

Wuhan Coronavirus

On February 26, the Food and Drug (FDA) advisory committee voted unanimously to recommend the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination [1]. Then, on February 27, the FDA approved the Emergency Use Authorization for the J&J vaccine [2]. The new vaccine requires only one dose and does not require special refrigeration [3]. This comes after the number of COVID-19 related deaths in the US passed 500,000 [4].

With China's medical research capabilities, does anyone think China would not be able to conclusively determine where COVID-19 started? One report indicates China did little to determine the origin [5]. Why? Could it be from the very beginning they knew the source?

Last year (2020) there were concerns that the World Health Organization was too cozy with China and appeared to praise China's actions [6]. Now the WHO team leader investigating COVID-19 in Wuhan, Dr. Peter Ben Embarek, reported he does not believe COVID-19 originated from the Wuhan Institute of Virology but rather from animals [7]. Last May, Dr. Embarek concluded the Wuhan wholesale market played a role in the virus [8]. However, one report indicates WHO information requests were denied by Chinese authorities [9]. The latest trip to Wuhan appears to reinforce Dr. Embarek's earlier belief. Nevertheless, the WHO team was unable to determine how the virus infected humans [10]. Moreover, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was reported to claim all hypothesis are still on the table [11].

However, the WHO identified 13 virus variants from Wuhan samples taken during December, 2019 [12]. This would suggest the virus was in circulation longer than originally estimated. Moreover, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo indicated the circumstantial evidence linking the COVID-19 origin to the Wuhan Institute of Virology is "enormous" [13].

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Any system that is connected to the Internet introduces some additional level of risk. Case in point, a hacker gained access to the water treatment system of Oldsmar, Florida, and executed commands to poison the drinking water with sodium hydroxide [1]. The operator that found the attack notices remote access but assumed it was supervisors and others that connect remotely [2]. If this report is correct, it suggests that the operator didn't know who accessed the

system, only that it is normal practice. One report indicates the Oldsmar, Florida water hack took place on Friday and the Super Bowl was played 12 miles away on Sunday. Another report indicates it would have taken 24–36 hours for the chemical to enter the drinking water supply [3]. So had this gone uncorrected, the water supply for a town located 12 miles from the Super Bowl would have been poisoned just prior to the big game. Just a coincidence?

One report indicates China is expanding the number of ships and planes in the South China Sea [4]. This comes as China continues to manufacture fake goods to dump into Western markets. Case in point, the Department of Homeland Security seized 11 million fake N95 masks, marked as 3M manufactures, that were counterfeited in China [5].

Meanwhile, the US Army is developing a new laser weapon that will generate a

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Special points of interest:

- Oldsmar, Florida Drinking Water Attacked by Hacker
- J&J COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Authorization Approved
- 500,000 COVID-19 Deaths in the US
- Nasdaq, Dow, and S&P 500 close at new record highs

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terawatt for a duration of 200 femtoseconds [6]. The result vaporizes targets and generates an electromagnetic pulse that disrupts target electronics.

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The theory of Communism may be summed up in one sentence: Abolish all private property—Karl Marx

Terrorism

Days after announcing Houthi rebels will be removed from the terrorist list; the rebels attacked an airport in Saudi Arabia, prompting the new Administration to affirm its commitment to the Saudi kingdom [1]. In the latest Houthi drone attack in Saudi Arabia, a civilian plane was hit [2]. Meanwhile, in the province of Marib, Yemeni forces battled Houthi rebels resulting in dozens dead [3]. In response to the new attacks, the US has urged the Houthi rebels to halt their attack [4]. Other attacks in the northern province of Marib, resulted in at least 60 fighters dead [5]. On January 23, explosive-laden drones were launched from Iraq directed toward the Saudi Arabia's royal palace [6]. Then Saudi Arabia claims to have intercepted a bomb-laden drone its capital that was launched by Houthi rebels [7].

The role of religion and terrorism is common in many countries. For example, in Afghanistan, at least 30 people were killed when an explosion tore through a bomb making class hosted inside a mosque [8].

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*For us in Russia,
communism is a dead dog,
while, for many people in
the West, it is still a living
lion—Aleksandr
Solzhenitsyn*

Economy

On the bright side, the stock market indices continued to advance. On February 8, the Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P 500 closed at record highs [1]. Then on February 9, the Nasdaq scored another record high close [2]. The Dow managed to close at a new record high on February 10 [3]. On February 24, the DJIA closed at a record high [4].

However, the economy as measured by unemployment continues to be dismal. The number of first time unemployment claims, for the week ending February 6, was 793,000 [5]. For the week ending February 13, the number reported was 861,000 [6]. Finally, for the week ending February 20, the number reported was 807,750 [7].

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*Communism has never
come to power in a country
that was not disrupted by
war or corruption, or both—
John F. Kennedy*
