

Anthropological Dilemma of the Digital Society: The Disappearance of the Visualization to Citizen Right under Biopolitics

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Abstract: The concept of biopolitics provides a novel lens through which to examine the contemporary processes of resource integration, decision-making management, and public involvement within the context of specific emergency circumstances. During the occurrence of an outbreak, the systematic monitoring and documentation of the behavioural patterns of the entire population have elucidated the trajectory of infected individuals. Consequently, this has facilitated the identification and closure of high-risk locations, so effectively mitigating the escalation of the epidemic. Nevertheless, the act of disclosing the location data of individuals effectively violates certain aspects of citizens' rights and encroaches upon their personal privacy. The prevailing body of scholarly research on biopolitics mostly focuses on its advantageous aspects, while paying less attention to the potential consequences of its excessive proliferation. Hence, the present paper places greater emphasis on the adverse consequences associated with the limited entitlements afforded to individuals within the framework of biopolitics. This article employs the methodology of phenomenon analysis and investigation analysis. This paper aims to examine the merits and demerits of biopolitics through an analysis of the recent coronavirus pandemic in China. Additionally, it seeks to gather data from China and the United States to study potential future applications of biopolitics. This article aims to enhance the scholarly understanding of the societal perspective on biopolitics by engaging in an objective discourse and doing rigorous data analysis.

Keywords: biopolitics, epidemic, civic rights, anthropology

1. Introduction

Biopolitics refers to the realm of politics in which the exercise of political rights has a direct impact on our biological existence [1-3]. Within the framework of biopolitics, individuals undergo a transformation from autonomous entities to a constituent part of the broader database [4]. In the present era characterised by the abundance of information, the convergence of Big Data Technology and Algorithm Technology has facilitated the precise identification and storage of individuals' biological data [5]. At the macroscopic level, political entities utilise technological tools to acquire personal data from individuals, including their travel patterns and DNA samples, with the objective

of achieving comprehensive life documentation. The application of biopolitics not only facilitates political governance, but also offers standardised assurances for the personal safety of citizens.

The quandary pertaining to the Collection of National Governance Information and the concomitant tension with Citizens' entitlement to privacy and freedom of movement. In order to ensure the enduring governance of the nation, it is imperative that the state incorporates the physical and vital details of its residents into the archival records. Certain pieces of information, such as date of birth, height, and weight, are readily accessible to individuals, yet other types of data, including health insurance records, facial recognition data, behaviour trajectory recognition, and Internet browsing histories, remain concealed from public view [5, 6]. This phenomena is evident in the documentary accounts of the viral pandemic. During the era of epidemic prevention, in the event that a socially mobile individual contracts the virus, the nation has the capacity to delineate areas of risk by publicly publishing their travel trajectory. In order to effectively attain the objective of mitigating superfluous infections. As a result of its inherent public nature, this has emerged as a deliberate means for individuals to independently gather knowledge.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that while these conveniences and safeguards are provided, they also entail the relinquishment of personal freedom and human autonomy [7]. In the current era of pervasive information technology, the notion of personal privacy has become increasingly elusive. Questions that merit discussion include whether the sacrifices made are justified and whether the conveniences provided are essential.

2. Positive and Negative Views on Biopolitics

On December 31, 2019, the Official Municipal Health Commission made a public announcement regarding a case of pneumonia with an unidentified aetiology. On the 29th, the Provincial Hospital of integrated traditional domestic and western medicine documented an additional seven cases of pneumonia with an unidentified aetiology. On January 1, at 8 am, a team of national disease control experts conducted a collection of 515 environmental samples from various companies and blocks associated with the reported cases. These samples were subsequently taken to the virus centre for the purpose of conducting tests. The closure of the public market was implemented based on the findings of the initial investigation.

Since January 3, 2020, the government has maintained consistent communication with the World Health Organisation, pertinent nations, and regional organisations, such as the United States, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan regions of China, on the outbreak.

