

Xi Jinping's use of hysteria as warfare

- Sanjeev Sabhlok, 3 January 2020, published in three parts in the [Times of India online blog](#)

The year 2020 will go down in history as the Great Hysteria, the year when almost the entire world abandoned critical thinking in favour of irrational fear. For many of us living outside Sweden, this has been our first experience of the madness of crowds and of state totalitarianism.

The Great Hysteria has been built on the biggest lie ever told, that this virus is the next big thing after Spanish flu. And that lockdowns are necessary to prevent the virus from killing millions.

But data have told us a different story from mid-April 2020 and by now the facts are crystal clear. On 30 December 2020 in an article in [The Australian](#) I slightly revised the estimates that I had published on [20 December 2020](#) on this blog. The average annual two-year mortality of Sweden in 2020 will likely be the second lowest in its history. How is that a Spanish flu? This virus is a “bad flu” of somewhat less severity than the Hong Kong flu.

The science has also always been clear. Even if this virus had been as bad as Spanish flu, lockdowns would not be a remedy. Innumerable scientific studies both before and in 2020 confirm that lockdowns don't work and, instead, cause net harm.

So how did the world get it so wrong? The answer, hiding in plain sight, is: China. While the Great Hysteria was going on, Donald Trump went from an unlosable situation to fighting for his career. And the entire world went backward but China will likely end up with GDP growth, becoming stronger than ever before.

In this article I will outline the reasons for arriving at this conclusion. For those who want more information, an extensive Open Letter – being prepared by researchers from across the world who are concerned about China's attack on humanity – will be published in a few days.

Some people have told me that globalists (e.g. promoters of the Great Reset) and vaccine companies were the principal drivers of the hysteria. I disagree. While both these groups have benefited from the hysteria, they don't quite have the powerful drive (to remove Trump) or the mass-scale cyber-warfare capacity that China has demonstrably deployed in 2020.

As Sherlock Holmes said, “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth”. I will show that all roads lead to Beijing. It is Xi Jinping alone who has – if I may add, brilliantly – orchestrated the Great Hysteria. The novel coronavirus pandemic of 2019 hit him with an opportunity which he grabbed with both hands. In an astute manner, he has not only wiped out the threat of Donald Trump (subject to any unexpected change in electoral results in the next few days) but grievously harmed both the USA and India, the two nations which have the potential to challenge China.

The main evidence that I will discuss is that: (i) lockdowns are solely Xi Jinping's invention; (ii) the Great Hysteria was drummed up by China alone; and (iii) carefully groomed stooges that China had planted over the years in key places in the WHO and other Western institutions were instrumental in sowing confusion among the people, causing the West to abandon its well-laid plans.

China's approach and Jinping's motivations

To understand China's undeclared covert war of 2020, we need to look at the theory of war, something in which China has long excelled. The principles of war articulated by Sun Tzu include: all warfare is based on deception, supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting, know the enemy, let your plans be dark and impenetrable as night, and make your way by unexpected routes and attack unguarded spots.

In a 1999 book, [*Unrestricted Warfare*](#), published by the People's Liberation Army, these principles were refined for the modern world in which conventional military forces can't easily resolve conflicts. One of the book's authors, Qiao Liang has said elsewhere: "The first rule of unrestricted warfare is that there are no rules, with nothing forbidden".

The book says: "war will be reborn in another form and in another arena". And: "In terms of beyond-limits warfare, there is no longer any distinction between what is or is not the battlefield. Spaces in nature including the ground, the seas, the air, and outer space are battlefields, but social spaces such as the military, politics, economics, culture, and the psyche are also battlefields. Warfare can be military, or it can be quasi-military, or it can be non-military. It can use violence, or it can be nonviolent. It can be a confrontation between professional soldiers, or one between newly emerging forces consisting primarily of ordinary people or experts".

