

## THE STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE OF CHINA: AN EVALUATION FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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### ABSTRACT

*The COVID-19 pandemic that originated in China has affected every country in the world. Preventive measures started to be taken when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and these measures have limited countries economic growth. Countries had varying health and economic strategies in response to the epidemic. In this study, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in China and both the social and economic differing strategies are evaluated and this is useful for understanding the effectiveness of political strategies on the global crisis. The strategies that China followed to increase national power during the pandemic have been analyzed within the scope of economic and technological initiatives. This analysis examines; which strategies were implemented to control the COVID-19 pandemic and which response measures have been successful in China's wellbeing and the economy.*

**Keywords:** COVID-19 Pandemic, Economic Growth, Global Crisis, China, Diplomatic Strategies.

**Jel Codes:** F52, 038, P35, Q38, Q48.

## ÇİN'İN STRATEJİK AVANTAJI: COVID-19 PANDEMİSİNE İLİŞKİN BİR DEĞERLENDİRME

### ÖZET

*Çin'de ortaya çıkan Koronavirüs hastalığı tüm dünya ülkelerini etkilemiştir. Küresel sağlık alarmı verilmesiyle başlayan süreç adına koruyucu önlemler alınmaya başlanmış ve bu önlemler birçok ulus için sınırlandırıcı nitelikte olmuş, ekonomik büyümeyi büyük ölçüde etkilemiştir. Pandemi dönemine yanıt olarak, hasar derecesi doğrultusunda ekonomi ve sağlık politikaları edinilmiştir. Çin'de salgın ilerlemesinin kademeli kontrolünü değerlendiren bu çalışma; farklı politik stratejilerin salgın müdahalesinde başarılı olup olmadığını sorgulama ve salgının, kitleler üzerindeki sosyal ve ekonomik*

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*etkilerini değerlendirmesi açısından önem taşımaktadır. Bu bağlamda, çalışmada öncelikle Çin'in koronavirüs hastalığı süresince ulusal gücünü arttırmak için takip ettiği stratejiler, ekonomik ve teknolojik girişimler kapsamında analiz edilmiştir. Bu araştırma makalesinde, koronavirüs salgınının Çin üzerindeki hasar derecesi incelenmiş ve Çin'in pandemi sürecini kontrol yetisi değerlendirilmiştir. Değerlendirmede; Çin'in küresel salgın müdahalesinin hangi politik stratejiler doğrultusunda başarıya eriştiğine yanıt aranmaktadır.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** *Koronavirüs salgını, Ekonomik Büyüme, Küresel Kriz, Çin, Diplomatik Stratejiler.*

*Jel Kodları: F52, 038, P35, Q38, Q48.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The emerging of the coronavirus pandemic in Wuhan, China, causing sudden illnesses and deaths. This epidemic, which the world was unprepared for, has led to political, social, and economic problems on a global scale. China was the first country affected by the epidemic. The rapid and irrepressible spread of the epidemic in the early stages impacted the health sector heavily. With the epidemic affecting the global economy significantly, nations began to take political measures. Despite the economic interventions and measures taken with the help of political tools, the coronavirus epidemic has been evaluated as a factor that seriously affected economic growth rates in most countries. Early 2020, the number of infections and deaths in other countries has increased at a great pace, while in China the progress of the epidemic has slowed down. It is of great importance that China, the country that survived the epidemic with the least damage due to the impact of interventions, evaluates its precautionary strategies. In this research article, first of all, the economic analysis of China before the pandemic is given and the philosophy of Confucianism and political culture are examined. During the pandemic, China's health care performance was discussed and conclusions were made about the degree of prosperity of the masses. In the following, the prevention and control strategies implemented by the Chinese government regarding the progress of the epidemic have been included. The study contains pandemic period strategies and analyses obtained through official data of the Chinese government; this will be useful for understanding and developing measures taken because of the coronavirus epidemic.

