

SPECIAL ISSUE ON OPPOSING POLITICIZING VIRUS ORIGIN-TRACING

The Information Office, International  
Department of the CPC Central Committee

# China nsight



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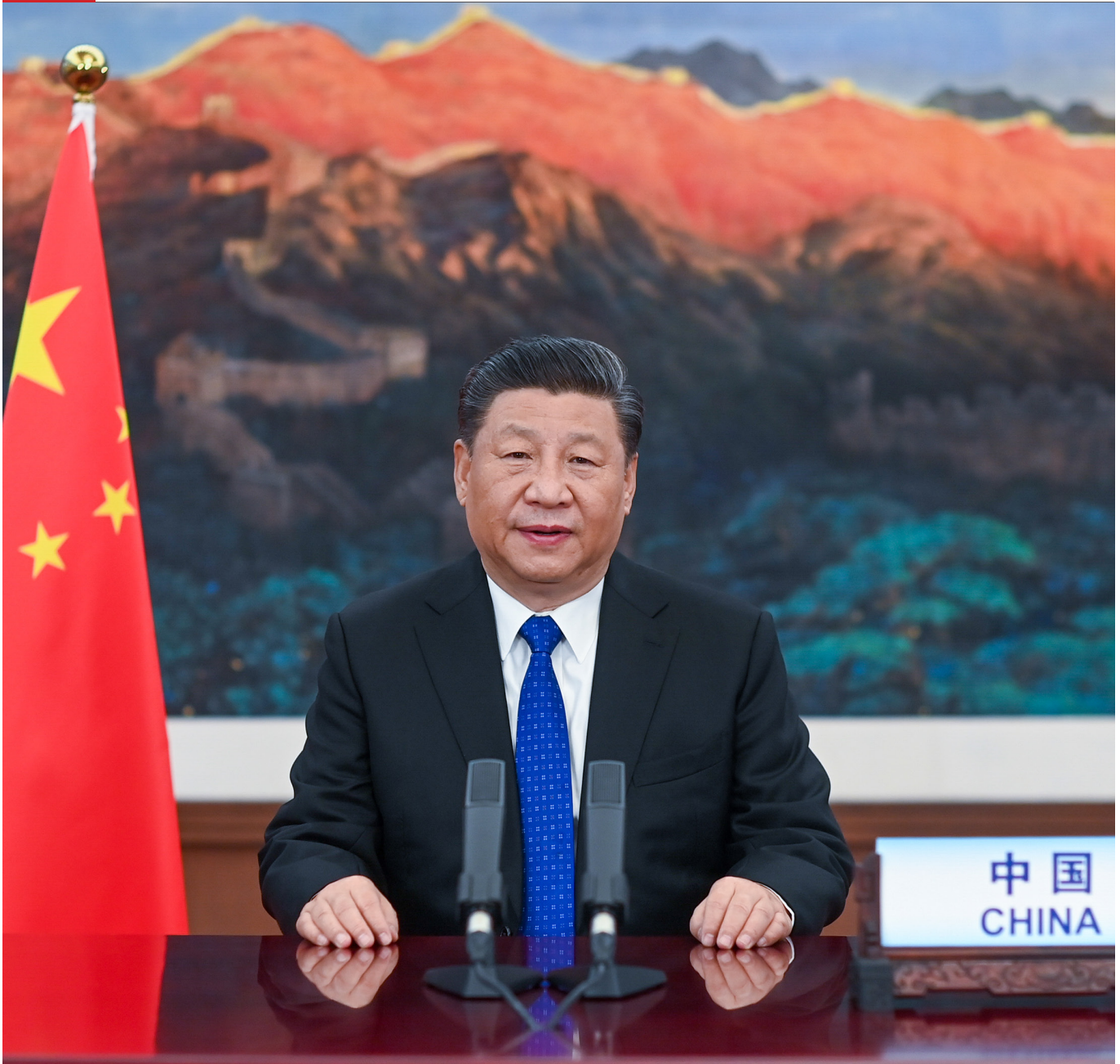
The Truth About America's Fight Against COVID-19



## P13

International Anti-Epidemic Cooperation





# China to Provide 2 billion COVID-19 Vaccines Globally: Xi

China will provide 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to the world throughout this year and offer 100 million U.S. dollars to COVAX, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on August 5 in a written message to the first meeting of the international forum on COVID-19 vaccine cooperation.

The 100 million U.S. dollars to COVAX

will mainly go to the distribution of vaccines to developing countries, he said, adding that China would do its best to help developing countries cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

China is committed to building a global community of health for all and has provided vaccines to the world, especially developing countries. The country actively

carried out joint production, which illustrates the concept of vaccines as global public goods, Xi stressed.

"I hope this forum will promote the accessibility and fair distribution of vaccines around the world, strengthen solidarity and cooperation in developing countries, and make new contributions for an early victory against the pandemic," he said. **C**

## Xi Jinping on International Cooperation Against COVID-19

Edited excerpts of Xi's speeches on international cooperation against the COVID-19 epidemic since 2020 follow.

