Trump takes direct aim at China as U.S. cases double and criticism *mounts*

President Donald Trump took direct aim at China on Thursday for allowing the spread of the coronavirus that has sickened Americans, shut down much of daily life and pushed the U.S. economy toward recession, while *deflecting* criticism that his administration was caught *flat-footed* by the outbreak.

deflect　转向；偏斜　　　　　　　　　flat-footed　无准备的

The president dug in on his use of the term "Chinese virus" to describe the novel coronavirus. "Thank you all for being here, and we continue our *relentless* effort to defeat the Chinese virus, " Trump said near the top of his combative appearance before reporters at the White House.

relentless　无情的　　　　　　　　　mount　增加；安装

A Washington Post photographer captured an image of a printed copy of Trump's remarks that had the word "corona, " a medical term for a family of viruses, crossed out and the word "Chinese" put in its place with a black marker.

Trump's shift to more fully blame China coincides with widening devastation from the virus in the United States and increasing criticism that his administration missed opportunities to prepare and respond. For weeks in January and February, Trump publicly dismissed the outbreak as of very little risk to Americans.

After appearing *sobered* by the scale of the crisis earlier in the week, Trump on Thursday bitterly attacked reporters and news organizations he said had failed to accurately report his accomplishments in confronting the virus.

sober　冷静的；清醒的

On Tuesday, there were just more than 5, 700 confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States. That number climbed above 13, 000 on Thursday night, and officials indicated the number will continue to rise sharply as more test results become available.