CHINA’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The new coronavirus at the end of 2019 is the common enemy of all mankind. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic poses a huge challenge to global public health security. At present, globalization goes far beyond economic activity and embraces the political, cultural, environmental and health security spheres. Deepening globalization has led to an unprecedented acceleration in the movement of goods and people across borders, and the growth of international trade and tourism in particular has made it extremely easy for infectious diseases to spread beyond individual countries and regions, resulting in widespread international transmission. Therefore, infectious diseases are no longer a matter of individual national or regional control, and sovereign states cannot respond to public health challenges with unilateral action alone. In the face of an increasingly serious global pandemic, there is broad consensus that the international community is working together to fight the pandemic. Fighting the pandemic is a double test of the ability of sovereign nations to govern and participate in global governance. Since the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has taken the most comprehensive, rigorous, and meticulous measures to establish a "first line of defense" against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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и медицинскую сферу безопасности. Углубление глобализации привело к беспрецедентному ускорению перемещения товаров и людей через границы, а рост международной торговли и туризма, в частности, чрезвычайно способствовал распространению инфекционных заболеваний за пределы отдельных стран и регионов, что привело к широкой международной передаче инфекции. Таким образом, инфекционные заболевания больше не являются предметом индивидуального национального или регионального контроля, и суверенные государства не могут реагировать на проблемы общественного здравоохранения только односторонними действиями. Перед лицом все более серьезной глобальной пандемии существует широкий консенсус в отношении того, что международное сообщество работает вместе для борьбы с пандемией. Борьба с пандемией — это двойное испытание способности суверенных стран управлять и участвовать в глобальном управлении. После распространения пандемии COVID-19 Китай принял самые комплексные, строгие и тщательные меры для создания «первой линии обороны» против пандемии COVID-19.

**Ключевые слова:** китайская модель, пандемия, борьба с пандемией COVID-19, гуманитарная помощь.

**Introduction**

The outbreak and spread of the new corona pneumonia pandemic on a global scale is the largest black swan natural disaster in 2019-2020, which caused enormous damage and impact on the global community. As the first country to be affected by the new coronary pneumonia pandemic, China has played an important role in the global fight against this pandemic. The Chinese strength, Chinese speed, Chinese wisdom and Chinese self-confidence demonstrated by China in the fight against the new pandemic have served as a guide for countries around the world to establish mechanisms to fight the pandemic. To this end, summarizing China’s successful experience in dealing with the new pandemic of coronary pneumonia, and sharing the “Chinese experience” with the world in the field of global pandemic control, emergency management, risk management and international cooperation, is of great practical guidance and reference value.

**Literature review**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic for China is not yet over, there is a relative lack of research on this topic, and the existing literature has been ambiguous about the performance of China and WHO in combating the pandemic. Foreign studies have largely defended the one-sided “Chinese virus” theory and accused China of changing the narrative to shift the blame for the origin of the novel coronavirus to the United States. For example, Raj Verma, in his article “China’s Diplomacy and Changing the Description of COVID-19”, points out that China has taken many measures to change the description of COVID-19 after it was heavily criticized by various countries, especially the United States [Verma, 2020: 5]. He claims that China has launched a campaign to question the origin of the new coronavirus, blaming the US for spreading the COVID-19 pandemic, claiming major victories against COVID-19 in China, and providing assistance to countries (“mask diplomacy”) [Verma,2020: 6]. This does not give an objective picture of China’s contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. In China, on the other hand, most research is focused on China, emphasizing “China’s role”, “China’s power”, and “China’s solutions”. For example, in the article “International Order after the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Role of China,” Wang Guiguo points out that the existing international legal order is being transformed under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in order to better withstand changes in the international order, in the post-pandemic era, China should adhere to the policy of “goodwill” as a theoretical support, and build the Chinese “One Belt, One Road” initiative, which is based on the public health order. He also acknowledges China’s significant contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic [Guiguo, 2020: 1-8].

Wang Junping, Zhang Wenhong, Di Kaisheng, Shi Qiumei also considered the issues of China’s fight against the Covid 19 pandemic [Junping,2020; Wenhong, 2020; Kaishen, 2020].

**Methods**

To achieve the goal of the article, various research methods are used, such as:

- Qualitative analysis – A qualitative analysis approach is used in analyzing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and WHO systems, both to analyze gaps and to propose appropriate improvement actions.

- Historical analysis – The practical activities of China and WHO have corresponding historical
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processes. This article compares the changing role of China in the WHO by looking at the history of China-WHO cooperation and relations to better analyze issues and identify patterns.

