

Reality Check: Falsehoods in US Perceptions of China (II)

美国对华认知中的谬误和事实真相 (二)

● The right to life is of utmost importance, as survival is the basis of all human rights. Endowed with the world's most advanced medical equipment and technologies, the US has registered the world's largest number of COVID-19 infections and deaths. Pandemic response has been extremely politicized, and become a tool and lever to attack, undercut and oppose each other between the Republicans and the Democrats. Politicians only focus on political gains, with no regard to the life and health of the ordinary people. Its pandemic control, which has been unscientific, unequal and irresponsible, has gravely undermined American people's right to life and health.

So far, the COVID-19 death toll in the US has surpassed one million. The deaths are, according to *The Atlantic*, “unexpected, untimely, particularly painful, and, in many cases, preventable”. Some politician even suggested that old people may sacrifice themselves for the country and that saving the country's economy is more important than old people's lives. Data of the US Center for Disease Prevention and Control shows that most COVID victims are aged 65 years and above. USC and Princeton researchers project that due to the pandemic deaths last year, life expectancy at birth for Americans will shorten by 1.13 years, the sharpest decline since World War II. “For Blacks, the life expectancy would shorten by 2.10 years, and for Latinos, by 3.05 years. Whites are also impacted, but their projected decline is much smaller—0.68 years.”

The Washington Post points to a far greater number behind the one million death toll: That number is 9 million—the number of Americans who have lost spouses, parents, grandparents, siblings and children to COVID. A study by the Imperial College London estimates that more than 250,000 US children had lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19 by May 23, 2020. Figures released by the US Government Accountability Office in March 2022 show that up to 23 million people in the US may have developed “long COVID”, and an estimated one million people suffering from the symptoms may be pushed out of work.

● The US is the country most rampant with gun violence. Its population, totaling 333 million or 4 percent of the world's

◆生命权是最大的人权，生存是享有一切人权的基础。美国拥有全世界最先进的医疗设备和技術，却成为全球新冠肺炎感染和死亡人数最多的国家。疫情防控始终被高度政治化，成为共和党和民主党相互攻讦、否决、对抗的工具和筹码。政客只关注政治私利，却无视民众生命健康。不科学、不平等、不担当的疫情防控，严重损害了美国人民的生命权和健康权。

目前，美国新冠死亡人数已突破100万，美国《大西洋月刊》评论，“出乎意料”“猝不及防”“特别痛心”“许多情况下是可以避免的”。美国政客还宣称“年长者可为国牺牲”“国家经济比老年人生命更重要”。美国疾病控制和预防中心数据显示，因新冠肺炎疫情死亡的大多数患者年龄在65岁以上。南加州大学和普林斯顿大学的研究显示，新冠肺炎使美国人的平均预期寿命减少了1.13岁，这是自二战以来的最大降幅。其中，非洲裔和拉美裔的平均预期寿命下降了2.1岁和3.05岁，相对而言，白人的平均预期寿命下降了0.68岁。

美国《华盛顿邮报》报道称，在100万美国人死于新冠肺炎的背后，还有一个更高的数字——900万。这是因新冠肺炎失去配偶、父母、祖父母、兄弟姐妹和孩子的美国人的数量。英国帝国理工学院的监测显示，截至2022年5月23日，美国有超过25万名儿童因新冠疫情失去主要或次要监护人。美国政府问责局2022年3月公布的数据显示，美国可能有2300万人遭遇长期新冠症状，预计约100万人因后遗症影响

total, own more than 400 million guns or 46 percent of all the private guns in the world. It tops the world in terms of gun ownership, and shooting incidents every now and then in the US takes away more than 110 lives on a daily average. Many people say it is easier to buy a gun than baby formula in the US.

