

# THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH AND TRADITION

# CCP VIRUS

**HOW THE CHINESE COMMUNIST  
PARTY'S COVERUP LED TO  
A GLOBAL PANDEMIC**





# Publisher's Note



**I HOPE THIS FINDS** you and your loved ones well. We live in challenging times, and this special edition is meant to explain

why we find ourselves facing difficulty.

Daily life in the United States has been upended, as governments seek to stop the spread of the CCP virus (see "Giving the Right Name to a Virus Causing a Worldwide Pandemic" on Page 4). The virus is highly transmissible, and no one knows how deadly it may be here in the United States. The experience of China, which has experienced a death toll far higher than the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has admitted, is highly concerning.

Businesses have been shuttered and large numbers thrown out of work with almost no notice. While the federal government is scrambling to provide aid, many households are suddenly facing economic uncertainty, if not hardship.

Some of the small businesses that have closed may not be able to reopen. With the stock market responding to the virus with a devastating crash, ordinary households have seen retirement savings threatened.

These are times that test us. In normal times, we may tend to focus on the day to day. In abnormal times such as these, we may find our thoughts turning to what is fundamental.

Ultimately, character counts; morality counts. If our encounter with the CCP virus pushes us to look inside and ask how we can become better people,

then perhaps we will have found a blessing in this chaos.

The immorality of the Chinese regime helps explain the fundamental reason we must deal with a pandemic.

If the CCP had shown compassion for the people it rules and if it had acted honestly and openly, much of China, and the world, could have been spared this calamity.

A study by the University of Southampton finds that if "non-pharmaceutical interventions—such as early detection, isolation of cases, travel restrictions and cordon sanitaire ... could have been conducted one week, two weeks, or three weeks earlier, cases could have been reduced by 66 percent, 86 percent and 95 percent, respectively—significantly limiting the geographical spread of the disease."

In fact, the CCP, out of concern for its power, censored knowledge of this new, highly transmissible, SARS-like illness for six weeks, allowing millions to travel out of the epicenter in Wuhan to the rest of China, and from there to the rest of the world.

Now, the CCP is waging a propaganda campaign to claim it is a model for fighting the disease, which, it now says, originated in the United States.

This special edition sets the record straight. If the world understands why the CCP virus has wreaked such havoc, then it will understand the need to reject the CCP and its contagion of lies and selfishness, and lust for power.

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A CHINESE BOY hugs a relative as she leaves to board a train at Beijing Railway Station on Jan. 21, 2020.

# Giving the Right Name to the Virus Causing a Worldwide Pandemic

## EDITORIAL BOARD

There has been controversy recently about what to call the virus that has unleashed a worldwide pandemic. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) prefers “novel coronavirus.” Others have referred to it as the “Wuhan virus,” after its place of origin, as is common in naming diseases.

The Epoch Times suggests a more accurate name is the “CCP virus,” and calls upon others to join us in adopting this name.

The name holds the CCP accountable

for its wanton disregard of human life and consequent spawning of a pandemic that has put untold numbers in countries around the world at risk, while creating widespread fear and devastating the economies of nations trying to cope with this disease.

After all, CCP officials knew in early December that the virus had appeared in Wuhan, but they sat on the information for six weeks. They arrested those who tried to warn of the danger, accusing them of spreading “rumors,” and employed the regime’s rigorous censorship to prevent media coverage and to delete any mentions of it from social media.

What might have been contained was allowed silently to spread, showing up in all of China. Individuals who might have protected themselves became victims, in numbers far greater than the CCP has admitted. By late January, there were reports that all of the crematoria in Wuhan were operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week to deal with the crush of dead bodies.

Meanwhile, the measures taken to quarantine and treat the population of Wuhan were grotesquely inhumane. Apartment buildings were welded shut. Temporary “hospitals” were created that actually served as jails for those believed to be sick with the virus. Locked into these places with no medical treatment and little food, the unfortunates were trapped there until death.

In lying about the danger facing China, the CCP was acting according to its usual script. The CCP’s dominant narrative is that the Party is “great, glorious, and correct.” The presence of the deadly CCP virus in Wuhan, or, in 2003, of the SARS virus, doesn’t fit the script. As with SARS, the first response was denial.

But in dealing with this virus, denial is not acceptable. The world needs to know its origin, and the CCP has refused to cooperate. Outside experts have not been allowed into Wuhan.

And there is understandable concern about the activities of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, China’s only P4 lab, one meant for working with easily transmit-

The name ‘CCP virus’ holds the Chinese regime accountable for its wanton disregard of human life and consequent spawning of a pandemic that has put untold numbers around the world at risk.

ted pathogens that can cause fatal illness. As the official narratives offered for the source of the virus have been disproven, questions have been raised about whether the CCP virus leaked from the institute.

In any case, as questions about the origin of the virus have gone unanswered, the CCP has begun throwing out wild charges that the United States is responsible. This will be met around the world with perplexity, if not ridicule. President Donald Trump has pushed back by referring to the “Chinese virus.”

But the CCP likely intends these charges of U.S. responsibility for its domestic audience. The CCP has victimized the Chinese people in its first denial of the virus and now seeks to victimize them again by shifting responsibility for its actions to others.

And this points out why the name “CCP virus” is needed, to distinguish the

victims from the victimizer. The people of Wuhan and of China are the victims of the CCP’s arrogance and incompetence, expressed in this viral pandemic.

The name CCP virus also sounds a warning: Those nations and individuals close to the CCP are the ones suffering the worst effects from this virus, as is seen in the raging infections in the CCP’s close ally Iran and in Italy, the only G-7 nation to sign onto the Belt and Road Initiative. Taiwan and Hong Kong, which have rejected the CCP—Taiwan in a recent landslide national election and Hong Kong in months of massive demonstrations—have had relatively few infections.

Finally, the CCP virus reminds the people of the world that the source of the virus is itself evil. This is a communist virus, and with the name CCP virus, The Epoch Times reminds the world of the cure: ending the CCP. ■



MEDICAL STAFF move a patient infected with the CCP virus from an ambulance to a hospital in Seoul, South Korea, on March 9, 2020.





OFFICIALS IN PROTECTIVE SUITS check on an elderly man who collapsed and died on a street near a hospital in Wuhan on Jan. 30, 2020.

# How China's Coverup Led to a Global Pandemic

NICOLE HAO

The global pandemic now ravaging the world—disrupting everyday life, overwhelming hospital systems, and killing thousands—began as a small outbreak in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

When 27 people were hospitalized with a mysterious pneumonia in early December 2019, eight doctors tried to warn their colleagues on social media.

When the online posts went viral, they were deleted by censors. Then, local police summoned the doctors for a verbal warning, requiring that they sign a statement promising not to engage in any more “rumor-mongering.”

Thus began the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) coverup of one of the most deadly outbreaks in recent history.

Revelations from recent medical studies, media investigations, and Chinese government officials themselves illustrate how the Chinese Communist Party's deceit and mismanagement allowed the disease to spread, first across the country, then outside its borders to more than 185 countries and territories.

Authorities failed to disclose to Chinese citizens the severity of the out-

break, choosing to keep silent until it was too late to contain the virus.

A recent study published in *Science* magazine examined data from 375 Chinese cities, and estimated that 86 percent of all infections in Wuhan were left undocumented prior to travel restrictions and lockdown measures enacted by local authorities on Jan. 23. This contributed to the virus's quick global spread, the scientists concluded.

## Initial Response

In its initial report confirming the presence of a new virus outbreak, the Wuhan health commission originally stated that the first patient exhibited symptoms on Dec. 12, 2019. The commission later revised the date to Dec. 8, without explanation. But a study based on data from Wuhan hospitals published in *The Lancet* medical journal revealed that the first patient presented symptoms on Dec. 1.

The Wuhan health commission didn't reveal the outbreak to the public until Dec. 31.

Meanwhile, authorities downplayed the threat of the virus.

Wang Guangfa, one of China's top respiratory specialists within China's National Health Commission, assured the public that the dis- →





STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**A PATIENT ASSISTED BY MEDICAL STAFF** members gets off an ambulance in Wuhan on Jan. 26, 2020.

ease could be contained, in a Jan. 10 interview with the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece newspaper People's Daily.

Most Wuhan residents were unaware of the perils and went about their daily lives.

"I suspected the virus was very severe but the government said it wouldn't be transmitted between people, so I enjoyed my normal life at the time," Wuhan resident Wei told The Epoch Times. "I went to a bar on the evening of Jan. 18. Since then, I have had symptoms [of the virus]."

#### Lack of Precautions

The Wuhan government did business as usual.

The city didn't screen passengers and check body temperatures at airports, railway stations, intercity coach stations, and maritime passenger terminals until Jan. 14.

The city also allowed large-scale gatherings to go on. The Baibuting residential

compound in Jiang'an district organized a large-scale dinner in advance of the Lunar New Year on Jan. 18, with more than 40,000 families participating.

From the photos shared by the local government and netizens who attended, nobody wore a protective mask at the

A recent study published in Science magazine estimated that 86 percent of all infections in Wuhan were left undocumented prior to travel restrictions and lockdown measures enacted by local authorities on Jan. 23.

event. People shared the dishes family-style, using their chopsticks to pick up food from the same plates.

Baibuting residents later told The Epoch Times that scores of people contracted COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, after attending the banquet.

Resident Mr. Wu said that three of his family members were quarantined in a hotel after showing symptoms. He also had symptoms of the virus, but his health recovered.

"The outbreak [in my neighborhood] is very severe. Lots of people died," Wu said.

In preparation for Lunar New Year festivities, many Chinese, unaware of the virus's contagiousness, traveled across the country or abroad to spend time with their families.

The city mayor revealed that in the period before the Jan. 23 lockdown, 5 million residents had left Wuhan.

Laurie Garrett, an expert on epidemics and former Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist known for her coverage of the 1995 Ebola outbreak, believes Chinese authorities had the chance to contain the spread in the first week of January.

Had Chinese authorities been more transparent and taken swift action with no attempt to conceal the outbreak, it "could have been controlled fairly easily," she told The Epoch Times in an interview in late January.

By the time the Chinese regime enacted lockdown measures in Wuhan, it was already too late, she said. "By the time it's a few hundred cases, you lost—it's over. You're now dealing with an epidemic and your whole strategy of outbreak control has been defeated, and it's defeated because of your own ... unwillingness to take seriously the first seemingly very small number of cases," she explained in a February interview.

#### Human Transmission

Chinese authorities initially denied that

The World Health Organization, citing Chinese research, stated on Jan. 14 that there was 'no clear evidence' of human-to-human transmission.



SCREENSHOT VIA YOUTUBE

**A banquet attended** by more than 40,000 families to celebrate the Chinese New Year is held in the Baibuting community of Wuhan on Jan. 18, 2020.

the disease could be transmitted between humans.

The World Health Organization (WHO), citing Chinese research, stated on Jan. 14 that there was "no clear evidence" of human-to-human transmission.

Days later, on Jan. 20, the Chinese regime finally admitted that the virus was contagious.

But authorities knew of the virus's potential to spread much earlier.

In December, a woman who had never visited the Wuhan food market—which authorities initially linked to the outbreak—was diagnosed with the disease after her husband, who worked at the market, contracted the virus.

The husband, who died on Jan. 9, was China's first confirmed death related to the virus.

In early January, health authorities in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen also knew of a family who quickly infected each other.

Zhang Jing, a Shenzhen resident, visited Wuhan with her parents, husband, and two children at the end of December. On Jan. 3, the family returned to Shenzhen.

On Jan. 10, Zhang's parents visited →



HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**PEOPLE WAIT IN LINE** at Wuhan Red Cross Hospital on Jan. 24, 2020.



a local hospital after having a fever. Soon after, they were diagnosed with COVID-19. Zhang, her husband, and her son were later diagnosed as well.

Zhang's mother-in-law, who had never left Shenzhen, also started to exhibit symptoms on Jan. 14.

Garrett, the health policy analyst, said that such a "coverup has put the people of China at risk and put the whole world at risk."

She added that the Chinese regime similarly covered up the 2002–2003 SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak. As the initial infections coincided with the timing of the CCP's leadership transition, the Party wanted to assure that "nothing shall rock the boat," she said.

The Chinese regime did not share key information about SARS with the WHO until April, after Hu Jintao was appointed Party leader during a March meeting of the Party's rubber-stamp legislature.

### Genetic Sequencing

Mapping out a virus's genetic makeup is critical for researchers to understand the pathogen's traits.

Chinese media Caixin published a Feb. 26 expose detailing how authorities hid information about the virus from the public. After interviewing researchers at three of China's top gene-sequencing companies, Vision Medicals based in Guangzhou city, Beijing's CapitalBio MedLab, and the Beijing Genomics Institute, Caixin reported that all three companies received samples of the virus and mapped out its genetic sequence in December.

