



Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic 5th Edition

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With more than 10 million cases and 500,000 deaths, the human and economic cost of the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to haunt the world, despite some experts hope that the worst is over. The geopolitical fallout of the pandemic is even more threatening than the disease. Rise of counter narratives, misinformation and propaganda politics along with rising tensions in the Himalayas and South China Sea of the Indo-Pacific region, among others; continue to imperil the recovery while posing threat to international peace and security. This fifth edition of the ONW on Emerging Views and News on China's Role in the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlights, among others, the geopolitical fallout of the COVID-19 in context of growing threat to international peace and security.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>How Covid-19 and carriers unbalanced Indo-Pacific Hindustan Times June 29, 2020</p>	<p>Chinese military power and strategic attention is overwhelmingly directed towards the Pacific Ocean. Which is why Beijing's military planners are presently dividing their attention between troop face-offs in Ladakh and three US carrier groups in the Pacific Ocean. The last time there were so many US super-carriers in the Pacific was three years ago because of North Korea. The US Indo-Pacific Command last month added that all its forward-deployed submarines were at sea.</p>
<p>As US-China Competition Unfolds, Russia Watches Closely <i>By Emil Avdaliani</i> Eurasia Review June 27, 2020</p>	<p>From the Russian perspective, the competition between the US and China is a geopolitical development that could offer Moscow many opportunities. The US, which once focused on containing Russia through broader support for vulnerable territories from Scandinavia to the Black Sea, is now focused on Syria and other Middle East trouble spots and is shifting its attention far from Russia's borders to the Indo-Pacific.</p>
<p>China used coronavirus COVID-19 to lash out in every direction, says US Senator Zee News June 26, 2020</p>	<p>Stating that China continues its premeditated military incursion along the border with India, Senator Jim Inhofe, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has alleged that Beijing has used the COVID-19 pandemic to lash out in every direction. China in particular has used the pandemic to lash out in every direction. They've antagonized and harassed Taiwanese, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and Indonesian vessels in the South China Sea.</p>

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<p>Trump’s China hawks are loose and not wasting any time The Washington Post June 26, 2020</p>	<p>As U.S President Donald Trump speeds toward an election during a pandemic, an economic crash and domestic unrest, he is blaming China for his and America’s troubles. With no more deals in sight, Trump’s attitude shift has freed the China hawks on his team to launch a new, widespread campaign against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its ideology.</p>
<p>Pompeo: US, EU Should Confront China Together VOA News June 25, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has called on the United States and the European Union to cultivate a shared understanding of China in order to create an effective resistance strategy to Beijing’s increasing economic power. The remarks, made Thursday, 25th June, at an event hosted by the German Marshall Fund, came as Pompeo announced his intent to join EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell in Europe this month.</p>
<p>What Are The Key Tenets Of China’s Propaganda Regime? <i>By Atharv S Desai</i> Eurasia Review June 25, 2020</p>	<p>China has unleashed an international propaganda offensive, and demonstrated its ability to obscure truth while changing narratives, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beijing is efficiently exploiting the platforms of journalism and social media to further its cause. Along with the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) traditional approach to cultivating China’s positive image globally, this new strategy, drawing on Russian media warfare tactics, is to “sow doubt, dissension, and disarray” to cause public information anarchy.</p>
<p>Who Is Winning the US-China Power Battle? <i>By Monish Tourangbam and Anand. V</i> The Diplomat June 24, 2020</p>	<p>In the U.S.-China great power tussle, it needs no explanation as to who is the defending champion and who is the contender for the top spot in the international system. The United States has much to uphold to save the foundations of the post-war security and financial order that it engineered, the so-called liberal international order.</p>
<p>In U.S.-China Trade War, New Supply Chains Rattle Markets <i>By Yukon Huang, Jeremy Smith</i> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace June 24, 2020</p>	<p>With relations between Washington and Beijing in freefall, the future of global supply chains is uncertain. Even as inconsistent White House messages continue to raise questions about the direction of U.S. trade policy, trade war tariffs remain in effect. Meanwhile, the fallout from Beijing’s proposed national security law, which threatens to constrain Hong Kong’s autonomy.</p>
<p>Trump versus Huawei: right target, disastrous strategy <i>By William H Overholt</i> East Asia Forum June 21, 2020</p>	<p>The United States has valid complaints about Huawei, but US President Donald Trump is botching the negotiation. The principal issue with Huawei is the lack of reciprocal market access. As long as Huawei has access to all three major markets — the United States, European Union and China — and foreign tech companies are prevented from having full access to the Chinese market, it will soon dominate the global 5G market.</p>
<p>US-China War: Tensions Rises In China After US Deployed Three Aircraft Carriers In The South China Sea The EurAsian Times June 21, 2020</p>	<p>Chinese state media says that tensions between the US and China are increasing and can even lead to a war if Washington continues to provoke Beijing. This report comes after the US deployed three aircraft carriers in the South China Sea which triggered alarm bells in China.</p>

