

State governance and impacts under different political and economic systems in the background of COVID-19 pandemic: Sino-US Case Studies

Yina Ma

School of the Jiu Tian International Education Technology, No. 64, Beisanhuan West Road, Beijing, 100086, China

Corresponding Author: Yina Ma, Email: jacky-zahra@outlook.com

Abstract

In the face of a sudden global public health crisis, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human society has been enormous. The international community continues to face the challenges of de-globalisation, economic trade, and political games between major powers. By using Levels of Analysis, different models of national governance in China and the United States are examined over three different periods of the pandemic. The effects of the various models of governance in China and the US are discussed at three levels: individual, national and international. The reasons for different state governances between China and the United States are also focusing on the systems, cultural logic and ideological management from philosophical, political, and economic perspectives. Suggestions are made for the integration and reconstruction of individualism and collectivism. This is followed by an assessment of speculations about a "New Cold War" between the US and China and an analysis of the negative effects of political games in the international community on global supply chains. Finally, the role that international organisations can play in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is evaluated, as well as the corresponding limitations. The study shows that

ideological and human understanding is crucial in the cooperation and conflict faced by the international community today. It concludes by advocating the idea of the community of human destiny is beneficial for long-term future development.

Keywords

COVID-19 pandemic; Globalisation and de-globalisation; State-governance; Sino-US relations; Global supply chains; Ideology; International Organisation

Introduction

Background Information

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread at the global level, the national economies of different countries are being affected to some extent, the problems of global supply chains are more severe and it consequently cause higher unemployment rates all over the world. In my opinion, the pandemic is a 'catalyst' for the crisis of globalisation. In this day and age, virtually every aspect of national governance is considered in three dimensions: philosophical, economic and political dimensions, which have become three inseparable conditions. As the sudden onset of COVID-19 pandemic seems to have disrupted the peaceful co-existence of these

Citation: Yina Ma. (2023) State governance and impacts under different political and economic systems in the background of COVID-19 pandemic: Sino-US Case Studies. The Journal of Young Researchers 5(3): e20230504

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Received on April 10, 2023; Accepted on April, 14, 2023; Published on May 4, 2023

countries and the international order became more chaotic. Friedman (2020) stated there is a world called B.C. and A.C.. The "B.C." (Before Coronavirus pandemic) era, when countries followed the concept of globalisation for the development, such as the strengthening of international interdependence, which can lead to the expansion and deepening of their mutual understanding. However, after the Coronavirus pandemic, we can see the opposite phenomenon where globalisation entered a period of recession: the reverse-globalisation, that is, the "A.C." (After Coronavirus pandemic) era.

The significance of the study

It is noticed that the Coronavirus pandemic is a turning point in the current international political and economic environment and also a challenge to international relations. The inflation in the UK has risen, the Chinese government is increasingly burdened with epidemic prevention policy and the conflicts being demonstrated between different city policies in the United States. Hence the essay is to explore what are the patterns of state governance under different political and economic systems and their impacts during the coronavirus pandemic, and why these different models have different behaviours on governance. Then the following question is how different actors should respond to the pandemic. First of all, this study will focus on analysing the different ways in which China and the United States responded during various stages of the pandemic, comparing the political and economic developments of "BC" and "AC" time. Secondly, I will also further analyse the challenges, solutions and personal perspectives of human nature from philosophical perspective and figure out how does human nature take effect on the current international situation.

Research Methods

In my essay, I mainly used following qualitative research methods, such as Literature Study, Comparative Approach, and especially Levels of Analysis. Kenneth Waltz (1959) was an early adopter of hierarchical analysis. Waltz (1959) argues that the outbreak of war is linked to factors on three levels, the three famous 'images' he proposes - the individual decision-maker

factor, the intra-state factor and the international systemic factors, are the three explicit levels of analysis of international relations. And it was the American political scientist David Singer (1960) who identified Levels of Analysis as a crucial method in the study of international relations and discussed its important role in the study of international relations. The use of the levels of analysis inspires me to focus on the impacts of different state governances, and also make my research more scientific and systematic.

Research Design

The structure of my thesis is as follows. Section 1 express the current situation in different fields during the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, the section 2 define the globalisation and de-globalisation. In section 3, it is about characterising the different political and economic systems in China and the United States. After that, Section 4 is about the assessment of the different approaches to state governance between the US and China, in order to identify their similarities and connections and explore the reasons. In this part I will focus on introducing the concept of governance capacity between China and America, such as to evaluate its effectiveness and components. Via the uses of levels of analysis, I will concentrate on three different perspectives: individual, national and international; and philosophical, political and economic dimensions. Then my discussion will divide into three different time periods: pre-pandemic, mid-pandemic and post-pandemic. Section 5 is about analysing the issues of Sino-US conflicts arising from the current state of the pandemic, which is followed by a philosophical discussion of the main causes of international conflicts in literature review. This paper will be centred on the ideological management and cultural logic under different governance models in China and the United States, where it is in section 6. Section 7 explores the impact of global industrial chains, and supply chains in the context of US-China relations and the pandemic. Section 8 is about the role of international organisations during pandemic, such as World Health Organisation (WHO) and G20. Conclusion and my personal opinion will be in the last part of my dissertation.