The companies reported the results to China's National Health Commission and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

It wasn't until Jan. 9 that the Chinese regime announced that sequencing was complete.



HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**MEMBERS OF A FAMILY** wearing protective masks are seen in a neighborhood on the outskirts of Wuhan on Jan. 27, 2020.

It took another three days for the Chinese regime to share the genetic data with the WHO and make it public to researchers around the world.

### Coverup

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the Chinese regime underreported infection and death toll figures.

In mid-January, Wuhan authorities reported just 41 cases as Thailand and Japan reported their first cases of infections—from people who had traveled to Wuhan.

The number of infections in Wuhan, meanwhile, stayed unchanged between Jan. 12 and 16.

Researchers at the time analyzed that given the number of foreign cases at the time, Wuhan infections would be substantially higher than officially reported.

The Epoch Times also obtained internal documents from different local governments in China, revealing how they

covered up data.

In Shandong Province, the local CDC kept an internal tally of the number of samples that tested positive for the virus during nucleic acid testing.

In February, the daily number of samples that tested positive was consistently lower than the officially reported number of cases published by China's National Health Commission.

In Liaoning Province—in the country's northeastern region, thousands of miles away from the virus epicenter—authorities instructed their city governments to destroy documents and data related to the outbreak.

Officials were also required to sign letters promising that they would delete relevant documents from their personal devices and pledge to not share the contents of the documents with any party.

The Epoch Times also interviewed staff at funeral homes in Wuhan, who revealed that their intake had skyrocketed since

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the Chinese regime underreported infection and death toll figures.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**MEDICAL STAFF** treat a CCP virus patient at a hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on March 19, 2020.

the outbreak began; some were working around the clock in order to cremate the bodies coming from local hospitals and private homes.

Most recently, The Epoch Times obtained internal data from the Wuhan health commission showing that on March 14, the city found 91 new samples that tested positive during nucleic acid testing. In Wuhan, samples are only taken from a throat swab. Thus, these 91 samples can be understood as 91 new patients.

That day, Chinese authorities reported just four new cases in Wuhan.

Some officials also publicly revealed how Party politics stymied their initial responses to the outbreak.

During a Jan. 28 press conference, the Party boss of Wuhan, Ma Guoqiang, said the central government didn't allow the Hubei CDC to diagnose the disease until Jan. 16; previously, patients' samples had to be sent to Beijing for testing. Even then, the Hubei CDC only had enough capacity to run about 300 tests per day, he said.

Similarly, Wuhan Mayor Zhou Xianwang blamed his superiors for mismanaging the crisis.

During a news program that aired on state broadcaster CCTV on Jan. 27, Zhou said the central government made the decision to withhold information about the outbreak.

"Disclosures about the outbreak were not timely. ... As the leader of a local government, I could only publish information after I received permission from the authorities [central government]," Zhou said.

In a recent press briefing, U.S. President Donald Trump criticized the Chinese regime for failing to share prompt information about the virus.

"The world is paying a very big price for what they did," he said. "It could have been stopped right where it came from, China." ■



# Timeline of CCP Coverup

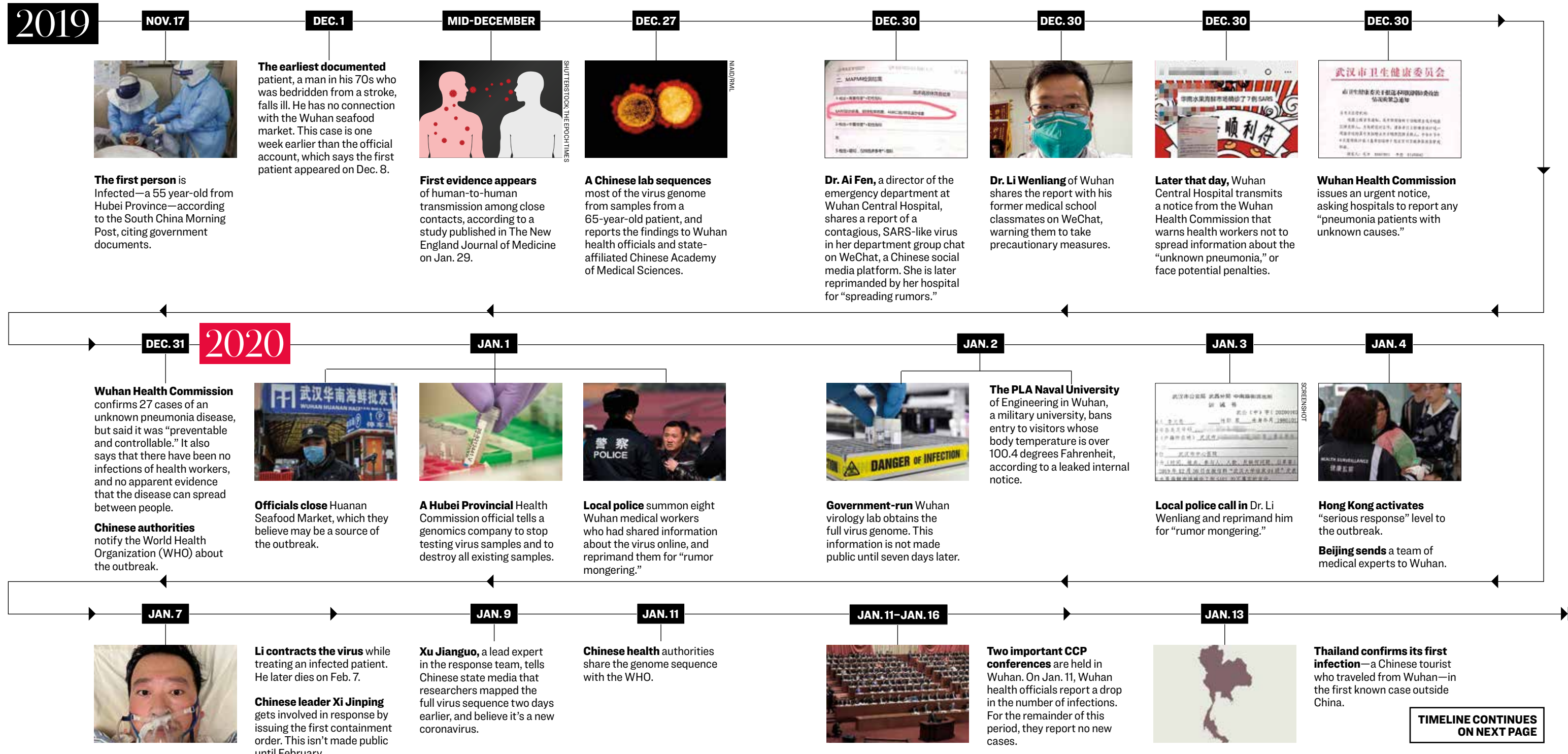
**THIS TIMELINE CHRONICLES** the early stages of the viral outbreak in China and the Chinese regime's coverup. Despite the evidence, Chinese authorities played down the severity of the outbreak for weeks, while suppressing vital information about COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

By the time authorities implemented the first containment measures on Jan. 23, it was too late. The disease had already spread around the country and overseas.

Less than two months later, the outbreak has morphed into a pandemic, spreading to more than 185 countries and territories.

Rather than using best practices, this outbreak in Wuhan was covered up. ... It probably cost the world community two months to respond.

**ROBERT O'BRIEN** U.S. national security adviser



**TIMELINE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**



# Timeline of CCP Coverup Continued

TIMELINE CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

JAN. 14



The WHO says that Chinese authorities had found no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission. It also notes "limited human-to-human transmission, potentially among families" is possible.

JAN. 15

The person who will become the first confirmed U.S. patient, a man from Washington state, returns from Wuhan. Chinese officials say that the risk of human-to-human infection is low.

JAN. 16



Japan reports its first case—a Chinese national from Wuhan—becoming the second country outside China to confirm an infection from the virus. The man tested positive between Jan. 10 and Jan. 15.

JAN. 18



Local officials hold a large annual potluck banquet in Wuhan's Baibuting community for 40,000 families, despite a request by committee staff to cancel it. Beijing dispatches a second panel of health experts to Wuhan.

JAN. 20



Famed Chinese doctor Zhong Nanshan, who is part of China's response team, confirms that the disease can be spread from human to human. He notes that one patient had infected 14 health workers.



By the end of the month, more than 3,000 health workers will be infected in Hubei Province, as revealed by a Chinese official on March 6.



South Korea reports its first case, a 35-year-old Chinese woman who traveled from Wuhan.



Chinese leader Xi Jinping makes his first public remarks about the disease, calling on authorities to take swift action to combat the outbreak, in a speech reported by Chinese state media.

JAN. 21



The United States, the first country outside of Asia, confirms its first case. The Seattle man tested positive on Jan. 20.

JAN. 23



Wuhan imposes a lockdown. By then, around 5 million people had left the city without being screened for the virus. A study published in Science magazine on March 16 estimates 86 percent of all infections were undocumented prior to the Jan. 23 travel restrictions.

JAN. 24



Thirteen other cities in Hubei Province (whose capital is Wuhan) are placed under lockdown. Hubei authorities announce a bid to build a temporary hospital in days. Chinese Lunar New Year festivities begin. Prior to that, hundreds of millions of Chinese travel around the country to celebrate the occasion with family.

JAN. 27

Authorities in Hubei Province say they will free up 100,000 hospital beds for patients. Wuhan Mayor Zhou Xianwang concedes that disclosures of the outbreak were not timely, but attempts to shift blame to the central government, saying he needed permission from higher-ups before releasing information. Beijing extends the New Year holiday to Feb. 2 and closes schools indefinitely.



JAN. 28



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar says Beijing declined an offer to send a team of health experts to China. On Feb. 7, he says the United States had been offering for more than a month.

JAN. 30



The WHO declares the outbreak a global health emergency.

JAN. 30 ONWARDS



Countries around the world start imposing border closures and travel restrictions.



Medical staff treat CCP virus patients at a hospital in Wuhan on March 19, 2020.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A nurse wearing a protective mask and gear comforts another as they change shifts at the Cremona hospital, in Italy's northern Lombardy region, on March 13, 2020.

PAOLO MIRANDA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Patients lie in bed inside the new coronavirus intensive care unit of the Poliambulanza hospital in Brescia, Italy, on March 17, 2020.

PIERO CRUCIATTI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





A WOMAN CHECKS her cellphone in Shanghai on March 17, 2020.

HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

DEATH TOLL

21 MILLION FEWER CELLPHONE USERS IN CHINA MAY SUGGEST A HIGH CCP VIRUS DEATH TOLL

# 21 Million Fewer Cellphone Users in China May Suggest a High CCP Virus Death Toll

NICOLE HAO

**T**he number of Chinese cellphone users dropped by 21 million in the past three months, Beijing authorities announced on March 19. Deaths due to the CCP virus may have contributed to the high number of account closings.

Cellphones are an indispensable part of life in China.

“The digitization level is very high in China. People can’t survive without a cellphone,” Tang Jingyuan, a U.S.-based China affairs commentator, told *The Epoch Times* on March 21. “Dealing with the government for pensions and social security, buying train tickets, shopping ... no matter what people want to do, they are required to use cellphones.

“The Chinese regime requires all Chinese to use their cellphones to generate a health code. Only with a green health code are Chinese allowed to move in China now. It’s impossible for a person to cancel his cellphone.”

China introduced mandatory facial scans on Dec. 1, 2019, to confirm the identity of the person who registered the phone. As early as Sept. 1, 2010, China required all cellphone users to register phones with their real identification, by which the state can control people’s speech via its large-scale monitoring system.

Furthermore, Chinese people’s bank accounts and social security accounts are bundled with their cellphone plans; apps on Chinese phones check SIM cards against the state’s database to make sure the number belongs to the user.

Beijing first launched cellphone-based health codes on March 10. All people in China must install a cellphone app and register their personal health information. Then the app can generate a QR code, which appears in three colors, to classify the user’s health level. Red means the person has an infectious disease, yellow means the person might have one, and green means the person doesn’t.

Beijing claimed that the health →

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The Chinese regime requires all Chinese to use their cellphones to generate a health code. Only with a green health code are Chinese allowed to move in China now. It’s impossible for a person to cancel his cellphone.

**TANG JINGYUAN** China affairs commentator



## DEATH TOLL

21 MILLION FEWER CELLPHONE USERS IN CHINA MAY SUGGEST A HIGH CCP VIRUS DEATH TOLL

codes are intended to prevent the spread of the CCP virus, commonly known as novel coronavirus.

## 21 Million Cellphone Users

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) announced on March 19 the number of phone users in each province in February. Compared with the previous announcement, which was released on Dec. 18, 2019, for November 2019 data, both cellphone and landline users dropped dramatically. In the same period the year before, the number of users increased.

