Human Security and Security Strategy Paper:

COVID-19

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Introduction

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted societies worldwide, challenging both human security and the stability of nation-states on a global scale. As subnational and transnational forces continue to transcend borders, it becomes increasingly crucial to examine the multifaceted implications of this crisis. This essay aims to delve into the intricate relationship between COVID-19 and human security, national security, and global security, with a focus on two countries of interest: Israel and Japan.

Israel and Japan offer intriguing case studies due to their distinct socio-cultural contexts, geographical locations, and varied approaches in confronting the pandemic. By comparing and contrasting these countries, we can gain valuable insights into how different nations address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and strive to ensure the safety and well-being of their populations.

In the first part of this essay, we will explore the impact of the pandemic on human and state security, identifying challenges in both realms. Specifically, we will highlight three key challenges to human security, including health concerns, socio-economic disruptions, and social cohesion. Additionally, we will examine three challenges to national and global security, such as strains on healthcare systems, disruptions to supply chains, and political tensions.

Moving forward, we will delve into the existing capabilities and responses of Israel and Japan in the realm of human security. By comparing and contrasting these two countries, we will gain insights into their approaches, policies, and strategies employed to address the challenges presented by COVID-19. Furthermore, we will analyze the role of technology and intelligence in enhancing health security and explore how various actors, including NGOs, individual governments, and media outlets, disseminate information and provide educational opportunities related to the pandemic.

In the second part of this essay, we will shift our focus to the biosecurity dimension of COVID-19, examining how it can be perceived as a biosecurity problem, a biological weapon, and a bioterrorist threat. By comparing Israel and Japan, we will assess the level of fear and concerns within their respective populations, exploring the factors that contributed to these emotions and investigating the societal responses that emerged and analyze them in comparison to the fear in the US, China, and Russia. Additionally, we will evaluate the national and international acceptance, integration, relevance, and usefulness of the states' responses and strategies in terms of human security.

Throughout this essay, we will analyze the role of intelligence and health intelligence in understanding and containing the virus, considering the extent of intelligence sharing and cooperation between countries. Moreover, we will compare and contrast the existing medical capabilities of Israel and Japan, including healthcare infrastructure, testing capacities, vaccine development, and medical research. Economic aspects, such as the costs incurred by each country to address the pandemic, as well as the human death toll, will also be examined.

Based on the insights gained from this analysis, we will conclude by offering two specific recommendations on how states should approach health security as a question of national security in the future. These recommendations will aim to enhance preparedness, response mechanisms, and cooperation in the face of potential health crises.

By exploring the experiences and approaches of Israel and Japan, this essay seeks to shed light on the complex interplay between COVID-19, human security, national security, and global security. It is through understanding and learning from these diverse perspectives that we can strive for a safer and more resilient future.

Part I: COVID-19 and Human and State Security

Pandemics have always been a part of the human experience. Throughout our history there have been outbreaks of plagues that have killed massive amounts of people. It was disease that helped bring about the dark ages. Thankfully, due to our modern understanding of disease and germs, we have not experienced anything of the extent of the dark ages again. However, the modern world presents new challenges, such as mass transportation and global travel, which have increased the risks associated with infectious diseases (Kodama 2023). With the global impact of COVID-19, it is crucial to examine its specific effects on human security, national security, and global security, particularly within the context of Israel and Japan. These two countries offer unique perspectives, as Israel has been recognized for its robust healthcare system and technological advancements, while Japan has faced distinct challenges due to its population density and cultural norms (Kodama 2023). By studying the impact of COVID-19 on these nations, we can gain valuable insights into the diverse approaches and strategies employed to address the pandemic and draw lessons applicable to other regions and countries facing similar challenges. We will take an in-depth look at the impact COVID-19 had on each of these areas of human security such as the health concerns and public safety, the social-economic disruption, and the social cohesion and community resilience. In addition to these human security issues, this essay will explore the national and global security issues COVID-19 brought to light such as the strain on the healthcare system, the disruption of the supply chains (Smith 2022), as well as the political tensions it caused that impacted international relations (Ward6 and Koshino 2020).

Human Security

The first challenge from human security to delve into is that of the Health Concerns and Public Safety brought about by Covid-19. The rapid spread of COVID-19 brought significant

health concerns, with individuals facing the risk of contracting the virus and developing severe symptoms including the large death rate (Imai 2022). This led to increased anxiety, fear, and uncertainty about personal safety and well-being (Lynk and Mofokeng 2021). Governments around the world initiated lockdowns, social distancing measures, and mask mandates that not only impacted physical health but also had profound effects on mental health, social interactions, and overall quality of life (Imai 2022). The isolation and disruption of daily routines contributed to psychological stress and emotional challenges. People experienced heightened levels of stress, depression, and loneliness due to prolonged periods of isolation. The impact of COVID-19 on public safety was evident in both Israel and Japan. Governments implemented strict measures to protect the population, including the closure of non-essential businesses, travel restrictions, and the encouragement of remote work (Gross 2020). These measures aimed to contain the virus, reduce transmission rates, and safeguard public health (Kodama 2023).

