



InfraGard® National Members Alliance
National Disaster Resilience Council
36 Stratagems Working Group

Deception and Misdirection: An Analysis of Desperate Acts from the CCP that Inflicted Injury on the Chinese People and the Rest of the World's Population

Origins of COVID-19: Stratagem #34

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Executive summary

In the almost four years since scientists believe the first cases of what became COVID-19 were detected in Wuhan, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has continued to hide, delay, and obfuscate the proximate origins of the deadly virus. The CCP took advantage of the pandemic early on by a variety of means to the disadvantage of other nations affected. In this whitepaper, we take a comprehensive approach to highlighting Stratagem 34 of Family 6; ***Defeat/Desperate: Inflict injury on Oneself to Win the Enemy's Trust***. This Stratagem tactic directly impacted many Critical Infrastructure (CI) sectors, including but not limited to Healthcare and Public Health, Emergency Services, Chemical, Food and Agriculture, Transportation Systems, Commercial Facilities, and Critical Manufacturing sectors.

Problem Statement

From the first evidence and emergence of COVID-19, the CCP sought to cover up the origins by a variety of means. Examples of their acts include:

- Restriction of western scientists from access to the earliest viral samples,
- Prevention of Chinese scientists from communicating with their colleagues and peers,
- Deletion of various websites and data bases connected to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV),
- Disinfecting the seafood market in Wuhan.

The seafood markets were allegedly the origin of the first cases which, to the CCP, meant that by disinfecting, no further samples could be obtained. By creating a false narrative and description about a natural evolution from a source in nature, i.e., animal origin, which has never been positively identified, despite years of effort to do so, they attempted to redirect any subsequent investigation. We will expand the discussion on animal origin after the next few passages.

Further, the CCP took steps to delay medical supplies of which the US and other nations were dependent, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators and restricted shipment of some pharmaceuticals and their component chemicals overseas, which caused a cascade effect of supply chain issues.

Due to their knowledge of gain of function (GOF) research, the CCP took advantage early on by developing their own vaccine. Specially restricting air travel within the borders of China, while continuing to allow international flights, the CCP further sped up the spread of the virus. The use of a novel Corona Virus with laboratory modifications and an enhanced ability to infect humans could be a precursor to development of a biological weapon.

The first cases of COVID-19 were possibly noted (in Wuhan) as early as August or September 2019. Reports of lab workers at WIV falling ill with an unknown pneumonia were available in November 2019. Much of the information about the spreading disease was coming from travelers and on social media. A few brave Chinese scientists were calling colleagues in the West and advising of the potential for pandemic



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spread. The CCP made statements that the illness is not spread from person to person, it is not particularly lethal, and that 'it' is under control.

Requests from Western scientists to visit Wuhan, scientists who had worked with the WIV for years, were rebuffed as "too dangerous." Multiple requests for virus samples were refused. Early cases, which would have been most helpful in determining the source, were not available for testing. Finally, in December 2019, a portion of the virus's genome was sent out by email, demonstrating that it was a corona virus.

The cover-up in China by the CCP about the spread of COVID-19, cases and deaths, was similar to that in 2002, for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), now called SARS CoV-1. SARS originated in Guangdong Province China, probably in early November of 2002. SARS CoV-1 is a corona virus and was a combination of a virus found in bats and civet cats. It spread quickly through Southeast Asia, then around the world and had reached North America by March of 2003. The CCP health authorities were very reluctant to acknowledge the outbreak or to allow outside entities access to China to investigate and to obtain any samples. SARS killed over 8000 people from 29 countries. SARS was especially deadly in Hong Kong (a concentrated population) and in Canada (among healthcare workers). It did not continue to spread, likely due to lack of an asymptomatic contagious period (person-to-person) so it was effectively contained by isolating patients with symptoms. SARS (SARS CoV-1) is an example for the need for early identification and transparency between governments and health authorities to stop the spread, at the earliest possible moment.

In the Spring of 2012, six miners were admitted to a Kunming Hospital in Southern China with pneumonia: of these, four died. All were working in an abandoned copper mine excavating bat guano. Later, scientists from the WIV, including Shi Zhengli, the Director of the WIV Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases (the "Bat Woman") obtained numerous samples of corona virus from the mine, She subsequently published many scientific papers on bat corona virus and traveled extensively outside China describing their work on corona virus's identification, insertion of segments of genetic code, serial passage through lab animals, and other techniques to enhance infectivity and lethality all in the name of preventing or treating disease. These research techniques together constitute GOF research.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology already had a reputation for lax laboratory practices. Research which was deemed too dangerous to conduct in the United States (US) and subject to an International Moratorium, (GOF research) was allowed at the WIV. In addition, the research was conducted at a Bio-Safety level (BSL) 2 vice a BSL-4 as it would have been in the US.

