

America's "Narrative of Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic" in "Post-truth" Context

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Abstract

Some US politicians and media, driven by the zero-sum Cold War mentality, ideological bias, and domestic political needs, have made no effort to politicize, stigmatize, and label the epidemic with the "post-truth" narrative logic of "promoting values and belittling the epidemic" in order to hide the institutional impotence and political incompetence exposed by the epidemic response and mitigate the impact of the comparison between "China's governance" and "chaos in the United States." The U.S. narrative of fighting COVID-19 was based on fabrications, fallacies, and hegemonic construction, which involved scapegoating others and assigning blame. The US "anti-epidemic narrative" is essentially a weapon to use fallacies to cut reality, fabricate history with lies, and suppress China with hegemony. The "anti-epidemic narrative" of the US is that it is dissatisfied with everything about China, regards China as being behind the times, and is hostile to both the Communist Party and Marxism. It is a denial of China's strategy, direction, and system. The best method to combat the global public health crisis is to improve global public health governance, increase international cooperation against COVID-19, jointly build a "Silk Road for health," and create a community of health for all people. Additionally, they contribute to revising the US "narrative against COVID-19."

Keywords: The COVID-19, post-truth, narrative war, The Silk Road of Health, a community of common health for mankind

The COVID-19 pandemic is "the most severe infectious disease pandemic in the world in a century, and a major public health emergency with the fastest spreading speed, the most widespread infection and the most difficult prevention and control since the founding of the People's Republic of China." (Xi, 2020) China's ability to govern, uphold its obligations as a significant nation, and care about the welfare of humanity have earned it high praise from the international community in the fight against COVID-19, adding China's strength and experience to the global effort. But some US politicians and media have made no attempt to politicize, stigmatize, or label the epidemic, and have instead painted China's efforts to combat the epidemic with "bad subjectivity" with the aim of denying the Chinese system, China's course, and the leadership of the Communist Party of China. The US narrative of the pandemic, which is founded on deception, hegemony, and fallacies and concentrates on "shifting the blame," has had a detrimental effect on China's national image. It is of great theoretical and practical significance to study the motivation, logic, and reconstruction of the "anti-epidemic narrative" in the United States to tell the story of China's fight against the epidemic, win the global battle against the epidemic, and promote the building of a community of human health.

1. Framing Others, Shirking and Blaming: The Motivation Behind the U.S. "Anti-epidemic Narrative"

The COVID-19 is a major test and a catastrophe. China has responded to the epidemic in a way that is efficient, open, transparent, scientific, and responsible, in sharp contrast to the disastrous actions of the United States, which have shifted blame, cast blame, stigmatized the epidemic, and politicized it.

1.1 A Method for Hiding the Political, Social, and Institutional Stupidity of the United States

The difficult battle China waged against COVID-19 is etched in the collective consciousness of its 1.4 billion inhabitants. The Chinese government is committed to coordinated prevention and control, widespread prevention and treatment, law-based prevention and control, scientific prevention and control, and unified leadership.

National mobilization, the mobilization of the nation's top medical professionals, the most cutting-edge technology, and the most urgently required resources are also part of this commitment. These measures are meant to increase the rates of detection and cure and reduce infection and death rates. In terms of epidemic prevention and control, significant strategic outcomes have been attained. The Chinese economy has been improving steadily. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the effectiveness of China's approach. The Chinese people have openly shared their experience with all groups in support of the global effort to combat the epidemic. This perfectly exemplifies the strength, responsibility, and spirit of the Chinese people, as well as the remarkable strength of the CPC leadership and the socialist system, the great strength of the Chinese people and country, and the rich cultural legacy of China. It amply shows China's conscientious accountability as a major nation. (Xi, 2020)The COVID-19 pandemic has moderated China's "governance of China" and provided a positive role model for the worldwide effort to combat the disease.

In contrast to China, which insists that people and life come first, the United States insists that "capital and profit come first" and prioritizes economic interests and stock market sentiment. Political self-interest is paramount, the epidemic is seen as an opportunity to seize power and partisan interests, the epidemic is downplayed and concealed, different political factions are in conflict with each other, decision-making is inefficient, the best time to prevent and control the epidemic is lost, there is a lack of centralized leadership and unified command, the federal government is null and void, the state governments are acting on their own, it is difficult to reach a consensus to fight the epidemic, and the response to the epidemic is unscientific. By adhering to the value position of capital supremacy and social Darwinism in disguise, the elderly, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups have become the "hardest hit" by the new coronavirus infection, and the epidemic has been responded to unequally. The economy is in severe recession, unemployment has increased dramatically, racial discrimination has intensified, the population is in fear, health care workers are on strike, the police are on mass "leave", the military is mishandling the epidemic, there is social unrest, and the response to the epidemic is inactive. In defiance of international morality, the virus was "labeled", the epidemic was "politicized", China was "stigmatized", and the response to the epidemic was uncooperative. China's open, transparent, scientific and responsible fight against the epidemic is in stark contrast to the American fight against the epidemic, which is shifting blame, stigmatizing and politicizing.

