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“America Ranked First”?!

The Truth about America’s fight against COVID-19

Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China

Taihe Institute

Intellisia Institute

August 9, 2021

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Summary

- Flying in the face of stark reality, some U.S. media have rated the United States as “number one in the world” for its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is contrary to basic human ethics and facts. It will not help future generations to look at the current world history realistically and objectively. On August 9, 2021, the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, together with Taihe Think Tank and Intellisla Institute, released a research report entitled "The Truth about America's Fight against COVID-19".
- On July 30, 2021, the number of new COVID-19 cases in a single day exceeded 100,000 across the United States, entering the fourth wave of upsurge. Behind the cold numbers lies the domestic politics of the United States -- particularly the highly politicized partisanship, which has taken many lives of the Americans “who need not have died.”
- From the first COVID-19 outbreak to the present, there are many disagreements among the two parties of the United States that hold the country back: from nucleic acid testing, masks wearing, social distancing, home quarantine, vaccinations, to the distribution of strategic medical reserves, emergency relief bills, between federal, state, and local levels, between executive, legislative and judicial branches, and between conservative and liberal media.

- Under the double blow of the virus and man-made misfortunes, the pandemic has not been effectively controlled so far. Yet the bodies of more than 600,000 Americans are piling up like mountains. “It's a slaughter,” said William Foege, an American epidemiologist.
- The U.S. government's efforts in pandemic prevention and control, policy measures, and source investigation went against science and common sense, and were the direct reasons why the United States is a “failed country in fighting the pandemic”.
- By May 26, 2020, Donald Trump was mentioned in about 38 percent of the English-language media's fake reports on COVID-19. This made “The U.S. President Donald Trump to be probably the biggest promotor of COVID-19 misinformation.”
- What was the outbreak of so-called “respiratory disease” or “white lung disease” of unknown cause in the United States in the second half of 2019 COVID-19 really about? What kind of research is going on at Fort Detrick and other biological laboratories around the country? Is it related to COVID-19? How were the security measures implemented? Is it related to the origin of the global COVID-19 outbreak? These are all questions that should be answered. But the U.S. government has been evading them.
- To exploit the pandemic for political purposes, the U.S. government has suppressed scientists and professional opinion. Scientists who denied the “lab leaks” were subjected to cyber violence and harassment. This affected their normal work and even physically threatened them.

- The federal system under the competition between the two major parties failed to take on responsibilities, giving prevarications at different levels. It constituted a “Disunited America” image in the fight against the pandemic.
- Save the stock market, not to save lives. The U.S. stock market has soared since hitting a low on March 23, 2020, after the Federal Reserve took “extraordinary” measures to create more money. From March 2020 to January 2021, the combined wealth of more than 600 U.S. billionaires increased from an estimated \$2.947 trillion to \$4.085 trillion, an increase of 38.6 percent.
- The Federal Reserve printed excessive money. In fact, the United States in a year and a half printed nearly half of all the dollars for more than 200 years! However, countries around the world have to bear the burden of inflation, instability, and “bubble” pressures that they should not have to suffer from. Such a beggar-thy-neighbor approach has brought additional economic and social pressures to countries suffering from the COVID-19 outbreak; this can even lead to political conflict and regional chaos.
- The conspiracy about the origins of COVID-19 has fueled bullying and hatred of Asians. Asian-American discrimination cases nearly doubled in March 2021 alone.
- Social unrest is a chronic illness in the United States, and the COVID-19 pandemic acted as an amplifier for existing divisions. In 2021, the United States had the highest level of social unrest among developed countries, far higher than the U.K., Canada, Spain, and many other developing countries.
- A 2020 survey showed that 89 percent of Trump supporters and 90 percent of

Biden supporters believed that a victory of the opposition party would have a long-term negative impact on the country. The political landscape of both parties is deteriorating.

- In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, more than 20 million U.S. citizens were still traveling abroad. The United States has shirked its responsibility with the global spread of the pandemic.
- During the same period when President Biden instructed the U.S. intelligence community to provide a report on the origin of the outbreak within 90 days, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Adviser James Sullivan, and other senior government officials made statements on the origin of the outbreak. This created an international dispute for no reason. However, Washington has been extremely secretive in the face of the international community's concerns about the early spread of the virus.
- The United States exports less than one percent of its vaccine production. In addition to refusing international vaccine cooperation, Washington has also disrupted the international order of pandemic responses by “withdrawing from the WHO and rejoining the WHO”.
- Compared with the COVID-19, the more deadly “virus” is the virus origin tracing terrorism. This is growing under the leadership of the United States.
- Objective facts have shown that the U.S. is well deserved to be the world's No. 1 anti-pandemic failure, the world's No. 1 political blaming country, the world's No. 1 pandemic spreader country, the world's No. 1 political division country, the world's No. 1 currency abuse country, the world's No. 1 pandemic period turmoil country, the world's No. 1 disinformation country, and the world's No. 1 origin tracing terrorism country...

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Introduction

“The United States ranked the first in the COVID Resilience Ranking.”

-- Bloomberg COVID Resilience Rankings (June 28, 2021)

The United States claims to be the “No.1 power” in the world today. It has sufficient medical resources, an excellent public health team, and a complete emergency management system. Yet for more than a year, the performances of the United States in fighting with the COVID-19 pandemic have disappointed the world.

What's worse, the “underlying disease” has led to a chronic illness in the United States. This has not only thrown the American people into a crisis. It has also had a devastating impact on the overall global response to the pandemic.

Domestically, the United States is a “failed country”. It went from being against science and common sense to covering up the truth, politicize, and using monetary measures to fight the pandemic. The wealth of the rich has ballooned, whereas the lives of ordinary people have deteriorated. Society has been torn apart and racial tensions have intensified.

Internationally, the United States is the “country where the virus spread”. It is the “suspected source of the outbreak”, and the “country where the global response to the virus has been devastated”. Instead of curbing the global spread

of the virus, the United States has engaged in “virus origin tracing terrorism”. It puts the presumption of guilt against other countries and is practicing vaccine nationalism. It is sickly benefiting at the expense of others and creating international humanitarian disasters.

The virus has no borders. By August 2021, it had spread for more than a year and a half without an end. However, the U.S. government continues to act passively. This is bringing about immeasurable global crises and human disasters. This act further highlights the necessity and urgency of building a common health community.

In the face of stark reality, some U.S. media have rated the United States as the “world's first” in its response to the pandemic. This goes against basic human ethics. This spin will not help future generations to understand the current world history —either realistically or objectively.

On August 9, 2021, the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, together with Taihe Think Tank and Intellisia Institute, released a research report entitled "The Truth about America's Fight against COVID-19".

1. For partisan competitions, not for the lives

As of August 7, 2021, the United States has reported 35,530,951 cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19. These include 613,658 deaths¹, both numbers rank the first in the world. On July 30, the number of COVID-19 cases in a single day in the United States exceeded 100,000, which was the first time in six months since February 6, when the number of new cases in a single day first exceeded 100,000. Behind the cold numbers lies the domestic politics of the United States -- particularly the highly politicized partisanship, which has taken many lives of Americans “who need not have died”.²

U.S. elites are playing politics and creating antagonism. It is clear that the two parties are “doing everything for political gains” when carrying out pandemic prevention and control. This disregards the U.S. government’s so-called ideology that puts human rights first, for the people's “life first”. But the truth is only for politics, not for life!

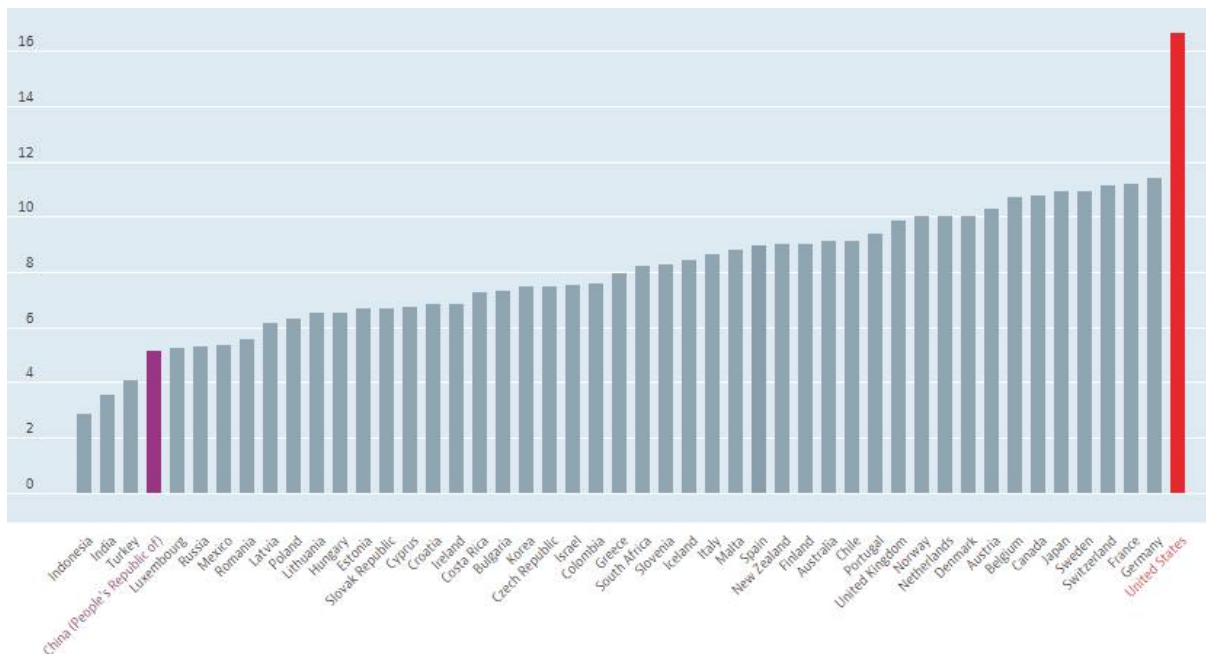
1 US CDC, “United States COVID-19 Cases, Deaths, and Laboratory Testing (NAATs) by State, Territory, and Jurisdiction”, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days (Accessed: 2021/8/7).

2 Jorge L. Ortiz and Ryan W. Miller, “An American tragedy’: Biden offers incentives, mandates to get 90 million holdouts to vaccinate,” <https://news.yahoo.com/biden-announce-vaccine-mandate-federal-080010481.html> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

(i) The United States comes first: a country that has failed to fight the pandemic

As the largest economy in the world, the United States’ health expenditure has long been the largest in the world. See figure 1 for 2018 data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development:

Figure 1 Health spending, % of GDP, 2018



Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, accessed: 1 August 2021

In 2018, the United States spent more on health than any other country in the world as a percentage of GDP. With such a high proportion of health expenditures, the United States should have been the world's best nation in the fight against COVID-19. But in fact, it was the first counting from the last.

Figure 2 WHOCOVID-19 cases chart³

	患者总人数 Total Cases	每十万人患者数 Cases per 100,000	死亡总人数 Total Deaths	每十万人死亡数 Deaths per 100,000
Global	196,553,009	2,521.675	4,200,412	53.889
 美国 USA	34,564,448 	10,442.35	607,095	183.41
 印度 India	31,572,344 	2,287.84	423,217	30.67
 巴西 Brasil	19,797,086 	9,313.67	553,179	260.25
 俄罗斯 Russia	6,242,066 	4,277.31	157,771	108.11
 法国 France	5,953,274 	9,153.34	110,746	170.28
 英国 U.K.	5,801,565 	8,546.04	129,515	190.78
 土耳其 Turkey	5,682,630 	6,737.84	51,184	60.69
 阿根廷 Argentina	4,891,810 	10,823.6	104,822	231.93

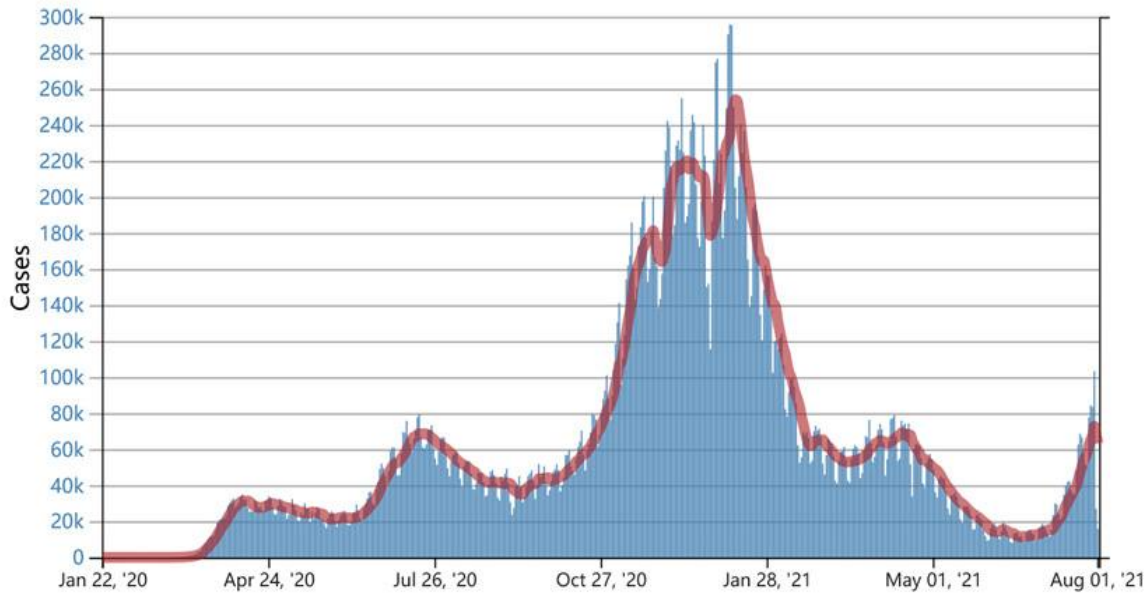
Source: World Health Organization, accessed: 1 August 2021

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States leads the world in both the number of COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths as figure 2. In addition, the curve of the number of cases in the United States has never “leveled”, but has shown a wave trend, see figure 3:

3 WHO, “Situation by Region, Country, Territory &Area”, <https://covid19.who.int/table> (Accessed : 2021/8/2).

Figure 3 The U.S. daily reports to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on COVID-19 ⁴

Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed: August 1, 2021

The United States has experienced three waves of upsurges in the number of infections since 2020. At present, a fourth wave is now beginning, according to CDC data in Figure 3.

