

## World News

Last month, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt made a visit to Vietnam [1]. Now the ship has a severe COVID-19 outbreak with at least 93 people infected [2]. Because the aircraft carrier captain alerted the press of the virus situation, the Navy relieved him of his command [3]. This is an expected result as combat readiness is considered a sensitive topic not to be discussed outside of official channels. Then there are indications that a second aircraft carrier, the USS Nimitz, has some COVID-19 infections [4]. Meanwhile, while most nations are combatting the COVID-19 virus, China is conducting aggressive military drills in the South China Sea [5]. There is fear that China could exploit a COVID-19 weakened US Military by expanding further in the South China Sea and other contested areas [6,7].

The impacts to the world resulting from China are not lost. Case in point, Japan has earmarked \$2.2 billion to help Japanese companies relocate out of China [8]. Moreover, there are concerns that China may be conducting low yield nuclear weapons testing [9].

1. Olson, Wyatt, Stars And Stripes, *USS Theodore Roosevelt arrives in Vietnam, becoming second US carrier to visit since the 1970s*, March 4, 2020.
2. Miles, Frank, et. al., Fox News, *USS Theodore Roosevelt sees 93 sailors with*

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

## Wuhan Coronavirus

As Italy tried to identify who had the coronavirus, the 1.2 million test kits purchased from China for 15 million euros (\$16 million) proved to be faulty [1]. This comes after up to 80% of kits to Spain and the Czech Republic made in China were defective [2]. Then the UK discovered their test kits made in China were also defective and is demanding a refund [3]. Now it appears that China is concerned about those looking into the origin of the virus. Case in point, China imposed restrictions on academic research publication on the origins of the novel coronavirus [4]. One belief is the Wuhan virus was the result of nor-

mal research and not a bioweapon [5]. Moreover, a UK publication has reviewed research papers suggesting The Wuhan Institute of Virology was researching bat viruses and received a \$3.7 million grant from the US to help fund the work [6]. This comes as China's broadcasts to the Arab world are blaming the US for COVID-19 [7].

In a glimmer of hope, there are indications that the COVID-19 may not be as deadly as predicted. Case in point, the University of Bonn tested 1,000 people in a town and found 2% were infected and 14% carried antibodies [8]. Additionally, a California anti-

body test showed the virus more prevalent and the best computer model lowered the estimated deaths in the US to just over 60,000 [9]. As a comparison, in 2018, reports estimated 80,000 flu related deaths occurred during the previous winter [10]. Moreover, Sweden has decided to let the virus run its course without any lockdowns [11]. So was the lockdown with its impact to the economy worse than the disease?

1. .Dudik, Andrea, and Tomek, Radoslav, Bloomberg, *Faulty Virus Tests Cloud China's European Outreach Over Covid-19*, March

(Continued on page 2)

### Special points of interest:

- Record high first time unemployment claims
- 22 million more unemployed
- Wuhan Coronavirus Pandemic
  - not as deadly as predicted
  - more widespread than predicted

# Wuhan Coronavirus

(Continued from page 1)

- 31, 2020.
2. McArdle, Mairead, National Review, *China Supplied Faulty Coronavirus Test Kits to Spain, Czech Republic*, March 26, 2020.
3. Benson, Guy, Town Hall, *Surprise: China Sells Huge Batch of Defective Coronavirus Tests to UK, Prompting Refund Demand*, April 8, 2020.
4. Gan, Nectar, et. al., CNN, *Beijing tightens grip over coronavirus research, amid US-China row on virus origin*, April 13, 2020.
5. Baier, Bret, and Re, Gregg, Fox News, *Sources*

- believe coronavirus outbreak originated in Wuhan lab as part of China's efforts to compete with US*, April 16, 2020.
6. Owen, Glen, Daily Mail (UK), *Wuhan lab was performing coronavirus experiments on bats from the caves where the disease is believed to have originated with a £3m grant from the US*, April 11, 2020.
7. Scarborough, Rowan, The Washington Times, *China falsely telling Arab world U.S. behind coronavirus*, April 18, 2020.
8. Clark, Ross, Spectator, *COVID antibody test in German town shows 15 percent infection rate*, April 10, 2020.

9. Shaw, Adam, Fox News, *Top coronavirus model significantly lowers total estimates of US deaths in new projection*, April 18, 2020.
10. Scutti, Susan, CNN, *Flu season deaths top 80,000 last year, CDC says*, September 27, 2018.
11. Leigh, Gabriel, Forbes, *Sweden Continues With Controversial Coronavirus Strategy: Is It A Big Mistake?*, April 10, 2020.

---

*Life on Earth is at the ever-increasing risk of being wiped out by a disaster, such as sudden global nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus or other dangers we have not yet thought of.—Stephen Hawking*

---

(Continued from page 1)

- coronavirus; won't be 'resolved' in just a few days*, April 1, 2020.
3. Kube, Courtney, and Gains, Moshel, NBC News, *Navy relieves captain who raised alarm about coronavirus outbreak on aircraft carrier*, April 2, 2020.
4. Shinkman, Paul D., US News, *Military Warns of Coronavirus 'Breakouts' Aboard USS Nimitz*, April 9, 2020.