The expert review team of the National Health Commission disclosed the findings of the aetiology of the unidentified pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan on January 9. The pathogen was preliminarily identified as a novel coronavirus. The daily count of fever outpatients at Wuhan Tong Ji Hospital witnessed a rise from 40 to 50 individuals. Furthermore, the peak of this influx exhibited a significant surge, reaching a magnitude of thousands.

On January 20th, the central government emphasised the utmost importance of safeguarding the lives of its inhabitants. Given the occurrence of human-to-human transmission following the identification of the impending Spring Festival, it is imperative to enhance the epidemic prevention and control network centred in Wuhan to effectively curb the spread of infection. According to the announcement made by the National Health Commission, COVID-19 will be categorised as a class B infectious disease in accordance with the regulations outlined in the Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases. Furthermore, it will be subjected to class A management. A collaborative prevention and control system, comprising over 30 departments, was developed under the leadership of the National Health Commission. The region of Hubei and specifically the city of Wuhan have commenced a state of emergency akin to a military scenario under the ongoing tempest of the pandemic.

On January 23rd, Wuhan enforced the decision and implementation of the CPC Central Committee's directives by implementing a closure of exit routes from China. Currently, the largest human movement in China pertains to the "closure" of a contemporary metropolis with a population over 10 million. This phenomenon surely poses a significant challenge for policymakers. The aforementioned ruling exhibits commendable aims; nonetheless, it concurrently imposes limitations on the personal liberties of a substantial number of individuals.

3. Visibility Issue in Information Society

Information collection models based on the Internet, such as online public opinion monitoring, such as citizens' information browsing records collection, are implicit ways for citizens to disclose information [8].

Or rather, such information collection and monitoring behavior infringes on citizens' personal right to privacy of thought. Fortunately, most individuals are often unable to have a direct or indirect connection with criminal events such as murder or fraud. This can also make citizens' internet browsing records have a certain degree of concealment most of the time. This is also why most people have a negligent awareness of the semi transparent state of their internet information and are unable to accurately recognize the possibility of their internet behavior being monitored. However, once murder or fraud happens, it is hard for citizens (When oneself becomes a suspect's interest party) to accept standing naked in front of the information technology department for a moment to undergo censorship. At this point, many people will criticize censorship behavior as a result, attempting to maintain their privacy, only to find it futile. In fact, this part of privacy rights had already been transferred when they obtained their residence permit and identity authentication.

Yet when people change the stance and become stakeholders of the victims, their thinking will also shift accordingly. The comprehensive and transparent internet browsing records, chat records, and transaction records have become the fastest way to crack cases and capture suspects. Even in the minds of countless people, the range covered by the monitoring probe is approximately equal to the safe range. Because they believe that the deterrent power of public security organs exists in the monitored areas, thereby reducing the risk of crime. Just as the fact shows, according to data given by public security bureau, after installing 100 high-definition monitoring probes in a county in western China, the probability of cases occurring decreased by 41% year-on-year. The monitoring probe is a concrete manifestation of biopolitics. While providing security for some people, it infringes on their portrait rights and privacy, as well as their freedom of movement and privacy. Therefore, some people choose to transfer their privacy rights by default for their long-term peaceful and stable life, thus surrendering to biopolitics; some others would rather face insecure living environments than defend their privacy rights. More people both need a stable environment and hope to maintain the confidentiality of their own behavior. In this case they are trapped in a moral dilemma of choosing between the two.

Society is of the human society, people are also the social people, people have the dual attributes of individual and society. It is of great significance to obtain behavioral independence and privacy protection while participating in social life. Whenever the mechanism of citizens' transfer of rights needs to be embodied, such as the outbreak of the epidemic and the outbreak of war, the conflict between public power and private rights, and the friction between public security and personal privacy have become more and more obvious.

The emergence of such behavior and moral dilemma is mainly due to the conflict between rationality and sensibility in the individual nature of citizens.