On May 29, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that between February 2020 and May 2021, if including undetected cases, there would be approximately 120.2 million infections in the United States, approximately 6.2 million hospitalized cases, and 767,000 deaths.⁵

4 US CDC, “Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/ Territory”, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailytrendscases (Accessed: 2021/8/2).

5 US CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html#whycdcestimates> (Accessed: 2021/8/3).

(ii) Constantly missing the window period for effective anti-pandemic measures

Wave after wave of COVID-19 outbreaks follow each other. Why has the United States missed the best window period for effective measures? In the early days of the pandemic, the pressure on Republican states was relatively low, and keeping the U.S. economy and jobs growth would help stabilize the Republican base. As a result, Trump’s administration has repeatedly ignored warnings about the outbreak and tried to downplay the risk. In fact, key breakdowns happened with Trump ignoring intelligence community warnings:

-- In early January 2020, the National Security Council received reports from epidemiologists of the State Department and the National Center for Medical Intelligence (NMII) of the Defense Intelligence Agency, respectively, predicting that COVID-19 would spread to the United States and could develop into a “global pandemic”;

-- On January 18 and 30, 2020, Secretary of Health and Human Services Azar called President Trump twice to brief him on the potential severity of the outbreak;

-- On January 29, 2020, Navarro, director of the White House Office of National Trade and Manufacturing Policy (OTMP), submitted a memo warning that the outbreak could kill as many as 500,000 people and cause trillions of dollars in economic losses...

At first, the White House held a “don't panic” attitude and the federal government has taken few specific measures to prevent the outbreak. President Trump even publicly said several times that there would be no major outbreak in the United States. The risk of COVID-19 in the United States was “very low”. Many went so far as to say that COVID-19 was no different from an “ordinary flu.” More aptly, the Trump administration, “failed to plan, prepare, and honestly assess and

communicate the threat to the country, leading to catastrophic results," Biden said in a signed article in April 2020.⁶

In 2020, the virus spread faster in Democratic states such as New York and California. But Democrats have spent more energy arguing than actually fighting the virus. For example:

-- Democrats, such as New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, are so committed to criticizing the Trump administration's inaction that Cuomo's approval ratings have soared, with CNN even calling him perhaps “the most popular politician in America right now.”⁷ But in late January 2021, the New York State attorney General released an investigation that found Cuomo had underreported a large number of nursing home deaths, sending more than 9,000 recovering COVID-19 patients back to nursing homes in the early stages of the outbreak.⁸

-- While blaming the White House for their poor response to the pandemic, Democratic states such as New York failed to fulfill their basic responsibilities. This included failing to warn the people and mobilize adequate supplies. This transpired long before the Trump administration was forced to declare a state of emergency.

Therefore, under the basic logic of partisan conflicts, the United States did not

6 Joe Biden, "My Plan to Reopen America After the Coronavirus", <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/12/opinion/joe-biden-coronavirus-reopen-america.html> (Accessed: 2021/8/3).

7 Chris Cillizza, "Andrew Cuomo may be the single most popular politician in America right now," http://lite.cnn.com/en/article/h_987b700fd14b83fc4b71ca7afe6b150e (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

8 Bernard Condon and Jennifer Peltz, "Over 9,000 virus patients sent into NY nursing homes," <https://apnews.com/article/new-york-andrew-cuomo-us-news-coronavirus-pandemic-nursing-homes-512cae0abb55a55f375b3192f2cdd6b5> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

form bipartisan consensus and cooperation in the early days of the pandemic. They played down the risks, slowed down the pace of anti-epidemic assistance, and missed the “golden window period” for the first wave of epidemic prevention and control.

The same partisanship played out in the second and third waves. The anti-epidemic policy became a bargaining chip in the political game between the parties. In this way, the warring parties have become the biggest obstacle in the prevention and control of the pandemic, ignoring the overall interests and health of the American people. Even the Cares Act has become a new battlefield for the political marketing of both parties. Despite the passage of several rounds of rescue measures through the Cares Act, which was co-sponsored by both parties, the passage of the aid package was hampered by squabbling between the two parties. It was also hindered by the scramble to include more favorable provisions in the package. This delayed the implementation of measures and the allocation of resources to combat the pandemic.

When the pandemic became a bargaining chip on the political stage in Washington, protests and riots caused by racial contradictions broke out in American society. They also became the political marketing means for both parties to encourage votes. As a result, American society fell into a vicious circle of “anti-pandemic, protest and economic recession”. It turns out that in 2020, Trump supported the protests that began in Michigan and spread to several Democratic states to lift the stay-at-home quarantine orders. Later, the Democratic Party took advantage of the Floyd incident to support the “Black Lives Matter” movement. They organized large-scale protests throughout the United States. Some of these grew out of control into large-scale riots.

Current Preside Biden acknowledged that the "American tragedy" continues.⁹ The political manipulation that ignores the basic human rights of the American people goes on. The humanitarian disaster burns on unabated across American soil.

(iii) Values of lives were sacrificed for parties’ interests

In April 2020, the Los Angeles Times asked, “Catastrophes normally bring Americans together, but why not now?”¹⁰ The reason is that COVID-19 has been hijacked by partisan politics! Partisan interests at the expense of American lives!

From the beginning of the 2020 U.S. election year cycle, the pandemic has become intertwined with electoral politics and the interests of both parties.

Trump was up for re-election and went forward with no moral compunctions. In the United States, where economic indicators are the key to influencing votes, downplaying the epidemic and quickly rebooting the economy benefits the Trump camp. Republicans accused Democrats of spreading fear for political gain.

The opposition Democrats were seeking to retake the presidency. For this reason, Democrats attacked Trump’s administration for covering up the outbreak. They criticized it for “using American lives to boost the economy”, and for failing to

9 Jorge L. Ortiz and Ryan W. Miller, An American tragedy: Biden offers incentives, mandates to get 90 million holdouts to vaccinate. COVID-19 updates, <https://news.yahoo.com/biden-announce-vaccine-mandate-federal-080010481.html> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

10 Doyle Mcmanus, “Column: Catastrophes normally bring Americans together. Why not now?”, <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-04-19/trumps-disunited-states-of-america> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

contain the virus.

From the COVID-19 outbreak to the present, U.S. political bickering is wrecking efforts. These involve everything ranging from nucleic acid testing, masks, social distancing, home quarantine, vaccinations to the allocation of strategic medical reserves, emergency relief bills. This hampers responses between federal, state, and local levels. It poisons efforts between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It will never cross the chasm between conservative and liberal media as the fight for advertising revenue. They are full of disagreements between the two parties, which makes the pandemic prevention and control mired in “politicized internal frictions”. In fact, the chairman of the U.S. COVID-19 Crisis Subcommittee, James E. Clyburn blamed the federal government for not having a unified national strategy to protect people's health even six months after the outbreak in the United States.¹¹

U.S. elites did not mobilize as many social resources as possible. Nor did they come together to form an overall anti-pandemic strategy. So, of course, COVID-19 could not be brought under control as quickly and effectively as possible. Instead, political and capital elites struggle to satisfy the interests of their respective parties or interest groups. Even the Supreme Court and other judicial systems became involved, power struggles became increasingly publicized.

These political elites in the United States have chosen to forget the basic

11 Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, "Hybrid Hearing On 'The Urgent Need For A National Plan To Contain The Coronavirus'" ,<https://coronavirus.house.gov/subcommittee-activity/hearings/hybrid-hearing-urgent-need-national-plan-contain-coronavirus> (accessed: 2021/8/3).

humanitarian requirement: which is to effectively protect the lives and health of the American people. It has also forgotten that as a party to the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United States government has an obligation to take active steps to guarantee the right to life of its citizens.

This selective forgetting has led the United States to repeatedly miss window periods to contain the outbreak. According to a model analysis by disease researchers at Columbia University, 54,000 lives could have been saved by May 3, 2020, if the government's epidemic control measures announced on March 13 could have been made two weeks earlier.¹²

This selective forgetting has also led to confusion and slow action on prevention and control policies in the United States, and any actions or statements related to the pandemic are likely to be tied up in partisan disputes. Under the double blow of the virus and man-made misfortunes, the COVID-19 outbreak has not been effectively controlled so far. The bodies of more than 600,000 Americans were killed, enough to pile up in mountains. “It's a slaughter”, said William Foege, an American epidemiologist and former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹³

12 James Glanz and Campbell Robertson, “Lockdown Delays Cost at Least 36,000 Lives, Data Show”, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/us/coronavirus-distancing-deaths.html> (Accessed : 2021/8/1).

13 Nicholas Kristof, “America and the Virus: ‘A Colossal Failure of Leadership’”, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/22/opinion/sunday/coronavirus-united-states.html> (Accessed : 2021/8/1).

2. Anti-science and against common-sense measures

The COVID-19 pandemic in the United States had been excessively politicized due to political disputes. This was reflected in the control methods of the pandemic. It went against common sense in prevention and control, policy measures, virus origin tracing investigation, and so on. This was also the direct reason why the United States became a “failed country in fighting the epidemic”.

(i) Serious violation of common scientific knowledge

In the spring of 2020, thanks to the joint efforts of scientists all over the world, we have a certain scientific understanding of COVID-19. In mid-February, the China-World Health Organization joint investigation report on COVID-19 pointed out that the new virus “is neither SARS nor influenza”. It further stated that “in any environment” it will have a serious impact on public health and social economy. The WHO has also continuously raised the warning of the risk for a global pandemic, pointing out that active detection and isolation of cases is the key to cut off the spread of the virus. This is the main way to carry out effective prevention and control efforts.¹⁴ The U.S. government, especially President Trump, ignored scientific facts and spread false information on

14 WHO, “WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19”, 16 March 2020, <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---16-march-2020> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

anti-intellectualism through various channels such as the White House press conference, mass media, and social media. According to a Cornell University study, by May 26, 2020, about 38% of the fake news about COVID-19 in English media mentioned Trump. “U.S. President Trump may be the biggest promoter of COVID-19's false information”.¹⁵ These remarks not only greatly mislead the American people and underestimate the risk of the virus, but many people are seriously hurt by trusting their absurd remarks.

At the beginning of the crisis, President Trump called COVID-19 “flu”. He further fumbled on verbally saying that soon there will be “flu vaccine against it”; imaging that the COVID-19 pandemic would “suddenly disappear” with the warming of the weather in April.¹⁶ On the question of whether ordinary people should wear masks to prevent the spread of the virus, the U.S. government also failed to convey the information correctly.¹⁷

After the first outbreak, Trump began to promote the high-risk “anti-COVID-19 magic medicine”. On March 21st, he announced on Twitter that hydroxychloroquine has potential benefits against COVID-19. However, on April 24, the FDA warned that hydroxychloroquine might cause serious side

15 Aaron Blake, “Study shows Trump is a super-spreader-of coronavirus misinformation”, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/10/01/study-shows-trump-is-super-spreader-coronavirus-misinformation/> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

16 Tommy Beer, “All The Times Trump Compared Covid-19 To The Flu, Even After He Knew Covid-19 Was Far More Deadly”, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tommybeer/2020/09/10/all-the-times-trump-compared-covid-19-to-the-flu-even-after-he-knew-covid-19-was-far-more-deadly/?sh=1c2e16d2f9d2> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

17 Alexandra Kelley, “Fauci: why the public wasn’t told to wear masks when the coronavirus pandemic began”, <https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/502890-fauci-why-the-public-wasnt-told-to-wear-masks> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

effects. The updated COVID-19 clinical diagnosis and treatment guidelines even opposed the use of this drug.¹⁸ Trump also confuses people about testing. Inadequate detection is an important reason for the serious underestimation of the number of people infected in COVID-19. His malfeasance compounded the difficulty of cutting off the chain of infection. However, Trump ignored science, claiming that too many tests in the United States led to soaring cases, and asked for “slowing down the testing”.¹⁹ This fully reflects the anti-science and against common-sense decision-making process of pandemic prevention and control measures in the United States.