Globalisation and Re-globalisation

Globalisation has been attributed to both theoretical problems and practical issues. It is necessary here to clarify exactly what is meant by the words globalisation and de-globalisation. Yang (2019) proposed that globalisation refers to the formation and integration of interconnected dimensions of economy, trade, technology, culture and politics among countries in his book *Politics Science: Introduction*. The main feature is that geographical distances and territorial borders between countries become increasingly irrelevant. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issues of globalisation. For example, the conflict between the governance of different countries and the control of internationally current capital are characterised by de-globalisation, which is the de-integration of the above-mentioned dimensions. In order to better explore its implications, this thesis will be referenced in the concept of "polity" as introduced by Aristotle (350 B.C.E.) in his *Politics*.

Political and economic systems

Scholars have pointed out that different political and economic systems determine the mode of governance of a country. It is considerable to note that polity and the form of government are two different notions, and they are not simply equivalent. Different polities can be adopted for the same type of state. For example, the United States and the United Kingdom have the same state nature, but the US is Presidential Republic. Generally, in the relationship between the state and the polity, the state is relatively stable and the polity has a process of continuous improvement.

The American political system - Republicanism

Yang (2019, p. 105) claimed, the term "Republicanism" can be divided into three different systems, it encompasses slave-holding, proletariat and bourgeois republic. Specific examples of the first two systems can be traced back to ancient Greece, Rome and the Paris Commune. The bourgeois republican and the presidential system are the forms of government adopted by the United States, the former is a system of state and the latter is a system of polity.

It is also the form of government in which the supreme organ of state authority, Supreme Court and the president of the United States are elected to a limited term, which is the ideal form for the American bourgeoisie to achieve its stage of rule. Furthermore, the US, as a pluralist and liberal capitalist state with a federal system of central-territory relations, may explain the fact that its response to emergencies such as COVID-19 issue is completely different from that of other countries with different regimes. Returning to what Lenin (1963) called the liberal capitalist state, under this rule, the US market was free to compete, its economic is based on private ownership and its economic policy was laissez-faire. Laissez-faire can broadly be defined as an economy philosophy of free-market capitalism that opposes government intervention. The French Physiocrats, who lived in the 18th century, created the laissez-faire ideology. According to proponents of laissez-faire, government involvement in industry and markets hinders economic progress ("THE INVESTOPEDIA TEAM," 2022). Moreover, since US is following mixed economy so that it can motivate its market innovation.

China's political system – Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Unlike in feudal periods, as the largest socialist country in the world, China has its own political and economic system today: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. According to the Chinese Constitution, the basic economic system of a socialist state with Chinese characteristics is one in which public ownership is the mainstay and a variety of ownership systems develop together. The dominant ideology of socialism in China is Marxism, which has played a vital role in the stability and growth of the socialist state. Due to Marxism is constantly evolving, so the Chinese government has focused on the practical needs of the people based on the original Marxism. Instead of over-reliance on Marxism, the Chinese Communist Party has been successful in its flexible use of Marxism. The Chinese government believes that the values of socialism lie in the emphasis on centralisation, collective interests and equality, as well as democracy, reasonable individual interests and

efficiency. Yang (2019) concludes that in terms of political system, China is dominated by the central government and has a system of People's Congress. In terms of ideology, it is guided by Marxism, Maoism and the socialist theoretical system with Chinese characteristics.

Individualism and Collectivism

China can be described as a collectivist society, while the U.S. is more individualist (Jake, n.d). Individualistic cultures and collectivist cultures are frequently contrasted. While individualism emphasises the importance of each person's rights and interests, collectivism emphasises the value of the community. In contrast to collectivist cultures, which value unity and altruism, individualistic cultures value individuality and self-identity. These cultural variations are widespread and have a significant impact on many facets of society's operation (Cherry, 2022). She stated in her study:

workers who live in a collectivist culture might strive to sacrifice their own happiness for the greater good of the group. Those from individualistic cultures, on the other hand, may feel that their own well-being and goals carry greater weight (2022).

State governance

From the above, it can be seen that countries with different political and economic systems will have different state governance. According to a definition provided by *Eastern Management*, the state governance define as following:

State governance, as the name indicates, focuses on management and administration at the national level. As the mission of a state is, by manoeuvring the public rights empowered by the society, to allocate social resources, accommodate relations between different social classes, and alleviate social problems and conflicts, the key to successful state governance lies in the consolidation of the state government so that it could play its role efficiently. (So & Su, 2021, p. 285)

Wang (2020) then observed the relationship between the state and society in the context of national responses to the pandemic, which can be

broadly summarised into three models. The first is Machiavellian, such as China and Singapore. This type of state is primarily concerned with the management capacity of the state and usually places society under its complete control when faced with a public crisis. The second type is the Rousseau and Lockean types. For instance, the United States and the United Kingdom are concerned with the orderly functioning of society under the rule of law and are unwilling or unable to bring society under the control of the state even in the face of public crises. Lastly, the Tocqueville and Weberian types of state. And they regard the defence of the public interest as the responsibility of the government, leaving the defence of individual interests to civil society.

The governing competency

Governing competency can also be an important factory of state governance and this refers to the perceived ability of the party in government to govern effectively ("Tutor2u," n.d.). Two particular examples are the limited government of the United States and the facilitating government of China. Gutmann (1996) stated, "limited government is the concept of a government limited in power. It is a key concept in the history of liberalism" (pp. 64-65).