### **1. THE PROGRESSION OF COVID-19 IN CHINA: CONFUCIAN THOUGHT & HISTORICAL PROCESS**

At the end of January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global health alert, and work was initiated to prevent the rapidly spreading coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Wuhan, China. The existence of this new virus was first reported to WHO by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the People's Republic of China and the National Health Commission of China, and

the world was made aware of it (Gürlevik, 2020). The history of the virus, which was declared a pandemic disease by the WHO on March 11 (Addi vd., 2020), 2020, dates back to December 2019. The fact that the number of statistical patients doubled in about 7 days and the absence of a definite treatment method greatly frightened the researchers (Kılıç, vd., 2019). According to the assessment of Chinese scientists, it was concluded that the epidemic is spreading at a great speed. Due to the inability to find targeted treatment methods for an epidemic dominated by vulnerability, the Chinese government and scientists acted jointly; vaccine development was envisaged (Lee ve Kim, 2020). The study performance of Chinese scientists faced with an irrepressible, rapidly spreading virus is focused on early diagnosis and treatment (WHO, 2020).

The newly identified threat was identified by WHO Director-General Dr. According to the assessment of Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the uncontrolled spread of this virus, which has an alarming level of spread, has attracted attention (Cucinotta ve Vanelli, 2020:91). The case increases in Guangdong, Henan, and Zhejiang provinces are also important when local monitoring of the virus, which began in Wuhan, Hubei province and has spread to other regions, is carried out. Based on regional studies, an excess of male and elderly population deaths was observed (Wang, Wang ve Wang, 2021). Worldometers, which share their numerical reviews of the epidemics occurring the world daily, have shown that the population dying has reached its peak in this process, and the frightening situation has influenced the world on many issues.

Coronavirus disease has had a critical impact on a global scale. The fact that the solution has not been reached despite the advanced technologies developed in the ultra-modern era has reinforced the defining feature of the epidemic. The problems faced by countries of the world in the political, economic, and social context can be interpreted as the main motivation underlying the national factors that are changing and increasing at this stage. Testing and quarantining of cases, and closing of public places such as schools, cinemas and concerts have brought the coronavirus disease to a global health crisis. The International Labor Organization has predicted that twenty-five million people will be unemployed due to these restrictions, which will lead to economic collapse, and the figures identified confirm this (ILO, 2021).

Before addressing the spread of the global epidemic in China and how the process is controlled, it is important to mention the culture of Confucianism in the historical background of the country's governing profile. Even today, the philosophy of Confucianism remains active. This way of thinking, defined as both religion and philosophy, has been used as a management guide for the Chinese. According to the mentioned philosophy, social order and responsibility awareness have been emphasized as key phenomena. Confucius, whose Chinese name was Kong Qiu, considered not only cultural values, but also a hierarchical social system and state structure. Based on this, China's global economic success is often attributed to this philosophy. An example that supports this idea came from

the economist Kazimierz Poznanski. Arguing that the difference in economic thinking of the Chinese is transmitted from family to children depending on the Confucian tradition, he bases this claim in his article on the fact that the Chinese focus on the phenomenon of community rather than the individual (Poznanski, 2017). Simultaneously, the author emphasized the importance of the idea of "economics for society" in another study in which the Chinese have their own schools of economics, which they call "Confucian Economics". The Confucian thought structure states that the economic principle is the market system (Poznanski, 2015). From the past to the present, China has sought ways of social development and has not ignored the social and economic differences in the regions (Guo, 2013). During this process, the rapidly developing economic reforms were followed by the Chinese government. Strategic national reconciliation has been at the core of the political transformation. The mentioned political developments can also be defined as a process in which the bond of the population is strengthened (Hui, 2017). The process started in 1978 with the encouragement of the functioning of local and private institutions and continued with the liberalization of foreign trade and investment; industrial production and labor were at the heart of strategic steps (Hu ve Khan, 1997). When the stages of China's reform and development were evaluated by some researchers, it was found that the post-reform period had achieved success with strong institutional support and a solid political structure Wu, 2014). In this context, it can be said that the yield surplus in China reached a high level from 1998-to 2005 (Wang, Zhang, Peoples, 2016).