- Situation analysis – This article analyzes the opportunities and shortcomings demonstrated by China and WHO, as well as future development trends and ways to improve them, using the example of China and WHO’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is very relevant.

**Results. Characteristics of China’s experience in dealing with the pandemic**

China’s experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic has become a successful example of the state’s response to major public health emergencies, demonstrating China’s ability to deal with the pandemic. China’s experience in dealing with the pandemic has the following five characteristics.

First, the mobilization of the whole society and the participation of the whole people. Strong social mobilization and organizational capacity, as well as broad community participation, are the keys to defeating major pandemics. Based on the broad mobilization of local governments at all levels, especially rural groups, a social mobilization system was formed to combat the pandemic; Publicize widely so that the general public is fully aware of the dangers of the pandemic and raise the public’s awareness of pandemic prevention; Take various drastic measures, impose clear rewards and punishments, and strictly prohibit and punish all types of violations of public health and safety.

Second, the overall coordination and support of China. Fill the shortage of anti-pandemic materials in key areas of pandemic control, fully distribute national resources, and ensure the general distribution of anti-pandemic materials throughout the country; With the support of numerous medical personnel in many places, investment in medical resources, and sufficient supply of anti-pandemic materials, the resolve and confidence of people to fight the pandemic have been strengthened; Strengthen cooperation in the division of labor between different regions, between pandemic areas and non-pandemic areas, and develop the spirit of regional cooperation [Junping, 2020]; provide effective connectivity and added value between local hospitals and national medical resources, and build large-scale and networked responses.

Third, science and technology provide a guarantee to fight the pandemic. Mobilize civilian and military high-tech medical equipment to focus on key pandemic areas to ensure the full supply and efficient distribution of advanced equipment; Concentrate the best specialists and medical workers in the country to contain the spread of the pandemic in key areas; Use 5G and big data technologies to create a nationwide network system for collecting, transmitting, processing and applying data on the COVID-19 pandemic. This has improved data transmission efficiency, reduced data transmission costs, and improved anti-pandemic efficiency; Comprehensively integrate end-to-end technology and increase investment in infrastructure and construction to meet the emergency needs of fighting the pandemic. A well-developed transport network system has provided a reliable transport guarantee for victory in the fight against the pandemic [Wenhong, 2020]. A large number of anti-pandemic materials and livelihood protection products across the country were quickly delivered to the affected areas, ensuring the supply of anti-pandemic materials and important livelihoods of people, and stabilizing the social order.

Fourth, people across the country are actively following the various pandemic prevention measures developed by the government, which have improved the efficiency of pandemic prevention and reduced various management costs. During the most difficult period of the pandemic, most medical workers bravely fought the pandemic, regardless of their personal safety, which reflects the noble spirit of doctors.

Fifth, based on the concept of the community of human destiny, China is actively helping countries around the world on the basis of achieving a phased victory in the domestic fight against the new corona pneumonia pandemic. For example, as of April 12, 2020, China has held 83 health expert videoconferences with 153 countries. The Chinese government and the private sector have provided or are providing a number of shipments of urgently needed medical supplies to more than 140 countries and international organizations [Wenhong, 2020]. More than 60 countries, regions and international organizations have signed commercial procurement agreements for pandemic prevention materials with Chinese exporters: China has sent a number of medical expert groups to Iran, Iraq, Italy, Serbia, Cambodia and other countries, and is preparing to send expert teams to other affected countries From the pandemic: The Chinese government donated US$220 million to the World Health Organization to support the World Health Organization in carrying out international cooperation against the pandemic,
and to help developing countries improve their ability to respond to the pandemic and strengthen the construction of public health systems [Zheng, 2020].

Discussion. China’s actions in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in a comparative aspect

Focusing on the important things

The government is allocating material reserves and human resources that can quickly respond to the sudden new pandemic of COVID-19. Material suppliers and transportation hubs in various locations are prioritizing serving areas hardest hit by the pandemic, and central banks with large financial reserves are using ample national emergency reserves to support affected areas. China built the 1,000-bed Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan in just ten days, and the 1,500-bed Fire God Mountain Hospital in Wuhan in twelve days, and built 16 “square house hospitals.” As a result, over 10,000 new beds have been added, a testament to China’s speed and efficiency in the world [Jinping, 2020]. Under the unified leadership, various departments from all over the country coordinated to fully implement joint anti-pandemic measures, mobilized forces from all walks of life to participate in the fight against the pandemic, and the whole country united in the fight against the pandemic. This has formed a strong synergy in the fight against the pandemic.

