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| --- | --- |
| Jihad ReportMar 21, 2020 -Mar 27, 2020 | |
| Attacks | **29** |
| Killed | **265** |
| Injured | **91** |
| Suicide Blasts | **2** |
| Countries | **10** |

**The Beijing Monopoly**

The World barely understands what is going on. They don’t know how this war even started. They don’t know who the causalities are. They don’t know that America was losing this war since 1993. The use of drugs and the staggering amounts of illegal profits from them, human trafficking, and the selling of American technology allowed a handful of world leaders to take control of the inner governments of China, America, and Europe.

Like all criminal operations that turn into wars, they started out breaking the law, but bribing or killing every reporter, judge, lawyer, or enforcement agent along the way until their forces were too large to stop. Then they flaunted the law. They used our own system of justice and legislation against us. Then they sat back and waited for the violence. Sometimes it comes, and sometimes it doesn’t. Hong Kong saw it first and began revolting. The world saw it. America felt a solidarity with the protestors. President Trump reached out to them in support. Xi Jin Ping tried everything. Neither tear gas nor bullets would stop them. They needed something else. They needed something so frightening and so deadly that it would clean the streets within minutes. But I digress.

Finally, the Syndicate “goes legit,” which means they hang out their sign, print business cards, and open the storefront. Ballots R Us, and other criminal operations become legal and perpetual. They harvest ballots from the mail-in voter by the millions. They convert these ballots into a sledgehammer. When one of their candidates loses precinct, they simply place a call to Ballots-R-Us, and the trucks arrive a few hours later with enough votes to win that precinct back in the recount. Deadlines? Meaningless under the new law. The process is to recount until enough ballots are “discovered” to elect the proper soldier, or in some cases an actor, into that political position.

The same goes with the business world. Like a professional gambler, they use the pot as a weapon. Their ‘all-in’ is so high that no one else can play. They simply have to fold. That is what American manufacturers have been doing since 1993. They have been folding. They moved their plants to Mexico, and then to China. By 2008, the process was set up to wipe out nearly 100 thousand manufacturers in America. I helped ship their presses, and mills, and assembly lines to China in 2011. Now, I drive to South Carolina every day to work, and I pass millions of square feet of empty premium manufacturing space. It has been empty for a decade. The ‘For Lease’ signs and banner are so old, they are rotting on the sides of the building facing the freeway. I called the numbers about leasing them, and some answering service gets the call, and no one ever calls back. Ever.

When they were finished wiping out America’s ability or desire to make its own products, the largest crime boss in the world took control of the largest economy in the world, for life. He’s friendly. He’s calm and dignified. He’s affectionate. He is also brutally dictatorial. The only Xi Jin Ping did not take into consideration in his Coup of Communist China was the Chinese. He also did not take into consideration the skill and genius of President Donald Trump. China lost the trade war in a matter of a year. Tariffs stopped China from being the world’s cheapest manufacturer. Vietnam, Malaysia, and even Morocco were getting the business. Some was even returning to America. He needed to crush the Hong Kong protestors, smash the Trump economy, and get a head start in holding control of essential items needed to combat his weapon. He accomplished all three in less than three months.

When the viral weapon was released in 2020, he used his own people in Wuhan, a highly industrialized city in the Hubei Province, as weapons. He blocked the CDC and the WHO from coming to China to investigate the outbreak that was rumored to have started near the Bioweapons Lab in Wuhan. He allowed millions of Chinese—mostly dissidents anyway—to be infected, hiding their deaths and the sickness, and then he exported them by the millions all over the world. He filmed and then ‘leaked’ videos of people falling dead in moments after contracting the disease. He sent the infected to northern Italy, where he had invested heavily in another Chinese manufacturing base outside Milan. He sent them to Seattle, where millions of Chinese enter America to work in the tech and healthcare industries. He sent them to LA, and New York where Chinese work in the food service industries. Then, we waited for the weapon to take its course.

His propaganda divisions were ready and waiting with press releases and social media posts to shift the blame for the weapon to Trump’s America or to claim that associating this weapon with China was racist. His money poured into Hollywood to buy actors and producers to attack President Trump on all fronts. His investments in the Bidens, the Obamas, the Clintons, Maduro, and the intelligence communities of England and America followed his orders to impeach Trump. In fact, while the disease was spreading in America, Pelosi followed orders to drag out the impeachment just long enough to make stopping the disease impossible. He promised her she would snatch the presidency for herself—after all it was she who was the most powerful woman in the world—if she could pull it off.

All the while, Americans were getting sick with his weapon. Finally, when the truth was discovered, the truly insidious nature of this dictator began to show. Chinese dictator Xi Jinping told fellow G20 leaders in a teleconferenced speech on Thursday that China intends to increase its manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to “keep global financial markets stable.”

Xi demanded that the rest of the world help keep the world’s markets — currently monopolized by the Chinese Communist Party — “stable” amid growing demands that countries reconsider having nearly all their necessary goods sourced from the communist regime. Extensive reporting out of Wuhan, the origin city of the current pandemic, has conclusively determined that communist censorship and repression of individuals seeking to share basic health tips to prevent spreading a contagious disease significantly amplified the spread of the Wuhan coronavirus.

Advertisement

One study [blamed](https://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2020/03/17/researchers-china-heeding-wuhan-doctors-may-have-stopped-95-of-coronavirus-cases/) China for as many as 95 percent of the world’s known coronavirus cases.

G20 nations [held](https://www.france24.com/en/20200326-we-will-overcome-coronavirus-crisis-vow-g20-leaders-after-video-meeting) a video conference in which each of their leaders delivered a speech from their home countries, allowing them to exchange ideas while not traveling and potentially being exposed to the Chinese coronavirus. Xi’s statement, as [translated](https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1183925.shtml) in full by the state-run *Global Times*propaganda outlet, focused greatly on “cooperation” among member nations to contain the pandemic while emphasizing that China must lead all joint actions.

“We need to better coordinate financial regulation to keep global financial markets stable. We need to jointly keep the global industrial and supply chains stable,” Xi said. “What China will do in this regard is to increase its supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients, daily necessities, and anti-epidemic and other supplies to the international market.”

“China will continue to pursue a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy,” he continued. “We will continue to advance reform and opening-up, widen market access, improve the business environment, and expand imports and outbound investment to contribute to a stable world economy.”

To benefit what Xi depicted as charitable actions by China, he demanded that “all G20 members take collective actions” that would benefit the Chinese Communist Party’s economy, such as “cutting tariffs, removing barriers, and facilitating the unfettered flow of trade.”

Xi also proposed a “global network of control and treatment,” also led by him, that would grant China full access to all medical data, presumably also including intellectual property related to the manufacture and development of medical technology.

“China has set up its online COVID-19 knowledge center that is open to all countries. It is imperative that countries pool their strengths and speed up research and development of drugs, vaccines and testing capabilities in the hope to achieve early breakthrough to the benefit of all,” Xi asserted.

Xi Jinping’s call for China to control an even greater part of the world’s manufacturing — medical and otherwise — comes after years of the United States, in particular, yielding control of its industrial supply chains to China. As of February of this year, China [manufactures](https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2020/02/13/coronavirus-outbreak-exposes-chinas-monopoly-on-u-s-drug-medical-supplies/) 97 percent of all American antibiotics, 80 percent of the pharmaceutical ingredients needed in all American drugs, and the majority of the nation’s — and the world’s — medical protective supplies, like masks. Supplements like vitamin C, which has proven extremely effective in helping individuals combat Chinese coronavirus, are also almost entirely sourced from the origin country of the virus.

“If China shuts the door on exports of medicines and the ingredients to make them, within a couple of months our pharmacies would be empty,” Rosemary Gibson, author of *China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America’s Dependence on China for Medicine*, [told](https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2020/02/14/expert-china-has-global-chokehold-on-medicine-can-shut-down-our-pharmacies-hospitals-in-months/) *Breitbart News Tonight* in February. “Our healthcare system would cease to function. That’s how dependent we are.”  
RTHK, a Hong Kong television network, noted on Friday that China is already “printing money” from the sheer amount of profits coming from Communist Party-launched factories making sanitary masks. According to RTHK, the Party has [built](https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1517186-20200327.htm?spTabChangeable=0) nearly 9,000 factories to manufacture masks alone in the past two months.

“A mask machine is a real cash printer,” Shi Xinghui, a sales manager in southern Guangdong, China, told the network. Guangdong borders Hong Kong. “The profit of a mask now is at least several cents compared to less than one in the past. Printing 60,000 or 70,000 masks a day is equivalent to printing money.”

