



## Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic 4th Edition

12 May –06 June 2020

With more than six million infections and close to 400,000 deaths globally while the U.S. being the most affected country, the geopolitical divide between China and the U.S. including other democracies continues to deepen. It is more so in view of China's growing aggression on various Indo-Pacific countries allegedly to suppress their support for an independent inquiry on the origins of the pandemic. This has put in question China's reputation as a responsible international actor and as a result many economies are compelled to reduce their reliance on the country. This fourth edition of the ONW on Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlights, among others, the blame game politics as well as rising political and economic fallout of COVID-19 on China.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
US charges Chinese firm for exporting defective respirators, says report <b>Hindustan Times</b> June 06, 2020	A Chinese manufacturer was charged today with producing and exporting to the United States in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic nearly half a million <a href="#">misbranded and defective masks</a> that falsely purported to be N95 respirators the US Justice Department said in a statement. The company, King Year Packaging and Printing, for each of the four counts faces a fine of up to \$500,000 or the total gain and/or loss, whichever is greater, according to the release.
"Don't Know If That's Going To Happen": Trump On Trade Deal With China <b>NDTV</b> June 05, 2020	US President Donald Trump said on Friday, 5th June, he views the Phase 1 trade deal inked between the United States and China differently in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. "I guess I view the <a href="#">trade deal</a> a little bit differently than I did three months ago," Trump said at a news conference in the White House Rose Garden.
European Leaders See India As An Alternative Amid US-China Trade Tensions <b>Republicworld.com</b> June 04, 2020	During a recent webinar, Members of the European Parliament and experts expressed their belief that the time has come for the European Union to <a href="#">look for alternatives</a> to China. According to reports, many European leaders participating in the discussion said that India being a diplomatic nation would serve as a good partner for European investments.

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<p>China eases COVID-19 flight curbs after United States targets its carriers</p> <p><b>Zee News</b> June 04, 2020</p>	<p>China will ease coronavirus <a href="#">restrictions to allow</a> more foreign carriers to fly to the mainland, shortly after Washington vowed to bar Chinese airlines from flying to the United States due to Beijing's curbs on US airlines. Qualifying foreign carriers currently barred from operating flights to China will be allowed once-a-week flights into a city of their choosing starting on June 8, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said in a statement on Thursday, June 4th.</p>
<p>China-US Rivalry Needs Defusing To Revive Global Economy</p> <p><i>By Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg</i></p> <p><b>Eurasia Review</b> June 03, 2020</p>	<p>China-US tensions have been on the rise over the past few years. Trade wars and the controversy over how China handled the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak have added a sharp tone to the heated <a href="#">rhetoric between Beijing and Washington</a>, and made the saber-rattling more ominous. There is much speculation about what the next steps in the China-US rivalry will look like, with some analysts already warning of an impending military confrontation accompanied by firm alignments to one side or the other.</p>
<p>America In Triple Crisis: Police Brutality, Protests, Pandemic – Analysis</p> <p><b>Eurasia Review</b> June 03, 2020</p>	<p>The social conflagration comes on top of the pandemic and economic distress. The Coronavirus (COVID19) has claimed more than 106,000 lives, making the US death toll the highest in the world. The pandemic has <a href="#">disproportionately affected</a> African Americans, as has the economic slowdown, which many say might be worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s. More than 40 million Americans are unemployed.</p>
<p>China's aggression against India, Hong Kong, US comes from sense of siege on pandemic origin</p> <p><i>By Shyam Saran</i></p> <p><b>The Print</b> June 01, 2020</p>	<p>There are <a href="#">tensions within the Chinese leadership</a> on these issues and how they are resolved will also impact the course of India-China relations. One thing is certain. Even if there is a US retreat from its global role, itself a debatable proposition, China is not yet capable of stepping into its shoes. There is a cluster of major powers that are also expanding their profile in their own regions. Asia itself is a crowded and contested geopolitical space and India is a major player.</p>
<p>US will consider rejoining WHO if it ends corruption, reliance on China: White House</p> <p><b>The Times of India</b> June 01, 2020</p>	<p>The WHO needs to reform. What the president said, if the WHO reforms and ends the corruption and ends the reliance on China, the US will very <a href="#">seriously consider coming back</a>," US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien told ABC News. In the meantime, we're going to take that \$400 million that the US spends, compared to the \$40 million that the Chinese spends on the WHO. And we're going to make sure it gets to front-line health care workers, just like we're doing with PEPFAR in Africa," O'Brien said.</p>
<p>US is a 'habitual quitter', says China on Donald Trump's plans to sever ties with WHO</p> <p><b>Scroll.in</b> June 01, 2020</p>	<p>Over the past years, the US has been a "<a href="#">habitual quitter</a>," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during a briefing on Monday. It has pulled out of UNESCO, UN Human Rights Council, Paris Agreement, JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action], INF Treaty, Treaty on Open Skies, etc. Its latest withdrawal from WHO again reveals its pursuit of unilateralism and power politics.</p>