The number of cellphone users decreased from 1.600957 billion to 1.579927 billion, a drop of 21.03 million. The number of landline users decreased from 190.83 million to 189.99 million, a drop of 840,000.

In the previous February, the number increased. According to MIIT, the number of cellphone users increased in February 2019 from 1.5591 billion to 1.5835 billion, which is 24.37 million more. The number of landline users increased from 183.477 million to 190.118 million, which is 6.641 million more.

According to China's National Bureau of Statistics, the country's population at the end of 2019 was 4.67 million larger than in 2018, reaching 1.40005 billion.

The 2020 decrease in landline users may be due to the nationwide quarantine in February, during which small businesses were shut down. But the decrease in cellphone users can't be explained in this way.

According to the operation data of all three Chinese cellphone carriers, cellphone accounts increased in December 2019 but dropped steeply in 2020.

China Mobile is the largest carrier, holding about 60 percent of the Chinese cellphone market. It reported that it gained 3.732 million more accounts in December 2019, but lost 0.862 million in

If only 10 percent of the cellphone accounts were closed because the users died because of the CCP virus, the death toll would be 2 million.

**TANG JINGYUAN** China affairs commentator

January 2020 and 7.254 million in February 2020.

China Mobile's performance in the same months in 2019 was markedly different; it gained 2.411 million more accounts in January 2019 and 1.091 million more in February 2019.

China Telecom is the second-largest carrier, holding about 21 percent of the market. It gained 1.18 million users in December 2019, but lost 0.43 million users in January 2020 and 5.6 million users in February 2020.

In 2019, it gained 4.26 million in January and 2.96 million in February.

China Unicom, which hasn't yet published the data for February, shares the same experience as the other two telecoms in January 2020 and in early 2019. The company lost 1.186 million users in

January 2020, but gained 1.962 million users in February 2019 and 2.763 million users in January 2019.

China allows each adult to apply for at most five cellphone numbers. Since Feb. 10, the majority of Chinese students have taken online classes with a cellphone number due to their schools being ordered to stay closed. These students' accounts are under their parents' names, which means some patients needed to open a new cellphone account in February.

## Analyzing the Numbers

The big question is whether the dramatic drop in cellphone accounts reflects the account closings of those who have died due to the CCP virus.

"It's possible that some migrant workers

had two cellphone numbers before. One is from their hometown, and the other is from the city they work in. In February, they might close the number in the city they work in because they couldn't go there," Tang said. Typically, migrant workers would have gone to their home city for the Chinese New Year in January, and then travel restrictions would have prevented them from returning to the city where they held a job.

However, because there is a basic monthly fee to hold a cellphone account in China, the majority of migrant workers—the lowest income group—are likely to only have one cellphone account.

China had 288.36 million migrant workers as of April 2019, according to the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics.

On March 17, Meng Wei, spokesman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, said at a monthly press conference in Beijing that except for Hubei, all provinces reported that more than 90 percent of their businesses resumed operations. In Zhejiang, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Shandong, Guangxi, and Chongqing, almost all businesses resumed production.

If both the number of migrant workers and the level of employment are accurate, more than 90 percent of migrant workers have gone back to work.

The economic dislocation caused by shutdowns in China may have also led some people who have an extra cellphone to cancel it. With business poor or stopped, they may not want to carry the extra expense.

"At present, we don't know the details of the data. If only 10 percent of the cellphone accounts were closed because the users died because of the CCP virus, the death toll would be 2 million," Tang said.

The reported death toll in China doesn't line up with what can otherwise be determined about the situation there.

A comparison with the situation in Italy

## DEATH TOLL

21 MILLION FEWER CELLPHONE USERS IN CHINA MAY SUGGEST A HIGH CCP VIRUS DEATH TOLL

NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



PEOPLE WALK DOWN the street in Shanghai on Feb. 21, 2020.

also suggests the Chinese death toll is significantly underreported. Italy adopted similar measures to those used by the Chinese regime. The CCP virus death toll in Italy of 4,825 translates to a death rate of 9 percent. In China, where a much larger population was exposed to the virus, the reported death toll of 3,265 translated to a death rate of only 4 percent, less than half that reported in Italy.

Activities in the outbreak epicenter of Hubei Province seem to contradict the reported death toll in China. The seven funeral homes in the city of Wuhan were reported to be burning bodies 24 hours a day, seven days a week in late January. Hubei Province has used 40 mobile cremators, each capable of burning five tons of medical waste and bodies a day, since Feb. 16.

Lacking data, the real death toll in China is a mystery. The cancellation of 21 million cellphones provides a data point that suggests the real number may be far higher than the official number.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel

coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party's coverup and mismanagement allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic. ■

NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A VENDOR USES her cellphone as she waits for customers in Jiujiang, Jiangxi Province, China, on March 6, 2020.



A SECURITY GUARD is reading his cellphone, while securing the entrance of a nearly empty shopping mall, in Beijing on Feb. 27, 2020.



# Silenced: Stories of Citizens Suppressed for Speaking the Truth About the CCP Virus

CATHY HE & EVA FU

## Citizen Reporters



**Fang Bin** a Wuhan clothes salesman, began filming his trips to hospitals around the locked-down city and posting the videos online in late January.

The scenes showed long lines outside hospitals, patients clinging to life, and distraught family members.

In one video that went viral, Fang counts eight body bags in a van parked outside a hospital. "So many dead," he says with a sigh. "This is too many." Fang then walks into a room in the hospital, where doctors are seen working around a patient who had apparently just died.

"Who is he?" Fang asks the man.

"My father," the man cries.

"He's gone," Fang says, after speaking to the doctors.

That evening, around half a dozen masked men in hazmat suits knocked on his door, demanding to take his tempera-

ture. Fang, who recorded the incident, said his temperature was normal and asked them to come back with an inspection warrant. The men forced their way into his house, confiscated his electronic devices, and took him to a police station. There, police questioned him about his videos, Fang later recounted.

Less than two weeks later, Fang went missing. His friends told The Epoch Times that Fang had been detained.



**Chen Qiushi**

a 34-year-old lawyer-turned-citizen-journalist from eastern China, arrived in Wuhan on Jan. 24, a day after the city was placed under

lockdown. Armed with a smartphone, he said he wanted to document stories about the city's residents.

"What sort of a journalist are you if you don't dare rush to the frontlines?" he said in his first video in Wuhan, filmed with a selfie stick, from the railway station where he had just disembarked. →

Without media to represent people's interests and report on the truth, people are left to the harms of both the virus and a seriously diseased system.

**REN ZHIQIANG** real estate tycoon



医者文亮

为众人抱薪者冻毙于风雪  
为自由开路者困厄于荆棘

A MEMORIAL FOR DR. LI WENLIANG, who sought to warn colleagues about the emergence of the CCP virus that originated in Wuhan, outside the University of California-Los Angeles campus on Feb. 15, 2020.

MARK RALSTON/REX USA GETTY IMAGES





NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

POLICEMEN, WEARING PROTECTIVE facemasks, patrol around Beijing Railway Station on Jan. 30, 2020.

In just over two weeks, he published more than 100 posts on his YouTube and Twitter accounts—both platforms are banned in China—that drew millions of views. He filmed interviews with locals who had lost loved ones, patients lying on temporary beds lining hospital hallways, and, according to Chen, a body left under a blanket outside an emergency ward.

In one hospital, a woman in a protective mask holds up the body of a relative in a wheelchair, whose head is seen drooping downward.

“What’s wrong with him?” Chen asked the woman.

“He has already passed,” she said.

The work took a toll on Chen.

“I’m scared. In front of me is the virus. Behind me is China’s legal and administrative power,” he said in an emotional video, recorded in his hotel room on Jan. 30.

Authorities have harassed his parents, who live in eastern China, probing for his location, Chen said. Then, he said through tears, while pointing at the camera: “I’m not afraid of dying. Why should I be afraid of you, Communist Party?”



Li Zehua

a former anchor for Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, was the third video blogger arrested in the outbreak epicenter of Wuhan.

On Feb. 7, his mother, in a video shared on his Twitter account, said Chen had gone missing the day before.

Chen’s friend Xu Xiaodong, a prominent mixed martial arts fighter, later said in a YouTube video that Chen had been forcibly quarantined, but didn’t show signs of symptoms.



NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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## I’m not afraid of dying. Why should I be afraid of you, Communist Party?

CHEN QIUSHI citizen journalist

“I don’t want to shut my eyes and ears. ... I’m doing this so that more young people like me can stand up,” Li, 25, said in a passionate speech live-streamed on YouTube, before police entered the hotel and presumably detained him.

Li arrived alone in Wuhan by train on Feb. 12, tracing the steps of Chen Qiushi and Fang Bin, who had been arrested by local police. It was “not by coincidence”—he said in his first YouTube video—that the first hotel he checked in was right next to where Chen had stayed.

Over the two weeks, before the police got him, he visited the Baibuting residential compound, where many became infected after attending a large-scale banquet, interviewed a funeral home worker, and went to a local train station where migrant workers were said to be stranded.

On his way back from visiting a local virology lab, however, he realized he was being chased.

“I’m driving really fast. ... Please help me,” he said breathlessly from under a mask.

Hours later, plainclothes police knocked on his hotel door.

He at first refused to let them in. He turned his camera on, and began alluding to the student-led Tiananmen pro-democracy protests in 1989, which came to a bloody end after Beijing deployed tanks and guns. Li lamented the ignorance of Chinese youth to recent history, the protests being a heavily censored topic in China.

“I feel that it’s unlikely that I will not be taken away and quarantined. But I want to make this clear: I am not ashamed to face myself, nor my parents, the Communication University of China where I

graduated from ... and this country,” he said shortly before he opened the door and let the police in. The police confiscated his phone and laptop, and cut off the signal.

### Businessman

Ren Zhiqiang



Dubbed by Chinese media as “the cannon” for his fierce, unreserved criticism, 69-year-old Chinese real estate tycoon Ren Zhiqiang,

went missing days after he took aim at the Beijing regime.

In a scathing article published online in early March, he criticized authorities for their handling of the outbreak and the censorship of internet information.

“This outbreak of the Wuhan pneumonia has verified the reality: when all media ‘take on the surname of the Party,’ the people are abandoned,” he wrote.

“Without media to represent people’s interests and report on the truth, people are left to the harms of both the virus and a seriously diseased system.”

Ren criticized the Chinese Communist Party for praising its achievements during a February teleconference with top leaders.

“The truth as seen from the outbreak is that the Party is defending its own interests,” he said.

“There was no investigation into the causes of the outbreak, no one reflecting and taking on the responsibility. Instead, they attempt to cover up the truth with all kinds of grand accomplishments.”

On March 12, Ren became incommunicado.

He’s not the only one recently punished for criticizing the authorities’ outbreak response. Xu Zhangrun, a legal scholar at the prestigious Tsinghua University, was placed under house arrest after he published an article, titled “Angry People Are No Longer Afraid,” in early February, denouncing the regime’s hypocrisy.

“It is true that the present level of popular fury due to the handling of the epidemic is volcanic; people thus enraged may, in the end, also cast aside their fears,” he wrote.

### Whistleblowers

Li Wenliang



a 34-year-old ophthalmologist at the Wuhan Central Hospital, was among the first people to publicize information about the outbreak in Wuhan.

“Seven ‘SARS-like’ cases from the Huanan seafood market have been confirmed,” he wrote on Chinese social media app WeChat, in a chat group with hundreds of his former medical school classmates. He attached a screenshot of a diagnosis report.

That was Dec. 30, 2019, a day before Wuhan health officials acknowledged that there was a mysterious viral pneumonia outbreak.

Despite Li’s reminder to not “spread it externally,” screenshots of the conversation showing his full name quickly proliferated on the internet. On Jan. 3, police reprimanded him along with seven other medical professionals for spreading “rumors” online.

The police statement said he had violated the law.

“The public security department hopes you can proactively cooperate with our →



work, listen to the urging of the police, and stop illegal activities from now. Can you achieve that?" He wrote "yes."

"Don't go against the authorities, don't wear masks, don't make careless remarks," hospital colleague Zhao Chen recalled a department director as saying, after Li was summoned by police. Zhao told state media in a since-deleted interview that the hospital originally planned to fire Li.

Days later, Li contracted the virus while operating on an asymptomatic patient for glaucoma. He died on Feb. 7, leaving behind a pregnant wife and a young son. Shaken by his death, Chinese netizens held vigils in mourning and began a wider call for free speech.

At least 200 health workers at Li's hospital have contracted the virus. Three of Li's colleagues have died.

On March 19, Wuhan police withdrew the statement about Li and issued an apology, saying they will "carefully draw a lesson" from the incident.

**Ai Fen** an emergency surgeon at the hospital, later revealed that she was the "whistle provider" who gave the diagnosis report to Li. Realizing that the virus could be contagious, she required everyone in the emergency department to wear masks.

