



## Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic 2nd Edition

23 March – 30 April 2020

With more than three million infections and 200,000 deaths, countries across the globe are increasingly engulfed in downsizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their societies. The inherent disappointment of having to do this because China delayed the crucial information has also aggravated many countries to minimise their reliance on China. This second edition of the ONW on Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlights, among others, the growing international backlash against China.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Covid 19 coronavirus: China won't retaliate for NZ's call for investigation, Winston Peters says <b>New Zealand Herald</b> April 30, 2020</p>	<p>Foreign Minister Winston Peters is confident New Zealand won't suffer <a href="#">repercussions</a> from the Chinese Government after he called for an inquiry into the country's role in the Covid-19 pandemic. This is despite the fact China's ambassador to Australia, Cheng Jingye, suggested a boycott of Australian goods, after Australian officials called for the investigation. Peters said promises were made to him at the "very highest level" of the Chinese Government that New Zealand won't face consequences for his call.</p>
<p>China opposes international COVID-19 probe that presumes its guilt - vice foreign minister <b>Reuters</b> <b>April 30, 2020</b></p>	<p>China "resolutely opposes" any international inquiry into the coronavirus pandemic that presumes its guilt, said Le Yucheng, a vice-foreign minister, in comments published on Thursday, April 29th. Citing an interview Le gave to NBC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on its website that <a href="#">Beijing firmly opposes</a> a "politicised" international investigation aimed at stigmatising China.</p>
<p>Failure to stop coronavirus at source led 184 countries to go through hell: Trump <b>Deccan Herald</b> April 29, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump doubled down on China for failing to tame the coronavirus at its very <a href="#">origin</a>, saying it has led to 184 countries "going through hell", as several American lawmakers demanded steps to reduce dependence on Beijing for manufacturing and minerals. Trump has been publicly blaming China for the global spread of the "invisible enemy" and launched an investigation against it.</p>

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<p>China is picking up fights in Europe too  <b>Times of India</b>  April 29, 2020</p>	<p>With the pandemic seemingly behind it, China is forcefully pushing back against criticism directed at it, something observers say could get commonplace as Beijing recovers from the economic toll of the pandemic earlier than others. European Union’s agency that flags <a href="#">disinformation campaign</a> was last week caught in a back and forth of allegations and counterclaims with other European lawmakers and media publications after the New York Times reported that pressure from Beijing forced the agency, the European External Action Service, to water down its criticism of disinformation campaign originating from China.</p>
<p>China rebuffed US efforts to contain coronavirus, says Secretary of State Mike Pompeo  <b>Financial Express</b>  April 29, 2020</p>	<p>China “<a href="#">rebuffed</a>” US efforts to get experts on the ground at the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak to help contain its spread, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has alleged. “This president and this administration worked diligently to get Americans on the ground there in China, to help the World Health Organisation try to get in there as well. We were rebuffed,” Pompeo said.</p>
<p>U.S. may seek damages from China  <b>The Hindu</b>  April 28, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. President Donald Trump suggested he may <a href="#">seek damages</a> from China over the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in the Chinese city of Wuhan and spread around the world, prompting a furious response from Beijing on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April.</p>
<p>US doing very serious investigation against China, says Donald Trump  <b>Live Mint</b>  April 28, 2020</p>	<p>The United States is doing a "very serious" investigation against China, U.S. President Donald Trump said, indicating his administration is looking at a lot more money as <a href="#">compensation from Beijing</a> than euro 130 billion being sought by Germany. “Germany is looking at things and we're looking at things and we're talking about a lot more money than Germany is talking about," Trump told reporters at his White House news conference Monday.</p>
<p>Pandemic Response Reflects Unlearned Lessons of U.S.-China Trade War  <i>By Yukon Huang &amp; Jeremy Smith</i>  <b>Carnegie</b>  April 27, 2020</p>	<p>As they awakened to the urgent need for cooperation, G20 leaders held an emergency virtual meeting on March 26 about the new coronavirus pandemic. Previously, multilateral coordination among the G7 and the UN Security Council had failed to yield so much as a joint statement, largely due to U.S. insistence on using the label “Wuhan virus.” On the eve of the G20 session, however, U.S. President Donald Trump had finally put a halt to the <a href="#">counterproductive war of words</a>, and the participant nations and international organizations agreed to join forces against the pandemic.</p>
<p>Need to hold China accountable for spread of coronavirus: US  <b>The Economic Times</b>  April 27, 2020</p>	<p>China needs to be held accountable for the <a href="#">spread of coronavirus</a> across the world. China spun that virus. They hid it for six weeks. They could have contained it in Wuhan. They didn't. They seeded the world with this, with hundreds of thousands of Chinese getting on aircraft to Milan, to New York and other places," Peter Navarro, director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing and National Defense Production Act Policy Coordinator, told Fox News.</p>