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<p>Israel-China Relations: Staring Into the Abyss Of US-Chinese Decoupling – Analysis By James M. Dorsey <b>Eurasia Review</b> June 01, 2020</p>	<p>Israel knew the drill even before US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo boarded his flight to Tel Aviv earlier this month four days after the death of his father. It was Mr. Pompeo’s first and only overseas trip since March. Echoing a US warning two decades ago that Israeli <a href="#">dealings with China</a> jeopardized the country’s relationship with the United States, Mr. Pompeo’s trip solidified Israel’s position at the cusp of the widening US-Chinese divide.</p>
<p>Trump bans entry of certain groups of Chinese students to US <b>PTI</b> May 30, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump has issued a proclamation banning the entry of Chinese students and researchers having ties with the People's Liberation Army <a href="#">to dismantle China's efforts</a> to use graduate students to acquire intellectual property and technology from America. Trump's announcement came amidst escalating confrontation between the US and China over trade, the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Beijing's security crackdown in Hong Kong and the communist giant's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea.</p>
<p>US ‘very saddened’ by what happened to the relationship with China: Trump <b>Hindustan Times</b> May 30, 2020</p>	<p>President Donald Trump has said the US is “very saddened” by what happened to its relationship with China, hours after he announced a series of decisions against it and blamed the Chinese government’s “<a href="#">malfeasance</a>” for the death and devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide. Amid escalating bilateral tensions over the coronavirus pandemic, trade issues and Beijing’s new controversial security law in Hong Kong, Trump announced a series of decisions including issuing a proclamation to deny the entry to certain Chinese nationals and tightening of regulations against Chinese investments in America.</p>
<p>Gen. Jack Keane: China 'weaponized' coronavirus to 'destroy Western democracies' economies' <b>Fox News</b> May 29, 2020</p>	<p>According to Keane, Xi has spent the last four years "adjusting" to that <a href="#">new normal</a>. "And I think the Trump Administration has been trying to get their sea-legs straight during this time frame, as well," he said. "But now, President XI sees clear-eyed what it is: that his ambitions are going to be stifled if he doesn't come out and really take a stand, and that is what he is doing here.</p>
<p>Trump says US terminating relationship with WHO; takes steps against China <b>Money Control</b> May 29, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump on Friday, 29th May, said that America is <a href="#">terminating its relationship</a> with the World Health Organization as he blamed it and China for the deaths and destruction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe. Stating that the funding of the WHO would now be diverted to other global public health organisations, Trump announced a series of decisions against China including issuing proclamation to deny entry to certain Chinese nationals and tightening of regulations against Chinese investments in America.</p>
<p>U.S. and India must develop plan to counter China’s efforts to strengthen its position in Indian Ocean <b>The Hindu</b> May 28, 2020</p>	<p>The U.S. and India must develop a plan to counter a possible effort by <a href="#">China to strengthen its position</a> in the Indian Ocean by deepening ties with Pakistan and Sri Lanka by taking advantage of their economic woes due to the coronavirus pandemic, According to the Hudson Institute think-tank.</p>