An issue Xi failed to address in his speech is the poor quality of Chinese-made medical products. Nations like Spain and the Czech Republic accepted donations of Chinese coronavirus testing kits from Beijing this week in good faith, only to [find](https://www.abc.es/sociedad/abci-china-asegura-gobierno-espana-compro-test-rapidos-no-funcionan-empresa-sin-licencia-202003261225_noticia.html?ref=https%3A%2F%2Ft.co%2Frt4aK7YcfV%3Famp%3D1) that they did not work. A faulty test could result in a coronavirus carrier, believing him or herself to be cleared, infecting high numbers of people by going about their normal lives undetected.

The Chinese government [blamed](https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1183936.shtml) Spain for the faulty Chinese products, claiming Madrid mistakenly bought them from an “unlicensed” manufacturer. The Communist Party does not allow private industry and controls every factory in the country.

Some in the U.S. Senate are working to divorce the American economy and healthcare system from the Communist Party.

“This may seem like something that is too large or too risky an undertaking, but we have already paid dearly for our reliance on Chinese drug manufacturers, and it’s not going to stop because that vulnerability is leverage in the hands of madmen in Beijing who seek nothing but power and will go to any lengths to acquire that power,” Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) [told](https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/03/26/marsha-blackburn-hold-china-accountable-bring-drug-manufacturing-back-to-u-s/) *Breitbart News Daily* this week.

Blackburn, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AK), and Reps. Jim Banks (R-IN) and Seth Moulton (D-MA) announced in a press release on Friday they were working on legislation to hold China accountable for allowing the Wuhan viral outbreak to become a pandemic.

Now, you know the truth. The question is, will you even remember this in November? Don’t worry. I will remind you. We must vote the DNC out of existence. Watch the military do its job. Remember, all that armor you see all over the place. They are the good guys. They are on our side, patriots. Watch and be amazed.

**Title 32**

President Donald Trump has authorized Defense Secretary Mark Esper to order units and individual members in the National Guard and Reserves, as well as certain Individual Ready Reserve members, to active duty to augment forces in the coronavirus response, according to the chief Pentagon spokesperson.

“Today the President signed an Executive Order authorizing Secretary Esper to order units and individual members in the National Guard and Reserves and certain Individual Ready Reserve members, to active duty to augment forces for the effective response to the coronavirus outbreak,” said Jonathan Hoffman in a statement released late Friday evening.

The authorization allows Esper to activate National Guard forces under Title 32, but they are still under the control of state governors, a National Guard spokesman told Breitbart News. It is not an authorization to federalize National Guard forces, which would be under Title 10, the spokesman said.

The statement said that decisions about which individuals may be activated are still being reviewed.

“Generally, these members will be persons in Headquarters units and persons with high demand medical capabilities whose call-up would not adversely affect their civilian communities,” the statement said.

The statement said the Defense Secretary and Department of Health and Human Services would consult with state officials before “any potential utilization” of National Guard Reserve Component units under the executive order.

The statement said there is currently no projected number of expected activations, but the Pentagon can do so “as needed.”

“As this is a dynamic situation, we do not currently have a projected number of expected activations, but the Department is now fully authorized to make activations as needed. We will provide updates as they become available,” Hoffman said.

“The Department has been committed to using all our capabilities to confront the coronavirus outbreak, and the President’s action today ensures that we can bring select members of the Reserves and National Guard to the fight where needed most,” he said.

Thousands of National Guard troops have been activated so far by state governors across the nation. They have been helping with coronavirus testing, delivering meals to homebound residents, helping build hospital spaces, and transporting equipment, and providing other logistical support.

They have so far not played law enforcement roles. If activated under Title 10, or “federalized,” they would be barred from doing so. In recent days, the Army has reached out to retirees, particularly those with medical expertise and not already helping in their communities, to help coronavirus response efforts. The Navy has also reached out to reservists with medical expertise who are not currently serving their communities.

The last time the National Guard was activated in this manner, we went to Iraq. I told you. We are at war with an invisible enemy. Oh, and it’s not the virus. It’s called the Global Syndicate. It’s everywhere. For now.

**Coordinated Attack**

When I talk of the Global Syndicate, sometimes your eyes glaze over. I know. Most of you have not read by book *Charm of Favor.* I want to read you part of this article by Anna Massoglia and Tatyana Monnay.

Fueled by “dark money,” cash-flush liberal groups with ties to the Democratic Party are mobilizing to unleash millions of dollars worth of ads attacking President [Donald Trump](http://www.opensecrets.org/2020-presidential-race/candidate?id=N00023864)’s response to coronavirus ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

Many political groups avoided attacking Trump as the coronavirus outbreak first began to spread throughout the U.S. When Americans are perceived as dying, it is considered poor form to attack a president who obviously had nothing to do with it. Of course, they also will not attack China, because that is who is paying the news actors in the first place. But as social distancing and quarantines become the new normal, a number of multi-million dollar ad buys from Democrat groups mark a departure from that strategy.

Democratic super PAC [Priorities USA Action](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?cycle=2020&strID=C00495861) has spent more than $6 million on a series of negative ads attacking Trump on his response to the coronavirus pandemic. The group plans to spend [$150 million](https://priorities.org/press/priorities-usa-expands-pre-convention-budget-to-150-million-reserves-70-million-of-ad-time/) contesting swing states before the Democratic National Convention.

One of the [ads](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkMwvmJLnc0&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Complete+Press+List&utm_campaign=789e33f2bf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_11_03_57_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e562f51085-789e33f2bf-&mc_cid=789e33f2bf&mc_eid=%5BUNIQID%5D&utm_source=Complete+Press+List&utm_campaign=c6a36c4a37-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_11_03_57_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e562f51085-c6a36c4a37-172463889&mc_cid=c6a36c4a37&mc_eid=c595bc664e) attacking President Trump’s response to the coronavirus pandemic shows meticulous editing of various audio clips depicting him downplaying coronavirus while a graphic shows the increasing cases over time. The ads are airing in key presidential battleground states such as Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The ad starts off with a clip of President Trump referencing coronavirus as Democrats’ “new hoax.”

It was all a lie. The Adiminstration argued that the hoax claim in the ad is false and [issued](https://assets.donaldjtrump.com/2017/web/hero_images/Redacted_PUSA_Letter.pdf) a “cease and desist” ordering television stations that run the ad to stop if they want to “avoid costly and time-consuming litigation.”

To circumvent the legal threats against the networks, a brand newly formed super PAC [announced](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/meet-the-press/blog/meet-press-blog-latest-news-analysis-data-driving-political-discussion-n988541/ncrd1169601#blogHeader) Thursday it would spend another $600,000 to air these manipulated ads in Arizona. The group plans to pour even more money in ads over the coming weeks.

**Priorities USA** spent more than $81,000 on Facebook ads this week alone on a newly created page called [FactsFirst](https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?active_status=all&ad_type=all&country=US&impression_search_field=has_impressions_lifetime&view_all_page_id=106158314342739), primarily attacking Trump’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. Another page created in November 2019 has spent [more than $132,000](https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?view_all_page_id=102711087850827&country=US) on ads primarily targeting Spanish-speaking users with similar messages paid for by Priorities USA.

Priorities USA’s [nonprofit arm](https://about.bgov.com/news/shadow-of-dark-money-grows-as-2020-groups-shun-donor-disclosure/) plays a key role in the operation, funneling just under $3.4 million to its super PAC in the 2020 election cycle alone. That nonprofit [has given](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819916-Priorities-USA-2018-990.html) six-figure contributions to other big-name Democratic dark money groups such as [Majority Forward](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?strID=C90016098&cycle=2018) and [VoteVets](https://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/summary.php?id=D000029722).

While Priorities USA may be the target of Trump’s lawsuit threats, another mysterious new 501(c)(4) nonprofit called **Fellow Americans** is also running ads almost identical to the controversial ad campaign paid for by Priorities USA. They keep morphing by changing names, but it is all the same propaganda ads, paid for by Chinese money and managed by the Global Syndicate’s political arm in the USA, the DNC.

Many Google and Facebook ads paid for by Fellow Americans feature disaffected Republicans planning to vote against Trump in the 2020 election. The ads could easily be mistaken for a solely conservative effort at first glance. But Washington, D.C., incorporation records show it formed in November 2019 by Graham Wilson, a partner at [Perkins Coie](https://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/summary.php?id=D000036616&cycle=A), the political [law firm of choice](https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2014/07/this-2143-page-irs-document-could-be-yours-for-just-428-60-plus-shipping/) for many Democratic dark money groups — including American Bridge, Priorities USA and Acronym.

Even though the coronavirus outbreak is making it more difficult for some groups to run effective political ads, the message communicated in these ads could still be effective in hurting Trump closer to November and drum up donor support for the super PACs themselves for the general election, according to Kevin Banda, associate professor of political science at Texas Tech University.  Millions will donate. Hundreds of millions will be applied to help the ‘Not Trump’ candidate, that will be selected in Milwaukee at the Convention.