(ii) Covering up the truth

The first official U.S. case of COVID-19 appeared on January 21, 2020. However, there is growing evidence that the actual emergence of an outbreak in the United States occurred much earlier than this point in time. When exactly did the outbreak emerge in the United States? What exactly was the true path of transmission in the early days? Was there a connection between the origin of the pandemic and the U.S. Biolabs or not? The U.S. government remains secretive about these questions.

As early as March 2020, the director of the CDC publicly acknowledged that some influenza cases in 2019 may actually be COVID-19 infections. On June 15, 2021, the medical journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* published the results

18 NIH, “Covid-19 Treatment Guidelines (Last updated July8, 2021)”, <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov> (Accessed: 2021/7/28).

19 Kevin Freking, “Trump suggests US slow virus testing to avoid bad statistics”, <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-donald-trump-ap-top-news-joe-biden-tulsa-476068bd60e9048303b736e9d7fc6572> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

of a team of U.S. researchers testing 24,000 blood samples, nine of which presented positive for COVID-19 antibodies. Of these, seven appeared earlier than the official reporting of cases locally in the United States. This suggests that COVID-19 is likely to have emerged as early as December 2019 with the transmission in multiple locations including Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.²⁰

In fact, the timeline of the U.S. outbreak is likely to move further forward. According to U.S. media reports, in July 2019, a nursing home in Virginia had an “outbreak of respiratory disease” with symptoms highly similar to those of COVID-19.²¹

At about the same time, the U.S. military's biological testing center, Fort Detrick, was forced to close shortly thereafter because of multiple violations, including “serious” ones, that year.²² Fort Detrick was the “darkest” biological testing center in the United States, where biological and chemical weapons development was secretly conducted.²³ In addition, according to U.S. media, a lab at the University of North Carolina near Fort Detrick and a lab at the University of

20 Keri N Althoff, Arvid J Schlueter, et al., “Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in All of Us Research Program Participants, January 2-March 18, 2020”, *Clinical Infectious Disease*, 15 June 2021, <https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciab519/6294073> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

21 Enjoli Francis, "'Respiratory outbreak' being investigated at retirement community after 54 residents fall ill", <https://abcnews.go.com/US/respiratory-outbreak-investigated-retirement-community-54-residents-fall/story?id=64275865> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

22 Diana DiGangi, "Army germ lab shut down by CDC in 2019 had several 'serious' protocol violations that year ", <https://wjla.com/news/local/cdc-shut-down-army-germ-lab-health-concerns> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

23 Stephen Kinzer, "The Secret History of Fort Detrick, the CIA's Base for Mind Control Experiments," <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/09/15/cia-fort-detrick-stephen-kinzer-228109> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

Texas were conducting coronavirus-related experiments.²⁴ The United States has more than 200 biological laboratories worldwide.

In addition, on October 3, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 18 deaths in 15 U.S. states from a severe lung disease of unknown cause. The cumulative number of confirmed or suspected infections reached 1,080. The disease, known as “white lung disease”, due to the appearance of whitening of the lungs on radiographs (also seen in the case of COVID-19), was thought to be related to the use of atomized e-cigarettes.²⁵

Is this so-called unexplained “respiratory disease” or “white lung disease” COVID-19? What kind of research is being done at Fort Detrick and other biological laboratories in the United States? Is it related to coronavirus? What are the safety measures in place? Is there a connection to the origin of the global COVID-19 outbreak? These are all questions that should be answered in the tracing of COVID-19’s actual origins.

The U.S. government should indeed clarify these matters, but has been refusing investigations. What secrets are covered up that they are afraid of the world to know in Fort Detrick? What is the U.S. government hiding?

24 Katherine Eban, "The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins," <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/06/the-lab-leak-theory-inside-the-fight-to-uncover-covid-19s-origins> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

25 CDC, States Update Number of Cases of Lung Disease Associated with E-cigarette Use, or Vaping. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/s1003-lung-disease.html>. (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

(iii) Presumption of guilt in the issue of virus origin tracing

Understanding the origins of the virus is a serious scientific and medical issue that aims to prevent the next pandemic and protect the lives and health of people in all countries. Virus origin tracing is also a difficult scientific and medical task. It requires scientists from all over the world to examine and study the virus on a global scale based on evidence. The U.S. government, however, is making a presumption of guilt on this issue. Washington is presupposing the conclusion of “Wuhan laboratory origin” and obstructing the scientific tracing work.

According to U.S. news outlet Politico, after the outbreak in the United States, the White House and the National Security Council insisted that the issue of the origin of the virus was as important as saving lives, “especially because it gives the United States an advantage over Beijing in the international arena.”²⁶ On April 30, 2020, President Trump vowed at a press conference that he had, “seen evidence that the virus originated in the Wuhan lab”. Then on May 3, then-Secretary of State Pompeo also told the media that there was “overwhelming evidence” that the virus came from the Wuhan lab. However, administration officials, including those directly involved in the government's origin tracing investigation, said the evidence did not support these claims.²⁷ The New York Times reported that senior White House officials pressured the intelligence community to link the COVID-19 virus to the Wuhan virus institute. This was done to turn the tracing issue into a political weapon for the Trump

26 Erin Banco and Daniel Lippman, "Top Trump officials pushed the Covid-19 lab-leak theory: Investigators had doubts," <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/15/wuhan-lab-trump-officials-covid-494700> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

27 Ibid.

administration to blame China²⁸.

The Biden administration, which took office in early 2021, continued its predecessor’s way of thinking. It also went further by encouraging its allies and the WHO to hype the so-called “evidence” and “convict” China. On May 26, 2021, Biden ordered the U.S. intelligence community to “redouble its investigation” to gather and analyze “definitive conclusions” on whether the virus came from a laboratory leak and to provide answers within 90 days. On May 26, 2021, Biden ordered the U.S. intelligence community to “redouble its investigation” to gather and analyze “definitive conclusions” on whether the virus came from a laboratory leak and demanded a statement within 90 days. Although no new evidence has emerged, this time the U.S. intelligence community has changed its mind about the possibility of the “lab leak theory” at least as much as the “natural origin theory.”²⁹ According to the New York Times, Washington also called on allies to “focus their intelligence efforts on examining the theory that the COVID-19 could have accidentally leaked from a laboratory,” hoping to “strengthen U.S. intelligence cooperation with allies” by tracing the source³⁰. The WHO secretariat has unilaterally proposed the so-called “Phase II tracing plan”. This again focuses the investigation on the “lab leak theory”, contradicting the WHO's previous conclusions. But what has happened behind the scenes? As of July 25, 2021, 60 countries have written to WHO agreeing

28 Mark Mazzetti, Julian E. Barnes, Edward Wong and Adam Goldman, “Trump Officials Are Said to Press Spies to Link Virus and Wuhan Labs”, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/30/us/politics/trumpadministration-intelligence-coronavirus-china.html> (Accessed:2021/8/1).

29 Natasha Bertrand, Pamela Brown, Katie Bo Williams and Zachary Cohen, “Senior Biden officials finding that Covid lab leak theory as credible as natural origins explanation,” <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/16/politics/biden-intel-review-covid-origins/index.html> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

30 Julian E. Barnes and David E. Sanger, “U.S. Is Said to Have Unexamined Intelligence to Pore Over on Virus Origins”, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/27/us/politics/coronavirus-origins-intelligence.html> (Accessed: 2021/8/1).

with the results of Phase I tracing study and opposing the politicization of the tracing issue.

(iv) Suppression of scientists

To use the pandemic as an excuse for political purposes, the U.S. government has suppressed scientists and suppressed professional opinions. Scientists who deny the "lab leak theory" have been subjected to cyber violence and harassment. Not only has their normal work been affected, but they have even faced personal threats.

In April 2021, Rick Bright, director of the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, was removed from his position for opposing the use of anti-malarial drugs touted by Trump.³¹ Dr. Fauci, known as America's "anti-pandemic captain," was also suppressed for criticizing Trump for repeatedly refusing to implement early social quarantine measures, missing the opportunity to fight the pandemic. He had to repeatedly correct false information published by the president in the media. Trump publicly attacked Fauci for "making a lot of mistakes" and³² wanted to "fire" Fauci after the election³³

The political attacks on Fauci did not abate even after the Biden administration took office. In May 2021, a large number of Fauci's emails related to the early

31 Michael D. Shear and Maggie Haberman, "Health Dept. Official Says Doubts on Hydroxychloroquine Led to His Ouster," <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/us/politics/rick-bright-trump-hydroxychloroquine-coronavirus.html> (accessed August 1, 2021).

32 Rebecca Shabad, "Trump says Fauci 'made a lot of mistakes'," <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/trump-says-fauci-made-lot-mistakes-n1233402> (Accessed Aug. 1, 2021).

33 Zeke Miller, "Trump threatens to fire Fauci in rift with disease expert", <https://apnews.com/article/trump-threatens-fire-fauci-rift-disease-57c804db048aa7f1c99f227b495f52e6> (Accessed Aug 1, 2021).

days of the outbreak response were released. Despite no evidence of dereliction of duty, calls for his dismissal grew louder in the Republican Party. Fauci was once again forced to take a stand on the origins of the outbreak.³⁴

Not only scientists are suppressed within the United States. A great number of international scientists have also come under fire. British virologist Peter Daszak, who signed an open letter in *The Lancet* opposing the laboratory origin theory of the virus, was subjected to unreasonable conditions when he applied for research funding from the U.S. government. They demanded that he obtain samples of the virus from the Wuhan lab to determine its genetic sequence and that his institution arranges for the U.S. government to inspect the Wuhan lab.³⁵ After the Australian virologist Danielle Anderson rectified the Wuhan lab's position, she was slandered by "origin tracing extremists" on the internet, and even had to call the police.³⁶

34 Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller, “Republicans aim to revive Fauci attacks after email trove released”, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/6/5/22520346/gop-revive-fauci-attacks-email-trove> (accessed Aug 1, 2021).

35 Nidhi Subbaraman, "Heinous!": Coronavirus researcher shuts down for Wuhan-lab link slams new funding restrictions ", <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02473-4> (Accessed August 1, 2021).

36 Wendy Tuohy, “‘Eat a bat and die’: Vile threats against Wuhan lab conspiracy-buster”, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/eat-a-bat-and-die-vile-threats-against-wuhan-lab-conspiracy-buster-20210701-p5861i.html> (accessed Aug 1, 2021).

3. System failures result in the pandemic difficult to control

Behind the out-of-control pandemic in the United States lies one key cause: the polarized bipartisan pattern of "opposition for the sake of opposition". This means mutual constraints between the two-party political structure, federalism, and the separation of powers. It also involves the institutional flaws of the political and economic oligarchs who dominate the policy-making process. This ultimately results in the subordination of the public interest of society to the interests of capital. The United States has failed to issue a unified policy and has been unable to achieve a consolidated national plan to combat the pandemic.

These systemic failures are rooted in the profit-seeking nature of capitalism: paying lip service to the "supremacy of human rights" while acting in the interests of capital, and adopting the social Darwinian "law of survival of the fittest" in response to public health crises.

(I) "Disunited America" pattern of resistance to the pandemic

The fact that all 50 U.S. states are in a state of "major disaster" due to the COVID-19 outbreak objectively requires the United States to integrate all public health resources. It needs them to mobilize all social resources as much as possible for an effective response. However, the federal system was under restraint. This also witnessed excuse-making partisanship, which put out a “disunited” response to the pandemic.

Federalism is a system of vertical separation of powers. Under the U.S. Constitution, the United States has a hierarchy of federal, state, and local governments, with each state retaining a fairly broad degree of autonomy. Public health matters such as the COVID-19 outbreak are internal affairs and are managed primarily by state and local governments. State and local governments can develop different pandemic prevention measures according to their situation, and the federal government can deploy strategic medical reserves and provide subsidies to local governments, etc.

When partisan struggles met the division of power among federal, state, and local governments, the COVID-19 outbreak prevention and control efforts were caught with clear divisions and contradictions— even confrontations.