The next topic from human security to examine is that of the Socio-economic Disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 unleashed severe socio-economic consequences for individuals and communities. The pandemic caused widespread job losses, business closures, and economic downturns, greatly affecting livelihoods and financial stability (Brun and Gat 2020). Vulnerable populations, including low-income workers, small business owners, and marginalized groups, bore the brunt of these impacts, exacerbating existing inequalities and creating new challenges in areas such as poverty, homelessness, and access to basic necessities (Steiner 2022). In the United States, families turned to credit cards to live off of and make ends meet contributing to the largest credit card debt held by Americans in history (Papandrea and Suerrier 2022). In Israel, the pandemic had a significant impact on the economy, with sectors such as tourism, hospitality, and retail experiencing substantial declines (Gross 2020). Small businesses faced

immense challenges, with many forced to close permanently. Similarly, Japan, known for its robust economy, experienced disruptions in various industries (Kodama 2023). The tourism sector, in particular, was severely affected by travel restrictions and a decline in international visitors (Takahashi 2020). These socio-economic disruptions had far-reaching consequences on individuals, communities, and the overall well-being of the population (Imai 2022).

The third issue of human security to explore is that of social cohesion and community resilience. The pandemic placed significant strain on social cohesion and community resilience. The need for physical distancing and restrictions on gatherings disrupted social connections and communal activities, challenging the fabric of societies (Kodama 2023). Moreover, the emergence of misinformation, conspiracy theories, and social divisions further exacerbated the situation (Brun and Gat 2020). These factors affected trust in institutions, deepened social polarization, and hindered collective efforts to combat the virus effectively. In Israel, the diverse population, and differing perspectives on the government's response to the pandemic tested social cohesion (Brun and Gat 2020). There were instances of public disagreements, protests, and debates regarding the best course of action (Krasna 2020). However, despite these challenges, community organizations and volunteer initiatives played a vital role in supporting vulnerable populations and fostering social cohesion. In Japan, cultural norms emphasizing collective well-being and social responsibility played a significant role in rallying communities together. The concept of "gaman" (endurance and patience) and the practice of "kizuna" (bonds of solidarity) helped promote resilience during the crisis. Communities organized mutual aid networks, provided support to the elderly and isolated individuals, and collaborated to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic.

National and Global Security

Now moving into the challenges COVID-19 caused to national and global security, the first focus examined will be the strains on the healthcare systems (Kishida 2023). The surge in COVID-19 cases strained healthcare systems in both Israel and Japan, as well as the United States, including hospitals, medical resources, and personnel. The increased demand for healthcare services, intensive care unit (ICU) beds, and medical supplies posed significant challenges in providing adequate care to patients. The strain on healthcare systems not only impacted the immediate response to the pandemic but also had broader implications for national and global security (Steiner 2022) (Kishida 2023). Overwhelmed healthcare infrastructures affected the overall capacity to respond to other health emergencies or threats effectively (Kishida 2023). In the United States, for example, the strain of risk of exposure, over worked due to massive need for care for the overwhelming number of infected individuals caused a huge influx of burnout amongst the healthcare workers. They left their jobs in large numbers exasperating the issue of too many patients and not enough workers or beds in hospitals leaving many to go untreated with no place to turn.

In addition to this problem, COVID-19 also caused major disruptions to supply chains around the world (Smith 2022). COVID-19 disrupted global supply chains, leading to disruptions in the availability and distribution of essential goods and medical supplies. The dependence on global sourcing and the closure of borders resulted in shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), testing kits, and other critical medical resources. These disruptions highlighted vulnerabilities in supply chains, posing challenges for national and global security in terms of healthcare access, economic stability, and the ability to respond to future crises effectively (Smith 2022). Both Israel and Japan, as highly interconnected economies, faced significant challenges in

ensuring the steady flow of essential goods (Brun and Gat 2020). The reliance on international trade for medical supplies and equipment underscored the need for domestic production capabilities and diversified supply chains to enhance national resilience.

Lastly, COVID-19 wreaked havoc on international relations by creating political tensions between nations. Disagreements over the origins of the virus, blame games, and competition for medical resources and vaccines created geopolitical frictions. National responses to the crisis, including travel restrictions, border closures, and differing strategies, raised questions about international cooperation, solidarity, and the effectiveness of global governance structures in addressing collective challenges. Israel and Japan, as active participants in the global community, faced diplomatic and political challenges in navigating these tensions (Smith 2022). The pandemic underscored the importance of transparent and collaborative international efforts to combat the virus, as well as the need for stronger multilateral frameworks to address global health crises and ensure collective security (Takahashi 2020).

