Language's Effect on Cognitive Ability: A Glimpse into the Conspiracy Theories

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Abstract: With the evolution of the COVID-19 epidemic, Chinese people's belief in conspiracy theories has increased, endangering the whole society. Such conspiracy theories typically possess a common core - they involve the interference of foreign power in manufacturing the epidemic. As such, they echo the rising of nationalism observed during the epidemic. It is therefore of vital importance to gain a thorough understanding of what factors affect one's belief in this novel type of conspiracy theories. Though psycholinguistic studies have long proved that the use of foreign language could considerably affect individuals' thinking patterns and cognition, it is still unknown how the use of foreign language could influence one's belief in conspiracy theories. The research tested two contradicting hypotheses in the current study, thereby incorporating the perspective of language into the investigation. Moreover, based on the Existential Threat Model of conspiracy theories, the current study postulated and examined the main and moderating effects of the degree of seriousness of a situation. By collecting data from a group of Chinese students who were randomly assigned the Chinese or English version of the survey, the research discovered that one's perceived seriousness was positively associated with the trustworthiness of conspiracy theory, whilst the language had little impact. Surprisingly, one's self-reported logical reasoning ability went in line with one's belief in conspiracies. The research also discussed the implications, limitations as well as future directions in the paper.

1. Introduction

As a medical emergency on a global scale, the COVID -19 outbreak has spread across the world at an alarming rate, causing unprecedented social, economic, and psychological damage to almost all countries. The epidemic not only attacks the respiratory immune system, or any other biological organs of those who have suffered, but also brings about immense stress to the whole society, even affects those who have not been directly infected. Anxiety and pain aside, people in many countries begin seeking comfort by swallowing conspiracy theories (henceforth CT). For example, many

people in China now believe that some countries deliberately wage a biological war by releasing coronavirus. In fact, during the course of the epidemic, compounded with social media's hype, numerous conspiracies have been widely reported and speculated, especially on the internet. Such beliefs in CT are detrimental to the collective efforts of combating COVID -19 in two important ways. First, in the short run, it might facilitate the ever-growing nationalistic sentiment and thus impede cross-nation cooperation. More importantly, in the long run, it might potentially hamper an individual's trust and belief in science. Hence, the unprecedented epidemic calls for a thorough investigation of the underlying factors that affect one's belief in CT. Only by understanding the causal mechanisms of such beliefs, could interventions be generated promptly and effectively to mitigate the negative effects of these CT.

The current study attempted to initiate such an examination from the perspective of language: namely, it addressed how and to what extent the use of a certain language affects one's beliefs in CT. The article is organized as follows. In the first section, the theoretical background of beliefs in CT and the potential effects of language were deliberated while the hypotheses were proposed and motivated. The research then described the participants, procedures, and scales used in the current study, followed by the presentation of results. The current research summarized the article with a discussion of implications and limitations.

2. Theoretical Background

CT, by definition, means the conviction that a group of actors meets in secret agreement with the purpose of attaining some malevolent goal (e.g., Bale, 2007)[4]. According to Douglas (2017), three reasons were proposed to justify people's belief in such seemingly ridiculous theories: epistemic (such a belief is motivated by a strong wiliness to understand one's environment), existential (such a belief enables better control of one's environment), and social (the belief is used to maintain a positive image of the self and the social group)[11]. Built upon previous studies, Prooijen (2019) has further argued that people are more likely to endorse CT when they experience existential threat, that is, feelings of anxiety or uncertainty because of distressing societal events [12]. In his proposition of the Existential Threat Model of CT, he illuminates that feelings of existential threat increase epistemic sense-making processes, which in turn stimulate CT when antagonistic outgroups are salient. Reasonably, against the backdrop of the prevailing epidemic, beliefs in conspiracies out of existing social threats penetrate deeper. Moreover, during such a stressful situation, the content of CT – for example, the virus was manufactured and served as a biological weapon –are more likely than ever to induce serious consequences. Consequently, these CT can be a source of an existential threat in itself, stimulating further conspiracy theorizing and contributing to a generalized mindset (Prooijen 2019)[12]. In other words, A form of negative spiral stems from the interdependence between beliefs in CT and the sense of being socially threatened (e.g., due to salient outgroups).