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<p>China's Epidemiological Negligence Dates Back To 2003 By Pitamber Kaushik <b>Eurasia Review</b> April 26, 2020</p>	<p>China's ongoing spree of <a href="#">irresponsible conduct</a>, misdeeds, uncooperative surreptitiousness and criminal neglect did not commence in December of 2019, but rather its true beginning can be traced all the way back to 2003. The outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) occurred in November 2002 in Guangdong. The Chinese government did not inform the World Health Organization until February 2003, despite the latter actively soliciting information from the former, after suspicion was aroused owing to detection by its Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.</p>
<p>COVID-19: Nikki Haley launches 'Stop Communist China' campaign <b>The Hindu</b> April 25, 2020</p>	<p>Asserting that China's Communist government needs to be held <a href="#">accountable</a> for "lying" about the coronavirus pandemic, top Republican politician, former two term Governor of South Carolina and former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley has launched an online petition urging the U.S. Congress to respond now on the COVID-19 crisis.</p>
<p>US will make sure other countries know that coronavirus originated in China: Mike Pompeo <b>India Today</b> April 25, 2020</p>	<p>The United States is working with other countries to make sure they understand that <a href="#">coronavirus originated in Wuhan</a>, China, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said. We need to hold accountable the parties responsible for the deaths here in the United States and the enormous economic costs that have been posed on the US, he said. Pompeo said that the entire global economic system has been decimated.</p>
<p>The Problem With China's COVID-19 Statistics – Analysis <b>Eurasia Review</b> April 25, 2020</p>	<p>Questions are mounting on the reliability of China's COVID-19 figures, with data continuing to emerge that suggests the epidemic has been brought under control. The emergence of new data <a href="#">reinforcing</a> these claims has also been accompanied by information from the initial epicenter itself, Wuhan, that directly contradicts any assertion that China has tamed its dragon.</p>
<p>The coronavirus crisis shows the risks of scientific collaboration with China By Josh Rogin <b>The Washington Post</b> April 24, 2020</p>	<p>This shouldn't be a controversial assertion. This has been the case for decades, and the message has been amply reinforced by the party's efforts to cover up the covid-19 outbreak. The Chinese government has systematically thwarted <a href="#">scientific investigation</a> that would either implicate or exonerate the lab — or shed light on alternative theories. The Wuhan seafood market that Beijing originally cited as the outbreak's point of origin was sanitized before any real scientific examination.</p>
<p>COVID-19, Trump, Xi and Canberra By John McCarthy <b>East Asia forum</b> April 23, 2020</p>	<p>The initial Chinese response to the virus, both in terms of policy <a href="#">blunders and obfuscation</a>, was reprehensible. The position of the WHO was different. It had to make calculations — as does any international organisation — about working with big nation states in the interests of getting results and making just criticisms of those states with the prospect of having future cooperation curtailed. The WHO continues to do much good on the ground. But as a policy body, a case can be made that it failed to show the requisite leadership in the early days of COVID-19.</p>

