



Who Handles It Better?

A Comparative Study of Crisis Management
between Authoritarian Socialist Countries and
Liberal Democratic Countries.

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Who Handles It Better?

A Comparative Study of Crisis Management between Authoritarian Socialist Countries and Liberal Democratic Countries regarding the Corona Virus Pandemic

To Schmitt plus sohn elevator team, who did handle the condition better than anyone else!

Abstract

In different societies, different models of crisis management are used to deal with the crisis, which is completely influenced by the political system that governs these societies. With the widespread prevalence of the corona virus, different views have been propounded about the capabilities of different political systems, which are still the subject of debates. The fundamental question that has been raised and examined in this context is how the crisis management in authoritarian socialist countries can be evaluated in comparison with liberal liberal countries? The present research is a descriptive-analytical and the mentioned question has been investigated using the library method. The results of the study indicate that it is not simply possible to distinguish between crisis management of democratic states and authoritarian regimes. Liberal democracies, however, mainly try to use a community-based approach to deal with crises. These systems try to manage crises while paying attention to economic well-being and respecting citizens' rights, but the widespread outbreak of the corona has shown that in many cases liberal democracies have not acted fairly and the working classes are still

forced work in order to turn the wheel of their countries economy. Of course, the socialist approach of these governments in supporting different classes of people is worth considering. In general, liberal democracies have not been as successful as they should have been in dealing with the Corona virus crisis. On the other hand, although authoritarian socialist regimes such as China were able to control the crisis of the Corona outbreak, but they have been criticized for lack of respect for individual rights, absence of strong protectionist policies, and Police actions. However, European liberal democracies, including Italy, France, and Spain, have chosen the difficult solution of global quarantine as the world's largest authoritarian powers, like China, have puts it to action.

Keywords: Crisis, Crisis Management, Authoritarian Socialist Countries, Liberal Democratic Countries, Corona Virus, Covid-19

1. Statement of the Problem

As the world's population grows and resources dwindle, societies become increasingly vulnerable to disasters. The number of people affected by disasters from 1999-2007 has risen from 60 million in 1999 to 380 million in 2007. (World Health organization, 2008) According to the Global Disaster Report in 2003, between 1993 till 2002, 5,402 major natural and man-made disasters were recorded all over the world, affecting 2,496,800 people and causing \$ 663,749 million pecuniary loss. (Walters WC,2004)

For this reason, different societies are constantly trying to invent or they are looking for and solutions to be able to control or minimize the damage caused by unforeseen events, and in fact manage disasters and crises. Crisis management plays a crucial role in reducing the pecuniary loss and human damage of crises. This has become the centre of attention more than ever, following the spread of the coronavirus. The spread and global epidemic of the corona virus created an opportunity for crisis management of different countries with different political systems to be discussed. Because a more appropriate response has been associated with a reduction in injuries and a reduction in the number of sufferers and victims of the virus. The main question raised in this study is that how the crisis management in authoritarian socialist countries can be evaluated in comparison with liberal liberal countries? In order to study and answer the question, first the concept of crisis and crisis management is explained and then the authoritarian socialist countries

and liberal democracies are examined and then, the reaction of these countries to crises and with emphasis on the coronavirus crisis is reviewed and finally the conclusion is expressed.

2. Crisis Management

This section examines the concept and objectives of crisis management.