The difference between the goals of the government and the governance of country

Locke (1689) claimed that in certain fundamental rights constrain the act of government and he believes that those rights are natural rights rather than from government. In my view, the points made by Locke (1689) in the *Second Treatises of Government* affect the response of the government or policy makers in US to the pandemic. The target of the facilitating government is to pursue the level and efficiency of overall economic development (Zhong, 2022). In 1968, politician Huntington who study in Harvard University, propounded that the differences between countries' governances do not drive from "form of government" but from "degree of government". Therefore, Yang (2019) stated that the heart of the system of state governance is the relationship between the various powers of the state. It is significant to recognise and strategically grasp economic

rights, military rights, ideological rights and the rights of political relations (p. 208).

The Sino-US conflicts and its philosophical perspectives

Due to the influence of the pandemic, conflicts in international relations under different political and economic systems have also become clear and magnified. Nye (1993) claimed of our international politics today as usually referring to the system of territorial state, international politics is usually considered to be an anarchic self-help doctrine in *Understanding International Conflicts*. The connection between politics and philosophy is considered to be central and crucial in the state governance and in policy decision-making. In politics, there are two different perceptions of the state of nature; Hobbes (1651) emphasises insecurity, force and survival, describing the state of nature as a state of war in *Leviathan*, while Locke (1680) argues that despite the lack of a sovereign in anarchy, people can develop relationships with each other and enter into contracts, thus mitigating the harm. These two views are philosophical sources of two traditions of thought in international politics today, and they are the realist and the liberal approaches to the analysis of state politics. According to Nye (1993), realism is more pessimistic, liberalism is more optimistic.

International conflicts under realism

Nye (1993) mentioned, realists argue that the central issue in international politics is the question of war and the use of force, and that the main actors in international politics are states. Liberals argue that there is a global society that exists and functions alongside the state as part of the external environment that constrains state behaviour, and they claim that realists ignore economic interdependence and the formation of a transnational global society.

Thucydides' conception of international conflict

A security dilemma theory is described in Thucydides (431 to 404 B.C.E.) *The Peloponnesian War*, who is represented as a figure of realist international relations thought. Thucydides (431 to 404 B.C.E.) was apparently the first to use the term "security dilemma" when

a state's attempts to increase its own security result in responses from other states that ultimately cause the original state's security to decline rather than increase. Furthermore, American political scientist Allison (2012) coined the phrase "Thucydides' Trap" to refer to the seeming propensity for war that occurs when a rising state attempts to usurp an established great power as a regional or global hegemon. It was created and is most often used to refer to a hypothetical war between the United States and the People's Republic of China (Gideon, 2020). Nye (1993) stated that the security dilemmas are inextricably linked to a fundamental feature of international politics, namely anarchy, where the independent pursuit of security by one state can lead to greater insecurity for all states. This can also be seen in the famous game theory: Prisoner's Dilemma. Given the nature of the security dilemma, some realists are convinced that morality does not play a role in international conflict, but it does, and that moral concepts enable and constrain behaviour, with the absence of prejudice being the touchstone of the moral argument.

The importance of political communication and participation

Scholars said that "politics does not exist without communication," so political communication is critical in political life and social development, both in terms of state governance and political governance. Deutsch (1963) defined political communication for the first time when he defined decision-making as the centre of political activity and communication as the link to decision-making. He contended that political systems are analogous to automatic machines, and that the mechanisms within political systems that receive, select, store, analyse, and process information are examples of communication (Deutsch, 1963). The political participation is not only essential for communication, but also for the economic development. Yang (2019) found that political participation is the activity of political subjects in politics and the political behaviour of citizens who are directly or indirectly influence the decisions of the government in relation to its activities in public life. He stated, "the main forms of political

participation are voting, elections, active contact and political association” (pp. 233-235). From his perspective, the economy is the basis for political development and increase in political participation leads to economic progress. Political participation and economic development are therefore interdependent and are important constraints on each other (p. 242). The political communication and participation, in turn, are inextricably linked to decision-makers' philosophical perspectives and the issue of human nature as a root cause.

Ideology

Ideology is a system of definite views, ideas, conceptions, and notions adhered to by some class or political party. Ideology first appeared by Tracy (1801) in his work *Elements of Ideology*, and some scholars have been led by the idea that "ideology" is only a front for the real business of politics, which is the struggle for power. In *The Prince* (1532), Machiavelli's view was the true goal of politics. People's welfare arguments were only a component of what we would refer to as ideological window-dressing that concealed the real power battle. Ideology was an important factor in international relations, and this view was confirmed by Yang(2019). The history of the modern nation-state has been closely linked to ideology. And the history of modern political and economic change is in fact the history of competing, bankrupting, reconfiguring and renewing ideologies. Subsequently, the German philosopher Mannheim's (1929) *Ideology and utopia* made this concept an area of great importance in contemporary sociology of knowledge. By now, most of the world's scholars agree that the enormous potential unleashed by ideology in international relations is omnipresent. Yang(2019) suggests that ideology can be divided into three levels. The first level is political, legal and economic ideology. The second level is social thought, education and ethics. The third level is philosophy and religion. He argues that when there is an ideological and political struggle in society, it often has to manifest itself with philosophy and ethics. Therefore, I will use ideology theory to explore the differences between Chinese and American

modes of governance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The political and economic functions of ideology

Yang(2019) believes that ideology has been politicised as early as the French Revolution. The bourgeoisie changed its ideology into that of the whole society, which started the process of politicizing ideology. The process of politicisation of ideology is in fact the process of combining ideology with the right to rule. The ideological system maintains the legitimacy of the regime and promotes large-scale socio-political mobilisation.