No effort must be spared to attend every case, save every patient,  
and truly respect the value and dignity of every human life.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Global Health Summit via video in Beijing on May 21, 2021

The fight against COVID-19 is an all-out war that calls for a systemic response to coordinate pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions, balance targeted routine COVID-19 protocols and emergency measures, and ensure both epidemic control and socio-economic development.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Global Health Summit via video in Beijing on May 21, 2021

We must champion the vision of building a global community of health for all and firmly reject any attempt to politicize, label or stigmatize the virus.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Global Health Summit via video in Beijing on May 21, 2021

We must uphold fairness and equity as we strive to close the immunization gap.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Global Health Summit via video in Beijing on May 21, 2021

It is important that we uphold the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, fully heed the views of developing countries, and better reflect their legitimate concerns.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Global Health Summit via video in Beijing on May 21, 2021

China supports its vaccine companies in transferring technologies to other developing countries and carrying out joint production with them.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Global Health Summit via video in Beijing on May 21, 2021

We need to forge a strong shield for human health and safety, and build a global community of health for all.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at Session I of the 15th G20 Leaders' Summit on November 21, 2020

Prevention is the most economic and effective health strategy.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the deliberation with deputies from Hubei Province at the third session of the 13th National People's Congress on May 24, 2020



# Multiple political parties, social societies submit Joint Statement to WHO to oppose politicizing virus origin-tracing

Over 300 political parties, social societies and think tanks in over 100 countries and districts opposed politicizing virus origin-tracing in a joint statement sent to the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariate on August 2.

In the face of the grave threat COVID-19 poses to life, safety and health of all mankind, the statement stressed that the international society needs to strengthen anti-epidemic cooperation, called for the WHO to carry out global virus origin-tracing research in an objective and fair manner, and stand resolutely against politicizing virus origin-tracing issue.

"We as humans live in a community in which we rise and fall together with a shared future. In the face of major crises, no single country can remain insulated and intact. Viruses know no border or races. The only way to defeat them is for the international community

to work together," the statement said.

"(The coronavirus) origin-tracing is a serious scientific issue that must be studied by scientists and medical experts around the world through cooperation before any scientific conclusion is drawn on the basis of facts and evidences," the paper stressed.

"We are of the view that origin-tracing is the shared obligation of all countries. The outline of the next step work plan proposed unilaterally by the WHO Secretariate has neither complied with what is stipulated in the relevant Resolution of the World Health Assembly, nor been consulted adequately with Member States, still less fully reflected the latest research achievements of the global origin-tracing. Hence it is not conducive to offering due guidance for future cooperation thereof," the statement said.

It calls on the Secretariate of the World Health Organization to "act on relevant resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly to advance global origin-tracing study in cooperation with all Member States while giving full consideration to the emerging new scientific evidences and faithfully following the recommendations of the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019."

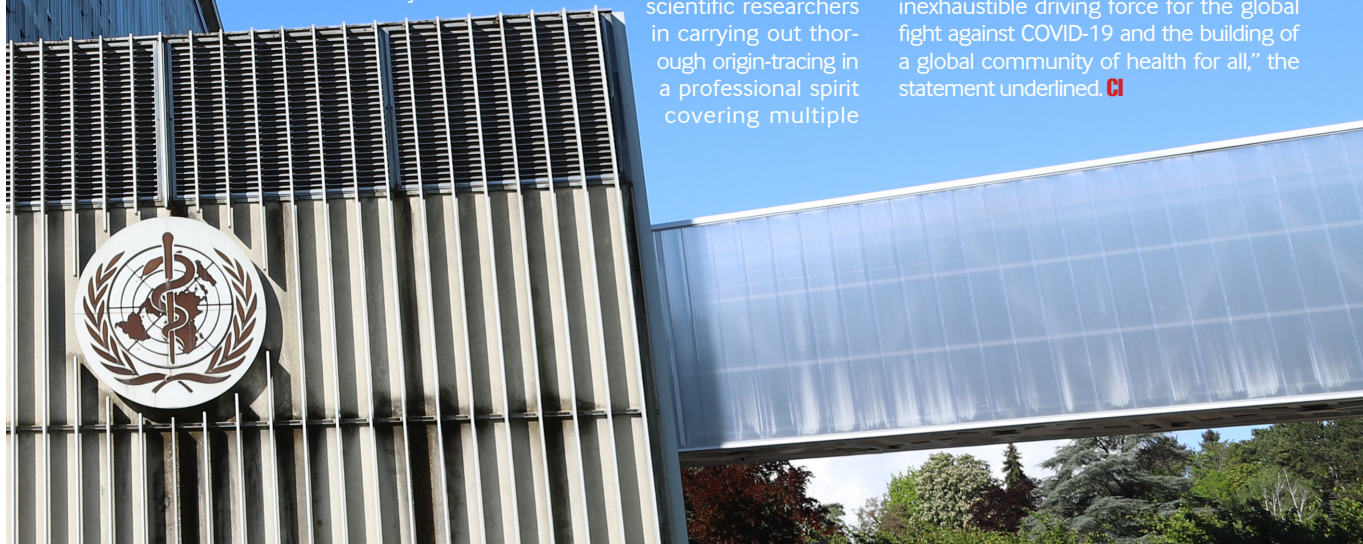
"We support medical experts and scientific researchers in carrying out thorough origin-tracing in a professional spirit covering multiple

countries and multiple locations, so as to provide necessary reference experience for the prevention of the next possible pandemic," it noted.