3. The concept of crisis management

Crisis management is an applied science that by systematic observation of crises and their analysis is looking for a tool that by which prevent crises and if their effects are reduced, make it possible to have rapid relief preparedness and improvement of the situation (Kazemi 2002). In fact, crisis management is the process of reducing the risk of accidents using anti-crisis resources in an efficient and effective way, and despite the various factors that exist in estimating the risk, it is believed that the presence of risk can be decreased by increasing management capacity and managers can design a crisis management executive plan (at each of the various regional and national levels) with the help of technology (Rastegar and Ajami, 2005). Such programs, in addition to executive instructions, should clearly define the decision-making process for crisis managers and thus support them in making decisions in crisis situations (Fiqhami Farahmand, 1992). This point indicates that the crisis and its management include a series of interconnected and continuous activities (Taslimi, 2005). However, management of crisis and management in crisis are two separate and interrelated categories, so that the former precedes the latter because it is not only the crisis that determines the damage, but also the level of readiness in appropriate responding to the crisis by those involved is important and any negligence will widen the scope of the crisis and cause more damage. Accordingly, the delicacy of managers' reaction in controlling crisis situations is an art whose main essence is knowledge, experience and skill. If the crisis can be managed properly, it will lead to very

successful results, and for this purpose, the flow of progress can be targeted in the usual way. It can also be expected to control matters in the shortest possible time in order to reduce the damage caused by the crisis (Rastegar and Ajami, 2005).

Crisis management involves anticipating and planning, directing employees, and collaborating in order to manage the crisis (Lalonde & Roux-Dufort 2013, NyBlom 2003). Crisis management considers the five components of organization, communication, decision making, identifying crisis factors, and designing. Crisis management also means proper planning of being ready for crisis (Rezaei Dolatabadi et al. 2013). Crisis management is a systematic and dynamic process that involves prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (1998 Fink 1986, Milis & Van de Walle 2007, Spillan & Crandall 2002, Pauchant & Mitroff 1990, Preble 1997; Pearson & Clair). Based on what has been said in the present study, crisis management is a set of executive activities and managerial and political decisions related to different stages and all levels of crisis, in order to save, reduce losses and damage, avoid interrupting life, production and services, maintaining communications, preserving the environment, and finally repairing and rebuilding damage.

4. Crisis management goals

The overall goal is to optimize crisis response activities and minimize its damage. In non-profit entities such as local governments, as well as in business units such as service companies that are not responsible for the overall profit of the business, managers have goals and must strive to achieve them with the least used resources. In crisis management, improving productivity is a special necessity due to its vital operational importance. We first consider time management, in which the manager is required to reduce project costs and duration and increase the number and quality of projects and activities to achieve the goals. In other words, at the time of the start of the response and relief, the cost of the operation for relief must be reduced. On the other hand, the volume of preparedness, relief and reconstruction operations, the quality of preparedness, relief and reconstruction operations, the level of crisis preparedness and the volume of reconstruction and normalization measures should be increased.

Crisis management goals can be categorized as follows: 1- Resolving crisis and emergency situations; 2- Rapid returning of society to normal situations; 3- Reducing the damage caused by the crisis, considering both personal and financial issues; 4- Reducing the effects of the crisis in society and dealing with it with the lowest costs; 5- Creating community preparedness to deal with the crisis; 6- Reconstructing critical areas physically, mentally and culturally; 7- Creating exercises, training and maneuvers in the regions to prepare them for dealing with the crisis involving managers and people. (Shakib,

2006: 52 and 54). Today, effective crisis management is important and noticeable in the center of organizational tasks.

5. The way of crisis management in authoritarian socialist countries

The significant feature of authoritarianism is the "unlimited political tenure" of the leader or ruling party (often in one-party states) or other powers. The reaction of authoritarian governments considering tighter control in response to protests rather than compromise and agreement is an obvious weakness. Because the legitimacy of the state depends on how it appears in the eyes of the people, authoritarian states that fail to adapt themselves (with changes), face a decline in legitimacy (Vestal, 1999: 17) The government of the People's Republic of China is considered as a modern authoritarian state.