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<p>Resolving the China-US Competition and the Greater Global Challenge  <i>By Chen Xi</i>  <b>Asia Global Online</b>  May 28, 2020</p>	<p>Given the sensitivities of the times – the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic and the coming US presidential election in which China will be a major issue – it is no surprise that Washington is expanding <a href="#">sanctions against Chinese technology companies</a>. From ZTE and Huawei to Hikvision and Megvii, Chinese tech firms have taken leading positions in crucial fields such as telecommunications, artificial intelligence (AI) and data services.</p>
<p>US-China Competition: It's The Economy, Thucydides  <i>By Christopher H Lim and Victor R Savage</i>  <b>Asia Global Online</b>  May 27, 2020</p>	<p>Harvard University political scientist Graham Allison chose an appropriate time to float his ambitious "Thucydides trap" thesis in analyzing China's rise as a challenger to the global hegemony and leadership of the United States. With the mounting US-China friction over Covid-19 and the <a href="#">blame game</a> between them, Allison's thesis has taken a new twist. Given Allison's prediction of the propensity for war, the global community is hanging on a political edge concerned about whether the accusations and counter-accusations over the pandemic will speed up a probable conflict between the two global hegemonies.</p>
<p>We must find bipartisanship on the China issue  <b>The Washington Post</b>  May 27, 2020</p>	<p>The issue has become bitterly partisan in this election year. Republicans and the Trump campaign are intentionally using the China issue to detract from President Trump's own pandemic failures and attack Joe Biden. The Democrats, meanwhile, refuse to <a href="#">sign on to legislation</a> (Paywall) that would hold the CCP accountable for its actions and have pulled out of what was supposed to be a bipartisan task force to organize Congress's response to the China challenge.</p>
<p>China Abandons Strategy Of Persuasion And Compromise  <i>By Vijay Gokhale</i>  <b>Eurasia Review</b>  May 25, 2020</p>	<p>The 1980s and 1990s were the <a href="#">high noon for Chinese diplomacy</a>. All roads led to Beijing. U.S. President George Bush and Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev made their way to the Forbidden City. They normalised relations, settled borders and won hearts and minds through general financial help. So seductive was Chinese diplomacy that the Americans even broke their own sanctions imposed after the 1989 'Tian An Men Incident', within a matter of four weeks.</p>
<p>Chinese Communist Party's nature becomes clear as result of coronavirus: Pompeo  <b>Business Standard</b>  May 24, 2020</p>	<p>The nature of the Chinese Communist Party now, I think, has become clear as a result of this coronavirus. Those of us who have been watching this had been talking about this risk to the world. We know the nature of <a href="#">authoritarian regimes</a>. We know what happens when there's not freedom, when journalists can't speak," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Sky News Australia.</p>
<p>There's more to China's virus story than its statistics  <b>The Economic Time</b>  May 24, 2020</p>	<p>Chinese information clamp down on Coronavirus early this year is in sharp contrast to this week's surprising admission by the top leadership that China has taken an <a href="#">economic hit</a> because of the virus. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang admitted at the on-going National People's Congress in Beijing: At present and for some time to come, China will face challenges like never before. The horizons for China's development are full of promise," Li said, to quote the new York Times, but if the 3000-odd delegates to the country's annual meeting of its legislature were impressed, they did not show it.</p>