But extreme politicisation can also have negative effects on society. For example, it can lead to the stereotyping of society as a whole and limit the motivation and innovation of individuals and enterprises. In addition to this, misguided ideological perceptions can cause social disruption and the collapse of belief systems.

The economic function of ideology is firstly to protect the interests of the individual and secondly to achieve growth in the interests of society. Ideology can emphasise that group behaviour has universal utility, allowing both society and the common welfare of all humanity to increase through collective action (Yang, 2019). The American economist Olson (1982) argues that there is a direct relationship between the rise and fall of nations and the existence of interest groups in society. And this relationship will directly determine the growth or stagnation of the economy. Therefore, the right ideology can regulate the relationship between groups (Yang, 2019).

To assess the effectiveness of state governance in China and the United States under the COVID-19 pandemic

Hence, it would seem that the different models of state governance can be explored entirely from a philosophical perspective as well as in terms of human nature. This assessment will focus on the collision between socialism with Chinese characteristics and liberal capitalism in the US and its impact on global supply chains, taking China and US as the main case studies. As

well as the reasons and effectiveness of preventive measures implemented by different regimes in the context of the pandemic.

Discussion

The impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on different fields

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a "fatal" impact on the development of all areas of society today. According to Zhu(2020), the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human economic order and economic activity is unprecedented, and it exposes the shortcomings of the current political and governance structures of some countries.

First, the pandemic caused a shock halt to all elements of economic activity. At the beginning of the pandemic, the vast majority of the world's countries were maintaining social distance between people. Most firms and manufacturing industries were shut down. During the later pandemic, there are still countries suffering from the negative economic impact of the pandemic. Secondly, Zhu (2020) stated, the world is witnessing a major historical restructuring of the relationship between governments, societies, and individuals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has reintroduced a new diversity of political thought and practice in countries all over the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in an era of all-factor confrontation in strategic competition between major powers, as evidenced by the current "deterioration" in US-China relations. Economic and military cooperation, as well as technological cooperation and cultural exchanges(Zhu, 2020). Wang (2020)stated that the main actors in the three levels of international relations (individual, states, and the international community) are inextricably linked in this global pandemic.

Case studies: The models of state governance between China and the United States

The effectiveness in dealing with the pandemic has clearly shows different countries' characteristics of their respective governance models. By using China and the United States as

case studies, we can not only appreciate the negative impact of friction between major powers on the globalization process, but also raise implications for political philosophy in the post-pandemic era and expectations for the realisation of a "community of human destiny" in the future.

Three periods of the COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic can be divided into three periods. The first phase of the pandemic (Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2020; preliminary stage) was the end of winter in 2019, when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. January to February in 2020 was the most difficult time for the Chinese side to fight the virus, as there are no preventive measures, adequate medical supplies, or effective medical drugs.

The second stage of the pandemic (Dec. 2020 - Jan. 2021) is when the initial control of the COVID-19 pandemic is achieved, effective medical treatment is available in all countries, and vaccination has significantly reduced the number of deaths. Liu (2022) stated that the pandemic had not completely disappeared during this period, and people were still living in a state of prevention and control for a long time. The term "post-pandemic era" first appeared in a phone call between General Secretary Xi Jinping and the President of Tajikistan on June 16, 2020 (Liu, 2022).

China's reaction during the COVID-19 pandemic

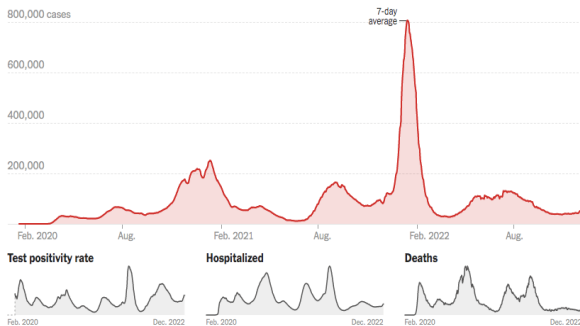
The Chinese side was the first to block the source of the virus at the beginning of the outbreak and called on the people to take initiatives such as home quarantine to intercept the source of infection. During the meeting of the Standing Committee of the 20th National People's Congress, Xu (2022) emphasised that the main focus of prevention and control measures in China in the post-pandemic era will continue to be on the "external prevention of importation and internal prevention of rebound" strategy.

The dynamic zero-COVID policy is a MUST for China. MUST is an acronym that stands for Matter of life and death, United against the virus, Science-based and Targeted. The strategy

for prevention and control will continue to focus on dynamic clearance. The authorities will need to adopt scientific and precise prevention and control measures, arrive at the scene at the first time, and strive for a 24-hour prime time to quickly identify and control close contacts, sub-close contacts and other persons at risk, so as to effectively prevent the spillover of the pandemic (“Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China,” 2022).

The United States’ responses during the COVID-19 pandemic

In my opinion, due to President Trump did not take effective pandemic prevention measures in the early stage of the pandemic, so the number of people infected and the death cases in the United States is still rising (The New York Times, 2022).



Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count. THE NEWYORK TIMES

The information given by the Institute of Global Health Sciences in University of California San Francisco have commented that the pandemic was obviously not effectively controlled in the early and middle stages of the outbreak in the United States:

Testing did not begin in earnest in the U.S. until mid- March, almost two months after the virus arrived in the country, and U.S. testing policy continues to prioritize symptomatic patients over community testing (Feachem et al., 2020).

