

World News

The Wuhan Coronavirus is a pandemic that the Chinese Government wants to downplay. For example, on February 1, the Chinese government accused the US of spreading fear about the virus based on travel restriction from Wuhan [1]. This resulted in China and the US blaming each other for the virus [2]. Currently, China is involved in a massive propaganda effort to deflect Coronavirus blame [3]. Case in point, China is warning the US that blaming China for the coronavirus is pushing the two countries into a new cold war [4].

The fear is that China will do other things to change the focus away from the virus pandemic. It appears that China is solidifying its claims over the South China Sea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong [5]. For example, China is enacting a Hong Kong security law that threatens political freedoms [6]. This caused the US Secretary of State to point out Honk Kong is no longer autonomous, but rather an extension of China [7]. However, the biggest concern is the Chinese military. There are reports its military is overly aggressive during the pandemic [8]. For instance, China plans on a major training exercise in August located near three islands controlled by Taiwan [9]. The military training will include two aircraft carriers and simulate seizing Taiwan's outer islands [10]. The question here is could China use the cover of a training exercise to actually take Taiwan's outer islands? It would offer the communists the logistics necessary combined with the element of surprise.

The south China Sea is not the only place China is exercising its power. For example, in the disputer Kashmir, thousands of Chinese troops set up camps and dug trenches several kilometers in territory claimed by India [11].

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Wuhan Coronavirus

Before diving into the COVID-19 discussion, there is an indication that China is hacking into US vaccine research [1]. The question here is what is the Chinese motive?

One report indicates the Chinese CDC has determined that the animals at the Wuhan wet market were not infected, thereby concluding the source was elsewhere [2]. As theories try to explain how the virus could have originated in nature through an intermediary host, they seem to fall short. Case in point, the

nearly extinct pangolin was thought to be the intermediary but research is calling this into question [3]. Now, one piece indicates Australian researchers identified the COVID-19 infection mechanism, determined it does not exist in nature, and inferred the virus underwent design manipulation [4]. So if the infection mechanism, optimized for humans, does not exist in nature, is this not a strong indicator the virus had human intervention is some lab or university?

For almost a decade, scien-

tists in Wuhan, China, have conducted research into exotic viruses and have published dozens of papers on their work [5]. By one account, the Wuhan Institute of Virology collected 15,000 samples from bats and identified approximately 400 wholly new coronaviruses [6].

Finally, the number of COVID-19 deaths in the US passed 100,000 [7]. This means the virus has is exacting a toll higher than typical flu deaths.

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Special points of interest:

- One out of four unemployed
- COVID-19
- 100,000+ US Deaths

Wuhan Coronavirus

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Right now, in the United States, people should not be walking around with masks—Anthony Fauci

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Terrorism

There was another act of terrorism on US soil. A terrorist shooting at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi killed at least one person [1]. In another instance in Tampa, a man was arrested for providing material support to the Islamic State (IS) for a domestic attack [2].

In Afghanistan, the IS claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack on a maternity clinic that killed at least 24 people [3]. They also claimed responsibility for a bus bombing that killed an Afghan journalist and a technician [4].

The US is trying to broker a peace deal with the Taliban [5]. As a consequence, one report indicates suppression of news regarding Taliban attacks [6]. The question here is where are the main stream news media organizations? It is unclear if negative news is being withheld or not. Readers may recall, just before the

9/11 terrorist attack, the Taliban destroyed ancient statues of the Buddha [7]. Consequently, it is questionable the Taliban will actually bring piece.

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*Americans should wear
face masks as a way to
help stifle the spread of
COVID-19—Anthony
Fauci*

Economy

The Great Depression started with the stock market crash in 1929. In 2020, COVID-19 and the decision to close the country will be remembered as the catalyst.

The unemployment news is dismal. For the week ending May 9, the number of first time unemployment claims was 2,981,000 [1]. For the week ending May 16, the number reported was 2,438,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending May 23, the number reported was 2,123,000 [3]. These numbers are best described as dismal. That's about 7.5 million new first time unemployment claims during this newsletter reporting period. At this time, it is unclear when the country will fully recover. Put another way, since early March, over 40 million people applied for first time unemployment benefits [4].

The US growth rate for the first quarter was -5% [5]. In contrast, Sweden didn't shut down and its economy grew at 0.4% rate [6].

With the number of unemployed and those still staying at home, one consequence is business bankruptcy. On one end, the large chains stores, such as JCPenney and Neiman Marcus have filed for bankruptcy [7]. Overall, there is an increased number of business bankruptcies tied to the COVID-19 shutdown [8].

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*In a country well governed,
poverty is something to be
ashamed of. In a country
badly governed, wealth is
something to be ashamed
of.—Confucius*