Police didn't go after Ai, but she received an "unprecedented, very harsh admonition" from her superiors.

"Many, many times, I thought how nice it would be if we could turn back the clock," she told Chinese magazine Portrait, adding that she regretted not telling more doctors about the danger.

"If I knew what it would be like today, no matter if I got criticized or not, I would have spread it all around," she said.

"Someone has to stand up and tell the truth. ... There has to be different voices in this world, right?" ■



KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES



# The Mysterious Origins of the CCP Virus

**PETR SVAB**

**F**our months into the worldwide outbreak of the novel coronavirus, its origin still remains unknown, fueling speculation and complicating efforts to counter it and prevent its recurrence.

In fact, it's better understood as the CCP virus, since the Chinese Communist Party's coverup and lack of transparency regarding the outbreak have caused or

exacerbated much of the grief and uncertainty in its wake.

The lack of evidence on the origin of the virus is especially troubling. Several previously known animal viruses have been found to be genetically similar, but not similar enough. Virologists seem to agree that there's still a missing link—the original source of the virus that may still be out and about, carrying with it another potential global upheaval.

Experts agree more data is needed, but

the most crucial data—tests of animals from the epicenter of the outbreak in the central Chinese city of Wuhan—isn't forthcoming. To date, the CCP has shown no indication that it intends to provide the data, or even collect it.

## Lab Versus Natural Origin

When Chinese researchers examined the genome of the virus, they found similarities to two coronaviruses found in bats that were reported several years ago by Chinese military scientists—not in Wuhan, but in Zhoushan, almost 500 miles away.

The CCP virus was an 88 percent match for the two from Zhoushan.

In particular, two parts of the Wuhan virus—the nsp7 protein that aids its replication and the envelope (E) protein that helps it overcome the immune system—were a 100 percent match for one of the Zhoushan bat viruses.

This is unusual, because previous research has shown that each coronavirus strain seems to have its own version of E protein.

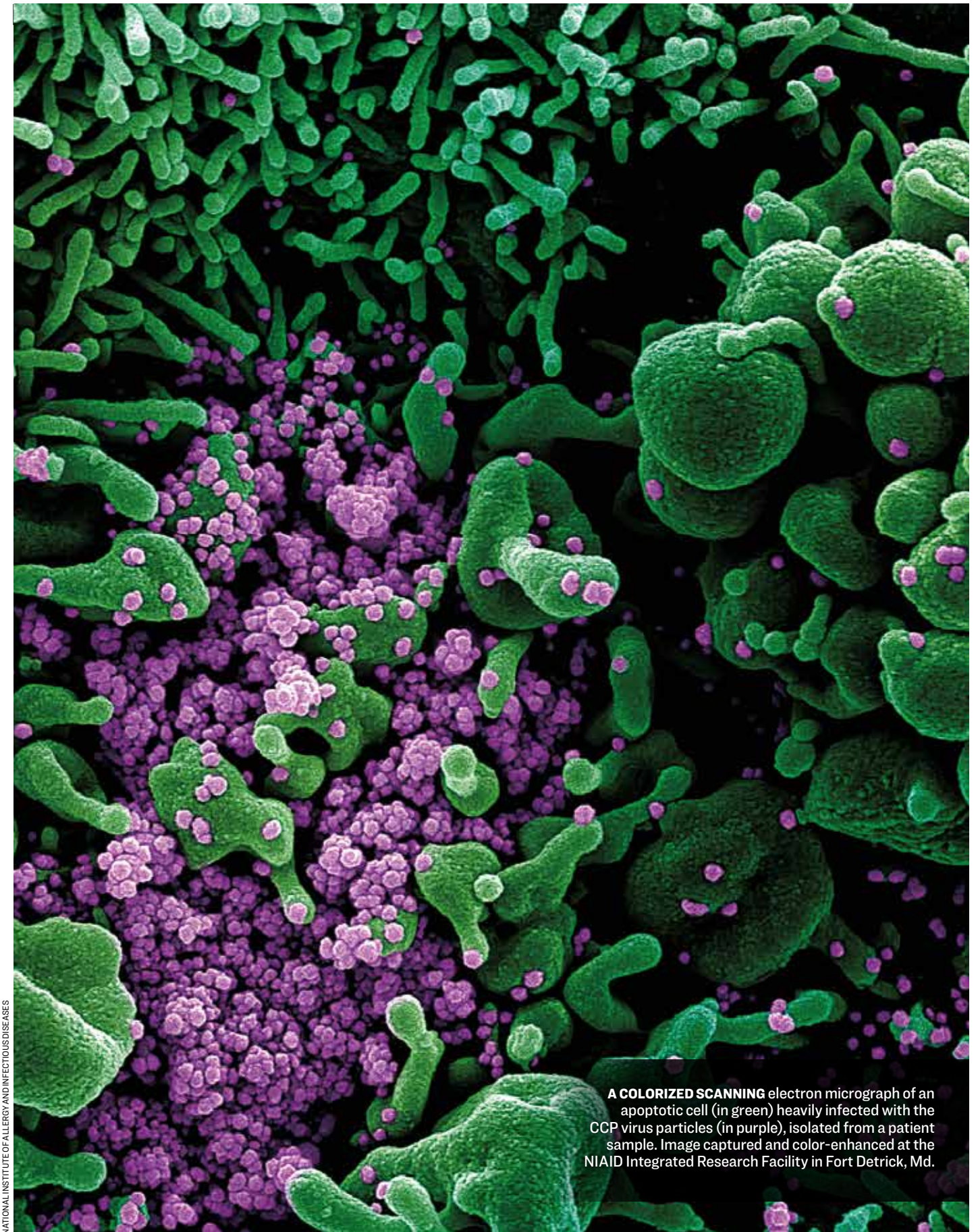
A 100 percent match would be unusual between two viruses that each affect a different species, Dr. Xiaoxu Sean Lin, a former U.S. Army microbiologist, told *The Epoch Times*.

“It is a very small protein, but it involves viral particle assembly and interactions with host factors, so when a corona- ➔

JOHANNES EISELE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**WORKERS INSIDE** the Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 23, 2017.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**A COLORIZED SCANNING** electron micrograph of an apoptotic cell (in green) heavily infected with the CCP virus particles (in purple), isolated from a patient sample. Image captured and color-enhanced at the NIAID Integrated Research Facility in Fort Detrick, Md.



virus jumps host species (zoonotic [transmission]), it won't keep the same sequence," he said via email.

Some experts have voiced skepticism of a lab origin.

A team from Columbia University, University of Edinburgh, University of Sydney, Tulane University, and Scripps Research Institute compared the CCP virus to a number of other coronaviruses, including a recently publicized bat virus (called RaTG13) as well as several coronaviruses found in pangolin lizards. The RaTG13 was a 96 percent match for the CCP virus, while the pangolin viruses were about a 90 percent match.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the team concluded in the March 17 paper published in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

JANE BARLOW - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES



**A TECHNICIAN EXTRACTS VIRUSES** from swab samples so that the genetic structures can be analyzed and identified, in the coronavirus testing laboratory at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, in Glasgow, Scotland, on Feb. 19, 2020.

The original story pushed by the CCP was that the virus originated at Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan, but there's no indication that any of the animals from the market were tested or have been taken for testing.

### Pangolin Spikes

As the *Nature* paper noted, much of the CCP virus genome matches the RaTG13 virus, but one crucial part doesn't—the "spike protein."

This protein makes up the "little mushrooms" attached to the surface of the virus, making it the most important tool for the virus to invade human cells. The cells of human lungs and other organs are covered with membranes called ACE2. The spike protein has the ability to interlock with the membranes, allow the shell of the virus to fuse with the cell's surface,

and let the body of the virus to invade the cell and destroy it.

While the pangolin viruses aren't as close a match for the CCP virus, their spike proteins are nearly the same, including amino acids at all six of the most crucial positions in the gene sequence, the paper stated.

The authors argued that because this kind of spike protein developed naturally in pangolins, this is evidence the CCP virus also developed naturally. Furthermore, the paper noted, the spikes on the CCP virus don't bind to human cells as effectively as those of the SARS virus. If the CCP virus was made artificially, why would it use a spike protein that works worse than another, already known one?

This question is actually not that hard to answer.

Creating artificial viruses with new or enhanced capabilities—"gain-of-function" research—has been done for a variety of purposes and not necessarily to create the most efficient virus. It can be used to probe what new viruses can potentially emerge and what would be their pandemic potential.

"It really depends on how the experiment was designed. What's their objective in this kind of gain-of-function study?" Lin said in a phone call.

Moreover, despite making the opposite conclusion, "this [*Nature*] paper's arguments actually suggested a potential path of lab-engineering," Lin told *The Epoch Times* via email.

In the lab scenario, a spike protein that



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**A MEDICAL WORKER** treats a patient infected by the CCP virus, at a hospital in Wuhan on Feb. 22, 2020.

has a potential to work on humans would be taken from a pangolin or a bat virus and grafted onto a different animal coronavirus. The virus would then be allowed to infect cells in lab setting "to select more infectious clones" and then injected in lab animals and allowed to further mutate "to select strains that are of higher transmissibility," Lin said.

The *Nature* paper describes a process for how this could theoretically be done, but adds that these particular experiments haven't been publicized before. Moreover, the CCP virus's body, or "backbone," doesn't exactly match "any previously used virus backbone"—more evidence to support a natural origin, the authors said.

This view, however, rests on assumptions of transparency, something sorely lacking on Beijing's part, Lin noted.

### No Animal Testing

None of the animal viruses so far reported are close enough to be a direct progenitor of the CCP virus, according to *Nature* magazine.

"The genetic similarity should be high-

er than reported in these studies before the host can be identified," the magazine reported, referring to comments by Arinjay Banerjee, coronavirus researcher at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. "He notes that the SARS virus shared 99.8% of its genome with a civet coronavirus, which is why civets were considered the source. If pangolins are the origin of the current outbreak, says Banerjee, it is not the pangolins in these studies."

The original story pushed by the CCP was that the virus originated at Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan. At the end of December, the market was closed, but there's no indication that any of the animals from the market were tested. There's also no indication that any animals from the Wuhan area have been taken for testing.

The genetic comparison papers released so far have matched the CCP vi-

rus against coronaviruses discovered in the past.

Scientists have repeatedly stressed the importance of animal testing to better understand the origin of the virus. The authors of the *Nature* paper also acknowledged as much.

"More scientific data could swing the balance of evidence to favor one hypothesis over another," they said. "Obtaining related viral sequences from animal sources would be the most definitive way of revealing viral origins."

It could hardly be a lack of resources stopping China from robust animal testing. In fact, one laboratory that has experimented with bats in the past is only about 400 feet from the Wuhan market. Another laboratory, at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), is a two-hour drive away.

In addition, Chinese virologist Shi →

The genetic similarity should be higher than reported in these studies before the host can be identified. **NATURE MAGAZINE**



KEVIN FRAVER/GETTY IMAGES



**A CHINESE WORKER** has his temperature checked in a nearly empty and shuttered commercial street in Beijing on Feb. 12, 2020.

Zhengli, who is based at WIV, is one of the world's preeminent authorities on bat coronaviruses and reported the 96 percent match with the RaTG13 bat virus.

The WIV is also the only lab in China certified to handle the most dangerous viruses, such as Ebola or SARS.

The CCP is usually eager to boost its image by portraying government workers as heroes in a crisis. This time, however, WIV has remained unusually quiet throughout the epidemic. An internal directive leaked online stated that WIV workers were forbidden to talk about the CCP virus, even to Chinese state-run media.

It's possible that China is conducting the animal tests, but if it is, it's keeping the results secret, Lin said.

#### WIV Accusations

In the absence of solid evidence, Chinese netizens have come up with their own explanations for the virus's origins, which

are often unflattering to the regime.

Some claimed that a female graduate working at WIV, Huang Yanling, was patient zero and had died. WIV denied it, saying she's lived and worked in other provinces since her 2015 graduation. But Huang's photo, bio, and thesis were all removed from the Institute's website, leaving only her name. She also never emerged to dispute the rumors.

An online profile using the name and photos of WIV researcher Chen Quan-jiao accused the director-general of the institute, Wang Yanyi, of "frequently" reselling lab animals at the Huanan market and thus possibly leaking the virus from the lab.

The mishandling of lab animals is noth-

ing new in China. In January, biologist Li Ning of China Engineering Academy was sentenced to 12 years in prison for selling experimental pigs, cows, and milk from his lab to local markets.

Wang denied that such a thing happened at WIV, and Chen put out a statement saying her identity has been stolen and denying responsibility for the online posts.

Shi denied any connection of the CCP virus to the lab in a statement to Chinese media.