When scientists outside of China were finally able to look at the genome (genetic code) for COVID-19 (or SARS CoV-2) several things immediately stood out. It matched (96%) to one of the viruses taken from the copper mine back in 2012. It was most adapted however to survive and spread in humans as opposed to bats or other animals. It has an insertion of genetic code at the base of the spike protein called a furin cleavage site, which is not found in beta-corona viruses. Further, the spike protein had a higher binding affinity for the human respiratory tract (ACE2 receptors) than other corona viruses. It was adapted to attach best to human lungs and throats from the very beginning. Despite much effort, a match for COVID-19 was never found in any animal species.



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Intelligence officials from many western agencies including the Five Eyes have stated, “this virus looks engineered.” Although no definite origin has been found, the weight of the evidence is on the side of an “escape from the lab.” The US Department of Energy has gone on the record to state the laboratory leak hypothesis is the most likely as has the FBI. The circumstantial evidence is that the virus pandemic began at the location of China’s virology lab, the WIV. A former Commanding Officer at the US Army Institute for Infectious Diseases has stated, “keeping these organisms confined in a laboratory environment requires strict adherence to safety protocols.” The WIV had problems keeping the lab secure and had been warned by scientists outside China to “up their game.” In addition, the WIV was doing the most dangerous type of GOF research on viable (live) coronavirus, not on substitute organisms which could not escape and cause disease.

Why should we want to determine the original cause of COVID-19? There are several reasons:

- This was the largest pandemic since the Spanish Flu of 1918
- COVID-19 killed more than 16 million worldwide and more than 1 million in the US
- The economic costs are \$ trillions and may push the world economy into recession
- The societal costs, closures of schools/businesses, interruption of travel/trade
- An indeterminate or inaccurate causation could allow a similar pandemic to emerge
- US national security is at risk in the context of CCP unrestricted warfare doctrine

We should consider at least three alternatives to the “spill over from nature” hypothesis as a cause:

1. COVID-19 first detected in Wuhan China, the site of the WIV was an accidental release of a natural organism (corona virus) stored at the WIV.
2. COVID-19 was initially a bat corona virus collected years ago from Southern China and stored at the WIV for research purposes and through GOF techniques became a “chimera” (combination of parts of several viruses connected to a bat virus backbone). This virus was especially adapted in the WIV to infect humans by insertion of genetic material and serial passage through “humanized” mice.
3. COVID-19 was a deliberate release of an adapted organism (chimera) from the CCP bio-warfare side of the WIV and was meant to test the West’s response, to gain a strategic advantage. The CCP’s subsequent actions after the emergence of COVID-19 align most closely with Stratagem #34. We must consider the CCP inherently a bad actor and not give them a pass on an alternative explanation, deliberate release, which could be true given China’s advanced bioweapons research and disregard for their population. However unlikely, we must consider the “deliberate release” explanation at least a possibility given China’s interest in bio-weapons research and development.

Links to the 36 Stratagems

Stratagem 34 of Family 6; ***Defeat/Desperate: Inflict injury on Oneself to Win the Enemy's Trust*** is paraphrased as **Make Yourself Appear Weak in Order to Lull Your Enemy into Complacency**. Several versions of the ancient Chinese stratagem #34 exist. We have outline in the Problem Statement numerous activities by the CCP that align with this stratagem. We hope the link to the Stratagems assists with gaining situational awareness such that innovation within the CI sectors can be achieved through a free marketplace. Next, we review these vulnerabilities of the CI sectors due to the CCP’s actions.



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Relationship to the Critical Infrastructure Sectors

Almost all the 16 CI sectors were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic because all the sectors require healthy people. Sectors which were disproportionately affected are/were:

Healthcare and Public Health: The COVID-19 pandemic presented the greatest world-wide challenge to Health Infrastructure, to date. Access to care, staffing, critical pharmaceuticals, the roll-out of several vaccines, ICU beds and ventilators, etc. etc., were all in short supply and unevenly distributed. Of greatest impact was the effect on the Public Health Sector and especially testing for COVID cases and administration of the vaccine(s) which overwhelmed this sector for many months. Most often in the news, however, were first person accounts of healthcare workers being overworked and understaffed, working extremely long hours and either shortages of PPE or enduring the difficulties of working in PPE. Also, separation from their families. This has resulted in severe nursing shortages and the closure of smaller community hospitals.

Emergency Services: Emergency services likewise followed Health Care and Public Health with short staffing, lack of sufficient PPE, lack of equipment, pharmaceuticals/vaccines/tests and complex social distancing measures. This sector could be described as a dependent sector as all its components: transportation, medical supplies to include PPE, trained personnel, energy and communications all reside elsewhere. This sector was particularly put at risk in the days and months before a vaccine became available as they (paramedics, law enforcement, firefighters) frequently had to deal with the “sickest” members of society in the least controlled environments.

Transportation Systems: Nation-wide there was a critical shortage of transportation workers (drivers) sufficient to delay and disrupt distribution of critical supplies, food, medicine, equipment and other. There was real concern that movement of people, goods, and basic products (diesel for example) were at risk of running out. This critical infrastructure sector faced a real potential for failure. Policy needed to be made (and was) that truck drivers for instance were exempted from some of the most draconian social distancing measures. Without transportation workers this nation could have ground to a halt.