Based on the powerful existential threat model of CT, in the current study, I explicitly examined the effects of the perceived seriousness of a specific conspiracy theory on one's belief in the theory. More specifically, when the consequence of the conspiracy theory is urgent and serious, it brings about a higher level of the salience of the threat; thereby, the receiver is more likely to engage in the theory as a response to the increasing threat. Such a projection also gained empirical support. Marta et al. (2019) found that a defensive identification with one's religious group was a robust predictor of gender conspiracy beliefs [14]. Other empirical researches also show the casual-effect of consequential seriousness on the briefs in CT. For instance, LeBoeuf & Norton (2012) investigated the influence of consequential versus inconsequential threatening societal events [5]. Scenario studies revealed that people believe CT more strongly if the assassination of a president leads to a war than

if it does not lead to a war. Furthermore, psychological feelings emerging from serious social threats, e.g., anxiety and uncertainty, feelings of powerlessness, and negative emotions, often stimulate beliefs in CT (Grzesiak-Feldman, 2013; Abalakina-Paap et al., 1999; Van Prooijen & Acker, 2015)[3]-[7]-[8]. Following the same line of reasoning, if one perceived a certain conspiracy theory as a manifesto of the outgroup's explicit attack, he may be more likely to believe in the theory as a response to proclaim his patriotism and reduce anxiety. Therefore, I hypothesized that a higher level of perceived seriousness of the conspiracy theory is associated with a higher level of belief in the theory.

In addition to examining how the content of CT affects one's beliefs in these theories, the current study also aimed to understand the influence of how CT is presented. More specifically, the study tested the impact of the language used in communicating the CT. In psycholinguistics, a powerful and long-lasting set of theories predict a strong impact of language on how an individual perceives the world. This is most closely related to the linguistic Edward Sapir and his student Benjamin Whorf, and is therefore referred to as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis [1]-[2]. Linguistic relativism is its weaker form, holding the argument that languages encode in different categories and the speakers of different languages, therefore, think about the world in different ways. Apart from thinking patterns, recent years also see other researchers studying other effects of language on an individual's attitudes, emotions, and behaviors. Keysar (2012) found that using a foreign language reduces decision-making biases because a foreign language provides greater cognitive and emotional distance than a native tongue does [6]. Besides, using a foreign language also changes people's choices. Hayakawa (2016) reviewed the impact of using a foreign language on risk, inference, and morality, and discusses potential explanations, including reduced emotion, psychological distance, and increased deliberation [9].

Despite this abundant evidence of language on various psychological processes, to the greatest of my knowledge, no research has studied its impact on one's belief in CT. To fill this research void, the current research made the first attempt to study how the language utilized to display the CT affects one's beliefs in these theories. The research formulated two distinctive hypotheses with regard to these relationships. On the one hand, as people tend to think and behave in a more logical way when encountered with foreign languages, the study predicted such a higher level of rational thinking would likely lead to a lower level of beliefs in these inherently ridiculous theories. On the other hand, however, the foreign language might prime the receiver with a sense of outgroup categorizing, and thereby further enhance the salience of threat as originated from the CT. In other words, it is also possible to reason that the use of foreign languages in communicating CT would result in a higher level of belief in them. Because of the apparent contrast of these two predictions, I do not make specific predictions on the direction of the relationship of the use of foreign languages on beliefs in CT.

Finally, I also tested how the content of CT and the mode of display affect beliefs in CT interactively. More specifically, I postulated that the perceived seriousness of CT would exaggerate the effects of the use of foreign language on beliefs in CT. To generalize the findings of the current study beyond the context of the epidemic, in addition to the pre-mentioned conspiracy theory related to the current epidemic, a second material was also used where the conspiracy theory was not connected to the epidemic. For this additional material, I assumed that the effects of a foreign language would reduce one's belief in conspiracy theories since the threat derived was not at all related to a salient outgroup while the positive effect of using foreign language on rational thinking persists.

3. Methodology

Participants and procedures: In the current study, a total of 72 EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Chinese participants were recruited to fill in the online questionnaires. Each participant was randomly assigned either the Chinese version of the questionnaire or the English version, while the content of the two versions was identical. Among all participants, 69 of them were undergraduates and the rest were pursuing a master's degree. All of them were Chinese native speaker, and had adequate command of the English language, evidenced by their successful accomplishment of the English language tests. The sample contained19 boys and 53 girls, with an average age of 20.44 (SD = 1.161). The responses were free of missing entries.

In the survey, the participants were asked to read two short articles in which two CT were expounded. The first conspiracy theory was related to the current outbreak of COVID -19 and claimed that the virus was manufactured by American scientists and deliberately put into Wuhan's market in an attempt to pause the rapid economic development of China. This was a piece of writing that had been circulated for some time in various personal blogs in China and gained much popularity. The second conspiracy theory was about the existence of super-heroes that saved the world on many occasions without notice. Importantly, the second conspiracy theory was not related to the current outbreak and thus served as a platform for replication. The detailed Chinese and English versions of the materials could be found in the appendix.

