then, the government has sought to take control of the narrative by [ramping up propaganda](#), [detaining citizen journalists](#), [aggressively censoring news reports](#) and [expelling foreign reporters](#). Adding to the tensions has been a recent [extended war of words](#) between Washington and Beijing, as each side has tried to deflect blame for failures in managing the virus.

The result of China's mixed messaging, experts say, may be a breach in global trust that could last long after the pandemic has faded.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/17/world/asia/china-wuhan-coronavirus-death-toll.html?action=click&module=Top+Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

- Lucey—China and the WHO stonewalled about knowledge gaps.

What did the “Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” state with regard to the Wuhan Huanan Wholesale seafood market?

“Early cases identified in Wuhan are believed to be have acquired infection from a zoonotic source as many reported visiting or working in the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market. As of 25 February, an animal source has not yet been identified”. ([p. 10 of 40 of Feb. 28 WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus 2019 Report](#)).

How many days have passed since the Jan. 1 closure of this Wuhan Huanan Market?

100 days have passed since the market was closed.

What has China reported over the past 100 days about the results of testing for the SARS-CoV-2 in any of the many animals in this Wuhan Market?

Nothing.

What were the sources and types of wildlife species sold at this Market?

Undisclosed.

Will China ever disclose this information about the animals and virus results?

Unknown.

Why has China not disclosed this information about the animals?

Unknown.

What did this Joint WHO-China Report list as the first item under “Knowledge Gaps?”

“Knowledge gaps and key questions to be answered to guide control strategies include:

Source of infection

- Animal origin and natural reservoir of the virus
- Human-animal interface of the original event
- Early cases whose exposure could not be identified”

(p. 36 of 40 of the WHO-China Joint Mission).

<https://sciencespeaksblog.org/2020/04/09/covid-19-day-100-since-the-wuhan-market-closed-where-are-the-animals-and-their-virus-test-results>

- System Failed: Wuhan locals hid info—Beijing initially only found out because of whistleblowers.

The alarm system was ready. Scarred by the [SARS epidemic that erupted in 2002](#), China had created an infectious disease reporting system that officials said was world-class: fast, thorough and, just as important, immune from meddling. Hospitals could input patients' details into a computer and instantly notify government health authorities in Beijing, where officers are trained to spot and smother contagious outbreaks before they spread. It didn't work. After [doctors in Wuhan began treating clusters of patients stricken with a mysterious pneumonia](#) in December, the reporting was supposed to have been automatic. Instead, hospitals deferred to local health officials who, over a political aversion to sharing bad news, withheld information about cases from the national reporting system — keeping Beijing in the dark and delaying the response. The central health authorities first learned about the outbreak not from the reporting system but after unknown whistle-blowers leaked two internal documents online. Even after Beijing got involved, local officials set narrow criteria for confirming cases, leaving out information that could have provided clues that the virus was spreading among humans. Hospitals were ordered to count only patients with a known connection to the source of [the outbreak](#), the seafood market. Doctors also had to have their cases confirmed by bureaucrats before they were reported to higher-ups.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/world/asia/coronavirus-china.html>

- WAPO—China's lockdown on Covid info hindered a response

The Chinese government, meanwhile, has put a total lockdown on information related to the virus origins. Beijing has yet to provide U.S. experts with samples of the novel coronavirus collected from the earliest cases. The Shanghai lab that published the novel coronavirus genome on Jan. 11 was quickly shut down by authorities for “rectification.” Several of the [doctors and journalists](#) who reported on the spread early on have disappeared. On Feb. 14, Chinese President Xi Jinping [called for](#) a new biosecurity law to be accelerated. On Wednesday, [CNN reported](#) the Chinese government has placed severe restrictions requiring approval before any research institution publishes anything on the origin of the novel coronavirus.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>

- Locked down information, censored, and detained dissenters.