"We resolutely oppose any attempt of politicization, geographical labeling and stigmatisation as well as the obstruction by any political factor and political manipulation to the research process and the international anti-epidemic cooperation," the statement said.

"We appreciate the fact that China and other countries have taken positive moves in providing vaccines to the rest of the world, in particular to developing countries, making important contribution to the global anti-epidemic cooperation. We call on vaccine-capable countries to refrain from imposing export restrictions or resorting to excessive hoarding and to resolutely oppose vaccine nationalism so that the global immunisation gap can be narrowed, and a stronger international fence against the virus can take shape," it added.

"We are of the view that political parties and organizations of all countries must shoulder their responsibility to enhance cooperation, work hard to facilitate global anti-epidemic cooperation, policy coordination and complementary actions, so as to inject inexhaustible driving force for the global fight against COVID-19 and the building of a global community of health for all," the statement underlined. **C**



# China-WHO Joint Research on Origins of SARS-CoV-2



## Four Possible Pathways:

Direct zoonotic spillover is possible to likely

COVID-19 introduction through an intermediate host is likely to very likely

Introduction through cold/food chain products is possible

Introduction through a laboratory incident is extremely unlikely

## Unsure Origins

No evidence shows that respiratory illness before the COVID-19 outbreak was affected by SARS-CoV-2.

It is considered unlikely that any substantial transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection was occurring in Wuhan during October-November 2019.

There is no firm conclusion about the role of the Huanan market in the origin of the outbreak.

## Early Transmission in Other Countries

Bats and pangolins may be the reservoir of the virus that causes COVID-19. However, neither of the viruses identified so far from these mammalian species is sufficiently similar to SARS-CoV-2 to serve as its direct

progenitor.

The high susceptibility of mink and cats to SARS-CoV-2 suggests that additional species of animals may act as a potential reservoir.

## The Role of Cold Chain Remains Unclear

The animal and environment working group found no SARS-CoV-2 in samples and surveillance for wild animal disease in China.

SARS-CoV-2 has been found to persist in conditions found in frozen food, packaging and cold-chain products.

## The joint international team made the following recommendations:

1. Develop a comprehensive information database to combine molecular data, global distribution data and other metadata of potential animal hosts.
2. Conduct further retrospective and systematic research around earlier cases and possible hosts for SARS-CoV-2 around the world.
3. Analyse the role of cold chain and frozen food in the possible introduction of the virus

# Third Time's a Charm?

Washington owes an answer to the world on the pandemic's origins **By Mario Cavolo**

**W**hen we look at the situation right now, in terms of COVID-19 origin investigations, we have a state of affairs that is tainted black by the geopolitical narrative. That narrative first took hold with the Donald Trump administration and today still exudes very strongly from the Joe Biden administration.

In February, Peter Ben Embarek, head of an expert team dispatched by

the World Health Organization (WHO) to Wuhan on COVID-19 origin-tracing, said the mission was "successful in many ways." There was no widespread and no large cluster of COVID-19 in or around China's Wuhan in months prior to December 2019, according to the Danish scientist. "We still are far away from understanding the origin and identifying animal species and the pathways from

which the virus could have entered the human in December," he added.

That's what WHO told the world. And for telling the world just that, the U.S. declared WHO persona non grata. Much like China, one might argue.

The U.S. still calls for further investigation in China, but never for any type of exploration into its own archives. This constitutes geopolitical hypocrisy.



Scientific evidence has shown that the virus had been circulating in certain areas of the U.S. many months before the epidemic in Wuhan. The Chinese city is where the virus was first identified, not where it began.

Robert Redfield, former Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in his congressional testimony last year said “the coronavirus at the time hadn’t been identified, but many cases of this unknown type of pneumonia in the U.S. were certainly of the coronavirus’ COVID-19 variant.”

In June, a study of blood samples taken by the National Institutes of Health shows that people in at least five states across the U.S. had been infected with the coronavirus in December 2019 and early January 2020, providing more evidence that the virus first appeared in the country far earlier than previously believed.

But why then have the investigations

not circled back there yet? Contact all the people who were sick and test their antibodies. Why isn’t the evidence being gathered in the struggle to trace the actual origins of the virus?

Bio-laboratories operated by the U.S. worldwide have seen their fair share of safety breaches and other accidents. The issues at hand are clear and these labs should thus be thoroughly checked. The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been examined, and the WHO expert conclusion was that a leak would have been highly unlikely. So when will their U.S. counterparts’ number be up?

We have seen these double standards pop up time and time again. Take, for example, the H1N1 flu, commonly known as swine flu, which came out of the U.S. back in 2009. It spread across the globe and killed somewhere between 151,700-575,400 people, infecting over 1.4 billion people. The CDC did a terrible job at

controlling it. Yet nobody ever uttered a complaint.

In regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, we now know the virus didn’t even originate in Wuhan. It had been swirling around Italy, Spain, and perhaps other countries, for a few months before Wuhan got hit. Luckily, in Wuhan, the virus was quickly exposed, and its details quickly shared. Over the course of six months following the beginning of the pandemic, China did a magnificent job in managing and, eventually, controlling the virus.

As we might be headed toward a third--and counting--round of investigations in the near future, a word to the wise. Origin tracing should be left in the more than capable hands of science and scientists. Not those politically tainted.