Measures

The language of the questionnaire: In the current study, questionnaires were distributed to participants in two languages: Chinese and English. The study postulated that when processing the questionnaire, one would be primed by the specific thinking style that corresponded to the language of the questionnaire. This variable was coded as a dummy variable, with 0 = the Chinese version and 1 = the English version.

The seriousness of the situation described by the conspiracy theory: The seriousness of the situation was measured by a single item, which read "please judge the seriousness of the materials from 1(not at all severe) to 7(extremely severe)". The responses were recorded on a 7-point Likert scale.

The evaluation of the trustworthiness of the CT: The participants were asked to indicate, on a 7-point Likert scale, to what extent they believe the described conspiracy theory is trustworthy. Such an evaluation was done separately for each of the two CT.

Control Variables

The following set of control variables were also measured in the current study to rule out confounding effects.

The state anxiety and relaxation: Participants were instructed to indicate, on a 7-point Likert scale, their senses of anxiety and relaxation during the pandemic. Each of the emotional states was measured by one item. The study found only a weak correlation between the two items (r = 0.29), therefore they were not aggregated. Instead, only the reported state anxiety was used in the following analysis.

The reading comprehension skills: Each participant was asked to report their reading comprehension skills, in both Chinese and English, on a 7-point Likert scale.

The logical thinking skill and information gathering skill: Participants were asked to report their self-evaluation of the logical thinking skills and information gathering skills on a 7-point Likert scale.

Demographic variables A set of important demographic variables, including gender, age, and educational background were also collected from the participants.

Analysis Strategy

To test the proposed hypotheses, a sequential regression analysis strategy was applied. More spec-

ifically, three models were built with increasing complexities that predicted participants' evaluation of the trustworthiness of the reading materials (i.e., the CT). The self-reported trustworthiness of the two CT was modeled separately. Each set of sequential testing models were built upon the following procedures. First, Model 1, also referred to as the baseline model, only included all control variables. Subsequently, the main effects of the language of the questionnaire as well as the seriousness of the particular situation were added in Model 2. In Model 3, the study further added the interaction term of the language and the perceived seriousness.

4. Results

The means, standard deviations of all variables as well as the correlations between these variables are shown in Table 1, from which some initial insights can be derived. First, not surprisingly, the perceived seriousness of the situation covered in the reading material and the perceived trustworthiness to the corresponding conspiracy theory were highly correlated with regard to both reading materials (in the material 1, $r = 0.38$, $p < 0.01$; in the material 2, $r = 0.597$, $p < 0.01$), which replicated a consistent finding obtained across previous studies. However, in both scenarios, the language of the questionnaire appeared to have no obvious correlation with the dependent variable (for the first material $r = .104$, $p > 0.05$; for the second material $r = 0.021$, $p > 0.05$), which was not consistent with the hypotheses. The agreement between the results concerning the two materials partially wiped out the speculation that the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19 brought about an urgent state of psychological reactions and thus the results were not generalizable to other – potentially more ordinary – scenarios. Moreover, the study found that the logical thinking skill is closely related to the self-reported English reading comprehension skill ($r = 0.532$, $p < 0.01$) and mildly related to the self-reported Chinese reading comprehension skill ($r = 0.289$, $p < 0.05$).

Table 1: Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals.

Variable	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.Language	0.5	0.504									
2.Perceived seriousness I	5.10	1.713	0.106								
3.Perceived trustworthiness I	3.79	1.482	0.104	0.380**							
4.Chin. RC	6.85	0.944	0.015	0.079	0.078						
5.Eng. RC	5.64	1.079	0.052	0.118	0.076	0.553**					
6.Logical Reasoning	5.96	0.956	0.015	0.149	0.173	0.289*	0.532**				
7.Infor. Gathering	6.11	1.069	-0.079	0.148	0.024	0.436**	0.622**	0.694**			
8.Anxiety	3.82	1.514	0.139	0.219	0.027	-0.256*	-0.084	-0.054	-0.205		
9.Perceived seriousnessII	3.78	1.713	0.000	0.401**	0.331**	-0.056	0.017	0.029	0.029	0.033	
10.Perceived trustworthiness II	3.06	1.320	0.021	0.203	0.517**	-0.027	0.084	0.125	0.165	0.083	0.597**

