

# Femtosecond IN THE NEWS

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## World News

The Wuhan Coronavirus continues to dominate the news. Readers may recall that back in 2003, the Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was infected over 8,098 people and 774 died [1]. The cost of that virus was estimated at \$40 billion [2]. Currently, the Wuhan coronavirus has over taken SARS [3]. Moreover on January 30, the World Health Organization [WHO] declared a global emergency [4]. The Wuhan Coronavirus was given the name COVID-19 as the number of infections continued to increase [5]. One Wuhan coronavirus study indicates 41% of a 138 person survey were infected at the hospital [6]. What's more, at least 1,716 healthcare workers were infected by the virus [7]. This comes after China is reported to be moving suspected people into quarantine camps [8]. As this newsletter concludes, the death toll from the COVID-19 stands at 1,669 with over 69,000 infections reported [9]. The question here is will this practice get more infected with the virus that would otherwise be the case?

The Wuhan virus is not the only recent health problem originating in China. Case in point, many surgeries in the US have been postponed because of a recall of millions of made in China surgical gowns that may be contaminated (not sterile) [10].

In addition to virus issues, China remains a significant military threat to the US. For instance, the Secretary of Defense lists China as the top potential military adversary [11]. What's more, China is the second largest arms maker behind the US but ahead of Russia [12].

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2. White, Martha C., NBC, *SARS wiped \$40 billion off world markets; what will coronavirus do?*, January 24, 2020.
3. BBC News, *Coronavirus: Worldwide cases overtake 2003 SARS outbreak*, January 31, 2020

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## Security

Readers may recall that back in 2017, Equifax had a staggering breach of 147 million consumers [1]. As a consequence, Equifax was compelled to pay up to \$650 million to settle the breach [2]. Now the Department of Justice has charged four Chinese military officers for the attack [3]. This should be a wakeup call as to the capabilities of China. Consider there are a number of Advanced Persistent Threats (APT) located in China. For instance, APT

40 out of province of Hainan, China is believed to be tied to 13 front companies [4]. Additionally, China is believed to be behind year's long attacks into eight major computer services [5]. It also appears that China is illegally using main stream US news organization to spread propaganda [6]. Moreover, the FBI is investigation over 1,000 cases of Chinese theft of US technology [7]. With the 2020 election process underway, the question here is who

does China want to be President of the United States?

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2. Schroeder, Pete, Reuters, *Equifax to pay up to \$650 million in data breach settlement*, July 22, 2019.
3. BBC News, *Equifax: US charges four Chinese military officers over huge*

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### Special points of interest:

- Wuhan Coronavirus COVID-19 Continues
- Dow, NASDAQ, and S&P 500 new record highs

## Security

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- hack, February 11, 2020.
4. Barth, Bradley, SC Magazine, *APT40 hacking group linked to 13 alleged front companies in Hainan, China*, January 15, 2020.
5. Menn, Joseph, et. al., Reuters, *Exclusive: China hacked eight major computer services firms in years-long attack*, June 26, 2019.
6. Kakutani, Yuichiro, Washington Free Beacon, *China Violates Disclosure Law to Publish Propaganda in NY Times*, WaPo, December 18, 2019.
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*Honesty is the first chapter  
in the book of wisdom—  
Thomas Jefferson*

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## World News

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7. Gan, Nectar, et. al., CNN, *Over 1,700 frontline medics infected with coronavirus in China, presenting new crisis for the government*, February 14, 2020.
8. Halaschak, Zachary, Washington Examiner, *'Wartime conditions': Official orders Wuhan round up residents with coronavirus and send them to quarantine camps*, February 6, 2020.
9. Griffiths, James, CNN, *Coronavirus death toll climbs to 1,669 as US passengers trapped on cruise ship wait to fly home*, February 16, 2020.
10. Lapook, Jonathan, CBS News, *Surgical gown recall leaves medical centers scrambling*, January 31, 2020.
11. Fox News/AP, *US defense chief slams China as rising threat to world order*, February 15, 2020.
12. Wong, Catherine, South China Morning Post, *China is estimated to be the world's second largest arms maker after US*, January 27, 2020.