Hobbes once mainly discussed in *Leviathan* that humans are driven by rational thinking, in this case to overcome their fear of danger and death, they sign contracts to transfer their natural rights, hand them over to a person or an organization composed of people, and thus form a state, adding a

layer of security for themselves and the group [9]. It can be said that the initial form of a country was a giant organization. Every citizen is automatically assigned to the corresponding mega organization from birth. At the beginning of their lives, citizens are acquiesced in signing contracts with organizations, receiving protection from corresponding organizations while transferring some of their rights, thus engaging in equivalent exchanges.

Government data processing is a dynamic process, covering the whole process of data from production to deletion, including collection, processing, storage, transfer, sharing, opening, utilization, deletion, etc. Government data collection is in the front-end process of government data processing, and is the premise and foundation of government data storage, sharing and even open utilization.

Since January 23rd, a total of 30 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities in China have initiated the "Level I response to major public health emergencies". This response has involved the development and implementation of community-based preventative and control measures, as well as the implementation of grid and carpet management strategies. The global community is closely monitoring China's efforts in disease prevention and control. The closure of the passage is a pioneering milestone in the annals of contemporary medicine, as reported by Reuters and The Times. Nevertheless, many media outlets have cited specialists who contend that there exists a dearth of substantiated proof about the efficacy of implementing city-wide closures. These experts further argue that such quarantines have the potential to induce panic and exacerbate the burden on already limited medical resources.

On January 23, 2020, at 10 o'clock, the entrance channel of the three major stations in Wuhan, namely Wuhan, Hankou, and Wuchang, will be officially blocked by the installation of a stainless steel railing. Prior to that, a total of about 5 million individuals had departed from Wuhan, while approximately 9 million individuals chose to remain in the city. The novel coronavirus, which is both imperceptible and intangible, instills fear in numerous individuals.

From February 16 onwards, Wuhan implemented a three-day comprehensive screening investigation with the aim of assessing the prevailing circumstances, effectively curtailing the transmission of the pandemic, and providing appropriate medical care to individuals affected by the infection.

After conducting two rounds of network screening among 4.21 million households in the city, a comprehensive count of 9,037 verified and suspected patients was recorded in Wuhan. Additionally, a substantial number of close contacts were found, leading to the implementation of a comprehensive approach encompassing both patient identification and treatment.

A total of thirty-six teams specialising in disease control and epidemic prevention were promptly deployed to Hubei province. Additionally, three mobile P3 laboratories were mobilised from various regions across the country. This strategic action effectively addressed the "bottleneck" issue that hindered the progress of investigation and treatment efforts. Furthermore, there was a constant enhancement of the nucleic acid testing capacity.

As of February 17th, there has been a reduction in the national average duration from the initial appearance of symptoms to the confirmation of COVID-19 diagnosis, with the current average being 4.95 days. Additionally, there has been a notable decline in the percentage of severe cases in Wuhan, with the proportion decreasing from 38% to 18%. This implies that the initial surge in medical cases in Wuhan is progressively diminishing.

In order to preserve life, regardless of the expenses incurred. Based on statistical data, it was observed that as of the conclusion of May, the mean expense associated with medical treatment for severe patients in China surpassed 150,000 yuan. Furthermore, a small subset of critically ill patients incurred treatment costs amounting to hundreds of thousands or even surpassing one million yuan. It is important to note that reimbursement from medical insurance was provided in accordance with established regulations.

The allocation of highly specialised medical resources will be focused on areas with the greatest need, while adopting a "one person, one policy" approach for intensive care. By the conclusion of May, China has achieved effective recovery for over 3,000 individuals aged 80 years and above who had contracted COVID-19. This group encompasses individuals ranging from centenarians to newborn newborns. The collective cure rate surpassed 94 percent.

The city of Wuhan has instilled a sense of optimism within the global community. On April 8th, the city of Wuhan in China lifted its lockdown measures, allowing for the resumption of normal activities. The clearance of severe and critically sick patients in Hubei occurred on April 24, followed by the clearance of COVID-19 patients in Wuhan on April 26.

