

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

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1. THE ORIGIN-OF-THE-VIRUS DEBATE

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2. It has been reported that China knew about the virus at least 2 weeks before it disclosed the news to the WHO: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9958207/Scientist-reveals-heard-Covid-Wuhan->

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 6. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30183-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30183-5/fulltext)
 7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome_coronavirus_2; not necessarily a majority, though: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm4454>
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 14. See: <https://www.hegaion.com/2022/02/the-structure-of-sars-cov-2-is-smoking.html>
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25. Old paper: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2020.596944/full>
26. <https://theconversation.com/we-want-to-know-where-covid-came-from-but-its-too-soon-to-expect-miracles-172155>
27. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7725765/>
28. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00584-8>
29. <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-1370392/v1>
30. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1189506.shtml>
31. On pro-seafood market theories, see: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00584-8>; <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm4454#core-R3>
32. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wuhan_Institute_of_Virology; <https://unherd.com/2022/04/did-virus-hunters-cover-up-a-lab-leak/>: 'By 17 July 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology had built one of the world's largest databases of bat and rodent viruses, holding more than 22,000 samples and data entries of pathogens'. It is also one of two BSL-4 labs in China: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosafety_level
33. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_lab_leak_theory; early articles on the lab leak theory: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-7922379/Chinas-lab-studying-SARS-Ebola-Wuhan-outbreaks-center.html>; <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>
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40. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/20/coronavirus-chinese-scientists-false-rumours-experts>
41. See, for example: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/01/29/experts-debunk-fringe-theory-linking-chinas-coronavirus-weapons-research/>
42. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_lab_leak_theory.
43. <https://about.fb.com/news/2020/04/covid-19-misinfo-update/#removing-more-false-claims>
44. Some did, though; see, for example: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/bies.202000240>. The authors concluded: ‘On the basis of our analysis, an artificial origin of SARS-CoV-2 is not a baseless conspiracy theory that is to be condemned and researchers have the responsibility to consider all possible causes for SARS-CoV-2 emergence.’ See also: <https://yurideigin.medium.com/lab-made-cov2-genealogy-through-the-lens-of-gain-of-function-research-f96dd7413748>; <https://zenodo.org/record/4477081#.YgVL6d9BxaR>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7744920/>; <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01541-z>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7859469/>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7435492/>
45. There was even speculation by Trump supporters that Covid might be a ‘bioweapon’.

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51. <https://web.archive.org/web/20220717184037/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19>
52. For a discussion of the lab leak theories, see: <https://www.hegaion.com/2022/02/the-structure-of-sars-cov-2-is-smoking.html>; for another detailed account see: <https://thebulletin.org/2021/05/the-origin-of-covid-did-people-or-nature-open-pandoras-box-at-wuhan/>
53. See: <https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Letter-Re.-Feb-1-Emails-011122.pdf>
54. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/fauci-s-emails-don-t-prove-wuhan-conspiracy-raise-further-n1269650>
55. Ibid.
56. Jeremy Farrar, *Spike: The Virus vs. The People—the Inside Story* (London: Profile Books, 2021).
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58. <https://unherd.com/2021/07/how-scientists-stifled-the-lab-leak-theory/>
59. <https://theintercept.com/2022/01/12/covid-origins-fauci-redacted-emails/>
60. <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the-virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy>
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62. Interestingly, just a few months before the pandemic broke out, in September 2019, Farrar co-signed an appeal warning that a new disease

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could spread rapidly around the planet, and citing among the risks the technological advances that ‘allow for disease-creating micro-organisms to be engineered or recreated in laboratories’, warning how their accidental release might be more devastating than a natural epidemic: ‘Accidental or deliberate events caused by high-impact respiratory pathogens pose global catastrophic biological risks.’

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71. <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/17/1007539626/did-covid-19-leak-from-a-lab-a-reporter-investigates-and-finds-roadblocks>; <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/06/the-lab-leak-theory-inside-the-fight-to-uncover-covid-19s-origins>
72. <https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1656>
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78. On Shi, see: <https://web.archive.org/web/20210503052307/> <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/wuhan-coronavirus-hunter-shi-zhengli-speaks-out>; <https://www.science.org/doi/full/10.1126/science.369.6503.487>
79. <https://www.science.org/content/article/we-ve-done-nothing-wrong-eohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19>

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80. <https://web.archive.org/web/20210918070304/https://grantome.com/grant/NIH/R01-AI110964-06>
81. See aforementioned *Vanity Fair* article. The Wuhan institute also benefitted from EU funding in 2015 and 2019: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-003103_EN.html
82. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/10/revealed-scientists-dismissed-wuhan-lab-theory-linked-chinese/>. Several of those who signed the letters have since changed their stance.
83. <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the-virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy/amp>
84. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/10/21/science/nih-eco-health-alliance-letter.html>
85. https://web.archive.org/web/20220709113036/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wuhan_Institute_of_Virology
86. <https://journals.plos.org/plospathogens/article?id=10.1371/journal.ppat.0030005>. For an overview of the Daszak–Baric–Shi triangle see: <https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/06/29/1027290/gain-of-function-risky-bat-virus-engineering-links-america-to-wuhan/>
87. <https://web.archive.org/web/20210923175556/https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/ralph-baric-emails/>
88. Original study: https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985?utm_medium=affiliate&utm_source=commission_junction&utm_campaign=CONR_PF018_ECOM_GL_PHSS_ALWYS_PRODUCT&utm_content=textlink&utm_term=PID100088103&CJEVENT=0542519bce3411ec830013080a180514; NIH comment: <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/10/nih-admits-funding-risky-virus-research-in-wuhan>; https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NIH-Documents-Production-Cover-Letter-2021.10.20_McMorris-Rodgers.pdf; see also this other 2017 study: <https://web.archive.org/web/20210830232403/https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29190287/>. It has been a matter of debate whether this was the intended outcome or if it was an ‘unexpected result’, as claimed by the NIH. See also: <https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/lab-made-coronavirus-triggers-debate-34502>
89. There is disagreement as to whether the work conducted by EHA and the WIV effectively amounted to gain-of-function; there has been no such admission by the NIH. See: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/10/29/repeated-claim-that-fauci-lied-congress-about-gain-of-function-research/>