The United States joined the outbreak comparatively late despite having the biggest economy and most advanced medical technology in the world. With the highest number of verified cases and fatalities worldwide, the United States has emerged as the epicenter of the global epidemic. It should have had the resources and time to deal with COVID-19. Even Donald Trump, the president, has contracted the illness. Regarding epidemic prevention and control, the US government's "ostrich" policy of unscientific, unequal, inactive, and non-cooperation has eventually caused an "epic blunder" and cost its citizens dearly. The nation's governance framework and ability are put to the test by the prevention and control of epidemics. The brutal expansion of "the supremacy of capital and interests," which revealed the weakness of the American system and the government's incompetence, led to the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States.

Anyone can observe China's contribution to the worldwide effort to eradicate the virus. However, some US politicians and media have used "bad subjectivity" to spread various fallacies to smear China's fight against COVID-19 and damage China's reputation in an effort to hide the institutional weakness and political incompetence exposed in the fight against COVID-19 and lessen the impact of the comparison between "China's governance" and "chaos in the United States." They have created a US "fight against COVID-19 narrative that is focused on framing others and assigning responsibility using falsehoods, fallacies, and hegemony. The first is the "man-made virus hypothesis," which contends that a Chinese laboratory produced the novel coronavirus. In reality, there is already widespread agreement on a global scale that the novel coronavirus evolved naturally rather than through synthetic means. The second is the "information concealment" hypothesis, which contends that China hid the truth about the COVID-19 epidemic for a considerable amount of time, causing a widespread outbreak in both China and the rest of the world. In fact, China gained more than 40 days for the world from late January to early March 2020, but the US and the rest of the US did not apply it or consider it seriously. Third, the "data falsification hypothesis," which contends that the number of illnesses and fatalities in China is exaggerated, has had a very detrimental effect on the transparency of the Chinese government and its status in the international arena. The fourth is the "mask diplomacy" hypothesis, which contends that China's extensive anti-epidemic aid is an important step in enhancing its soft power and is intended to advance its commercial and geopolitical interests. Its goals include atoning for SINS, promoting the "China compensation" theory, and disseminating the "China responsibility" theory. In essence, it is a "war of public opinion" and a "war of law" to deflect focus, avoid accountability, and win a "election war." It causes "secondary damage" to China and its

citizens, who are already suffering from the epidemic. The fifth is “manipulating the WHO tale,” which includes the assertion that the WHO is biased in favor of China, acting on China’s behalf, looking into the WHO, halting funding, and leaving the WHO. (Fang, 2020)

1.2 Attempts to Manipulate Reality with Authority and Rewrite History Using Lies

The “anti-epidemic narrative” of the United States demonstrated ignorance and conceit, which violated the fundamental principles of human society and sparked protests and refutations from people of vision abroad. The China Research Center, a significant think tank in Kazakhstan, criticized the US media’s “double standard” in misrepresenting China’s anti-epidemic efforts, noting that China was the first to end the epidemic and that the WHO and the international community praised China’s prevention and control measures. China’s success in combating the epidemic, though, did not strategically suit the “taste” of the United States. It broke the convention of “America first” and hurt the pride of Donald Trump, who wants to “make America powerful again.” As a result, the US media criticized China’s effectiveness in combating the epidemic. Some U.S. media sources are waging a wave of anti-China propaganda that is characterized by “distortion of facts” and “politicization,” continuing their customary “unconstructive” and “critical tone” in their coverage of China-related issues. (Wen, 2020) Hassan Chapin, chairman of the Turkish-China Friendship Foundation, praised China’s significant contributions to the global fight against COVID-19 in an article that was posted on the Economic Observer website. He suggested that instead of criticizing China’s efforts and contributions, the US should look at its own response to the epidemic. Some media sources did the same, charging China with concealing the epidemic and failing to take appropriate action. (Ma, 2020).

An international public opinion battle has developed around the COVID-19 development discussion. The most attention-grabbing emphasis has emerged in China’s battle against the virus. The extreme and value-biased US lawmakers and media are not satisfied with anything about China. A “violation of human rights” occurs when the pandemic is under control; a “failure of governance” occurs when the epidemic spirals out of control. “Shuttered the city has no human rights,” they claimed of Wuhan. China is referred to as “the sick man of Asia” due to the severity of the pandemic. They claim that “Chinese data can’t be trusted” as the epidemic grows better. They claim that China “conducts medical diplomacy” through its overseas aid. According to reports, Europe and the US have become the epidemic’s focal points because “China did not notify the WHO in a timely way and requested China to make up for it.” (Knews, 2020) China “imposed stringent entry restrictions on Chinese travelers” when they decided to take the initiative to improve epidemic control. The US media and politicians have used the facts about China’s fight against the epidemic as a “racetrack” for the public to malign China and express their resentment due to their clear “Cold War doctrine” implications. They have a hard time escaping the ideological bias stereotype and Cold War mindset. Under the assumption that China has achieved significant strategic results in epidemic prevention and control and made significant contributions to the international fight against COVID-19, the anti-China words and deeds of US politicians and media, who attack China with racial, governmental, and even institutional responsibility, increasingly appear ignorant and outdated.