"I pledge with my life that the 2019 novel coronavirus has nothing to do with our lab," she said. "This virus is a punishment imposed on mankind from nature, to condemn mankind's uncivilized way of living. Those of you who believe rumors or so-called scientific analysis by unqualified researchers, I advise you to shut your [expletive] mouths!"

But in a country accustomed to seeing forced confessions on television, the denial failed to quell the questions.

"For such a huge calamity that may take countless lives, give us facts and evidence, not pretentious statements such as pledging with your life," one netizen commented.

#### No Bats, No Pangolins

One reason why many Chinese have been skeptical of the official explanation—that the infection transferred to humans from bats at the Huanan market—is the apparent lack of bats on site. Not only were no bats found at the market, but any bats living in the area would have been in hibernation at that time of year.

No pangolins were found at the →

This [Nature] paper's arguments actually suggested a potential path of lab-engineering.

**DR. XIAOXU SEAN LIN** former U.S. Army microbiologist



JOHANNESSEISELE/AFP/VIAGETTY IMAGES

**A WORKER INSIDE** the Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 23, 2017.



For such a huge calamity that may take countless lives, give us facts and evidence, not pretentious statements such as pledging with your life.

**CHINESE NETIZEN**

market either. The scaly lizards are a protected species, so it's possible that sellers disposed of them before authorities closed the market; so far, there's no indication of pangolins being found anywhere in Wuhan.

Moreover, the viruses with the matching spike protein were found in pangolins smuggled from Malaysia to Guangdong Province, 500 miles south of Wuhan. The RaTG13 bat virus was found in Yunnan Province, 900 miles from Wuhan.

**Dangerous Experiments**

Shi has a history of experimenting with mutated coronaviruses, including combining multiple viruses to change the resulting virus's capability to infect a different species.

In a 2010 paper, she explored manipulating a bat's ACE2s to make the animal susceptible to SARS. In a 2015 paper, she and other researchers used a bat virus spike protein that didn't work on humans, grafted it onto SARS, and found that it was then capable of infecting humans while also being resistant to treatment.

Shi is not the only one doing such experiments. But it's a dangerous business.

"If the new virus escaped, nobody could predict the trajectory," said Simon Wain-Hobson of the Pasteur Institute in France, commenting on Shi's 2015 paper.

In 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama paused funding for gain-of-function research, wary of its danger to biosafety.

The controversy provided an incentive to Shi or other researchers following in her footsteps to keep any further gain-of-function research under the radar. In that case, a likely client for such research would have been the Chinese military, according to Lin.

A post on Chinese social media Douban said that Chen Wei, the People's Liberation Army's "top biochemical weapon expert," recently took over the WIV lab. The report remains unconfirmed.

Shi and WIV didn't respond to emailed questions from The Epoch Times.

However, the lab has had a military connection since its inception.

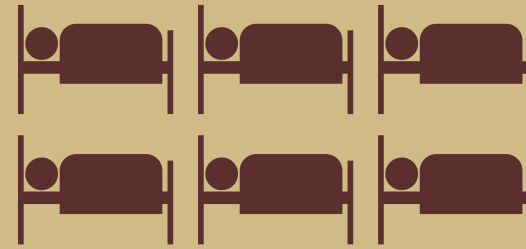
The lab was developed with the help of the French government after the 2003 SARS outbreak. Originally, a French architect was supposed to design it, but Chinese authorities switched the work to a local Wuhan architect. French intelligence found the Chinese architect company, IPPR Engineering International, had close ties to a Chinese military subsidiary that used to be on the CIA's blacklist, according to Challenges, a French business magazine. The lab became operational in 2017.

Whatever the origin of the virus, there still isn't enough evidence to say for sure, according to Lin. What is clear, however, is that the lack of evidence can be largely blamed on the CCP, while the whole world bears the consequences. ■

# Key Facts

As of March 21, 2020

**EARLY DECEMBER 2019**  
First cluster of patients



**WUHAN, HUBEI PROVINCE, CHINA**  
Place of origin



**80 PERCENT** of people recover from the virus without special treatment. Still others become infected and might be contagious but don't develop any symptoms.



**FEVER**

**TIREDNESS**

**DRY COUGH**

are the most common symptoms. Other symptoms such as aches and pains, congestion, sore throat, and diarrhea can occur as well, mildly at first.

**11-14 DAYS**

Estimated incubation period for the virus (most common is five days).

**1 in 6**

become seriously ill and have difficulty breathing. Older people and those with underlying medical problems have a higher chance of falling ill.

**March 11, 2020** **Unknown Origin**

WHO declares the outbreak a pandemic.

The CCP virus is a coronavirus, meaning it likely spreads from animals to humans and is transmitted generally by human-to-human contact through respiratory droplets.



A WOMAN WEARING a protective mask walks past the closed Colosseum monument in Rome on March 10, 2020.



ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

# Where Ties With Communist China Are Close, the CCP Virus Follows

Severe COVID-19 outbreaks highlight different countries' entanglements with Beijing

## EDITORIAL BOARD

In the final weeks of 2019, a novel coronavirus outbreak occurred in the city of Wuhan, in central China. As the world welcomed a new decade, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) opted to suppress information about the emerging crisis until it could no longer remain hidden.

Nearly two months after mainland Chinese authorities acknowledged the outbreak and the existence of the contagious virus, the crisis had spread around the globe, assuming epidemic proportions in multiple regions. The number of infected beyond China's

borders is now in the hundreds of thousands, with thousands having succumbed to the virus. The stock market has plunged as experts warn of a possible economic recession.

A variety of factors have facilitated the rapid spread of the virus, officially termed SARS-CoV-2, and the disease that it causes, COVID-19. In light of the CCP's role in allowing the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic, The Epoch Times refers to the pathogen as the CCP virus.

Globalization has brought the peoples of the world into closer contact, making it easier for contagious diseases to spread. Yet the heaviest-hit regions

outside China all share a common thread: close or lucrative relations with the communist regime in Beijing.

## Medical Crisis

Under political or economic influence from the People's Republic of China (PRC), many foreign entities and politicians, including international organizations, have been swayed to the extent that they take the side of the CCP, accommodating the pernicious communist system and turning a blind eye to unspeakable crimes committed by the mainland Chinese authorities.

Recent decades have seen the PRC greatly expand its power in economic

and geopolitical affairs. Deceiving the world with a narrative of "China's peaceful rise," the communist regime has lured foreign governments and international firms to invest in China's rapidly developing markets.

But the CCP has never abandoned its ideological tenets of class struggle and totalitarian control. In the 30 years since the Tiananmen Square massacre, and from the start in 1999 of the persecution of the spiritual practice Falun Gong to today's systematic persecution of all faiths and independent thought, the state of human rights in the PRC has only worsened.

The true nature of the CCP and communism has long been known to readers of The Epoch Times. Fifteen years ago, The Epoch Times published the editorial series "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party," igniting a grassroots movement in China to reject communism. Since 2004, more than 350 million people have renounced their ties to the Party and its affiliated youth organizations.

Seen in conjunction with the CCP-hijacked geopolitical environment of today, the geographical distribution of what the World Health Organization (WHO) now calls a coronavirus pandemic highlights the ultimate peril facing those who align themselves with the specter of communism.

Outside China, the spread of COVID-19 was most severe in Italy, Iran, South Korea, and Japan. Later, Japan and South Korea were surpassed by Germany and France, respectively. Not all of these countries are located near China, but all have extensive interests in the PRC.

Italy, the most heavily affected country outside China as of March 20, was the first (and only) G-7 nation to sign onto the PRC's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, also known as One Belt, One Road). In an attempt to prop up

## EDITORIAL

WHERE TIES WITH COMMUNIST CHINA ARE CLOSE, THE CCP VIRUS FOLLOWS

# 35

CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES



MEDICAL STAFF move a patient infected with the CCP virus in Seoul, South Korea, on March 9, 2020.

its weakening economy, Italy has also sought to capture the Chinese market for selling its luxury goods.

With the outbreak forcing Rome to put the country under lockdown, such prospects have been put on hold.

Italy also has signed scores of sister-city agreements with China, with the cities of Milan, Venice, and Bergamo included among them. These are the areas hardest-hit by the virus.

In the Middle East, Iran has seen a surge in the number of infections, particularly among government officials.

The Iranian regime has had a comprehensive strategic partnership with China since 2016, and its ties with Beijing began years before that. In violation of international sanctions, Iran has imported embargoed materials from China, while continuing to sell oil to

the PRC. The Islamic Republic allowed flights in and out of four major Chinese cities until the end of February.

On-the-ground footage taken by Iranian citizens is reminiscent of the tragedy playing out in Wuhan, with overworked medical staff, despondent patients, and body bags lining hospital floors.

And while official figures released by the Iranian authorities show deaths and confirmed cases trailing behind Italy's numbers, it is likely that the real scale of the outbreak remains grossly underreported. Reviewing available data, an epidemiologist cited by The Washington Post on March 5 estimated that the actual number of people infected in Iran could have been up to 28,000, nearly five times what the regime had reported at the time. The official →

The heaviest-hit regions outside China all share a common thread: close or lucrative relations with the communist regime in Beijing.



count for Iran as of March 20 stood at nearly 20,000.

In South Korea, the public has grown increasingly critical of President Moon Jae-in for refusing to ban Chinese tourists at large and instead only barring entry for those who recently traveled to Hubei Province, the epicenter of the epidemic in China.

More than 1.4 million people have signed a petition to the Presidential Blue House calling for Moon to be impeached. The petition text reads, "Seeing Moon Jae-in's response to the new epidemic, we feel that he is more of a President for China than Korea."

### Political Peril

Taiwan, despite its proximity to and extensive business with mainland China, has seen a relatively small number of infections.

On Jan. 26, Johns Hopkins University identified Taiwan as having the second-highest risk of epidemic spread outside China. However, robust prevention measures there have proven effective.

Taiwan officials began to board planes and assess passengers on Dec. 31, 2019, after Wuhan authorities first confirmed the outbreak. In early



A SCREENSHOT from footage of bodies at Behesht-e Masoumeh morgue in Qom, Iran, posted on social media.



DISINFECTION professionals spray antiseptic solution at a market in Seoul, South Korea, on Feb. 26, 2020.

February, Taiwan banned entry to foreign nationals who have traveled to the PRC. As of March 20, there were just 135 confirmed cases in Taiwan. The self-ruled island has been held as a model for epidemic control, despite being repeatedly denied participation in the CCP-friendly WHO.

As China affairs commentator Heng He put it, Taiwan has a clear understanding of the communist regime and may be the only state that learned the lessons of the 2003 SARS outbreak, which also began in China.

In Hong Kong, which has seen millions of residents stand up to Beijing's encroachment on the city's freedoms

and rule of law since last year, the outbreak has been similarly subdued.

By contrast, Japan, albeit not geographically aligned with the PRC, placed profit over prudence. With millions of Chinese traveling to Japan for shopping and sightseeing annually, the country was slow to close its borders to mainland arrivals. Japan was among one of the first countries to report cases outside of China, and the number of infected is now in the thousands.

More than 256 Japanese cities and 190 in South Korea have twinning agreements with cities in mainland China.

With the CCP virus's surge in Italy, more than a hundred thousand have

It is apparent that the pandemic is a calamity linked with the CCP and its 70 years of brutal rule.

CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES



IRANIAN DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER Iraj Harirchi wipes the sweat off his face, during a press conference in the capital Tehran on Feb. 24, 2020. Iran's deputy health minister confirmed on Feb. 25, that he has tested positive for the CCP virus, amid a major outbreak in the country.

been sickened in the rest of Europe. As with Italy, many of these countries have unwisely—and against admonishment by U.S. officials over the past few years—persisted in their flirtations with the PRC. France and Germany serve as typical examples, having not taken seriously the risks of inviting the PRC-controlled Huawei to take part in the construction of their 5G infrastructure.

### The Root of the Epidemic Is the CCP

In the United States, one of the earliest- and worst-hit places was the Seattle area in Washington state. By March 20, the state had seen 74 deaths from the virus, around a third of the national total.

technology and jobs to mainland China in an onslaught abetted by opportunistic profit-seekers, who compromised America's conscience.

Recently, the CCP has attempted to portray its draconian handling of the epidemic as a triumph for the Party's authoritarian system, going so far as to pin the blame for a disaster of its own making on the United States. Misled by the CCP's propaganda machine and a left-leaning domestic media environment fixated on the failures—whether real or imagined—of the U.S. system, many Chinese residing overseas have made the decision to return home.

But the Chinese historical record is more sobering. Throughout the centuries, plagues and other calamities signaled the downfall of imperial dynasties. And at present—with growing numbers of whistleblowers standing up to contradict official figures that downplay the mainland epidemic—the CCP's claim that it has curbed the virus rings as false as the lies it deployed last year to cover up the initial outbreak in Wuhan.