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<p>New contagion afflicts US–China relations <i>By James Curran</i> East Asia Forum June 21, 2020</p>	<p>Even before the onset of coronavirus, it had become something of a truism to talk of US–China relations plunging into a new era of heightened geopolitical competition. The element of danger in all this comes not from the risk of it sparking a major military conflict — which remains unlikely. It comes with the reinforcement on both sides of existing stereotypes. If US minds are made up that China already poses an economic and military threat, then the coming of the pandemic, which has taken so many US lives and ushered in levels of unemployment.</p>
<p>US think tank accuses China of using Covid-19 pandemic to launch misinformation campaign, military expansions Times Now News June 19, 2020</p>	<p>Hudson Institute, an American think tank, has claimed that as the world is grappling with the deluge of coronavirus cases across the world after the Covid-19 virus broke out in China’s Wuhan over six months ago, the Asian country has also launched a global campaign to spread misinformation and also coerced its way into pushing the Belt and Road Initiative, along with ramping up its military expansions in the South China Sea. Titled ‘Global Survey of US-China Competition in the Coronavirus Era’, the think tank in its report observed that it is problematic that China attempted to exploit the coronavirus outbreak for strategic, political and economic gain, albeit a continuation of China’s core strategy.</p>
<p>If China wants a better relationship with the U.S., it must behave better The Washington Post June 19, 2020</p>	<p>Leaders in Beijing say they want better relations with the United States. Yet so far there is little concrete evidence that they are willing to change their bad behavior one iota — or even cooperate honestly on the global pandemic their actions helped spawn. The only way to have better U.S.-China relations is for Beijing to be a better partner and a better global citizen. Absent that, tensions will continue to rise.</p>
<p>US-China Rivalry Post-Pandemic: How Will The World Look Like? <i>By Victor R Savage</i> Eurasia Review June 19, 2020</p>	<p>COVID-19 has created a game changer in the US-China hegemonic rivalry. Both hegemons are affected economically and politically by the pandemic; the question is who will rise stronger out of this global catastrophe. The rapid rise of China is a cause of global political discomfort given its cultural differences with the west, its authoritarian system, and its control of what the Harvard professor Shoshana Zuboff calls “surveillance capitalism” – a surveillance-based economic order.</p>
<p>Trump asked China to help him win in 2020, offered 'favors to dictators,' Bolton says Reuters June 18, 2020</p>	<p>In a withering behind-the-scenes portrayal, President Donald Trump’s former national security adviser John Bolton accused him of sweeping misdeeds that included explicitly seeking Chinese President Xi Jinping’s help to win re-election. Bolton, a longtime foreign policy hawk who Trump fired in September over policy differences, also said that the U.S. president had expressed a willingness to halt criminal investigations to give “personal favors to dictators he liked”.</p>

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<p>EU plans dialogue with the US to deal with China's 'growing assertiveness'</p> <p>South China Morning Post June 16, 2020</p>	<p>The European Union plans to set up a bilateral dialogue with the US to deal with China's "growing assertiveness", the bloc's foreign policy chief said after a call with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday, 15th June. "I suggested to launch a distinct bilateral dialogue focusing on China and the challenges its actions and ambitions mean for us – the US and the EU," said EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell.</p>
<p>China Warms to Idea of Four More Years of Trump Presidency</p> <p>Bloomberg June 15, 2020</p>	<p>Interviews with nine current and former Chinese officials point to a shift in sentiment in favor of the sitting president, even though he has spent much of the past four years blaming Beijing for everything from U.S. trade imbalances to Covid-19. The chief reason? A belief that the benefit of the erosion of America's postwar alliance network would outweigh any damage to China from continued trade disputes and geopolitical instability.</p>
<p>Trump spins his China policy for re-election</p> <p><i>By Daniel Sneider</i></p> <p>East Asia Forum June 15, 2020</p>	<p>Just as the crisis over the murder of George Floyd was erupting, US President Donald Trump, flanked by his senior foreign and national security and trade officialdom, strode out to the Rose Garden to deliver a statement on China. The announcement reflected the reality that Trump now sees a full-scale rhetorical attack on China as central to regaining his political legitimacy in the face of widespread perception that he bungled the response to COVID-19. The President's own transactional approach to China is being increasingly supplanted by a more ideological confrontation.</p>
<p>G-20 failed to reach consensus on Covid-19 due to US-China rivalry</p> <p>The Economic Times June 11, 2020</p>	<p>The G-20 health agenda aimed at addressing the Covid crisis worldwide appears to have been caught between US and China rivalry over the WHO response to the pandemic, notwithstanding the efforts by G-20 chair Saudi Arabia to drive a consensus as well as India, which favours WHO reforms at a later stage.</p>
<p>US slams China's coercive bullying tactics to pressurise UK</p> <p>Financial Express June 10, 2020</p>	<p>US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has slammed China's coercive bullying tactics, saying the nation's browbeating of London-headquartered HSBC bank to pressurise the UK for its projects should serve as a cautionary tale. Pompeo said China has reportedly threatened to punish British bank The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and to break commitments to build nuclear power plants in the United Kingdom unless London allows Huawei to build its 5G network.</p>
<p>It's time to end China's 'United Front' operations inside the United States</p> <p>The Washington Post June 10, 2020</p>	<p>The coronavirus pandemic has brought a lot of attention in Washington to the Chinese Communist Party and its behavior, especially its influence operations inside the United States. Lawmakers are now calling for action against Beijing's "United Front" activities, which are designed to interfere in our politics and society without our realizing it. Lots of countries try to spread influence abroad through soft power, government media or propaganda, lobbying and even intelligence operations. And yes, the U.S. government does engage in such activities, as do other rivals, including Russia.</p>