Arrogance and prejudice worse than “backwardness” lie behind the “anti-epidemic storyline” that denigrates China. The first is the perception that American democracy is superior. According to the German publication *Der Spiegel*, freedom and democracy are what China needs to eradicate the new coronavirus, not a vaccine from Western medicine or traditional Chinese medicine. According to an article in the French newspaper *Le Figaro*, “democracy has shown its irrefutable superiority in the way it has dealt with the new crown virus.” (Zhang, 2020) The supremacy of individual rights is the second. In essence, American society supports tenacious individualism, freedom from restrictions, and the value of self-sufficiency. As a socialist trait, responsibility is condemned in the United States. Trump’s declaration that “I can do whatever I want when I am president is written in the Constitution of the United States” has become a declaration of *The Times* that individual rights are Paramount. In the lengthy period of time following the outbreak of the epidemic, political and media figures in the United States have repeatedly emphasized that personal behavior is decided by the individual rather than prescribed by others. Mayors and governors have no authority to control how other people behave. Should we resist COVID-19 by living or dying? Do you decide whether to don a mask? Do whatever you want or stay at home? “My destiny is my destiny” is “alternatively” interpreted in the American action. Party mentality in the United States, where liberalism is dominant, has turned against the epidemic. (Jin, 2020) The third is the Chinese medical system’s theory of backward treatment. The “world’s most cutting-edge healthcare infrastructure” is found in America. In the fight against COVID-19, China is able to make significant strides, and the US will undoubtedly be able to contain the outbreak.

The novel coronavirus has rendered Americans faceless, and American arrogance has been brought into question by reality. When the United States discovered that all nations and races were equally vulnerable to the novel

coronavirus, they abruptly realized their idiocy and incompetence. The change in the attitude of the American elite, from gloating over China's calamity to blaming China for "concealing" the epidemic, is a journey from contempt for non-Americans to fear of losing their "capital" in order to maintain racial superiority. (Outlook Think Tank, 2020). To conceal the institutional and political impotence of the COVID-19 response and to reduce the impact of the comparison between "China's governance" and "chaos in the United States," the government imposed a narrative and blamed China as the "rigid demand" of the American elite. The "narrative" of COVID-19 has begun to shift, with "natural disaster" being redefined as "man-made disaster" and China being held responsible. Politicians have raised the issue of stigmatizing China, politicizing the pandemic, engaging in "presumption of guilt" with hidden agendas, and political maneuvering on the matter of tracing the origin of the COVID-19, and the media has followed suit. The "presumption of guilt", which does not stand up to the slightest scrutiny, cannot conceal the sinister intention of stigmatizing other countries through the epidemic.

1.3 Negation of China's Plan, China's Road, and China's System

An emotional argument over methodology won't help us comprehend the essence of the issue in the face of the "American-style narrative" of blaming, assigning blame, politicizing, and stigmatizing. A framework is required for scientific research. Long incubation times and high infectivity are traits of the novel coronavirus epidemic. The early stages of an epidemic are marked by sporadic cases, and the outbreak stages are characterized by sudden and widespread infection. The COVID-19 response's effectiveness is impacted by three variables. First, information should be shared openly and smoothly, and the national authority should be aware of the epidemic. The second is the response's efficiency, efficacy, and institutional development. Time is the third. (Outlook Think Tank, 2020) Information factor (I) and action factor (A) both contributed to the determination of response effectiveness (P): $P = F(I, A, T)$. I and A affect P in various ways over time. "I" was more important in the early stages of the epidemic than "A", which became more important during the outbreak stage and eventually affected how well the response to the epidemic worked.

China had some shortcomings in the early stages of the epidemic's detection and reporting processes, but decision-makers quickly realized how serious the situation was and took incredibly effective anti-epidemic measures (A), which were crucial in helping China bring the epidemic under control in the shortest amount of time. However, in both factors I and A, nations in Europe and America perform worse than China. The US elite (the group in charge of the political and media discourse) initially responded to the novel coronavirus outbreak in China with cynicism and gloating, without showing any preference for I-factor or A-factor. The United States spread the "political virus" to concentrate on China I-factor when the epidemic threatened but failed to mention China A-factor's contribution to the epidemic's control. The American establishment will not be blind to the crucial part that A-factor played in the effectiveness of the COVID-19 response (P). The political motivation behind mentioning only the I factor and ignoring the A factor is to hide administrative weakness and political ineptitude. One is an attempt to attribute U.S. incompetence on the I-factor (U.S. failure to recognize the seriousness of the problem after China officially reported the outbreak and the highly irresponsible performance of U.S. elites in the early stages of the outbreak.) to China's I-factor (they claim that China did not report the epidemic earlier); and second, to attack China's I-factor to mask the problem of the effectiveness of the A-factor due to institutional incompetence and political incompetence in the US. (Outlook Think Tank, 2020)

The US's attempt to delegitimize China's efforts to combat COVID-19 demonstrates that it is not at all concerned with what China has done to control and avoid the epidemic. Instead, it interprets China's actions in light of its ideological bias, Cold War mentality of zero-sum competition, and internal political requirements. The US disparages China's efforts to combat the epidemic "not only due to the requirements of the US internal election, but also due to the US strategy toward China's continuation and strengthening in recent years. It basically seeks to isolate China from the rest of the world, damage China's image abroad, restrain China's peaceful rise, and maintain US hegemony" (Fang, 2020). The US elite now feel more threatened due to China's capacity for industrial output and crisis management. The "traditionalization" of "non-traditional" security threats, the "hyper-politicization" of low-political issues, and the use of the COVID-19 as another battleground in the U.S.-China strategic competition have become The "whole society towards China" strategic consensus on China. Some anti-China forces have intentionally transformed the competitive relationship between China and the United States into an antagonistic one, explicitly advocating for a "new Cold War" with China.