4. Reflections

From a superficial consciousness standpoint, within the context of biopolitics, individuals enhance their understanding of protecting their personal information and rights to freedom. As a result of the widespread adoption and integration of information technology, individuals' understanding of the mechanisms for national information collecting has progressively improved. Nevertheless, while considering the aspect of action and profound consciousness, it can be observed that the populace's vigilance in protecting their individual rights has experienced a decline. With the advancement of information management, the government now possesses enhanced capabilities to effectively oversee the self-information of its inhabitants and have direct access to it. In alternative terms, the safeguarding mechanism for the privacy of individuals has grown increasingly vulnerable. This phenomena undermines the sense of security among residents, undoubtedly serving to perpetuate government authority. However, it also significantly restricts citizens' ability to exercise their right to appeal on a broader scale. Consider a scenario in which a law-abiding individual becomes entangled in a legal dispute due to an error in judgement. When confronted with significant grievances, individuals may exercise caution to protect themselves. However, it is important to consider how they respond to minor grievances. Does he possess sufficient fortitude to petition a higher authority in pursuit of his entitlements? When faced with circumstances that may impact their own interests, the majority of individuals choose to prioritise self-preservation, thereby avoiding engaging in further arduous legal proceedings. Within the framework of biopolitics, the apprehension towards authority may be intensified, as the dissemination of information by governments from online repositories reduces the likelihood of citizens mobilising and advocating for their grievances.

A survey was administered to individuals from both China and the United States in order to examine the influence of governmental and social systems on citizenship. A moral quandary has arisen, prompting the participants to provide their decision: I am acquainted with an individual who engaged in the act of bank robbery, so inducing fear and causing minor physical harm to multiple individuals involved. However, the entirety of the funds is allocated towards a destitute orphanage, which is in dire need of financial resources to provide sustenance and housing for the children. What actions should one undertake? Should one disclose the individual's identify to the appropriate authorities, so risking the loss of funds for the orphanage, or maintain silence? The participants were given the option to select either "report the robber" or "remain silent".

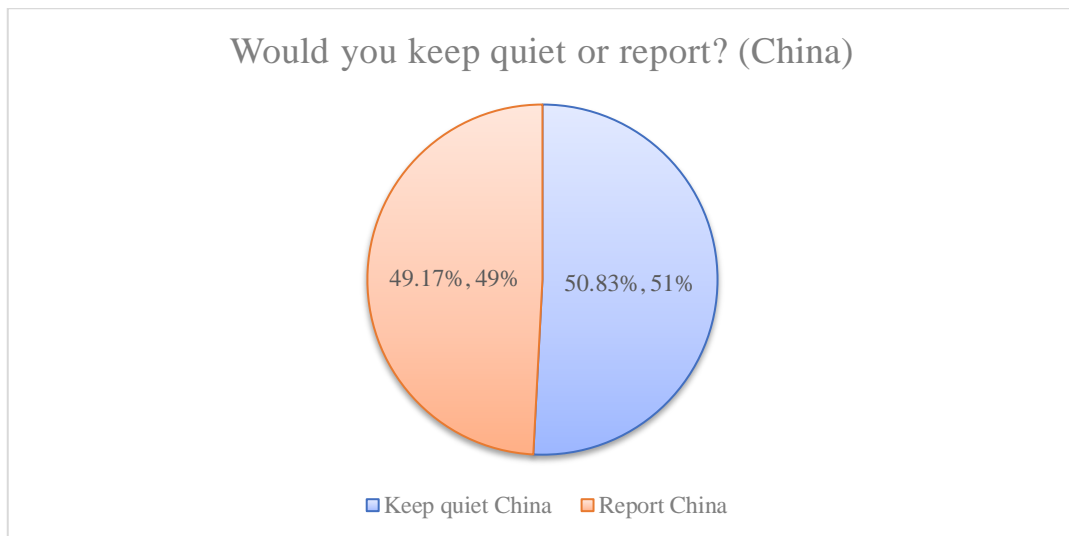


Figure 1: This figure depicts how Chinese citizens act in certain circumstances.