On the one hand, the federal government and the state governments are fighting each other. The federal government does not have the power to intervene in state politics by coercive means unless the states are willing to cede some of their governing powers. Additionally, the federal government does not have the power to uniformly deploy coercive measures aimed at breaking the chain of virus transmission. During Trump's presidency, there were frequent conflicts between the Democratic-dominated states and the federal government around outbreak prevention and control. For example:

In March 2020, Trump said he was considering issuing mandatory quarantines on behalf of the federal government for three states with severe outbreaks, including New York State. Cuomo, governor of New York, strongly opposed it as "a declaration of war by the federal government on these states".³⁷

37 Sergei Klebnikov. Cuomo: New York Quarantine Would Be 'Federal Declaration Of War'. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sergeiklebnikov/2020/03/28/cuomo-new-york-quarantine-would-befederal-declaration-of-war/> (accessed Aug 3, 2021)

In April 2020, seven states on the U.S. East Coast, including New York, formed a "multi-state agreement" and three Democratic-dominated states on the U.S. West Coast, including California, formed a "western state agreement" They will not accept the leadership of the federal government and form their coalition to coordinate issues such as pandemic prevention and returning to work.³⁸

The U.S. federal government has been slow in securing medical supplies, and its lack of guidance and confusion in raising and deploying pandemic supplies has led the federal, state, and local governments to engage in a war over pandemic supplies, with the federal government even bidding against several state governments for supplies from other countries. The federal government's deployment of pandemic supplies was based on partisan considerations, giving priority to Republican states and states critical to Republican elections.³⁹

Since the Democratic Party's Biden became president, he has pushed for "mask mandates" and vaccinations. But the Republican states and the federal government are in deep conflict. For example:

Eleven Republican states, led by Texas, have announced the start of a "significant loosening of statewide pandemic restrictions". After the Texan governor's announcement, Biden criticized it as "neanderthal thinking".⁴⁰

38 Alex Sherman, "Three West Coast states announce pact on reopening economy," <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/13/coronavirus-latest-updates.html> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

39 Stephanie Kelly, Doina Chiacu, U.S. states, cities desperate for coronavirus help, military prepares. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-adams/us-states-cities-desperatefor-coronavirus-help-military-prepares-idUSKBN21A27M> (accessed Aug 3, 2021)

40 Tim Fitzsimons and The Associated Press, These states are rolling back Covid restrictions, including mask mandates and indoor capacity caps. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/these-states-are-rolling-back-covid-restrictions-including-mask-mandates-n1259751> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

Resistance to vaccines in some Republican-dominated states has led to slow progress in the Biden administration's push for vaccination, with some Republican lawmakers even saying that "the Biden administration's plan to expand vaccination could be used by Democrats to confiscate people's guns and Bibles."⁴¹

On the other hand, the state and local governments, dominated by the two parties, have different directives for outbreak prevention and control measures.

Factors such as geographic location, economic structure, and demographic composition determine the widening regional differences between the east and west coasts of the United States and the interior. There is also a wide divide between the urban, suburban and small towns, and inland rural attitudes toward the threat of the COVID-19. For example:

In March 2020, due to the overall lax pandemic prevention and control measures in Republican-dominated states, Democratic-dominated cities in these states such as Houston announced home quarantine orders before their state governments, forming a dichotomy that highlights the urban-rural differences within each state in the United States.⁴²

In July 2020, Georgia's Republican governor filed a lawsuit against the Democratic mayor of Atlanta, the state's largest city, in an attempt to block the

41 Celine Castronuovo, Cawthorn: Biden door-to-door vaccine strategy could be used to 'take' guns, Bibles, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/562372-cawthorn-biden-door-to-door-vaccinestrategy-could-be-used-to-take-guns-bibles> (accessed Aug 3, 2021)

42 MAYOR'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE: Mayor Turner Asks Houstonians to Follow "Stay Home, Work Safe" Order, <https://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/press/2020/stay-home-work-safe-order.html> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

*mayor's "mandatory masking order".*⁴³

From the above two aspects, it is easy to see that the combination of partisan disputes and federalism has catalyzed the hierarchy of governance into a mutual tug of war. They are a shirking of responsibilities among federal, state, and local government agencies. This means there was a lack of unified coordination and leadership for pandemic prevention and control. Each state worked in its way, and in a disorganized manner too.

(ii) Power checks and balances become power games

In the United States, the horizontal separation of power which serves as a model mechanism for checks and balances and self-correction did not play an effective role during the pandemic. It instead evolved from a check and balance of power to a game of power under the manipulation of partisan disputes.

Under the Trump presidency, the House of Representatives was controlled by Democrats, the administration and the Senate were controlled by Republicans. During this time, Trump appointed three U.S. federal Supreme Court justices. Within this power structure, there are three levels of partisan struggles.

First, the struggle between former President Trump and the House of Representatives, particularly House Speaker Pelosi, is instructive. For instance, after the emergency relief bill was introduced, on April 2, 2020, Pelosi

43 Meagan Flynn and Marisa Iati “Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp sues Atlanta over mask requirement as coronavirus surges in the state” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/07/16/kemp-georgiamask-mandates/> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

announced the creation of a bipartisan House Select Committee to oversee the Trump administration's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. In response, the White House said this was "political persecution". It claimed that the Trump administration was unable to effectively prevent and control the outbreak precisely because of the impeachment investigation proposed by the Democrats.

Second, the fight within Congress between the House and the Senate. The Democrats used the House to fight and hold back the Trump administration. In response, the Republicans used the Senate to balance and push back against the House on the vast majority of policies involving the pandemic to assist the White House.

Third, the purportedly "independent" judicial system has been frequently caught in the crossfire of bipartisanship. During the pandemic, intractable bipartisan conflicts increasingly resorted to the courts at all levels, as in the case of "Governor v. Mayor". By the time he left office, Trump had appointed more than 200 conservative judges, and the U.S. Supreme Court had an overwhelming 6:3 ratio of conservative to liberal justices. The politicization of the U.S. judicial system is an abdication of political responsibility.

Although the Democratic Party has been able to dominate Congress since January, President Biden has faced the "triple threats" of judicial silence, legislative confrontation, and executive incompetence.

In December 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an election lawsuit led by the Texas Attorney General and joined by 17 states, citing "judicial interest". The collective absence of the U.S. judicial system raises the institutional question: "if a case cannot be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, which plays a scaling and adjudicative role, what other judicial body can hear it?"

Democrats have compromised on Republican interests. In fact, Republicans in the Senate can continue to exercise "obstructionist procedures" to stall or overturn the Biden administration’s legislation. For example, Republican lawmakers have repeatedly blocked the Biden administration's pandemic relief bill and infrastructure bill, among others. Under the rules of their “Game of Thrones”, the United States has so far had confusing data on the pandemic. On the one hand, it has not been treating confirmed cases with full capacity in a timely manner. On the other hand, it has wasted a lot of valuable medical resources due to the lack of unified and effective coordination.

Thus, the American style's failure to fight the pandemic is a failure of governance across two administrations and across the board. This ranges from information and decision making to implementation, and the partisanship is causing the foundation of the separation of powers to collapse into destruction. Time magazine's opinion piece titled "The COVID-19 Crisis in the US Is a Failure of Democracy" stated that the COVID-19 has been called a serious public health crisis, leading to massive deaths and rapid job losses in the United States. However, it is not essentially a failure of public health response, but a failure of democracy.⁴⁴

(iii) Everything for the capital

The fundamental principle that "all men are created equal" mentioned in the U.S. Declaration of Independence was nowhere to be found during the pandemic. The freedom of movement and the "normal functioning" of society advocated by

44 David Lift, "The Coronavirus Crisis in the U.S. Is a Failure of Democracy," <http://time.com/5839195/coronavirus-democracy-failure> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

Bloomberg's rankings are not about the safety of the American people. They are only about the need for the free flow of capital, and the desire for excessive profits.

-- **Save the stock market but not the people.** The U.S. stock market plunged and shook violently at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. In response, the Federal Reserve Board in Washington D.C. took "extraordinary" measures to increase monetary issuance. The U.S. government and Congress passed several bailout bills, releasing trillions of dollars in new money. Most of these dollars flowed into the U.S. stock market and stimulated its continuous expansion. As a result, the U.S. stock market has soared since hitting a low point on March 23, 2020.

The U.S. financial and high-tech industries expanded rapidly during the pandemic. It saw some large U.S. corporations receive huge amounts of assistance through various economic stimulus packages. Large numbers of low-income people struggled to get food, keep jobs and receive basic health care. But at the same time, they poured their relief money into the stock market as their only source of investment. This led to a massive influx of money into the U.S. stock market, further increasing the wealth of America's top billionaires.

According to Forbes' annual Billionaires List and real-time data, from March 2020 to January 2021, the combined wealth of more than 600 American billionaires increased from approximately \$2.947 trillion to \$4.085 trillion, an increase of 38.6 percent. From March 2020 to January 2021, the combined wealth of the five richest Americans increased from \$358 billion to 661 billion dollars, an increase of 85 percent.⁴⁵

45 Forbes, "American Billionaires Have Added More Than \$1 Trillion In Wealth During Pandemic," <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tommybeer/2021/01/26/report-american-billionaires-have-added-morethan-1-trillion-in-wealth-during-pandemic/?sh=5ab2f0e02564> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

"Perhaps that's been the story of life." ⁴⁶ Because most U.S. health care facilities and health insurance belong to the private sector, there is a chronic problem of high health care costs. This means that the U.S. government at all levels has neither the will nor the ability to change the status of major health care capital and private insurance companies as rentiers. As a result, the United States was plagued by "selective treatment" during the pandemic. It saw the poor unable to afford treatment. Even the elderly were unable to receive medical care. This was designed to protect the interests of capital, not the public interest.

The United States has tens of millions of COVID-19 patients. Yet even one of the epicenters of the pandemic, New York's Square Cabin Hospital, was closed after treating few patients. Health care resources are plentiful but inequitably distributed; emergency beds are left empty rather than treated for the poor.⁴⁷

-- *Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said repeatedly in an interview with FoxNews.com in April 2020 that he would rather die than see public health measures hurt the U.S. economy, saying that " grandparents are willing to die to save economy for their grandkids."*⁴⁸

-- *OSHA Administrator Adams said the rate of illness and death among black*

46 'Perhaps that's been the story of life': Trump on why professional athletes are getting tested for coronavirus and others aren't, <https://news.yahoo.com/perhaps-story-life-trump-why-175424586.html> (accessed Aug 2, 2021)

47 "Need a Coronavirus Test? Being Rich and Famous May Help," New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/us/coronavirus-testing-elite.html> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

48 Adrianna Rodriguez, "Texas' lieutenant governor suggests grandparents are willing to die for US economy," <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/24/covid-19-texas-official-suggestselderly-willing-die-economy/2905990001/> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

*Americans is much higher than the overall death rate from COVID-19 infections in the United States, not for biological or genetic reasons, but because blacks are more vulnerable to infection due to social factors.*⁴⁹

The "death gap" during the crisis of the pandemic illustrates that Americans are "born unequal". In response to this, former President Trump said, "Perhaps that's been the story of life".⁵⁰

This also means exporting inflation to others. In response to the failure of the U.S. government's preventive and control measures against the new pandemic, the Federal Reserve Board in Washington D.C. relied on the excessive issuance of money to "flood" the crisis. If ranked by the amount of currency issued, the United States deserves to be the "No.1 abusive issuer".

At the beginning of 2020, the dollar broad money issuance (M2) was \$15.41 trillion. This figure reached \$20.39 trillion in June 2021 (25% of total issuance in the last 18 months); when viewed in terms of narrow money (M0). The ratio is even more staggering with the United States issuing between January 2020 and June 2021 (spanning the Trump and Biden administrations) 43% of all total narrow dollar currency. In other words, The United States printed nearly half of all dollars for over two hundred years — in just one and a half years!

49 Juana Summers, "U.S. Surgeon General: People Of Color 'Socially Predisposed' to Coronavirus Exposure," <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/10/832026070/u-s-surgeongeneral-people-of-color-socially-predisposed-to-coronavirus-exposure> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

50 Nathan Francis, "Donald Trump Asked Why Rich People Appear To Get Coronavirus Testing First: 'That's Been The Story Of Life'," <https://www.inquisitr.com/5950475/donald-trump-rich-coronavirustesting/> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

In this way, countries around the world have to "take the blame" and bear the pressure that they should not have to suffer. This entails three key elements.

First, the pressure of inflation. The excessive issuance of the U.S. dollar has led to an increase in international prices, which countries around the world often have to endure passively.

Second, the pressure of turmoil. The excessive issuance of the dollar is equivalent to the export of instability to countries, as the capital markets of many countries became turbulent and the investors suffered.

Third, the pressure of "bubbles". Many small and medium-sized countries have seen their dollar assets depreciate, which in turn has led to a devaluation of their currencies.

This beggar-thy-neighbor approach has exposed countries around the world. This has entailed suffering from the pandemic to additional economic and social pressures. In addition to the virus, it has even brought about political conflicts and regional chaos.