On the other hand, it is difficult for countries other than China to mobilize the forces of the whole country and concentrate the resources of the whole country to fight the pandemic in the same way as China. Let’s take the United States as an example. The United States is a federal country. US government and local governments have broader powers in the field of local government. State and local governments are considered to be closest to people affected by emergencies and are the main lead agencies for emergency response and disaster recovery. The federal government provides human and material resources to support natural disasters only when they exceed the response capacity of state and local governments. Within the federal system of the United States, it is difficult to apply uniform prevention and control measures [Kaishen, 2020]. The situation in each state is very different, and cases are widespread, which has led to the rapid spread of the pandemic in the United States.

Unified command and hierarchical control

When the pandemic broke out in China, China promptly activated the emergency assistance mechanism to classify the COVID-19 pandemic as category B infectious diseases and took measures to combat category A infectious diseases. The National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China and other administrative health departments at various levels daily publish pandemic data in a timely manner to be open and transparent. On January 23, 2020, bus, underground and long-distance passenger transportation was temporarily suspended in Wuhan City, and the exit from Wuhan was closed. Other cities in Hubei Province have also stepped up traffic regulation to varying degrees. This blocked the channels through which the pandemic spread at home and abroad. China’s 31 provinces (districts and cities) have successively launched a first-level response to major public health incidents based on the specific circumstances of each province, and are actively cooperating with the central government to combat the pandemic. After New Year’s Eve, employees of all relevant departments and agencies canceled their vacations and invested in the fight against the pandemic [Han Yi, 2020]. From cities to rural areas, TV, the Internet and other platforms are using TV, the Internet and other platforms to promote education to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, advocate for reduced movement of people, the closure of restaurants and entertainment venues, encourage the wearing of masks, and actively promote personal hygiene. Preventive and control testing sites have been set up in each neighborhood to conduct rigorous testing of people entering and exiting the neighborhood. Community district committees and village grassroots organizations help maintain public safety to the maximum extent possible and carry out pandemic prevention and control work in specific nuances. Effective domestic execution is a powerful driving force for China to fight the pandemic.

Compared with China’s effective execution, overseas pandemic control measures and faced more resistance in the execution process. With the domestic pandemic situation rapidly deteriorating, South Korea has activated the highest level infectious disease alert, but the control of collection activities is not strict, and people cannot fully comply with the government’s order to cancel gatherings, leading to a number of infection collection cases: Faced with the rapid and serious situation of the domestic pandemic, the Italian government imposed a nationwide lockdown, but due to the lack of public guidance, it caused panic in the country, leading to the phenomenon of an overnight flight from the country [Hong, 2020]. Due to institutional factors, it is more difficult to implement pandemic response
measures in different regions of Italy. The pace of interaction between the central government and local governments is disrupted. The regional government plays an important role in public services such as health and sports, and it is more difficult to implement pandemic responses. As Ricardo Walter da Costa, a member of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, said: “Not all countries have only one administrative line. All organizational and managerial mechanisms in Italy depend on the regions.” It is difficult for the central government and local governments to coordinate and unite efforts, which has exacerbated the pandemic in Italy to a certain extent [Xin, 2020]. Faced with an increasingly severe pandemic situation, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not update data in a timely manner and cannot reflect changes in the pandemic situation in a timely manner, which is not conducive to timely understanding of the state of the domestic pandemic and timely and effective medical treatment.

Joint struggle of the whole country against the COVID-19 pandemic

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the people of all China have supported the people of Hubei, “one in need—eight to help.” In the early days of the outbreak in China, the government departments and public officials were mainly involved in the fight against the pandemic, but in a short period of time, forces from all walks of life were gathered to participate in the national fight against the pandemic. Businesses are striving to produce protective clothing, gloves, masks and other necessary supplies needed to fight the pandemic [Wang Lei, 2020]. Most people stopped participating in large-scale gatherings, reduced the number of private gatherings, and with peace of mind combined the fight against the pandemic at home. College student groups also use the online platform to provide online consultations on school assignments for children of medical staff to ease the worries of medical staff at home. In this fight against the pandemic, the Chinese people fight the pandemic hand in hand, which demonstrates the strong unity of the Chinese nation.