The author is a non-resident senior fellow with the Center for China and Globalization **CI**



A requirement for masks is seen inside the Pennsylvania Railway Station, New York City, the U.S., on August 11



# Avoid Politics in Origin-Tracing

By Adhere Cavince

Nearly a year and half after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, efforts to contain the virus remain challenged. Around the world, countries and territories have encountered more variants, deferring hopes for health stability and economic recovery.

At the same time, there appears to be a buildup of political acts by some countries, threatening the gains made in both pandemic origin-tracing and response.

For four weeks, WHO experts and their Chinese counterparts were in Wuhan, Hubei province, the city that first reported the virus in China. The team then made recommendations and conclusions on what might have transpired, which logically would have provided a backdrop for further investigations.

However, a new plan by the WHO Secretariat to abandon those earlier outcomes of the joint study, as the WHO

launches the second phase of the origin-tracing investigation, has elicited strong reactions from the international community. Several questions are being raised regarding the impartiality, integrity and utility of the WHO move.

For instance, there is no scientific basis for the WHO to discount the outcomes of the joint study that was conducted by its own experts.

Second, the unilateral decision by the global health body to draw up a new plan without due consultation of member states flies in the face of established rules of procedure governing execution of its mandate. Also of concern is the continuity of the tracing, since the WHO intends to replace the experts who were involved in the Wuhan mission.

These worries have nudged more than 60 countries to write to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, warning against politicization of COVID-19

source-tracing, since it would have huge implications for a successful international response against the pandemic.

As a coordinating agency, the WHO should be at the forefront of building consensus in tackling global health challenges. It can only achieve this through unflinching pursuit of professionalism, independence and global good.

Besides, the global health body has an even more urgent responsibility: galvanizing international consensus for effective response against the pandemic.

So far, developing economies have fallen behind, with a minuscule supply of vaccines. According to the WHO, out of the 3.5 billion vaccine doses administered around the world, 75 percent have gone to just 10 rich countries.

In the United States, nearly 50 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated, compared with around 2 percent in Africa. A country like the Democratic Republic of Congo has only administered 0.08 vaccines per 100 individuals, showing just how dire the situation is.

While rich countries offer their populations enticements to get vaccinated, people in low income economies are more willing to receive the inoculations. But the hoarding and use of vaccines to achieve political ends has derailed an equitable global response as more problematic variants take root.

A new study by the WHO and partners indicates that, had vaccine inequity been addressed, up to US\$38 billion could have been added to poorer nations' 2021 GDP forecasts.

These unfortunate realities make poor countries worry about the WHO's ability to help them climb out of the pandemic vortex.

The global health body should therefore focus its energies on providing solutions to the most pressing challenges, instead of falling victim to international politics.

The writer is a Kenya-based researcher of international relations with a focus on China-Africa ties [C](#)



A police officer peers out of a minivan before entering Fort Detrick in Maryland following a shooting on April 6

"COVID-19 is the common enemy of the entire humanity regardless of nationality, color or shape. It is important that the world link arms to fight this. The problem is if we politicize this, it becomes a hindrance to our efforts to combat this."

—Harry Roque, Philippine presidential spokesperson

"Politicians shouldn't strive to score points and increase their popularity by speculating about the COVID-19 situation."

—Sergei Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister

"The investigation led by the U.S. intelligence community into COVID-19's origins has a clear end-goal of diverting attention from the country's pandemic response failures and casting blame on China."

—Andrey Kortunov, Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council

"What we want to do for all parties, and everybody is calling for this, there's widespread agreement amongst all our member states, let's not politicize the process. The WHO was engaged in very positive consultations with a large number of member states, including China, on how to proceed with the next stages of the inquiry."

—Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Program

"As the rest of the world tries to fight the COVID-19 pandemic with science, some in the United States have chosen to politicize COVID-19. In particular, the Fort Detrick lab in the United States has been identified as one such location where serious origin-tracing of COVID-19 should be investigated. The continuous politicization of origin-tracing and the propaganda against China point to one thing: the United States has something to hide."

—Anwar Adams, a councilor in the City of Cape Town

"Countries need to work together to defeat the pandemic, instead of interfering in the scientific research on the disease to promote a political agenda. We reject attempts to politicize, single out and stigmatize the studies on the origin of COVID-19. We acknowledge China's responsible and transparent contribution in relation to the pandemic."

—Bruno Rodriguez, Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister

"What the U.S. did in the origin-tracing of COVID-19 showed the attempts to politicize scientific issues and their consistent double standards in international affairs. China provided vaccines and support for other countries compared to some western countries, which did little in combating the virus globally."

—Marcos Cordeiro Pires, a Brazilian scholar

"The US government's attempts to politicize the pandemic by claiming China as the source of COVID-19 are not only groundless, but harmful to the global fight against the disease. There is no scientific evidence to validate Washington's assumption that the virus escaped from a Chinese laboratory."

—Miguel Nicolelis, a Brazilian neuroscientist and a tenured professor at Duke University in the US state of North Carolina

"The US is using the China card to address domestic problems during the pandemic, rather than having any real interest in finding out the virus' origin."

—Usman Sarki, a former deputy representative of Nigeria to the UN

"Discourse around investigation into the origins of COVID-19 is the terrain of qualified scientists, and politics should never be allowed to interrupt scientific research work."

