

China's Coronavirus Battle Is Waning. Its Propaganda Fight Is Not. | The New York Times

By Vivian Wang

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HONG KONG — For months the Chinese government's propaganda machine had been fending off criticism of Beijing's handling of the coronavirus outbreak, and finally, it seemed to be finding an audience. Voices from the World Health Organization to the Serbian government to the rapper Cardi B hailed China's approach as decisive and responsible.

But China could not savor the praise for long. In recent days, foreign leaders, even in friendly [nations like Iran](#), have questioned China's reported infections and deaths. A top European diplomat warned that China's aid to the continent was a mask for its geopolitical ambitions, while a Brazilian official [suggested the pandemic was part of China's plan](#) to "dominate the world."

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