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<p>Shoddy US government review of Chinese telcos endangered national security, Senate panel finds Cyberscoop June 09, 2020</p>	<p>For decades, the U.S. government’s process for reviewing the cybersecurity risks of Chinese telecommunications companies operating in the U.S. has been so haphazard that it has “endangered our national security,” a bipartisan Senate review released Tuesday found. The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations said that the group responsible for these kinds of reviews, made up of national security officials from the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Justice, largely failed to rein in Chinese telecommunications companies because of an “informal” process, insufficient resourcing, and a lack of statutory authority.</p>
<p>FDA Misled Senators on China’s Role as Vital U.S. Drug Supplier Bloomberg Law June 09, 2020</p>	<p>The Food and Drug Administration had to walk back testimony by an official at a Senate hearing last week after he downplayed the scale of China’s dominance of the drug supply chain in the U.S. The issue has come to the fore as the pandemic has prompted some in Congress and the Trump administration to question China’s role as the global supplier of key ingredients. The FDA says it’s able to police the safety of the U.S. drug supply regardless where it comes from, even as it’s had to suspend on-site inspections due to the virus.</p>
<p>Trump’s Final Gamble: From Chinagate To Hybrid Wars – Analysis <i>By Dan Steinbock</i> Eurasia Review June 08, 2020</p>	<p>Indeed, the Trump White House missed three opportunities to contain the virus outbreak; in January (between CDC alert and WHO’s international emergency), the first quarter (between the WHO emergency and the pandemic alert) and the second quarter (since social distancing began 6-8 weeks late and inadequately). Instead of virus mobilization in early January, a long debate began within the White House over “what to tell to the American public”.</p>
<p>Differences shouldn’t become disputes, says China Times of India June 08, 2020</p>	<p>Differences between India and China should not escalate to disputes, China said on Monday, 8th June, a day after India’s external affairs ministry said the two nations have “agreed to peacefully resolve border issues in accordance with bilateral pacts and guidance provided by leaders of the two countries”. “One consensus is that the two sides need to implement the two leaders’ consensus and make sure that differences do not escalate into disputes,” China’s foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.</p>
<p>Coronavirus: US-China virus row flares with senator’s comments BBC News June 07, 2020</p>	<p>The Republican senator for Florida Rick Scott said We have got to get this vaccine done. Unfortunately we have evidence that communist China is trying to sabotage us or slow it down. China does not want us, and England and Europe to do it first. They’ve decided to be an adversary to America and democracies around the world.</p>

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<p>China Calls US Warship's Taiwan Strait Transit A Provocation Eurasia Review June 06, 2020</p>	<p>Chinese state media and internet users Friday, 5th June, accused the US of making "another provocative move" as a warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait, the seventh such transit by the US Navy this year, at a time when the island mourns victims of China's 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. The transit by the US Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG-59) at dawn on Friday was the second passage in three weeks by U.S. Navy vessels.</p>
<p>8 countries form alliance to counter China The Economic Times June 06, 2020</p>	<p>The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, which launched Friday, June 5th, comes as the U.S. struggles to muster a cohesive alliance to take on China's growing economic and diplomatic clout and as it leads foreign governments in condemning Beijing's move to impose national security legislation on Hong Kong that threatens the city's autonomy. The alliance said China's economic rise is putting the global, rules-based order under pressure and that countries that have tried to stand up to Beijing have mostly done so alone -- and "often at great cost." The list of participating nations includes the U.S., Germany, U.K., Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, as well as members of the European parliament.</p>
<p>Trump issues memorandum to protect US investors from Chinese companies The Week June 05, 2020</p>	<p>It is wrong and dangerous for China to benefit from US capital markets without complying with critical protections that investors rightfully deserve, President Donald Trump said on Thursday, 4th June, as he issued a memorandum to protect American investors from Chinese companies. The memorandum was issued to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other members of the top national security leadership.</p>
<p>Why falling for anti-China mood could hurt trade Live Mint June 04, 2020</p>	<p>Just last month, India mandated government approval for foreign direct investment (FDI) from countries with which it shares land borders. The curbs aimed to shield Indian companies from predatory investments, particularly those from China—a big hint that policymakers in New Delhi have become ever more cautious of Beijing's growing role in the Indian economy. India's actions have possibly been made easier by a recent global context. Backlash over covid-19 is just weeks old, but China is not a new trading target: latest data from Global Trade Alert shows it has faced more trade restrictions than any other country since 2019.</p>

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