—Abbey Makoe, a former political editor at the South African Broadcasting Corporation

"Virus origin-tracing is a scientific issue, which can only be determined by scientists, not politicians. China has spared no effort to assist other countries to combat the pandemic through providing medical equipment and supplies as well as COVID-19 vaccines. China's support has saved countless lives around the world."

—Chea Munyith, president of the Cambodian Chinese Evolution Researcher Association

"The accusation about a man-made coronavirus is unreasonable, unprofessional and stupid. It is a pity that the research of such an epidemic has involved many political factors. Amid the current China-US relationship, blaming China would benefit the US."

—Alexander Semyonov, head of the Yekaterinburg branch of the State Research Center of the Virology and Biotechnology Vector Institute



# Politicizing Origin Tracing is Dirty Politics

By Mario Cavolo

The saddest and most disconcerting aspect of the political circus revolving around novel coronavirus origin tracing is that it has turned a blind eye to rising rates of infections and deaths around the world. The two main aspects of the politicization of the pandemic are its severity and the measures taken to contain it, and the demand for an “investigation” into the origin of the virus.

When those US politicians demanding such an investigation are asked what they have done to contain the pandemic and reduce the high death rate in the country, they often start citing conspiracy theories because they don't have an answer.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's estimates show that influenza has caused between 12,000 and 61,000 deaths a year since 2010. Which means the more than 631,000 lives that COVID-19 has claimed in less than one and a half years is 10 times higher than the annual flu deaths.

This is a real problem, a medical problem which has nothing to do with politics. But the US politicians refuse to realize that.

Before this year, I hadn't taken any flu shot. I recall a doctor explaining to me that the annual flu jab “will help”. He said, “the annual flu shot doesn't guarantee you won't get the flu but if you catch a flu bug, it will help your system better fight the bug, you won't get seriously ill. So, we recommend it.” Still, I chose not to take any flu shot.

However, it is different now. We are facing a virus that is far more deadly than any other flu virus. Which makes me responsible for my health and safety as well as those around me—my family and the community in which I live, and the people who work in the places I regularly or occasionally visit. So it is absolutely necessary that I practice pandemic-appropriate behavior—wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. I have already taken the COVID-19 vaccine. And if need be, I will get a booster shot in the future.

Yet there are people in some Western countries who seem to be delusional enamored as they are with Western-style “democracy”. Some of them are so obsessed with “freedom” that they insist they could even die and drag others along with them in the name of “freedom”.

Similarly, when it comes to virus origin tracing, we see a politically motivated group challenging an increasingly clear body of evidence that a SARS-CoV-2-like virus was detected in some countries months before it was identified in Wuhan.

In fact, there is evidence to suggest the virus was found in the US many months before it was detected in Wuhan. But since US politicians are hell-bent on blaming China for the pandemic, they will not allow any study, let alone an investigation, to be conducted anywhere in the country.

There were many reports by both medical professionals and patients of a particularly nasty early flu season in the US in September and early October 2019. A member of my own family in Arizona shared this fact with me, yet there was no attempt to identify the virus that was causing the severe cases.


Also, a National Institutes of Health study in June found evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infections in five states earlier than had been initially reported. The research confirmed that many people had antibodies, which was further proof apart from a CDC study that suggested a SARS-CoV-2-like virus was detected in the US way

back in December 2019—that the novel coronavirus spread in the US much before China.

Given that there are many other points of evidence to consider such as the “vaping” illness and nursing home outbreaks around the now closed Fort Detrick in Maryland, along with the identification of a SARS-CoV-2-like virus in other countries earlier, the next proper step would be to conduct a virus origin tracing investigation in the US as part of a thorough scientific study.

There is nothing political about such a study, because following the demonstrable, observable record of evidence to learn more about a virus, a bacterium or a disease is the best way to deal with any future pandemic. And such a study is the work of scientists, not intelligence agents and certainly not politicians.

The malign agenda to politicize COVID-19 by falsely accusing China of spreading the virus is just another US ploy to check China's peaceful rise and maintain Washington's global leadership.

The author is an American writer living in China and a senior fellow at the Center for China and Globalization 

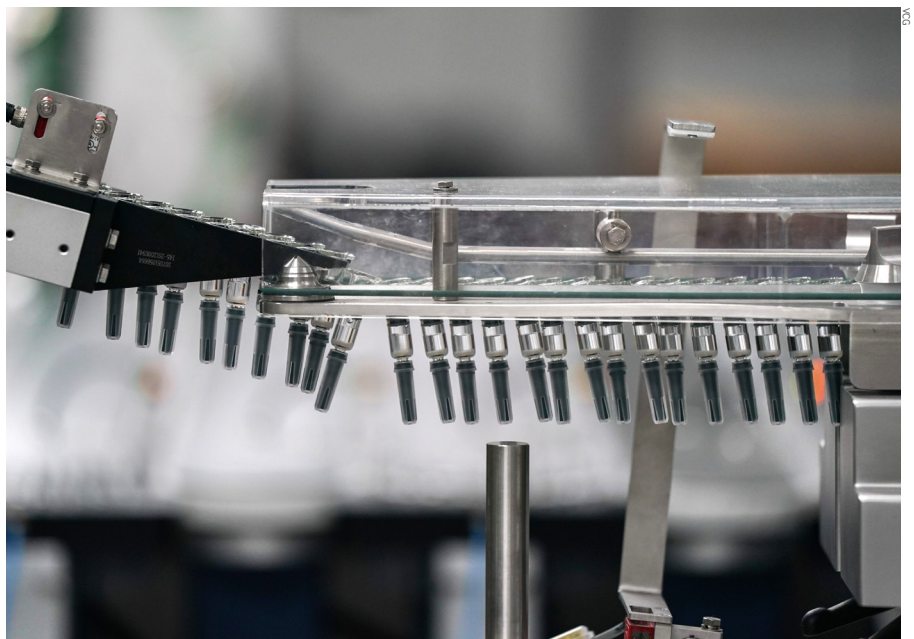


Photo taken on July 8, 2021 shows the COVID-19 vaccine production line of Sinovac in Beijing

