

Abstracts

Response of the Chinese Government to the New Coronavirus Outbreak: – Announcement of Wartime State and Its Problems

Hongyi LIU

Graduate School of Social Sciences, Waseda University

The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak occurred in 2020. As a measure for preventing the spread of infection, the local government of China has frequently announced a policy called *wartime state*. Since June 2020, the wartime state has played a specific role in the prevention system of the local epidemic, which was highly evaluated by the central government. However, after some local governments excessively adopted such policy to evade their responsibility, the Chinese central government effectively banned the usage of wartime state since January 2021. This paper summarizes the cases of the announcement of wartime states after local COVID-19 outbreaks in China between February 2020 and January 2021. By analyzing characteristics from the perspective of institutionalization, this paper points out that the essence of the wartime state in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak in China is a form of crisis management system. In addition, this study elucidates the motivation of the Chinese government behind the announcement of wartime state based on securitization theory and the traditions of Chinese politics. Finally, according to China's response to COVID-19, this study points out the contradictions and problems of the security policies in China.