In the 2000s, it was an undeniable reality that China was a global power. China, which has the second-largest economy in the world, is the largest energy consumer. It also has a trade power that even formidable competitors such as the United States and Japan cannot Access (Shambaugh, 2016). It has been observed that China has adopted an intermediate formula in the form of Decelerated growth, constant investment, and reduced the need for exports since 2007 (CRS, 2019). In the period between 2001 and 2008, during the Great Recession which is the difficult process in the world, was successfully circumvented in China. While the capitalist system was glorified before 2008, the capitalist system collapsed after the Great Recession and was replaced by the Maoist New Left era. The fact economic reform has gained momentum under the leadership of Xi Jinping in 2013 (Li, 2017). The speed with which China is reaching the economies of developed countries is expressed in the integration of global trade and investment. The fact that it is one of the largest trading countries in the world from an isolationist economy has created reactions around the World (Dollar, Huang, Yao, 2021). Economic growth is the focus of China's public administration. The surplus of consumption in China and its dependence on external sources should also be taken into account though this is a negative determination (Brandt, Rawski ve Lin, 2005). China's key strength is the economy, and its rise over the past three decades has been welcomed with dissatisfaction by other powers. Even in such a competitive field, China has managed to maintain its economy. Further, China has absolute power in the economy, as is

in a position to have very tight rules that have to be followed whereas other competitive powers could not due to increased free will.

## **2. Socioeconomic Determinants of Covid-19 Pandemic**

From an epidemic process, China's impressive position in the international market has attracted attention. Therefore, this situation has increased the competitive capacity of Chinese investors (Song, Zhou ve Hurst, 2019). It is acknowledged that China has increased its international influence in global monetary relations. It is quite obvious that China, which has increased its political power through the financial system, is important in the acquisition of economic power (Helleiner, Kirshner, 2017). In essence, China has activated foreign Exchange reserves, which are supported by its banking system, in the global market. In its historical, economic observation, China has adapted to the growth rate of the polarized world order since the Industrial Revolution. In the decade beginning in 2000, China was shown to be the country with the greatest progression in GDP (gross domestic product) growth (Lin, 2011). China's GDP grew by 7,4% between 2010 and 2018. Additionally, poverty will end across the country by 2020, as suggested by Chinese policy scientists. The curious rise of China since 1978 is intended to build a crucial economy by 2049 (Dollar, Huang ve Yao, 2020).

When examining China's political and economic performance during the epidemic process and damage assessment, we should first note that the coronavirus epidemic is a developing health problem on a global scale, and led to a serious financial crisis. Quarantining of the masses, social distancing has meant a loss of both operating expenses and economic opportunities (Leung, Wu, Liu ve Leung, 2020). In this process, states have attempted to prevent the crisis caused by the epidemic within the framework of political methods. The deficient political methods regarding the communication of the virus affected all citizens in China. The communication that could not be established at the required time-damaged transparency and the information flow control that the government was trying to provide caused great damage in the management of the crisis. An example of that is the obstacles on media searches for the COVID-19 (Shangguan, Wang ve Sun, 2020). In response to the failed communication problem, the Chinese government expressed its defense by explaining that it has provided specific instructions through education to guide the public on health guidelines (WHO, 2020).

The disruption of health services during the epidemic process is not surprising: Indeed, healthcare in China has been poor since the early 2000s. And the Chinese government, in its pre-epidemic health planning (2008–2010), raised policies that prioritize the care of patients by increasing the number of beds available. With the health reform, China has focused on community health centers and focused on solving health problems in rural areas (Herd, Koen ve Noord, 2019). The aim of the health care reform has been defined as providing health care in appropriate conditions for every Chinese citizen by 2020 (GHDE, 2019). By 2020, according to *Global Health Data Exchange* statistics, the number of hospitals per 10,000 population was determined to be 0.20. In a plain expression China has lagged

behind developed countries such as Germany and Japan; During the epidemic, the excess of health services in the provinces and the rarity in rural areas drew attention and this situation was evaluated as negative in terms of the spread of the virüs (Hu, Flahault, Temerev ve Razanova, 2021). According to the information obtained from the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China, we can say that China primarily expresses informing the masses about dealing with the epidemic as the key to success (NHC of PRC, 2020). Another basis of the Chinese government's sensitivity to the masses; at the heart of the planning of the *Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021) is the constant presence of local institutions in case analysis to ensure increased awareness of the coronavirus, the delivery of information packages to the masses, the timeliness of control mechanisms developed in accordance with the monitoring of cases. Ma Xiaowei, President, assistant and politician of the Chinese Medical Association in the early stages of the epidemic, interpreted the management of the epidemic process as a team effort and underlined the organic link between policy and health care.

