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| --- |
| **Jihad Report****Feb 08, 2020 -****Feb 14, 2020** |
| Attacks | **28** |
| Killed | **111** |
| Injured | **92** |
| Suicide Blasts | **2** |
| Countries | **13** |

**The X-59**

While the Trump administration's proposed [NASA](https://www.space.com/38700-nasa-history.html) budget for 2021 includes a big boost for human spaceflight, it also would boost funding for the agency's aeronautics division

Included in [the $25.2 billion budget request for NASA](https://www.space.com/nasa-2021-budget-request-aims-at-moon-mars.html) is $819 million for aeronautics research, up from $783 million in 2020. One of NASA's chief aeronautics programs is [the experimental X-59 supersonic aircraft](https://www.space.com/nasa-x-59-supersonic-plane-cleared-for-assembly.html)being built by Lockheed Martin to pioneer quieter sonic booms for commercial travel. NASA's budget documents released to date did not include the exact funding for the new jet, but the project is vital for the agency's aeronautics division.

"In aeronautics, the budget backs all our cutting-edge research on commercial use of supersonic aircraft, all-electric airplanes, and development of an unmanned aerial system that will make flying small drones safer and more efficient in the 21st century," NASA chief Jim Bridenstine [said in a statement](https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-administrator-statement-on-moon-to-mars-initiative-fy-2021-budget) Monday (Feb. 10) as the budget was unveiled.

In the request, the agency continues its funding for the plane, dubbed the [X-59 QueSST](https://www.space.com/41027-nasa-supersonic-plane-called-x-59-quesst.html), for "Quiet Supersonic Transport," an experimental aircraft that is being designed and built to travel faster than the speed of sound while only creating "low booms," or ultra-quiet sonic booms. The X-plane is expected to make its debut flight in 2022.

The proposed budget "completes fabrication and testing of the Low Boom Flight Demonstrator in anticipation of its first flight in 2022, which will demonstrate quiet supersonic flight and pave the way for eventual over-land commercial supersonic flight," [according to a NASA fact sheet](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/fy2021_agency_fact_sheet.pdf).

Lockheed Martin is confident that they will be able to build the plane by the end of 2020, [a representative from the company told Space.com](https://www.space.com/nasa-x-59-supersonic-plane-cleared-for-assembly.html). Lockheed is still working towards flying the experimental plane for the first time in 2021, while NASA's budget request states that the plane will make its first low-boom flight in Jan. 2022.

"We are still on track for first flight in 2021," Craig Nickol, NASA's [Low Boom Flight Demonstrator](https://www.space.com/was%20called%20the%20Low-Boom%20Flight%20Demonstration%20) project manager, told Space.com in an email. "NASA's first flight commitment date to external stakeholders is in early 2022, which includes schedule reserves, but we are still pursuing our work-to date in 2021."

A representative from Lockheed Martin explained to Space.com that, following the completion of the high-speed plane, the company will turn the plane over to NASA, who will complete a phase of testing to ensure everything is working correctly. After testing, NASA plans to test-fly the plane over selected regions to gauge the public's reaction to the sonic booms, which will ideally be as quiet as a sonic boom from an ultrafast experimental plane can be.

In addition to funding X-59 QueSST, the budget request also proposes increased funding "for investments in ultra-fast hypersonic flight, hybrid-electric jet engine systems that could power future passenger airliners, and research on the safe integration of remotely-piloted aircraft into U.S. airspace."

In the request, the agency explicitly states that they are proposing funding not only for the plane, but additionally for "Research to make air travel faster and cheaper and safely integrate drones into the nation’s airspace," NASA writes in the request. The budget also cites its support of aeronautics research "that contributes to the Nation's technological leadership and supports high-quality jobs."

**The Origin of Consciousness**

The human [mind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind) once operated in a state in which cognitive functions were divided between one part of the brain which appears to be "speaking", and a second part which listens and obeys—a *bicameral mind*. The term was coined by [Julian Jaynes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Jaynes), who presented the idea in his 1976 book *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*.

**Bicameral mentality** would be non-conscious in its inability to reason and articulate about mental contents through meta-reflection, reacting without explicitly realizing and without the meta-reflective ability to give an account of *why* one did so. The bicameral mind would thus lack metaconsciousness, autobiographical memory, and the capacity for executive "ego functions" such as deliberate mind-wandering and conscious introspection of mental content. When bicamerality as a method of social control was no longer adaptive in complex civilizations, this mental model was replaced by the conscious mode of thought which, Jaynes argued, is grounded in the acquisition of metaphorical [language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language) learned by exposure to narrative practice.

