



Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic 3rd Edition

28 April – 10 May 2020

With more than four million infections and 275,000 deaths globally, the deteriorating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to also increase the global distrust in China. The distrust has even grown stronger owing to the country's continued resistance to an independence probe on the origins of the pandemic. This has invited consequences such as those threatened by the U.S. President Donald Trump on severing the consensus made on the U.S.- China trade reconciliation. It has in fact become increasingly critical for China to help address global concerns by paying heed to the demand for the independent probe. This third edition of the ONW on Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlights, among others, rising concerns and growing international backlash against China.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Coronavirus Has Created a Rift Between US and China That May Take a Generation to Heal News 18 May 10, 2020</p>	<p>The novel coronavirus has destroyed lives and livelihoods in both the United States and China. But instead of bonding the two nations together to fight the pandemic, it has sent their already strained relations on a rapid downward spiral -- and fanned the flames of a potentially dangerous strain of nationalism. China has been criticised at home and abroad over its handling of the virus, especially during the initial outbreak. Pushing back such criticism with increasingly fierce rhetoric, Beijing says it is merely "responding" to false accusations, particularly from the US.</p>
<p>"WHO Is Puppet For China, Will Soon Make A Decision": Donald Trump NDTV May 09, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump on Friday, 8th May, said that he will soon make an announcement on the World Health Organisation (WHO), which he alleged has become a puppet of China. Trump has already suspended funding to the WHO, accusing it of being misleading the world on the coronavirus and siding with China on this issue. "I don't believe it was done on purpose, but it was done through probably incompetence. It probably got out and they didn't know how to talk about it," Trump told Fox News in an interview.</p>

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<p>China continues to hide, obfuscate COVID-19 data from world: Mike Pompeo The Economic Times May 09,2020</p>	<p>China continues to hide and obfuscate COVID-19 data from the world, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said, asserting that he has seen a significant amount of evidence suggesting that a laboratory in the Chinese city of Wuhan was "underperforming" and the virus may well have emanated from there. "I have seen a significant amount of evidence that suggests that the lab was underperforming, that there were security risks at the lab and that the virus could well have emanated from there," Pompeo told Ben Shapiro in an interview on Friday, 8th May.</p>
<p>Trump casts doubt on future of China trade deal after phone call The Indian Express May 09, 2020</p>	<p>President Donald Trump cast doubt on the future of his "phase one" trade deal with China, one of the biggest accomplishments of his first term, saying on Friday, 8th May, that he's struggling with Beijing in the wake of the global coronavirus pandemic. "Look, I'm having a very hard time with China," Trump said in an interview on Fox & Friends.</p>
<p>US Driving Wedge Between Communist Party, Chinese People Over Covid-19: China News 18 May 08, 2020</p>	<p>China on Friday, 8th May, asked American politicians not to "waste" their time by trying to drive a "wedge" between the ruling Communist Party and the Chinese people over the deadly coronavirus pandemic. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying during a media briefing here said it was under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chinese people made important progress in fighting the pandemic. "Accusing Chinese political system. We cannot accept this. They are doing it out of malicious intentions. They want to drive a wedge between the CPC and people," Hua said.</p>
<p>Independent probe will give China credibility: Shivshankar Menon The Hindu May 06, 2020</p>	<p>An independent inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic, conducted by internationally respected experts, would give China credibility as it grapples with a global "reputational loss", former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon said on Wednesday, 6th May. "China's case would be much stronger if they were saying, 'We are willing to invite reputed people in from across the world, allow them to conduct an independent inquiry, [give them] complete access and let them ascertain facts of what happened so we can avoid this in the future. If they did that, that would give them much more credibility,'" he said.</p>
<p>Wuhan lab 'conspiracy': How US, China are at loggerheads over origin of coronavirus The Indian Express May 08, 2020</p>	<p>As coronavirus continues to exact a huge toll on the economy and human lives across the world, the war of words between the US and China over the origin of coronavirus shows no sign of de-escalation. The latest row threatens to turn the US-China relationship, already frayed due to the trade war, from bad to worse.</p>
<p>Coronavirus attack worse than Pearl Harbour, 9/11: Trump Outlook India May 07, 2020</p>	<p>"We went through the worst attack we have ever had in our country. This is really the worst attack we have ever had. This is worse than Pearl Harbour. This is worse than the World Trade Centre. There has never been an attack like this," U.S. President Donald Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House during a meeting with nurses.</p>