4. The pandemic exacerbated the social gap

The COVID-19 didn’t break America. It revealed what was already broken.⁵¹ So commented an article in the June 2020 issue of The Atlantic magazine. Under the pandemic, the American people's right to live in health has not been equally guaranteed. The social ethical crisis and humanitarian disaster have caused a serious imbalance in the sense of security and gain for different groups of people, and the bonds that maintain social cohesion in the United States are being torn apart by the disparity between rich and poor, social division, class solidification, racial conflicts, regional conflicts, and intergenerational conflicts. The two political parties and the elites in the United States, however, are still hyping and amplifying the aforementioned division. They are doing this either to gain voter support or to solidify the vested interest structure of the political and economic oligarchy. The American public is increasingly seeing the U.S. government as only representing the interests of a few vested interest groups.

(i) Steep rise in unemployment and worsening disparity between the rich and the poor

The outbreak of the pandemic has seen U.S. business closures and waves of

51 George Packer. We Are Living in a Failed State. The ATLANTIC. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/06/underlying-conditions/610261/>. (accessed: Aug2, 2021).

unemployment occurring faster and on a larger scale than expected. It has also witnessed the lower class and other vulnerable groups face higher risks of unemployment. The Washington Post website reported on May 9, 2020, that in just a short period, over 20.5 million people lost their jobs. This is almost as twice as many as during the financial crisis between 2007 to 2009.

The unemployment rate for people with at most a high school diploma soared to 21.2 percent in April 2020. This is the highest level in history since the Great Recession.⁵² Gallup released survey results in April 2020 showing that nearly one-third of Americans experienced temporary layoffs, permanent job losses, reduced hours, or reduced earnings as a result of the pandemic. It also noted that the impact was more prominent among those with lower incomes.⁵³

Many Americans at the bottom are in a situation where they can't even afford the necessities of life, such as food. According to the Brookings Institution survey released on May 6, 2020, 17.4 percent of households with children 12 years old and younger said yes to this category: "The children in my household were not eating enough because we just couldn't afford enough food." This compares with 5.7 percent in 2008, when the financial crisis hit.⁵⁴ The Guardian reported on November 25, 2020, that the need for food aid in the United States is 60% higher

52 Heather Long, Andrew Van Dam. U.S. Unemployment Rate Soars to 14.7 Percent, the Worst Since the Depression Era. THE WASHINGTON POST. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/08/april-2020-jobs-report/>. (accessed: August 1, 2021).

53 ZACH HRYNOWSKI. COVID-19 Disrupts 30% of Americans' Jobs or Finances. GALLUP. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/309299/covid-disrupts-americans-jobs-finances.aspx> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

54 Lauren Bauer Wednesday. The COVID-19 crisis has already left too many children hungry in America. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/05/06/the-covid-19-crisis-has-already-left-too-many-children-hungry-in-america/> (accessed: August 1, 2021).

than it was before the pandemic. During Thanksgiving 2020, many millions of Americans had to rely on charity aid to avoid starvation.⁵⁵

The impact of unemployment has highlighted the flaws in the U.S. health care system. The U.S. consumer advocacy group Families USA released a report in July 2020 showing that 5.4 million Americans lost their health insurance coverage between February and May 2020, more than the 3.9 million people who lost their coverage during the international financial crisis.⁵⁶ President Biden formally accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 20, 2020. In his acceptance speech, he says that more than 50 million people had filed for unemployment. This saw nearly one-six small businesses closed. More than 10 million people would lose their health insurance⁵⁷.

The gap between rich and poor further widened as wealth accelerated into the hands of a few. USA Today reported on December 1, 2020, that the collective net worth of the 614 billionaires in the United States increased by \$931 billion⁵⁸ during the pandemic. Studies by the University of Chicago and the University

55 Nina Lakhani, Maanvi Singh. 'No end in sight': hunger surges in America amid a spiraling pandemic.

The Guardian.<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2020/nov/25/us-hunger-surges-spiraling-pandemic> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

56 Stan Dorn. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESULTING ECONOMIC CRASH HAVE CAUSED THE GREATEST HEALTH INSURANCE LOSSES IN AMERICAN HISTORY.FAMILIESUSA. <https://familiesusa.org/resources/the-covide-19-pandemic-and-resulting-economic-crash-have-caused-the-greatest-health-insurance-losses-in-american-history/>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

57 Transcript: Joe Biden's DNC speech. CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/20/politics/biden-dnc-speech-transcript/index.html>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

58 Samuel Stebbins and Grant Suneson. Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk among US billionaires getting richer during coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2020/12/01/american-billionaires-that-got-richer-during-covid/43205617/>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

of Notre Dame, among others, show that America's poverty rate rose rapidly from 9.3 percent in June 2020 to 11.7 percent in November.⁵⁹ As a matter of fact, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders commented in a March 29, 2021 opinion piece in the UK newspaper The Guardian that income and wealth inequality is a major moral, economic and political crisis facing the United States. It seems that the United States is rapidly moving toward an oligarchy form of society in which a few billionaires have enormous wealth and power. By contrast, working families struggle in ways not seen since World War II.⁶⁰

(ii) Intensification of racial conflicts

Racial conflicts have historically been very prominent in the United States Since 2020. in fact, the Floyd incident, the Atlanta SPA shooter that killed eight people (six of whom were Asian women), and the death of Breonna Taylor who was shot by police in her home, etc. have been some of the most glaring racial incidents over the past year or so. But this is probably only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the current state of intensified racial tensions in American minorities. In fact, ethnic minorities in the United States have long been the targets of violence, discrimination, and other injustices.

First is the lengthy history of discrimination against African Americans. A New

59 Bruce D. Meyer, AEI James X. Sullivan, Jeehoon Han, Zhejiang University.(2020 , December 15).Real-time Poverty Estimates During the COVID-19 Pandemic through November. University of Chicago, NBER, University of Notre Dame, Zhejiang University. (accessed August 1, 2021). 2020. https://harris.uchicago.edu/files/monthly_poverty_rates_updated_thru_november_2020_final.pdf

60 Bernie Sanders. The rich-poor gap in America is obscene. So let's fix it – here's how.TheGauardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/29/rich-poor-gap-wealth-inequality-berniesanders> (accessed Aug 1, 2021)

York Times investigation released after the 2020 Floyd incident showed that 19% of the population and 9% of police officers in Minneapolis were black. But they suffered 58% of police brutality⁶¹. A paper in May 2020 said that by studying 95 million cases between 2011 and 2018 they found that blacks were more likely than whites to be stopped and checked by police. However, the odds were closer at night, perhaps simply because it was harder to distinguish race at night⁶².

A 2020 study by the Columbia University Justice Lab showed that blacks in New York State were five times more likely than whites to be convicted of a "technical violation" after being released on bail⁶³, making blacks more likely to lose bail opportunities or time. A study conducted by the Center for American Progress from 1972-2019 showed that the unemployment rate for blacks has remained at about twice the rate of whites or higher over time⁶⁴. In 2016, USA Today cited data from the U.S. Department of Education showing that black students were nearly four times more likely to be suspended than white students.⁶⁵

61 Opiel Jr., R. and Gamio L. Minneapolis Police Use Force Against Black People at 7 Times the Rate of Whites. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/03/us/minneapolis-police-use-of-force.html>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

62 Pierson, E., Simoiu C., Overgoor J. et al. A large-scale analysis of racial disparities in police stops across the United States. *Nature Human Behaviour* 4, 736-745 (2020), p. 736. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0858-1>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

63 Justice Lab. Racial Inequities in New York Parole Supervision. Columbia University. <https://justicelab.columbia.edu/content/racial-inequities-new-york-parole-supervision>. (accessed: August 1, 2021).

64 Ajilore, O. On the Persistence of the Black-White Unemployment Gap. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/reports/2020/02/24/480743/persistence-black-white-unemployment-gap/>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

65 Toppo, G. Black students nearly 4x as likely to be suspended. USA Today. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/06/07/black-students-nearly-4x-likely-suspended/85526458/> (accessed Aug 1, 2021).

Secondly, racial attacks and discrimination against Asians have become even more severe. Toxic conspiracy theories about the origins of the COVID-19 have fueled bullying and hatred against Asians. According to a March 2021 statistic released by the nonprofit coalition Stop AAPI Hate, 3,795 anti-Asian incidents have been reported⁶⁶ to them in the nearly one-year period since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 19, 2020-February 28, 2021). They updated the report in May, saying that between mid-March 2020 and the end of March 2021, the number rose to 6,603⁶⁷. This represents a spike in Asian discrimination cases that almost doubled in just one month of March 2021.

The pandemic has exacerbated the discrimination and even attacks against Asians in American society. California, the state with the largest Asian population in the United States, has also seen a significant increase in crimes against Asians. It has witnessed hate crimes against Asians doubling by 2020 and an overall hate crime growth rate of 31 percent⁶⁸, according to the state's Department of Justice.

Thirdly, other minorities have not been spared from being victims of racial discrimination. Indeed, COVID-19 vaccination rates vary widely by race and color. As of March 3, 2021, the vaccine coverage rate for whites in 38 U.S. states

66 Jeung, R., Horse A., Popovic T. et al. (2021, Mar.). STOP AAPI HATE NATIONAL REPORT. STOP AAPI HATE. <https://secureservercdn.net/104.238.69.231/a1w.90d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/210312-Stop-AAPI-Hate-National-Report-.pdf>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

67 Well A. "Stop AAPI Hate releases new data on hate incidents during COVID pandemic". King5 Media Group. <https://www.king5.com/article/news/nation-world/stop-aapi-hate-data-on-hate-incidents-against-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders/507-85373361-3ae0-4f8f-90c2-3e171e2a0f1d>. (accessed: August 1, 2021).

68 McCormick, E. California saw staggering rise in hate crimes against Asians in 2020. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jul/01/california-hate-crimes-reports-anti-asian>. (accessed: August 1, 2021).

and the District of Columbia is 2.1 times that of blacks and even 2.9 times that of Hispanics⁶⁹.

Regardless of whether or not is the long-standing discrimination against various minorities in the United States or the spike in the frequency of discrimination and hate incidents against Asians, the COVID failures do not totally explain the problem. This problem is ultimately owed to the failure of the U.S. government to combat the pandemic that has exacerbated the serious racial tensions in American society. Many of the violent incidents that have occurred since the outbreak, such as the looting of Asian stores during the protests,⁷⁰ and the high frequency of attacks on Asians in New York after the outbreak (Figure 4⁷¹), are typical manifestations of racial discrimination.

69 Office of Science and Data Policy. Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination rates across racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States. Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (HHS). <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/265511/vaccination-disparities-brief.pdf>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

70 Chen, M. Asian American Businesses Looted Across the US During Riots. NEXTSHARK. <https://nextshark.com/george-floyd-asian-american-businesses/>. (accessed August 1, 2021).

71 Chao, E. Mapping a Year of Anti-Asian Violence in New York. Curbed. <https://www.curbed.com/2021/05/mapping-year-anti-asian-violence-new-york-city.html>. (accessed: August 1, 2021).

Figure 4: Hotspot map of anti-Asian cases in New York, USA, February 2020 to April 2021



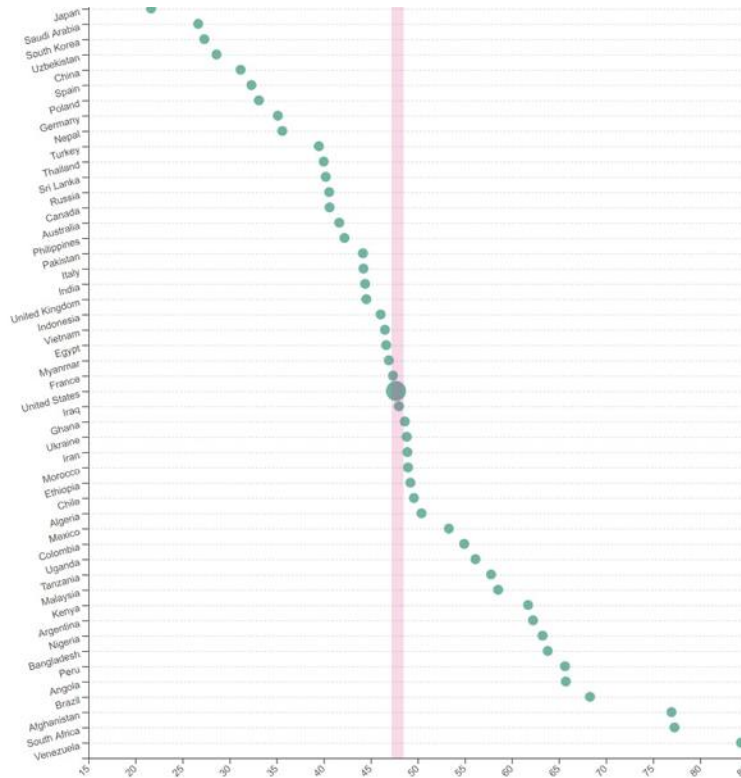
Data source: NYC Human Rights Commission, NYC Public Data / Graphic by Marcus Peabody

(iii) Social unrest

Social unrest is a “chronic disease” in the United States. Sadly, the new pandemic is acting as an “amplifier” to further exacerbate social tensions. Even if with controversies, violence and chaos caused by racism are not the main focuses, the current American society is still full of disorder and unrest. As was shown in Figure 5, in 2021, the United States tops the list of crime rate in developed countries. This is much higher than countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and Spain, as well as many developing countries⁷².

