



The Age of Deference

March 17, 2025

We knew from [the beginning](#) that Wuhan, China, was not only ground zero for the coronavirus epidemic, but that there was an Institute of Virology there, and that the disease could have broken out of its lab. But it took a few months for my [first report](#), and [about a year](#) passed before I dove deeper into the evidence for the “lab leak” hypothesis.

In [December](#), the House Subcommittee investigating the subject concluded that there was evidence for a lab leak and none for a zoonotic origin of the disease.

Throughout the period, corporate news sources [barely covered the story](#), despite its obvious importance and inherent interest. Instead, they covered for the culprits, the better to push a “vaccine” that was more novel than the “novel coronavirus” itself.

Journalists seemed immune to acknowledging, for example, [“the](#)

[man the media missed](#),” Dr. Peter Daszak. [Years before the leak](#), the doctor publicly boasted about using a Chinese lab to engage in gain-of-function research in coronaviruses. And yet, he was [placed](#) on the World Health Organization team investigating the Wuhan situation!

Meanwhile, the CIA [waffled](#).

Now we learn that *German* intelligence reported to then-Chancellor Angela Merkel favoring the lab leak hypothesis.

In 2020.

“Two German newspapers say they have uncovered details of an assessment carried out by spy agency BND in 2020 but never published,” [explains](#) the BBC. “According to [Die Zeit](#) and [Sueddeutscher Zeitung](#), the BND met in Berlin in 2020 to look into the origin of coronavirus in an operation called Project Saaremaa.”

The “spy agency,” as the BBC neatly puts it, “assessed the lab theory as ‘likely,’ although it did not have definitive proof.”

And, as Dr. John Campbell [notes](#), neither Merkel nor her successor came clean with any of this.

Dr. Campbell finds his resulting loss of trust has a bright side: “it’s made me re-evaluate many, many things.”

“The age of deference,” he concludes, “is past.”

All of our major institutions failed the pandemic test.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.