

Chapter 11

Governance in Post–COVID–19 China: Challenges, Responses, and Opportunities

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ABSTRACT

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this chapter explores how Chinese leadership has changed since then. It provides an in-depth analysis of the profound societal and economic shifts that resulted from the pandemic and the novel responses that were necessary. Focusing on the importance of e-governance and AI technology, the chapter examines how the health crisis has affected Chinese politics, corporations, and health governance. New forms of governance that have emerged in reaction to the breakdown of established educational institutions are also explored. In addition, it investigates potential economic avenues for revival in the wake of the pandemic. Future directions for governance are discussed, with connections drawn to sustainability, entrepreneurship, and innovation. It is a great resource for learning more about how the world might change after COVID-19 due to new governance paradigms.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Wuhan, China, which was notified by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020, rapidly escalated into an unparalleled global health disaster (Zreik, 2023a). Rapid human-to-human transmission allowed the virus to quickly spread across China and eventually the world, posing significant threats to China's public health, economy, and general government (Li, 2021).

As the Chinese government rushed to stop the virus's spread, the country's system of government was tested. Lockdowns, testing campaigns, and contact-tracing systems were just some of the swift and decisive measures taken. Strict rules and a highly coordinated reaction characterized the Chinese government's response to the crisis, which was supported by extensive technological surveillance and data collection (Ke & Hsiao, 2022).

The economic consequences of the pandemic in China were swift and devastating. Due to the rapid spread of the virus, many factories and transportation hubs were closed, and many stores and restaurants went out of business. Particularly hard struck was the service sector, which includes companies like tourism and hospitality. Due to company shutdowns and reduced consumer spending, the unemployment rate skyrocketed (Wu et al., 2023).

However, the health crisis did cause some beneficial changes, most notably in the digital sector of the economy. The digital revolution of many industries has been accelerated by the soaring demand for online services including e-commerce, remote work platforms, online education, and digital health services (Sun, 2021). As a result of these changes, China's forms of governance have undergone significant modifications, most notably the increased use of cutting-edge technologies in public administration and service provision (Liu, James, & Man, 2022).

There were also major societal and economic repercussions from the pandemic, like as changes in consumer and lifestyle preferences, a heightened interest in public health, and a push toward greater digitalization and innovation (Ratten, 2020). These shifts presented new difficulties and opportunities for post-COVID-19 governance development. This chapter examines how COVID-19 affected Chinese governance models, the measures taken in response, and their long-term consequences.

The goal of this chapter is to provide a thorough examination of the ways in which Chinese government has evolved after COVID-19 pandemic. This examination covers a wide range of governmental fields, illuminating the difficulties caused by the health crisis, the complex solutions to it, and the new possibilities that have arisen as a result.

The political, corporate, and health governance paradigms in China, and how they were impacted and altered by the pandemic, are the primary emphasis of this

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