“If we can make people think that an incumbent responded poorly to a natural disaster, that incumbent and the incumbent party gets punished electorally,” Banda said.

Democrat super PAC [**American Bridge**](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?cycle=2020&strID=C00492140) has shelled out almost $6.3 million on ads attacking Trump’s handling of coronavirus since the start of 2020. That makes up the bulk of the group’s $8.5 million in spending against Trump since the start of 2019. In an $850,000 [digital ad campaign](https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?active_status=all&ad_type=all&country=US&impression_search_field=has_impressions_yesterday&view_all_page_id=156994304362574), American Bridge is airing ads in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan attacking Trump for his past comments downplaying coronavirus, according to the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-attack-ads.html).

Help us keep government accountable by [making a donation today.](https://www.opensecrets.org/donate?utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=donate&utm_source=blog_middle_2) Well, who doesn’t want to keep government accountable? Right?

The super PAC has received millions of dollars from the [American Bridge 21st Century Foundation](http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/nonprof_contrib.php?id=275278038), a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that does not disclose its donors and is not supposed to have politics as its primary purpose. Like many super PACs with affiliated dark money groups, American Bridge’s affiliated groups share employees, officers, office space and other expenses.

A [financial audit](http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819386-American-Bridge-2018-Financial-Audit.html) analyzed by **OpenSecrets** shows just under half of the American Bridge nonprofit arm’s spending went to a $3.3 million payment to its super PAC affiliate in 2018 for shared space and other expenses. This is called money laundering. It makes the PAC managers filthy rich off the tiny donations from the hapless and ignorant masses. On top of that, the nonprofit arm owed the super PAC over $1.45 million at the end of the year and it has given the super PAC more than $1.3 million in contributions.

By the way, the IRS has rules that prohibit the nonprofit from having politics as its primary purpose, which is generally interpreted to mean that less than half of its spending can go to political activities. Democrats don’t have to worry about this rule. The Global Syndicate owns entire floors of the IRS, which applies the rules only the enemies of the Syndicate.

The majority of money comes from 29 anonymous six-figure donors giving up to $800,000 each. American Bridge’s [noncash gifts](http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819387-American-Bridge-2018-990.html) include 450 shares of Baidu, a [Chinese technology company](https://publicintegrity.org/politics/democratic-super-pac-hits-jackpot-with-chinese-company-stock/) [with](https://qz.com/1221265/chinas-annual-communist-party-gathering-welcomes-a-handful-of-new-tech-tycoons/) [reported](http://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/1828191/chinas-largest-smartphone-maker-xiaomi-sets-communist) [ties](https://www.ft.com/content/6bc839c0-ace6-11e7-aab9-abaa44b1e130) to China’s Communist Party, valued at more than $100,000. These are the same donors who loaded Christine Blasey Ford’s 17 different Go Fund Me accounts with millions to pay her for using her skills at lying under oath to stop Justice Kavanaugh from being confirmed. Now, are you beginning to see how this all ties together?

Liberal super PAC **[Pacronym](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?strID=C00646877&cycle=2020)** launched a $2.5 million digital ad campaign attacking Trump’s handling of the global pandemic just a few days ago. The ads are playing as we speak on digital platforms including [Facebook](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?cycle=2016&strID=C00502906), YouTube and Hulu, according to the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-attack-ads.html). The super PAC has [raised](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?strID=C00646877&cycle=2020) nearly $8 million in the 2020 election cycle and [plans to spend](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democratic-groups-to-spend-millions-hitting-trump-over-coronavirus-response/2020/03/17/5f9fadba-686c-11ea-9923-57073adce27c_story.html) $5 million of that on digital ads by July.  The only thing exposing them and opposing them is America Free Radio, and you.

Pacronym is the super PAC arm of **Acronym**, a dark money group that brought in almost $1.3 million in contributions from its inception in May 2017 through the end of April 2018, most of that coming from just four six-figure donors. Roughly one in every four dollars raised by Acronym in its first year of operation went to its super PAC, according to OpenSecrets’ analysis of [tax records](http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819385-Acronym-2017-990.html) and campaign finance disclosures.

On top of Pacronym’s roughly $1.9 million in spending disclosed to the FEC since 2018, pages tied to Acronym have spent more than [$5.9 million on digital advertising according to OpenSecrets’ analysis](https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/6820380/Acronym-Digital-Ads-Chart.pdf) of [Google](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?strID=C00428623&cycle=2018), Facebook and [Snapchat](https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/clients/summary?cycle=2016&id=D000068777) ad data. By the way less than half of Snapchat users are old enough to vote. Have you ever tried to actually run an ad on Snapchat? You see it too. My business account was shut down by Facebook in the middle of last year.

Acronym has also bankrolled digital operations seeding an array of “[hyperlocal partisan propaganda](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/02/06/is-it-local-journalism-or-just-local-propaganda/)” pages that mimic local news outlets and [launched](https://www.businessinsider.com/iowa-caucus-app-shadow-acronym-investment-2020-2) a political tech company called Shadow Inc. exposed as the secret Iowa caucus app vendor after chaos at the caucuses. Shadow Inc. was paid by both current presidential candidate [Joe Biden](http://www.opensecrets.org/2020-presidential-race/candidate?id=N00001669) and former presidential candidate [Pete Buttigieg](http://www.opensecrets.org/2020-presidential-race/candidate?id=N00044183)‘s 2020 presidential campaigns, according to FEC disclosures. They can target ads to areas as small as city blocks using the GPS locator on your phone. They can monitor the success of that ad by how long you hover over the ad. You don’t even have to click on it. 76% of ad viewers never turn on the sound for an ad, hence the use of captioning to play you the ad anyway.

A common thread among the groups is the role of liberal dark money powerhouse **Sixteen Thirty Fund** and its sister 501(c)(3) New Venture Fund. The groups have fiscally sponsored at least 80 groups in a way that leaves almost no paper trail. Sixteen Thirty acts as a pass-through agency funneling millions of dollars in grants from wealthy donors. Acronym and American Bridge have each accepted hundreds of thousands from Sixteen Thirty Fund’s operation while Priorities USA’s foundation arm has given it at least $100,000.

[**Unite the Country**](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?cycle=2020&strID=C00701888), a super PAC supporting OBiden in the 2020 presidential election, is [spending](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/democratic-super-pac-ads-attack-trumps-handling-of-coronavirus-crisis/) at least $1 million to air a coronavirus-related [attack ad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uw2W82HE99Q) on TV news programs across the country.   So far this cycle, [Unite the Country](https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/lookup2.php?cycle=2020&strID=C00701888) has raised more than $12 million and while most of the super PAC’s donors are disclosed, the identities of some of its biggest financiers remain a mystery.

OBiden’s campaign has also released ads criticizing Trump’s handling of coronavirus, but  is spending much less. Traditionally, super PACs function as candidates’ attack dogs, running run negative ads that candidates wouldn’t want to be associated with. Before the release of these new ads, neither OBiden’s sole Democrat rival Sen. [Bernie Sanders](http://www.opensecrets.org/2020-presidential-race/candidate?id=N00000528) (I-Vt.), Biden or Trump aired a political ad on television since last Tuesday, according to the [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-attack-ads.html).