As a matter of fact, the asymmetry caused by the epidemic has made the delayed efforts made in line with the health crisis meaningless and the poor health services have not been sufficient for the patients. At the stage when the negative effects of the epidemic exceeded the domestic capacity, a large number of patients were infected with the virus and causing it to reach its peak ( Sun, Xie, Yu, Jiang, Zheng ve Pan, 2021). At this point, when Chinese diplomacy could not get out of it, in the continuation of quarantine of citizens and scientific developments, China has developed a vaccine against the coronavirus epidemic. Sinopharm (Sinovac) corona 19 vaccine, manufactured by China-based, has been approved by the World Health Organization and has been declared suitable for emergency use (WHO, 2021). Other approved versions of this vaccine, which is a product of technological progress, are also available. The vaccines of Moderna, based in America, Sputnik, based in Russia, BioNTech-Pfizer, based in Germany, are also on the WHO's emergency use list (Mallapaty, 2021). According to the Hubei news, the vaccine produced by China gives hope to the whole World (Hubei-China, 2021). Considering the 2020 GDP rates, China, which has stepped into the vaccination process with large investments, has seen a serious decline in the epidemic process (Thomala, 2021). The inference obtained from the above can be interpreted as the weakness of Chinese diplomacy in the field of health care in the early stages of the fight against the epidemic. An example of the inadequacy of the health care system can be given; Feng Zijian, deputy director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, emphasizes a stronger control mechanism with a different desire for health reform (Xiaodong, 2020).

Considering the economic data of the epidemic-fighting period, the remarkable part is that according to the economic reform promised by the Chinese authorities in 2016, the thirteenth five-year plan; GDP will double by 2020. This plan, which corresponds to a growth figure of 6.5%, is focused on economic security (CIA, 2021). Based on World Bank data; 2019 data are calculated as 5.95%, 2020 as 2.3% (The World Bank, 2021). According to the International Monetary Fund, China will have a growth

rate of 5.1% by 2025 (IMF, 2021). There is a lot of research that the coronavirus epidemic is developing in favor of China. It is even believed that China is consciously a mediator of the spread of infection. There are also claims that the epidemic, called the Wuhan virüs (O'Brien, 2020) by the United States on the international site, has spread from Chinese experimental centers (Morse, 2021). It is known that the experimental centers cause a lot of controversy between the United States and China (Morse, 2021a). Furthermore, China's assessment by many Europeans as masked diplomacy is also an important detail. It is desirable to express that China has deliberately planned the epidemic process and will naturally survive it without damage. The fact that the United States has asked the Chinese government for transparency about the virus and is continuing to investigate it is also an example of this situation (Fact Sheet, 2021). It is assumed that price pressures will decrease in 2022 during the epidemic process. Additively it is expected that the decline will greatly recover during the pandemic period. Politicians have argued that the negative economic damage of the epidemic can be remedied by political practices, and growth of 8.0% is projected for 2021 (Okamoto, 2021). As Chinese politicians claim, the fact that political measures are keeping the epidemic under control is understood from the fact that the death toll will decrease compared to other countries in 2020 (Our World in Data, 2021). China's sensitivity to vaccination is an important detail in this regard. According to the information obtained from the State Council of the People's Republic of China; The National Health Commission stated that the vaccination processes of over 1.1 billion people in China have been completed. This process, which was completed with about 2.5 billion vaccine needles, has been interpreted as a social success (The State Council PRC, 2021).

### **3. China's Covid-19 Control Strategy and Strategic Analysis**

Studies that examine China's economic strategy during the epidemic period argue that compared to other countries, China has survived this process with less damage (Lau ve Xiaong, 2020). Philosopher and economist Dr. Max Roser stated that the key to the success of the epidemic process is connected to the growth rate (Wiblin ve Harris, 2021). Although it has been observed that the statistical growth forecasts are not in complete agreement, among the factors affecting China's growth in Dec 2021 is the Chinese government's 'zero tolerance for coronavirus' policy. In the context of this policy, side effects (Wei, 2021) such as China's travel restrictions, reduced production, and tourism have caused difficulties, China's willingness to produce with the worlds becoming a factory and controlling the virus during the epidemic has shown symmetrical progress with a zero-tolerance policy (Baldwin ve Mauro, 2020). It has been stated that this policy, which is defined as the ability of mass mobilization, was realized with the help of the people.