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<p>AMCHAM China: Most U.S. firms have no plans to leave China due to coronavirus  <b>Global Trade Development Week</b>  April 23, 2020</p>	<p>In contrast to some <a href="#">global narratives</a>, our China-based data suggests that the majority of our members will not be packing up and leaving China anytime soon, said Alan Beebe, president of the Beijing-based American Chamber of Commerce in China.</p>
<p>Tensions of a non-Covid kind for US, Iran &amp; China  <b>Times of India</b>  April 23, 2020</p>	<p>For three <a href="#">prominent nations</a> on the pandemic map — one with the highest Covid-19 cases in the world currently (the US), another with the highest cases in Asia till date (Iran) as well as the coronavirus’ country of origin (China) — the tensions are, seemingly, elsewhere. Iran had successfully launched the country’s first military satellite — named Noor or ‘Light’ — which "orbited the earth at 425 km". Later in the day, President Trump said he had instructed the US Navy to fire on any Iranian ships that harass it at sea, a week after 11 vessels from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy came dangerously close to US ships in the Gulf. At the same time, a Chinese government ship in the area has for days been tailing a Malaysian state oil company ship carrying out exploratory drilling.</p>
<p>COVID-19 challenges Downing Street’s post-Brexit Asia ambitions  <i>By Oliver Turner</i>  <b>East Asia Forum</b>  April 22, 2020</p>	<p>What implications does the COVID-19 pandemic signal for the United Kingdom’s role and presence in Asia? The Conservative UK government’s post-Brexit vision for a ‘Global Britain’ identifies the Indo-Pacific as one of three ‘centres of the global economy and political influence’ <a href="#">crucial to national prosperity and security</a>. But the Global Britain vision is criticised for lacking substance and for being grounded in the problematic logic of — and nostalgia for — the British Empire.</p>
<p>Indians Aren’t Buying China’s Narrative  <b>The Atlantic</b>  April 21, 2020</p>	<p><a href="#">India’s perception of China</a> at this moment matters, if for no other reason than to signal how others might be viewing Beijing’s efforts. Like many countries, India doesn’t count China as a key ally, nor does it necessarily have much incentive to praise Beijing for its response to the pandemic so far.</p>
<p>Pandemics, Black Swans, and Predictions  <i>By Tim Roemer</i>  <b>Diplomatic Courier</b>  April 20, 2020</p>	<p>In the short term, rather than concentrating on new infrastructure or <a href="#">economic reform initiatives</a>, political leaders are forced to spend their time on limiting direct loss of life and quick economic recovery packages. As growing numbers of countries experience COVID-19 death and displacement along the lines of Italy and Spain, compelling factors such as pandemics and recessions could alter the national dialogue toward political changes requiring more expensive government programs and expanded safety net coverage.</p>
<p>It will be months not years for the US economy to be back on track: Top US official  <b>The Economic Times</b>  April 19, 2020</p>	<p>US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April said that it will be months not years for the US economy, which has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic, to be back on track. The country's economy has been ravaged by the challenges posed by the coronavirus crisis. More than 22 million people have lost their jobs, as the <a href="#">heavy job creating sectors</a> like travel and tourism has come to a standstill.</p>

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<p>Trump 'not happy' with China over failure to communicate about coronavirus outbreak: Pence  Business Standard  April 19, 2020</p>	<p>US Vice President Mike Pence on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April said President Donald <a href="#">Trump is not happy with China</a> over its failure to communicate to America about the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan and his administration will take a closer look at the matter. Pence vowed that the coronavirus testing in the US will increase substantially, allowing the country to progress according to the Trump administration's plan to gradually reopen the economy.</p>
<p>First country in pandemic has higher moral obligation Top WH official  <b>The Week</b>  April 19, 2020</p>	<p>The first country where a pandemic starts has a higher moral obligation to inform the rest of the world and maintain <a href="#">transparency</a> as other countries are making decisions on the basis of that, a top White House official said on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April. Deborah Birx, member of the White House Task Force on Coronavirus, made the comments during an interview to the ABC News.</p>
<p>China is rewriting coronavirus history and nobody will stop it  <i>By Natasha Kassam</i>  <b>NIKKEI Asian Review</b>  March 23, 2020</p>	<p>Were it not for the unique institutional advantages of the Chinese system, the world might be battling a <a href="#">devastating pandemic</a>." So boasted a supposedly prophetic editorial in the state-owned China Daily newspaper on February 20, when most COVID-19 cases were contained within China.</p>

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