China's war with the rest of the world is ongoing, relentless – and is mainly happening through covert methods. As part of this war, Xi Jinping has been playing a long game to develop "pieces" (experts, politicians) across the world. His signature 2013 Belt and Road initiative is a critical part of this covert war and has allowed China to build deep linkages with Africa, Italy and Victoria (Australia). All of these linkages were called upon in 2020.

What has been driving Xi Jinping in recent years is Donald Trump, who has posed an existential threat to his regime. Four more years of Trump might have caused the Chinese Communist Party to implode. Finding ways to get rid of Trump has probably exercised most of Jinping's time and energy.

Lockdowns as a Trojan horse

China declared full-scale war on the West in 2020 in the most surreptitious way possible: by imposing lockdowns in Wuhan. No one would suspect China of declaring war in this way – by first locking itself. Just like the Trojan horse was dragged inside Troy by getting its citizens excited about something "amazing", China managed to excite the West through panic and hysteria to drag Chinese lockdowns into its innards – where they have dutifully exploded like suicide bombs.

There is no evidence, however, to suggest that Xi Jinping had planned the lockdowns. Most likely, he imposed them in January 2020 as a political remedy to stop internal criticism of his government but then realised that he could use the lockdowns to get the West to self-destruct.

Over the years, Jinping has surely considered in detail the character of Western leaders as part of Sun Tsu's admonition to "know the enemy". He must have found no one today with the mettle of Churchill to challenge him, but many cowards and risk-averse "leaders" instead. And he surely knows many traitors within the West, including those who have been blackmailed by China's honeytrap and bribery programs. That would have assured him of the likely success of a war strategy to make the West panic and lock itself down. He was right: the only person to resist him has been that pesky, spectacled scientist, Anders Tegnell.

Lockdowns had never been imposed in the past for a respiratory flu-like virus. Not a single scientist prior to 2020 ever recommended such measures. Lockdowns have only been imposed once before, for Ebola, and found to be ineffective.

This unique “remedy” for a flu-like virus is [purely Xi Jinping’s concoction](#). In a 3 February 2020 speech, Jinping claimed full credit for these measures: “on January 7, I put forward requirements for the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic. On January 20, I specifically issued instructions on the prevention and control of the epidemic. On January 22, in view of the rapid spread of the epidemic and severe challenges in prevention and control, I clearly requested Hubei Province to implement comprehensive and strict control over the outflow of people”.

We can be sure that Jinping is indeed the inventor of lockdowns because the 24 February 2020 [Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) confirms that “Xi Jinping personally directed and deployed the prevention and control work” (namely, the lockdowns and quarantines).

When China announced that Wuhan would be locked down from 23 January 2020 everyone who knew the science said this was unprecedented. On 22 January 2020, Dr. Howard Markel, a professor of the history of medicine at the University of Michigan, said that he had never heard of so many people being cordoned off as a disease-prevention measure. And Gauden Galea, the WHO’s representative in China launched a blistering attack on lockdowns on 24 January 2020: “trying to contain a city of 11 million people is new to science. The lockdown of 11 million people is unprecedented in public health history, so it is certainly not a recommendation the WHO has made”.

So the question is: How did Jinping manage to get the West to adopt something that all its scientists had rejected in the past? I offer six reasons.

1. Getting the WHO to reverse its previous guidance

As I have noted above, the WHO’s experts were not impressed with Jinping’s invention. We also know that the WHO’s October 2019 guidance rules out the possibility of a remedy in which all people are forced to stay at home regardless of any link with the disease. In my [complaint to the International Criminal Court](#), I’ve cited detailed evidence to confirm that lockdowns were always opposed by the science.

Xi Jinping’s first objective therefore was to get the WHO to reverse its official guidance. He had just the right man for this job. In 2017 Jinping had campaigned for and installed the communist politician Tedros Ghebreyesus (who has a PhD) as the head of the WHO. Tedros, with [lifelong links to China](#), had been part of a communist organisation in Ethiopia and later its Health and Foreign Affairs minister.