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Coronavirus came from China US is not going to take it lightly says Trump  <b>The Week</b>  May 22, 2020</p>	<p>It came from China. We are not happy about it. We just signed a trade deal, the ink wasn't dry and all of the sudden this floated in. We are not going to take it lightly, US President Donald Trump said participating in a Listening Session with African-American Leaders in Michigan. Trump in the last several weeks has been very critical of <a href="#">China's inability to control</a> the spread of the novel coronavirus within its territory. By Thursday more than 94,000 Americans have died due to the coronavirus and over 1.6 million have tested positive.</p>
<p>Covid-19 has brought Trump's warring China factions together  <b>The Washington Post</b>  May 22, 2020</p>	<p>For years, the Trump administration's China strategy seesawed between those who wanted a wholesale rethink of the relationship and those who advocated for more continuity — with President Trump alternating between the camps. But now the coronavirus pandemic has brought about a dramatic change. Under pressure from the crisis, the president's policymakers have found a <a href="#">new consensus on how to handle Beijing</a>.</p>
<p>China As COVID-19 Scapegoat  <i>By Dan Steinbock</i>  <b>Eurasia Review</b>  May 21, 2020</p>	<p>The efforts to exploit the crisis for political purposes began early in the year. On January 30, right after the 'Phase 1' trade deal and the national virus emergency in China, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross declared the <a href="#">outbreak</a> in China would benefit US manufacturing and bring jobs back to America. He was seconded by Trump's trade advisor, Peter Navarro, who pledged US tariffs on Chinese imports would not be lifted even if the deadly coronavirus weighs on China's economy.</p>
<p>Covid-19 and the implementation of Xi Jinping's major-power diplomacy  <i>By Yoshikazu Kato</i>  <b>Asia Global Online</b>  May 21, 2020</p>	<p>Since the Chinese President Xi Jinping took office in 2012, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has promoted the idea that China must engage in major-power diplomacy. The Chinese leader has carefully <a href="#">redefined the concept from meaning diplomacy</a> with major powers such as the US, Russia and Japan to diplomacy that China conducts as a major power. The concept has four aspects: economic expansion, political penetration, "friendship creation", and protection of core interests.</p>
<p>Pandemic Inquiry Wars: Australia, The United States And The Coronavirus Investigation  <i>By Binoy Kampmark</i>  <b>Eurasia Review</b>  May 21, 2020</p>	<p>The Australian press and a chorus of the country's politicians painted a misguided, blotched picture: the Scott Morrison government had achieved its <a href="#">goal of convincing</a> members of the World Health Assembly that an investigation into the origins of COVID-19 was a move worth taking. "More than 100 countries, including Australia," observed the ABC, "had already co-signed the motion for the probe into the global outbreak."</p>
<p>Now, feel 'differently' about trade deal with China: Donald Trump  <b>Money Control</b>  May 20, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump said he was very excited when the <a href="#">trade deal with China</a> was signed. "But once the virus came in, once the plague, as I called it, came in, I said how did they let that happen? And how come it didn't go into other sections of China? Why did they block it from leaving Wuhan? But they didn't block it from going to the rest of the world, including the United States. Why is that? Beijing doesn't have it. Other places don't have it," he said.</p>