Independent Chinese journalists have detailed the Wuhan cover-up: They report that a Chinese lab isolated and identified the strange new virus last December — but that the authorities -ordered it to stop its work, get rid of its specimens and keep quiet. It took almost another month for the government to acknowledge that a SARS-like contagion, spread by human contact, was exploding in Hubei province. When the late Dr. Li Wenliang, the heroic whistleblower, [tried to warn the public](#) about the coronavirus, he was detained, charged with “spreading false rumors” and accused of “seriously disrupting social order.” All discussion about the virus is now censored.

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/02/chinas-deadly-coronavirus-lie-co-conspirator-the-world-health-organization/>

- WaPo Editorial Board: animal or inadvertent spread, China needs to investigate and be transparent.

A more troubling explanation is that the coronavirus was inadvertently spread from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which had carried out [research](#) on bat coronaviruses and possessed a biosafety level 4 facility, the most secure for handling highly pathogenic and infectious diseases. It is not beyond [possibility](#) that an accident or spill occurred. Most experts say there is no evidence that China deliberately engineered the virus as a weapon. Enough of that conspiracy talk. But whether the source was an animal or an inadvertent spill, more investigation is needed. China ought to be absolutely transparent about what it finds.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-chinas-authoritarian-system-made-the-pandemic-worse/2020/04/17/2a72c652-80ba-11ea-9040-68981f488eed_story.html

UNDERREPORTED

- China significantly under-reported the scope of the virus

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-01/china-concealed-extent-of-virus-outbreak-u-s-intelligence-says> <https://thehill.com/policy/international/490588-us-intel-agencies-conclude-china-has-under-reported-coronavirus-cases>

- Significant undercount of deaths--funeral urns, British and US intel--likely 15 to 40 times more than reported.

Concerning deaths: News reports indicate that delivery of funeral urns has spiked in Wuhan, the epicenter of the pandemic. Whereas Beijing currently admits to some 3,300 coronavirus fatalities nationwide, Chinese netizens cited by Radio Free Asia are claiming the Wuhan tally alone is far higher than that. One widely circulating guess is that the true figure is closer to 40,000. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's scientific advisers have concluded that paramount leader Xi Jinping's regime has downplayed the true number of cases in China "by 15 to 40 times." As Bloomberg reported this week, the US intelligence community has likewise informed the White House that China's reported -infection and death totals [are implausibly low](#).

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/02/chinas-deadly-coronavirus-lie-co-conspirator-the-world-health-organization/>

GASLIGHTED/BLAMED US

- China gaslighted the global community--said that the US caused the virus and then backtracked.

China dished wild, irresponsible allegations of its own. On March 12, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lijian Zhao charged in a [tweet](#): “It might be [the] US army who brought the epidemic to Wuhan.” He [retweeted](#) an [article](#) that claimed, without evidence, that U.S. troops might have spread the virus when they attended the World Military Games in Wuhan in October 2019. China retreated on March 22, when Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai [told](#) “Axios on HBO” that such rumors were “crazy” on both sides. A State Department spokesman said Cui’s comment was “[welcome](#),” and Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged in a March 27 phone call to “focus on cooperative behavior,” a senior administration official told me.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/how-did-covid-19-begin-its-initial-origin-story-is-shaky/2020/04/02/1475d488-7521-11ea-87da-77a8136c1a6d_story.html

Answers To Likely Arguments:

Answer to: “Situation dynamic/China didn’t know”

Answer to: “Trump/GOP delayed too”

HURT US RESPONSE

- Birx: we couldn’t tell what the size, speed or dynamics of the virus were based on chinese reports--had to wait until Italy and Spain.Chinese undercounting distorted our response.

White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx indicated on Tuesday that any lack of preparation from U.S. officials on dealing with the coronavirus outbreak happened because we were likely “missing a significant amount of the data” from China.

“When you talk about could we have known something different, you know, I think all of us, I was overseas when this happened in Africa and I think when you look at the China data originally, and you said, there’s 80 million people, or 20 million people in Wuhan and 80 million people in Hubei, and they come up with the number of 50,000, you start thinking of this more like SARS than you do this kind of global pandemic,” Birx said.