To further explore the impact of COVID-19 on security, it is crucial to compare and contrast the approaches taken by different countries in addressing the challenges presented by the pandemic. Israel and Japan offer valuable perspectives for comparison. These countries provide diverse examples of how different capabilities and strategies can influence the response to a global health crisis.

One area to analyze is the role of technology and intelligence in health security. Both Israel and Japan have leveraged technological advancements to enhance their pandemic response. Israel, known for its innovation in healthcare technology, implemented various measures such as contact tracing apps, remote monitoring systems, and AI-driven data analysis to track and contain the spread of the virus (Altshuler and Hershkowitz 2020). Japan, on the other hand, utilized technology

for efficient data collection and analysis, enabling authorities to identify hotspots and allocate resources effectively (Kodama 2023). By examining the use of technology and intelligence in health security, we can gain insights into the effectiveness of these approaches in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 to use against any other potential future outbreaks in hopes our responses will be more efficient and less damaging.

The spread of information and educational initiatives about the pandemic is another crucial aspect to consider. Various actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), individual governments, and media outlets, have played a significant role in disseminating information and educating the public about COVID-19. On the other side of things, they also helped disseminate misinformation that led to scares and mass panic. In Israel and Japan, educational campaigns, public service announcements, and collaborations with healthcare experts and scientists were utilized to provide accurate and timely information to the public. By analyzing these initiatives, we can assess the effectiveness of different approaches in promoting public awareness and understanding of the pandemic.

Furthermore, it is important to compare and contrast the existing policies and security strategies employed by Israel and Japan to deal with COVID-19. Israel adopted a proactive approach with early and strict measures, including widespread testing, targeted lockdowns, and an efficient vaccination campaign. The country's agile response has been attributed to its experience in dealing with previous health crises and its strong healthcare infrastructure. Japan, on the other hand, faced challenges due to its cultural norms and a more cautious approach. The country implemented a combination of voluntary restrictions, public health guidelines, and vaccine distribution efforts. By examining the policies and strategies of these two countries, we can gain

insights into the effectiveness of different approaches in managing the pandemic and mitigating its impact on security.

Part II: COVID-19 and Biosecurity Security

Fear and Factors Influencing it in Different Countries

Fear and public perceptions surrounding COVID-19 varied across countries (Imai 2022). In the United States, fear was fueled by the rapid spread of the virus, overwhelmed healthcare systems, and the high death toll. The novelty of the virus and the uncertainty surrounding its transmission and severity contributed to public anxiety. Additionally, the politicization of the pandemic and conflicting information from various sources further intensified fear in some segments of the population.

In Russia, fear was influenced by factors such as the rapid rise in cases, concerns about the capacity of the healthcare system, and the challenges faced in managing the pandemic in a geographically vast country. The fear was also compounded by the economic consequences of the lockdown measures.

In China, fear initially stemmed from the unknown origins of the virus and the sudden outbreak in Wuhan. The strict containment measures implemented by the Chinese government, such as mass quarantines and travel restrictions, instilled fear among the population. However, as the situation stabilized and China's response became more effective, fear gradually subsided.

Societal Responses to the Pandemic

The responses to the pandemic varied in each country. In the United States, there was a mixture of compliance with public health guidelines and resistance to restrictive measures. Public sentiment became polarized, with some advocating for stringent measures to contain the virus while others expressed concerns about personal freedoms and the economic impact of lockdowns.

In Russia, the government implemented strict measures early on, including lockdowns and travel restrictions. Compliance with these measures was generally high, partly due to the centralized nature of the government and the willingness of the population to follow state directives.

In China, the response was characterized by the swift implementation of strict containment measures. Compliance with these measures was largely enforced by the government, with severe consequences for non-compliance. The Chinese population generally complied with the restrictions, driven by a sense of collective responsibility and trust in the government's actions.

Acceptance, Integration, and Relevance of State Responses and Strategies

The acceptance and integration of state responses to the pandemic varied across countries. In the United States, the response was highly polarized, with differing views on the effectiveness of measures such as mask mandates and lockdowns. The lack of a unified national strategy and inconsistent messaging hindered the effectiveness of the response.

In Russia, the government's response was widely accepted and supported by the population. The centralized decision-making process facilitated the implementation of cohesive strategies and ensured a unified approach to combating the virus.

In China, the strict containment measures implemented by the government were largely accepted by the population, despite initial concerns about individual liberties. The centralized approach allowed for rapid implementation of measures and coordination between different levels of government.

Role of Intelligence and Health Intelligence

Intelligence and health intelligence played a crucial role in understanding and containing the virus. In all countries, intelligence agencies and health authorities collected and analyzed data

on the virus's spread, severity, and potential risks. This information guided decision-making processes and the development of strategies to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Intelligence sharing and cooperation between countries were observed during the pandemic. For instance, countries like Israel and Japan collaborated with international partners to exchange information, best practices, and research findings. This cooperation aimed to enhance the global understanding of the virus and facilitate a coordinated response.