72 Crime Rate by Country 2021. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

Figure 5: U.S. Ranks First Among Developed Countries in Crime Rate in 2021



Source: World Population Review

Social unrest manifests itself in three main ways:

The first is guns out of control. The number of mass shootings in the United States has surged from January 2020 to July 2021. Indeed, 2020 was one of the worst years in U.S. history for gun violence⁷³. According to incomplete statistics, the number of mass shootings in 2020 amounted to 614 with 521 deaths, while in 2021, as of July, this set of figures has reached 410 with 437 deaths (Figure 6). According to a set of data published in the Washington Post, 2020 was the

73 Bates, J. (2020, Dec. 30). 2020 Ends as One of America's Most Violent Years in Decades. Time. <https://time.com/5922082/2020-gun-violence-homicides-record-year/> (Accessed August 2, 2021).

deadliest year for gun violence in at least 20 years (Figure 7⁷⁴).

Because of the relative ease of access to semi-automatic weapons in the United States, they have become a weapon that many people claim to use for self-protection, but more than that, they have enabled a group of killers. Moreover, people have chosen to own more guns out of fear of violent crimes and political unrest. This creates a vicious cycle. The Washington Post website reported on February 3, 2021, that gun sales in the United States in 2020 were as high as 23 million, 64 percent more than in 2019. Then in January 2021 alone, gun sales in the United States reached 2 million, an 80 percent increase year over year ⁷⁵.

Figure 6: Mass Shooting Statistics in the United States for January 2020 - July 2021

Time	Number of mass shootings	Number of deaths	Number of Injured
2020			
January	28	39	111
February	28	40	94
March	26	27	112
April	26	23	92
May	58	37	248
June	91	62	395
July	87	71	383
August	78	51	340
September	65	44	274
October	52	41	210
November	47	47	192
December	28	39	90

74 Thebault, R. and Rindler D. (2021, Mar. 23). Shootings never stopped during the pandemic: 2020 was the deadliest gun violence year in decades. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/03/23/2020-shootings/> (Accessed August 2, 2021)

75 Denham, H. and Ba Tran A. Fearing violence and political uncertainty, Americans are buying millions more firearms. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/02/03/gun-sales-january-background-checks/>. (Accessed August 1, 2021).

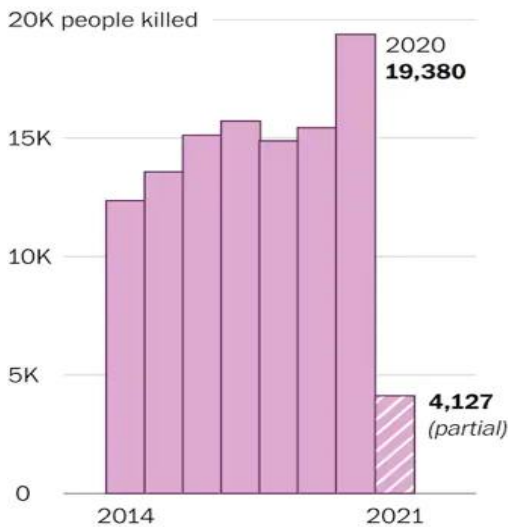
Total in 2020	614	521	2541
2021			
January	35	23	145
February	43	49	152
March	48	70	188
April	53	66	210
May	69	77	312
June	79	75	336
July	83	77	345
Total for 2021 (as of July)	410	437	1688

Source: Major U.S. news sites and state governments

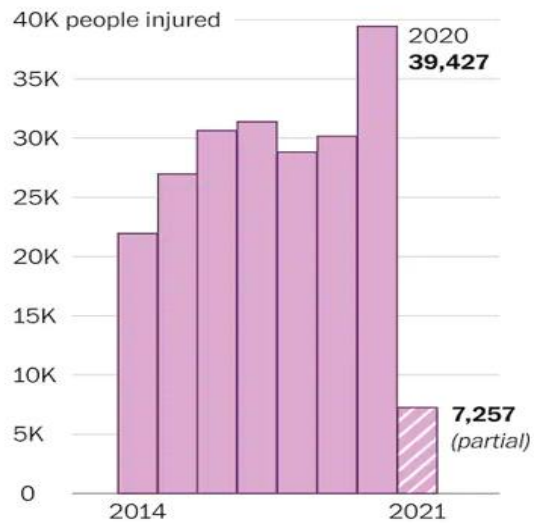
Figure 7: 2020 was a record year for gun violence, with the highest number of deaths and injuries due to firearms in recent years

2020 was a record year for gun violence

Gun deaths by year



Gun injuries by year



Note: Counts do not include the roughly 20,000-25,000 gun-related suicide deaths that occur each year.

Source: Gun Violence Archive

DANIELLE RINDLER/THE WASHINGTON POST

Source: Gun Violence Archive, The Washington Post

The second is hate crimes. According to the information on the U.S. Department of Justice's website, the number and frequency of hate crimes in the United States are alarming (Figure 8⁷⁶). The U.S. boasts of being a “model” of democracy, constantly promoting American democracy and values to the world, and always telling other countries what to do. How can the U.S. suppress its people? Why would it even export chaos under the banner of supposedly defending democracy, freedom, and human rights, while its own country is full of such crimes and crises?

Figure 8: Representative Hate Crime Cases, January 2020 - February 2021

Date	Hate Crime Cases	Motive for the crime	Location (State)
February 12, 2021	Indiana Man Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime for Racially Motivated Threats Towards Black Neighbor	Race, Color	Indiana
February 11, 2021	Michigan Man Indicted for Hate Crimes After Attacking African-American Teenagers	Race, Color	Michigan
January 4, 2021	California Woman Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime for Threatening to Bomb Catholic Prep School	Religion	California
December 18, 2020	Four Indicted for Hate Crimes and False Statements After Racially Motivated Assault in Lynnwood, Washington	Race	Washington
December 9, 2020	Federal Jury Convicts Illinois Man for Bombing the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center	Religion	Illinois, Minnesota
November 23, 2020	Kansas Man Indicted with Hate Crime for Racially-Motivated Threat of a Minor	Race	Kansas
November 3, 2020	Man Sentenced for Federal Hate Crime	Race, country of origin	Vermont

76 Hate Crime Case Examples. The United States Department of Justice. <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crimes-case-examples>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

September 29, 2020	California Man Charged with Federal Hate Crime for Attempting to Stab Black Man	Race	California
September 17, 2020	Colorado Man Charged with Hate Crime After Unprovoked Stabbing of Black Man	Race	Colorado
July 9, 2020	Federal Grand Jury in El Paso Returns Superseding Indictment in August 2019 Walmart Shooting	Race, country of origin	Texas
June 30, 2020	New York Man Arrested for Hate Crime	Religion	New York
June 26, 2020	Local Man Arrested for Lying About Marion Cross Burning, Interfering with Fair Housing Based on Race	Race, Color	Virginia
May 12, 2020	Missouri Man Indicted for Hate Crime and Arson Charges	Religion	Missouri
April 30, 2020	Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Racially-Motivated Election Interference and Cyberstalking	Race, Color	Florida, Virginia
April 15, 2020	Massachusetts Man Charged with Attempted Arson at a Jewish-Sponsored Assisted Living Facility	Religion	Massachusetts
March 30, 2020	Lehighon Man Charged with Internet Threats	Race, color, religion, country of origin	Pennsylvania
March 17, 2020	Utah Man Convicted on Hate Crimes Charges for Attacking Three Men with a Metal Pole	Race, country of origin	Utah
March 10, 2020	Man Convicted of Hate Crime Assaults in Maine	Race, country of origin	Maine
February 26, 2020	Arrests in Four States of Racially Motivated Violent Extremists Targeting Journalists and Activists	Race, religion, country of origin	Arizona, Florida, Texas, Washington
February 10, 2020	Louisiana church bombing	Religion	Louisiana
February 6, 2020	Texas Man Charged with Federal Hate Crimes and Firearm Offenses for Mass-Shooting in El Paso	Country of origin	Texas
January 16, 2020	Man Charged for Making Threats Against a Maryland Synagogue	Religion	Maryland
January 9, 2020	Orange County Man Charged with Additional Federal Hate Crimes for Machete Attack at Rabbi’s Home	Religion	New York

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

The third is political chaos. The Washington Post commented on July 10, 2021, that the January 6 attack on Congress “was, in fact, a violent insurrection”⁷⁷. The Republican response was not to engage in an investigation. They instead try to brush off the matter as coldly as possible, even voting to remove Liz Cheney, a critic of the incident, from her position as chair of the House Republican Conference⁷⁸. After four years of Trump's “Twitter rule”, Americans are sharply divided into two factions. They are either extremely pro-Trump or extremely anti-Trump, with almost no middle ground. Even after Trump's ouster and Biden's rise to power, this dynamic remains unchanged. A 2020 Pew Research Center survey showed that 89 percent of Trump and 90 percent of Biden supporters believe that a general election victory for the other party would have “lasting harm” for the United States (Figure 9⁷⁹). The political environment of both parties in the United States is deteriorating continuously.

77 Editorial Board. Opinion: The Jan. 6 Capitol attack was, in fact, a violent insurrection. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/07/10/jan-6-capitol-attack-was-fact-violent-insurrection/> (Accessed August 2, 2021)

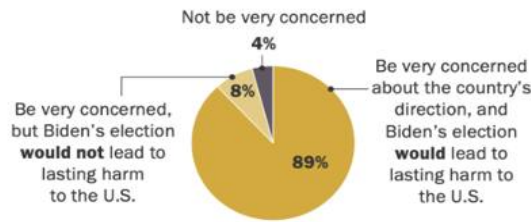
78 Godfrey, E. Republicans Refuse to Reckon With January 6. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/07/republicans- ignore-hearing-capitol-attack/619575/> (Accessed August 2, 2021)

79 Dimock M. and Wike R. America is exceptional in the nature of its political divide. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/11/13/america-is-exceptional-in-the-nature-of-its-political-divide/> (Accessed August 2, 2021)..

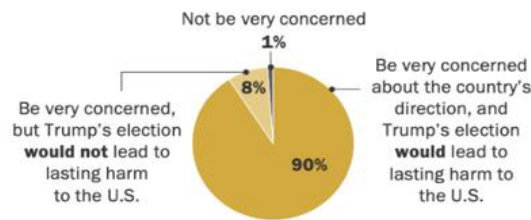
Figure 9: Trump and Biden's supporters overwhelmingly believe: If the other side wins the election, it would lead to lasting harm to the United States

Both Trump and Biden supporters say if the other wins, it would result in lasting harm to the country

*% of **Trump supporters** who say they would ___ about the direction of the country if Joe Biden was elected president*



*% of **Biden supporters** who say they would ___ about the direction of the country if Donald Trump was reelected president*



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 5, 2020.

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(iv) The general public has a sense of anxiety and powerlessness

The pandemic has hit the U.S. economy hard. A large number of people have been unemployed for a long time, and social instability has increased, exacerbating the sense of anxiety and powerlessness among Americans.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' July 29, 2021 report shows that despite improvements from December 2020, Americans' hardships continue to be widespread in the first half of 2021. Nearly 20 million adults still living in households without enough food and 11.4 million adult renters are unable to pay

rent on time⁸⁰ and at risk of being evicted from their homes.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that as of July 5, 2021, the percentage of households with minors in which at least one person has lost a source of income is still as high as 22 percent⁸¹. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study on August 14, 2020. This showed that between April and June 2020, 40.9% of adult respondents reported mental health problems. Another 30.9% reported suffering from anxiety or depression. As many as 13.3% reported initiating or increasing substance use, and 10.7% seriously considered suicide.⁸²

In June 2020, A study released showed that the number of calls to suicide helplines in the U.S. rose 47 percent during the pandemic, and the number of calls to certain crisis intervention lines jumped 300 percent.⁸³ A large number of Americans relied on marijuana use as a way to escape a bad reality, leading to a surge in marijuana sales. A report by BDSA, a marijuana sales data platform, reported on March 3, 2021, on the Forbes website that legal marijuana sales across the United States reached a record \$17.5 billion in 2020, a 46 percent spike from 2019.