## Terrorism

In England, terrorists continue to use edged weapons during attacks. For instance, a person previously convicted of terrorist charges, after release from prison, went on a stabbing attack wounding three people [1].

One of the consequences of terrorism is when countries end up fighting each other. Case in point, Turkey and Syria (backed by Russia) are actively fighting each other [2]. Additionally, Turkey's leader, Erdogan, warned the conflict will continue until Syria withdraws its troops [3].

The threat of bioweapons in the hands of terrorist remains a concern. For instance, weaponized anthrax was used as an instrument of terror in 2001 [4]. With the outbreak of the Wuhan Coronavirus, there was a piece that suggested it may have originated Wuhan Institute of Virology [5]. Suggestions the virus was man modified were refuted by others [6, 7]. In one case, ZeroHedge was banned from Twitter for naming a Chinese sci-

entist it claimed was linked to the virus [8]. While we will likely never know the source of the current virus, this outbreak does follow fears raised in the past. For example, one opinion piece suggests genetic editing tools such as Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) CAS-9 could be used in developing such weapons [9].

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3. Gumrukcu, Tuvan, Reuters, *Turkey's Erdogan: Situation in Idlib won't be solved until Syrian forces withdraw*, February 15, 2020.
4. NPR, *Timeline: How The Anthrax Terror Unfolded*, February 15, 2011.
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6. Taylor, Adam, Washington Post, *Experts debunk fringe theory linking China's coronavirus to weapons research*, July 29, 2020.
7. Ling, Justin, Foreign Policy, *The Wuhan Virus Is Not a Lab-Made Bio-weapon*, January 29, 2020.
8. Osborne, Charlie, ZDNet, *ZeroHedge banned from Twitter over coronavirus bioweapon claims*, February 3, 2020.
9. Siegel, Dr. Marc, The Hill, *A terrorist's bioweapon could kill millions – and there's little we can do to stop it*, July 7, 2019.

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*A friend to all is a friend  
to non–Aristotle*

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## Economy

The Wuhan Coronavirus is impacting world economies. For example, on January 31, the major stock indices fell 2% on fears of the Chinese virus [1]. However, on February 5, the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (NASDAQ) composite and Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 reached record high [2]. Then on February 6, the Dow (along with NASDAQ composite and S&P 500) closed at record highs [3]. Then on February 10, the S&P 500 and NASDAQ composite reached new record highs [4]. On February 11, the two indices again closed at new record highs [5]. Then on February 12, the Dow joined the Nasdaq Composite and S&P 500 to close at new record highs [6].

Meanwhile, the economic strength remained high. In January 225,000 new jobs were added but the unemployment rate rose to 3.6% [7]. For the week ending January 25, the number of first time unemployment claims was

216,000 [8]. Then, for the week ending February 1, the number fell to 202,000 [9]. Finally, for the week ending February 8, the number was 205,000 [10].

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2. NASDAQ/RTT News, *Nasdaq, S&P 500 Reach Record Closing Highs Amid Continued Rally On Wall Street*, February 5, 2020.
3. Oh, Sunny, Market Watch, *Dow joins S&P 500 and Nasdaq to close at records after China pledges tariff cut*, February 6, 2020.
4. Imbert, Fred, CNBC, *Dow jumps 170 points, Amazon leads S&P 500 and Nasdaq to record highs*, February 10, 2020.
5. Riquier, Andrea, Market Watch, *S&P 500, Nasdaq close at all-time high as coronavirus fears recede*, February 11, 2020.
6. McCormick, Emily, et. al., Yahoo News, *Stock market news live: S&P 500, Dow, Nasdaq close at record highs as coronavirus fears ease*, February 12, 2020.
7. Chaney, Sarah, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Economy Added 225,000 Jobs in January*, February 7, 2020.
8. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 30, 2019.
9. Bartash, Jeffry, Market Watch, *New U.S. jobless claims fall 15,000 to 202,000 and return close to a 50-year low*, February 6, 2020.
10. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, February 13, 2020.

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*I use emotion for the many  
and reserve reason for the  
few—Adolf Hitler*

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