The reasons of different state governance between China and the US

Peng (2021) stated, the contrasts in the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic between China and the United States are largely due to differences in the nature of political parties and the economic base.

The political systems and their effectiveness

Firstly, from the perspective of political institutions and the relationship between the central government and the local government, Sun (2020) points out that the public crisis governance systems in China and the US are very different in terms of "Centralised systems" and "Pluralistic systems".

Du (2021) claims that at the federal level there is a Constitution of the United States of America, and each state has its own independent legal and judicial system. So each state has its own independent separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. So in the United States, the federal states have no responsibility or obligation to be subordinate to the federal government, and the relationship is based more on cooperation between the federal and state levels of government. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic required the federal government to use large amounts of human and material resources to combat the pandemic, but at the same time, because the federal government's power were bound by the federal constitution. Peng therefore believes that the reason for the conflicting policies of the states is that the US has a bipartisan party system with separation of powers and checks and balances. However, China is a socialist country with special characteristics under the centralised and unified leadership of the Communist Party of China. Sun (2020) analyses the issue from a jurisprudential point of view, saying that the relationship of power and responsibility between the central government and the land in China tends to be centralised. Exploring from a historical perspective, as early as the Qin and Han dynasties, because of the establishment of the county system, that period had a complete set of response measures and governance system (Sun, 2020).

The power of government

Secondly, it is explored from the perspective of governmental authority, with Sun (2020) referring to the stark difference between "facilitating government" and "limited government" in the public crisis management systems of China and the U.S.

Sun (2020) argues that the key reason that why most Western countries subscribe to the "herd immunity" model is that Western governments have limited powers. Under the strong influence of liberal policies, society is left to its own devices. He argues that the difference between active and limited government reflects the vast differences between the US and China in terms of the relationship between the state and society. The Chinese side's government of action, the decisive and effective measures that went in the early stages of the outbreak. According to Sun's (2020) research, within 60 days the Chinese side had largely controlled the spread of the pandemic in the mainland and order was restored.

Peng (2021) argues that China's economic system is based on universal ownership and collective ownership by the working masses. Therefore, Sun (2020) suggests that the Chinese public crisis management system has a "Publisim" mindset in terms of social mobilisation. In the context of the pandemic, the role of the masses is enormous, demonstrating the strong cohesive power of the Chinese side.

The United States was more concerned with the interests of the bourgeoisie in the early stages of the pandemic, as the capitalist economy is based on private ownership (Peng, 2021). During the administration of former US President Donald Trump, the US side was branded as "populist" (Sun, 2020).

The effects of different state governance in China and the United States

The U.S. President Joe Biden declared the end of the outbreak at the White House and said that people's lives had returned to pre-pandemic conditions (Debusmann, 2022) However, Beijing continued to focus the continuation of a strong pandemic prevention and control policy. In the post-pandemic era, the different ways in which China and the US govern their countries continue to have both positive and negative effects on the three main actors (individuals, countries and the international community).

The impacts on three different levels in United States

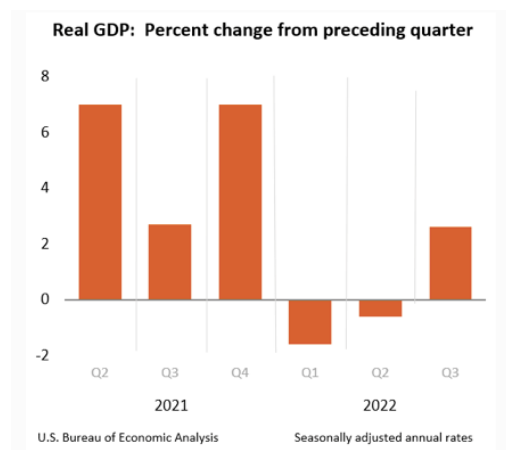
From the perspective of individuals and enterprises, the effect of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the prefecture is different according to social class to which the individual belongs that under the capitalist system (Sudo, 2022). He concluded that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different social class is different. An upper social class take little negative impact (Sudo, 2022).

Hence, in the face of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, workers continue to face unemployment and the burden of mental stress. And for the poorer people in the US there is still no effective treatment. Now that the US dollar is in a cycle of interest rate hikes (central bank increases in deposit and lending rates), the cost of both corporate financing and personal loans has increased accordingly. For the general population, as the cost of personal loans rises, fewer loans are granted and less investment and consumption takes place. This has led to a widening gap between rich and poor in the US, and a corresponding increase in unemployment and social instability.

The American government pays more attention to economic recovery because of the characteristics of the American political system. Since the Federal Reserve announced a rate hike in mid-2022, some scholars have stated that the US economy is in a recovery cycle. This policy of the United States makes people want to exchange money into US dollars and want to invest in the United States, which is why capital flows to the United States or developed countries centred on the US dollar. The opening up of other industries such as international trade and investment, study abroad and education has put the US economy in a state of recovery.

Although the current economic development of the United States is in a state of recovery, the impact of the mutation of the winter pandemic has not yet been determined. These are all likely to end the long-standing unresolved structural problems of the US economy. According to the US Department of Commerce:

“Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 2.6 percent in the third quarter of 2022, in contrast to a decrease of 0.6 percent in the second quarter.”(Department of Commerce, 2022).