80 Tracking the COVID-19 Recession's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. [https:// www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and](https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and) (Accessed: August 2, 2021)

81 National Kids Count. Households with children who lost employment in the United States. Population Reference Bureau. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/line/11128-households-with-children-who-lost-employment-income?loc=1&loct=1#1/any/false/2093,2092,2091,2090,2089/asc/any/21491> (Accessed: August 2, 2021)

82 Czeisler M É, Lane R I, Petrosky E, et al. Mental health, substance use, and suicidal ideation during the COVID-19 pandemic—United States, June 24–30, 2020[J]. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2020, 69(32): 1049. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

83 Edwards, E., Janney, C. A., Mancuso, A., Rollings, H., VanDenToorn, A., DeYoung, M., ... & Eastburg, M. (2020). Preparing for the Behavioral Health Impact of COVID-19 in Michigan. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 22(12), 1-19. <https://www.pinterest.org/media/Preparing-Michigan-for-the-Behavioral-Health-Impact-of-COVID-19-Report.pdf>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

The lackluster U.S. response to the pandemic and the declining happiness of the American public is eating away at the American dream over time. The NORC at the University of Chicago report “Historic Shift in Americans’ Happiness Amid Pandemic”, released in June 2020, shows that Americans are at their unhappiest ever.⁸⁴

Carol Graham, an expert in the study of Americans' well-being and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, noted in an interview with Discover magazine that, "We were the only rich country in the world prior to COVID where mortality rates were going up rather than down...And that was due to deaths of despair in less than college-educated middle-aged whites."⁸⁵ The death of despair”. This refers to deaths caused by suicide, drug and alcohol poisoning, and alcoholic liver disease.⁸⁶ It is named for the fact that it occurs more often in groups with little hope of improving their economic or social conditions.

In February 2021, Graham released his study titled “America's Crisis of Despair”, She mentioned in her research report: “From 2005 to 2019, an average of 70,000 Americans died annually from deaths of despair (suicide, drug

84 National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago. Historic Shift in Americans Happiness Amid Pandemic.pdf (COVID Response Tracking Study Among American Adults, p. 18). University of Chicago, 2020. Available online: <https://www.norc.org/PDFs/COVID%20Response%20Tracking%20Study/Historic%20Shift%20in%20Americans%20Happiness%20Amid%20Pandemic.pdf>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

85 Sophie, Putka. Why Are Americans Getting Unhappier? It's not just the pandemic. And the news is not all doom and gloom either. <https://www.discovermagazine.com/mind/why-are-americans-getting-unhappier>. (accessed: August 1, 2021).

86 Deaton, A., & Harper, K. (2020). Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism. Princeton University Press.

BLAKE DODGE (2020, Jan 14). What Are So-Called Deaths of Despair? Experts Say They're on the Rise. <https://www.newsweek.com/what-so-called-deaths-despair-experts-say-rise-1481975>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

overdose, and alcohol poisoning). These deaths are concentrated among less than college-educated middle-aged whites, with the those out of the labor force disproportionately represented.” She also mentioned that “Despair in our society is a barrier to reviving our labor markets and productivity, jeopardizes our well-being, health, and longevity, and affects our politics. Despair was increasing among Americans well before COVID-19; the virus was an exponential shock.”⁸⁷

On October 5, 2020, the Atlantic commented in an article titled “America Is Having a Moral Convulsion” noted that the public's trust in the country, in its institutions, in its politics, and in each other - is plummeting.⁸⁸ The article also noted that “Americans looked to their governing institutions to keep them safe. And nearly every one of their institutions betrayed them”.⁸⁹

87 Graham, Carol. America's Crisis of Despair: A Federal Task Force for Economic Recovery and Societal Well-being. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/americas-crisis-of-despair-a-federal-task-force-for-economic-recovery-and-societal-well-being/>.

88 Brooks, David. AMERICA IS HAVING A MORAL CONVULSION. the Atlantic. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/10/collapsing-levels-trust-are-devastating-america/616581/>.

89 Brooks, David. AMERICA IS HAVING A MORAL CONVULSION. the Atlantic. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/10/collapsing-levels-trust-are-devastating-america/616581/>.

5. Willful destruction of global resistance to the pandemic

The pandemic is a global public health crisis that objectively requires countries around the world, including the United States, to pool their resources to fight the pandemic. The world must help the elderly, vulnerable and sick, and those hardest hit by the pandemic. This will overcome the difficulties the world now faces.

However, as the world's top superpower, the U.S. has allowed the virus to spread, resulting in the serious deterioration of pandemics in other countries; it has shirked its responsibilities and tried to use the World Health Organization as a tool to defend its own interests, abandoning it if it does not fit in; worse still, it has pursued "anti-pandemic egoism" and "vaccine nationalism". Worse still, they have been manipulating the vaccine map and manipulating global public opinion by practicing “origin tracing terrorism”.

All these acts of beggar-thy-neighbor are the continuation of the U.S. hegemonic logic of "dominating the world with its own interests", which shows that the U.S. has not only failed to assume its international responsibility but also constituted a destructive impact on global cooperation against the pandemic.

(i) Letting the virus be exported to act as a "spreader country"

The U.S. has long been the world's leading⁹⁰ country in terms of confirmed cases and deaths from the new pandemic. It failed to control the pandemic within its borders. But it is exporting the virus outside its borders, making it a veritable "proliferator".

Washington ignored science and acted on its own, seriously threatening the lives and health of people in other countries. Faced with an out-of-control pandemic, the U.S. government has failed to take any substantial and effective exit control measures, indirectly exacerbating the global spread of the pandemic. According to the data released by The National Travel and Tourism Office, 23.195 million US citizens will travel abroad from April 2020 to March 2021 (Figure 10⁹¹).

Not only are their destinations worldwide, but they also have the highest number of departures by land, 13.797 million, mainly to Mexico and Canada, and 9.398 million from airports. More importantly, the peak of the pandemic in the U.S. overlaps with the peak of the outbound travel of U.S. citizens, with the peak of the pandemic in the U.S. from November 2020 to January 2021, when the average daily number of confirmed cases exceeds 186,000 (Figure 11) and the average daily number of U.S. citizens traveling abroad reaches a peak of 87,000 during the same period. It is fair to say that a large number of U.S. citizens continued to travel abroad after the outbreak of the Pandemic. The United States

90 Worldometers, "COVID Live update", <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

91 International Trade Administration, "US Outbound Travel by World Regions," <https://www.trade.gov/us-international-air-travel-statistics-i-92-data>. (Accessed: August 2, 2021).

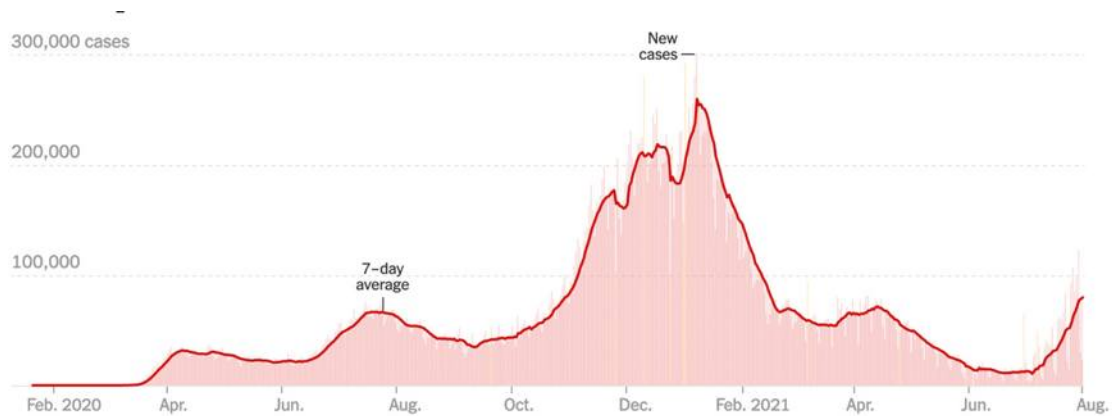
has an inescapable responsibility for the spread of the virus worldwide.

Figure 10: Table of Destinations and Number of the U.S. Citizens Going Abroad from April 2020 to March 2021

Year and month	Europe	Asia	South America	Oceania	Middle East	Africa	North America				Monthly Total
							Mexico	Canada	Caribbean	Other countries	
April 2020	6099	6255	741	276	612	329	749591	9617	321	238	774079
May 2020	15041	8801	1486	436	1811	642	849310	16431	561	449	894968
June 2020	36646	13638	3698	701	5915	1468	909098	32198	10790	878	1015030
July 2020	76476	21077	7357	1654	19969	8420	1261208	40460	156242	1648	1594511
August 2020	103949	23791	12421	3731	42722	10631	1221216	44976	147332	3946	1614715
September 2020	95403	22564	19819	4111	43037	11836	1683593	36947	127001	16083	2060394
October 2020	86985	27040	45165	4725	51268	14937	1842812	36726	180670	50623	2340951
November 2020	72933	33592	66899	4607	48456	16110	1857069	34255	228451	87098	2449470
December 2020	122892	39100	126615	4186	59148	23951	2282431	48073	382206	159273	3247875
January 2021	96324	33542	55904	2934	47081	19392	1726593	26300	228185	97060	2333315
February 2021	53950	32888	53320	1140	48324	14085	1420353	19247	229881	100403	1973591
March 2021	76750	39282	78555	1196	75826	19326	2007693	24525	404061	168655	2895869
Region Total	843448	301570	471980	29697	444169	141127	17810968	369755	2095701	686354	23194769

Data source: The National Travel and Tourism Office

Figure 11: Daily trend of new cases in the U.S. COVID-19 outbreak



Data source: U.S. state and local governments and health departments/graphics: The New York Times

The United States has ignored the opposition of the international community and disregarded international morality by massively deporting illegal immigrants, causing the pandemic to intensify in some developing countries.

At the beginning of the pandemic in the United States, the BBC reported the Trump administration increased the deportation of illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central American countries in the name of preventing and controlling the pandemic.⁹² These illegal immigrants were neither quarantined to standard nor tested for the relevant virus at the time of removal. This resulted in a sudden influx of imported cases from the U.S. in the countries of origin of the illegal immigrants being repatriated. In response, the New York Times stated that the U.S. was “exporting the virus” by returning thousands of people who may have been infected with the COVID-19 to poorer countries that were not

⁹² BBC, "Number of migrants at US border hits new record high," <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-57422618>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

equipped to deal with it⁹³. On May 31, 2021, a large number of U.S. military personnel on leave in South Korea gathered at Haeundae Beach in Busan without masks. This caused public discontent.*

Facts show that the U.S. government has been negligent. It is totally irresponsible of its control of the highly transmissible COVID-19. This poses a major potential threat to the lives of the world's population and becoming the biggest stumbling block in the global fight against the pandemic.

(ii) Rejection of international vaccine cooperation

Vaccines are a barrier against viruses and should be treated as a public good for all humanity, not as an ideological topic. In the early stages of promoting vaccination for the COVID-19, the US engaged in “vaccine nationalism” and created an “immunization divide”, politicizing vaccine cooperation and impeding global cooperation on vaccines, treatment, and joint prevention and control, making it difficult for poor countries to obtain vaccines and leading to Global vaccine supply imbalance.

Several media outlets have reported on the poor global collaboration in vaccines. According to the Washington Post, the U.S. is stockpiling COVID-19 vaccines in large numbers, which has led to significant vaccine waste. The New York Times also stated that a huge vaccine access gap has emerged globally⁹⁴. The United

93 New York Times, "Why Is the United States Exporting Coronavirus?", <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/opinion/trump-immigration-covid19-deportations.html> (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

*Yonhap News Agency, “USFK members, foreigners hold no-mask parties on Busan beach amid pandemic”, <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210530001800325>. (Accessed: 2021 August 1)

94 Megan Twohey, Keith Collins and Katie Thomas. With First Ribs on Vaccines, Rich Countries Have 'Cleared the Shelves'. The New York Times. Retrieved 1 August 2021, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/15/us/coronavirus-vaccine-doses-reserved.html>. (Accessed: 2021 August 1).

States has been conspicuously absent from efforts to address vaccine inequities. For many years, the U.S. has presented itself as the “representative of human rights and the embodiment of justice” in the international community, and this selfish practice of vaccine hoarding has seriously deprived developing countries of fair access to vaccines, which is undoubtedly a disregard for the right to life of people in developing countries.