In contrast to the trade war between China and the United States, which focuses on protecting the economic interests of the United States and accusing China of "taking advantage of the United States," the United States is more concerned with discrediting China's international image, linking the COVID-19 epidemic to China's system and the legitimacy of the Communist Party of China's leadership, and attacking China's political system and system. (Fang, 2020) In essence, the "anti-epidemic narrative" of the United States, which centers on framing

others and shifting blame, serves as a mask for political ineptitude, social ruthlessness, and institutional incapacity. The “anti-China mentality,” “against the Communist Party,” and “against socialism” are all continued at the same time. It is a denial of China’s strategy, course, and structure. It is an effort to manipulate reality with hegemonic power, fabricate a story, and repress China.

At this crucial juncture, the international community has remained steadfastly on China’s side by upholding the option of justice and conscience and maintaining its goodwill toward China. Establishing a community with a shared future for humanity has become the focus of the international community and a coordinated effort by all nations to combat the epidemic.

2. Promoting Values and Devaluing Facts: The Logic of the U.S. “Anti-epidemic Narrative”

In American politics, the English word “Narrative” does not “narrate facts,” but rather “shapes facts” through discourse in order to influence audiences’ perception of reality. Around the globe, the COVID-19 debate has evolved into The War Of Narrative, in which words are used to “shape facts” rather than “tell facts,” not to present the truth but to uphold particular values. China’s disclosure of COVID-19 evidence was referred to as “propaganda engine” and “disinformation” by The New York Times. The Financial Times voiced concern that the pandemic’s geopolitical effects “will linger” if the “China narrative” is widely accepted. Be ready to “compete for influence” in a “global narrative battle,” advised Borrell, a representative of the European Union. Discrediting China’s fight against COVID-19 has become an instrument for the United States in its struggle for “narrative” dominance. “From simplifying the perception of the epidemic in China to emphasizing their ‘emotional dominance,’ from ‘taking facts as life’ to ‘opinions ahead of facts,’ and from ‘rational discussion’ to ‘value demands,’ (Hou, 2020) the United States is unable to extricate itself from the narrative logic of ‘post-truth’ in which China’s response to the epidemic is led by ‘opinions ahead of facts and emotions occupying the intellectual heights.’

2.1 The “Post-Truth” Communication Paradigm of “Promoting Values and Devaluing Facts”

As a postmodern term for anti-rationalism, “post-truth” was initially used in politics to characterize the phenomenon that American politicians manipulate public opinion and steal votes by putting on false fronts. Following the 2016 Brexit referendum and Donald Trump’s election as US President, “post-truth” became a hot subject of national discussion and was named the Oxford Dictionary’s Word of the Year. The UK released MacDonald’s Post-Truth Age (TRUTH: How the Many Sides to Every Story Shape Our Reality) in 2019. American society has reached the “post-truth era” as “post-truth” has been gradually accepted by sociology, journalism, and communication. Journalism and communication are most significantly impacted by post-truth. “Post-truth” supports the diversified value interpretation of news truth with “openness”, “diversity” and “de-centralization”, and reconstructs the communication paradigm of news communication by “promoting values and devaluing facts.” By swaying public opinion, the final objective is to establish and realize the “private domain” and “private interests” of those who disseminate information.

Strong anti-logocentrism tendencies (emphasizing the “accuracy,” “authority,” and “closure” of text, representation, and sign) characterize the “post-truth” communication paradigm. First, they insist on the dichotomy between facts and values, advocating that “facts are facts and values are values” and that “value is more essential than facts and truth.” The second is to create public opinion bursts, ignite the audience’s emotions, and ignore facts and reason in vain in order to gain public attention and public support. The third strategy is to set up concealed topics, manipulate public opinion by amplifying or strengthening value-based emotions and prejudices, and mislead the public into making subjective judgments that are far from the truth. The fourth strategy is to sow discord by fabricating rumors out of pure air, “shaping facts” via discourse, concealing the truth with “post-truth,” and then attacking and smearing opponents. Fifth, deconstruct facts, process the logic of facts in fragments and nihilism, and diminish the persuasive power of facts and truth. Post-truth characteristics include imposition of values, falsification of “truth,” coercive dialogue, subjective assertion, and more.

2.2 Political Calculations Based on Zero-Sum Cold War Mentality and Ideological Bias

The narrative logic of “promoting values and diminishing facts” of the “post-truth” communication paradigm has given US politicians and the media with ulterior motives a viable platform from which to disparage China’s efforts to combat the epidemic. With the arrogance and prejudice of the “post-truth” discourse, the US elite neglected the facts, made irresponsible remarks, and “shirk the responsibility” all over the world, blaming China for the virus and fabricating the “Chinese origin theory” in defiance of scientific evidence. American elites accuse China of “withholding information” and dismiss the “China responsibility theory” with the arrogance and prejudice of “post-truth” discourse. With the arrogance and prejudice of “post-truth” discourse, the US elite propagated the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s novel coronavirus, stigmatized China, and concocted “China

conspiracy theories.” The US elite, employing the arrogance and prejudice of the “post-truth” discourse, uses the “China compensation theory” to trap others and abdicate responsibility. They continue to emphasize that the epidemic is a “man-made calamity.” They continue to discredit and stigmatize China despite China’s enormous contribution. “Among them are many deconstructors of the facts of China’s fight against the epidemic, those who criticize China’s fight against the epidemic’s achievements, those who satirize China’s anti-epidemic measures, those who spread rumors about the Chinese government, and those who criticize the Chinese system.” (Hou, 2020) “Their goal is to vilify, suppress, and contain China, and even fantasize about forcing China to surrender its right to development, swallow the bitter fruit of undermining China’s sovereignty and dignity, and inflict an unjust disaster on the Chinese people through threats, intimidation, and blackmail.” (Xie, 2020)