The Real GDP in the United State
source: U.S Department of Commerce

From data analysis alone, this GDP growth rate indicates that the national conditions of the United States have recovered. From a macroeconomic analysis, there is no particularly large factor affecting the economic situation. While economic growth is a good sign, some market watchers worry that the continued strength of the economy means the Fed will have to keep raising interest rates for longer to keep inflation in check, which could eventually lead to a slowdown.

Scholars from all over the world have made different comments on the early pandemic prevention and control measures in the United States and the current interest rate hike of the US dollar. First of all, with regard to the pandemic prevention and control measures taken by the United States, reporter Zurcher (2020) gave such an evaluation. The lax medical equipment and government in the United States have seriously affected the economic and social development of the United States in the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the administration of former US President Trump, Americans' approval of Trump's response to the coronavirus crisis reached the lowest point of 37.4% (Mithani et al., 2022). After Biden was elected president

of the United States, the percentage of approve increased to at least 42%, the highest being 69% (Mithani et al., 2022). In terms of US dollar interest rate increase, the latest survey of several economists by the Wall Street Journal (2022) shows that the United States is expected to fall into recession in the next 12 months as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates and the economy slows down, as well as employers lay off employees in this situation.

The impacts on three different levels in China

China's measures to prevent and resist the pandemic have brought different degrees of impact on individuals and enterprises. The anti-pandemic measures ensure people's health, and effectively and accurately controlled the source of the pandemic. However, some scholars analyses that the isolation measures became an obvious obstacle for the individuals and enterprises. In the late stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, foreign enterprises are likely to fail to fulfil their export contracts due to force majeure, the supply of intermediate products is short and unstable. As reported in the China Economist, Wang (2021) claimed that the risk of supply chain and industrial chain breakage rises sharply, resulting in the decline of China's export trade scale.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation increased the pressure on the government's financial revenue and expenditure(Peng, 2021). In order to promote economic development, China State Taxation Administration has introduced a series of tax reduction and fee reduction policies, and the degree of tax reduction and fee reduction has been upgraded year by year.

At the international level, Zhou (2022) stated there is external demand pressure in China's foreign trade export. However, with the effective pandemic prevention and control measures and the positive response of foreign trade enterprises, China's foreign trade still maintains an advantageous state. However, due to the instability of the pandemic in the future, the impact of the pandemic aggravates the complexity of China's exports.

China's economy is still in the post-pandemic recovery period, and relevant reforms and policies still need to be continuously promoted. The impact of the pandemic on China's macro-economy is embodied in the sudden drop in demand and production. Investment, consumption, and exports are hit to varying degrees (Chen, 2022). The interest rate hike of the US dollar has also had a certain impact on China's economy. First, change the development trend of RMB; Second, it has a great impact on China's foreign trade; Third, it will cause capital outflow from China; Fifth, China's economy is facing pressure and the financing cost of enterprises is increasing; Finally, it puts pressure on China's monetary policy ("Cadforex," 2022).

With regard to the serious pandemic prevention measures of "Wuhan city closure" and "traffic closure" at that time, *Washington Post* pointed out that, compared with the SARS period, the response speed and importance of this approach had "obvious progress", and the pandemic prevention decision of China to close the main traffic hub was "a very powerful measure". Anthony (2020), head of infectious diseases department of National Institutes of Health, praised China's pandemic response measures for bringing respite to other countries and providing time for other countries to make necessary preparations. *Times* also indicated that the world's in-depth understanding of COVID-19 began with the virus research information provided by China. It can be said that China's efforts are indispensable in understanding COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, however, there are human rights issues raised by the western countries regarding China's strict pandemic prevention policy. According to the data of Pew Research Centre, the world's resentment against China has risen to the peak, and the human rights issue is the most important factor that arouses the general public's resentment.

The change of Sino-US relations and its spill-over

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the deterioration of US-China relations. During the Trump administration, the US and China have clashed to varying degrees in

the areas of politics, economics, homeland security and humanistic exchanges (Huang, 2022), and Huang's (2020) argument that China and the US are challenging the hegemonic powers has led to the relationship falling into a Thucydides trap. The study of the "New Cold War" between the US and China is also becoming a hot topic.

The causes of "New Cold War" and its evaluation

For Huang (2022), there were three layers of factors that led to the Cold War: "the struggle and conflict between capitalist and Marxist ideologies", "the struggle between the two political and economic systems of capitalism and socialism" and "the struggle of ideologies".

According to his research, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the US and China had formed a "US-China Trade War" over trade issues between the two sides, a war that included both sides in the areas of science and technology, ideology. He believes that it will be difficult for the US and China to enter into a "New Cold War". At the political and security levels, there is no major direct conflict between China and the US that involves the core interests of both sides. Moreover, the ideological differences between China and the US do not pose an existential threat to each other (Huang, 2022). Some scholars argue that the essence of the Sino-US rivalry today is institutional, such as China's socialist system prevents Wall Street monopoly capitalist groups from waging war to obtain arms dollars (Zhang, 2020, pp. 1-12). In addition, the US and China have been generating friction over the geopolitical game.

Geopolitics and Gaming

Geopolitics focuses on the influence of geographical factors on political relations. Both China and the United States are central power in a single global system, competing for leadership in almost every field. Both sides recognise the intensive dependencies that bind them together in the existing system (e.g. supply chains, financial flows, knowledge production, scientific exchange, ecological interdependence, etc.). Both sides do not see the possibility of responding to each other's challenges by force.