Data of the US website Gun Violence Archive show about 45,000 Americans are killed in gun violence incidents in 2021. On May 24, 2022, the Robb elementary school shooting in Texas claimed 21 lives, including 19 children. By US media counts, it is the 39th campus shooting this year. According to *The Washington Post* tally, 202 mass shootings took place in the US in the first five and half months this year. For decades, no substantive measures have been taken by the US government to address such problems. In the past 25 years, the US federal government fails to introduce any gun control act. *The New York Times* observed, “The United States has become ungovernable not because of political differences or protest or a lack of civility, but because this is a country unwilling to protect and care for its citizens—its women, its racial minorities and especially its children.”

- Despite the claim by US founding fathers that “All men are created equal”, slavery was preserved in its Constitution of 1789. Although the US has abolished segregation on the surface, white supremacy continues to wreak havoc, and systemic discrimination against racial minorities still exists even to this day. The entrenched racism, compounded by the coronavirus, has fueled a new spike of hate crimes against Asian-Americans. At the same time, racial persecution of the indigenous people persists, discrimination against the Muslim community worsens, racial economic divide yawns, and racial inequality aggravates day by day. Nearly 60 years on since Martin Luther King’s “I Have A Dream” speech, people still see a brutal reality as reflected in George Floyd’s “I can’t breathe” plea.

- Through slaughter, expulsion, sterilization and forced assimilation, the US committed a genocide against Native Americans, resulting in a sharp drop in their population from five million in 1492 to 250,000 in the early 20th century. The Native American community has long been neglected and discriminated against. The indigenous culture was fundamentally crushed, and the inter-generational inheritance of indigenous lives and spirits was under severe threats. Many US government statistical programs either leave them out completely or simply classify them as “others”.

Shannon Keller O’Loughlin, Chief Executive and Attorney of the Association on American Indian Affairs, said that Native Americans have diverse cultures and languages, but are often seen not as an ethnic group, but as a political stratum with limited autonomy based on treaties with the federal

不能工作。

- ◆美国是枪支暴力最严重的国家。美国有3.33亿人口，仅占全球人口的4%，却拥有4亿多支枪，占全球私人枪械总数的46%之多，民间持枪率居世界第一，持续不断的枪击案平均每天夺取110多人的生命。很多人感慨，在美国买枪比买奶粉还容易。

美国“枪支暴力档案”网站数据显示，2021年有约4.5万名美国人死于枪支暴力事件。2022年5月24日，美国得克萨斯州罗布小学发生枪击事件，造成包括19名儿童在内的21人死亡。据美国媒体统计，这是美国今年第39起校园枪击事件。《华盛顿邮报》称，在今年5个半月的时间里，美国已经发生了202起大规模枪击事件。过去数十年来，人们没有看到美国政府在解决上述问题上采取任何实质举措。过去25年来，美国联邦政府未能出台一项控枪法案。《纽约时报》评论称，美国变得无法治理不是因为政治分歧或抗议或不文明，而是因为这个国家不愿保护和关心它的公民——它的妇女、它的少数族裔，尤其是它的儿童。

- ◆美国的开国元勋一边说着“人人生而平等”，一边却在1789年施行的宪法中保留了蓄奴制度。时至今日，美国虽然表面上废除了种族隔离制度，但白人至上主义甚嚣尘上，对少数族裔的歧视依然系统性存在。美国根深蒂固的种族主义“病毒”与新冠病毒一起蔓延，反亚裔仇恨犯罪频发高发，土著居民遭受的种族迫害仍在继续，对穆斯林群体的歧视有增无减，种族经济鸿沟不断扩大，种族不平等日益加剧。马丁·路德·金发出“我有一个梦想”的呐喊已经过去将近60年，但人们至今看到的仍然是弗洛伊德“我不能呼吸”的残酷现实。

- ◆美国通过屠杀、驱赶、绝育、强制同化等手段对印第安人实行种族灭绝，导致印第安人口从1492年的500万锐减到20世纪初的25万。美国原住民群体长期受到忽视和歧视，印第安人的文化受到根本性破坏，生命和精神的代际

government. *The Atlantic* commented that from the expulsion, slaughter and forced assimilation back in history to the current widespread poverty and neglect, the American Indians, once the owner of this continent, now have a very weak voice in American society.