According to Jaynes, ancient people in the bicameral state of mind would have experienced the world in a manner that has some similarities to that of a [person with schizophrenia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schizophrenia). Rather than making conscious evaluations in novel or unexpected situations, the person would hallucinate a voice or "god" giving admonitory advice or commands and obey without question: One would not be at all conscious of one's own thought processes *per se*. Jaynes's hypothesis is offered as a possible explanation of "*command hallucinations*" that often direct the behavior of those afflicted by first rank symptoms of schizophrenia, as well as other voice hearers.

**Bicameral mentality**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bicameralism_(psychology)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Breakdown of bicameralism[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bicameralism_(psychology)&action=edit&section=4)]

Jaynes theorized that a shift from bicameralism marked the beginning of introspection and consciousness as we know it today. According to Jaynes, this bicameral mentality began malfunctioning or "breaking down" during the 2nd millennium BCE. He speculates that primitive ancient societies tended to collapse periodically: for example, Egypt's [Intermediate Periods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt), as well as the periodically vanishing cities of the Mayas, as changes in the environment strained the socio-cultural equilibria sustained by this bicameral mindset.

The [Bronze age collapse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze_age_collapse) of the 2nd millennium BCE led to mass migrations and created a rash of unexpected situations and stresses which required ancient minds to become more flexible and creative. Self-awareness, or consciousness, was the culturally evolved solution to this problem. This necessity of communicating commonly observed phenomena among individuals who shared no common language or cultural upbringing encouraged those communities to become self-aware to survive in a new environment. Thus consciousness, like bicamerality, emerged as a neurological adaptation to social complexity in a changing world.

Jaynes further argues that [divination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divination), [prayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prayer), and [oracles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle) arose during this breakdown period, in an attempt to summon instructions from the "gods" whose voices could no longer be heard.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism_%28psychology%29#cite_note-EvidenceSummary-4) The consultation of special bicamerally operative individuals, or of divination by [casting lots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleromancy) and so forth, was a response to this loss, a transitional era depicted, for example, in the book of [1 Samuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Samuel). It was also evidenced in children who could communicate with the gods, but as their neurology was set by language and society they gradually lost that ability. Those who continued prophesying, being bicameral according to Jaynes, could be killed.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism_%28psychology%29#cite_note-7)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism_%28psychology%29#cite_note-8) Leftovers of the bicameral mind today, according to Jaynes, include mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and the hallucinations present in patients with split brain syndrome.

### Epic of Gilgamesh as a counter-example

As an argument against Jaynes's proposed date of the transition from bicameralism to consciousness some critics have referred to the [Epic of Gilgamesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_of_Gilgamesh).[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] Early copies of the epic are many centuries older[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism_%28psychology%29#cite_note-Dalley_Gilgamesh-34) than even the oldest passages of the Old Testament,[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism_%28psychology%29#cite_note-Mitchell_1988-35) and yet it describes introspection and other mental processes that, according to Jaynes, were impossible for the bicameral mind.

Jaynes noted that the most complete version of the [Gilgamesh epic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgamesh_epic) dates to post-bicameral times (7th century BCE), dismisses these instances of introspection as the result of rewriting and expansion by later conscious scribes, and points to differences between the more recent version of *Gilgamesh* and surviving fragments of earlier versions: "*The most interesting comparison is in Tablet X.*"[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism_%28psychology%29#cite_note-Jaynes_2000-13):252 His answer, however, does not deal with the generally accepted dating of the "Standard Version" of the Gilgamesh epic to the later 2nd millennium BCE, nor does it account for the introspection characteristic of the "Standard Version" being thoroughly rooted in the Old Babylonian and Sumerian versions, especially as our understanding of the Old Babylonian poem improves.

**A Free Thinking Analysis**

The origin of consciousness is one the most intractable mysteries about the human mind, because of its intrinsic conceptual and theoretical difficulties. By adopting a truly multidisciplinary approach, Graham Little tackles this problem in an original and accessible book. The author endorses the view that consciousness can only be discussed from within a general theory of psychology. He therefore devotes the first part of his book to the development of a sound methodology which can be used to create a psychological theory of the person. In doing so, he acknowledges the inspiring role of William Ross Ashby's work in cybernetics and analysis of self-correcting systems. The second part of the book explores the consequences of the psychological theory of the person to the multifaceted nature of humankind.