## World News

5. Heydarian, Richard Javad, Asia Times, *China seizes Covid-19 advantage in South China Sea*, April 1, 2020.
6. Heydarian, Richard Javad, Asia Times, *China could prey on Covid-19 weakened Pentagon*, April 3, 2020.
7. Heydarian, Richard Javad, Asia Times, *China seizes Covid-19 advantage in South China Sea*, April 1, 2020.
8. South China Morning Post/Bloomberg, *Japan to*

- pay firms to leave China, relocate production elsewhere as part of coronavirus stimulus*, April 9, 2020.
9. Gordon, Michael R., Wall Street Journal, *Possible Chinese Nuclear Testing Stirs U.S. Concern*, April 15, 2020.

## Terrorism

With the US military trying to exit Afghanistan; questions arise on how neighboring Pakistan will address terrorism [1]. Case in point, Pakistan overturned the death sentence of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh; the man convicted for the brutal murder of journalist Daniel Pearl [2]. The sentence was reduced to seven years and acquitted the other three terrorists involved in the murder [3].

Elsewhere, in France, a Sudanese migrant shouting “Allahu Akbar”, stabbed nine people, killing at least two [4]. In Germany, authorities arrested four suspected Islamic State members for planning attacks

on US military bases [5].

1. Mazzetti, Mark, and Khan, Ismail, New York Times, *From the Afghan Peace Deal, a Weak and Pliable Neighbor for Pakistan*, March 5, 2020.
2. BBC News, *Daniel Pearl: Pakistan overturns convicted man's death sentence*, April 2, 2020.
3. Aaro, David, Fox News, *Pakistani court overturns conviction in death of Daniel Pearl*, April 2, 2020.
4. Montgomery, Jack, Breitbart, *'Allahu Akbar' Migrant Knifeman Kills Two, Wounds Seven in France*, April 4, 2020.
5. Angerer, Carlo, NBC News, *Suspected ISIS members plotted attack on U.S. bases, German prosecutors say*, April 15, 2020.

---

*Some of the most vulnerable people to getting the SARS virus are health care providers. The general public, walking in the street, there is really not that much risk at all. It's a very, very low risk - a very, very low risk.—*

---

*Anthony Fauci*

---

## Economy

Once again, the COVID-19 virus impact on the stock indexes kept them well below their highs. For instance, one April 1, the DJIA fell 4.44% [1]. Overall, the market did increase with the DJIA breaking past the 24,000 level [2]. However, stock exchanges Dow Jones Industrial Average is still 19.8% below its peak [3].

For those that get to tour the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation headquarters, there are pictures showing the Great Depression lines of depositors withdrawing funds from their banks. In contrast, we are now we are seeing long lines of people lining up for food [4,5,6,7].

The COVID-19 impact to the economy and employment in particular is devastating. Case in point, on April 2, the Labor Department reported the first time unemployment claims were 6,648,000 a one week record [8]. Then for the week ending April 4, the number was 6,606,000 [9]. Finally, for the week ending April 11, the number was 524,000 [10]. In the past four weeks, 22 million Americans filed for

first time unemployment claims [10].

On April 12, Russia and Audi Arabia led oil producers in agreeing to a 10% world-wide production reduction [12]. This should help stabilize oil prices.

1. Fitzgerald, Maggie, et. al., CNBC, *Stock market live Wednesday: Dow down 900, second quarter begins, Trump's warning*, April 1, 2020.
2. Franck, Thomas, et. al., CNBC, *Stock market live Friday: Dow jumps above 24k, second week of gains, Gilead's 'fighting chance'*, April 17, 2020.
3. Suttmeier, Richard Henry, Forbes, *The Dow Tests 24,000, Then Fades*, April 11, 2020.
4. WTVR CBS, *Families wait in mile-long line for food bank in Chesterfield*, April 19, 2020.
5. TMZ, *Mile-Long Line of Cars Waiting ...In Between Luxury Hotels*, April 18, 2020.
6. Barrera, Alicia, KSAT, *Line more than two miles long for food distribution in rural county*, April 18, 2020.
7. Kaiser Health News, *Food Bank Lines Stretch For Miles As Desperate Americans Struggle Amid Economic Crisis*, April 13, 2020.
8. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, April 2, 2020.
9. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, April 9, 2020.
10. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, April 16, 2020.
11. Tappe, Anneken, and Luhby, Tami, CNN, *22 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits in the last four weeks*, April 16, 2020.
12. Garber, Jonathan, FOX Business, *Oil trims early gains despite deal between Saudi Arabia, Russia*, April 12, 2020.

---

*Freedom is the most  
contagious virus known to  
man.—Hubert H.  
Humphrey*

---