First Crusade: 15,000 starving Christian soldiers march in religious procession around Jerusalem as its Muslim defenders look on

Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama departs on his first voyage, becoming the 1st European to reach India by sea



Dr Benjamin Waterhouse gives 1st cowpox vaccination in the US to his son to prevent smallpox

500th anniversary of the **Russian Orthodox Church** celebrated in Moscow

1948

01



66 COVID-19 (China Virus) Death Rate PLUNGES From Peak In U.S." A Tenfold Decrease In Mortality. The Washington Times @Wash-Times Valerie Richardson. We have the lowest Mortality Rate in the World. The Fake News should be reporting these most important of facts, but they don't!

@realDonaldTrump



To beat COVID-19, we need a coordinated national response from the federal government – but Donald Trump refuses to do his job. I've laid out exactly what I would do, and I encourage this president to adopt the plan in its entirety

@JoeBiden



Over the week St Thomas' hospital who looked after me whilst I had coronavirus at Downing Street. It was wonderful to celebrate the NHS's 72nd birthday with some of those who have done so much in the fight against the virus.

@BorisJohnson



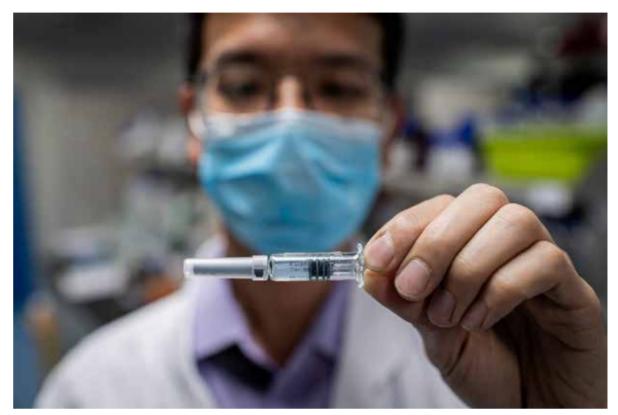
That is the purpose of a \$22 trillion economy if you can't take care of your people during a pandemic? We need #EmergencyMoneyForThePeople now. 74% of Americans agree including a majority of both parties. Congress do your job. Support H.R. 6496 NOW.

@AndrewYang

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Brazil to become testing ground for coronavirus vaccine

The leaders for two of the most advanced coronavirus vaccine projects --Oxford University, in partnership with AstraZeneca labs, and China's Sinovac -- will carry out clinical testing in Brazil



An engineer shows an experimental vaccine for the COVID-19 coronavirus that was tested at the Quality Control Laboratory at the Sinovac Biotech facilities in Beijing

AFP | Rio de Janeiro

razil may be struggling in its battle against the coronavirus, but it is on the cutting edge of vaccine development with large-scale trials and the production of millions of doses on the horizon.

COVID-19 is spreading rapidly across the Latin American nation -- a situation underlined when President Jair Bolsonaro tested positive on Tuesday -- creating the necessary conditions for testing a vaccine's efficiency.

Brazil, which is the primary global producer for yellow fever vaccines, is renowned for its expertise in vaccines, which it produces on a large scale in public institutes

The leaders for two of the most advanced vaccine projects -- one from AstraZeneca labs, and one from China's volunteers.

Only three vaccine projects in the Brazilian volunteers. world have reached Phase Three.

themselves, should the tests prove con-

With lockdown measures applied unevenly nationwide, Brazil -- a counbegan in June in Brazil, as well as in try of continental proportions with 212 the UK and South Africa million inhabitants -- has not managed killed 65,000 people in the country.

the United States.

100 million doses

"Brazil is a good testing ground beorganization that will help produce the the experimentation phase. Oxford vaccine, told AFP.

prove the vaccine's efficiency," said Sue mated cost of \$2.30 each.



Political rivalries

volunteers.

Oxford University, in partnership with A lab technician holds a PCR plate to perform COVID-19 PCR tests at a lab in Brazil

Sinovac -- will carry out Phase Three Ann Costa Clemens, a researcher at the tests, the last one before the drug is Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNI- Meanwhile, the government of Sao positive for COVID-19. approved, on thousands of Brazilian FESP), which is in charge of carrying Paulo state will start on July 20 testing "A Chinese laboratory making a vac-

"If we manage to recruit these vol-And Brazil won't be short-changed unteers while the curve is still rising, either: both projects have technology we hope to get results quickly, as early transfer agreements that will enable as November," added Clemens, who is the country to produce the vaccines also the head of the Institute for Global Health at the University of Sienna, in Italy.

Phase Three tests for the vaccine

"If the tests are conclusive, the vacto contain the pandemic, which has cine could be registered in the United Kingdom by the end of the year and in It is the second worst-hit nation after other countries, including Brazil, in early 2021," Clemens added, noting that registration in Brazil should be easier and faster due to on-site testing.

As part of the agreement with Oxford cause the virus is still very present and AstraZeneca, the Brazilian governthere, and there is a wide variety of ep- ment will invest \$127 million to enable idemiological characteristics" through- FIOCRUZ to acquire the technology out the country, Margareth Dalcomo, and equipment to produce an initial a researcher at FIOCRUZ, the research quantity of 30.4 million doses during

If the vaccine passes the clinical tri-"The more volunteers are exposed to als, Brazil will be entitled to produce the virus, the greater chance to quickly 70 million additional doses at an esti-

"This is technology that we have mastered perfectly, we have already produced other vaccines in a similar way," said Dimas Covas, the director of the Butantan Institute, which is in charge of producing the doses.

"We will have the autonomy necessary to meet the demand from Brazil, but also other Latin American countries," he said.

With the two large-scale trials, "Brazil is the repository for the hopes of a large part of the world," Covas added.

But the announcement three weeks ago of the partnership with Sinovac has drawn criticism, as well as dubious conspiracy theories.

It came against the backdrop of a political rivalry between Sao Paulo Governor Joao Doria and Bolsonaro, a noted coronavirus skeptic who announced he was feeling "perfectly well" and had only mild symptoms after testing

out tests for Oxford's project on 5,000 for the vaccine by the Chinese biophar- cine against a Chinese virus and remaceutical company Sinovac on 9,000 search funded by a governor who is a major partner of China. I don't want The partnership also provides for this vaccine, do you?" tweeted Roberto technology transfer for "large-scale Jefferson, a former congressman who production" in the event of successful recently joined Bolsonaro's camp.



A lab technician inserts reagents into a plate with a patient's samples to perform COVID-19 PCR