The logic of zero-sum thinking. The fundamental concept of zero-sum game theory is zero-sum thinking. Some American politicians and the media frequently use it to describe wane and wax in which one country’s gain is the other’s loss. The power of China and the United States is a “zero-sum phenomenon,” according to the logic of zero-sum thinking. The Chinese people’s historic achievements and leapfrog development under the leadership of the Communist Party of China pose a so-called threat to the United States. The more the world praises China’s fight against COVID-19, the more politicians and media addicted to the zero-sum game will try to smear China by openly claiming that “China’s loss may be America’s gain.” It is a “violation of human rights” if the epidemic is under control; it is a “failure of governance” if the epidemic is out of control. In their opinion, whatever China does is wrong. The more stable China is, the better it performs, and the faster it travels, the more unbalanced, anxious, and manic they feel. Smear of China has become a means for the United States to use this zero-sum thinking and preemptive narrative to contain and delay China’s development. Through the prism of the COVID-19 pandemic, the true colors and nefarious schemes of some US politicians and the media have become more apparent, and their performances have been astoundingly inept — shifting blame and ignoring life. Some American politicians are aware of the ups and downs of the polls and the stock market, but not the health and lives of average citizens. The natural epidemic in the United States has turned into a tragic man-made catastrophe. Instead of self-reflection, American politicians resorted to various “dumping pots” to “lead the United States in fighting the epidemic.” Whereas in the past the world either “hated America” or “loved America” or “envied America”, now for the first time the world “pities America.”

The logic of Cold War thinking. Cold War mentality (Cold War mentality) generally refers to a way of thinking that was formed during the Cold War, when the two blocs were confronting each other and the two superpowers were competing for supremacy in dealing with interstate relations and resolving international conflicts. In a narrow sense, it means that after the end of the Cold War, the great powers of the United States, particularly the conservative forces in the United States, attempted to establish a unipolar world and promoted the hegemonic consciousness and concept. US politicians and media with ulterior motives are trying to create an artificial gap between the people and the government by creating sensitive topics and misleading public opinion to discredit China’s fight against the epidemic. In the face of the spread of the epidemic, the economic “flameout,” and the social “freeze”, the US government shirked its responsibilities and, in the name of protecting jobs and putting America first, has erected high trade barriers, wilfully incited populism and concocted various threats, prescribing a “poisonous prescription” of beggar-thy-neighbor and quenching thirst - in the name of “de-globalization” and the reality of “de-Chinisation,” trying to return to a self-perpetuating, self-enclosed “island,” triggering violent fluctuations in the global market, seriously endangering the safety of the global industrial chain and starting an “even greater depression” since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Global governance is becoming more “disorganized and fragmented” as the world faces more instability and uncertainty. “Disorder”, “anomaly” and “uncertainty” have become the buzzwords in assessing the international situation.

Ideological logic. China’s achievements in fighting the epidemic have made the world praise the CPC’s ruling ability to uphold the fundamental purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly and leading the people of all ethnic groups in the country to deal with difficulties and challenges. However, some US politicians and media are taking part in a political stunt to demonize China by attacking the Chinese government and system, fomenting strife between China and other nations, transgressing moral and civilized boundaries, and instilling ideological prejudice. Yet justice is in the eye of the beholder. The actions of the Chinese Communist Party in leading the nation in the fight against the epidemic have won wide respect and admiration from the world. However, some politicians and media with ulterior motives in the United States, wearing ideological colored glasses, amuse themselves in the misjudgment of reality, openly boasting that “the Chinese Communist Party is ‘the most central threat of this era,’ and China ‘has become the number one geopolitical rival of the United States.’” Even if there is no COVID-19 pandemic, American politicians and media with ulterior motives will continue to meddle with other issues and create anti-China issues, making it difficult to accept the existence of

the “Chinese Way,” “Chinese System,” and “Chinese Solution” and unwilling to see the “Chinese Model,” which is distinct from the American social system and values, succeed in the 21st century.

Hegemonic logic. Americanism asserts that the United States is the center of the world and that only American culture is superior. It is the logical necessity of American hegemony to antagonize and stigmatize non-American cultures with American cultural superiority. Since the Second World War, the American nation has been privileged and retains a sense of superiority. The political and economic center of the world is shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the twenty-first century. The “Chinese model” poses a great challenge to the “uniqueness” of the American capitalist state system. The rise of China has dissolved the superiority of American culture and institutions to make American-centric politicians and media sit on pins and needles. The Financial Times responded by stating that “the geopolitical impact of the epidemic will be long-lasting if the Chinese narrative gains widespread acceptance.” Smearing China against the epidemic and suppressing it on all fronts is a logical necessity of American hegemony.

The Chinese concept and actions to promote solidarity and cooperation in the fight against the epidemic have continued to gather strength and confidence for global cooperation in the fight against the epidemic, and have gained the understanding and support of the majority of countries in the world, aiming to strengthen global public health governance and build a community of human health and wellness. The U.S. government’s demand to prioritize vaccine supplies to its own country and “cut off” supplies to the WHO, and its repeated attempts to smear and isolate China in the name of the epidemic have been severely rebuffed by the international community. Who is committed to cohesion against the epidemic, who only cares about pursuing selfish interests, who is promoting cooperation, and who is creating division, will make a judgment in the face of the “prism” of the new crown epidemic.