The human brain is defined as the highest state of evolved neural structure adapted to make maximum survival use of the environmental niche of differentiated perceptual fields. One of the key steps in the origin of consciousness was the development of the neural capacity to record and group events according to their properties, thereby generating ideas. All ideas are knowledge of past events (“borrowed knowledge” in Ashby's [1960](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245000/#B1), terminology), which can be linked in chains to describe and predict the flow of change in reality, based on historical experience.

Therefore the potential for generating ideas provided our species with a definite survival advantage (“survival through knowledge”). An Ashby diagram is used to describe the structure of the human psyche with fully defined variables (environment, body, reacting part, brain structures, attitude, emotion, knowledge, and attention) and the links between them as indicative of the flow of change through the system “person in their environment.” The brain is understood as an entropic device whereby the energy inevitably flows to the lowest energy states/pathways available to it, i.e., those states that arose from historical experience (habits).

Crucially, neural evolution also developed an attention mechanism alerting the individual to danger. The attention mechanism of the brain enabling redirection of neural flows contrary to entropy is called choice, or free will, and is the only system in the universe not directed by entropy. Creative free will is intrinsically unpredictable, and is the core inherent strength of humankind enabling it to overcome entropy by creating and adopting new ideas whenever the decision is made to invest the effort.

The “I,” i.e., the conceptualisation of the human spirit, is the core of the psyche, and as such holds a special and central place in our self-awareness. The remainder of the evolved structure of the psyche, including knowledge, emotions, and attitudes, is defined as mind. The attention mechanism of the brain and the sense of self, embedded in the “I,” combine to create human consciousness.

Therefore, consciousness is a function of the content of the brain, not the mechanism of the brain. A fundamental aspect of human experience is the resolution of the tension between entropy and free will. The “I” learns that the attention mechanism can intervene in the brain to cause neural flows to take paths they would not otherwise take. The “I” can either intervene and redirect the flow of neural energy to thwart entropy (an option which requires energy and effort) or acquiesce to entropy, thereby allowing life to flow in the direction dictated by the past. The applications of this theory are far-reaching, as it can account for a range of aspects of human life, including intelligence, habit, choice, emotions, knowledge, nature/nurture, and mental health/illness. The themes covered by the book reflect the breadth of the theory's implications. A few examples include epistemology and the problem of knowledge (chapters 4, 10, and 34), perception (chapter 5), psychological theory (chapter 11), free will (chapter 16), dreaming (chapter 21), learning (chapter 22), intelligence (chapter 23), artificial intelligence (chapter 25), spirituality (chapter 26), mental illness (chapter 27), causality (chapter 30), and modern physics (chapter 33). In consideration of its breadth, this book embraces a wide readership, which includes, but is not restricted to, psychologists, social scientists, philosophers, and neuroscientists.

In the book's dense appendix, titled “Toward a better standard of judgment than peer review,” the author argues that the current standard of “peer review” for the evaluation of scientific papers should be replaced by “rigorous strategic and conceptual transparency.” This is based on the observation that the peer review process when empirically tested failed in protecting the system from the publication of articles of low and inadequate intellectual quality, as shown by Alan Sokal with his famous hoax paper (Sokal and Bricmont, [1998](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245000/#B6)). The book closes with a short chapter outlining the author's intellectual development, along with the reason for the deliberate choice not to include a structured bibliography (“I disagree with a modern approach to scholarship whereby references or at least the volume of references, in some way infers intellectual standing. I believe we need return to full and vigorous assessment of ideas in their own right; it is the quality of the thinking and the integrity of the identification of source that marks the worth”).

Two late authors sprang to my mind when reading Graham Little's book on the origin of consciousness. The first one is American psychologist Julian Jaynes, who also adopted a multidisciplinary approach to the problem of the origin of consciousness in his 1976 book “The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind” (Jaynes, [1976](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245000/#B5)), albeit with more focus on neurological and archeological findings (Cavanna et al., [2007](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245000/#B2)). The second author is Austrian philosopher Paul Feyerabend, who since the publication of his book “Against Method” (Feyerabend, [1975](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245000/#B3)) became of one the modern champions of the critical approach to both scientific method and research practice. Interestingly, Feyerabend's background also touched on philosophy of mind and consciousness studies (Feyerabend, [1963](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245000/#B4)). Does Graham Little's thought-provoking book provide the ultimate answer to the question of the origin of consciousness? Readers will find their answers at the end of this intellectual journey through what comes across as an interesting and original attempt from a genuinely free thinker.

