

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND ITS SECURITIZED EFFECTS

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## INTRODUCTION

Lots of remarks were made in light of the timely scenarios and measures taken after the New Type Coronavirus (Covid-19) was declared a worldwide epidemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020. The articles talk about the global economic, political, social and cultural impacts of these epidemic and health-oriented practices. The international system, which did not hesitate to securitize every issue until recently, is still passive in this regard. Considering all its effects, determining the general security approach is important to predict what we will encounter in the near future.

Naturally, along with the global effects of the epidemic and measures in the field of defense, there are reasons why the reflections of all other measures in the field of defense and security could not be evaluated yet. First of all, the vital dimension of the epidemic has not been

brought under control, and this puts all other issues on the second plan.

## ECONOMY - POWER

However, the first of the secondary measures taken is on the economy. When the effects of economic measures on global security are analyzed, we see a globalization-based and China-focused series of facts. China, which is the source of the epidemic, has been able to implement harsh measures inside with its strong leadership, thereby controlling the epidemic in a relatively short time and finally stopping the epidemic. Although this rapid recovery harmed China's economic growth, it did not cause any "collapse" as it remained within the wide margin it had. In the course of the outbreak, besides the continued use of production and the advantage of distances, the production-oriented areas that China has not been able to enter and countries that have not been able to enter before, as a result of the reduction of their production capacities, and the people-oriented and economic

measures taken in other countries, and the decrease in production costs. With the extra returns it provides, China appears to be the least economically affected country by this global crisis.

This situation, which is very effective for the global economy and supply chain, has an impact on global security from the same aspects. Although the West thinks that post-epidemic production will leave China and take place in the West again, the measures taken by China and the conditions in the West become more difficult in this process may strengthen the monopoly position in China's supply chain. Steps taken to cope with this sensitivity in the supply chain will be experienced, and companies that intend to leave China will experience huge profits. This economic attack of China will be able to accelerate the new China-focused globalization process, which has been frequently mentioned recently, with the support of other states in the face of the economic hegemony of the West. It would be too well-intentioned to expect that the measures to be taken to prevent this global pole transformation would be only within the framework of soft power. The World is preparing to see the harshest form of trade wars that have continued until recently. Moreover, crisis management of three Asian countries has been very effective. While China is advancing with effective isolation strategies, it has managed the process with early diagnosis method in Singapore and widespread diagnostic test in South Korea. Countries that respond quickly and effectively to the epidemic with these effective strategies had a negative impact on the brand value of the West. Europe, which cannot be united, the USA, which cannot be a pioneer in diagnosis and

treatment, and societies that have to move away from the civilization in terms of cultural identity in general, are open to Chinese-based Far East influence. In addition, we will begin to see that Asian countries, which control the epidemic relatively, have started to exist on the ground of slippery power available, first in the economy and then in other areas.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The deterioration of the relations between the countries due to the measures taken or the direct epidemic itself are also developments we can see in this period. Country administrations blame or react to each other for many reasons such as claims for damages due to liability, travel bans, commercial activity restrictions, and cessation of aid. For countries that have caused the outbreak to start or spread by not taking adequate action, the state of responsibility is the current main discussion. In addition to this, while the world is locked in combating the epidemic, following some countries' agendas can also be a kind of 'look at the gambling' strategy. It is important not to overlook the security threats for the provision and establishment of global security. In addition, new collaborations; financial, medical, in-kind supports and positive messages show that unexpected relationships can arise. When we examine specifically for Italy, the rapprochement between the countries at different poles, especially in the international system, and the reluctance to help among the allies are indications that the system is pregnant.

