

USA-CHINA RELATIONSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Although the relationship between China and the United States of America was never great, tension rose when Trump was elected to be the U.S. president and relations were steadily declining. In 2020, when there was the Covid-19 outbreak in Wuhan, the US and China relations deteriorated sharply.

President Trump sought to deflect attention away from spiking Coronavirus cases and protests triggered by George Floyd's killing by stating that China should be held accountable for the pandemic and accusing the World Health Organization of being «Beijing's puppet».

The perception of China as the one responsible for the pandemic and disarranging to global supply chains have led some U.S. politicians to demand a decoupling from China. Furthermore, the virus outbreak has led to a huge increase of people with negative views of China in the whole America. The same happened in China, due to the government's ability to rapidly contain the virus's spread with the U.S. – China diplomatic row, has hardened Chinese nationalism and anti-Americanism.

As usual in such circumstances, the United States wanted to step forward to offer leadership and be the best at diminishing the virus's spreading, using its unique power and its unmatched economic, political and military might to mobilise resources and spur international efforts in a common direction. The United States has generally viewed it as a positive-sum game to navigate these global challenges with China. Nevertheless, many American policymakers view coordination with China on COVID-19 response as a self-harming exercise in a zero-sum competition for global leadership.

As an answer, China started accusing Americans of spreading the conspiracy theories about the origination of Covid-19 in China and began to spread theories about the virus's «starting point» outside their country. Moreover, the Chinese government stated that the way they held the virus's spread back and how they responded to Covid-19 only shows the superiority of its governance system.

Moreover, Beijing's moves against Hong Kong have profoundly worsened U.S.–China relations, though they were not expected to do so. Beijing was undoubtedly aware that it's sudden crushing of Hong Kong's limited and struggling democracy would be costly to China's relations with the United Kingdom, the United States, and many other powers. Indeed, the Trump administration has sanctioned Chinese and Hong Kong officials and ended Hong Kong's special trade status. Beijing felt compelled to act because of the instability created by millions of democratic protesters in its prize special administrative region.

Not only Coronavirus had worsened the relationship between the United States and China, but also technology. There is still a huge rivalry that only intensifies over

5G in the world, but the main «players» are America and Beijing. Furthermore, Trump wanted to block the most famous social media app between teenagers – the Tik-Tok, owned by a Chinese tech company due to a huge amount of propaganda.

As a consequence, the world's two most powerful countries are mired in a narrative war over the causes of the pandemic and the state of blaming for the global destruction it is causing. These arguments are likely to lead to terrible outcomes for both, the United States and China. The more the pandemic spreads and devastates economies, the more that both countries will suffer.

Nevertheless, U.S. – China relationship started getting better quickly after Joe Biden's victory in American presidential election. Chinese government states that if the new U.S. president understands Trump's mistakes should be emended and their relationship is important to the whole world, times are going to be better and they will cooperate more to stop the Covid-19 spread and to «make the future» together.

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