**The Oil Price Weapon**

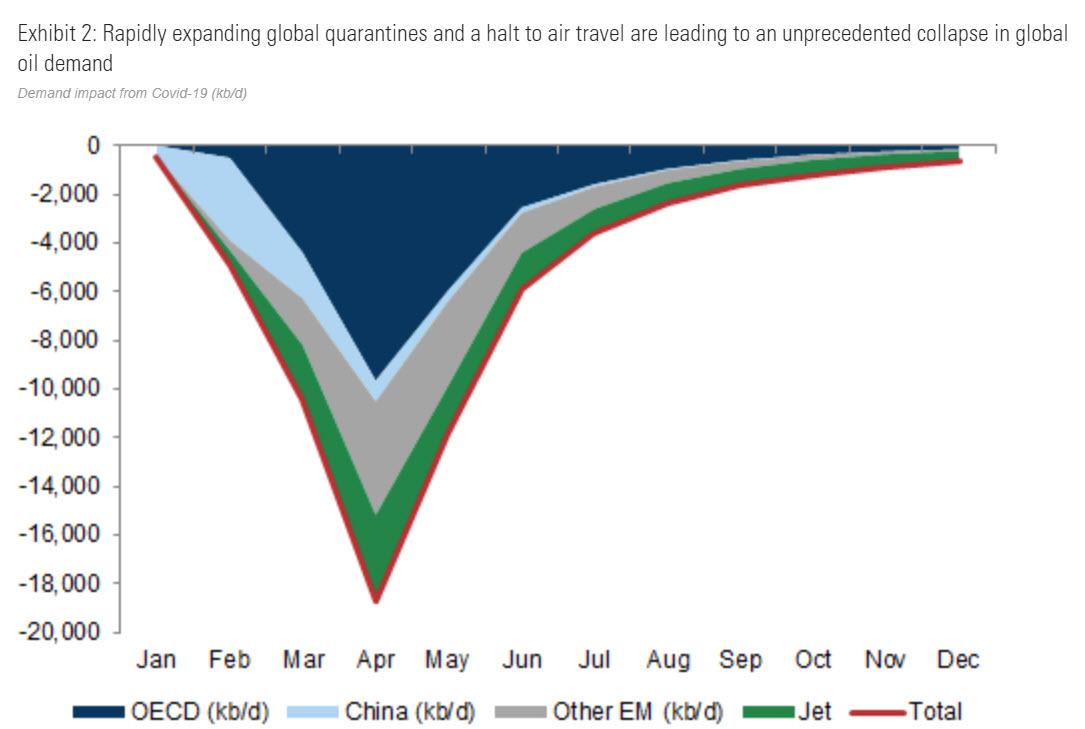
We knew this was going to happen. In the past three weeks, the whole world was placed on hold. You know. Pause. That meant that there were fewer cars on the road and fewer planes in the air. It means that people were not using oil as fast as it was being produced. But next month’s gas has already been pumped out of the ground. It’s already at the refinery. You can’t just stop the flow.

So oil plunged and has continued to plunge even more in the aftermath of the oil price war declared between Saudi Arabia and Russia, and where US shale (and its junk bonds) has been caught in the crossfire. However, as we reported [last week](https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/oil-plunges-17-year-low-one-bank-predicts-negative-oil-prices), we may get to the absurd point when the price of a barrel of oil not only hits $0 but goes negative.

The reason: according to Mizuho’s Paul Sankey, at a whopping 15MM b/d in oversupply, crude prices could go negative as Saudi and Russian barrels enter the market. According to Sankey, much of the US 4MM bpd in crude exports will be curtailed as prices fall and tanker rates soar. And with US storage roughly 50% full, and able to take another 135MM bbl more, assuming a build rate of 2MM b/d, the US can add 14MM bbl/week for 10 weeks until full.

As a result, there is a now race between filling storage and negative pricing "unless U.S. decline rates can outpace inventory builds, which we very much doubt." Said otherwise, absent dramatic changes, in roughly 3 months, energy merchants will be paying you if you generously take a couple million barrels of crude off their hands.

It went from bad to an outright disaster [earlier this week](https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/oil-plunges-after-iea-hints-russia-saudis-would-need-completely-halt-output-balance-market)when Goldman, Vitol, and the IEA all raised their estimate for daily oil oversupply to an unthinkable 20 million barrels per day, as a result of the collapse in oil demand as the global economy grinds to a halt coupled with Saudi Arabia's determination to put all of its higher-cost OPEC peers out of business.

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/oil%20crash_0.jpg?itok=lY86svF-)

This means that for the oil market to rebalance, both Saudi Arabia and Russia would have to halt all output. Needless to say that is not happening, in fact Saudi Arabia is now pumping between 2 and 3 million barrels more than it did last month, which is why the negative oil price scenario envisioned by Sankey is looking more real by the day.

So real, in fact, that the US energy industry is starting to contemplate the all too real possibility of running out of storage and as Bloomberg reports American pipeline operators **have begun asking oil producers to voluntarily ratchet back their output in the clearest sign yet that a growing glut of crude is overwhelming storage capacity.**

As Bloomberg details, Plains All American Pipeline, one of the biggest shippers of crude in the U.S., **sent a letter this week asking its suppliers to scale back production.** The notice came from the company’s marketing unit that buys and sells oil to customers. At the same time, a Texas oil regulator said Saturday that drillers were getting similar notices from pipeline operators.

**“We are sending this proactive request to our suppliers to ask that you take steps to reduce oil production in response to the pandemic,”**Plains said in the letter obtained by Bloomberg. Good luck with that: in an industry geared to always producing, that's similar to asking the Nile to reverse course.

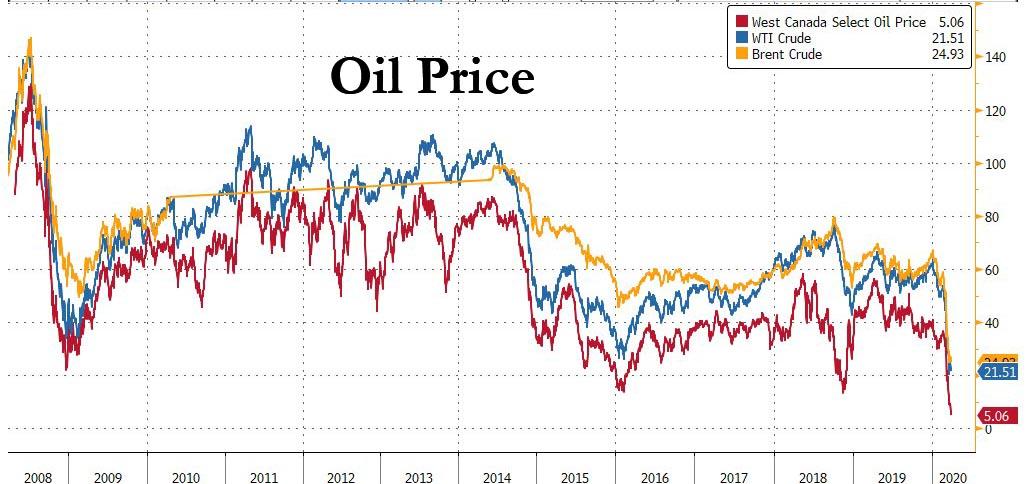
The company sent a separate letter requiring customers to prove they have a buyer or place to offload the crude they’re shipping, according to people familiar with the matter. Enterprise Products Partners LP put out a similar call, one person said. The firm didn’t immediately have comment. **The idea is to prevent anyone from parking oil in pipelines, an unprecedented step which suggests pipeline are now convinced US commercial storage will soon be full,**at which point oil producers will have no choice but to pay customers to take the oil or wreck unprecedented havoc on the US oil infrastructure.

If there is any confusion, Bloomberg explains the situation succinctly: "the messages signal the oil market is fast approaching the moment traders have been warning about - **when crude supplies overflow storage tanks and pipelines as the coronavirus pandemic drags down oil demand by the most in history.**"

\* \* \*

Also on Saturday, Ryan Sitton, a member of the Texas Railroad Commission that regulates the state’s oil industry, said he’d heard that “some Texas producers are starting to get letters from shippers (pipelines) asking for oil production cuts because they are out of storage.”

There were already signs that North America’s storage system was nearing its limit. On Friday, prices for physical delivery of several key crude grades in North America plunged to the lowest levels in decades. West Texas Intermediate crude in the heart of the Permian shale region plunged to $13.01 a barrel, the lowest since 1999. Meanwhile, West Canada oil is just $5 away from turning negative.

[](https://www.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/oil%20price%203.28.jpg?itok=XlPV1IT_)

It gets crazier: trading giant Mercuria Energy Group bid just 95 cents for Wyoming Asphalt Sour, a dense oil used mostly to produce paving bitumen, and said the same barrel was bid at below zero earlier this month.

Surprisingly this plunge in oil prices has yet to really hit the gas pump, perhaps because **US oil refiners have been steadily cutting back on the amount of crude they buy and process as lockdowns across the nation keep cars off the**road, sending gasoline demand plummeting.

Meanwhile, a new wave of defaults is coming as US shale producers have begun to anticipate the day their product will be rejected by intermediaries, and are throttling back drilling even if it means they are staring a bond default squarely in the face. That said, **it could take weeks if not months before that translates into a meaningful decline in oil production.**Meanwhile, America's largest oil-storage hub at Cushing, Oklahoma is already more than half full, and filling up at a furious pace.

Sitton has been pushing a plan that would have Texas imposing limits on its crude production as part of a deal with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. “We need to get in front of this,” he said on Twitter Saturday.

Bottom of Form

Ok, so ground storage is almost full but what about filling up all those tankers that are floating around aimlessly now that global demand has collapsed? After all it wouldn't be the first time the US commercial storage was nearly exhausted forcing tankers to be deployed as temporary warehouses of physical product?

Well, that's precisely what is going on. With the oil market falling into a so-called super contango, which means it is now profitable for traders to buy oil today, store it, and reap the profits by selling it at a higher price months or even years down the line, traders are scrambling to dump oil in portable storage. Firms including Vitol Group and Gunvor Group, two of the world’s largest oil traders, say there’s intense demand to keep barrels at sea.