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<p>The pandemic shows why Taiwan is a far better partner than the People's Republic</p> <p>The Washington Post May 08, 2020</p>	<p>The communist government in Beijing has responded to the coronavirus pandemic with crackdowns, coverups and intimidation. The democratic government in Taipei has taken a starkly different approach, one based on pragmatism, science and generosity. The contrast between the two leads to the inescapable conclusion that Taiwan is a much better partner for the United States than the People's Republic. It's long past time we started treating it that way.</p>
<p>China, US Agree To "Create Favourable Conditions" To Implement Trade Deal Despite Virus Row: Officials</p> <p>NDTV May 08, 2020</p>	<p>Chinese and US trade representatives agreed on Friday to "create favourable conditions" for the phase one trade deal signed in January, Beijing officials said, despite recent tensions over the coronavirus pandemic. Vice Premier Liu He, who had led Beijing's negotiations, held a call in the morning with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, according to a notice from the Ministry of Commerce.</p>
<p>Australia hits back at US claim linking coronavirus to Wuhan lab</p> <p>The Guardian May 07, 2020</p>	<p>The Australian government has pushed back at US claims the coronavirus may have originated in a Wuhan lab and has determined that a "dossier" giving weight to the theory is not a Five Eyes intelligence document. It is understood the Morrison government sees the promotion of the theory the virus leaked out of a laboratory in Wuhan, China, as counterproductive to Australia's push to gain broad international support for an independent inquiry into the origins and overall handling of the pandemic.</p>
<p>U.S., China Trade Chiefs to Speak as Trump Threatens Deal</p> <p>Bloomberg May 07, 2020</p>	<p>Top Chinese and U.S. trade negotiators will speak as soon as next week on progress in implementing a phase-one deal after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to "terminate" the agreement if Beijing wasn't adhering to the terms. Chinese Vice Premier Liu He will be on the call, according to people familiar with the matter. The U.S. will be represented by Robert Lighthizer, one of the people said.</p>
<p>Chinese adherence to trade deal report in a week or two: Donald Trump</p> <p>Money Control May 07, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, 6th May, said he will report in a week or two about the level at which China is adhering to the bilateral trade deal that was signed in January. "I will be able to report on that at the end of next week," he told reporters at the White House, when asked if China is fulfilling its obligations as detailed out in Phase I of the trade deal signed between the two countries in January.</p>
<p>China's influence over the UN</p> <p><i>By Neelam Deo</i></p> <p>Gateway House May 07, 2020</p>	<p>In the throes of an unprecedented global emergency, the crisis-management and response of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its governing body the United Nations (UN), are under severe scrutiny. Despite increasing evidence that China was understating the nature and extent of the outbreak in Wuhan, the WHO was glaringly remiss in 1) preparing the world in a timely manner by declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic, 2) exerting pressure on China to be forthcoming with research and information, and 3) being pro-active in issuing warnings and travel restrictions for China.</p>

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<p>GOP to launch 'China Task Force' that Democrats bailed on The Washington Post May 07, 2020</p>	<p>For more than a year, top leaders from both parties in the House of Representatives worked to form a bipartisan committee to oversee congressional strategy on China. But in February, the Democrats bailed on the project. Now, in the middle of the covid-19 pandemic, Republicans are moving forward without them.</p>
<p>Bill introduced in US Congress to stop predatory acquisitions by China during COVID-19 pandemic Business Standard May 07, 2020</p>	<p>An influential American Congressman on Wednesday, 6th May, introduced a legislation in the House of Representatives that would prevent predatory investments of American companies by the Chinese government. Introduced by Congressman Jim Banks, member of the House Armed Services Committee, the Restricting Predatory Acquisition During COVID-19 Act would expand the scope of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review purchases by companies with ties to the Chinese Communist Party during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>India looks to lure more than 1,000 American companies out of China The Economic Times May 07, 2020</p>	<p>India is seeking to lure U.S. businesses, including medical devices giant Abbott Laboratories, to relocate from China as U.S. President Donald Trump's administration steps up efforts to blame Beijing for its role in the coronavirus pandemic. The government in April reached out to more than 1,000 companies in the U.S. and through overseas missions to offer incentives for manufacturers seeking to move out of China, according to Indian officials who asked not to be identified, citing rules on speaking with the media.</p>
<p>WHO says it's in talks to send mission to China to investigate source of coronavirus CNBC May 06, 2020</p>	<p>"There is discussion with our counterparts in China for a further mission, which would be more academic in focus and really focus on looking at what happened at the beginning in terms of the exposures with different animals so that we can look to a new approach to find the zoonotic source," Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, head of WHO's emerging diseases and zoonosis unit said during a news conference at the agency's Geneva headquarters.</p>
<p>US intelligence chief nominee views China as greatest threat The Week May 06, 2020</p>	<p>China is the greatest threat that the US faces, President Donald Trump's pick to be the director of national intelligence said on Tuesday, 5th May, as he accused Beijing of trying to supplant free marketplace standards with authoritarian values. John Ratcliffe during his confirmation hearing for the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) said that if confirmed he would look to shift resources in the office to ensure his team was doing enough to combat Beijing's rising power and the threats that it poses to the US national security.</p>
<p>Trump urges China to reveal all about origin of coronavirus Reuters May 05, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday, 5th May, urged China to be transparent about the origins of the novel coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than a quarter of a million people since it started in the Chinese city of Wuhan late last year. Trump, speaking before leaving on a trip to Arizona, said the United States would release a report detailing the origins of the virus, but gave no details or timeline. "We will be reporting very definitively over a period of time," Trump told reporters.</p>