Subsequently, sequential regression analyses were conducted to directly test the hypotheses. Table 2 and Table 3 report the results of the regression analysis with, respectively, the perceived trustworthiness of the first and the second material as the dependent variable. From Table 2, it is clear that the main effect of the seriousness of the described situation on the degree of trustworthiness of the first material was significant ($b = 0.332$, 95% CI = [0.135, 0.529], $p < 0.01$.; Model 2). By contrast,

language was not found to be a significant predictor among respondents (b = -.061, 95% CI = [-0.73, 0.61], p > 0.05.; Model 2). Also, the interaction effect of language and severity of consequence was not statistically significant(b = -0.118, 95% CI = [-0.53, 0.29], p > 0.05; Model 3).In other words, in accordance with the hypothesis, for the conspiracy theory that was related to the global epidemic, one's perceived seriousness was positively associated with the evaluation of the trustworthiness of the conspiracy theory. However, the language of the communication had little impact, either as a predictor or as a moderator on people's perception of the trustworthiness of CT. These findings were inconsistent with the hypotheses.

Table 2: Regression results using the degree of trust of the first material as the dependent variable.

	Predictor	b	t	Fit	Difference
Model 1	Gender	-1.075	-2.391		
	Edu. Backg.	-0.291	-0.371		
	Chin. RC	0.095	0.415		
	Eng. RC	-0.169	-0.693	R2 = .141	/
	Logical Reasoning	0.693	0.447		
	Infor. Gathering	-0.238	-0.172		
	Anxiety	0.026	0.026		
Model 2	Gender	-1.046	-02.44		
	Edu. Backg.	-0.294	-0.400		
	Chin. RC	0.048	0.224		
	Eng. RC	-0.149	-0.653	R2 = 0.274	ΔR2 = 0.133**
	Logical Reasoning	0.661	2.577		
	Infor. Gathering	-0.324	-1.343		
	Anxiety	-0.073	-0.627		
	Language	-0.061	-0.181		
	Perceived seriousness	0.332	3.369**		
Model 3	Gender	-1.009	-0.302		
	Edu. Backg.	-0.336	-0.451		
	Chin. RC	0.053	0.249		
	Eng. RC	-0.116	-0.489		
	Logical Reasoning	0.656	2.545		
	Infor. Gathering	-0.354	-1.427	R2 =0 .278	ΔR2 = 0.004
	Anxiety	-0.079	-0.667		
	Language	-0.059	-0.174		
	Perceived seriousness	0.322	3.190**		

		b			
	Language* Perceived seriousness	- 0.118	-0.577		

Note. b represents unstandardized regression weights, while t represents the t statistic computed from the Wald test* indicates $p < 0.05$. ** indicates $p < 0.01$.

The previous sets of analyses were repeated on participants' responses to the second material. The findings have been largely replicated. More specifically, the perceived seriousness of the conspiracy theory was again positively related to the perceived trustworthiness of the material (b = 0.447, 95% CI = [0.29, 0.59], p < 0.01; Model 2), and such effect was statistically unchanged when the moderator was added (b = 0.093, 95% CI = [-0.21, 0.40], p > 0.05; Model 3). That is to say, even for a conspiracy theory that has nothing to do with the current outbreak of COVID -19, the significant predictor of the perceived trustworthiness in the conspiracy was again the perceived seriousness of the depicted scenarios, but not the language of the communication.

Table 3: Regression results using the degree of trust of the second material as the dependent variable.

	Predictor	b	t	Fit	Difference
Model 1	Gender	- 0.173	-0.417		
	Edu. Backg.	- 0.864	-1.191		
	Chin. RC	- 0.150	-0.713		
	Eng. RC	0.006	0.025	R2 =0 .077	
	Logical Reasoning	0.052	0.207		
	Infor. Gathering	0.318	1.346		
	Anxiety	0.104	0.933		
Model 2	Gender	- 0.118	-0.343		
	Edu. Backg.	- 0.772	-1.304		
	Chin. RC	- 0.072	-0.419		
	Eng. RC	- 0.015	-0.083	R2 = 0.410	ΔR2 = 0.333**
	Logical Reasoning	0.036	0.176		
	Infor. Gathering	0.277	1.436		
	Anxiety	0.091	0.997		
	Language	0.001	0.002		
	Perceived seriousness II	0.447	5.918**		
Model 3	Gender	- 0.132	-0.379		
	Edu. Backg.	- 0.778	-1.307		
	Chin. RC	- 0.060	-0.346		
	Eng. RC	- 0.030	-0.162		
	Logical Reasoning	0.044	0.214		
	Infor. Gathering	0.282	1.453	R2 = 0.413	ΔR2 = 0.004

	b	t
Anxiety	0.090	0.984
Language	0.000	0.001
Perceived seriousnessII	0.444	5.829**
Language* Perceived seriousness II	0.093	0.607

Note. b represents unstandardized regression weights, while t represents the t statistic computed from the Wald test
* indicates p< 0.05. ** indicates p< 0.01.