Traders typically look to use the largest ships for oil storage as they are the most cost-effective. **In recent days though, shipowners have also been receiving inquiries about smaller vessels that can hold a million barrels or fewer**and for periods of time longer than 12 months, said International Seaways Chief Executive Officer Lois Zabrocky.

**"This is a once-in-a-generation type of event,"** she said Thursday, quoted by [OilandGas360](https://www.oilandgas360.com/the-oil-glut-is-filling-up-the-worlds-supertankers-fast/).

As Bloomberg reported separately, citing Robert Hvide Macleod, CEO of tanker owner Frontline Management, "**oil is going on ships at a speed never seen before,"**as a result of the market’s glut; he added that vessels are being filled at five times the pace of 2015, when oil market was last heavily oversupplied.  International Seaways, another owner, said on Thursday that the total volume of **oil in floating storage may top 100 million barrels during this glut.**

Why? Because the bottom line bears repeating: "The world is producing 20 million barrels of oil too much every day", or said otherwise there is no demand for roughly 20% of global output every single day. At this rate, how long before all the storage in Cushing, ARA and China is overflowing and every single tanker in the world is full?

And what happens to the oil price then? One thing is certain – when this industry lays off, it is like when Obama shut down Gulf drilling in 2010. Those people never came back. There are trillions in debt for equipment that will never be paid back, when oil drops to less than $60 a barrel. When it stops flowing for a year, we may be looking for another source of energy. It’s about time.

**Asteroid Mining: The future of energy**

My latest book is now in full color and in print, available on Amazon. Why don’t we publish on Barnes and Noble anymore? Great question. When I published Charm of Favor, Barnes and Noble refused to sell the book, because the cover had too many dark colors in it. Yeah. Go figure.

So, we pulled sales from Barnes and Noble, and truth be told they don’t sell very many books anyway. They are responsible for less than 2% of our sales over the past 12 years. They did very well from 2005 to 2008, but then they fell down dramatically.

So, now we sell only through Amazon, and we are happy with the process. Of course, sales are about 20% of what they should be, but that is because I have to overcome a powerful shadow-banning program that keeps people from seeing my books. I place ads for my books for at least 3 hours a day manually, and manage to sell a few books each day. The challenge of course, is reaching people who don’t know me.

If you have not checked into Facebook ads, you probably shouldn’t, because it takes at least $10k a week to even enter the market. If you don’t have $500k set aside for Facebook ads, you should not even waste your money. The most important thing to remember, is that Facebook visitors are NOT shopping for books. Period.

If you want to advertise books, you have to go where people buy books. That would be Amazon. I spend 90% of my advertising money with Amazon, and my average ACOS is about 40%. It could be better, but then I have millions of titles to compete with. I use about 800 of those titles to show my book, along with a couple hundred other key words. That list has to be adjusted semi-monthly, to keep the sales flowing.

By far, the single greatest way to advertise books is radio.

You see, my latest book Asteroid Mining: The future of energy, has sections on the LEO, CisLunar and CisMars regions. The Low Earth Orbit is still highly competitive, and there are companies being born, going out of business, and being acquired or merged every day.

One such company, OneWeb has just filec Chapter 11. Why? Because they ran out of money before they got their web network of satellites into orbit. No network, no revenue. Still, they should have had enough money to make it. The issue is short trading and the recent attack on the Trump economy by the Global Syndicate. OneWeb’s share price needed to stay up and stable to allow them to place the first grid of satellites into space.

Satellite internet startup [OneWeb](https://www.space.com/oneweb-satellites-inaugurates-florida-factory.html" \t "_blank) has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a move that comes less than a week after the company[launched nearly three dozen satellites](https://www.space.com/oneweb-launches-34-internet-satellites.html) into orbit.

The London-based OneWeb announced the bankruptcy filing late Friday (March 27) after Softbank, its largest investor, nixed a request for additional funding, according to media reports. The company is also laying off some employees as it seeks to restructure its business.

"It is with a very heavy heart that we have been forced to reduce our workforce and enter the Chapter 11 process while the Company's remaining employees are focused on responsibly managing our nascent constellation and working with the Court and investors," OneWeb CEO Adrian Steckel [said in a press release](https://www.oneweb.world/media-center/oneweb-files-for-chapter-11-restructuring-to-execute-sale-process) announcing the bankruptcy filing.

Steckel cited the ongoing [coronavirus pandemic](https://www.livescience.com/topics/live/coronavirus-live-updates) as a reason for the Chapter 11 filing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York's Southern District. As I stated, the share price needed to stay up and stable. Operation Corona-Scare was a coordinated attack on the Trump economy, which plunged the Dow back to 2017 pricing levels. Smart people are buying shares at 70-80% discounts right now, because the earnings are there.

"Our current situation is a consequence of the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis," Steckel said, referring to the disease caused by the coronavirus. "We remain convinced of the social and economic value of our mission to connect everyone everywhere."

In the news release, OneWeb representatives said the company had been seeking new funding since the start of 2020, but was unable to finalize the deal.

"Since the beginning of the year, OneWeb had been engaged in advanced negotiations regarding investment that would fully fund the Company through its deployment and commercial launch," the company said in the release. "While the Company was close to obtaining financing, the process did not progress because of the financial impact and market turbulence related to the spread of COVID-19."

OneWeb aims to build a 650-satellite megaconstellation to provide space-based internet access to customers around the world, including remote areas that typically have not had reliable connectivity. To do that, the company seeks to mass-produce high-speed broadband internet satellites, each of which weighs 325 lbs. (147 kilograms), at its factory near NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

On March 21, [OneWeb launched 34 satellites into orbit](https://www.space.com/oneweb-launches-34-internet-satellites.html) on a Russian-built Soyuz rocket that lifted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The mission, provided by Arianespace, came just a month after [a similar 34-satellite launch](https://www.space.com/oneweb-internet-satellites-launch-on-soyuz-rocket.html) on a Soyuz from Baikonur on Feb. 6. OneWeb [launched its first six satellites into orbit in February 2019](https://www.space.com/oneweb-launches-1st-satellites.html).

To date, OneWeb has 74 satellites in low Earth orbit. Before Friday's Chapter 11 filing announcement, the company had aimed to begin internet service in 2021. [According to SpaceNews](https://spacenews.com/oneweb-to-file-for-bankruptcy-sources-say/), OneWeb had raised $3.4 billion in funding to date, $2 billion of that from Softbank, but some outside analysts have suggested the company would need up to $7.5 billion to complete the satellite constellation.

OneWeb is not the only company aiming to provide high-speed internet access from space using a satellite megaconstellation.  The company's chief rival [SpaceX](https://www.space.com/18853-spacex.html) has already launched 360 of its [Starlink satellites](https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-satellites.html) since 2019 as part of its own megaconstellation plan, a project that aims to grow to at least 12,000 satellites. Amazon and Telesat have also announced plans for internet satellite networks. My high school friend is selling his share of a satellite he owns, due to this very thing.

The financially strong will survive, but the technically strong are dying. That is the entire strategy behind Operation Corona-Scare.

**Why Are There 21 Million Fewer Cellphone Users in China?**

Have 21 million Chinese just smashed their phones, because they are protesting Government control? The 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](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-ccp-virus) may have contributed to the high number of account closings.

Cellphones are an indispensable part of life in [China](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-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](https://www.theepochtimes.com/china-introduces-mandatory-facial-scans-for-phone-users_3162905.html) 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](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2020-03/18/c_1125727318.htm) 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 codes are intended to prevent the spread of the CCP virus, commonly known as novel [coronavirus](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-coronavirus).

China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) [announced](http://archive.is/vkqpf) 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[,](http://archive.is/hgoml) 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](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-01/17/content_5470247.htm), 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](https://www.theepochtimes.com/more-than-80-chinese-cities-under-quarantine-due-to-coronavirus-as-wuhan-converts-school-dorms-into-isolation-centers_3231532.html) 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](http://archive.is/C0bHh) that it gained 3.732 million more accounts in December 2019, but lost 0.862 million in January 2020 and 7.254 million in February 2020.

China Mobile’s performance [in the same months in 2019](http://archive.is/TnTqV) 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](http://archive.is/ZNUA3) 0.43 million users in January 2020 and 5.6 million users in February 2020.

[In 2019](http://archive.is/TnTqV), 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](http://archive.is/RBdgq) 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 parents needed to open a new cellphone account in February.

Is the dramatic drop in cellphone accounts reflecting the account closings of those who have died due to the CCP virus? Or, do the people exist, and the phone numbers do not?