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<p>WHO says it has no proof from U.S. on 'speculative' Wuhan lab claims The Hindu May 05, 2020</p>	<p>The World Health Organization said on Monday, 4th May that Washington had provided no evidence to support "speculative" claims by the U.S. president that COVID-19 originated in a Chinese lab. "We have not received any data or specific evidence from the United States government relating to the purported origin of the virus — so from our perspective, this remains speculative," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a virtual briefing.</p>
<p>US 'Turbocharging' With India, Other Countries to Rip Global Supply Chains from China, Say Officials News 18 May 05, 2020</p>	<p>The Trump administration is "turbocharging" an initiative to remove global industrial supply chains from China as it weighs new tariffs to punish Beijing for its handling of the coronavirus outbreak, according to officials familiar with US planning. "We've been working on (reducing the reliance of our supply chains in China) over the last few years but we are now turbo-charging that initiative," said Keith Krach, undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment at the State Department.</p>
<p>UK says China has questions to answer over coronavirus outbreak The Economic Times May 05, 2020</p>	<p>Britain said on Monday, 4th May, that China has questions to answer over the information it shared about the novel coronavirus outbreak, but refused to comment on reports that a U.S.-led intelligence consortium had accused Beijing of a cover-up. The United States has scaled up its rhetoric over Chinese culpability for the novel coronavirus in recent days, with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying on Sunday, 3rd May, there was evidence the disease emerged from a Chinese lab.</p>
<p>Why is Trump again blaming China for the virus? Times of India May 05, 2020</p>	<p>In yet another report that will be music to the ears for US President Donald Trump, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has said in a four-page analysis that China "intentionally concealed the severity" of the Covid-19 pandemic in order to hoard medical supplies needed to fight the virus. The report, accessed by AP, says that China attempted to cover up the scale of the contagion by upping its imports and downsizing its exports — "denying there were export restrictions and obfuscating and delaying provision of its trade data."</p>
<p>Trump says he will kill phase one trade deal if China US\$200 billion spending promise falls short South China Morning Post May 04, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump has threatened to terminate the phase one trade deal if China fails to fulfill its promise to buy US\$200 billion more in American goods and services. During a virtual town hall from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington on Sunday, 3rd May, Trump said China's President Xi Jinping had only agreed to the deal because of the Washington-imposed tariffs which "at a minimum are the greatest negotiating tool that we have ever devised that we never use".</p>
<p>Covid-19: Global backlash builds against China over coronavirus The Economic Times May 04, 2020</p>	<p>Across the globe a backlash is building against China for its initial mishandling of the crisis that helped loose the coronavirus on the world, creating a deeply polarizing battle of narratives and setting back China's ambition to fill the leadership vacuum left by the United States.</p>

