

*Is China the boogeyman ?*

害怕中国？

## Birds of a feather: China Hawks vs. Trump Hawks

*Many want to think the absolute worst of China. No doubt China made mistakes managing COVID-19. It may have even covered up the severity of the impact. But it had no reason to intentionally facilitate the spread of the disease. Conspiracy theories don't help.*

China Hawks, many of them strong Trump supporters, treat China like many on the Left treat Donald Trump, i.e., they've made up their mind that they hate Trump (or China), so nothing Trump (or China) does is any good, and every possible bad thing must be true. It is classic demonization. It has been around forever and doesn't appear to be receding these days.



### Evidence or not, many believe Trump colluded

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Many on the Left are convinced Donald Trump “colluded” with Russia in his election. An extensive investigation reached no such conclusion. Russia’s involvement appears to have been limited mostly to a small scale social media disinformation campaign that had no real impact and seems typical of what foreign agents are doing these days for their own reasons, not in collusion with anyone. It certainly isn’t clear that Russia has reaped any great windfall from Mr. Trump’s election. Yet still many cling to the collusion allegation, evidence or not.

### They don’t want to consider how Trump really won

Donald Trump is a political outsider. He acts more on instinct and impulse than any US political leader ever and it’s not close. I suppose there are many reasons he won the election, but one of the most important is that he simply dared to be his outlandish self and it worked. Not much planning on his part. Just letting it fly, as he always does. Plus the other side ran Hillary Clinton. That probably didn’t help. Given Trump’s nature, it isn’t a surprise that he hired a few campaign people with some issues in their past. He isn’t careful that way. But collusion? Hard to reach that conclusion.

### Evidence or not, many believe the worst about China

China Hawks think similarly about China. Everything associated with the country is wrong. Perhaps the best example of this is that many seem convinced China took action to deliberately spread COVID-19.

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In other articles (see below), we analyze other aspects of China’s role in COVID-19, such as whether China made the same mistakes as other countries or engaged in other misdeeds and whether China is covering up its actions. In this article we will focus on whether China could have intentionally spread the virus.

For China to do this it would seem that one of two possible mindsets must exist in China: 1.) extreme confidence in its disease control and bioweapons capability; 2.) a kamikaze like desire to destroy the enemy. First we examine point number one.

## China doesn't have more advanced biomedical capability

China is still a developing country. Its medical system is way behind the advanced countries. It has far fewer doctors per capita and is only just beginning to develop its own technology. There are reports from foreign sources that quality and operational practices at a Chinese disease control lab were very lax and that therefore the COVID-19 virus, though not created in that lab, could have accidentally been released from the lab. Having more than 2 decades of experience in China, that sounds like the China I know. Developing countries tend to lag in terms of mastering both basic technology and technology management and safety practices. The idea that China's ability to create or spread or control the spread of highly infectious diseases is so advanced it would have the confidence to undertake an exercise such as intentionally spreading this virus simply doesn't hold water. China likely has no reason to be that confident and therefore to not even contemplate such a tactic, even if it were motivated to attack its perceived adversaries.

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## China isn't desperate and has no reason to be reckless

That leaves the other possibility—China is just reckless. That doesn't make sense either. China is not a desperate country. It has had a good run these last 40 years. Prosperity is way up. It is getting stronger technologically, educationally, militarily, in just about every way. It does have major problems, but it also has some solid momentum. Anyone who thinks the US's tariffs are putting extreme pressure on China isn't looking at the data and hasn't noticed that, while China made some concessions, it feels strong enough such that most major issues remain unresolved.

## No reason to think China's actions in COVID were deliberate

**The Left has plenty of reason to opposed Mr. Trump. They don't have to make up fake ones. The same is true of China Hawks. There is genuine reason for America to be concerned about China.**

It's like Trump and Russia. While theoretically anything is possible, the evidence and motivation for collusion just doesn't add up. Similarly, there's no reason to think China would want to disrupt global stability this way, not when it has such a stake in global growth. China may have made mistakes addressing the virus. And it may have lied in an attempt to downplay the impact so as to try to spare itself economic pain. But those things are not the same as intentionally starting a global pandemic. That just doesn't add up.

The Left has plenty of reason to opposed Mr. Trump. They don't have to make up fake ones. The same is true of China Hawks. There is genuine reason for America to be concerned about China. We should stick to those issues. Unless we find solid evidence, muddying the waters with wild allegations won't help.

For more on China's role in COVID-19, click [here](#).