“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.](http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/201904/t20190429_1662268.html)

On March 17, Meng Wei, spokesman of China’s National Development and Reform Commission, [said](http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/www.xinhuanet.com/2020-03/18/c_1125729295.htm) 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](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-death-toll) would be 2 million,” Tang said.

On March 25, a high official within MIIT, Han Xia, [addressed](https://tech.sina.com.cn/roll/2020-03-25/doc-iimxyqwa3113172.shtml) the data point at a daily press conference. He claimed that the drop in [cell phone](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-cell-phone) accounts was partly due to businesses shutting down in February to comply with quarantine policies. These businesses closed their spare phone accounts when their operations were halted, he said.

In addition, because telecom companies also closed down their physical stores during country-wide lockdowns, people were not able to open new accounts, Han 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 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](https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6) 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](https://www.theepochtimes.com/funeral-home-worker-in-wuhan-epicenter-of-coronavirus-we-are-working-24-7-to-cremate-bodies_3227432.html) 24 hours a day, seven days a week in late January. Hubei Province has used 40 [mobile cremators](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DllTNWZLFjw&feature=emb_title), 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 purposefully create a global pandemic.

**Cheyenne Mountain: The Nephilim Closes the Doors**

The US’ Northern Command has sent teams of essential staff deep underground to wait out the Covid-19 pandemic. On the surface, more than a million grunts won’t be quite as cocooned.

Air Force General Terrence O’Shaughnessy heads up the US’ Northern Command, as well as the North American Aerospace Defense Command – a joint US/Canadian operation that monitors the skies over North America for missile and airborne threats. Earlier this week, O’Shaughnessy [told reporters](https://www.facebook.com/USNORTHCOM/videos/205565950728791) via Facebook that some of his watch teams would be moved from their usual command center at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado to a number of hardened underground bunkers.

One of these facilities is the Cheyenne Mountain bunker complex, a warren of tunnels buried under 2,000 feet (610m) of granite, and sealed behind blast doors designed to withstand a 30 megaton nuclear explosion.

“Our dedicated professionals of the NORAD and NORTHCOM command and control watch have left their homes, said goodbye to their families, and are isolated from everyone to ensure they can stand the watch each and every day to defend our homeland,” O’Shaughnessy said. He also said that personnel sent underground will share the bunker with other members of the military, but he is “not at liberty to discuss who’s moving in there.”

Another team has been sent to an undisclosed location, O’Shaughnessy added.

Installations like Cheyenne Mountain are integral to the US government’s [plan](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1476735409/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_dp_B8.wzb6K092SD) to survive a doomsday scenario. In the event of an existential threat to the US, a nuclear attack for instance, the president and his officials, as well as a contingent of political, military and civilian leaders would be immediately evacuated to four secure facilities to run the country from deep underground.

These facilities are Cheyenne Mountain, the Presidential Emergency Operations Center under the White House, Raven Rock Mountain Complex in Pennsylvania, and Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center in Pennsylvania.

While the ongoing Covid-19 crisis has not triggered a mass exodus from Washington, it has prompted military leaders to take steps to ensure they remain combat ready. After admitting that the US military’s readiness could be affected by the pandemic, Defense Secretary Mark Esper [stated](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-pentagon-secre/exclusive-as-coronavirus-spreads-us-military-to-withhold-some-infection-data-idUSKBN21D1YL) on Thursday that the Pentagon would stop publishing precise details of Covid-19 cases within its ranks, to avoid revealing weaknesses to America’s adversaries.

As some of O’Shaughnessy’s forces head for the hills to wait out the pandemic in hermetic isolation, millions more on the surface will not have the same luxury. Army engineers have already been deployed to New York to scout locations for field hospitals, as the Empire State accounts for more than a third of the country’s 112,000 cases of the illness.

With the crisis deepening, the US military appears to be adopting an ‘all hands on deck’ approach, both on the ground and under. Though the US military is forbidden from carrying out law enforcement duties on American soil, President Trump signed an executive order on Friday authorizing the call-up of up to a million reserve and retired Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel.

These reservists could be called upon to assist civilian authorities in responding to the pandemic, as the nearly [10,000](https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2123860/nearly-10000-guardsmen-called-up-for-covid-19-response/) National Guard troops already deployed have been doing. On Saturday, Esper [announced](https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2129455/department-of-defense-statement-on-the-use-of-national-guard-forces-under-title/) a modified law that would provide federal funding for states looking to deploy more of these troops.

On top of this, two hospital ships have been sent to assist with treating patients in New York and Los Angeles.

In the face of the coronavirus worsening across the U.S. and reordering the daily life of millions of Americans, fewer people view the pandemic as a real threat, according to a new NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll.

Just about 56% of Americans consider the coronavirus a "real threat," representing a drop of 10 percentage points from last month. At the same time, a growing number of Americans think the coronavirus is being "blown out of proportion."

The differences between political parties are stark, with a majority of Republicans saying it is overblown and the vast majority of Democrats considering it a legitimate threat.

"Since the pandemic has taken root and grown in the United States, Democrats and Republicans are now poles apart," said Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist College Institute of Public Opinion. "The consequences of these differing perspectives are shaping how people are responding to calls for action."

Overall, fewer than half of U.S. adults are changing behaviors such as eating from home more often or canceling plans to avoid crowds, as recommended.

The poll was conducted Friday and Saturday, beginning the same day President Trump declared a national emergency, and before Tuesday's stricter guidelines from the administration on social distancing.

Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has cautioned, "The worst is yet ahead for us."

Public health and elected officials have been warning that Americans need to take steps to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

In February, a little more than a quarter of U.S. adults believed the coronavirus was being blown out of proportion. Now, that number has risen to nearly 40% of respondents.

Pollsters found that both shifts are largely driven by changes in opinion by Republicans. For instance, 72% of Republicans saw the coronavirus as a real threat in early February, but that figure has now plummeted to 40% of Republicans now believing the deadly virus is a serious menace.

And a majority of Republicans — 54% — now say the response to the coronavirus is overblown, a significant jump from last month, when about 23% of Republicans held that view.

Fewer independents, too, see the coronavirus as a real threat. Fifty percent of them view it as such now, compared with 64% of independents last month who said the virus was legitimately threatening.

Democrats remained the most unchanged on this question. An increasing number of them — 76% — now say the danger of the coronavirus is real, up from 70% last month. That doesn’t make it a real threat. The detection is easy. The cure is available everywhere. I think, in most circumstances, the cure is free or less than $200.

The threat of getting sick is as real as any flu. The risk of dying is nearly zero. There is a clinic within 5 minutes of you. If you feel sick, call them and then go there to get tested. If you test positive, take the cure.

**The Trump Strategy: Merge the Fed with the Treasury**

The economic debate of the day centers on whether the cure of an economic shutdown is worse than the disease of the virus.  Similarly, we need to ask if the cure of the Federal Reserve getting so deeply into corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, commercial paper, and exchange-traded funds is worse than the disease seizing financial markets. It may be.

In just these past few weeks, the Fed has cut rates by 150 basis points to near zero and run through its entire 2008 crisis handbook. That wasn’t enough to calm markets, though — so the central bank also announced $1 trillion a day in repurchase agreements and unlimited quantitative easing, which includes a hard-to-understand $625 billion of bond buying a week going forward. At this rate, the Fed will own two-thirds of the Treasury market in a year.

But it’s the alphabet soup of new programs that deserve special consideration, as they could have profound long-term consequences for the functioning of the Fed and the allocation of capital in financial markets. Specifically, these are:

* CPFF (Commercial Paper Funding Facility) – buying commercial paper from the issuer.
* PMCCF (Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility) – buying corporate bonds from the issuer.
* TALF (Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility) – funding backstop for asset-backed securities.
* SMCCF (Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility) – buying corporate bonds and bond ETFs in the secondary market.
* MSBLP (Main Street Business Lending Program) – Details are to come, but it will lend to eligible small and medium-size businesses, complementing efforts by the Small Business Association.

To put it bluntly, the Fed isn’t allowed to do any of this. The central bank is only allowed to purchase or lend against securities that have government guarantee. This includes Treasury securities, agency mortgage-backed securities and the debt issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. An argument can be made that can also include municipal securities, but nothing in the laundry list above.

**So how can they do this?**The Fed will finance a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for each acronym to conduct these operations. The Treasury, using the Exchange Stabilization Fund, will make an equity investment in each SPV and be in a “first loss” position. What does this mean? In essence, the Treasury, not the Fed, is buying all these securities and backstopping of loans; the Fed is acting as banker and providing financing. The Fed hired BlackRock Inc. to purchase these securities and handle the administration of the SPVs on behalf of the owner, the Treasury.

In other words, the federal government is nationalizing large swaths of the financial markets. The Fed is providing the money to do it. BlackRock will be doing the trades.

