

IN THE NEWS

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World News

H istory tells us that on June 9, 1898, the British under Queen Victoria brokered a 99-year lease agreement for the use of Hong Kong with the Qing Dynasty in China. Later the Qing Dynasty fell to the Nationalists [1]. The Nationalist party ruled mainland China from 1928 to 1949 and subsequently fled to Taiwan under Chiang Kai-shek and his successors [2]. Yet the U.K. turned over Hong Kong to the Communist Chinese with agreements that Hong Kong residents would enjoy a high degree of autonomy [3]. Since then, China has violated the agreement [4].

Let's examine another lesson from history. In 1938, the Munich Conference, yielding to Adolf Hitler, transferred the Sudetenland to Germany [5]. So is there any impact of giving Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China (Communist China) instead of the Republic of China (Taiwan Nationalist China)? China is now actively threatening a military takeover of Taiwan [6].

This may explain China's military expansion. In the past seven years, excluding the ships built for its navy, China constructed 255 ships for its new coast guard [7]. This comes at a time when the FBI believes China has hacked data on nearly half of the US population [8].

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Wuhan Coronavirus

The main news is that President Trump was infected with COVID-19 [1]. Additionally, the CDC had updated their guidance and concluded the COVID-19 virus can spread through the air [2]. However, the CDC removed the new guidance shortly thereafter [3]. With this as a backdrop, we provide a simplistic analysis of exposure to infection.

The COVID-19 virus expands at an exponential rate. For instance, a single infected cell can make millions of copies of the virus before the cell dies [4]. In turn, the copies released can infect other cells and thereby overwhelm the ability to fight the virus. Since there is no existing immunity, the body's defense needs time to identify the new virus and act accordingly. If the spread is faster than the person's response system, the person is in trouble. So those people with a weakened response system due to age and underlying conditions have the hardest time recovering from the virus [5].

We might be able to use a flu vaccine estimate the time required for the body to fully develop antibodies. The CDC estimates 2 weeks are needed from the time a flu vaccine is administered to the time the body develops antibodies [6]. Consequently, if a person is strong enough and the exposure is limited, sufficient antibodies could be expected within 2 weeks from time of exposure.

Without a vaccine available, how can the virus be slowed enough to allow the body time to develop antibodies? One solution may be antiviral approaches that appear to reduce the hospitalization time. For instance, President Trump is taking combination of two synthetic antibodies that target a key protein of the virus [7]. The President

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Special points of interest:

 President Trump Infected With COVID-19

Wuhan Coronavirus

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received an 8-gram dose of Regeneron's polyclonal antibody cocktail to help his body battle the virus [8].

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To win without risk is to

triumph without glory.-

Pierre Corneille

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 Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, FBI: Chinese have hacked data on nearly half of U.S. population, September 21, 2020. Nelson, Steven, New York Post, A 'fatigued' Trump infused with 'polyclonal antibodies' to fight COVID-19, October 2, 2020. A fter calling for defunding the police, two months ago; some Minneapolis City Council members are now concerned over the increase in crime [1]. In Louisville, Kentucky, two police officers were shot while performing crowd control during a riot [2].

While there is much activity within the US, around the world, terrorism continues. For instance, a stabbing attack in France appears to be an act of Islamic Terrorism [3].

Another risk for terrorism is when larger states are drawn into conflict. For instance, the Kashmir is more than 60% Muslim and is the only state within India where Muslims are in the majority [4]. In turn, this has been one of the factors leading to armed conflict between India and Pakistan [5]. Meanwhile, in East Afghanistan, a suicide attack believed to be by the Taliban, killed at least 15 people [6]. Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a roadside bomb killed at least 14 civilians [7].

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Terrorism

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Memory is the mother of

all wisdom.—Aeschylus

Economy

The unemployment rate for Septembers was reported at 7.9% [1]. While a slight improvement, the first time unemployment clams remains very weak. For the week ending September 12, the number of claims reported by the Department of Labor, was 860,000 [2]. For the week ending September 19, the number reported was 870,000 [3]. Finally, for the week ending September 26, the number reported was 837,000 [4].

During this newsletter cycle, stocks trended downward. This was capped by news the President contracted COVID-19 [5].

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If it happens, it happens...

We can't stop living.-

Walter Reed