The biggest difficulty in maintaining this political strategy has been caused by the delay in economic recovery. therefore, it was unclear how long this strategy could be maintained. The biggest concern arising from the end of the zero COVID strategy has been that COVID-19 cases will increase

rapidly. this, in turn, despite the relatively low pathogenicity of the Omicron variant, can lead to failure in the health system and great loss of life, so question marks have negatively affected the relevant departments of the government (Xu, Wang, vd., 2023).

The Zero Covid policy disrupted production, supply chains and consumer spending. The economic growth rate has fallen and dragged China into recession. The chances of China achieving its original 5.5 percent growth target have decreased. And in the ongoing phase of the war with Omicron, it was announced that the Asian Games (to be held in Hangzhou) have been postponed to June 2023. At an emergency meeting held by Premier Li Keqiang with 100,000 local officials across the country in the last week of May, he reported on the severity of economic downturns surrounding China and that their effects exceeded those experienced in 2020 (Morrison, Kennedy ve Huang, 2022).

In addition to the mentioned negative progress, the positive impact of the newly developed technologies has been quite large. For example, the rapid nucleic acid test allowed to diagnose patients early, detect asymptomatic infections and assess the potential risk for the entire population. In this context, mobile phones were often used for covid tracking. Given the high prevalence of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections and the possibility of latent long-distance transmission through cold chain logistics, it was predicted that without these new technologies, the defense would remain of low value. Mathematical modeling with the help of powerful computers has also proven useful for understanding the course of a pandemic and, more importantly, evaluating the effects of prevention strategies and informing policy regulations (Tang ve Abbasi, 2021).

The often-mentioned "magic weapons" refers to all national means in China. The boards of directors of the government refer to the health, transportation and public safety branches. The "covid prevention and control headquarters", established to prevent the virus, has established a working group against COVID-19 in every school, business unit and community.

Community volunteers helped with control activities such as health education, monitoring the health of people returning from high-risk areas, providing services to people under quarantine, and ensuring high compliance with prevention and control measures. Strict organizational management, social cohesion and altruistic values of citizens were the "magic weapons" used in the fight against covid-19 at this stage (Chen, Gao, vd. 2021).

#### **4. China's Pandemic-Era Economic Strategies**

In this section, which will focus on China's economic analysis and strategies during the pandemic period and its current situation, there are important points that will shed light on the study. The activation of global value chains (Yong, 2015) (GVC) in the international arena, as well as the problems encountered in the purchase of products imported from China during the epidemic process, led to disruptions in the supply chain (World Bank, 2017). For example, when a car is produced in the



UK, it is necessary to buy tyres from China, and this trade chain indirectly includes global exposure (Baldwin ve Freeman, 2021). On the other hand, it is another detail that the financial situation of small and medium-sized enterprises and the quarantine of personnel constitute a market recession, which is the leading negative findings (Liu, Yue ve Tchounwou, 2020). The beginning of this situation was caused by the fact that China's economic growth was successful after the Second World War when it established economic organizations as an alternative to global commercial organizations (Ross, 2019). The International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that the global epidemic unskilled most of the people went to target, and in this regard, China; Social Security and skills development platform for employees, plans, and fair digitization, has revealed that they will continue to work on new business opportunities and related global collaborations (ILO, 2021). In the evaluations based on global cooperation, the United Nations mentioned that underdeveloped and developing countries can close their financial gap compared to developed countries through solidarity and that vaccine access is the only solution for the global imbalance of 2021 (Crozet, 2021).