Taking history as a mirror, as ancient Chinese scholars did, it is apparent that the pandemic is a calamity linked with the CCP and its 70 years of brutal rule. And today, the world is an interconnected community. Any country, community, or organization that keeps too close to the CCP and falls for its deception will taste the bitter fruits of that involvement. ■

Taiwan, which has seen a relatively small number of infections, has a clear understanding of the communist regime and may be the only state that learned the lessons of the 2003 SARS outbreak.

MEHDI BOLOURIAN/FARS NEWS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



## CCP Attempts to Shift Blame for Virus to US

Chinese communist regime launches global disinformation campaign

**BOWEN XIAO**

**A** sprawling and aggressive disinformation campaign unleashed globally by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), sparked by a motley mix of internal failures, aims to upend the narrative over the pandemic—and it's happening in real time.

The propaganda push, which has escalated in recent weeks, aims primarily to deflect blame over the Chinese regime's botched handling of the CCP virus, sow discord internationally, and portray the image that the regime has contained the outbreak.

Former U.S. government officials, China experts, and national security consultants told *The Epoch Times* that the disinformation campaign points to a bigger issue—Beijing's global aspirations. The campaign has helped stir anger from Chinese citizens away from the regime and toward the United States, which has

increasingly been a target of its propaganda. And some in the United States are buying it.

"Deception, disinformation, manipulation, distortion of the facts, obscuring their true intentions, and the patient steady erosion of the will to resist on the part of others is something that very much feeds into the global ambitions of the Chinese Communist Party to dominate the world," Frank Gaffney, former assistant secretary of defense for international security policy during the Reagan administration, told *The Epoch Times*.

"It's just one manifestation of it, but it's a particularly insidious one, and it's one that we ought to be alive to now," said Gaffney, who is the executive chairman of the Center for Security Policy.

"Because, in some ways, it's the leading edge of the larger, longer-term, and even more dangerous effort they [China] are mounting."

Internal government documents obtained by *The Epoch Times* have →

Internal documents reveal that the regime purposefully underreported cases of the CCP virus and censored discussions of the outbreak, helping to fuel the spread of the disease.

**A MEDICAL STAFF MEMBER INSIDE** an isolation ward at the Red Cross Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on March 10, 2020.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES





**TWO PERSONS** wearing protective masks and suits arrive at Beijing Railway Station on March 13, 2020.

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES

highlighted how the regime purposefully underreported cases of the CCP virus and censored discussions of the outbreak, helping to fuel the spread of the disease, which is now confirmed to have infected more than 240,000 people internationally.

Chinese officials and state-run media have amplified conspiracy theories on social media platforms such as Twitter, most recently pushing claims that the origin of the virus isn't clear, or came from the U.S. military, or that the CCP's containment efforts bought time for the rest of the world to prepare.

State-run Chinese outlets, many of which have an English-language website, have pushed these theories almost daily, with some articles even threatening the United States directly, as seen in a March 17 editorial in Xinhua, which stated, "The U.S. side should immediately correct its wrongful behaviors... before it is too late."

Although Chinese citizens are blocked from using Twitter, bots have been swarming the platform to defend the communist regime, attack the United

States, and parrot propaganda narratives. A Twitter spokesperson didn't respond to a request for comment about whether the company is aware of the bots and if it has any plans to remove them.

Another narrative gaining traction in U.S. media holds that calling the pathogen "the Wuhan virus" is racist, despite the fact that Chinese state-run media have used the term themselves, as seen in Xinhua, the Global Times, and elsewhere. Previous diseases such as Ebola, Zika, the West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and the Spanish flu are all named after the location where the virus emerged.

Joseph Bosco, a former China country desk officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (2005-2006), told The Epoch Times the aim of the regime's sprawl-

ing disinformation campaign is to "shift blame and escape responsibility for its gross negligence and lack of cooperation with international health organizations."

Bosco, a national security consultant and a fellow at the Institute for Corean-American Studies, said there's an underlying reason why the United States was specifically targeted.

"Communist China sees the U.S. as the main obstacle to its aggressive global ambitions," he said. "It seeks to enhance the CCP's credibility and legitimacy, and to delegitimize the U.S. and the West."

The United States can combat the disinformation push "by fighting CCP lies with the truth," Bosco said. He said the administration should "demand and impose reciprocity on all aspects of U.S.-China

Another narrative gaining traction in U.S. media holds that using the term 'Wuhan virus' is racist, despite that the Chinese state-run media have used the term themselves.

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES



**CHINESE POLICE WEARING** masks march during a duty change in Beijing on Feb. 3, 2020.

relations," as President Donald Trump has mentioned before.

The disinformation campaign hasn't gone unnoticed. In recent days, Trump administration officials and U.S. politicians have spoken out against China's recent propaganda push. At a March 17 briefing, Trump said: "China was putting out information which was false, that our military gave this [virus] to them. That was false, and rather than having an argument, I have to call it where it came from. It did come from China."

Bonnie Glaser, a former consultant for the departments of Defense and State, said Beijing seeks to protect the portrayal of its country internationally, as well as internally. She noted that there already several legal cases that Americans are filing against China, including The Berman Law Group, which recently filed a federal class-action lawsuit against the Chinese regime for causing the pandemic.

"It will harm China's global image if Beijing is blamed for mismanaging the epidemic early on and allowing it to affect the rest of the world," Glaser told The Epoch Times via email. Glaser is a senior adviser for Asia and director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"China seeks to be seen as a responsible global player that can contribute effectively to addressing global problems," she said. "By demonstrating the effectiveness of China's domestic governance system, Beijing can advance its goal of leading global governance reform and promote the Chinese model as an option for developing countries to copy."

If the regime successfully portrays itself handing the crisis effectively, "the CCP can further undermine the appeal of democracy and capitalism around the world."

Internally, China is actively pushing its propaganda about the virus on its

own citizens. U.S. national security adviser Robert O'Brien, during a speech at Washington-based think tank Heritage Foundation on March 11, said the regime had initially attempted to censor doctors who tried to speak about the outbreak, "so that word of this virus could not get out."

"It probably cost the world community two months to respond," O'Brien said.

In recent weeks, China has also pushed the narrative of a declining number of infections, and encouraged people to return to China. Li Lanjuan, a senior expert at China's National Health Commission, told Chinese state media that if all goes well, China might be cleared of all new infections by March 20.

Gaffney said: "We should be ensuring that the people of China are ... exposed to the truth. There's a lot of talk now about reciprocity, especially with respect to journalists."

The CCP is set to expel U.S. journalists based in China who work for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post in retaliation for the

Trump administration's recent actions targeting Chinese state-run media outlets in the United States.

There are additional perceived benefits for the regime in focusing on America.

By targeting the United States, the CCP garners widespread attention and enables them to renege on some of their recent agreements with Washington on trade investment and intellectual property, according to Peter Huessy, president and founder of GeoStrategic Analysis, a defense and national security company in Potomac, Maryland.

Huessy told The Epoch Times that China's disinformation has dire effects and makes it more difficult to protect the health and welfare of people not only the United States, but globally.

"The entire Chinese strategy is one of mass disinformation and misdirection," he said. "While China pretends to be a responsible member of the international community, in reality, they are doing much to undermine the rule of law and human rights." ■



# Time Has Come to Remove the Cancer of the CCP

DIANA ZHANG

It's always been a mystery to me as to why America dealt with the Soviet Union as an evil communist regime, but treated China as a mild one that could be bought with money and a good lifestyle.

We thought we were rich enough, powerful enough, and attractive enough to change China into a normal society such as one in the free world. Instead, the business and investment from the United States have made the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) stronger. The CCP is like a cancer that sucks nutrition from a healthy organ to become a bigger threat to the whole body.

The spread of the CCP virus around the world shows us how dangerous the CCP is. It is contagious. It is invisible. It is deadly. It is a threat to everyone on this planet.

When The Epoch Times published the editorial series, "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party," which lays bare the history of the CCP, readers wrote to us asking, "Where was The New York Times when this was happening?"

When the Great Leap Forward happened and millions were killed, we thought it was a China issue. When the Great Famine happened and 40 million people starved to death, it was a remote problem. When the Tiananmen Square massacre happened, we continued to do business with the CCP. When the persecution of the spiritual practice Falun Gong happened, we tried to please the CCP by looking away.

In some ways, the CCP has changed. It actually has grown. It has slicker



A paramilitary police officer stands guard in Tiananmen Square, in Beijing, on March 11, 2018.

packaging and understands the West better—so it can do a better job of taking advantage of the West. Its propaganda always uses the United States as a negative example, telling the Chinese people that the CCP is better.

In many ways, the CCP has never changed—its nature has never changed. During the Great Famine, CCP officials blockaded many villages, not allowing people to go out to beg for food. It was more important to the CCP to hide the truth.

Sixty years later, when the coronavirus spread, some villages were sealed off, some homes were locked from the outside. Some children starved to death.

The CCP says there have been 3,259 deaths from the virus, but this doesn't match what we have seen happening in China. We know cremation centers in Wuhan were operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Outside some villages, bodies were burned in open-air pits. Forty mobile furnaces were shipped to Wuhan. Each can burn five tons of "medical waste and dead animal bodies" (animal bodies or human bodies?) each day.

Insiders say the death toll from the

CCP virus has surpassed 1 million. We have no way to prove or disprove that number. Recent reports of the remaining number of cellphone users in China suggest the number of deaths may be far higher than previously suggested.

China has three cellphone carriers. China Mobile reported that it lost roughly 7.25 million users in February, while China Telecom lost 5.6 million users in February. The relatively small China Unicom hasn't released its February report. But in January, it lost about 1.19 million users.

Supposing that China Unicom kept all its users in February, the entire Chinese market still lost about 12.85 million cellphone users that month. How many of those people died in the past month?

With the CCP concealing information about the virus, the world has been caught unprepared. Now, we have become victims, as the virus has crossed borders. Should we continue to deal with the CCP like we are dealing with a group of gentlemen? We have lost our manufacturing jobs; we have lost intellectual property. Now, are we going to lose our family members, and maybe our own lives?

When a cancer continues to grow, what is the end result?

Fortunately, we are still strong as a country. However, when good cells fight off cancer, it's a life-and-death struggle. If we don't see this clearly, if we don't take out the CCP as soon as possible, a more deadly virus might come. This CCP virus should be lesson enough for us.

Eliminating the CCP doesn't require World War III. If we cut our ties to it, it will starve to death quickly, like a cancer separated from its host. ■



THE U.S. FLAG FLIES over shipping cranes and containers in Long Beach, Calif., on March 4, 2019.





STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A WORKER PRODUCES protective masks at a factory in Handan, Hebei Province, China, on Feb. 28, 2020.

# Severe Supply Disruptions Could Speed Demise of Globalization

EMEL AKAN

**W**ASHINGTON—Governments and businesses are learning hard lessons from the rapid spread of the CCP virus that is causing supply disruptions across the globe.

Closings related to the virus, which causes the disease COVID-19, have been bringing the U.S. and global economies

to a grinding halt.

American companies dependent on global sourcing are facing an unprecedented type of disruption amid the pandemic. And the ones that heavily or solely rely on factories in China for parts and materials are the hardest hit.

The Chinese state required factory shutdowns across most of its provinces in February, and U.S. companies have felt the effects. The Chinese Communist

Party (CCP) virus, commonly referred to as the novel coronavirus, has disrupted supply chains for nearly 75 percent of U.S. companies, according to an Institute for Supply Management survey conducted in late February and early March.

In addition, there is a shortage of air and ocean freight options to bring products to the United States, compounding the delivery delays.

The crisis prompted President Donald

The coronavirus pandemic is going to have serious implications for how we think about globalization broadly and China specifically.

ROBERT ATKINSON

founder and president, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

sensitive technologies.

These policies spurred innovation in China, but that came at the expense of innovation in Western economies, according to ITIF.

Globalization, the most powerful economic force to have shaped the world over the past two decades, is now giving way to a new world order. Souring sentiment against globalization in the past few years, particularly in developed countries, led to a global revival of nationalism and protectionism. That marked a fundamental shift in the global trade order.

Atkinson said the trade war and the CCP virus outbreak have made U.S. companies even more concerned about supply chain vulnerabilities and dependency on China. They are now pushed to create more resilient and diverse supply chains.

“Certainly, the Trump tariffs and the trade war have also sent that message to many companies and so they were already moving in that direction,” he said. “The coronavirus will, I believe, accelerate that movement and encourage more companies to take it more seriously.”

## Exodus From China

In an effort to diversify its supply chain, Apple last year asked its top suppliers to consider moving 15 to 30 percent of their production to Southeast Asia from China.

It also started the process of moving the manufacturing of AirPods, its popular wireless earbuds, to Vietnam from China. Atkinson believes roughly half of AirPods production is now done in Vietnam.

The trade war between the United States and China has turned into a boon for countries such as Vietnam and Malaysia. Large corporations have been able to quickly switch to producers in these countries for electronic products and furniture that were affected by U.S. tariffs.