Although the risk of conflict remains (especially in the case of Taiwan), neither side, as major actors in every corner of the world, intends to use force against the other. Although the current US-China game remains in a state of tension, Blinken (2021), in presenting his policy towards China, suggests that the relationship between the US and China will be one of competition when it is time to compete, cooperation when we can cooperate, and confrontation when we must. The common denominator is engagement with China from a position of strength.

Compare the relationship between China and the U.S. under the SARS virus in 2003 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022

In my opinion, the difference between the two anti-pandemic campaigns between China and the United States lies in the change of power. In 2003, in the face of the massive spread of the SARS virus in China, the US provided China with a wealth of financial, material and expert assistance to help in the fight against SARS ("China Youth Daily, 2003). In contrast, the conflict between the US and China was intensified during the New Coronavirus. The source of the difference is still the growth of China's power in all areas (economic, military and social system improvement).

In 2003, China's overall hard power had not yet been upgraded and it was not yet a competitor to the US. This is why the United States was the first to assist China in its fight against the SARS virus. However, the Thucydides Trap has led the US strategic research community to believe that the rise of China will definitely lead to conflict with the US, and that a move towards war between the two countries is inevitable. But the "prophecy" of the Thucydides trap has not yet been confirmed.

The deterioration of Sino-US relations has affected the global industry chain

The impact of the crisis of confidence between the US and China on the global industry chain is irreversibly damaging. And as to how trust between China and the U.S. is being lost, Pozsar (2022) concludes:

"China got very rich making cheap stuff, and then wanted to build 5G networks globally and make cutting-edge chips with cutting-edge lithography machines, but the U.S. said "no way". As a result, Chimerica is going through a messy divorce" (Pozsar, 2022).

Not only that, but Pozsar (2022) suggests that the US's abundance comes from foot bathing in quantitative easing (increase money supply), but the basis of US quantitative easing comes from cheap energy from Russia and low inflation from cheap goods from China. So the twin crises of alliance and trust have led to an escalation of conflict in international relations between the two sides. Trade frictions between the US and China are bound to bring about a cut-off in the global industrial chain and have a negative impact on world economic and trade development.

The factors that influenced the global supply chain

Wang (2021) stated that trade frictions between the US and China have broken the effective mechanism of the global supply and demand chain. By increasing tariffs and punitive clauses against each other, the two sides have increased transaction costs, fragmented international markets, distorted the true value of commodities, undermined the price mechanism, reduced the effective utilization of resources, and disrupted the cooperation and division of labour in the supply and demand chain. In addition to this, the US uses non-market interventions to disrupt the current system of global commodity chains to maximise local interests. The US intervention has led to an increase in commodity transaction costs and distribution costs, leading to a reduction in the scale, speed and efficiency of global commodity distribution.

The difference between China and the United States in state governance lies in cultural logic and ideology

Apart from the differences in their political and economic systems, the main reason for the differences in governance modes between China and the United States lies in the differences in cultural logic and ideology between the two countries. Chinese and American cultures belong to two different types and nature of cultures. The Chinese culture belongs to the inland agrarian

culture, while the American culture originated in Europe and belongs to the maritime commercial culture (Chen & Ma, 2019). They stated that the Chinese nation has traditionally had a strong dependence on agriculture, while the American culture park with Europe makes their dependence on the sea very strong. Since Chinese and American cultures are two different types of cultures with different characteristics, then they will form distinct differences in terms of ideology, values and ways of thinking.

The application of different ideological management between China and the United States in pandemic situation

Ideology of management is a worldview that supports a specific viewpoint on the form and operation of organisations(Featherby, 2018).

In China, as Marxism developed in China, the Chinese side used the idea to craft its own political theory in combination with the developmental patterns of Chinese society and Mao Zedong Thought (Yang, 2019, p. 71). Dialectical materialism is an important part of Marxist philosophy, and materialist dialectics holds that contradictions are both universal and special. In the process of fighting the pandemic in China, the government made Marxist dialectical analysis and precise policy. Recognising the generality and particularity of the contradiction of pandemic prevention and control is the concrete application of materialist dialectics by China government in this pandemic situation. In addition, Wang(2022) also analysed the application of Marxist theories of man and nature, human and society in the China government's prevention and control measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. The government of China hopes to use these theories to oppose the politicization and labelling of pandemic situation, and establish the Community of Shared Future for Mankind consciousness.

The United States is divided into two different ideologies: individualism and liberalism. China's collectivism morality makes individuals obey the collective and sacrifice their personal interests for the collective. Individualists believe

that the real morality is to be responsible to one's own conscience, or not to the collective. Locke's (1689) natural rights make most individualists think that when people lose the right of free choice in collectivism, they also lose the ability of self-responsibility. For example, under this pandemic situation, there is no universal health insurance system in the United States. Health insurance is provided through private contracts, such as agreements between medical insurance companies and individuals ("Under the COVID-19 pandemic: the reconstruction of individualism and collectivism," 2022).

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, American nationals protested against human rights restrictions and refused to wear masks, which showed that Americans paid attention to their personal interests.

Finally, Michael Sandel, a professor of political philosophy at Harvard University in the United States, a famous contemporary representative of communitarianism, summed up the lessons of anti-pandemic in the United States, saying that the COVID-19 pandemic had come at a "wrong moment", and the current political polarization, incompetence of governance and huge social contradictions in the United States (Sandel, 2020). He thinks that even though this pandemic highlights people's interdependence, the spirit of unity and sacrifice it evokes is so little, and more about politics. Sandel's (2020) evaluation of individualism in the pandemic background is as follows: "our ardent individualism is a strength in some settings but not in content with a pandemic" (Sandel, 2020).