While all the people of China are fighting the pandemic together, the situation abroad is not optimistic. Taking the United States as an example, large-scale demonstrations and protests erupted in many Michigan cities in opposition to the governor’s order to close the city. They argue that the city shutdown order restricts the freedom of the American people and that no freedom is the same as a prison. Likewise, people in many countries have also rejected the government’s call to wear masks to prevent an pandemic. Disagreements between the government and the people have delayed the effective time to deal with the pandemic.

The experience of the Chinese model for Kazakhstan in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak

Kazakhstan under the pandemic

1) The insurance industry has been strongly developed

According to Kazakhstan Capital, in 2020, the insurance industry in Kazakhstan maintained strong growth momentum despite the major difficulties in economic development, with total assets of the insurance industry increasing by 23%, according to a release from the Kazakhstan Financial Industry Association. Life insurance is the main growth point of the insurance industry, with the assets of Kazakhstan’s national life insurance companies growing by 38%. Portfolio assets account for 69% of the insurance industry’s assets. in 2020, the Kazakhstan insurance industry’s portfolio assets grow by 33%, and together with the currency revaluation, the insurance industry’s investment income grows by 67% [Страховой, 2022].

2) Significant growth in the take-out service market

The head of Chocofood, the largest take-out service platform in Ha, said that despite the general growth of the take-out market, the growth of operating revenue was limited and the average unit price increased by only 5%. Business expenses increased due to the need to purchase personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and disinfectant for delivery workers, but the overall impact was not significant. Prior to the outbreak, Chocofood invested heavily in marketing, resulting in a loss. With the significant reduction in marketing budget, Chocofood has been profitable for two consecutive months in April-May 2020 [Kazakhstan, 2021].

According to data released by the takeaway platform Glovo, demand for delivery services has increased significantly since the introduction of the quarantine measures. From the beginning of 2020 to the peak of the pandemic, takeaway orders increased by 30% year-on-year. After the release of the quarantine measures, the average monthly increase in orders was about 20%. Compared with 2019, Glovo operating expenses, the number of delivery workers and corporate employees increased significantly, but the company still remained profitable [Как сервис, 2020].
Since 2020, e-commerce giant Yandex has seen a twofold increase in the number of orders for its takeaway services in Almaty and Nur Sultan. The head of Yandex said that the number of user orders changed with the relaxation of quarantine measures. There was a surge in the number of orders at the beginning of the outbreak, and another surge in late September after the platform introduced free delivery services.

3) Poverty rate increases to 12% to 14%

According to Interfax, the World Bank said in a report released on the 29th that the new crown pneumonia pandemic is causing an increase in poverty in Kazakhstan, and the poverty rate may increase to 12% to 14%.

The report noted that the economic downturn caused by the pandemic has hit several industries in Kazakhstan. “The sectors most affected by the pandemic are retail and wholesale trade, hotels, and transportation, which concentrate about 30% of urban employment in Kazakhstan. According to the Bank’s assessment, the poverty rate in Kazakhstan could increase from 6 percent before the outbreak to 12-14 percent in 2020” [Satpayev, 2021].

According to the World Bank, for Kazakhstan, 2020 has suffered the most complex economic situation in almost 20 years, and “the new crown pneumonia pandemic has hit the economy even more than the economic crises of 2008 and 2015.”

China’s experience in fighting the pandemic that Kazakhstan can learn from

China is the only major economy to achieve positive economic growth in 2020. The latest indicators suggest that China’s economic recovery is picking up pace. “One of the most important factors in China’s economy performing so well is the control of the pandemic.” Although China’s economy and health are now recovering quite well and pandemic prevention measures have been relaxed, people are still cautious and many spending habits are changing. Since the outbreak, Chinese consumers are traveling less by train and eating out, while shopping online is increasing significantly. In the third quarter of 2020, spending on education, culture and entertainment services in China fell about 20 percent from a year earlier, while e-commerce and take-out spending grew substantially.

The pandemic has had a structural impact on rail traffic in China, both in terms of reduced business travel due to widespread use of videoconferencing, and in terms of changing travel habits. All other industries may also face similar shifts. Some companies may be forced out of the market as a result, while others may adjust their business models to adapt to the changing environment. The pandemic is a socio-economic experiment that will last long enough and be intense enough to potentially have a lasting impact on consumer habits. Since China is in the late stages of fighting the pandemic, its experience is relevant for other countries to understand how to deal with the post-pandemic era.

