

为了不该忘却的纪念：他生命的最后两个月，这座城市发生了什么？

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听课笔记



课程导读

- 发现疫情后，他做了什么，遭遇了什么？
- 本文的中心思想是什么？是什么原因导致疫情没能被遏制在初期？
- 我们应该如何实事求是地看待初期当局的作为？外媒的真实叙述和失焦偏差如何辩证看待？

As New Coronavirus Spread, China's Old Habits Delayed Fight

讲解正文

By Chris Buckley and Steven Lee Myers

At critical turning points, Chinese authorities put secrecy and order ahead of openly confronting the growing crisis and risking public alarm or

political embarrassment.

WUHAN, China — A mysterious illness had stricken seven patients at a hospital, and a doctor tried to warn his medical school classmates. "**Quarantined** in the emergency department," the doctor, Li Wenliang, wrote in an online chat group on Dec. 30, referring to patients.

"So frightening," one recipient replied, before asking about the epidemic that began in China in 2002 and ultimately killed nearly 800 people. "Is SARS coming again?"

In the middle of the night, officials from the health authority in the central city of Wuhan summoned Dr. Li, demanding to know why he had shared the information. Three days later, the police compelled him to sign a statement that his warning constituted "illegal behavior."

The illness was not SARS, but something similar: a coronavirus that is now on a **relentless** march outward from Wuhan, throughout the country and across the globe, killing at least 304 people in China and infecting more than 14,380 worldwide.

The government's initial handling of the epidemic allowed the virus to gain a **tenacious** hold. At critical moments, officials chose to put secrecy and order ahead of openly confronting the growing crisis to avoid public alarm and political embarrassment.

A reconstruction of the crucial seven weeks between the appearance of the first symptoms in early December and the government's decision to lock down the city, based on two dozen interviews with Wuhan residents, doctors and officials, on government statements and on Chinese media reports,

points to decisions that delayed a **concerted** public health **offensive**.

In those weeks, the authorities silenced doctors and others for raising red flags. They played down the dangers to the public, leaving the city's 11 million residents unaware they should protect themselves. They closed a food market where the virus was believed to have started, but didn't broadly curb the wildlife trade.

Their **reluctance** to go public, in part, played to political motivations as local officials prepared for their annual congresses in January. Even as cases climbed, officials declared repeatedly that there had likely been no more infections.

By not moving aggressively to warn the public and medical professionals, public health experts say, the Chinese government lost one of its best chances to keep the disease from becoming an epidemic.

"This was an issue of **inaction**," said Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations who studies China. "There was no action in Wuhan from the local health department to alert people to the threat."

The first case, the details of which are limited and the specific date unknown, was in early December. By the time the authorities **galvanized into** action on Jan. 20, the disease had grown into a **formidable** threat.

It is now a global health emergency. It has triggered travel restrictions around the world, shaken financial markets and created perhaps the greatest challenge yet for China's leader. The crisis could **upend** Mr. Xi's agenda for months or longer, even undermining his vision of a political system

that offers security and growth in return for submission to iron-fisted **authoritarianism**.

On the last day of 2019, after Dr. Li's message was shared outside the group, the authorities focused on controlling the **narrative**. The police announced that they were investigating eight people for spreading rumors about the outbreak.

That same day, Wuhan's health commission, its hand forced by those "rumors," announced that 27 people were suffering from **pneumonia** of an unknown cause. Its statement said there was no need to be alarmed.

"The disease is preventable and controllable," the statement said.

Dr. Li, an **ophthalmologist**, went back to work after being **reprimanded**. On Jan. 10, he treated a woman for **glaucoma**. He did not know she had already been infected with the coronavirus, probably by her daughter. They both became sick. So would he.

词汇

coronavirus /kɒrənə'vaɪrəs/ n. 冠状病毒

- any of a group of RNA viruses that cause a variety of diseases in humans and other animals
- e.g. Mouse Hepatitis virus (MHV) is a common coronavirus of laboratory mice. 小鼠肝炎病毒 (MHV) 是一种动物冠状病毒。

secrecy /'si:krəsi/ n. 保密

- the fact of making sure that nothing is known about sth; the state of being secret
- e.g. The whole affair is still shrouded in secrecy. 整个事件依旧秘而不宣。