Food and Agriculture Sector: The link between our farms and the consumer is complex and fragile. Likewise, farmers require a steady supply of feed, fertilizer, and ability to move product. Perhaps one of the most obvious examples was the meat processing plants which suffered from acute staffing shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most often mentioned in the media, gaps in the transportation system and supply chain caused at least temporary shortages in certain foods at the retail/consumer level. Prices of some of these food items increased significantly as well, due to supply and demand. In addition, the shift of demand from institutional food suppliers to retail food suppliers due to institutional closures resulted in severe shortages in grocery stores.

Critical Manufacturing Sector: Despite prioritization, our Critical Manufacturing/Industrial Production was put at risk by lack of transportation, lack of staffing and unpredictability of the supply chain to include all types of manufactured goods, chemicals, plastics, fuels, and metals. Always somewhat vulnerable, these industries provide the basic ingredients for all the other sectors so could be considered somewhat



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independent. National Security depends on Defense Critical Manufacturing industries. Pharmaceutical firms should be considered an element of this sector but are sometimes considered healthcare sector elements.

Commercial Facilities Sector: Due to the stay-at-home mentality, many social enterprises were affected such as entertainment (theaters, casinos, sport events, theme parks), retail (stores, malls, shopping centers, restaurants), lodging (hotels, conference centers, campgrounds, real estate (housing, offices), and faith-based organizations. All of these were impacted to such extent that many entities were driven out of business.

Government Facilities: The school system and educational methods were greatly impacted by the Lockdowns that took place. Online learning became a huge priority by using Zoom for teacher student communications. Many students did not have access to computers at home rendering their participation on Zoom activities even more challenging or they did not have quiet areas to focus on learning. Further, at home supervision from adults during online activities were also a challenge which disproportionately impacted elementary age children. Overall, the situation greatly impacted our children's physical, mental and emotional health.

Open-Source conclusions and recommendations

One consensus theme has been a renewed emphasis on global surveillance for, and rapid response to, newly emerging diseases with pandemic potential, rapid dissemination of scientific knowledge (genomic sequencing) of the potential organism, a need for more transparency among the community of nations, a push for rapid (and safe) development of vaccines and other countermeasures and stockpiling of essential pharmaceutical components, personal protective equipment and ventilators. We also agree on the need to be able to surge hospital capacity, both for staffing and in-patient (ICU) beds. This ties in with some of our NDRC work on Resilient Hospitals. Yet to be decided are any additional restrictions on research of dual use biotechnology (such as GOF research on live/ viable organisms) and the need for enhanced safety precautions for BSL-4 labs, such as the WIV. Congress ideally needs to form a truly bi-partisan commission specifically to determine the origins of COVID-19 and make recommendations. Finally, while these recommendations are being implemented, re-instate a global moratorium on all Gain of Function research, like that which existed before 2017, until adequate safety requirements are put in place to be able to conduct this type of dangerous research. Establish the two or three best cases for the cause of the COVID epidemic and put plans in place to correct all noted deficiencies [NSC]. Other recommendations:

- Develop rapid-response capability for emerging diseases using mRNA tools (e.g., Nipah) (NIH)
- Resume cabinet-level pandemic planning at the federal level (DHS)
- Stockpile emergency response medical equipment at strategic regional locations [HHS]
- Establish plans and stage materiel needed for quarantining at field hospitals [HHS]
- Establish resilient sources of utilities (electricity, water, communication) [DHS]
- Establish and advertise plans for coordinating responses at a national level [DHS]
- Establish and advertise plans for coordinating responses at an international level [UN]



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- Establish an international standard for the bounds of gain of function research [NIH]
- Establish an international protocol for inspection and enforcement at medical research facilities along the lines of the International Atomic Energy Association [IAEA].

References & Further Reading

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- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons/>
- [The emergence of new critical infrastructures. Is the COVID-19 pandemic shifting our perspective on what critical infrastructures are? - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [Where Covid Came From \(paperback\) August 3, 2021 by Nicholas Wade](#)
- [SPIKE The Virus vs The People \(paperback\) February 2021 by Jeremy Farrar](#)
- [What Really Happened in Wuhan \(hardcover\) 2021 by Sharri Markson](#)
- [VIRAL The Search for the Origin of Covid-19 \(hardcover\) 2021 by Alina Chan and Matt Rodley](#)

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36 Stratagems Summary

Certainly, it is important to clarify the origins of the 36 Stratagems. These are a collective body of wisdom contributed by various individuals throughout ancient China's history, not solely attributed to Sun Tzu. These stratagems reflect the collective strategic insights from different minds and experiences, enriching their relevance across diverse contexts. This recognition ensures that the Stratagems are appreciated as a collective heritage, distinct from any single individual, promoting a comprehensive understanding of their applications in modern scenarios. The 36 Stratagems without context to current events and topics could read as somewhat esoteric in today's culture, especially an understanding of its origin.

In our next whitepaper we will explore the impact of vulnerabilities of Food Security and Food Defense and Stratagem 19 of Family 4: ***Remove the logs from under the fire.***