



# CSC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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# TOPIC A:

## CHINA'S MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19

In 2020, the world experienced the beginnings of one of the most devastating pandemics in all of human history, causing over nearly seven million deaths worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic is something that all of us experienced firsthand, and an unprecedented moment in world history as we have not seen a pandemic of this scale since the Spanish flu in the early 1900s. China, as the world's most populous country with some of the most densely populated cities in the world, had a huge responsibility on its hands to try and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, especially as the first nation to be hit by this new virus when the first cases were reported in Wuhan.

This specialized committee will take place in the year 2020, during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegates are encouraged to come up with innovative and actionable solutions in their roles as members of the Chinese State Council addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. While you research your roles, I encourage you to think outside of the box: because this topic is much more recent, there are fewer academic publications on this subject, especially in regards to China which heavily censors information and controls the narrative surrounding sensitive issues. Credible news outlets reporting from within China are a good place to start, but I encourage you to look for other sources of information when researching this issue—such as WeChat or Weibo—since they bring about a more nuanced understanding through the perspective of everyday Chinese citizens when it comes to such issues. In addition, do not hesitate to ask your parents, or anyone with a connection with or directly to China in any shape or form. They can provide you with much more insight on the issue as public information regarding COVID-19-related statistics and events may be few and far between, and in some cases, direct you to a relevant and useful source.

This topic is important for several reasons: COVID-19 is a worldwide pandemic, and as one of the most influential and powerful countries in the world, China has a responsibility to support the international community in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic. As home to over 1.4 billion people, China has one of the toughest tasks in addressing the difficulties brought about by the pandemic on its citizens. This topic will cover the intersection of authoritarian elements of the Chinese government's control over society with the individual rights and needs of the citizens, something that, prior to COVID-19, had not been challenged on a nationwide scale. These are just a few important things to consider when starting your research.

I chose this topic for a variety of reasons, but most importantly, like many of you, I was personally impacted by the pandemic. I believe that this issue is both something that all of us could relate to, and having observed the political, economic, and social impacts of the pandemic firsthand, I hope you can apply your experiences and knowledge to Chinese politics and policy, and use your judgment in an effort to establish alternatives addressing an issue that had been so poorly handled in past years. As a native of China, I had felt a great deal of disappointment in my country's management of the pandemic. Poor communication and strict but unfeasible guidelines all resulted in hundreds of thousands of avoidable deaths, one of whom included my paternal grandfather, who passed away in December of 2022 upon contracting COVID-19 after China abandoned the zero-COVID policy thus leading to massive outbreaks throughout the country.

I hope you all bring innovative, original, and interesting ideas to the committee, and I also hope you all can learn a great deal about how the Chinese government and politics operate, and how the Chinese government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.



March 8-10, 2024

72nd Session

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## TOPIC B:

# HONG KONG PROTESTS

While the Hong Kong protests coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, the roots of the issue surrounding the protests have existed for decades, and arguably, over a century. Hong Kong was ceded to the United Kingdom in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanjing, one of the several “Unequal Treaties” that were forced upon China during the Qing Dynasty. Under the terms of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, China and the United Kingdom both agreed that Hong Kong would remain “one country, two systems” for 50 years after its transferral back to China in 1997.

Till this day, Hong Kong remains a difficult question to solve: being separated from mainland China for 156 years of British rule, its geographically strategic location, and status as a British colony under a Western capitalist system allowed Hong Kong to become an economically prosperous city while mainland China, after the victory of the Communists in 1949, underwent several decades of poverty-stricken development. These differences led to the creation of an independent and unique identity, and one that saw itself as fundamentally different from the rest of the mainland. Fast forward to 2020, under Xi Jinping, China began encroaching upon the original agreement of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, revolving around whether or not the extradition act supported by the Chinese government encroaches upon said agreement, as well as questions over the sovereignty of the Hong Kong people.

We cannot change what had happened in the past, but this issue is just one of the numerous examples of post-Colonial struggles, whether it is from the partition of Pakistan and India in the Indian Independence Act 1947, or to the division of Africa during the Berlin Conference in 1885 that led to the geographical division of Africa that in the long run contributed to a number of different civil wars and genocides. Hong Kong happens to be one such issue in which separation due to colonial circumstances has resulted in complex issues of sovereignty and democracy in the void

left behind in the two fundamentally different landscapes of Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland due to a 156-year schism.

I encourage you all to approach this issue with openness and a willingness to embrace different, but reasonable perspectives. To understand this topic requires an understanding of the social, political, and economic aspects of Hong Kong, and its position in international affairs. In addition, do not be afraid to take your own stance on the issue and formulate solutions based upon your beliefs.



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