quarantine /'kwɒrənti:n/ v. (对动物或人) 进行检疫, 隔离

- to keep a person or animal apart from others for a period of time in case they are carrying a disease
- e.g. Dogs have to be quarantined for six months before they'll let them in. 狗要进行 6 个月的隔离检疫之后才被允许进入。

relentless /rɪ'lentləs/ adj. 持续强烈的

- not stopping or getting less strong
- e.g. The sun was relentless. 太阳还是那么热。

tenacious /tə'neɪʃəs/ adj. 坚持的

- that does not stop holding sth or give up sth easily; determined
- e.g. The party has kept its tenacious hold on power for more than twenty years. 这个政党已牢牢掌握大权二十多年。

concerted /kən'sɜ:tɪd/ adj. 同心协力的

- done in a planned and determined way, especially by more than one person, government, country, etc.
- e.g. She has begun to make a concerted effort to find a job. 她开始尽全力寻找工作。

offensive /ɔ'fensɪv/ n. 系列行动

- a series of actions aimed at achieving sth in a way that attracts a lot of attention
- e.g. The government has launched a new offensive against crime. 政府发动了新的打击犯罪攻势。

reluctance /rɪ'lʌktəns/ n. 不情愿

- unwillingness or disinclination to do something
- e.g. She sensed his reluctance to continue. 她察觉到她不愿继续下去。

inaction /ɪn'ækʃn/ n. 无行动; 不采取措施

- lack of action; the state of doing nothing about a situation or a problem
- e.g. It is supposed to be washed down the gutter and into the city's vast sewerage system.

galvanize into /'gælvənaɪz/ v. 使(某人)震惊(并采取行动)

- to make sb take action by shocking them or by making them excited
- e.g. The urgency of his voice galvanized them into action.

他急迫的声音激励他们行动起来。

formidable /'fɔ:mɪdəbl/ adj. 可怕的

- if people, things or situations are formidable, you feel fear and/or respect for them, because they are impressive or powerful, or because they seem very difficult
- e.g. They had to overcome formidable obstacles. 他们得克服重重障碍。

upend /ʌp'end/ v. 使颠倒

- to turn sb/sth upside down
- e.g. The bicycle lay upended in a ditch. 自行车翻倒在一条小水沟里。

authoritarianism /ɔ:,θɔ:ri'teəriənɪzəm/ n. 独裁主义

- Authoritarianism is the state of being authoritarian or the belief that people with power, especially the State, have the right to control other people's actions.
- e.g. Another fairly widespread form of bureaucratism is authoritarianism. 官僚主义倾向还有一种比较大量的表现, 就是命令主义。

narrative /'nærətɪv/ n. 叙述

- a description of events, especially in a novel
- e.g. Neither author was very strong on narrative. 两个作者都不是很善于讲故事。

pneumonia /nju:'məʊniə/ n. 肺炎

- a serious illness affecting one or both lungs that makes breathing difficult
- e.g. The new drug lessens the severity of pneumonia episodes. 新药减轻了肺炎发作时的痛苦。

ophthalmologist /,ɒfθæl'mɒlədʒɪst/ n. 眼科医生

- a doctor who studies and treats the diseases of the eye
- e.g. Annex has been attached to my ophthalmologist prescribed scanned. 附件中已经附上了我的眼科医生处方扫描件。

reprimand /'reprɪmɑ:nd/ v. 训斥

- to tell sb officially that you do not approve of them or their actions
- e.g. The officers were severely reprimanded for their unprofessional behaviour. 军官们因违反职业规则而受到了严厉的斥责。

glaucoma /glɔ:'kəʊmə/ n. 青光眼

- an eye disease that causes gradual loss of sight
- e.g. People with elevated intraocular pressure are at greatest risk for developing glaucoma. 眼睛承受巨大压力的人们最有可能发展成青光眼。

今日习题

1. 根据英文释义写出文中出现的对应单词

_____ : to keep a person or animal apart from others for a period of time in case they are carrying a disease

_____ : to tell sb officially that you do not approve of them or their actions

2. 同义替换

Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined part in "Three days later, the police compelled him to sign a statement that his warning constituted 'illegal behavior.'" ? _____

- A. forced
- B. required
- C. demanded
- D. persuaded

3. 翻译：根据给定中文回译英文

到 1 月 20 日有关部门采取行动时，这一疾病已成为可怕的威胁。

1. quarantine; reprimand

2. A

3. By the time the authorities galvanized into action on Jan. 20, the disease had grown into a formidable threat.

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