Encountering the term “cybernetics,” most people tend to think of robots, computers, and electronics. This is not surprising, considering the noise that has been made about such gadgets and the hopes and fears associated with them. But there is another aspect to cybernetics that, in the long run, may turn out to be more important. There are three areas of cybernetic thought that are particularly germane to the study of early cognitive development: self-regulation, inductive learning, and the constructivist approach to experience and its organization.

The fact that we can build feedback systems capable of self-regulation within certain parameters makes it possible for us to visualize and exemplify the most elementary features of an organism’s relation to its environment. For the first time we can not only ask but answer in a thoroughly operational way questions such as “What are the data of an organism’s experience?”; “What can and does an organism associate when it is learning?”; and “What constitutes knowledge in an organism, and how does it relate to the outside world?”

Observer and Observed

To observe means to focus attention with particular care. When we use the verb transitively (which we usually do), it implies that a particular area of our experiential field is discriminable from the rest. Logically speaking, that part of our experience is the object we are observing.

It this process, either from the dweller in the environment, or the visitor from outside the environment, that creates the concepts of space, causality, time and, finally, the universe. Though he treats the construction of these concepts sequentially, he makes it very clear that he does not consider them sequential in the child’s development. In his view, one conceptual construction gives rise to all these concepts. In other words, experiential objects, space, causality, time— and I would add the concepts of change, motion, substance, identity, and self—all stem from one common initial construction and are therefore connate and inextricably interrelated. Hence, mention of “steps” in subsequent paragraphs does not imply a chronological but a logical sequence. There are certain steps that are logically indispensable prerequisites for others. But the logic is our logic, an observer’s logic, and as such it applies to a model the observer is building.

Once a system is equipped with this ability to maintain experiential compounds invariant and to use them independently of present sensory experience, all sorts of interesting things become possible.

**Polygamy**

Legislation to decriminalize polygamy in Utah moved closer to becoming law on Feb. 10 when a Senate committee unanimously passed it and sent it along to the full Senate for debate.

Currently, polygamy is a felony in Utah punishable by up to five years in prison. Under the new proposal, SB 102, the current law would be amended to reclassify polygamy as an "infraction." The punishment for an infraction is similar to a hefty parking ticket; there is no jail time.

The bill was sponsored by State Sen. Deidre Henderson (R-Spanish Fork).  "[Don’t prosecute otherwise law-abiding polygamists](https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2020/02/04/utah-bill-would-reduce/), but instead focus on actual crimes like fraud and abuse," Henderson wrote in the [*Salt Lake City Tribune*](https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/commentary/2020/02/07/deidre-henderson-utahs/).

"We want to encourage more reporting and easier investigation of abuse, and the way to do that, after consulting with prosecutors and polygamists alike, is to reduce the criminal penalty so the high barrier to community integration is lowered," she said.

Angela Kelly, director of the Sound Choices Coalition, which fights against polygamy and its abuse of women, said SB 102 would only make the situation worse. “To [bring it down to an infraction](https://www.sltrib.com/news/2019/09/02/polygamy-would-be-par/), you’re essentially saying this is an okay lifestyle,” she testified before the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee. “And it might be for 10 people, but we’re talking about society as a whole.”

[Kelly](https://www.soundchoicescoalition.org/who-we-are) became interested in the polygamy issue because of her upbringing in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), the Mormon church.

In a statement about the bill, the Sound Choices Coalition said, "This bill was co-sponsored by Salt Lake polygamists via Senator Henderson and the Libertas Institute. ... Their failure to understand the research on the abuses built into polygamy, such as the growing institutional grooming of minors into its incestuous sex trafficking trade, has lead to a bill that, if passed, will create more victims."



*Sound Choices Coalition Director Angela Kelly. (SCC)*

"Proponents of this bill attempt to piggyback on the success of the gay rights movement by promoting the narrative this initiative is about consenting adults doing as they wish," stated the organization.

"We are shocked at the lack of understanding of this issue by our elected lawmakers," said the Coalition.  "This has nothing to do about consenting adults or gay rights. It is all about weaponizing God and grooming children through every type of human rights abuse."

"The real narrative polygamists and their supporters are desperately trying to control, especially in today’s #metoo climate, is that girls are commodities to be traded and bred often to a family member using a cringe worthy phrase 'incest is wincest' to normalize deviant behavior," the group said.  "Sexualization of girls into child brides to propagate the relentless grip of polygamy is the real problem."