## **POLICY**

Populism and ultranationalism, which have been on the rise in many countries due to the economic contraction in the last decade, were already on the way to make societies closed. These trends, which will directly affect the welfare society and freedoms, will shine more broadly and consolidated with the prolonged fight against epidemics and the hardening of the measures. The strengthening of the expected state phenomenon at such times opens up space for different practices and interpretations when evaluated together with the presence of leaders who define the fight against epidemic as a kind of 'war' and the presence of military vehicles and personnel in the cities to support public works. In democratic countries, steps have been taken to restrict some basic citizenship rights and freedoms such as travel, rights seeking and assembly as a result of the measures taken to combat the epidemic with the strong state reflex. The concern that these steps will provide authoritarian governments is undeniable for some segments. If this unrest cannot be managed, conventional and / or new types of protest actions can take place.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Although the quarantine measures in practice prevent people from coming together, it has become very easy for people to share a comment or image, spread an idea, direct or direct a response, initiate a protest, target and diversify actions, especially with the modern communication channels that have been progressing recently. Public mechanisms may need to strengthen the channels of public diplomacy after this process due to

its permanent effect, as 'social media' may not have a bad effect on the management of the current crisis. Also, trying to provide business and transactions over the internet network in the public or private sector; The shift of almost all sectors except production, such as education, communication, trade to the network, creates a layered security vulnerability. First of all, the increase of faulty / wrong applications due to infrastructural problems or user inexperience are the first problems that can be taken in the short term. Since the work to be carried out with the use of the network depends on the sustainable supply of the service providers, it is necessary to apply legal obligations that will ensure the continuity of supply in the companies that provide both supply and protection infrastructure and supply. In addition, additional measures may be required for cybercrime, which may increase as the new economic and social media takes place on the network. This cyber vulnerability should be planned taking into account the increased capacity of use, which will become routine in the medium term.

## **PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESS**

Differentiation can be experienced in the professions with the shifting of the sectors that started in this period but is not considered to be periodic. Robotics and autonomous production, which have been the subject of controversy for a long time, will start to speak more concretely. In the short term, concepts such as distance education, online shopping, network-based business development, home-office working principle, which have to be applied to combat the epidemic, can lead to the transformation of professions and jobs.

This transformation is a phenomenon that has economic and public and social effects. In addition to the aforementioned problems on the basis of the internet network, such as the disappearance of small companies that cannot invest in technology, vulnerability to technology-producing companies due to their operational dependence, deficits to be born with products of foreign origin, opening up a field for the informal economy, and the employees who cannot adapt to the new technology quickly have to move away. In addition to the general problems, many problems will be experienced for the security / intelligence bureaucracy. In addition, it is seen that some new working areas have gained importance. Biotechnology, which is among the strategic sectors, came to the agenda in two stages during the Covid-19 outbreak. This sector, which gained importance in terms of both the attack within the framework of the capacity of producing epidemic diseases, which is considered among the modern period weapons, and the defense of all kinds of epidemics and diseases, has started to be included in the national security plans of the states.

Politics and government should not be overlooked when discussing the risks on professional groups. Especially, the fact that the heads of states are in the risk group and the epidemic increase, may cause anxiety in national administrations. This uneasiness can affect all public, community and economic activities with layers. In addition, the protection of individuals, such as senior bureaucrats, deputies, political party leaders, who play a critical role in the functioning of the state, requires separate measures.

## DEFENSE AND SECURITY

In limited areas, considering the limited risks, even when the effects of these situations on the global security area are examined, it is seen that the Covid-19 outbreak is a sufficiently large impact area. In addition, the epidemic had a direct impact on the global defense and security area. In order to develop short, medium and long term defense plans, these outbreaks and their possible consequences should be elaborated.

First of all, the epidemic brought partial inaction to many conflict points around the world. However, the United Nations' call for global ceasefire is also in question, with no concrete steps yet as to who will comply with it.