# Political Virus Biggest Enemy in Fight Against Coronavirus

By Jinith de Silva

The Communist Party of China led the Chinese people in largely containing the spread of the novel coronavirus within a relatively short period of time and resuming near normal economic activities last year.

Equally importantly, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has been working with other countries to safeguard global public health by providing medical supplies and expertise to other countries, in order to help them fight the virus.

China has provided more than 600 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for countries around the world. To strengthen the global fight against the virus, China has offered more than 300 billion face masks, 3.7 billion personal protective equipment (PPE) and 4.8 billion testing kits to over 200 countries.

Also, China was the first country to provide medical assistance for Sri Lanka, in March 2020, so it could contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the early days

of the pandemic, China's central and local governments, enterprises, organizations and individuals have offered help to Sri Lanka in different capacities. Which is unprecedented.

Also, China has granted Sri Lanka a concessionary loan of \$500 million apart from donating more than 9 million doses of vaccines and dispatching medical supplies, including testing kits, face masks, and PPEs.

In response to my request as the president of Sri Lanka-China Society, 19 nongovernmental organizations in China donated about 400,000 face masks, 1,600 face shields, 2,400 protective goggles, and 400 PPEs to help the Sri Lankan authorities to control the spread of the virus. The estimated value of those donations is about 1.2 million yuan (\$185,716).

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, even the less fortunate families in Sri Lanka were able to send their children to school. But COVID-19 has changed the situation for the worse, because the pandemic-

induced restrictions have deprived many people of their livelihoods.


Considering the gravity of the situation, the Sri Lanka-China Society appealed to Chinese organizations and individuals for help. And to our delight, the Amity Foundation in Nanjing has offered scholarships to 500 Sri Lankan students from rural areas, with one scholarship being worth 1,000 yuan.

In addition, a few provincial friendship associations in China have offered scholarships to 132 students. This shows that during hardships not only the Chinese government but also the Chinese people and organizations are willing to help Sri Lanka. The donations from Chinese organizations and individuals will contribute to the health and well-being of the Sri Lankan people and strengthen the historical friendship between the two countries.

Furthermore, the Sri Lankan people are aware of how the United States has been trying to use the virus origin tracing issue to target China, so as to check its peaceful rise.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently said: "The US has from the very beginning attempted to politicize the pandemic, stigmatize the virus and use origin tracing as a tool to practice political manipulation."

We agree with China that the next round of studies to trace the origin of the virus should be conducted based on the first phase of study in China, after which the World Health Organization concluded that it is extremely unlikely that the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan. Any attempt to carry out another round of origin tracing study in China is an attempt to politicize the issue, cast doubt on the WHO study's findings and sling mud at China.

Finally, I would like to echo China's global development philosophy that we will continue to work with people from all countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind. 



A reader walks past a face mask requirement sign before entering the New York Public Library in New York City, the U.S., on August 2



# “America Ranked First”?!

The Truth about America’s fight against COVID-19



A cyclist passes by a COVID-19 testing clinic in New York City, the U.S., on August 3

● Flying in the face of stark reality, some U.S. media have rated the United States as “number one in the world” for its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is contrary to basic human ethics and facts. It will not help future generations to look at the current world history realistically and objectively. On August 9, 2021, the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, together with Taihe Think Tank and Intellisias Institute, released a research report entitled “The Truth about America’s Fight against COVID-19”.

● On July 30, 2021, the number of new COVID-19 cases in a single day exceeded 100,000 across the United States, entering the fourth wave of upsurge. Behind the cold numbers lies the domestic politics of the United States -- particularly the highly politicized partisanship, which has taken many lives of the Americans “who need not have died.”

● From the first COVID-19 outbreak to the present, there are many disagreements among the two parties of the United States that hold the country back: from nucleic acid testing, masks wearing,

social distancing, home quarantine, vaccinations, to the distribution of strategic medical reserves, emergency relief bills, between federal, state, and local levels, between executive, legislative and judicial branches, and between conservative and liberal media.

● Under the double blow of the virus and man-made misfortunes, the pandemic has not been effectively controlled so far. Yet the bodies of more than 600,000 Americans are piling up like mountains. “It’s a slaughter,” said William Foege, an American epidemiologist.

● The U.S. government’s efforts in pandemic prevention and control, policy measures, and source investigation went against science and common sense, and were the direct reasons why the United States is a “failed country in fighting the pandemic”.

