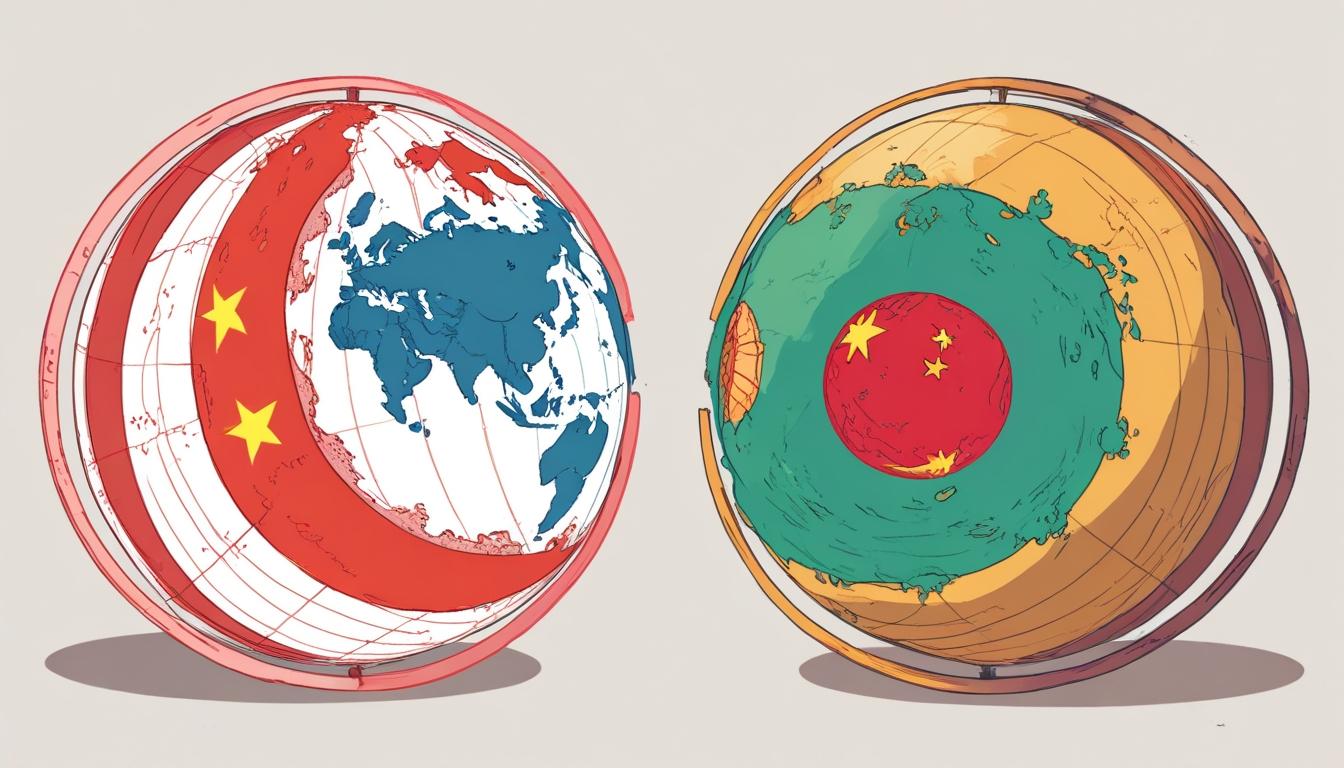
# China claims US could be Covid-19 origin in new white paper



In a recent development adding complexity to the ongoing global discourse on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, China has put forward a controversial claim suggesting that the United States, rather than China, could be the true origin of the virus. This claim was detailed in a white paper published on Wednesday by the Chinese State Council Information Office.

The white paper presents the theory that the coronavirus, which has resulted in over 7 million deaths worldwide and 1.2 million in the United States alone, may have emerged first on American soil. This assertion appears to be a direct counter to allegations from the Trump campaign and certain US officials, who have long suggested that the virus could have leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in China—a laboratory known for conducting research on coronaviruses.

Chinese officials, through the white paper, accused the US government of politicizing the investigation into the pandemic's origins as a means to distract from what they describe as Washington's initial shortcomings in managing the outbreak. The report stated, "The US government, instead of facing squarely its failure in response to Covid-19 and reflecting on its shortcomings, has tried to shift the blame and divert people's attention by shamelessly politicizing SARS-CoV-2 origins tracing."

The document further urges that an exhaustive investigation be undertaken in the United States, proposing that the virus may have appeared there earlier than officially acknowledged and before the outbreak in China was identified. It said, “A thorough and in-depth investigation into the origins of the virus should be conducted in the United States. The United States should respond to the reasonable concern of the international community, and give a responsible answer to the world.” Adding to this, the white paper claimed, “Substantial evidence suggested the COVID-19 might have emerged in the United States earlier than its officially-claimed timeline, and earlier than the outbreak in China.”

This statement from Beijing aligns with ongoing investigations and intelligence reviews within the US, including input from the CIA and FBI, regarding the origins of the virus. While early in the pandemic the theory of a lab leak was largely dismissed as a conspiracy, these agencies have since indicated that a lab incident in Wuhan cannot be definitively ruled out. Concurrently, many scientists continue to support the prevailing hypothesis that the virus likely transferred naturally from animals to humans, a position supported by decades of virological research.

Despite these differing viewpoints, the Chinese white paper explicitly criticizes the United States for not addressing international concerns on this matter and cautions against ignoring the inquiries posed by the global community.

The Express is reporting on this unfolding story that continues to fuel international debate over the pandemic’s origins, highlighting the political tensions that persist amid efforts to uncover the virus's true beginnings and to understand the early responses to its emergence.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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