5. General Discussions

As is shown in results, one's perceived seriousness was positively associated with the evaluation of the trustworthiness of the conspiracy theory. This finding is in line with the hypothesis and the theoretical basis (i.e., the Existential Threat Model; Prooijen, 2019)[12]. Effectively, the degree of seriousness, namely, the severity of the consequence of certain CT, fans the people's tendency to endorse them, as it activates the motivation to live in a predictable world, even with the most ludicrous explanations. However, in opposition to hypotheses, the language of the questionnaire had little impact on respondents' beliefs in CT. In other words, reading, thinking, and reacting with a foreign language did not reduce the tendency to believe in conspiracies. One possible interpretation is that the impact of a foreign language, due to individual differences in personality and educational background, differ in various subgroups of the population. For example, some people may be more rational and pay more attention to the incoherent nature of the theory, while others may be primed with an antagonistic attitude and endorse conspiracy thinking to a greater extent. The counteracting effects cancel out with each other and result in an overall weak effect at the population level. Furthermore, when the content of certain conspiracy theory tends to be the result of deliberative processing, e.g. deduction from logical reasoning or a seemingly right fallacy merely derived from a shallow framework of logic, the impact of using foreign language may weaken in that the logical reasoning ability varies among respondents. Besides, when the conspiracy theory is too fanciful to be in line with the common sense of reality (e.g. superheroes), differences in the processing language, not surprisingly, may contribute little to conspiracy beliefs.

Surprisingly, the results confirmed that people with higher self-reported logical thinking ability tended to endorse the first conspiracy material (America waging biological war) to a greater extent. This finding might result from an overall higher degree of the narcissism of people who reported a higher level of logical thinking ability – they falsely believed they had carried out careful logical reasoning and hence understood something that the others were unaware of. Also, some respondents that reported a higher level of logical thinking might choose to believe CT in order to show their distinctive identity. Yet this kind of self-glorification effectively pushed them into the traps of conspiracy beliefs. Another plausible explanation is related to the mainstream negative profile of western countries among Chinese citizens. Nationalism and the opposition to the western countries, to a great extent, are considered to be politically correct. Under such circumstances, it is conceivable that respondents feel their reasoning in outgroup conspiracy appears to be more rational, righteous, and just. Thus, beliefs in this certain CT might be considered as a collective defence of the nation, especially when outgroup threats are salient (Prooijen, 2019)[12]. These interpretations are in accordance with previous studies on the psychology of conspiracy thinking: CT valorizes the self and the in-group by allowing blame for negative outcomes to be attributed to others. Thus, they may help to uphold the image of the self and the in-group as competent and moral but as sabotaged by powerful and unscrupulous others (Douglas, 2017; Cichocka, Marchlewska, & Golec de Zavala, 2016)[10]-[11].

6. Summary, Limitation & Future Research

The current research thus far has successfully shed light on foreign language's effect on conspiracy thinking and established the close connection between the degree of seriousness and the conspiracy beliefs. An appreciable impact on the trustworthiness of conspiracies has been found in the degree of seriousness. By contrast, the foreign languages appeared to be ineffective in altering conspiracy beliefs. Although the current research opens up a brand-new perspective to explore the effect of the foreign language on cognitive ability and provides information for individuals and policy-makers to control conspiracy beliefs, there still exists room for improvement. The materials provided in the questionnaire were a bit lengthy, according to some of the respondents. Furthermore, although the study deliberately selected the students majoring in English to participate in the survey, their proficiency in English might still be lacking because of little exposure to foreign cultures. Nevertheless, this article offers an exciting avenue for future research. To better study the influence of language on beliefs in conspiracy theories, future research can recruit a group of bilingual and bicultural respondents whose second language enjoys a similar level to mother tongue (e.g. Chinese people living in the UK and British people living in China). Also, researchers could make use a variety of CTs to replicate the findings in the current study. Furthermore, in order to accurately detect the underlying relation between logical reasoning and conspiracy belief, future research can use standardized tests to examine respondents' real logical ability. Hopefully, this research can serve as a solid footstone for future studies.