It has been concluded that the role of government policies aimed at protecting against the devastating effects of the epidemic is great in the recovery process. Key measures include medical expenses, unemployment insurance, public investments, and tax decommissioning (CRS, 2021). In David Allen Baldwin's work *Economic Statecraft*, expressed the economy as a political tool (Liu, 2020), the phenomenon of global security, which is identified with the understanding of economic statism, has become an ancient rule in financial matters (Norris, 2010). This is how the desire for political power is at the core of China's economic measures, and economic recovery is also achieved through political strategies. The main reason why government policies are so dominant in the direction of economic growth is due to the desire for power (The World Bank, 2008). 2001 Nobel Prize-winning American economist Michael Spence stated that Asian countries such as China, which have taken early measures since the identification of the virus, are in rapid recovery and that the pandemic economy will be provided with international cooperation between the second half of 2021 and 2022, and that vaccination is binding in this sense (Spence, 2021).

Based on the project data developed in cooperation with the Oxford Economics and McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), which shed light on the problem statement of the study, it was concluded that the five trends that accelerated during the corona epidemic in China are considered to be elements of recovery & progress. These five trends are the naming of digital tools as a popular solution, the importance given to technology and domestic capital, the value of technological production in industry, consumers, and the socio-economic role of the private sector (Seong, Ngai, Woetzel ve Leung, 2021). Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China's financial growth and technology collected for the analysis of Quantitative Economics Institute, the findings; capital, labor, and total factor productivity (The World Bank, 2020) to innovation-oriented development has concluded that enriched the country (Li, 2020). Innovation-oriented development also includes technological advances at its core, which China is very

sensitive to. The progress of the global recovery based on technological developments during the epidemic is an example of this. Therefore, the fact that China will quickly erase the negative economic traces of the pandemic period has been positively evaluated in the 2021 assessments (World Bank Group, 2021). The continuity of China's economic strategic resources is due to the fact that it has the richest human capital, which is one of the classical but unchanging reasons at its core. This element, which is at the very beginning of the national strategic resources, makes a great contribution to the Comprehensive National Power (CNP) (Dahiya, 2021) criterion (Angang ve Hounghua, 2002). Based on this information, it has been observed that low labor cost is the most powerful factor in China.

Finally, when it comes to the period called the Post-pandemic, that is, the post-pandemic period; Ministry of National Defense Spokesman Wu Qian expressed his strategies for China's military education reforms (Zhuo, 2021). Signals of change were given with global cooperation, and the necessity of effective measures and continuous progress was emphasized (Wei, 2021). One of the great details, expressed by Michael Spence in his 2021 Hong Kong Forum speech; -in line with the previous estimates mentioned in the study - is that China has emerged from the epidemic process as the only major economy. Arguing that global factors are unable to control the epidemic process by classical methods and means, Spence noted that the global economy is shifting towards Asia (Spence, 2021a). Another statement that will reinforce this statement came from Joseph NYE's 2010 TEDGlobal speech, in which Nye stated that the global power shift is shifting from West to East with the concept of 'power transition' (Nye, 2010). China's virtual commercial capacity has been evaluated as a great advantage, it is known that China boasts 42% of the world in e-commerce and also occupies a larger place than the total capacity of France, Germany, Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom (Song, Zhou ve Hurst, 2019). On the other hand, within the scope of prioritizing the technological advances mentioned earlier during the epidemic, 5G technology, government policies on energy resources, and economic strategies can be interpreted as evaluating domestic opportunities (Zhang, 2020).

As another acquisition strategy, China's major foreign policy planning, called The Strategy of Striving for Achievement (SFA), can be discussed. This strategic guide is at the heart of the global political power gain (Xuetong, 2014). Indicating the balance of power between being overly aggressive and always being unprepared for dangers, much economic-driven political government plans similar to this reform have become the focus of the 2000s (Chen, 2014). China has presented its reform not in the direction of a revisionist transfer of power, but with a 'striving for achievement' approach (Weissmann, 2015). Although it does not adapt to the period covered by the research, traces of this political reform have been found in the modern-day political mind of China. This inference, which is identified with the strategic advances in the epidemic period under consideration, is planned for the government reforms to accelerate economic efficiency (UNDP, 2020). Another related data is; David Dollar, Yiping Huang and Yang Yao's last book, *China 2049: The Economic Challenges of Rising Global Power* was comprised in the book. As mentioned earlier, these reforms, which have their roots many years ago, were not too

surprising, but the increase in the pandemic process attracted attention. In the context of financial issues, the living standards of the masses, and economic risks in the international arena, there has been a constant need for modernization (Dollar, Huang ve Yao, 2020a).