President Tokaev of Kazakhstan said that vaccination is the only reliable way to effectively fight the new coronavirus, and that many countries in the world have effectively controlled the pandemic after widespread vaccination [President, 2021]. He noted that China, which succeeded in containing the spread of the new coronavirus through rapid measures and mass mobilization after the outbreak, was also one of the first countries in the world to successfully combat the new coronavirus, and was the first to recover economically after the outbreak was effectively controlled. Therefore, Kazakhstan should learn from and draw on China’s experience in the fight against the neo-coronavirus outbreak and vaccination efforts.

To prevent widespread spread of the new coronavirus, the government of Kazakhstan adopted strict quarantine measures, suspended the operation of public transportation and most enterprises and institutions, decontaminated streets and residential areas, and all infected persons received medical care. To a large extent, Kazakhstan has achieved the intended goals and the pandemic has not increased geometrically. At present, the situation varies from region to region, with some regions having the outbreak under control and others still in a critical situation, and the government will act on a region-specific basis [Kazakhstan, 2020].

The main task of the government is to protect people’s lives and health, while taking measures to maintain the population’s income and socio-economic stability. During this difficult period, no one will be left alone to face difficulties and the state will not leave anyone in distress. During the state of emergency, the government announced two packages of assistance for residents and businesses, which were actively implemented despite the difficulties. In the end, 4.25 million residents received financial assistance; more than 570,000 residents received food packages and the government planned to provide food assistance to more than 1.1 million residents; more than 1.6 million residents received subsidies for state utility expenses in April-May; about 1.6 million residents and 11,500 small and medium-sized enterprises benefited from the policy
China’s contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic

of deferred loan repayment, involving more than 360 billion tenge [Tokayev, 2020]. Kazakhstan’s efforts to combat the pandemic have been fully recognized by the World Health Organization.

Tokayev also stressed that China is a long-term strategic partner of Kazakhstan, and Kazakhstan’s cooperation with China is beneficial for Kazakhstan and in its national interests.

**Conclusion**

In the process of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, China attaches great importance to cooperation with WHO. China’s relevant experience in dealing with the pandemic deserves to be mentioned by other countries. As the number of confirmed cases in Italy surpassed 10,000, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said the Italian government will pay close attention to and learn from China’s successful experience in dealing with the pandemic, and will take strong measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic in the country. The Italian Deputy Minister of Health noted that China’s experience in fighting the pandemic is very important for the world, and thanked China for allowing Italy to quickly get information about the pandemic and setting an example for Italy in fighting the pandemic. China’s cabin mobile hospital has also attracted worldwide attention. The United States has built more than a dozen mobile hospitals in a cabin and has converted hotels and other places into isolation rooms; Italy actively built tent hospitals as makeshift hospitals and built fan cabin hospitals in many places; The UK has rebuilt the International Convention and Exhibition Center as a temporary hospital and built a mobile hospital in a cockpit. Iran, Brazil, Austria and other countries have also learned from China’s experience and built localized hospitals in a cabin mobile hospital. Cabin life has brought hope to the pandemic control work in many countries. China’s effective pandemic control measures have served as a benchmark for the world. WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward said the world truly owes the people of Wuhan. Thanks to the experience of China, the fight against the pandemic in other countries does not need to start from scratch.

Demonstrating the responsibility of a great power and strengthening the community’s awareness of the destiny of mankind.

The new coronavirus is a huge challenge facing all of humanity, and the virus has no borders. The global cooperative fight against the COVID-19 pandemic reflects that modern states around the world are interdependent and closely connected, which makes humanity realize the need for cooperation and sharing to create a community of humanity’s destiny. In the process of fighting the pandemic, China actively shared its experience with the world, worked hard to maintain global public health and security, and demonstrated to the world that China is a great power. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhan Ghebreyesus praised China’s efforts to fight the pandemic, and stressed that China’s measures not only protect the Chinese people, but also protect the people of the whole world. At a time when the internal pandemic was effectively controlled, but the external pandemic became more serious, China sent experienced medical teams to Iran, Italy and other areas hardest hit by the pandemic to work with medical rescue teams from around the world to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. 19, has mobilized domestic donation medical aid supplies to many countries and is doing its best to help countries most affected by the pandemic. This reflected China’s practice in the concept of the community of human destiny.

The pandemic caused by the New Coronavirus is a disaster that humanity is facing together. The pandemic does not distinguish between nationalities and races, any life is precious. Chairman Xi Jinping published an article in Qiyushi magazine published on April 16, 2020 and stressed that “Humanity is a community of destiny. Unity and cooperation is the most powerful weapon to fight diseases that are related to the safety of people from all over the world.” Jointly maintaining global public health and safety is another great practice in China’s process of building a community of human destiny.

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