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<p>China destroyed live COVID-19 samples instead of sharing them: Pompeo</p> <p><b>Outlook India</b> May 20, 2020</p>	<p>US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday, 20th May accused China of <a href="#">destroying live COVID-19 samples</a> instead of sharing them and said that America stands with over 120 nations, including Australia, who have taken up the American call for an inquiry into the origins of the virus. China banned beef exports and levied 80 per cent tariffs on barley from Australia as the country supported international call for an investigation into the pandemic that has claimed over 324,000 lives in the world and infected over 4.9 million people worldwide. Pompeo said that China threatened Australia with economic retribution for the simple act of asking for an independent inquiry into the origins of the virus.</p>
<p>US Should End Reliance on China, Says Nikki Haley</p> <p><b>News 18</b> May 20, 2020</p>	<p>The coronavirus pandemic has underscored the need for the United States to move away from its reliance on communist China, Indian American Republican politician Nikki Haley said on Tuesday, 19th May. "While Beijing has <a href="#">abused the free market</a> in order to destroy it, America must harness the free market to protect our freedom and national security," Haley, a former Governor of South Carolina and US Ambassador to the United Nations said in an op-ed on Medium.</p>
<p>Donald Trump attacks World Health Organisation (WHO) again, calls it 'Puppet of China'</p> <p><b>Financial Express</b> May 19, 2020</p>	<p>"They (WHO) are a puppet of China. They're <a href="#">China-centric</a>, to put it nicer. But they're a puppet of China," US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House. "I think they have done a very sad job. The United States pays them USD 450 million a year. China pays them USD 38 million a year," Trump said in response to a question.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Legislation introduced in Congress to bring back US companies from China</p> <p><b>The Week</b> May 19, 2020</p>	<p><a href="#">The Bring American Companies Home Act</a>, introduced by Congressman Mark Green, seeks to cover the 100 per cent of their moving costs with the tariffs President Donald Trump has levied on the Chinese imports. "Attracting investment in America is essential to reigniting our economy. But one of the big disincentives for American companies moving back to our soil is the cost. For many companies, it's too expensive and too risky to undertake an international move at a time of such global economic uncertainty," Green said.</p>
<p>Trump tells WHO to demonstrate 'independence' from China; warns permanent freeze of funding</p> <p><b>Business Standard</b> May 19, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump has warned the WHO that he would reconsider America's membership in the UN health body and "<a href="#">permanently freeze</a>" the funding to it if it does not demonstrate its "independence" from China in the next 30 days. On April 14, President Trump halted America's funding of up to USD 500 million annually to the World Health Organisation while a review is being done to assess its role in "severely mismanaging and covering up" the spread of the deadly coronavirus when it first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.</p>

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<p>The International Order Didn't Fail the Pandemic Alone  <i>By Thomas R. Pickering and Atman M. Trivedi</i>  <b>Foreign Affaires</b>  May 14, 2020</p>	<p>The <a href="#">institutional and political vulnerabilities</a> that COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, has exposed in multilateral organisations are real. But to blame such vulnerabilities on a lack of effort or expertise in the institutions themselves mistakes the symptom for the cause. At the heart of the problem is the failure of the world's leading powers, starting with the United States and China, to invest in and empower the multilateral system. Washington's sins of omission and Beijing's sins of commission have conspired to sideline international institutions, helping frustrate their common goal of ending the pandemic.</p>
<p>US president Donald Trump to look into legislation proposing sanctions on China  <b>The Economic Times</b>  May 14, 2020</p>	<p>The legislation was introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham and eight other senators on Tuesday, 12th May. The COVID-19 Accountability Act mandates the president to make a certification to Congress within 60 days that China has provided a full and complete accounting to any COVID-19 investigation led by the US, its allies or UN affiliates such as the World Health Organization and has closed all operating wet markets that have the potential to expose humans to <a href="#">health risks</a> through the introduction of zoonotic disease into the human population.</p>
<p>Think we have military primacy over China? Think again  <i>By David Ignatius</i>  <b>The Washington Post</b>  May 13, 2020</p>	<p>Here's a fact that ought to startle every American who assumes that because we spend nearly \$1 trillion each year on defense, we have primacy over our <a href="#">emerging rival</a>, China. "Over the past decade, in U.S. war games against China, the United States has a nearly perfect record: We have lost almost every single time."</p>
<p>The Battle For The Coronavirus Narrative – Analysis  <i>By Taehwa Hong</i>  <b>Eurasia Review</b>  May 12, 2020</p>	<p>China has distributed supplies to nearly 80 countries, shifting the coronavirus narrative in Beijing's favor. Beijing transformed from a <a href="#">troublemaker to hero</a>. Launching an offensive against the United States, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson asserted that the US Army could have brought the virus to Wuhan. The Chinese embassy to France alleged over Twitter that the US government covered up a coronavirus outbreak last year as flu cases. Others claimed that China had "bought time for the world," time otherwise wasted by a complacent West.</p>

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