According to American economist Geoffrey W.S. Okamoto, the key to the rapid recovery of China's epidemic process has also come from political reforms (Okamoto, 2020). The mentioned strategic steps have served to gain economic power (Grieger, 2020), and strategic steps have been evaluated as the most important factor (Rolland, 2020) in increasing China's power distance during the pandemic period. The most accurate conclusion to be reached from the above is that the coordinated approach of the state mechanism serving the process of China's recovery and the economic consensus of the strategies developed have allowed the epidemic to be controlled. China's success in taking advantage of opportunities arising from the crisis is an accepted reality. Though China's lack of discipline, as we have already mentioned, regarding human rights and all kinds of social comforts is an undeniable detail (Hilpert ve Stanzel, 2021). According to The Washington Post, the analogy of "rich country, poor citizen" has been used to say that China's rising economic values are not felt by the public (Shih, 2021). In line with the mentioned macroeconomic measures, in addition to the performance of overcoming the epidemic; as a point that China's policymakers should be careful of, the quality of life of the society should be (Soomro, Mangi ve Shah, 2021).

As President Xi Jinping begins his third five-year term, he has stressed that China's future is uncertain. Covid-19, solid "zero covid" spoke about the impact on China's slowing economic growth and underlined that China is facing increasing geopolitical tensions with America (The Economist, 2023). An important issue at this stage was how the Ukrainian war could change China's approach to Taiwan. There have been growing concerns from the United States and the region as Beijing rapidly expands its navy, militarizes islands in the South China Sea, tries to forge security agreements in the South Pacific, and escalates rhetoric around disputed territorial claims.

Despite the wide differences in the geopolitical circumstances of Russia and Ukraine, the optics of a seemingly more powerful aggressor launching an attack driven by a vision of unification has increased the focus on China's intentions towards Taiwan. It has been assessed that it is uncertain whether China will use force to take Taiwan in the future, and it is likely that Beijing's decision-making process will be shaped not only by evaluating military capability, but also by taking into account possible non-military reactions of the United States and allies (Mccarthy, 2023).

Compared to the situations of Taiwan and Ukraine, Moscow's goals cover the entire country, but China must pass through the Taiwan Strait, a 180-kilometer body of water, in order to reach the island nation of Taiwan, a much smaller military target (Egli & Amonson, 2023). The war in Ukraine, where there is an indirect conflict between Russia and the United States and NATO, maintains China's key role on the international area, and some researchers claim that China is the "winner" of the Ukrainian

war. The war in Ukraine is not over yet, and the consequences of the war on relations between the United States and China have been considered by many experts as the key to future peace and stability (Security Science Journal, 2023).

When the global effects of the war in Ukraine on China are evaluated, Ukrainian victory evaluated by the benefits of the Taiwan (Mazza, 2023). The phrase “Ukraine today, Taiwan tomorrow” is also circulating in Taiwanese society and beyond. According to the TPOF survey, 59.7 percent of Taiwanese people are worried that Taiwan may one day follow in Ukraine's footsteps and potentially have to face a Chinese military invasion alone. The fact that China has never renounced the use of force to occupy Taiwan, and Beijing's military pressure on the island has been increasing in recent years, may lead Taiwan to demand support from the international community to ensure its security (Yang ve Hsiao, 2023), and this may create some obstacles to China's peaceful rise. China's attitude towards Ukraine and favoritism towards Russia have raised concerns about the credibility of the Chinese government, especially in Eastern European countries. US intelligence announced in February 2023 that China is considering supplying lethal weapons to Russia, it is causing serious concern in European capitals. If Beijing actually delivers weapons or ammunition to Russia, despite assurances to the contrary, China's relations with most of Europe may pass the breaking point (Culver ve Kirchberger, 2023). To sum up, the balances in China's relationship with Europe are in an uncertain state. The sense of fear and insecurity that China has instilled in its neighbors has shown itself especially in the Taiwan incident. The deterioration of diplomatic relations with the United States and the rapprochement with Russia have been negatively evaluated by the supporters of the European Union and Ukraine in the international arena.