Tedros met Xi Jinping on 28 January 2020. On [30 January 2020](#) – barely a week after the Wuhan lockdowns had started and without showing any interest whatsoever in scientifically evaluating them first – he fawningly announced: “China is actually setting a new standard for outbreak response. It’s not an exaggeration”. A “new standard” that up-ended all that we knew about pandemic science.

By 24 February 2020 the WHO officially agreed that Jinping is the greatest scientist of our time. The *Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019* said “China’s uncompromising and rigorous use of non-pharmaceutical measures to contain transmission of the COVID-19 virus in multiple settings provides vital lessons for the global response”. Jinping has “vital lessons” for all of us. A man of many talents.

But the world was not impressed. China was unpopular and Tedros had no credibility as a public health specialist. The global hysteria and lockdowns that Jinping wanted were not going to happen so easily.

2. Getting Italy to lockdown

Getting the people in the West to become hysterical was essential. The praise of the Wuhan lockdown by the WHO was not good enough.

It is here that Jinping dialed his extensive links with Italy through the Belt and Road initiative. Through a range of diplomatic measures, China managed to persuade a few municipalities first and then the entire north Italy to lockdown from 8 March 2020. The whole of Italy then followed from 9 March 2020. There were extremely high level links between China and Italy during this period. [On 11 March 2020](#) the Italian Foreign Minister Di Maio told China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Italy was “paying close attention to and learning from” China’s experience with the virus.

When Italy fell, the West became suddenly vulnerable. But it was still essential to cause panic among billions of people. That was the only assured way to force the world to shut down.

3. Cyber-warfare and social media

Cyber warfare is not just about sabotaging websites and hacking into organisations. It is also about mass propaganda. There is a huge and trained army of cyber warriors at the disposal of China. In early March this army was ordered out in full force: fake videos, bullying of major politicians, and bots.

Fake videos were mass-produced by China during early March. We know that not a single person outside of Wuhan has ever “fallen and died” on the road from covid but China’s cyber warriors made a [film of such an alleged event in Wuhan](#) and shared it across the world through an army of bots. Millions of people watched it, adrenalin surging through their veins.

A video circulated by [@manisha_kataki on 12 March 2020](#) shows Chinese workers disinfecting streets: once again entirely doctored to create fear. There has never been such disinfection anywhere else in the world. Just this single India-based Twitter account clocked 17.4 million views for that video.

And there were innumerable hit-and-run accounts created by China during this period, such as @Ejketion – that pumped out Chinese propaganda, then disappeared. And a lot of bullying, not just by bots. [On 15 March 2020, Hu Xijin](#), Chinese official state media agency taunted Sweden, UK and Germany: “Sweden will not test people with mild symptoms. UK and Germany tried to build a ‘herd immunity’, which will expose many people to the risk of death. These countries are unwilling to

invest more resources in epidemic control. What about human rights? What about humanitarianism?"

This is not the language of a nation interested in the welfare of the people but of a nation trying to get the West to go hysterical and commit suicide.

The New York Times has two articles on this topic: on 22 April 2020 ([“Chinese Agents Helped Spread Messages That Sowed Virus Panic in U.S., Officials Say”](#)) and on 6 June 2020 ([“Behind China’s Twitter Campaign, a Murky Supporting Chorus”](#)). From these we know that “Twitter is being manipulated to amplify pro-Beijing messages”, and that “Beijing’s Twitter brigade includes Hua Chunying, the head of [China’s] foreign ministry’s information department”.

This is war. Let no one tell us otherwise.

4. Hysterical “models” and compromised media

But there was more up Jinping’s sleeve. We know that the 1999 book exhorts China to sabotage the West from within through its “experts”.

[Xi Jinping had visited the Imperial College in October 2015](#) during which “Professor Gast delivered a welcome speech highlighting Imperial’s role as ‘the premier partner for research collaborations with China’”.