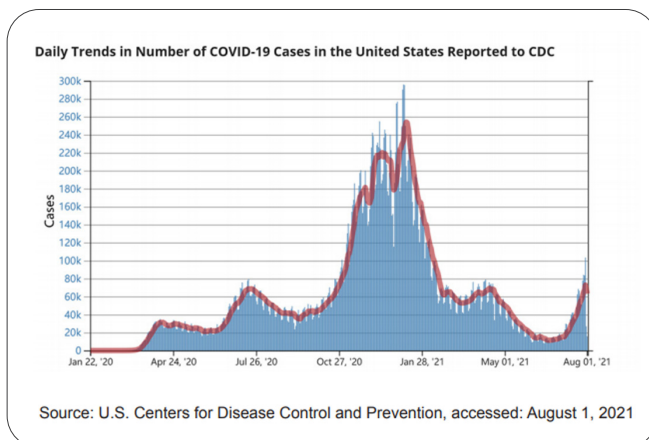
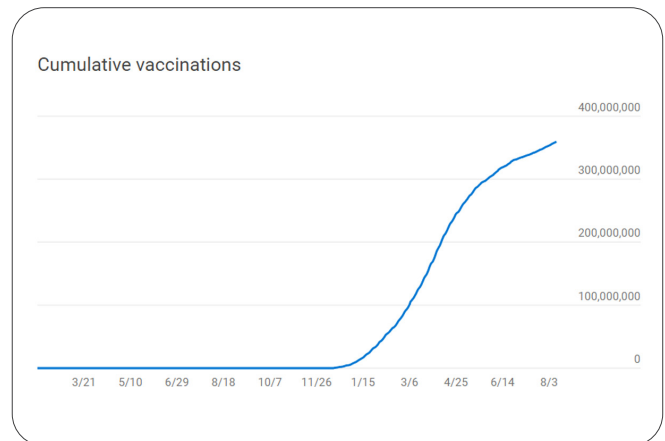
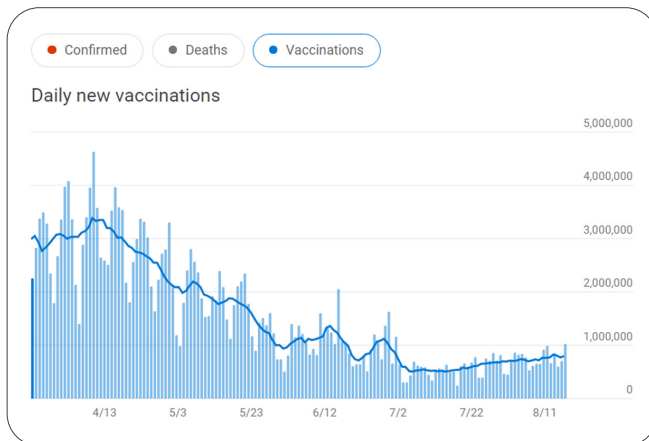
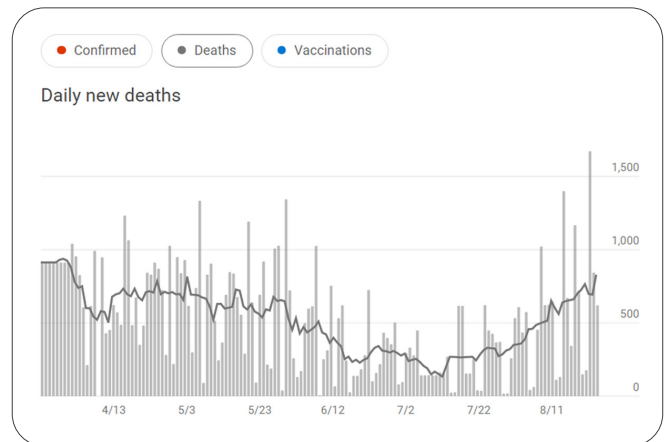
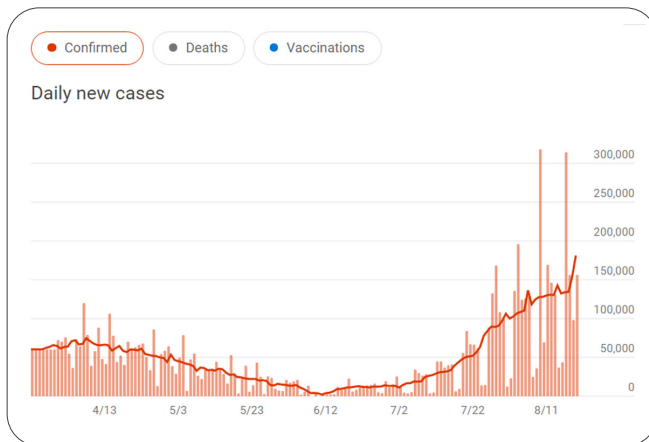
● By May 26, 2020, Donald Trump was mentioned in about 38 percent of the English-language media’s fake reports on COVID-19. This made “The U.S. President Donald Trump to be probably the biggest promotor of COVID-19 misinformation.”

● What was the outbreak of so-called “respiratory disease” or “white lung disease” of unknown cause in the United States in the second half of 2019 COVID-19 really about? What kind of research is going on at Fort Detrick and other biological laboratories around the country? Is it related to COVID-19? How were the security measures implemented? Is it related to the origin of the global COVID-19 outbreak? These are all questions that should be answered. But the U.S. government has been evading them.