Birx said that in “frank” terms that when she looked at the data from China during the first days of the outbreak that she did not think that it would be a global pandemic because of how densely populated the outbreak area was compared to the number of cases that China reported.

“So, I think the medical community interpreted the Chinese data as this was serious, but smaller than anyone expected because I think probably we were missing a significant amount of the data” from China, Birx continued, adding that U.S. officials now have a much better idea of the disease now that they have seen happen Italy and Spain.

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/dr-birx-any-lack-of-preparation-due-to-significant-amount-of-missing-data-from-china/>

Hit—WHO

Key Points:

- The WHO aided and abetted the Chinese hit-and-run, and advanced their cover up of the facts--they acted as the handmaiden of the Chinese Communist Party. China had campaigned for Tedros, the current director, and he owed them a favor.
- The WHO found out about the virus on December 30, and had a broad knowledge of the Chinese history of covering up infectious diseases, but it took them until March 11--two and a half months later--to declare the disease a pandemic.
- The WHO repeated the greatest hits of Chinese propaganda over and over, including amplifying lies like: the Chinese have the virus under control while it was ripping through Wuhan; the Chinese are being transparent--mounting a model response--while they were arresting and repressing doctors and whistleblowers; and, they were validating outrageous claims about the numbers of cases and deaths, despite China's long history of lying about outbreaks.

Key Facts:

- NYPost: WHO acted as the handmaiden of China: would not pressure and pushed the party line.

Which brings us to the WHO's malfeasance in this affair. The WHO should have known at the outset that it was dealing with a bad-faith actor in Beijing. Yet -instead of immediately insisting upon access, openness and transparency from China, WHO leadership followed the Chinese lead and at times even took the Chinese line. The very fact that truth-seekers are left counting urns is an indictment not only of the Beijing -regime, but also of the WHO. To help stem the pandemic, the WHO should have been tirelessly pressing China to tell the truth.

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/02/chinas-deadly-coronavirus-lie-co-conspirator-the-world-health-organization/>

- The WHO sat back while china lied--and they knew it

We know communist China is lying about how many cases and deaths they have, what they knew and when they knew it—and the WHO never bothered to investigate further. Their inaction cost lives. As soon as Congress is back in session, there should be a hearing, along with a full investigation, to review whether American taxpayers should continue to spend millions of dollars every year to fund an organization that willfully parroted propaganda from the Chinese Communist Party.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/04/01/5-keys-to-unlocking-why-the-world-health-organization-bows-to-china-on-covid-19/>

- WHO passive while Beijing stonewalled--Tedros owed them a favor.

Far from sounding an alarm, however, the UN outfit was -impassive while Beijing stonewalled international health -authorities for weeks. Indeed, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [praised the Chinese regime](#) for its “transparency” in the crisis. Tedros, -recall, was Beijing's candidate for WHO chief and owes his job to China's campaign for him at the United Nations.

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/02/chinas-deadly-coronavirus-lie-co-conspirator-the-world-health-organization/>

- Tedros criticized the China travel ban--said it was medically useless and stigmatizing.

At the end of January, when President Trump ordered a travel ban against entry to the United States from China and other coronavirus “hot spots,” Tedros, echoing Chinese authorities, roundly criticized the decision, insisting it would “have the effect of increasing fear and stigma, with little public health benefit.” By March 12, when the WHO finally declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, misbegotten deference to the Chinese government had -incalculably impeded the effort to contain the contagion.

<https://nypost.com/2020/04/02/chinas-deadly-coronavirus-lie-co-conspirator-the-world-health-organization/>

- Found out Dec 30--took until 2/11 to declare a pandemic.

The World Health Organization, an arm of the United Nations, found out Dec. 30 about the spread of a disease in Wuhan, China, thought to be pneumonia. More than two months later, on March 11, WHO declared the coronavirus to be a global pandemic.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/04/01/5-keys-to-unlocking-why-the-world-health-organization-bows-to-china-on-covid-19/>

- The WHO parroted Chinese propaganda on Jan 14 that there was no human to human spread--had to reverse itself days later.

