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[Common Dreams](#)

# Racist President Trump Refuses to Accept How Racist It Is to Keep Calling COVID-19 the 'Chinese Virus'

"This pattern of conflating race with a specific disease is a constant thread in American history."

by

[Jon Queally, staff writer](#)[0 Comments](#)



U.S. President Donald Trump is flanked by Vice President Mike Pence while speaking during a news briefing on the latest development of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House March 18, 2020 in Washington, DC. President Trump announced on Twitter that the U.S. and Canada will close their border to non-essential traffic to try and stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

President Donald Trump—whose presidency has been [marked](#) by repeated and [grossly offensive](#) racist [rhetoric](#) and [policies](#)—came under fire Wednesday for again defending his use of the racist term "Chinese virus" to describe the coronavirus sweeping the globe.

"Because it comes from China!" Trump responded during a White House press briefing when asked by *ABC News* correspondent Cecili Vega about his use of the phrase—one which critics have said is overtly racist and puts those of Chinese descent and other Asian people at risk of further discrimination and bigotry amid the pandemic.


**Acyn Torabi**  
 @Acyn



When asked why he continues to call it the "Chinese virus" the President's response is "because it comes from China, it's not racist at all"



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"The question," [noted](#) journalist Gabriella Pagán on Twitter, "comes as many Asian Americans become the target of racism, discrimination, violence amid COVID-19 outbreak."

According to recent statements by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization, "Stigma, to be honest, is more dangerous than the virus itself."

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While Trump in his remarks on Wednesday echoed a slew of right-wing commentary of recent days by claiming "it's not racist—not at all" to use the phrase, that is simply a self-serving lie.

The NAACP was unequivocal in its condemnation of Trump's statement.

"When this level of racism and discrimination is allowed to be so openly exercised from highest office in the nation," the civil rights group [tweeted](#), "those who are silent become complicit. We will not be silent."

As William Thomson [wrote](#) for *Quartz* on Wednesday morning, "This pattern of conflating race with a specific disease is a constant thread in American history."

In a scientific sense, Thomson explained, "we know that viruses are race-blind, and its origin and spread has nothing to do with skin color, features, or culture. Humans, however, are not race-blind."

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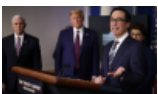
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In a time when "a true patriot gets fired for doing the right thing," a Navy captain ousted for blowing the whistle on Navy inaction as coronavirus ravaged his crew walked off his ship to the stirring sound of thousands of sailors chanting, "Cap-tain Cro-zier!" Facing 1,000 cases, Capt. Brett Crozier "was wrongfully relieved of command but did right by the sailors" when he warned the outbreak could kill sailors "entrusted to our care."

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