2.3 The Real Narrative of the Global Anti-epidemic and the Historical Truth of China’s Anti-epidemic

The true narrative of the global fight against the epidemic cannot be tarnished. By assigning blame and placing blame on others, the truth cannot be concealed. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, the responsibility of government dereliction of duty cannot be shirked. At the beginning of the epidemic outbreak, China and the World Health Organization gave timely warning. The leaders of the United States downplayed the threat and severity of the epidemic, claiming that it would “magically disappear in April” and that it would be “no worse than the flu,” seriously misinforming the public about the epidemic. This was done in order to protect the stock market and their political performance. The United States “prioritized money over lives” and fought the epidemic slowly. From January 21, 2020, when the first confirmed case was reported, to March 13, 2020, when a national emergency was declared, the United States government missed the golden period of prevention and control by nearly two months and squandered the “window of opportunity” that China had won for the world. Instead of mending their ways and returning to the sniping war against the epidemic, they are “blaming” China by stigmatising, politicising and labelling it. As the disease rapidly spreads, they are not concerned about a lack of supplies, but rather about the election situation. They are engaged in a “battle to safeguard votes.” The US effort to combat the epidemic has resulted in a “epic mistake,” turning a “natural disaster” into a true “man-made disaster” due to arrogance, prejudice, and ignorance, delayed and poor decision-making, slow and ineffective action, using the government’s credibility as a guarantee for lies, and using the epidemic to repress other countries. The carrier “goes out sick,” obsessed with preserving hegemony in the face of rising infections and fatalities. They do not feel the pain of the people and the whole mankind. They lack the great love of caring for other people and the feeling of helping each other. What they have is the paranoid Cold War mentality and cold political calculation. The “script” crafted by the “American narrative” against the epidemic is too good to conceal the U.S. attempt to turn a war between humans and an unknown virus into a “new cold war” to suppress China, and to conceal the U.S. deliberate attempt to falsify history by initiating global recriminations, describing “natural disasters” as “man-made disasters” and shifting the blame by framing others.

The historical truth regarding China’s battle against COVID-19 must not be altered. Lies and falsehoods cannot erase the truth. The coronavirus pandemic is the worst infectious disease pandemic in the world in a century. China’s fight against the pandemic exemplifies the role and characteristics of a great nation. China’s contribution to the global fight against the epidemic is a testimony to the “wind and moon in the same sky.” China was the first nation to detect the epidemic’s “tsunami” and promptly alerted the rest of the world. By exerting its utmost effort to prevent the initial shock, China secured a valuable “window of opportunity” for other nations and made enormous sacrifices for the global fight against the pandemic. China’s efforts and sacrifices in fighting the epidemic, the actions of unity and the sentiment of the wind and the moon should be remembered in the annals of the history of mankind’s fight against the epidemic. With an attitude of responsibility to its people and to the international community, China has made an important contribution to maintaining public health security in the

region and the world, and has been lawful, timely, open and transparent in all aspects of its anti-epidemic actions. (Diao, 2020)The Chinese people and the Chinese nation have delivered a Chinese answer sheet consisting of “CHINA” - Care, Help, Immediate action, New technology, Altogether in the global battle against the epidemic.(Ye, 2020).

The “China concealment theory” concocted by some US politicians and media is vulnerable in the face of the real story, and the “China responsibility theory”, “China falsification theory”, “China apology theory” and “China compensation theory” that are derived from the “China concealment theory” as a logical starting point are even more absurd. Against the backdrop of China’s major strategic achievement in the epidemic prevention and control battle and the uncertainty of the future of the US epidemic prevention and control, the U.S. stigmatization and political manipulation of the epidemic’s origins for political gain, and the construction of an “anti-epidemic narrative” centered on “shifting the blame” are becoming less and less marketable.

3. Sharing Weal and Woe and Working Together: Reconstruction of the America’s “Anti-epidemic Narrative”

In the face of the most serious global public health crisis in a century, humanity is once again at a crossroads. Upholding scientific rationality or creating political divisions? To strengthen solidarity and cooperation or to seek decoupling and isolation? Promoting multilateral coordination or pursuing unilateralism? Xi Jinping pointed out that “humanity is a community of destiny. Solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons in overcoming epidemics that concern the safety and security of all peoples.” (Xi, 2020)What the international community needs most is firm confidence, concerted efforts and solidarity to strengthen international cooperation in a comprehensive manner, so as to create a strong synergy to overcome the epidemic and join hands to win the battle against this major infectious disease.”(Xi, 2020) At this difficult moment in the global fight against the epidemic, Xi Jinping, standing at the height of safeguarding the lives of all mankind, issued a new initiative to the international community to jointly build a human health community.