On Jan. 14, WHO unquestioningly circulated China’s official talking points in a tweet, saying: “Preliminary investigations conducted by the Chinese authorities have found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel [#coronavirus](#) (2019-nCoV) identified in [#Wuhan](#), [#China](#).” Of course, the virus is highly contagious, a characteristic that has prompted quarantines and self-quarantines around the globe. On Jan. 23, WHO determined COVID-19 could be spread by humans.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/04/01/5-keys-to-unlocking-why-the-world-health-organization-bows-to-china-on-covid-19/>

- The WHO praised China’s efforts in transparency--even while whistleblowers and doctors were being silenced or arrested.

After new evidence that [China silenced](#) whistleblowers and doctors in that country, and that Communist Party officials were aware of the spread well before reporting it, WHO [continued](#) to extol China’s response and transparency.

___ China and the WHO have each other’s backs--Tedros praises China’s response as setting a “new standard”, and China uses the WHO in domestic propaganda operations.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/04/01/5-keys-to-unlocking-why-the-world-health-organization-bows-to-china-on-covid-19/>

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/04/01/5-keys-to-unlocking-why-the-world-health-organization-bows-to-china-on-covid-19/>

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, [said](#) Jan. 30 that “China is actually setting a new standard for outbreak response.” China’s state-run media regularly uses soundbites from WHO’s assistant director-general, Bruce Aylward, to buttress the government’s [propaganda campaign](#).

Hit—Political Correctness Made this Crisis Worse

Key Points:

- New York and New Jersey became death zones because their Democratic leadership refused to act. They were worried about social justice and identity politics.
- Thousands of New Yorkers died because:
 - DeBlasio's health commissioner urged New Yorkers to go out and celebrate when the virus was raging through the city.
 - De Blasio and Cuomo promised to track down the contacts of the first confirmed case in NYC, and they never did.
 - They promised they had the epidemic under control, but it wasn't.
 - Then they said they could keep the damage contained, and that the damage wouldn't be as bad as in other countries. Meanwhile, NYC became the hub and epicenter of Covid infection in the US.
- All they had were excuses:
 - While New Yorkers were dying, all the mayor could do was blame the federal government and particularly the President--and then they stalled action based on old inter-party rivalries.
 - They wouldn't shut down the schools because they were worried that it would have "hurt their progressive credentials" by harming the poor and minorities.
 - And they dragged their feet on implementing restrictions because they wanted to get the unions on board.
 - De Blasio said it best: "The places that have the problem are the places that did not deal with reality"
- If they had thrown out their liberal/progressive identity politics playbook and done what was right for the city and the nation, thousands of lives would have been saved--Acting even a week earlier could have reduced deaths by 80%

Key Facts:

- NYT: de Blasio and Cuomo promised to track down the first confirmed case in NYC and never did.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- De Blasio deferred action as late as March: “urged the public not to worry. “We’ll tell you the second we think you should change your behavior,” [the mayor said on March 5.](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html)”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- March 13: “I’m not giving people the guidance to shut down their lives”
<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/149-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-appears-live-abc-s-close-bill-ritter>
- Cuomo and de Blasio Repeatedly claimed that that they had the epidemic under control/NYC epicenter.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- DeBlasio: “We can really keep this thing contained”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/27/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus.html>
- Won’t “be as bad” quote: “I speak for the mayor also on this one — we think we have the best health care system on the planet right...we don’t even think it’s going to be as bad as it was in other countries.”
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-photos-rush-transcript-novel-coronavirus-briefing-governor-cuomo-announces-state>
- Former Deputy Health Inspector to NYT: “New York City as a whole was late in social measures,” said Isaac B. Weisfuse, a [former New York City deputy health commissioner](#). “Any after-action review of the pandemic in New York City will focus on that issue. It has become the major issue in the transmission of the virus.”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- Democratic councilman: “everything was slow”

“Everything was slow,” said Councilman Stephen T. Levin, a Brooklyn Democrat who had called for City Hall to take swifter action as the outbreak spread. “You have to adapt really quickly, and nothing we were doing was adapting quickly.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>

- DeBlasio kowtowed to unions, disproportionate impact on parents.