● To exploit the pandemic for political purposes, the U.S. government has suppressed scientists and professional opinion. Scientists who denied the “lab leaks” were subjected to cyber violence and harassment. This affected their normal work and even physically threatened them.



# U.S. COVID-19 Cases 2020-21



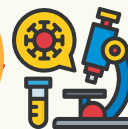


# The novel coronavirus emerged in multiple places in the world by the end of 2019

Samples from November 2019

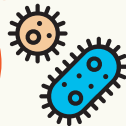
Samples from November 2019: A SARS-CoV-2 in situ hybridization reaction detected at multiple parts on skin biopsy of an Italian woman.

Samples from January 2, 2020-March 18, 2021



Nine of 24,079 blood samples from 50 U.S. states tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.

Samples from November 27, 2019



Coronavirus genetic materials detected in wastewater collected from a Brazilian city.

February 6, 2020

A paper published in the *European Journal of Epidemiology* suggested novel coronavirus infection may have occurred as early as November 2019 in France.

Samples from December 13, 2019-January 17, 2020

Check-ups of donated blood samples for archive in nine U.S. states found that 106 blood samples tested positive for coronavirus antibodies.

June 26, 2020

Spanish virologists found traces of the coronavirus in a sample of Barcelona waste water collected in March 2019.



December 24, 2019

The early gene sequences collected from Iran, Brazil and Italy on December 24, 2019 uploaded to national databases.



November 16, 2020

The virus was circulating in Italy in September 2019, according to a study by the Italian National Cancer Institute in Milan.



The middle of December 2019



The prevalence of neutralizing antibodies reportedly increased in France.

December 1, 2020

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found evidence of the presence of coronavirus antibodies in blood donations collected in December 2019, according to a report published in the *Clinical Infections Journal*.

Sample from December 27, 2019

A throat swab of a French patient with hemoptysis tested positive for coronavirus RNA in RT-PCR detection.

January 12, 2021



Espirito Santo, a state in southeast Brazil, announced the presence of coronavirus antibodies in serum samples dating back to December 2019.

Samples from January 2020

Waste water samples collected in Barcelona of Spain tested positive for coronavirus.



February 9, 2021

A coronavirus related to COVID-19 was discovered in the blood samples from five Thai bats.



(Compiled by: Beijing Review; designed by Pamela Tobey)

# Fighting COVID-19 Requires International Cooperation

By He Wenping

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), now sweeping the world, is not only a big test of China's ability to fight the epidemic, but also a great test of international cooperation.

With the positive trend of epidemic prevention and control in China, the focus has switched to the increasingly serious situation in other parts of the world. As of April 3, the outbreak had spread to more than 190 countries, the number of confirmed cases had passed the million mark, and the death toll was over 50,000.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has already raised the risk of a global pandemic to the highest level. In February, the latest issue of *The Economist* published a cover chart of the coronavirus' rotation around the earth.

The virus knows no boundaries, making unity in fighting it vital. When the Chinese people were fighting the initial outbreak of the virus, especially in February, they had the support and help of the world. Today, when the world is in

lockdown, it is China's turn to do everything in its power to help the world with material supplies, financial aids and, even more valuable, by sharing its experiences.

On March 7, in response to an appeal by the World Health Organization, the Chinese government decided to contribute \$20 million to support WHO's campaign for international cooperation in the fight against the pandemic.

Although China's own task of fighting the epidemic remains daunting, still it sent public health and epidemic prevention experts to Iran, Italy and other worst-hit countries. The government and Chinese companies also sent masks, nucleic acid testing kits and other anti-epidemic materials to South Korea, Japan, Iran, Pakistan, and countries in Europe and Africa.

The China Red Cross Foundation also set up an International Humanitarian Assistance Fund against Epidemics, which has mobilized social forces to raise funds and materials to help countries more se-

verely hit by the virus.

As the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States worsens, on March 29, the first aircraft loaded with 80 tons of anti-epidemic supplies arrived in New York from Shanghai, carrying 130,000 N95 masks, 1.7 million surgical masks and 50,000 protective clothing.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has taught people all over the world a lesson in building a community of common health for mankind. No country can meet the challenges alone, and no country can retreat behind high walls.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic is a common challenge for all humanity, and public health security is a common issue the world needs to address. In the fight against epidemics that affect the safety and security of all peoples, solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has stated: "We must all join the chorus of humanity in the fight against the virus and win ultimate victory. The virus is a threat to each of us, and we must unite as one person."

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a crisis, a disaster, but also a big test. It proves that China is not talking about a vague idea of "a community with a shared future for mankind" because it already exists here on Earth.

On the one hand, economic globalization and scientific and technological progress shorten the distance between countries and between peoples; we are already interdependent and intertwined in economic development and social security, but that could be quickly overturned by a serious infectious disease.

The world is now working hard to combat the pandemic. People facing such a huge public health crisis cannot tolerate any kind of recriminations, shirking responsibilities, and stigmatization based on the narrow interests of certain political parties or groups. The world need to work together against the common enemy.

The author is senior research fellow of Charhar Institute and Institute of West Asian & African Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. ■



China-donated COVID-19 vaccines and other anti-epidemic supplies are unloaded from a plane at an airport in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, on March 17



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# CHINA INSIGHT

## Special Issue on Opposing Politicizing Virus Origin-tracing

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