In China's position on the world stage, its relations with the states in Central Asia, East and South Africa and Southeast Asia, where its investments are growing rapidly, play an important role. It can be said that the type of order that China has chosen and how the United States will react to this choice determine both China's economic and political future in a way. From the geopolitical point of view, the center of gravity of the global system, centered on the United States and Europe, continues to shift in the direction of Asia. In particular, the power shift in the world economy has been motivated by the “Covid-19 pandemic”, “Trade Wars” and the “Ukrainian War” which are evaluated in that article. The impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been felt very intensively on the island of Taiwan, as mentioned above. Although Ukraine and Taiwan differ in many ways, they have faced similar strategic dead ends under the influence of major powers. The ideas of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi on Taiwan are on the same plane. The war defines Sino-Russian relations as friendship and is a negative marker on Sino-European and Sino-American relations. (Caşın, Kısacık ve Donduran, ÇHC-Birleşik Krallık İlişkileri, 2022). In 2023, upon reviewing current data, it has been observed that the number of fatalities has risen following the abolishment of precautionary measures

(Euronews, Fred Hutchinson C.C, 2023). Based on the current data, it is reported that approximately 1.4 billion people in China have been infected by Covid-19 (Bo Gu, VOA, 2023).

In summary, China has experienced a notable economic slowdown in 2023 since the early stages of the pandemic. This deviation from the basic business cycle is evident, and the obtained data highlight China's decelerating growth.

## **5. Conclusion**

The coronavirus epidemic that began in December 2019 in the Chinese city of Wuhan has caused many diseases and deaths around the world. China, the first country to report the virus, has experienced major disruptions in how to control this health crisis that it was caught unprepared for and has suffered huge losses in the early stages of the epidemic. In the following stages, the measures taken to minimize the losses have been put into practice; many measures have been taken in the fields of health and economics. At this point, it was observed that the epidemic was quickly controlled, and the epidemic situation in China had greatly improved compared with other countries. Important details obtained from the study were the coordinated progress of diplomacy and scientists, as well as China's discovery of the vaccine and the rapid completion of the vaccination process. In relation to the phenomenon of acting with the consciousness of a 'community' instead of individuality, which is advanced from the philosophy of Confucianism, this is a statement that reinforces success in the epidemic process. The implementation of community-based studies on the epidemic process, which is found in many current health reforms, is an example of this assessment.

Notably, technological advances have reached the highest levels during the epidemic period. Technological advances, which are a critical detail, have been included in almost all of China's precautionary strategies. The epidemic process can also be defined as a period that increased digitalization, and China's existing major policies contain technological propositions. The fact that the first and most dominant of the 5 trends accelerating in the epidemic process; 'digital tools as popular solutions' confirms the judgment reached. Additionally, China's virtual commercial capacity is considered a great success, and its leading e-commerce rate worldwide is identified as a factor that mitigates the degree of damage in the epidemic process. The inference that destruction is decreasing within the scope of ensuring rapid control of the pandemic is identified with China's coronavirus management process.

As another element of success, human capital, which is at the heart of the economic planning of Chinese strategists, can be cited as. This element, which is one of the leading national strategic resources, can be transferred within the comprehensive national power and is the most influential economic basis for epidemic-era strategies. The economic focus of China's political reforms, which are the key to success, which have been identified as the country with the most minor economic destruction, is at a very deep level. The effectiveness of the political strategies included in the study during the pandemic

period has shown that they serve to accelerate economic efficiency. The 'need for continuous modernization', reinforced by China's sensitivity to evaluating opportunities arising from the crisis, can also be interpreted as the key to China's rapid recovery from the epidemic process. It is concluded that the control of the epidemic in China is achieved through the coordinated approach of the state mechanism and the economic Deconstruction of the strategies developed, the distance of power it puts between it and other countries, the economy of the epidemic in China. In the assessment of the future; in the context of China's GDP performance, the deprivation of economic propositions and policies can lead to destruction. However, it has been analyzed that the strategic steps taken to control the epidemic and ensure prosperity will not harm China's economic growth rate during the post-pandemic period.

Upon analyzing the 2023 data, it becomes apparent that China's growth has decelerated. Despite maintaining a prominent global position, there are indications that the country has experienced a decline internally.

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