

The Worshipful and the Incurious

June 3, 2021

Did the recent pandemic begin as a leak from a lab in Wuhan, China?

Who knows?

But in these United States there suddenly appears serious — even bipartisan — interest in finding out.

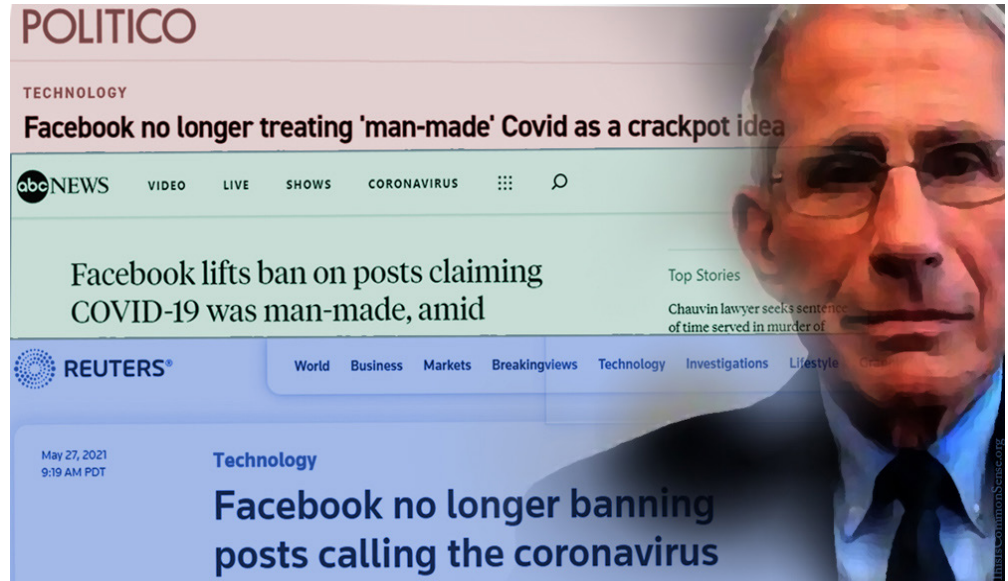
I've been curious for some time, but why wasn't more of the media interested from the beginning? Why were questions about the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as the questioners often *attacked*?

"[T]he newspapers I read and the TV shows I watched had assured me on many occasions that the lab-leak theory wasn't true," Thomas Frank, the progressive historian

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and author, explains in *The Guardian*, "that it was a racist conspiracy theory, that only deluded Trumpists believed it, that it got infinite pants-on-fire ratings from the fact-checkers," adding that he "always trusted the mainstream news media."

Thank goodness Senator Rand Paul confronted Dr. Fauci, again, leading to Fauci acknowledging the need for further investigation into the Wuhan lab that performed research on bat coronaviruses, arguably including gain-of-function research, with indirect U.S. funding.



"Renewed focus on Wuhan lab scrambles the politics of the pandemic," was one of several recent *explanatory Washington Post* articles.

Politics?

You don't say!

"The shifting terrain highlights how much of the early debate on the virus's origins was colored by America's tribal politics," the paper reported, "as Trump and his supporters insisted on China's responsibility and many Democrats dismissed the idea out of hand . . ."

The *Post* should include itself when referring to Trump-blaming "Democrats."

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In addition to the media and social media failure on this lab-leak story, let's not forget the "expert fail." Mr. Frank fears that if Big Science is found to be the cause of the pandemic, it "could obliterate the faith of millions" in "the expert-worshiping values of modern liberalism."

We should be so lucky.

What's next: a release of Fauci's emails?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.