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<p>Trump steps up effort to blame China for coronavirus</p> <p>The Hill May 04, 2020</p>	<p>The Trump administration is escalating an effort to blame China for the novel coronavirus pandemic as global pressure grows on Beijing to cooperate with an investigation into the origins of the outbreak. U.S. President Trump, who has endured consistent scrutiny for his own lagged response to the virus domestically, has accused China of covering up the outbreak and suggested that the virus wouldn't have spread globally if Beijing had been more transparent to begin with.</p>
<p>US warns China of very significant consequences for not honouring trade deal</p> <p>Financial Express May 04, 2020</p>	<p>US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Monday, 4th May, warned China of very significant consequences for not honouring the trade deal signed between the two countries early this year. "I have every reason to expect that they honour this agreement. And if they don't, there would be very significant consequences in the relationship and in the global economy as to how people would do business with them, Mnuchin told Fox News.</p>
<p>China either incompetent in preventing COVID-19 spread or did it for a reason: Trump</p> <p>Business Standard May 04, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. President Donald Trump, who has come under fierce criticism for his handling of the coronavirus crisis in the US, has alleged that the Chinese government was either incompetent in preventing the deadly virus from spreading globally or did it for a reason. More than 68,000 Americans have died of coronavirus in the last three months and over 1.1 million have tested positive. America accounts for the largest number of cases of infections and fatalities in the world. Globally 247,000 people have died and 3.5 million have tested positive so far.</p>
<p>Bill Gates is wrong. China's coronavirus coverup is not a 'distraction.'</p> <p>The Washington Post May 01, 2020</p>	<p>Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates was surely speaking for a lot of people when he dismissed criticism of the Chinese government's handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic as a "distraction" from the important work of fighting the virus here at home. Yet the Chinese Communist Party is still working full time to cover up information about the outbreak and the Chinese government's own failures. By so doing, it continues to threaten the health and lives of Americans. That can't be ignored.</p>
<p>Donald Trump has shown true leadership during COVID-19 outbreak: Top campaign official</p> <p>Deccan Herald April 30, 2020</p>	<p>"President Trump has shown true leadership during the current crisis, even as radical Democrats and the mainstream media attack his administration with lies and disinformation," said Kimberly Guilfoyle, the national chair of Trump Victory Finance Committee during a virtual panel discussion on "Women for Trump: Empower Hour" organized by the Trump Campaign.</p>
<p>Indian-Americans have been extraordinary source of strength during pandemic, says Ambassador Sandhu</p> <p>Times of India April 30, 2020</p>	<p>"The Indian community in the United States has been an extraordinary source of strength and support for our Embassy since the time this crisis broke out. You have stepped forward and shown leadership in difficult circumstances and demonstrated the strength of the Indian diaspora," India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu said in a virtual interaction with a group of eminent Indian-American community leaders from across the country.</p>

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<p>World Health Organization literally a pipe organ for China: Trump Business Standard April 30, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday, 29th April, termed the World Health Organization "literally a pipe organ for China" and said the United States will soon come out with its recommendations on the global body, followed by one on Beijing. "They misled us," he said of the WHO on the coronavirus outbreak. "We will have a recommendation pretty soon but we are not happy with the World Health Organization," Trump told reporters at his Oval Office of the White House.</p>
<p>Indian-American-led clinical trial of remdesivir in Covid-19 treatment shows positive results India Today April 30, 2020</p>	<p>The California-based pharma company Gilead Sciences said that the preliminary results showed that 50 per cent of the COVID-19 patients treated with a 5-day dosage of remdesivir improved and more than half were discharged from the hospital within two weeks. A phase three clinical trial is said to be the final step in the process of the drug approval.</p>
<p>US supports Australian call for investigation into origins of coronavirus: Pompeo The Week April 29, 2020</p>	<p>US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday, 29th April supported Australia's demand for an international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus outbreak as he pushed China to provide the world access to its virology labs in Wuhan, the city where the virus first emerged. China has described the demand as "petty tricks" by Australia, which is seeking a global support from countries like the US, France and Germany. Beijing has accused Australia of taking instructions from the United States.</p>
<p>COVID-19: US economy shrinks by 4.8 per cent in first quarter India TV News April 29, 2020</p>	<p>In its worst performance in a decade, the US economy contracted by 4.8 per cent in the first quarter due to the coronavirus pandemic that has forced a near shut down of the country, according to the latest governmental advance estimates released on Wednesday, 29th April. The decline in the first quarter GDP was, in part, due to the response to the spread of the COVID-19, as governments issued "stay-at-home" orders in March, said the Bureau of Economic Analyses (BEA) of the US Department of Commerce.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Could Reignite Trump's Trade War With China <i>By Kimberly Ann Elliott</i> World Politics Review April 28, 2020</p>	<p>The relationship between the United States and China has waxed and waned over the years, but it has felt more like a roller coaster ride under President Donald Trump. China-bashing was a centerpiece of his election campaign, yet once in office, Trump hailed his first meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, at Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, saying they had "great chemistry."</p>

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1st edition at: <https://bit.ly/2VwZxcs>

2nd edition at: <https://bit.ly/3bq38Az>