Authoritarian socialist countries, including China, have historically been plagued by a variety of natural disasters at great personal and financial cost. It is a permanent natural disaster and is mainly rooted in China's diverse geographical location, landforms, atmospheric features, and geological structure. Geographical location, climatic features, and geological structures cause natural disasters in an almost circular manner in China. Man-made natural disasters, such as the epidemic of SARS, have added a new dimension to the country's total disaster, which accounts for 18.5 percent of the world's population. Authoritarian socialists, including the Chinese government, have paid special attention to reducing the damage caused by natural disasters and have included this in their economic and social development plans. The Chinese government has also sought to achieve economic growth as quickly as possible by reducing existing environmental tensions in an effort to reduce the potential

risks of natural disasters (Pendi, 2010). In this country, the administrative agencies exist to reduce the crisis in China, the central government, local governments and the military. The central government is the decision-maker and the various ministries have close relations and cooperation with that center in the implementation of decisions based on their duties.

Local governments are responsible for taking action in their area, and in the presence of severe crises, all human resources and equipments are under their control and supervision. The military plays an important role in preventing and dealing with crises in emergency situations, crisis response operations, providing medical services, reconstruction projects and home repairs. The above organizations are under the supervision of the organization and play an important role in the crisis management mechanism. Public, governmental and military organizations are the first organizations that play a major role in dealing with natural disasters (Salehi, 1998).

The way of crisis management in authoritarian socialist countries such as China:

A) Crisis prevention and mitigation

In authoritarian countries like China, efforts have been made to build permanent facilities to prevent natural disasters. The government has established these facilities in most areas prone to floods, droughts, plant diseases and pests, earthquakes, geological disasters or hurricanes. In recent years, constructions are progressing in a large-scale. A good example of this is the Dam Gorges three facilities¹. These fixed barrack facilities have driven China to economic and social benefits. The strategy is to include the plan to reduce the damage caused by crises and natural disasters in national development programs and social policies. In 1998, the Chinese government proposed a plan to reduce the disasters caused by crises and natural disasters from 1998-1993 as one of the strategic goals of the disaster reduction program. Accordingly, the managers appointed by the government are obliged to set their goals in order to reduce the disasters caused by natural disasters.

One of the Chinese government's efforts considering crises prevention is to use science and technology to reduce disasters caused by natural disasters. The overall monitoring system is described above. Therefore, it will be followed by using science, technology and monitoring meteorology and oceans, earthquakes, floods, fires of forests, etc. Small-scale satellite surveillance systems are

¹ - Dam Gorges three

also currently being developed and completed, and more accurate forecasting will be possible when these systems are completed. In addition, with the application of science and technology, we expect significant improvements in warning systems, emergency management, contingency decisions, and command and control. In this way, our effort is in presenting and applying science and technology.

B) Promptitude

One of the most important measures in crisis management is to establish an immediate mechanism to provide materials and relief forces after the disaster. Recently, ten centers have been opened for this purpose in urban areas. In China, the government has provided a mechanism for allocating relief funds. With this introduction, if a catastrophe occurs, the relevant budgets will arrive within three days and first aid will arrive within 24 hours.

C) Educating people

Raising public awareness to deal with disasters caused by natural disasters. Knowledge of disaster reduction should be disseminated through education, the local community, and so on. In China, for example, they are training specialized talents on how to contribute to disaster mitigation through disaster risk management. Also, participation in disaster mitigation through self-help, mutual assistance and post-disaster relief mechanism is welcomed. Charitable donations always play a significant role in helping the affected areas. The government believes that such a structural mechanism is for such key activities. (Gao Yu Cheng, 2012) Currently, they are setting up a mechanism that will less affect the whole society after dealing with catastrophes.

D) International cooperation

One of the actions of the Chinese government in crisis management is to take advantage of international cooperation. China has fully realized the importance of international information exchange and cooperation in recent years, and has seriously promoted negotiations and cooperation with other countries in the form of international, social and non-profit organizations. China has accelerated this policy over the past few years, and such relations are now in progress. China is proud that economic and social development has reached a level where it is clearly able to compete in disaster reduction. China is committed to face such major challenges as a priority. Prevention can be achieved through comprehensive disaster prevention measures across the country in an effort to create a more secure and cooperative community (Gao Yu Cheng, 2012).