This scheme essentially merges the Fed and Treasury into one organization. So, meet your new Fed chairman, Donald J. Trump.

In 2008 when something similar was done, it was on a smaller scale. Since few understood it, the Bush and Obama administrations ceded total control of those acronym programs to then-Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke. He unwound them at the first available opportunity. But now, 12 years later, we have a much better understanding of how they work. And we have a president who has made it very clear how displeased he is that central bankers haven’t used their considerable power to force the Dow Jones Industrial Average at least 10,000 points higher, something he has complained about many times before the pandemic hit.

When the Fed was rightly alarmed by the current dysfunction in the fixed-income markets, they felt they needed to act. This was the correct thought. But, to get the authority to stabilize these “private” markets, central bankers needed the Treasury to agree to nationalize (own) them so they could provide the funds to do it.

In effect, the Fed is giving the Treasury access to its printing press. This means that, in the extreme, the administration would be free to use its control, not the Fed’s control, of these SPVs to instruct the Fed to print more money so it could buy securities and hand out loans in an effort to ramp financial markets higher going into the election. Why stop there? Should Trump win re-election, he could try to use these SPVs to get those 10,000 Dow Jones points he feels the Fed has denied everyone.

If these acronym programs were abused as I describe, they might indeed force markets higher than valuation warrants. But it would come with a heavy price. Investors would be deprived of the necessary market signals that freely traded capital markets offer to aid in the efficient allocation of capital. Malinvestment would be rampant. It also could force private sector players to leave as the government’s heavy hand makes operating in “controlled” markets uneconomic. This has already occurred in the U.S. federal funds market and the government bond market in Japan.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell needs to tread carefully indeed to ensure his cure isn’t worse than the disease.

**The Cure**

The trials began last Tuesday.

In this column’s space and much more liberally on my Twitter feed I have attempted to stay up-to-date on the rapidly developing reports of the effectiveness of Hydroxychloroquine. I’ve also dedicated a considerable percentage of my radio show over the last two weeks highlighting these developments.

It’s strange that I should need to.

Before the drug was mentioned by President Trump there had been a robust interest in looking at the replicated results from China, India, South Korea and France. Sadly, American medical authorities didn’t really give any credence to the claims until the controlled study in southern France, which returned a one in 10,000 chance that the results were anecdotal or in anyway not possible to replicate repeatedly.

Dr. Fauci dragged his feet even as that study was becoming public. Then the president mentioned it, and all of a sudden it became a political issue. It should not be. The willingness by anyone of either political party to weaponize an actual solution or series of solutions to COVID-19 is utterly inhuman.

And as the good news is coming in there is a greater reason for hope! Here are just a handful of new developments from the last few days and hours.

Dr. Fauci when asked if he would use the Hydroxychloroquine cocktail, answered with resounding affirmation. (Simply because he had asked for better clinical evidence previously did not mean he was unaware of what the data was already showing).

France reversed its previous ban on the drug. When the highly esteemed Dr. Didier Raoult released his first survey’s findings the French medical authorities were resistant. As he released an even larger study, with more patients and improved results from his initial study, the French public health officials had no choice but to give guidance as to its use.

India’s public health guidance granted affirmation for physicians and front line medical workers to begin taking it as a preventative. This use was the very suggestion I recommended as first steps in this column a week ago. Since our own CDC has cited its prophylactic benefits our doctors and front line medical personnel should be taking it now.

Given the increased acceptance here in the states not one, but as many as seven different pharmaceutical companies have agreed to mass produce as much as 250 million doses by mid-April. Given Dr. Raoult’s guidance in both of his studies this would give the globe enough inventory to cure 46,000,000 cases. Presently we have not yet hit one million cases worldwide. Notably Bayer, Novartis and Teva Pharm stepped up, pledging to donate several million doses right out of the shoot.

Doctors began prescribing off-label use and in doing so are replicating the clinical results in remarkable fashion. One doctor in Monroe, New York has treated in excess of 700 patients. As of this writing he’s lost zero patients to death, zero to intubation, and only two to hospitalization. Another doctor in New York City has treated in excess of 100 patients with zero deaths.

You can expect to see some clinical findings begin to trickle in on Monday through the end of this coming week.

The clinical results showed the patient going from symptomatic to negative testing on average in 5-6 days. Tuesday will mark one week since the trials began. So watch the “recovery” numbers in New York closely, as there may be a bit of a pop.

The Democrats, the media, and people who despise the president don’t want these trials to succeed. Three Democrat governors have gone so far as to ban the use of the drug cocktail. And one has even threatened action against doctors who prescribe it. Which is an odd juxtaposition for the days we live in. It appears that the President cares more about their constituents in their states than their own governors do.

Bottom line: results will begin to filter back. The global medical focus is back on what the drugs can actually do as opposed to who is promoting them. Use of them in the USA is already demonstrating life-saving results, and it appears there will be no inventory problem in prescribing them due to the generosity (not greed) of “big pharma.”

And pray that this potential cure helps us all as we seek to normalize life again... because we desperately need to! Be encouraged! Help is on the way!

**Protein From Space**

A complete protein—a critical ingredient for life, and one that could finally solve the mystery of how life on earth began—was discovered for the first time “on an extraterrestrial source.”

Using the latest in mass spectrometry, scientists from Harvard identified isolated amino-acids lodged in a meteorite, and later confirmed them to be part of a unique complete protein structure seen nowhere on Earth.

If cells are the architects, custodians, and innovators of organic life, proteins in many ways are the building blocks used to create it, and while this discovery doesn’t outright confirm that life came from the stars, it supports several hypotheses, such as that life could have begun here on earth with help from interstellar space rocks.

Scientists working with a superconductor X-ray source supplier, PLEX, found the traces on a meteorite known as Acfer 086 which landed in Algeria in 1990. Given the name hemolithin, the unearthly protein contains iron and lithium.

While single and even chains of amino-acids have been found in space before, this is the first time that they have been organized into what could be considered a complete protein. More exciting is that the chemical structure of this extraterrestrial protein is not found in proteins on earth.

To ensure the protein discovered on the meteorite didn’t come from earthly contaminants, the researchers measured the ratio between deuterium/hydrogen, which is similar to carbon dating and helps contextualize the origins of materials.

The results revealed “very high extraterrestrial D/H ratios,” according to the study, and according to a report from Vice, this suggests the protein could have come from a period before the solar system coalesced—in the proto-solar disc or even earlier—in clouds of molecular dust that existed before our sun was born.

“At this point, we need other scientists to employ our careful methods to repeat our results,” said study co-author Julie McGeoch, a molecular biologist at Harvard University, who said her team is waiting for their published paper to be replicated and sent through peer-review.

Perhaps the most fascinating and, unfortunately, most complicated aspect of the discovery is the strange reaction hemolithin has in water. Studying these water-protein reactions led McGeoch to try to determine whether reactions between the two in interstellar dust clouds could have played a role in the formation of our solar system (see her corresponding paper).

**The Case for the GTN**

As many of you already know, I am the founder and curator of the Global Telescope Network. Designed to harness 10 thousand amateur telescopes into the largest high resolution view of space ever created, it is seeking grant funds to write the software and distribute the viewing contacts to the telescope owners. Why is this necessary?

Well, a good case was made for it today. A 17-year-old high school student is being hailed for discovering a new planet that is roughly 6.9 times larger than the Earth—and he did it on his third day of an internship with NASA.

Now a senior at Scarsdale High School in New York, Wolf Cukier landed a 2-month internship with NASA back in the summer of 2019. The internship required him to examine variations of star brightness through NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

Upon noticing a slight dip in the brightness readings, Cukier thought the variation was simply due to a stellar eclipse. He then examined the data further and discovered that the dip was actually coming from a planet.

“I was looking through the data for everything the volunteers had flagged as an eclipsing binary, a system where two stars circle around each other and from our view eclipse each other every orbit,” Cukier said.

“About three days into my internship, I saw a signal from a system called TOI 1338,” he added. “At first I thought it was a stellar eclipse, but the timing was wrong. It turned out to be a planet.”

Since NASA confirmed the teen’s findings, they announced the discovery on their website this week.

TOI 1338 b, as it is now called, is TESS’s first circumbinary planet—a world orbiting two stars. The discovery was featured in a panel discussion earlier this month at the 235th American Astronomical Society meeting in Honolulu.

A paper, which Cukier co-authored along with scientists from Goddard, San Diego State University, the University of Chicago and other institutions, has also been submitted to a scientific journal.

The TOI 1338 system lies 1,300 light-years away in the constellation Pictor. The two stars orbit each other every 15 days. One is about 10% more massive than our Sun, while the other is cooler, dimmer and only one-third the Sun’s mass.