De Blasio mentioned the concern in the school community over leaving the schools open, but he also mentioned that many parents want school to be kept open because they do depend on it. He referenced a [statement from 1199 SEIU](#), which says closing schools with no care plan for children would "place a dire strain on NYC's healthcare infrastructure." He said the city will continue to make adjustments like canceling, or moving online, all non-essential or non-instructional activities; canceling work that takes school officials from schools to schools, except for essential work, which will be moved online; practicing "social distancing" in school cafeterias where it can be created, or move breakfast and lunch into classrooms where it cannot; and re-work physical education to reduce the number of kids in close proximity, as well as moving classes outdoors when the weather permits.

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/coronavirus/2020/03/13/mayor-bill-de-blasio-coronavirus-briefing--3-13-20>

- Wuhan 90x resources figure:
“New York City, at the start of the outbreak, relied on 50 disease detectives to trace the rapidly rising cases of unconnected infected people, city officials said. By comparison, in Wuhan, China, where the pandemic began, more than 9,000 such workers were deployed. New York City added to its original 50 only after the outbreak began to accelerate.”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- Blamed Trump and Republican leadership: DeBlasio Verbatim 2/26:
“So, I think we have a mixed bag. On the money issue, it's a no brainer. We're dealing with an unprecedented global health crisis. If the minority leader in the Senate, who I have tremendous respect for, is saying – who knows a whole lot about the federal government over decades and decades – and if he's saying \$8 billion, no one should be skimping at a moment like this. Get the money going so we can solve the problem. I'd say that the administration would be better served to maximize rather than minimize in the middle of a crisis.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/099-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability-coronavirus-preparedness>

- Blamed the feds:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- DeBlasio delayed because he worried about his progressive credentials. NYT: “The mayor and his aides worried about the effect on the poorest and most vulnerable New Yorkers. For Mr. de Blasio, whose progressive political identity has been defined by his attention to the city’s have-nots, the crisis presented a stark and unwelcome choice to harm some New Yorkers in order to save others.”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- DeBlasio’s top aide: “not like the suburbs--how are you going to provide for “these kids and their parents”: “If you suddenly in one day close down the schools, how do you make sure that you are providing for these kids and their parents?” said Emma Wolfe, a top aide to Mr. de Blasio. “We’re not in the suburbs. We can’t tell people to stay at home and play around in your yard.”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- Lunar New Year Parade: a beautiful cultural tradition (Feb 5)
Health Commissioner Barbot declared on Twitter, “Today our city is celebrating the Lunar New Year parade in Chinatown, a beautiful cultural tradition with a rich history in our city. I want to remind everyone to enjoy the parade and not change any plans due to misinformation spreading about coronavirus.”
<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/03/the-timeline-of-how-bill-de-blasio-prepared-new-york-city-for-the-coronavirus/>

February 9

- New York held it’s Chinatown festival despite the virus ravaging through the city

Chinatown in New York City held its annual Lunar New Year parade. As [*AM New York*](#) described the scene, “Surgical masks were nearly absent from this parade as organizers, elected officials, costumed characters, and visitors alike showed none of the fear caused by news of the virus’s spread in China. Mayor Bill de Blasio and other officials jammed a stage on Hester Street on Mott Street — the heart of Chinatown.”

“We know in China, so many of our loved ones are facing the challenges of the coronavirus, but we stand together,” de Blasio said. Senator Chuck Schumer was also in attendance, and he declared, “We love the fact that so many people come from all around the globe and make our city and our country a better place.”