In my book, [The Great Hysteria and The Broken State](#) I have discussed the role played by the 16 March 2020 paper by Neil Ferguson and 30 co-authors in stirring up extreme panic in the West. This paper is a product of the Imperial College in London. Intelligence agencies should investigate whether the paper’s authors have linkages with China. Have any of them visited China? What treatment did they receive?

But not just the “experts”. For years now, China has carefully cultivated journalists across the world. Intelligence agencies should find out whether the journalists who hyped up the Ferguson model have received favours from China or were merely “useful idiots”. This much we know, that the media has never asked why the West changed its strategy suddenly from “flattening the curve” to eradication through lockdowns. Why did the media not perform its fundamental role in 2020?

5. Carefully groomed politicians

It is well-known that China has [groomed many Western bureaucrats and politicians](#). One of them is [Daniel Andrews, the Premier of Victoria](#), who signed Jinping’s Belt and Road initiative. It has been reported in the media that “In March, the Premier met with China’s Melbourne consul general, Long Zhou. The consulate reported that Andrews praised China’s tremendous efforts to prevent and control the epidemic and its important contribution to global public health and security”.

6. Misdirection: The Wuhan laboratory “myth”

This last reason is probably not as well-substantiated as the earlier ones but if it is found to be true, it would fit with China’s war principles.

In 2013, Obama had banned “gain-of-function studies” which involve the man-made creation of new viruses. That it is possible to create such viruses was confirmed in a [2015 report in Nature Medicine](#) about a hybrid (chimeric) virus produced by Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill using a “reverse genetics system”. Baric’s study had been allowed to be completed since it had started before the Obama ban.

[In 2015](#) Anthony Fauci approved a NIH-funded \$3.7 million project to undertake bat coronavirus research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That is why many people have asked whether SARS-CoV2 was invented in the Wuhan lab.

The biggest proponent of this claim has been the “whistle-blower” LiMeng Yan of Hong Kong who published a paper in September 2020 to “prove” her theory. However, her paper has been trashed by scientists such as Gigi Kwik Gronvall, an immunologist at Johns Hopkins University who says the paper is “full of terms that are jumbled together to sound impressive but aren’t supported”. A 20 November 2020 article in the New York Times ([“How Steve Bannon and a Chinese Billionaire Created a Right-Wing Coronavirus Media Sensation”](#)) provides details to confirm that there is no proof of such claims.

This suggests to me that this “whistle-blower” might be fake, a Jinping plant to misdirect the attention of the West. Magic uses misdirection all the time. It would not be surprising if this concept has been used to transfer the attention of the world away from the more basic issue of lockdowns.

Everyone has been outplayed but Sweden

Jinping has not just outplayed the West (excluding Sweden), he has outclassed Modi and cramped the prospect of India taking China’s place in the future.

In March 2020 I had advised my IAS batchmate Rajiv Gauba, India’s Cabinet Secretary, against lockdowns. But India’s bureaucracy is no match for Jinping’s genius. India also recklessly ignored brilliant scientists like Jayaprakash Muliylil, Jay Bhattacharya and Sunetra Gupta and, instead, took China’s bait. India still remains half-hysterical. And Indian and Western intelligence agencies have been sleeping throughout, just like the media.

The 67-year old Xi Jinping is not a passing fad. He has been transforming China for seven years and has radically reshaped the world in 2020. He is undoubtedly the greatest strategist on Earth today. Unless someone with character and intelligence emerges from the West – or from India – and rather quickly, it is basically game over for liberty and the Western civilisation.

Politicians across the world have thoroughly enjoyed the power that lockdowns and mandatory mask policies have given them. They love public health – a gift that keeps giving. They will not return liberty to the people anytime soon. Instead, they will follow Jinping’s orders through his mouthpiece, the WHO (or the Imperial College or one of the many other “experts” across the West who owe their primary allegiance to China).

Whatever else we do, we must stop being hysterical. And intelligence agencies must establish teams to identify and expose China’s role. Once all the facts are established, the world needs to hold Jinping to account – although that will probably be easier said than done.