At least 50 multinational companies, including American, Japanese, and Taiwanese, last year announced plans to move manufacturing out of China to avoid punitive tariffs, according to research by Nikkei Asian Review.

U.S. personal-computer makers Hewlett-Packard and Dell, footwear company Skechers, athletic footwear and apparel manufacturer Brooks Running, and small video camera producer GoPro were among those companies.

If Apple decides to exit China, that will have a big impact on a lot of companies, ➔

WORKERS CHECK LAPTOP PARTS in Lu'an City, China, on Nov. 19, 2018.



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump on March 20 to invoke the Defense Production Act, which will speed up and expand the supply of products from America's industrial base, if needed. The Korean War-era statute will force certain U.S. companies to produce goods that are in short supply, such as medical masks, ventilators, gloves, testing swabs, and other essential equipment.

“The coronavirus pandemic is going to have serious implications for how we think about globalization broadly and China specifically,” said Robert Atkinson, founder and president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a U.S. think tank.

“I think the days when everybody just assumed that there's just one integrated global market that we can all trust—those days are gone. And there'll be some repercussions from it, and I think China will end up paying the price.”

ITIF has long been critical of Beijing for embarking on “innovation mercantilist” policies, which include massive government subsidies, industrial espionage, cyber theft, forced joint ventures in exchange for market access, and acquisition of foreign companies to attain



I don't think it's right for our companies to do business with someone who is potentially an enemy to our country and who does not have our country's best interests at heart.

**RAY ZINN** founder and former CEO, Micrel Semiconductors



said Ray Zinn, founder and former CEO of Micrel Semiconductors.

Apple is the world's largest consumer of electronics, buying chips, glass, aluminum casings, cables, circuit boards, and many other products from suppliers that are mainly concentrated in China.

According to Zinn, iPhone assemblers such as Foxconn can easily pull out of China but moving component manufacturing is more challenging.

Nevertheless, the U.S. government could easily put pressure on companies such as Apple to shift their supply chains by imposing tariffs, he told *The Epoch Times*.

#### China Lost Trust

Zinn was at the forefront of the semiconductor industry, serving as CEO and president of Micrel from its inception

in 1978 until his retirement in 2015. He claims to have been the longest-serving CEO of a publicly traded company in Silicon Valley.

For decades, he watched many U.S. firms moving their manufacturing operations to low-cost countries.

"My company never did go to China," he said.

"Back in 2000, when we had the Y2K and the dot-com explosion, my company's executives wanted to move to China, because everybody else was moving. I said, 'No, we are not going to go to China.'"

He admits such moves brought cost benefits and competitive advantage to those companies in the short term.

"But in the long term, I think they're going to pay a price for that. I didn't want our technology stolen," he said.

An incident 15 years ago made Zinn

lose trust in China. He said FBI agents in 2005 swarmed his factory in San Jose, California, after they had found parts produced by Micrel in explosive devices that were being used in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We found that it was a distributor in China that was buying our parts, through Korea and Japan, and then selling them to Iraq. So, once I found that out, I didn't trust China. Because that was killing our soldiers," he said.

Zinn urges other U.S. companies to have a conscience and do what's best for the country.

"I don't think it's right for our companies to do business with someone who is potentially an enemy to our country and who does not have our country's best interests at heart," he said.

China has lost global trust and goodwill over its handling of the CCP virus outbreak as well, media reports say.

Experts believe the U.S. government can encourage more companies to relocate manufacturing to the United States from China by offering a tax holiday or tax incentives.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters on March 16 that the Trump administration is considering a plan to offer incentives to the U.S. firms to bring production back onshore.

The White House also is preparing an executive order to help relocate medical supply chains from China to the United States amid the pandemic crisis.

**EMPTY SHELVES** that normally hold toilet paper, at a Target store in New York on March 13, 2020.



CHUNGI HO/THE EPOCH TIMES

KENA BETANCUR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



**PEOPLE PASS BY TIMES SQUARE** on March 22, 2020. Amid the CCP virus pandemic, the White House is preparing an executive order to help relocate medical supply chains from China to the United States.

#### Medical Supply Chain

The United States is heavily dependent on China for health care products, which makes the country vulnerable to supply chain disruptions. And the outbreak has been a huge wake-up call for policymakers as the regime in Beijing has exacerbated this vulnerability problem.

China is the dominant supplier of crucial medicines, active ingredients, and personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks, respirators, surgical gowns, and gloves.

Rising global demand and slowing production in China due to the outbreak have created a severe shortage of protec-

tive equipment in hospitals across the United States.

"There's a logistics nightmare right now on top of everything," said Michael Einhorn, president of Dealmed Medical Supplies, a New York-based medical supply distributor.

While factories in China are reopened and running at 90 percent of capacity, his company can't bring the products into the United States fast enough, because of high demand and shipping backlogs, he told *The Epoch Times*.

"We're trying to get things out of China, but it's becoming very, very difficult," he said.

Dealmed distributes more than 25,000 products in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. And more than 50 percent of those products are sourced from China, he said.

Due to the trade war, Einhorn had to move 35 percent of his business to Malaysia, the United States, and Mexico last year from China. However, he said, China is still a crucial supplier of PPE products, such as protective masks and isolation gowns.

The pandemic is a very serious lesson for this country, he said. "We need to move medical manufacturing back into the United States." ■





**PARTICIPANTS HOLD** signs in a parade to mark World Falun Dafa Day, in New York on May 15, 2015.

## Telling Chinese People the Truth About the CCP

CATHERINE YANG

It's not just Americans who are only now realizing the extent of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) influence and its deceptions—many Chinese living in mainland China are in the same boat.

For nearly 20 years, Jianglan Xiao has taken sharing the truth with the Chinese people as her mission. Working from California, she's trying to warn people in China about the CCP's lies. With the rise of the CCP virus, commonly known as novel coronavirus, they are starting to really listen.

The CCP is capable of vile, outright evil, and it carries out these acts in broad daylight, said Xiao, who grew up in China. "I know, because I know the CCP," she said.

Xiao's father was a school president, which meant that during the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and '70s, he was sent to labor camps—but not before being publicly denounced and humiliated. This was the norm for all scholars and intellectuals. As a child, she didn't understand what was happening; she only thought that if everyone was saying her father was bad, he must have been bad.

For years, she felt ashamed of him and didn't even want to call him her father.

That's the level of brainwashing the CCP is capable of meting out, Xiao said. It isn't something many in the West can understand, having never experienced it firsthand.

### Turning Points

But, in 1998, Xiao's world changed. She was gifted a book by a kind dentist she met who had made an impression on her. When she read it, she realized it was a guide to being a better person.

"Zhuan Falun," the main text of the spiritual practice Falun Gong, teaches truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance. Xiao realized it was completely at odds with the culture she lived in, but that was who she now wanted to be. She took up the practice and did the five meditative exercises every day.

A year later, Xiao got married and moved to the United States. Only a few months after her move, she heard some very upsetting news. Her sister told her that in China, Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa) had been officially banned by the Chinese Communist Party and that those who refused to renounce the practice were being detained and sent to "re-education camps"—in other words, brainwashing centers.

At the time, in 1999, the number of Falun Gong practitioners in China →



had risen to an estimated 70 million to 100 million—many more than the number of CCP members.

While Xiao was shocked, she knew what the CCP was capable of and could see why the Party wouldn't want something so antithetical to its culture to thrive.

"Falun Dafa teaches us to be good people," she said. "The CCP does not want us to be good people."

For Xiao, the CCP's actions also cemented the fact that the Party stood for evil; how else could one be opposed to truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance? Far worse, the CCP began a vicious propaganda campaign that deceived Chinese citizens into believing that the persecution of the peaceful practice was justified.

### Calling China

In 2001, from her home in California, Xiao and an elderly neighbor began calling people inside China to try to share the truth with them.

"This was back before we had cellphones," she said. "Some people would scold and curse us, and sometimes I just had to put the receiver down until they were out of steam. And then some of them would listen, and some would believe."

All media in China are state-run and publish the same Party propaganda. With nowhere else to turn to for information, everyone with whom Xiao spoke believed the CCP's lies. "But we had to let them know [the truth]," she said.

Xiao made many calls in those first years, in her spare time. Over the past 10 years, Xiao said, she has dedicated one morning per week to making the calls. And since the spread of the CCP virus, she has been trying to do more whenever she can.

Xiao, and others like her, try to call police stations and centers that are involved

For years, she felt ashamed of him and didn't even want to call him her father. That's the level of brainwashing the CCP is capable of meting out.

in the persecution of Falun Gong. Often, they speak to people directly involved in the oppression—those who say they have orders to go to practitioners' homes, confiscate their books and belongings, and make arrests.

The listeners are almost always terrified, Xiao added, but she and other

callers appeal to their humanity, and sometimes that approach works. Some listeners realize that the CCP is wrong but are scared to challenge the Party. Others will stay on the line for only a few seconds before hanging up, but will stay on longer during a subsequent call,

listening for minutes at a time.

### 'Tuidang'

In 2004, amid this brutal persecution of Falun Gong, The Epoch Times published "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party." The editorial series detailed the history of the CCP and laid bare its crimes against humanity. The truth shocked Chinese people living in China and abroad, and sparked a global movement to quit the CCP, also known as "tuidang" ("quit the party").

The series has since been made available in 33 languages and has inspired more than 350 million people to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations, to date.

Since the publication of the series, and

the start of the movement, Xiao and other callers have asked listeners to withdraw from the CCP.

### CCP Virus Coverup

Things took another turn with the rise of the CCP virus.

"Last December, we already knew about the CCP virus, that it started in Wuhan, but they didn't want to listen," Xiao said. At the time, the CCP was still covering up all news of the virus as if it wasn't spreading in China.

By January, the dam had broken, and people appeared to be starved for the truth.

"Since January, they listened very well," Xiao said. But it was short-lived.

Only a week or two later, telephone calls began to be preceded by an automated

message from the state reminding citizens to not "spread rumors." The reminder that the surveillance state was watching spooked listeners. Xiao noticed that more people were suddenly hanging up on the calls.

### Outreach in New York

In New York, Xiaofang Guo tries to share information with the large population of Chinese nationals she sees on Main Street in the Flushing neighborhood of Queens. She has been persecuted herself by the CCP, detained in a labor camp for more than a year between 2011 and 2013, for practicing Falun Gong.

Most people don't want to listen, Guo said. Even so, she's been trying to reach out regularly, since 2015.



**JIANGLAN XIAO** has dedicated the past 20 years to telling people in China about the Chinese communist regime's lies.

COURTESY OF JIANGLAN XIAO



**XIAOFANG GUO** was persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party and detained in a labor camp for practicing Falun Gong.

CHUNG I HO/THE EPOCH TIMES

EDWARD DYE/THE EPOCH TIMES



**FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS** hold a banner supporting the over 300 million people who quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations, during a parade in Manhattan on May 16, 2019.

Guo describes what sounds like a thankless job. Sometimes, people call her a liar, say the CCP is good because it pays them, and tell her the persecution is long over or even that it's perfectly normal for that sort of persecution to take place in China. She's had people shout at her,

curse at her, and violently grab materials out of her hands and throw them on the ground.

"They've listened to all of the lies for 20 years," Guo said. Even outside of China, many of the people she speaks to get their news from China-run media sources.

Some people would scold and curse us, and sometimes I just had to put the receiver down until they were out of steam. And then some of them would listen, and some would believe.

**JIANGLAN XIAO**

The CCP's reach is long enough that even those who understand the lies are too scared to speak out, or even be seen listening to the truth.

"They'll say they still have to go back to China—they're really scared," Guo said.

Then there are some who will listen to her, then ask specific questions. They want to know if Guo can refute the CCP's talking points. After listening to facts and reason, they might even tell Guo they are thankful for her mission and now support Falun Gong.

"I want to save Chinese people from the lies," Guo said. "I really think I have a mission to do this." ■





**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE PRAYS** with the White House Coronavirus Task Force in his West Wing office on Feb. 26, 2020.

# Trump's National Day of Prayer During CCP Virus Crisis Nettled Critics, but America Still a Praying Nation

**MARK TAPSCOTT**

**W**ASHINGTON—Secular media critics were outraged when the White House made public earlier this month a photo of Vice President Mike Pence leading members of the Coronavirus Task Force in prayer for the nation and for their work.

The internet promptly exploded.

Typical was this tweet from Thomas Chatterton Williams, a writer for New York and Harper's magazines: "Mike

Pence and his coronavirus emergency team praying for a solution. We are so [expletive]."

Similarly, Gizmodo editor Matt Novak wrote on Twitter: "Mike Pence can pray whenever he likes, but I do find it odd to see him leading a prayer during a meeting of the coronavirus task force with people like the head of the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and Dr. [Anthony] Fauci."