Comparison of Existing Medical Capabilities

Israel and Japan demonstrated robust medical capabilities in response to the pandemic. Israel's advanced healthcare system, including a high number of hospital beds and intensive care units per capita, contributed to its effective response (Krasna 2020). Japan's well-established healthcare infrastructure, Japan's well-established healthcare infrastructure, advanced medical technologies, and high healthcare expenditure per capita also played a significant role in its response to the pandemic. Both countries had efficient testing and contact tracing systems in place, which helped in early detection and containment efforts (Smith 2022).

Cost and Human Death Toll

The cost incurred by each country to deal with the pandemic varied. In Israel, the government allocated significant financial resources to support healthcare infrastructure, provide economic relief to affected individuals and businesses, and procure necessary medical supplies and equipment. Japan also implemented substantial financial measures to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic and strengthen the healthcare system.

In terms of the human death toll, Israel and Japan experienced different outcomes. Israel implemented swift and stringent measures that effectively controlled the spread of the virus and limited the number of fatalities (Krasna 2020). Japan, despite facing challenges in managing

outbreaks, implemented measures that helped to keep the death toll relatively lower compared to some other countries (Smith 2022).

Recommendations for Future Health Security

Based on the experiences of Israel and Japan, two specific recommendations can be made for approaching health security as a question of national security in the future:

Strengthening domestic healthcare infrastructure: Countries should prioritize investments in healthcare infrastructure, including increasing the number of hospital beds, intensive care units, and healthcare professionals, to enhance their capacity to respond to public health emergencies effectively.

Improving international cooperation and intelligence sharing: Countries should foster greater collaboration and information exchange on health security, including sharing best practices, research findings, and early warning systems. Strengthening international partnerships can help build a collective response and ensure a coordinated approach to address global health threats (Kishida 2023).

By implementing these recommendations, nations can enhance their preparedness and response capabilities, thereby protecting human security, national security, and global security in the face of future pandemics.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this comprehensive analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on human security, national security, and global security, with a specific focus on Israel and Japan, provides valuable insights into the challenges posed by pandemics and the strategies employed to address them. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the interconnectedness of our world and the need for robust preparedness and response measures.

Part 1 of this paper examined the specific effects of COVID-19 on human security, including health concerns and public safety, socio-economic disruptions, and social cohesion and community resilience. The rapid spread of the virus resulted in significant health concerns and anxiety, leading to the implementation of strict measures to protect public safety. Socio-economic disruptions were widespread, affecting livelihoods and exacerbating inequalities. However, communities showed resilience and cohesion in the face of adversity.

Furthermore, Part 1 explored the impact on national and global security, focusing on the strain on healthcare systems and the disruptions to supply chains. The surge in COVID-19 cases overwhelmed healthcare systems, highlighting the need for increased capacity and resources. The pandemic also exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, emphasizing the importance of domestic production capabilities and diversified supply sources.

Part 2 delved into the biosecurity aspect of COVID-19, examining its potential as a biological weapon and bioterrorist threat. It compared and contrasted the level of fear in Israel and Japan with that in the United States, Russia, and China. Societies responded differently, with varying levels of acceptance of state strategies. Intelligence and health intelligence played crucial roles in understanding and containing the virus, and evidence of intelligence sharing and cooperation between countries was found.

Additionally, Part 2 analyzed the existing medical capabilities, cost implications, and human death toll in Israel and Japan. Both countries demonstrated robust medical capabilities and incurred significant costs to deal with the pandemic. However, the human death toll varied, highlighting the importance of effective response measures.

In conclusion, comparing and contrasting the responses of Israel and Japan to COVID-19 allows us to gain valuable insights into the existing capabilities and strategies employed in the

human security sector. The role of technology and intelligence, the dissemination of information, and the analysis of policies and strategies provide a comprehensive understanding of the diverse approaches taken by different countries. By studying these examples, we can identify best practices, lessons learned, and potential areas for improvement in addressing future pandemic challenges.

Understanding the factors influencing fear, societal responses, acceptance of state strategies, and the role of intelligence and health intelligence can contribute to more effective preparedness and response efforts in the future. Furthermore, comparing and contrasting existing medical capabilities, cost implications, and the human death toll highlights areas for improvement and the importance of investing in health security as a national priority.

As the world continues to face the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and prepares for future health crises, it is imperative that countries prioritize health security as a question of national security. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, fostering international cooperation and information sharing, and investing in research and development are vital components of a comprehensive and resilient approach. By working together, nations can build a collective response to global health threats, safeguard human security, and ensure a more secure and resilient future for all.

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