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Two conspiracy theories used in the research:

1. Was the 2020 Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19) an engineered biological attack on China by America?(excerpt)

It does seem farfetched, doesn't it? That the United States will risk World War III, using nuclear weapons, by launching a coronavirus inside China during the 2020 Chinese New Year celebrations? But that is exactly the scenario that I fear has occurred.

Officially called the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), [renamed to COVID-19 for some odd reason] the contagion is a respiratory illness, in the same family of infections as SARS and MERS. It's highly contagious.

Everything seemingly points to biowarfare being waged against China. Crazy! Right? No nation would be so crazy, so stupid, so insane, so evil… as to launch a very deadly WMD inside a nuclear-armed world power on their most important holiday. Right? Who would be interested in doing this?

However…

•   This Is How to Stop China from Dominating the South China

•   It's too late to stop China's rise, so the West must start …

•   How to Stop China's Rise

The calls for drastic and immediate action against China are all over the major American neocon publications. The culprits are the dominant Western Powers. Which pretty much is America and its allies. The objective is to put "stress" on China in a combined effort to contain her growing power and influence. It seems so far-fetched. No one would be that crazy, that evil, that insane to want to hurt a successful nation full of hard-working and family loving people. No one, unless……they are ideologically motivated.

However, what is different THIS TIME is that the virus is [1] new (not a strain of an existing virus), [2] extremely aggressive, [3] launched during the yearly Chinese migration, and [4] comes at the heels of a wide spectrum of American instigated attacks on China during the "Trump Trade Wars".

Trump trade war went "hot"

For some reason, ever since the "Trump trade war", China has been hit with unusually dangerous and lethal germs, viral agents, and illnesses that have attacked livestock and people.

●   Asian Lineage Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus

●   China's African swine fever outbreak is unprecedented

●   Unusual virus strains cause flu outbreak in China

Chinese treated this seriously.

In most large centers in the country, all sports venues, theaters, museums, tourist attractions, all locations that attract crowds, have been closed, as have all schools. All group tours have been canceled. Not only the city of Wuhan but virtually the entire province of Hubei has been locked down, with all trains, aircraft, buses, subways, ferries, grounded and all major highways and toll booths closed.

CNY 2020 devistation!

A virus outbreak in the city of Wuhan immediately prior to the Chinese New Year migration could potentially have dramatic social and economic repercussions. Wuhan, with a population of about 12 million, is a major transport hub in Central China, particularly for the high-speed train network, and with more than 60 air routes with direct flights to most of the world's major cities, as well as more than 100 internal flights to major Chinese cities. When we add this to the Spring Festival travel rush during which many hundreds of millions of people travel across the country to be with their families, the potential consequences for the entire country are far-reaching.

Point of origin.

The Western media have already staked out their claim to the fundamentals, all media sources claiming the virus was transferred to humans from animals or seafood. None of which has been confirmed as happening. But there is no proof that the virus is transmitted via seafood. Ignore the American mainstream media. They lie and do so obviously.

Why China?

The question here is: Why is China always the epicenter for so many strains and variations of coronaviruses, influenzas, pneumonia viruses and other highly contagious infection agents that strike the major commercial centers on southeastern mainland.

What's particularly suspicious about all of these outbreaks in China is that they are each described by the Mainstream Media as quite dangerous to human health. The mortality rate in the beginning of these eventual pandemics is especially high, as if by purposeful design of the bioengineers. In this way, the whole world is eventually drawn into a pandemic melodrama that's certainly designed to fear-monger.

Conclusion

America is waging biological warfare with China. This time, it was really, really serious. Far worse than what started World War I, and World War II. It is being done without an Act of War, and Congressional approval. Luckily China took immediate steps, but the net-citizens, the world, and the people of Asia are on alert. This is very, very dangerous, as the moment it is proved, both China and Russia will be forced to retaliate. Their people will not tolerate passive acceptance of a WMD attack on their nation. It does not matter if it is nuclear, chemical or biological. It will not be permitted to pass without consequence. For there HAS to be some consequences. If there isn't any, things will only get worse.

(http://metallicman.com/laoban4site/was-the-2020-wuhan-coronavirus-an-engineered-biological-attack-on-china-by-america-for-geopolitical-advantage)

2. Actually, superheroes have already defeated those extremely vicious devils of the universe several times, saving the world without anybody knowing it.