*HERRIMAN, UTAH - FEBRUARY, 2008: Sunday brunch in a polygamist family consisting of one husband (Joe), three wives (from left to right: Allie, Valerie and Vicky), and 21 children. Sunday is one of the few days of the week when the entire family finds time to share a meal. This plural family lives in the Salt Lake Valley among monogamist families. (Photo by Stephan Gladieu/Getty Images)*

Polygamy was practiced by the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, and by leaders of the church in the 19th century. Church leaders revealed in 2014 that Smith had up to 40 wives, some of whom were already married and one who was only 14 years old, reported the [*New York Times*](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/11/us/its-official-mormon-founder-had-up-to-40-wives.html).  Smith was killed by a mob at the age of 38 on June 27, 1844.

The LDS church teaches that some of its early members "[received and obeyed this commandment](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/topics/plural-marriage-in-kirtland-and-nauvoo?lang=eng)" on "plural marriages," which apparently was "given through God's prophets."

"In 1890, under pressure by the American government, the church issued a manifesto formally ending polygamy," reported [*The New York Times*](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/11/us/its-official-mormon-founder-had-up-to-40-wives.html). "The church’s [essay](https://www.lds.org/topics/the-manifesto-and-the-end-of-plural-marriage?lang=eng) on this phase admits that some members and even leaders did not abandon the practice for years."

**China vs the Chinese**

White House officials appeared to have suspicions about the accuracy of China’s reporting of coronavirus cases. According to a report Saturday, the U.S. did not have high confidence in the information coming from China regarding the number of those affected by the disease.

This came as a number of officials have expressed doubt that China is being fully transparent, including White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow.

Last week, Kudlow addressed ongoing concerns following a change in China’s measuring criteria, which added 15,000 cases in a single day.

“We thought there was better transparency coming out of China, but it doesn’t appear to be,” stated the economic advisor. “It’s the great unknown and I wish we did know more because, you know, this should not be about politics or for that matter, trade.”

Chinese officials said the number of new cases are dropping overall.

**Meanwhile**

merican passengers were taken off a cruise liner on Sunday to fly home after being quarantined for two weeks off Japan, while China said the rate of new coronavirus cases had slowed, calling that proof its steps to fight the outbreak were working.

An announcement aboard the Diamond Princess, where 3,700 passengers and crew have been held since Feb. 3, told Americans to get ready to disembark on Sunday evening for charter flights home. Passengers wearing masks could later be seen waving through the windows of buses parked near the ship.

Of the roughly 400 Americans on the cruise, more than 40 are infected with the virus and will stay in Japan for treatment, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute on Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

“They are not going to go anywhere. They’re going to be in hospitals in Japan,” Fauci told the CBS News program “Face the Nation.” “People who have symptoms will not be able to get on the evacuation plane. Others are going to be evacuated starting imminently to air force bases in the United States.”

Kyodo News Agency said the flights carrying U.S. passengers left Haneda Airport at around 1700 ET (2200 GMT).

Canadian, Italian, South Korean and Hong Kong passengers were expected to follow soon, after their governments also announced plans to repatriate passengers.

“Leaving in a few hours. No details. Might be going to Texas or Nebraska,” U.S. passenger Gay Courter told Reuters.

Seventy new coronavirus cases were confirmed on board, bringing the total on the ship to 355, by far the largest cluster of cases outside China. Fauci told the Washington Post there were 44 infected Americans.

Within China, authorities reported 2,009 new cases on Sunday, noting that this was down from more than 2,600 the previous day. They said this showed their efforts to halt the spread of the virus were bearing fruit.

“The effect of the coronavirus controls is appearing,” Mi Feng, spokesman for the Health Commission, told reporters.

The new cases brought the total to 68,500 in mainland China, with 1,665 deaths, including 143 fatalities reported on Sunday. Outside China, more than 500 cases have been confirmed, mostly of people who traveled from Chinese cities, with five deaths.

The coronavirus is thought to have emerged at a wildlife market in China’s central province of Hubei. China’s response has included putting Hubei and its capital Wuhan – a city of 11 million people – on virtual lockdown.

Mi said the proportion of confirmed cases who were critically ill had fallen to 21.6% on Saturday, from 32.4% on Jan. 27. He said this showed the authorities were able to treat patients more quickly, preventing cases from becoming critical.

Mark Woolhouse, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Britain’s University of Edinburgh, said if the numbers suggested the epidemic has peaked in Hubei, “then this would be encouraging news for the rest of the world too”.

But he added: “We should be cautious though; it could simply be that reporting is not keeping up with events in circumstances where the health services are under enormous pressure.”