The US government enforced the system of boarding schools in Native American areas to impose English and Christian education on Native American children. It also enacted laws prohibiting Native Americans from performing religious rituals which have been passed down through generations. An article titled “The United States Must Reckon With Its Own Genocides” carried by Foreign Policy website on October 11, 2021 noted that over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, there were more than 350 government funded indigenous boarding schools across the US. Hundreds of thousands of indigenous children passed through, or died in, these schools. The purpose of Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate indigenous children by forcibly relocating them from their families and communities to distant residential facilities where their American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian identities, languages, and beliefs were to be forcibly suppressed. The US was not just morally, but also legally responsible for the crime of genocide against its own people.

Native American writer Rebecca Nagle believes that information about Native Americans has been systematically removed from mainstream media and popular culture. According to a report by National Indian Education Association, 87 percent of state-level US history textbooks do not mention the post-1900 history of indigenous people. According to the Smithsonian Institution, things taught about Native Americans in American schools are full of inaccurate information and fail to present the real picture of the sufferings of indigenous people. Rick Santorum, a former Republican senator, said publicly at the Young America’s Foundation that “We birthed a nation from nothing. I mean, there was nothing here... but candidly, there isn’t much Native American culture in American culture.”

- Islamophobia and the discrimination against and suppression of Muslims and Islam in US mainstream society has become more pronounced. A Bloomberg report on 9 September 2021 observed that discrimination against Muslims in the US increased in the two decades after 9/11. On the same day, the Associated Press cited a survey which found that 53 percent of Americans have negative views toward Islam. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) said in its 2021 report that it receives an increasing number of complaints each year about bullying and hate speech against Muslims.

According to the survey findings released by the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley on October 29, 2021, 67.5 percent of Muslim respondents said they had experienced Is-

存续受到严重威胁。美国政府的许多统计数据完全忽略印第安人，或草率地将其归为“其他”。

美国印第安人事务协会执行董事兼律师香农·凯勒表示，“我们有着多样文化和语言，但却经常不被当作一个族裔来看待，而只是被看作一个政治阶层，基于我们同联邦的条约来取得有限的自治权。”美国《大西洋月刊》评论称，从历史上遭驱逐、屠戮和强制同化，到如今整体性的贫困和被忽视，原本是这片大陆主人的印第安人却在美国社会声音微弱。

美国政府为推行英语和基督教教育，历史上对印第安人实行寄宿学校制度，还曾制定法律禁止原住民举行代代相传的宗教仪式。美国“外交政策”网站2021年10月11日发表题为《美国必须正视自己的种族灭绝行为》的文章称，美国政府19世纪至20世纪期间出资建立的350多所土著居民寄宿学校，强制土著居民儿童脱离家庭和社区入读偏远的寄宿学校，对其实施文化同化。数十万土著居民儿童被迫背井离乡，不少人遭受虐待命丧校园。在这些寄宿学校中，美洲印第安、阿拉斯加和夏威夷土著居民的身份、语言、信仰遭到压制。美国不仅在道义上，而且在法律上对本国人民犯下了种族灭绝罪行。

美国印第安人作家丽贝卡·纳格尔认为，有关美国原住民的信息在美国主流媒体和流行文化中被系统性地清除。据美国土著教育组织报告，87%的州级历史教材不涉及1900年以后的土著历史。史密森学会等撰文称，美国学校里讲授的有关印第安人的内容充斥不准确的信息，未如实描述原住民的遭遇。前共和党参议员桑托勒姆在美国青年基金会上竟公开称“美国是一个从零诞生的国家，之前这里几乎什么都没有……说实话，美国文化中几乎不包含美国原住民文化”。

- ◆美国主流社会对穆斯林和伊斯兰教的恐惧、歧视、打压愈演愈烈。彭博社2021年9月9