Councilman Mark D. Levine [stated on Twitter](#), “In powerful show of defiance of coronavirus scare, huge crowds gathering in NYC’s Chinatown for ceremony ahead of annual Lunar New Year parade. Chants of ‘Be Strong Wuhan!’ If you are staying away, you are missing out.” At this point, it is impossible to know if any of the thousands of people in the crowd were infected with the coronavirus. If any were, standing shoulder-to-shoulder in a large crowd is precisely what public health officials would later seek to discourage and prevent.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/03/the-timeline-of-how-bill-de-blasio-prepared-new-york-city-for-the-coronavirus/>

February 13

- Mayor de Blasio conducted a taped interview with NBC News that ran during MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*. He said, “We have an extraordinary public health apparatus here in New York City . . . and what became clear to me was it was really about telling the people of our city, this is something we can handle, but you got to follow some basic rules. . . . This should not stop you from going about your life. It should not stop you from going to Chinatown and going out to eat. I am going to do that today myself.”

Later that day, New York City Council speaker Corey Johnson said, “It is important to support the Chinese community in New York City. Unfortunately many businesses and restaurants in Chinatown, Flushing, and Sunset Park are suffering because some customers are afraid of the coronavirus. But those fears are not based on facts and science. The risk of infection to New Yorkers is low. There is no need to avoid public spaces. I urge everyone to dine and shop as usual.”

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/03/the-timeline-of-how-bill-de-blasio-prepared-new-york-city-for-the-coronavirus/>

February 27

- De Blasio appeared on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*. Only a brief portion of his interview dealt with the coronavirus preparations, but the mayor said, “We have literally 1,200 hospital beds that we can turn on if we need to if it turns into something bigger and we have every element — public health and every other element of government — out there

trying to make sure that people know to get to care, and they're making it easy for them to get to care. If we do that all over the country, I think this country is going to be good.” He then went to do [a press event with '80s rock star Billy Idol to discourage New York City drivers from idling](#).

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/03/the-timeline-of-how-bill-de-blasio-prepared-new-york-city-for-the-coronavirus/>

- DeBlasio’s liberal progressive commitments prevented him from doing what was right by New Yorkers--city officials had to threaten to quit to get him to embrace the reality.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-de-blasio-coronavirus-failures-20200331-fogyfsta4fcl5k27xmf6mob4ti-story.html>

- DeBlasio verbatim--”The places that have the problem”: “The places that have the problem are the places that did not deal with reality, that were not honest and open, that did not help people understand what to do, that did not make help available easily. We're doing the exact opposite here in New York City. We have the greatest public health capacity of anywhere in this country and we're using it.”

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/099-20/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability-coronavirus-preparedness>

- Old inter-party rivalries fueled inaction
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- Dragged their feet because they wanted to get the unions on board.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-response-delays.html>
- DeBlasio and Cuomo gave in to union pressure--delayed school closings, worried about what low income parents would do
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/nyregion/coronavirus-new-york-update.html>

Mr. de Blasio, speaking at an evening news conference, said the question of whether to keep the schools open was more complex than some people were making it seem. Mass closings, he said, could shut [schools](#) down not just for the rest of the current academic year but potentially through the rest of 2020. “We shut down the school system, we might not see it for the rest of the school

year, we might not see the beginning of the new school year,” he said. “And that weighs heavily on me.” Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has also resisted calls to close public schools across the state. Even public health experts with dissenting views on whether entire school systems should be closed say that to be effective in protecting public health, such moves should be long-term, ideally for as long a threat like the novel coronavirus persists. The federal Centers for Disease Control said on Friday that “short to medium closures” did not have an impact on mitigating the spread of the virus, but that closings of eight to 20 weeks might have “some impact.” The C.D.C. also said that other countries that closed schools did not necessarily have more success in curbing the virus’s spread than those that did not. Hundreds of public school districts and private schools in the New York region have said they would close for varying periods of time. Attendance in the city’s public schools plummeted to 68 percent on Friday from 85 percent the day before. Average daily attendance is 92 percent. The schools that closed on Friday were the Richard Hungerford School on Staten Island, where a student tested positive; the Brooklyn Occupational Training Center, where a teacher tested positive; and Brooklyn College Academy, after a Brooklyn College student self-reported a case that has not been confirmed. Mr. de Blasio also said that if schools were closed for an extended period, children would congregate elsewhere and the disease would spread. “There are three pillars to protecting this city and the long-term health and safety of our people: our schools, our mass transit and our health care system,” Mr. de Blasio said. “Those three are interrelated deeply. You take one out of the equation and it affects the others. My goal is to keep all three of those going.” While teachers’ union leaders urged the mayor to reconsider, the leader of 1199SEIU, another major union, supported Mr. de Blasio, citing concerns about health care workers and other unionized employees who cannot take time off if their children must stay home.