ABC reported on April 25, 2021, that the U.S. has been criticized for blocking other countries' access to vaccines, such as the U.S. ban on exporting key raw materials used to produce vaccines to India⁹⁵. Duke University's Center for Global Health Innovation estimates that by the summer of 2021, the U.S. could be 300 million or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in surplus⁹⁶. "U.S. Faces Pressure to Release Vaccines," The New York Times said on⁹⁷ April 25, The U.S. is about to have an oversupply of vaccines, but many developing countries are still facing vaccine shortages. The Wall Street Journal reported on May 17 that the U.S. had exported only 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, less than one percent of U.S. vaccine production⁹⁸. According to the Business Insider website, the U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago solemnly announced that the U.S. government had donated 80 vials of COVID-19 vaccine to that country's

95 Marlon González And Zeke Miller. From scarcity to abundance: US faces calls to share vaccines. abcNEWS. Retrieved 1 august 2021, from <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/WireStory/scarcity-abundance-us-faces-calls-share-vaccines-77285575>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

96 Mark McClellan, "Reducing Global COVID Vaccine Shortages: New Research and Recommendations for US Leadership," Duke Global Health Innovation Center, April 15, 2021.

97 Somini Sengupta, "US is under pressure to release vaccine supplies as india faces deadly surge," The New York Times, April 28, 2021.

98 Yuka Hayashi, "U.S. to Increase Covide-19 Vaccine Exports Amid Global Pressure," The Wall Street Journal, May 17, 2021.

government, an event that was ridiculed online.⁹⁹ These events reflect the inadequate role of the United States in international vaccine cooperation.

In addition to refusing international cooperation on vaccines, the United States also disrupted the international anti-pandemic order by "withdrawing and rejoining the group". During the new pandemic, the U.S. not only did not contribute enough to the fight against the pandemic but also announced its withdrawal from the WHO. This move was widely criticized by the domestic and international communities and was considered to have seriously undermined the global cooperation in the fight against the pandemic.

After the Biden administration took office, it announced that the United States would rejoin the World Health Organization. However, the Biden administration's "rejoining the group" is not for the sake of Sino-Western cooperation against the pandemic, but to release the signal of "return of the United States" to the international community and to draw in more allies and international organizations to confront China. The U.S. government's renewed speculation on the laboratory leak conspiracy theory and its unwarranted denial of the WHO tracing report are clear manifestations of its confrontation with China.

(iii) Weaponizing the pandemic by dumping it on other countries

While exporting the virus to the world, the U.S. has also turned a global public

⁹⁹ Mia Jankowicz. The US Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago was mocked after announcing it had donated 80 vials of COVID-19 vaccine to the nation of 1.4 million INSIDER. Retrieved 1 August 2021, from <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-in-trinidad-and-tobago-donates-80-vaccine-vials-mocked-2021-6>. (Accessed; August 1, 2021).

health disaster into a major power model wrestling match by politicizing scientific issues such as the anti-pandemic model, the origin tracing of the pandemic, and the effectiveness of the vaccine, shifting the blame to the outside world and misleading the international community. International organizations, which enjoy objectivity and authority, are seen by politicians as tools to be used, and they will leave at the slightest disagreement. As Allison, a leading U.S. scholar, has argued, the political elite in Washington will remain focused on China throughout the pandemic, thus avoiding responsibility for the failure to control the virus.*

In order to divert the view of the public blame, the two parties in the United States, in addition to throwing "dirty water" at each other, also coincidentally choose to "dump" the blame on the outside. After the pandemic began to spread on a large scale throughout the United States, the Trump administration and the ruling Republican Party, in order to get rid of the dilemma of not being able to fight the pandemic, deliberately set up "China virus" and "Wuhan virus" and other targets, trying to direct the focus of the conflict to China. This stigmatizing labeling approach is at odds with mainstream international norms. The Principles of Best Practice in Virus Nomenclature, developed jointly by WHO, OIE, and FAO in 2015, clearly state that the use of geographical locations, names of people, animals or food groups, terms related to culture, population, industry, or occupation (such as legion) and terms that may incite excessive fear should be avoided in disease names.*

After Trump left office, Republican members of Congress are still pushing for a “dumping” of the blame. Rep. Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy publicly called

*Graham Allison and Chris Li, “In War Against Coronavirus: Is China Foe—or Friend?”, [https:// www.belfercenter.org/publication/war-against-coronavirus-china-foe-or-friend](https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/war-against-coronavirus-china-foe-or-friend). (Accessed: 2021 August 1)

* World Health Organization, “World Health Organization Best Practices for the Naming of New Human Infectious Diseases”, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-HSE-FOS-15.1>. . (Accessed: 2021 August 1)

for an accountability roadmap for the new Chinese crown outbreak, blaming Democrats in Congress and the White House for remaining indifferent.¹⁰⁰ Rep. Ellis Stefanik and Rep. Robert Whitman introduced the *World Deserves to Know Act* to impose sanctions on Chinese Communists and the heads of Chinese health agencies in an attempt to make the Chinese government pay for the US failure to fight the pandemic.*

The Biden administration returned to the international stage under the banner of “America is back”, intending to reshape the image of the United States as a responsible power. However, the Biden administration also lacks respect for science on the issue of tracing the source of the new pandemic, not only refusing to conduct multi-point and multi-dimensional tracing around the world but also rekindling the “lab leak theory” hype soon after taking office, hoping to use it to achieve domestic and diplomatic goals. During the same period when Biden instructed the U.S. intelligence community to provide a tracing report within 90 days, Secretary of State Blinken¹⁰¹, National Security Advisor Sullivan¹⁰², Health Secretary Javier Becerra¹⁰³, and Andy Slavitt, senior advisor to the White House outbreak response team, and¹⁰⁴ other government officials took positions

100 Kevin McCarthy, "Holding China Accountable: A Republican Call to Action & Roadmap for Covide-19 Accountability," <https://www.republicanleader.gov/holding-china-accountable/>. (accessed August 1, 2021).

*117th Congress 1st Session, “H. R. 3922”, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-117hr3922ih/pdf/BILLS-117hr3922ih.pdf>. (Accessed: 2021 August 1)

101 Nike Ching, "Blinken Slams China's Lack of Transparency Amid Review of COVID-19 Origins," <https://www.voanews.com/usa/blinken-slams-chinas-lack-transparency-amid-review-covid-19-origins>. (Accessed Aug. 1, 2021).

102 South China Morning Post, "China 'risks international isolation' over investigation into coronavirus origin: Biden aide", <https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3138108/china-risks-international-isolation-over>. (Accessed August 1, 2021).

103 VOA News, "US Health Secretary Calls For 2nd COVID-19 Origins Investigation," <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/us-health-secretary-calls-for-2nd-covid-19-origins-investigation>. (Accessed August 1, 2021).

104 ANI, "'Need transparent process from China' on virus origin, says White House COVID adviser", <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/need-transparent-process-from-china-on-virus-origin-says-white-house-covid-adviser20210526054426/>. (Accessed: August 1, 2021).

on the origin tracing of the outbreak, creating international strife for no apparent reason. The U.S. has been tight-lipped in the face of international concerns about the early spread of the outbreak in the country.

The U.S. government's use of the pandemic as a weapon against China has not only made it difficult to achieve cooperation between China and the U.S. in fighting the pandemic but has also “aggravated” the already deteriorating bilateral relationship, indirectly contributing to the further intensification of the strategic competition between China and the U.S., which is particularly detrimental to the overall situation of global cooperation in fighting the pandemic.

(iv) The Terrorism of Tracing the origin of the virus.

An even more deadly “virus” than the COVID-19 virus is the retroactive terrorism that continues to grow under the leadership of the United States. On May 23, 2021, the Wall Street Journal website published a so-called “exclusive story” claiming that “Wuhan Virus Institute researchers were infected with the disease”, which came from an intelligence report concocted during the Trump administration in May 2020. The report claims that “the U.S. government has reason to believe that researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virus Research were infected in the fall of 2019”. The report was initiated by Michael Gordon, who “created” the so-called “evidence” of “Iraqi weapons of mass destruction”.

At the same time, Washington has strongly promoted the so-called virus tracing in other countries, coercing the World Health Organization and some scientists to give up their objective and impartial positions in an attempt to make them bow down in front of hegemony and bullying. Some experts who denied the "laboratory leak theory" were even subjected to cyber violence, harassment, and physical threats, and the U.S. behavior posed a great risk of deviating from the right track in the second phase of virus tracing investigation.

Although the WHO Phase I COVID-19 tracing investigation has given a conclusion on China is unlikely to the area of the origin of COVID-19, the WHO Secretariat proposed the second phase of investigation into the origins of COVID-19. It chose to continue to target Beijing. It did not investigate other risky countries and regions— such as the United States.

Is the sudden change in the attitude of WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on the tracing of the virus due to pressure from some countries?

In late May 2021, the Biden administration asked the intelligence agencies to “take charge” of the investigation of the origin of the COVID-19. To achieve the “laboratory leak theory”, Washington abandoned scientific research and gave the intelligence community 90 days to come up with a retrospective investigation, which is undoubtedly a complete political farce. And ironically, the time for early cases to emerge in the United States is being refreshed. The Associated Press has reported that a study based on an analysis of 24,000 American blood samples collected in early 2020 shows that COVID-19 infections were already present in the U.S. in December 2019, a point weeks before health officials first confirmed that cases had appeared in the U.S.*

* Mike Stobbe. More evidence suggests COVID-19 was in US by Christmas 2019. AP NEWS. Retrieved 1 August 2021, from <https://apnews.com/article/more-evidence-covid-in-US-by-Christmas-2019-11346afc5e18eee81ebcf35d9e6caee2>. (Accessed: 2021 August 1)

6. Conclusion

“Do you think the World Health Organization should conduct a retrospective investigation of the virus in the United States?”

In the public opinion survey questionnaire released by the CGTN think tank on the evening of July 30, 2021, in six official languages of the United Nations through You Bunny, Twitter, Facebook, Contact.com and Weibo, and WeChat platforms, as many as 83.1% of more than 81,600 participants answered in unison. They did so in Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and Russian: Yes, the U.S. should be investigated for the retrospective origin of the COVID-19! ¹⁰⁵ On Aug.6, the Global Times newspaper’s WeChat public website published an open letter signed by more than 25 million Chinese netizens requesting the WHO to investigate the U.S. Fort Detrick Biological Laboratory.

People in China, and around the world, are calling for the truth in the fight against the pandemic. Some U.S. media are ignoring the basic fact that the U.S. is number one in the world in terms of the number of cases and deaths from the pandemic. It is instead claiming that “the U.S. is number one in the world in the fight against the pandemic”. There is a Chinese idiom, attempting to cover up the truth, only to expose it.”. This has forced more people around the world to ask the truth about America’s fight against the pandemic.

105 CGTN Think Tank Global Internet Poll: 83.1% of Netizens Support Retrospective Investigation of the U.S., CCTV, <http://news.cctv.com/2021/08/02/ARTIGvQIKXxIQhrqjohSCQn210802.shtml> (accessed: August 2, 2021)

Objective facts have shown that the U.S. is well deserved to be the world's No. 1 anti-pandemic failure, the world's No. 1 political blaming country, the world's No. 1 pandemic spreader country, the world's No. 1 political division country, the world's No. 1 currency abuse country, the world's No. 1 pandemic period turmoil country, the world's No. 1 disinformation country, and the world's No. 1 origin tracing terrorism country...

However, there are still too many uncovered truths about this protracted battle against the COVID-19. On July 28, 2021, the official website of the U.S. Department of Agriculture released news: “The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently completed a study that analyzed serum samples from free-ranging white-tailed deer for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). These samples were tested at APHIS’ National Wildlife Research Center and National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 were detected in 33% of the 481 samples collected from January 2020 through 2021.”¹⁰⁶ In addition, the APHIS detected SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 1 of the 143 samples collected before January 2020 (pre-COVID-19 pandemic in people).¹⁰⁷ Are American white-tailed deer the source of the COVID-19? According to the official website of the National Deer Association on July 14, some agencies, such as West Virginia and Maryland, completely shut down testing for hunter-harvested deer last fall.

106 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Surveillance Data Shows White-Tailed Deer Exposed to SARS-CoV-2. USDA. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/stakeholder-messages/wildlife-damage-news/deer-sars>. (accessed: August 5, 2021).

107 APHIS, Questions and Answers: Results of Study on SARS-CoV-2 in White-Tailed Deer. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/qa-covid-white-tailed-deer-study.pdf. (accessed: August 5, 2021).

¹⁰⁸ Maryland is exactly where Fort Detrick is located. When did the sampling of white-tailed deer start in Maryland? Was Fort Detrick BioLab involved in the sampling? Did Fort Detrick BioLab conduct virus-related experiments on white-tailed deers? The United States needs to respond to these new queries. It must allow an international team of experts organized by the World Health Organization to conduct site visits and investigations of relevant biological laboratories in the United States. This will effectively advance scientific tracing efforts and dispel external questions about the lack of transparency in the United States.

We believe that the truth can only come late, but it will never be absent, ever.

108 Ross M. COVID Hurt CWD Sampling in Deer. We Must Bring It Back. National Deer Association. <https://www.deerassociation.com/covid-hurt-cwd-sampling-in-deer-we-must-bring-it-back/>.(accessed: August 5, 2021).