The reconstruction of individualism and collectivism in the context of the COVID-19

Some American scholars have suggested that after the COVID-19 pandemic, more attention should be paid to the reconstruction of collectivism and individualism. Some collectivists also advocate maintaining freedom of thought and individual freedom, while individualists also support people to consider the interests of society. Rousseau (1762) formed a common contract through the way recognised by the general public. Obey, respect and protect

every member of the community class. On the one hand, free thought and information disclosure in the community are guaranteed; on the other hand, it cannot be monopolized by cross-border collectivism. The integration and reconstruction of these two aspects is what human beings need to reflect on after the outbreak of the COVID-19.

Reflections on the reality of the fight against the COVID-19 in China and the US

Political communication is a significance factor in the international community as well as in political participation. Through the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and the United States should learn from the experience and draw strength from it, strengthen communication and seek common ground while reserving differences, enhance exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in the fight against the pandemic, and build a community of human destiny together (Peng, 2021). As Zhao and Cao (2022, October 28) reported in the *Global Times* and *Daily China*, President Xi Jinping (2022) has emphasised the significance of enhancing communication and collaboration between China and the United States once more, claiming that doing so will enable the two big nations to bring stability and assurance to a tumultuous world. Biden (2022) said, "These challenges know no boundaries and will require the broader international community to come together and for each of us to do our part in building a safe, peaceful and resilient future."

In my opinion, China and US need to enhance mutual understanding and trust, deepen pragmatic cooperation on various fronts and plan the next stage of bilateral relations.

The role of international organisations under the background of the COVID-19 pandemic

In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, international organisations play a vital role, especially the World Health Organization plays a leading role in the response to the pandemic. This widely recognised that it is predominant to strengthen international cooperation under the COVID-19 pandemic. One is the World Health Organisation (WHO) under the framework of the

United Nations, and the other is the G20 highlighted by Wang (2020) in his research.

World Health Organisation-WHO

For WHO is an organisation to make health a global public good, access to health must be non-exclusive, non-competitive and global. That is, the consumption of a public good by its users should not diminish its availability to other users. The provision of global public goods increases the confidence of countries to participate in international affairs and brings benefits to them. Under the pandemic era, WHO is closely collaborating with international experts, governments. They swiftly advance scientific knowledge of the COVID-19 virus, monitor its virulence and spread. Moreover, WHO provided guidance to individuals and nations on how to protect their health. ("United Nation: COVID-19 response." n.d.).

In this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO also exposed its limitations and failed to fulfil its role as an international organisation (Wang, 2020). He argues that although WHO has experience in coordinating responses to public health crises, such as the response to Ebola, it still put itself in the middle of controversy by failing to coordinate between major countries (Wang, 2020).

G20

Dai (2021) pointed out that the G20 is an important platform to guide countries to speed up the building of an open and inclusive trade partnerships featuring equal dialogue, win-win cooperation, and is committed to repair or even reshaping the global value chains and helping to reform the global economic governance system. Wang (2020) believes that expanding cooperation in areas such as anti-globalization risks and coping with risks and challenges common to all countries around the world with a more open attitude has provided new impetus for the recovery and growth of the global economy. This kind of cooperation can be reflected in the exchange of talents and scientific and technological innovation cooperation in the global health field, as well as effectively respond to the impact of the international pandemic and

maintain the stability of the global economy and financial markets.

Dai (2021) said it is crucial to actively use multi-bilateral channels to strengthen cooperation between the G20 members and other international organisations and major economies. Also to strongly support the WHO, the World Bank, the IMF, the World Trade Organisation for FTA strategies.

Conclusion

In the post-pandemic era, peace and development remain the themes of the times, and economic globalisation has endorsed the main trend in human economic development. Through a scientific analysis of three levels (individual, national and international) and three time periods (pre-pandemic, mid-pandemic, and post-pandemic), I reflect on the current challenges faced by China and the United States in their respective state governance models. This is followed by a discussion of the reasons for the different models of governance in China and the US in terms of political and economic systems, governmental authority, and economic foundations. In addition, external evaluations of the governance models of China and the US also clearly show the strengths and weaknesses of the different political and economic systems in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the shortcomings of American liberalism revealed in the early stages of the pandemic have led to an increase in the number of cases of decolonisation in the US. China's Marxist socialism (Socialism with Chinese Characteristics) was managed by the "enforced obedience" of collectivist ideology during the later stages of the pandemic. Therefore, an analysis of Rousseau's theory of the "social contract" is used to reflect on the reconfiguration of individualism and collectivism.

The political games between China and the United States at the international level and the speculations of scholars about a "New Cold War" have not only created additional concerns for the peaceful development of the international community but also caused some negative effects on global supply chains. In the face of the

many negative impacts of the current pandemic and the rising unemployment rates in various countries, more scholars are realising that we should aim to promote the long-term development of the international community.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a turning point and a challenge to international relations. I believe that the call for the international community to build a community of human destiny is fundamentally aimed at containing the COVID-19 pandemic as well as protecting the planet's ecology. The role of the G20, on the other hand, is to promote peaceful economic competition and development in all countries of the world.

Conflict of Interests: the author has claimed that no conflict of interests exists.

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