Hit—Dems Soft on China/Corona

Key Points:

- The Democratic party is soft on China and fails to stand up to them.
- Democrats called President Trump's China Travel Ban xenophobic, even though that travel ban saved lives.
- Nancy Pelosi urged San Francisco to get out to Chinatown to celebrate, even though the virus was raging.
- Democrats are more obsessed with being politically correct and what we call the coronavirus than standing up to China and making sure this doesn't happen again.
- Joe Biden, the Democratic Party Nominee, has been soft on China his whole career. He doesn't even think China is a rival to us, and he brought his corrupt son Hunter on a taxpayer funded trip to China.

Key Facts:

- Joe Biden has been weak on China his whole career, and brought Hunter on a trip to China paid for by taxpayers.
<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/03/joe-biden-is-chinas-choice-for-president/>
- Nancy Pelosi called for people to come to Chinatown weeks after Trump's China Travel Ban
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/pelosi-encouraged-public-gatherings-in-late-february-weeks-after-trumps-china-travel-ban>
- Democratic lawmakers have raised similar objections. "I've said it once & I'll say it again loud enough for the @WhiteHouse, @FoxNews, & everyone else to hear: coronavirus does not discriminate. Bigotry against people of Asian descent is unacceptable, un-American, & harmful to our COVID-19 response efforts," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) tweeted Tuesday.
<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/18/trump-pandemic-drumbeat-coronavirus-135392>

Answers To Likely Arguments:

Q: Isn't this Trump's fault?

Note - don't defend Trump, other than the China Travel Ban -- attack China

- This is China's fault. The virus came from China and China covered it up. Because China lied about the extent of the virus, our public health officials acted late.
- I wish that everyone acted earlier -- that includes our elected officials, the World Health Organization, and the CDC.
- I'm glad that President Trump acted early to ban travel to China -- that's something my Democratic opponent did not support and that Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi criticized as xenophobic and racist.

Q: Aren't you being racist by blaming China and causing racist attacks against Chinese Americans?

- No one is blaming Chinese Americans. This is the fault of the Chinese Communist Party for covering up the virus and lying about its danger. This caused the pandemic and they should be held accountable.
- And no one has suffered more from the murderous Communist Chinese Party dictatorship than the people of China. We stand with them against their corrupt government that caused this pandemic.

AT: Trump--"China virus/Wuhan virus"

Key Points:

- President Trump is right to call this the Chinese Virus. That's where the virus came from.
- There's a long history of calling viruses by the location that they originated from. Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, and the Spanish Flu.
- In fact, everyone was referring to this as the Wuhan virus before China decided to push its propaganda.
- Whatever you want to call this virus, China is responsible. It's more important to hold China accountable and prevent this from happening again than it is to be politically correct.

Key Facts:

- The media called this the Wuhan virus dozens of times
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/03/12/media_called_coronavirus_wuhan_or_chinese_coronavirus_dozens_of_times.html
- Very common to refer to viruses by their location
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/28/us/disease-outbreaks-coronavirus-naming-trnd/index.html>

Answers To Likely Arguments:

"It's racist to call this the Chinese virus"

- There is a long history of calling viruses by the location that they originated in, and this is no different.