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91. The NIH withdrew its funding to EcoHealth Alliance in July 2020.
92. According to a US State Department fact sheet published in January 2021: ‘The WIV has a published record of conducting “gain-of-function” research to engineer chimeric viruses.’ See: <https://2017-2021.state.gov/fact-sheet-activity-at-the-wuhan-institute-of-virology/index.html>
93. <https://drasticresearch.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/main-document-preempt-volume-1-no-ess-hr00118s0017-ecohealth-alliance.pdf>; see more here: <https://drasticresearch.org/2021/09/21/the-defuse-project-documents/>
94. <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the-virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy/amp>
95. <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/98075>. Nicholas Wade, an editor and author who had worked on the staff of *Nature*, *Science*, and the *New York Times*, summarised the known facts in May 2021, and argued that the origin of Covid-19 in one of Wuhan’s labs was hardly refutable. Wade suggested that SARS-CoV-2 had been adapted to human cells from the start because it had been grown in humanised mice or in lab cultures of human cells, just as described in Daszak’s grant proposal. See: <https://thebulletin.org/2021/05/the-origin-of-covid-did-people-or-nature-open-pandoras-box-at-wuhan/>
96. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/05/31/opinion/questions-surrounding-origins-covid-19-remain-unanswered/>
97. Furthermore, a US State Department ‘fact sheet’ published in early 2021 stated that: ‘The US government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both covid-19 and common seasonal illnesses. [...] The WIV has a published record of conducting “gain-of-function” research to engineer chimeric viruses. But the WIV has not been transparent or consistent about its record of studying viruses most similar to the covid-19 virus, including “RaTG13,” which it sampled from a cave in Yunnan Province in 2013 after several miners died of SARS-like illness’. See: <https://2017-2021.state.gov/fact-sheet-activity-at-the-wuhan-institute-of-virology/index.html>

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101. As the *Vanity Fair* article reads: ‘Neither the 2002 SARS virus nor the 2012 MERS virus had transmitted with such devastating efficiency from one person to another. What had changed? The difference, Redfield believed, was the gain-of-function research that Shi and Baric had published in 2015, and that EcoHealth Alliance had helped to fund.’
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114. See aforementioned *Vanity Fair* article.
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116. Interestingly, in early 2020 the NIH’s Vaccine Research Center developed the first ever anti-Covid vaccine in cooperation with Moderna, and in

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117. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3084635/china-confirms-unauthorised-labs-were-told-destroy-early>
 118. <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/coronavirus-sequences-deleted-china-nih>
 119. See: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349073738_An_investigation_into_the_WIV_databases_that_were_taken_offline
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 126. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/final-joint-report_origins-studies-6-april-201.pdf?sfvrsn=4f5e5196_1&download=true
 127. See aforementioned *Vanity Fair* article.
 128. Ibid.
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 130. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/03/04/us/covid-origins-letter.html>. Additional letters were released 7 April and 30 April. See also: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6543/694.1>
 131. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-the-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study/>
 132. [https://www.who.int/groups/scientific-advisory-group-on-the-origins-of-novel-pathogens-\(sago\)](https://www.who.int/groups/scientific-advisory-group-on-the-origins-of-novel-pathogens-(sago))
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2. THE LOCKDOWN NIGHTMARE BEGINS

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57. There is currently a legal investigation underway to ascertain why an area around the northern Italian town of Bergamo, in the Val Seriana region, which has very close business and manufacturing ties with China and was one of the first epicentres of the outbreak, was not immediately placed under lockdown like other towns. Rather than shutting Bergamo and neighbouring communities down quickly, as per the decisions taken for some other hotspots in northern Italy, the central government's response in the Val Seriana region was marked by a series of zig-zags that remain unexplained until today. See: <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/the-world-health-organizations-censorship-of-report-on-italys-pandemic-response-sets-dangerous-conflicts-of-interest-precedent/>
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 10. Interestingly, when the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), the German federal government agency and research institute for disease control, changed its previous recommendations and endorsed universal mask-wearing, it stated: 'If people—even without symptoms—wore masks as a precaution,

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54. <https://www.renyccompany.com/blog/covid-19-cases-and-deaths-counted-differently-by-state-country/>; <https://week.com/2020/04/20/idph-director-explains-how-covid-deaths-are-classified/>. In fact, Covid death classification varied from state to state: ‘In some states, like Alabama, the deceased must have tested positive for Covid-19 for the death to be reported as a Covid-19 death. Other states, like New York, allow for more leeway. A death may be reported as a Covid-19 death if the deceased was suspected of having it even if no test was performed. Some states require Covid-19 to be the primary cause of death in order to qualify for state reporting, while others report all cases where Covid-19 was present at the time of death to be Covid-19 deaths. These divergent methods make some region’s [*sic*] infection and death rates undercounted and others overcounted, making it difficult to gauge the disease’s true impact on medical resources and mortality rates.’

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9. THE ETHICS AND PRACTICE OF AUTHORITARIAN CAPITALISM

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CONCLUSION

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