TOI 1338 b is the only known planet in the system. It’s around 6.9 times larger than Earth, or between the sizes of Neptune and Saturn. The planet orbits in almost exactly the same plane as the stars, so it experiences regular stellar eclipses.

**The Trump Effect: 5D Chess in DC**

The Reality Show has taken cable TV by storm. The plot is nominally about a war against an invisible Chinese invader that has already killed over 1,200 Americans. The star is Daddy Donald, a brilliant if erratic father figure, who sometimes rambles on, as fathers are wont to do. He is ably supported by his younger brother, Uncle Mike, who is loyal, steady, competent, and boring. With every strand of his snow-white hair perfectly in place, Uncle Mike always says the right thing. He is as predictable as Donald is unpredictable. Consequently, we pay more attention to Donald, wondering what he will do next. Donald understands this and cultivates his reputation for unpredictability.

After a generation in which males, especially TV fathers, were portrayed as bumbling fools, Donald breaks the stereotype. He is a wartime president who appeals to about half the population, mostly male, as a decisive and creative leader who says what we had been thinking but were afraid to say.

Donald’s co-star is Dr. Deborah Birx, an HIV/AIDS expert from the State Department who was brought in to coordinate the federal government’s response to the coronavirus. Dr. Birx exudes competence, as well as sensitivity, which is a rare combination. She has never heard a question, no matter how vapid, that wasn’t “a very good question,” as far as she was concerned. She teaches her children patiently and sincerely in words that they can understand, but respectfully, without talking down to them. She is the empathetic mother figure who calms the situation and holds the family together.

Behind every successful man there is at least one very intelligent woman, and often more — and a man wise enough to listen to them. Dr. Birx doesn’t steal the show, but she could.

Then there is her problematic older brother, Uncle Anthony. His problem is that he did too well in school and never got over it. He was once Dr. Birx’s mentor but she has now surpassed him in people skills. Unlike Anthony, she would never say in an interview that she wanted to push Donald aside at the microphone or cover her face in public when he made a wisecrack about the “deep State Department.”

Granted, she might wince a little inside, but she would do her best to maintain a poker face. She knows who is the boss, and that her influence depends upon him.

On the other hand, Uncle Anthony got a little too big for his britches, and started to believe that he was in charge. To put him back in his place, Daddy Donald now calls him “Tony” and her “Deb.” This is in part to show how close he is to the experts, but it also reminds Tony that he too is just a regular guy, one of a multitude of advisers. For his sins, Tony now stands to the left of Donald, out of the TV picture, rather than at his right hand as he once did. Tony speaks now only when spoken to, which is after his former student has answered all the important questions.

Donald frequently has a problem with underlings like Uncle Anthony who come to believe they are indispensable, including Chiefs of Staff, Secretaries of State, and National Security Advisers. Donald emulates his hero Andrew Jackson, a plain-spoken general and president who knew how to represent the common people. The down to earth style that Donald channels from Old Hickory misleads many who consider themselves to be his betters to think that they are running things. Donald shows them who is boss by dismissing them and censoring their tell-all books. This is merely a cost of doing business for Donald. Anthony is probably smart enough to understand that he too is expendable if he goes too far.

And then there is the off-screen cast. Cousin Andrew up in New York is never satisfied, and complains vociferously in public that the $3 billion headed to his state government and $40 billion headed to his fellow New Yorkers is a merely “a drop in the bucket.”

Even worse is second cousin twice removed Billy de Blasio who demands that the government must “order” corporations to produce the medical supplies that he thinks he needs.

For him, it isn’t about actually increasing medical supplies. We are doing that, and will probably end up supplying tens of thousands of ventilators to the rest of the world. For Billy, it is about power and making those evil corporations do what he wants, rather than leading them to act voluntarily and creatively in the public interest, and maybe to make a buck in the process. Maybe Billy doesn’t understand that sometimes you can attract more flies with sugar than with vinegar. But perhaps he does understand that he can attract more votes in New York by lambasting corporations than by working with them.

Hovering over it all is Nancy, the Wicked Witch of the West. She has hexed Donald with the epitome of Catholic curses: “I will pray for you.” Try intoning those words sanctimoniously and see how good they make you feel about yourself.

By contrast, wise old Uncle Mitch points out he led the Senate to reach a $2 trillion bipartisan deal to save the economy, while all that Nancy engineered was the divisive partisan spectacle of impeachment in the House.

What makes this family show so interesting is that we all know people like these characters from our daily lives.

It is no small achievement to turn a pandemic into a top-rated TV show, but this one is being orchestrated by the media genius who brought us The Apprentice and an estimated $5 billion in free media coverage during the 2016 presidential election. The theme is the same now as in 2016: Donald will fight for you and your family. He cares. He is hands on, unconventional, outspoken and brilliant. Despite what they try to tell you, this isn’t Hurricane Katrina.

This messaging seems to be working: Donald’s approval rating has jumped to the highest of his Presidency in the latest Gallup poll, with 60% approving of his handling of the COVID-19 crisis. A good case has been made by some that COVID-19, while serious, was hyped out of proportion by the media. Perhaps the hype was merely to increase their ratings but perhaps they also saw a chance to undermine President Trump’s most obvious accomplishment, a strong economy. Some say that his opponents have been trying to “talk down the markets” for months with breathless predictions that there “might be” a recession before the election.

Others dismiss this hypothesis as a “conspiracy theory,” a term used to shrug off events embarrassing to Democrats that later often turn out to be true.

Regardless, counter-puncher that he is, President Trump has turned the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic downturn to his advantage with his new reality show. His policies, particularly cutting off travel from infected areas early and his creative solutions to increase testing and the supply of masks and ventilators, also helped. But his recent rise in the polls has less to do with his policies than with the success of his most recent reality show.

**The China Way**

When faced with new things, people always find their vocabulary lacking. Covid-19 has taken a toll on people’s lives on a scale that is beyond our imagination – yet we have failed to effectively contain its spread. When Covid-19 broke out, I was working on my production of Turandot at the Teatro dell’Opera di Roma. At the same time, I was also engaged with filming a documentary on Covid-19, paying close attention to the epidemic’s development.

China’s measures toward containing Covid-19 have shown good results. The domestic outbreak is basically under control. However the global situation is more dire, where more than 100 countries have shown a worsening trend, to the extent that some, such as Italy and Switzerland, are considering stopping the treatment or emergency care of those over 80 years old and severely infected. The epidemic has precipitated the thinking on life and death in human society, and posed a major challenge for the economy, culture and morality.

When will the virus be under control? When will it end? Will it come back? People will always have these concerns. If it is a natural disaster (which may not necessarily be the case), early warnings and controls are crucial factors that contribute to the success or failure of the fight against it. Apparently, the Chinese government has taken the same action in dealing with public incidents: concealing the truth.

China has proved that with its authoritarian rule it has minimised the threat of the virus

Concealment is a convenient tactic. It is not just about censoring unwanted voices. It is the basic means of maintaining political power, without which the existence of this regime would be near impossible. The covering up in the early stages of the epidemic led to an explosion of cases in a short period of time, quickly becoming unstoppable. Since then, China has once again proved itself to the world that with its authoritarian rule and militarised management, it has minimised the threat of the epidemic to the regime. It has successfully frozen the whole country for two months, with quarantine, confinement and blockade, controlling the virus as well as public opinion. Things have developed in a direction that is conducive to the stability of the regime.

Today China is in a cheerful mood after surviving a great catastrophe. It proves to the world the effectiveness of authoritarian rules and exposes the disadvantages and malpractices of free and democratic societies in controlling the epidemic. Obviously, many countries with freedom of the press and social security measures have reacted to this epidemic helplessly, and even ridiculously.

The development and rise of China in the past few decades has made China and the world inextricably linked. It’s as if after joining two organs from different lives, a transplant rejection occurs. One tenaciously rejects the other. We can imagine that a scenario of mutual defeat is inevitable, and the only question remaining is who survives and who dies.

China has solved many social problems during its development. At the same time, it has never denied its original intention, which is to build a socialist society with Chinese characteristics. It does not recognise the universal value system of the West: democratic elections, freedom of speech and an independent judicial system. China has made it clear that it will never compromise on any matter of principle. The question is whether the West is ready.

For a long time, driven by capital expansion, the West believed that the accumulation of wealth would accelerate China’s realisation of democracy and freedom. This illusion has clearly been shattered.

China’s increasingly important role in the world economy presents a potential threat to the world order, especially in the realms of politics and culture, which has been dominated by the West. This threat will become increasingly acute with China’s growing strength, and the world will witness a confrontation of two extreme ideologies. Interestingly, they have already established an interdependent relationship. The real ideological war has just begun, and the Covid-19 outbreak is only a starting point.