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US concern about Chinese biotech investments in Israel rises with COVID-19

Part II: Why US warnings are likely to increase, and how Israel needs better oversight to allay them – and for its own security.

By Lahav Harkov / May 13, 2020

US-China ties have hit another low point in the wake of coronavirus. US President Donald Trump rails against China in his daily press conferences, pointing to a cover-up of information about when the coronavirus outbreak began and to a hypothesis from US intelligence agencies that the virus was accidentally released from a laboratory in Wuhan.

[…]

Dr. **Shira Efron**, a visiting fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** and one of the authors of a report by the RAND think tank titled "Chinese Investment in Israeli Technology and Infrastructure: Security Implications for Israel and the United States," projected this week that tensions in the US-Israel-China triangle will intensify in the aftermath of COVID-19.

"Even though the Chinese economy was hurt substantially, China has very unique financial measures because it is not really an open economy," she said. "It can lend heavily to banks it owns and [it can] subsidize companies. So it looks like China is emerging from the crisis a little bit stronger economically, relative to the US and Europe."

Furthermore, the US and EU are looking inward and calling for people to buy locally manufactured products, while China's economy is dependent on making investments abroad, **Efron** said.

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