Declining numbers of reported new infections could mean the virus was being contained, but could also mean it was simply running out of susceptible new hosts in Wuhan, he said.

Restrictions were tightened further in Hubei on Sunday with vehicles, apart from essential services, banned from the roads and companies told to stay shut until further notice.

After an extended Lunar New Year holiday, China urgently needs to get back to work. But in some cities streets are still deserted.

HAZMAT SUITS

On board the Diamond Princess, American passenger Matthew Smith posted a photo on Twitter showing buses parked on the shore to take U.S. nationals to the airport. American officials in hazmat suits and masks had visited his room to check if he would disembark. He said he wanted to stay.

The ship, owned by Carnival Corp., has been held in the port of Yokohama and those with the disease have been taken to hospital onshore. No one from the ship has died.

Countries that have announced plans to fly their citizens home from the ship say they will take them only if they are symptom-free, and quarantine them on arrival.

The U.S. Department of Defense is preparing to receive two flights with passengers – one to land at Travis Air Force Base, California and the other at Kelly Field/Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

The evacuees will be subject to a 14-day quarantine.

Another cruise ship, Holland America’s MS Westerdam, docked in Cambodia on Thursday after being rejected by ports elsewhere. An 83-year-old American passenger tested positive upon arriving in Malaysia, authorities there said. A second test requested by the cruise operator confirmed the finding.

Taiwan reported its first fatality on Sunday. The first fatality in Europe was reported on Saturday, an 80-year-old Chinese man who died at a Paris hospital.

The reshuffling of the party leadership at the state, Hubei, and its own funding, Wuhan, represented an aggressive attempt by Mr. Xi to comprise not just the political and financial harm of the outbreak but also any simmering public rage among millions of individuals locked down today for at least three weeks.

The Communist Party replaced both officers together with protégés of Mr. Xi that have extensive backgrounds in general safety.

The moves, announced in terse statements in country news websites, came as the amount of deaths and illnesses skyrocketed by the greatest levels in almost any day up to now. The increase, in part, reflected changes in how diseases in Hubei are all counted, but the most recent figures confirmed warnings the [true scale of the epidemic remains muddled.](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/12/health/coronavirus-cases-china.html)

**Vaccine**

A team of San Diego laboratory scientists has reportedly created a vaccine for the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and in potentially record-breaking time.

According to [Fox Business](https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/california-lab-coronavirus-vaccine-3-hours), the scientists, operating at a satellite location of Pennsylvania-based American biotech company Inovio Pharmaceuticals, discovered and tested the successful vaccine within three hours of receiving a full overview of the virus’ genetic composition.

“We were able to rapidly construct our vaccine in a matter of about three hours once we had the DNA sequence from the virus available because of the power of our DNA medicine platform,” Inovio president and CEO Dr. J. Joseph Kim told the outlet.

“Our goal is to start phase one human testing in the U.S. early this summer.”

Now, the race is on for the innovators at Inovio to move into the human testing phase and begin working with partners to mass produce its vaccine for [international markets](https://www.westernjournal.com/crippled-virus-facing-economic-ruin-china-folds-trade-war/).

Kim’s company, which has been responsible this past decade for speedy turnarounds on vaccines for both the MERS virus — a [coronavirus strain](https://www.westernjournal.com/first-case-deadly-coronavirus-confirmed-us/) he referred to as being “in the same family as COVID-19” — and the more recent Zika virus outbreak, is looking to dramatically reduce its typical research, development and production time in response to the world’s latest emerging public health threat.

“We’ve done this many, many times before,” Kim said. “We’re planning to beat our own record.”

That record reportedly came in 2016, when Inovio managed to move from vaccine discovery to the human testing phase in under seven months, according to [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-zika-vaccine/zika-vaccine-shows-promise-in-early-human-trial-idUSKBN1C92Y0).

But Kim told Fox Business that at the rate Inovio is currently moving, it may be able to do the same thing this year “in close to half that time.”

Meanwhile, in Wuhan, China, where international health officials believe [the virus originated](https://www.westernjournal.com/china-quarantines-entire-city-deaths-mystery-virus-almost-double-24-hours/), no such progress is being made.

In fact, all warning signs seem to indicate disaster, as revised totals released by Chinese officials Friday show a [spike in virus-related deaths](https://www.westernjournal.com/coronavirus-cases-jump-60k-overnight-marines-release-pandemic-plan/), pushing the death toll to nearly 1,400 — well number of people killed by the similar 2002 SARS outbreak.