3.1 New Initiatives to Address Global Threats to Public Health Security

In March 2020, Xi Jinping sent a message of condolence to French President Macron on the COVID-19 pandemic in France, stating that “public health security is a common challenge facing humanity. China is willing to collaborate with France to promote international cooperation on epidemic prevention and control, and to support the United Nations and the World Health Organization in playing a central role in enhancing global public health governance and constructing a community of health for humanity.” (Xi, 2020)In April 2020, Xi Jinping spoke by phone with Indonesian President Joko, pointing out that “epidemics are a common challenge for all mankind. China will uphold the concept of a community of human destiny, provide support within its capacity to share its experience in the prevention and control of global epidemics, and work with other countries to promote the development of global public health and build a community of human health.” (Xi, 2020)In May 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping, in his speech at the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly video conference, called on “Let us join hands to protect the lives and health of people from all countries, to protect the common global home of mankind, and to build a community of health for mankind.”(Xi, 2020) In June 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping hosted a symposium of experts and scholars in Beijing and made an important speech, stating that “we should continue to fulfil our international obligations, play the role of the largest supplier of global anti-epidemic materials, and jointly build a community for human health.”(gov.cn, 2020)In September 2020, Xi Jinping once again stressed at the National Commendation Conference for the Fight against the New Epidemic that China would continue to promote international cooperation in epidemic prevention and control, support the World Health Organization in its leading role in the global fight against the epidemic, share its experience in prevention, control and treatment with other countries, continue to provide support and assistance to countries and regions with weaker capacity to deal with the epidemic, play its role as the largest supplier of global anti-epidemic supplies, and promote the building of a human health and wellness community. (Xi, 2020)

In response to threats to public health and security around the world, China has launched a new initiative called the joint construction of a human health community that adds to and refines the meaning of Xi Jinping’s concept of a community of human destiny. The Community of Human Destiny, which is based on the shared interests of all people, has evolved beyond the conventional US model of a state-centric international order to become a Chinese response to China’s involvement in global governance. (Li, 2020) The proposal of the new initiative to jointly build a community of human health signifies that Xi Jinping’s thinking on a community with a shared future for humanity has gradually deepened and become more practical with an accurate grasp of the characteristics of the times and the general trend of the world, and has taken a new step and developed in the

context of the new era.

The joint construction of a human health community is a contemporary innovation of Marxist community thought and Chinese wisdom in the construction of a global public health governance system. The Human Health Community is rooted in Marx's theory of world history and the Marxist idea of community, and incorporates the essence of traditional Chinese culture, such as "a social form of high solidarity and co-prosperity for all human beings", "a benevolent person loves human beings as well as all things natural", and "if we reach the goal, we can help the world." It is an important contribution of the Chinese nation to human civilization, an important theoretical achievement of Marxism's chinesization, and an important part of Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions, Chinese power and Chinese responsibility in the construction of a global public health governance system. (Li & Luo, 2020)

The joint construction of a human health community is a fundamental plan for humanity to overcome public health crises and respond to major public health emergencies. Health and human civilization follow each other, and is an eternal problem that needs to be constantly solved. The history of human civilization is a history of mankind's struggle against disease. The new epidemic has once again shown that humanity is a community of destiny, and the world is a "global village" where destinies are intertwined. The international community must establish a sense of community of human destiny, watch out for each other, work together to address the risks and challenges, and build a better global home. The joint construction of a human health community is China's scientific understanding of the laws of public health development in the world, "the result of rational reflection gained by mankind in its repeated and tenacious struggle with viruses and plagues, even at the expense of countless lives, and the scientific understanding and long-term planning of mankind in exploring solutions to public health events." (Liu, 2020)

The joint construction of a human health community is the right way to uphold multilateralism and unite the joint efforts to fight the epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic is spreading fast, widespread and unprecedented in a century, and it will take time to completely overcome the epidemic. All countries should bear in mind the overall interest of the global fight against COVID-19, uphold multilateralism, reject the wrong practices of inciting racial discrimination and xenophobia and deliberately sowing division and confrontation, and jointly guard against the "information virus" and "political virus."

3.2 The Era Value of the Community of Common Health for Mankind

China has and will continue to make a significant contribution to the struggle against the epidemic by emphasizing cooperation. At the G20 Leaders' Special Summit, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the four-point initiative of global epidemic containment, international joint prevention and control, support for international organizations, and macro policy coordination, (Xi, 2020) reflecting China's role as a great power in promoting international cooperation to combat the epidemic, which is of great significance to the international community in strengthening confidence, comprehensive cooperation, and gathering strong synergy to overcome the epidemic, winning positive comments from the international community. At the video conference of the 73rd World Health Assembly, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed six initiatives to strengthen epidemic prevention and control by making every effort to improve epidemic prevention and control, playing a leading role in WHO, increasing support to African countries, strengthening global public health governance, restoring economic and social development, and enhancing international cooperation. (Xi, 2020) It also announced that China will provide US\$2 billion in international aid over two years, set up a global humanitarian emergency warehouse and hub in China, establish a cooperation mechanism with 30 China-Africa counterpart hospitals, use the new crown vaccine as a global public product after it is developed and put into use, and work with G20 members to implement the "moratorium on debt service payments for the poorest countries" to promote global cooperation against the epidemic. The five initiatives to promote global cooperation against the epidemic include the "moratorium on debt service payments for the poorest countries." The above six proposals and five initiatives all point out the direction and path, and set an example and model for jointly building a human health community. At the national commendation meeting to combat the new epidemic, Xi Jinping further stressed that "China will continue to promote international cooperation in epidemic prevention and control, support the World Health Organization to play a leading role in the global fight against the epidemic, share its experience in prevention, control and treatment with other countries, continue to provide assistance to countries and regions with weak capacity to deal with the epidemic, play the role of the largest supplier of global anti-epidemic materials, and promote the building of a human health community." (Xi, 2020)