Developments beyond the emergency measures such as health measures taken for army units within the borders of the country or abroad, cancellation of military exercises require rethinking the army strategies. For the armies, there are three main effects of the epidemic: First, a soldier can cause a barracks to be quarantined, with the possibility of a very high rate of transmission within the barracks. This causes extraordinary measures and anxiety. The second is the possibility of having the ability and capacity problem by canceling the training and exercises required for the armies to be ready. The third is the ambiguity and responsibility of the armies. Risks arise in the armies' responsibility to protect national borders and national interests abroad, as well as their engagement with allies and allies in institutions such as NATO. In the countries such as the USA, Italy, France, and the UK, the decision of Norway to decide not to

participate before the cancellation of the failed NATO exercise, prior to the cancellation of the failed NATO exercise, the preference of "protecting the armies of their armies in order to support the society in the turbulent period of the future" opens the field of armies' national and international movement.

Although this issue is addressed in the national security and defense strategy documents of the countries, the word and phenomenon of 'epidemic' is not included in NATO's Strategic Concept document with the theme of "Active Participation, Modern Defense", which was last signed in 2010. The implementation of the NATO Readiness Action Plan, approved by the 2014 Wales Summit, needs to be updated, taking into account the new conditions. In addition, the Alliance's Defense Investment Commitment (DIP) for the allocation of 2% of GDP to defense by 2024 has not been foreseen by the Allied countries. The possibilities of fulfilling and not fulfilling this commitment should be evaluated with new strategies that involve separate risks, and a solution should be found with the least sacrifice from the Alliance's mobility. Measures and practices that do not comply with the spirit of unity / alliance of the EU and NATO both put the governments of the member / allied countries in a difficult position and support the European skepticism (Euro-skepticism) and anti-NATO. The fact that the institutions, whose assets and practices have been frequently discussed in recent times, cannot manage the time of crisis has increased negative opinions about their future. It is the only partner in the G7 of China's new globalization model, Belt and Road Initiative, as well as great aid from Western countries, who want / expect their allies, to

Italy, especially from Russia, with military aircraft, vehicles and said to be continued. It is discussed to what extent the medical supplies, equipment and personnel assistance it sends to Italy will affect both the alliances and the possible transformation of the West, Russia and China relations.

Within the scope of the anti-epidemic measures, the public implementation implemented by the Russian state mechanism by using the security forces of the Russian state mechanism, first and foremost, in order to declare a state of emergency and to effectively control the curfew, especially in Moscow, to increase the number of cameras with a face recognition system. With the help of diplomacy, it is considered as an effort to show its strength and effectiveness. This effort of Russia may cause a new threat perception for the West, especially after the idea of unity cracking in the NATO Alliance.

When we look at the defense industry in epidemic conditions, the primary risk is the disruption of the supply chain. Large producers with a multinational supply structure need to identify strategies that will not suffer from trade constraints in order to continue their work. Since the production facilities of the companies are designed differently from many other production areas, this process will be affected little. Considering that production is carried out in large areas with high technology and relatively little manpower, it is seen that the 'social distance' rule, which is the priority, is applicable from the beginning. However, compulsory implementation of legal measures such as shifts and number of employees causes

production to slow down. The delay in delivery dates of large projects such as third aircraft carrier and new fighter aircraft in China is carefully monitored due to its important place in regional and even global security discussions.

### CONCLUSION

The new type of coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic has started a period of struggle that can be progressed by setting up different strategies for different areas and difficult to manage because it does not comply with any expected crisis characteristics. Economic, social, political, sectoral impacts and measures taken brought with it somehow securitized processes due to the risks of the issue. The defense area, on the other hand, is full of complicated and complicated problems that cannot be taken into account yet. Many issues such as armies, military

personnel and equipment, defense industry, defense policies are issues that need to be reexamined and their national and international effects are inevitable.

The world, which is in macro debates such as globalization, polarity and hegemony, is rapidly moving to the desired / required point by using this epidemic as a catalyst. At this point, the movement will not be a smooth transition, has already manifested itself at the beginning of the crisis. In order to foresee the harsh secondary and tertiary crises that will be experienced if the epidemic lasts for a long time, it is necessary to work quickly on the domains that appear to be very irrelevant. The benefit of keeping even the scenario of the existence of the nation state and international system in the unusual texts compromised will be seen in the medium and long term.



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