But Pence had his robust defenders as well.

Samaritan's Purse founder Franklin

Graham wrote on Twitter: "A touching & powerful photo of [Vice President Mike Pence] & the President's Coronavirus Taskforce praying when they met last week in his office. Thank you VP Pence and each one who is serving. Let's join them in asking God for His wisdom, direction, & help in the response to this virus."

And Jonathan Merritt, a contributing writer for The Atlantic, responding specifically to Williams, observed: "Criticize Mike Pence all you want for being inept in his strategy to dealing

We are a country that, throughout our history, has looked to God for protection and strength in times like these.

**PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** in a tweet

with this. But mocking him for praying—like 79 percent of Americans have done in the past 3 months—is why so many regular Americans despise wine-and-cheese liberals."

A few days after the Pence prayer photo became public, President Donald Trump declared March 15 a National Day of Prayer. Millions of Americans participated through online church services, in family prayer sessions, and in quiet

individual appeals to the Almighty.

"We are a Country that, throughout our history, has looked to God for protection and strength in times like these," Trump wrote on Twitter. "No matter where you may be, I encourage you to turn towards prayer in an act of faith. Together, we will easily PREVAIL!"

Trump isn't the first president to declare such a day. Franklin D. Roosevelt took to the radio personally to lead the nation in

**BELIEF IN GOD**

TRUMP'S NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER DURING CCP VIRUS CRISIS NETTLED CRITICS, BUT AMERICA STILL A PRAYING NATION

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prayer a few hours after the D-Day invasion of Europe began, while Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation during the Civil War was an invitation to prayer.

The first "national" day of prayer was declared for July 20, 1775, by the Continental Congress. And the official annual National Day of Prayer is held on the first Thursday of May, by an act of Congress signed by the president.

To this day, members of the Senate and House of Representatives are led by their respective chaplains each day in an opening prayer. In short, America has been officially praying since before the nation's founding.

Americans have long been and remain a praying people. Merritt's reference to 79 percent of Americans having prayed at least once in the past three months comes from a 2017 survey of 1,015 adults by the Barna Group, which also found:

"American adults who pray with regularity do so with varying motivations, the most common being to offer 'gratitude and thanksgiving' (62 percent). Generationally, this is lowest among millennials (53 percent) and highest among baby boomers (71 percent)." Barna also found that 61 percent pray for the needs of their families and communities.

Barna editor Roxanne Stone said the study demonstrates that "prayer is by far the most common spiritual practice among Americans."

"The vast majority of Americans—no matter their religious affiliation or non-affiliation—participate in some kind of prayer activity. Barna has found this to be true consistently over the last several decades," she said. ■

Contact Mark Tapscott at [Mark.Tapscott@epochtimes.nyc](mailto:Mark.Tapscott@epochtimes.nyc)



**HOURS AFTER U.S. TROOPS** landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally led the nation in prayer.



# Past Pandemics and Epidemics

CATHERINE YANG

Plagues have been recorded since ancient times and were once thought to be a manifestation of the wrath of gods, often following soldiers around the world or merchants involved in trade. Here are a few notable pandemics from history:

## Black Plague

Perhaps the most famous of pandemics is the Black Plague, which swept across Europe in the middle of the 14th century, killing an estimated half of Europe's population over four years (between 75 million and 200 million people). The disease moved from Central Asia to Mediterranean ports to the bulk of Europe.

The plague devastated some cities so much that some required mass restructuring. Such was the case in Florence, Italy, which, after losing the majority of its population, turned fervently to religion, paving the way for the Renaissance.

The Black Death is now known as the bubonic plague and is treatable. But in the past, the plague had recurrent outbreaks every decade or so for two centuries, up to the Great Plague of London in 1665, which killed a quarter of the London population in 18 months. That event marked the last major European outbreak.

## Russian Flu

The 1889 outbreak was first recorded in St. Petersburg, Russia. With the increased travel infrastructure of the time, it took only four months for the disease to spread from Eastern Russia to cover the entire



An 1866 illustration of the 10th plague—the killing of all firstborn sons in Egypt—by Gustave Doré (1832–1883).

Northern Hemisphere. It was one of the first epidemics covered by the daily press.

The flu had several recurrences around the world until 1895 and killed about 1 million people in total.

The medical response to the virus wasn't coordinated globally. Interestingly, in 1889, there also were earthquakes reported monthly from a wide variety of places around the world. There were many theories as to what was causing the flu, and some even linked the disease to these seismic events, as well as volcanic eruptions.

## Spanish Influenza

The Spanish flu of 1918 is sometimes called the “forgotten pandemic,” because although it infected a third of the

world's population and killed more than 50 million people, its timing at the end of World War I meant that reporting on the disease was obscured by the war.

By 1918, the United States had joined the war, and the sudden mobilization of millions across the world contributed to the virus's rapid spread. It affected both sides of the conflict, downing thousands on either side.

In the United States, the virus spread across the country after a military outbreak at Camp Funston, but died away with summer. By fall, a mutated strain among soldiers came back. In total, an estimated 675,000 Americans died from the H1N1 virus, which forced quarantines all over the nation. At the time, children would skip rope to a song that went, “I had a little bird/Its name was Enza/I opened the window/And in-flu-enza.”

## SARS

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is coronavirus, which first began in southern China in 2002 before spreading to 29 countries in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia.

When the virus first began spreading in China, state-run media were ordered by the Chinese regime not to report on the epidemic, but whistleblower Dr. Jiang Yan-yong leaked statistics to Western media.

According to the World Health Organization, there were more than 8,000 recorded infections and 774 deaths in 2003, and since then there have been small numbers of cases. It didn't spread widely in the United States, with 156 recorded cases in 2003. ■

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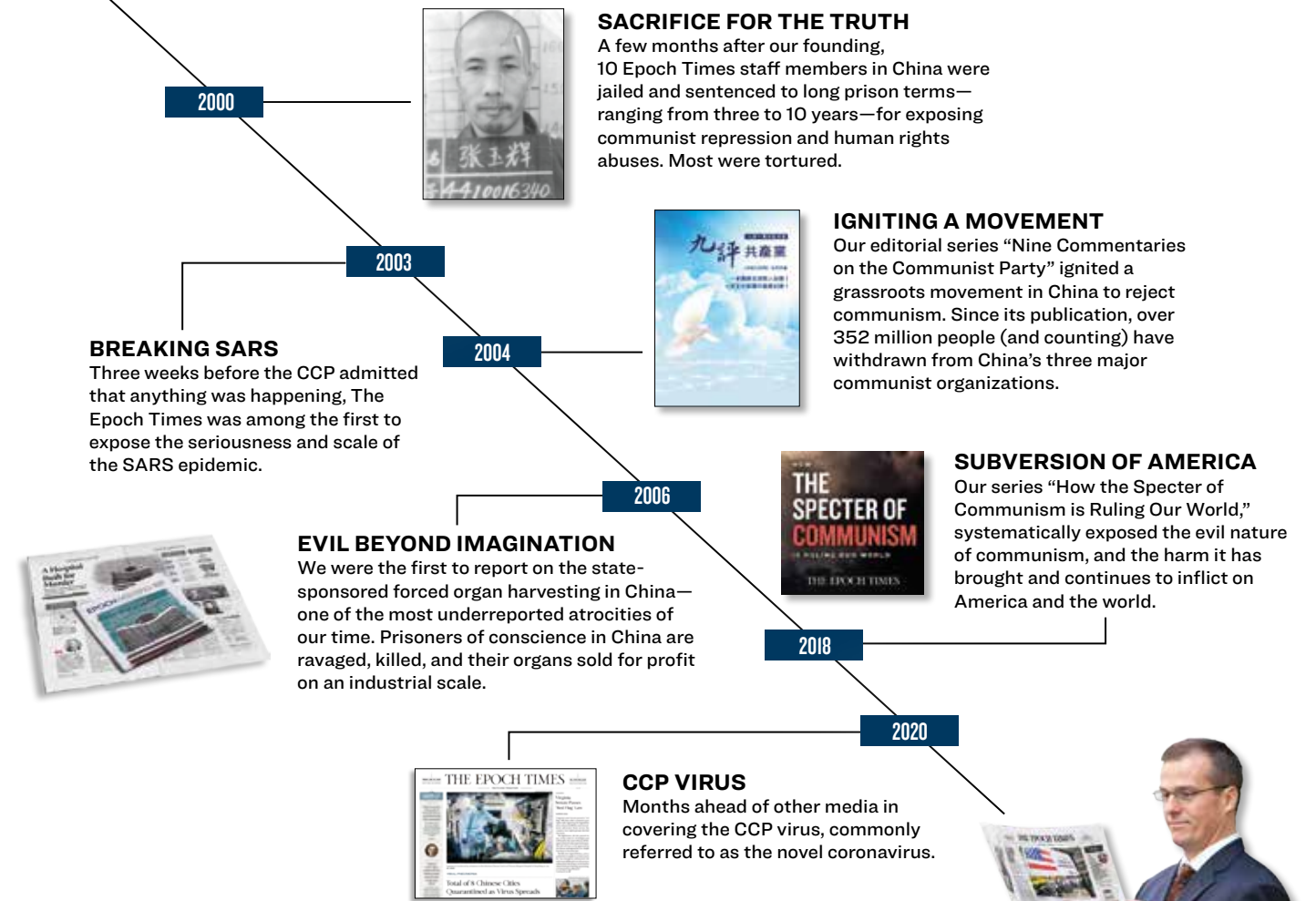
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“I congratulate you and The Epoch Times for the work you are doing, especially with regard to keeping the menace of the communist threat in front of us. — DR. SEBASTIAN GORKA

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# Generosity in a Time of Crisis

CATHERINE YANG

Jeff Holler, a financial planner and president of wealth management firm The Capital Chart Room, says he “understands the angst that people are experiencing.”

“Many in the world are in a panic right now because their security is in their financial and material wealth,” he said. He’s seen personal losses in this market correction himself, but isn’t experiencing the angst or anxiety of uncertainty as the crisis drags on, because of his views on wealth.

Holler often advises younger clients about creating a plan for financial freedom, and before anything else, he starts with the idea that we are simply caretakers.

“The first advice I give,” Holler wrote, “is to treat our financial resources as we do all the personal gifts, talents, and resources

with which we have been blessed by God.

As such, we should strive to manage our personal finances from the perspective that we don’t own it, God does. We are simply caretakers over all of which he has given us domain.”

So amid the losses, Holler and his wife have kept their spirits up, because they are thankful for their blessings.

“We still have our home, and income, our health, and the health of our children and grandchildren, in addition to a lot of other blessings,” Holler wrote in an email.

“We have much for which to be immensely grateful, and we are thanking God often!”

“Overall, one thing people can do while social distancing is to take some time to contemplate, reassess, and pray about how they are doing as a good and faithful steward,” he said. He refers to stories, too, as there are many that show a stark con-

trast between those who “accept and give all of God’s blessings with open hands” and those who “grasp and hoard.”

He has seen these stories play out in his community as well. Holler and his wife are taking the opportunity to give more monetary gifts to ministries and charities during this time, because there will be cutbacks.

“Maids, busboys and busgirls, waiters and waitresses, ticket takers, concession workers—all of those who are the first to be let go when their employer is cutting back—are the ones who will suffer the most from this economic setback,” he wrote. He urged them not to hesitate to reach out to their local ministries to help.

“In our community, we have food pantries, night shelters, and the Salvation Army—all of which do a fabulous job helping those in need. Our church also has an emergency fund to help those in crisis. Our daughter and son-in-law have a Tough Tots Fund that helps families with children in medical crisis and the health care workers that serve them.”



**JEFF HOLLER** is the founder of a wealth management firm, an author, and a speaker.

COURTESY OF JEFF HOLLER

# Faith, Not Fear

CATHERINE YANG

Life, according to Ron Archer, is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you choose to respond.

Archer, a pastor and inspirational speaker, said: “I’m in the belief that when things happen that we call significant emotional events [SEEs] or STORMs [significant trauma overwhelming reasonable minds], it can have two effects. It can make us better or bitter, winners or whiners,

praisers or warriors, climbers or quitters, victims or victors.”

“We have the power to choose, to be people of faith or people of fear,” Archer said. “And even fear has its place. It can bring people to their knees, to pray, to repent.” Or it can help us to self-actualize and achieve clarity of thought—the understanding that some things are out of our control and in the hands of a higher power.

In times of strife or storm, one can either have faith or have fear, and even fear sometimes turns to faith. Archer referred to the story of David, who ran toward Goliath even when others—including King Saul—were afraid.

Archer recalled an experience that



**RON ARCHER** Pastor and inspirational speaker.

STEPHANIE HULTHEN

# TRUTH CAN BE BLOCKED BUT NEVER STOPPED

Pass it on, one friend at a time

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