We share a common future our actions speak louder than our words. The values of the contemporary human health community have been exemplified by China's cooperation and mutual aid in combating the epidemic with

other countries around the globe. Humans have fought infectious maladies for quite some time. No virus can eradicate humanity, as demonstrated by history and experience. We will be able to withstand the test of the epidemic and triumph over it in the end as long as all nations cooperate, stand shoulder to shoulder, join hands to form a human health community, and dedicate themselves to creating an impregnable common defense line for global universal security and lasting prosperity. As Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation, stated, “We must not only save lives, but also better our response to the epidemic as a whole, and we must employ a global strategy to combat the disease.” (Qing, 2020)

The Chinese initiative to jointly create a human health community demonstrates China’s sincere desire to strengthen mutual assistance and share weal and woe with the global community, embodies the humanitarian principle of putting life first, exemplifies the Chinese style and spirit of great power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and win-win cooperation at its core, and embodies the scientific idea of treating both the symptoms and the root causes. Chinese initiatives to jointly create a human health community have significant practical and historical ramifications for boosting confidence around the world in the fight against the epidemic, promoting international cooperation in the fight against the epidemic, and enhancing the system of global governance.

3.3 High-quality Joint Construction of the “Silk Road of Healthy” to Promote the Building of a Community of Common Health for Mankind.

China not only promotes and benefits from the Health Silk Road, but also builds and contributes to it. “The destiny of all countries is closely linked, and humanity is a community of common future in the same boat. Multilateralism should be supported and the road of solidarity and cooperation should be taken, whether it is to combat the epidemic or to revive the economy. The way to deal with global crises and achieve long-term development is by fostering connectivity and upholding openness and inclusivity, and international collaboration in the construction of “One Belt, One Road” can play a significant role.” (Xi, 2020) Xi Jinping proposed the major initiatives of building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia in the autumn of 2013, which garnered strong support from the international community. In 2015, the Chinese government issued the “Vision and Action for Promoting the Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road”, pointing out that health cooperation is an important element of hearts and minds togetherness. The “Three-Year Implementation Plan on Promoting Health Exchange and Cooperation in the Belt and Road” was published by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (the forerunner of the National Health Commission), formally introducing the concept of the “Health ‘Belt and Road’” and focusing more on people’s health and their direct access to it.

Xi Jinping made the suggestion in Uzbekistan in the summer of 2016 to “focus on deepening medical and health cooperation, strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of infectious disease notification, disease prevention and control, medical rescue, and traditional medicine, and joining forces to build a “Health Silk Road.” (Xi, 2016). Xi Jinping suggested that China welcome the active involvement of WHO in the construction of “One Belt, One Road” and the building of a “Health Silk Road” in January 2017 during his visit to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva. In December 2018, China signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Health Organization (WHO) on cooperation in the field of health along the Belt and Road in order to collaborate with key partners along the Belt and Road and other nations to establish a “Health Silk Road.” Xi Jinping noted that China is ready to cooperate with Italy to advance global cooperation in the fight against the epidemic and to create a “healthy Silk Road” in a phone conversation with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in March 2020. (haiwainet, 2020) The solidarity and cooperation between Italy and China in the battle against the new epidemic has interpreted the meaning of creating a “Health Silk Road” and written a touching page of building a “Health Silk Road” together. The number of partners constructing the “Health Silk Road” with China keeps growing, and the road to health gets broader and wider as the international community’s demands of China to provide public goods and take on global responsibility increase.

The sudden emergence of the coronavirus pandemic has tested the wisdom and commitment of countries around the world in the face of the “unprecedented changes of the century.” The “Health Silk Road” gives a new connotation to the “Belt and Road” cooperation, provides new ideas for improving global public governance, and has far-reaching implications for the joint fight against epidemics and global public health. In June 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized in his written message to the high-level video conference on international cooperation on the Belt and Road that “the Belt and Road will become a road of cooperation to unite and cope with challenges, a road of health to maintain people’s health and safety, a road of recovery to promote economic and social recovery, and a road of growth to unleash development potential.” (Xi, 2020) This points to the direction of building a “Belt and Road” with high quality, working together to build a Community

with a Shared Future and reconstructing the U.S. “anti-epidemic narrative” - promoting inter-country health cooperation, enhancing the capacity of countries along the “Belt and Road” to respond to public health and safety threats, protecting people’s lives and health, and maintaining national and global health security along the “Belt and Road.”

4. Conclusion

The truth cannot be concealed by shifting the blame, and lies and falsehoods cannot erase the facts. China’s fight against the epidemic demonstrates the role of and the style of a powerful nation; The global fight against the epidemic, China’s contribution proves that “the mountains and rivers are different, but the wind and the moon are the same.” The only way for all nations in the world to survive the crisis is for them to cooperate in the face of the global “comprehensive crisis” brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, which includes economic recession, power expansion, cultural traditions, social unrest, conflict between major powers, and other common challenges. History will always be made by the brave. The Chinese people will always stand closely with all peoples, share weal and woe, and fight side by side. Solidarity and commitment should also be the main narrative line of the American “anti-epidemic narrative.” We will be able to overcome all the difficulties and challenges along the way and work together to create a better future for humanity as long as people all over the world have hopes and dreams in mind, uphold the concept of a Community with a Shared Future, share the same goals, and move forward in unity.

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