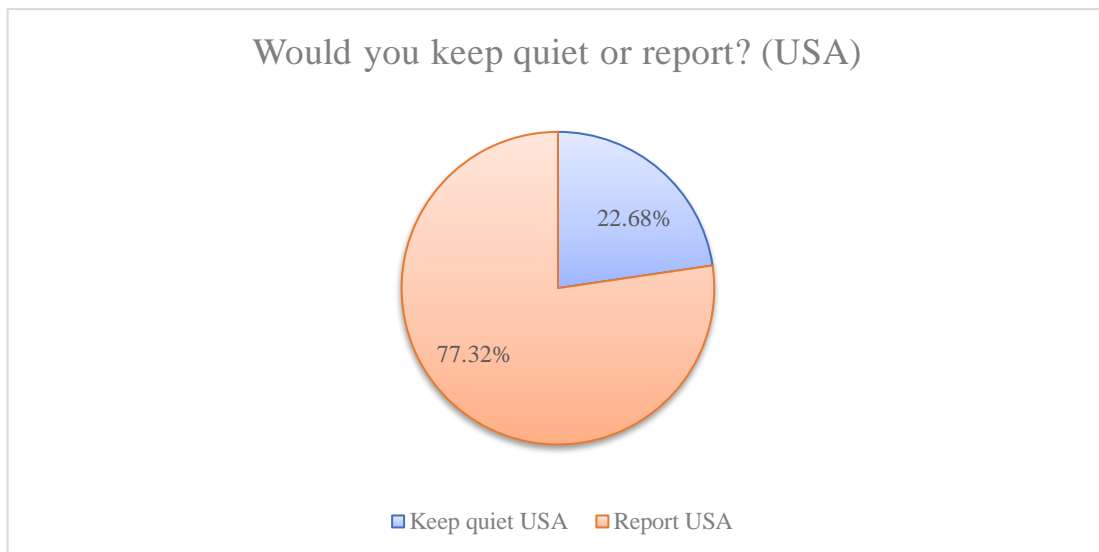


Figure 2: This figure depicts how American citizens act in certain circumstances.

According to Figure 1 and 2, most Americans choose to report what they have seen, the result in Chinese people reached a half-half situation. There is no distinction between high and low rank in social and governments mechanism, and also, there is no superior choice but only tendentious choice. The result only shows the different amount of “positive citizen” in China and the US. It could be introduced the concept of “positive citizenship”. (Different from the “active citizens” given by Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès, “distinction between “active” (those eligible to vote) and “passive” citizens was adopted in decrees establishing property qualifications for voting—thereby guaranteeing that power would be kept in the hands of the bourgeoisie”) [10]. The positive citizenship covered people who choose to report, they hold a positive attitude towards the society and government. When the robbers were found, they believe after returning the money back to the bank, the government or social organizations could donate money to the orphanage in another legal way. In the long run, reporting is a much more beneficial practice. In addition, active citizens have a stronger sense of political and social participation. Under deep consideration, the money derived from the bank robbery is illegal funds. Even if the orphanage received this fund, it could not be used reasonably and legally.

The person who chose the report was precisely because of this aspect. In contrast, negative citizens have less trust in the formation of a legal and friendly compromise plan than the positive citizens. In addition to the orphanage compassion, personal responsibility, historical and cultural influence and other factors, people who choose to remain silent have a more obvious negative tendency.

In the context of biopolitics, such negative tendencies in China mainly come from the follow-up assistance and the difficulties and lack of channels. The tendency to avoid such behavior as prosecution and government bargaining is avoided as much as possible. Although maintaining the peace of their own life, but such negative tendencies are at the expense of their own information and freedom rights, thus weakening the sense of rights.

5. Conclusion

The comprehensive examination and discourse surrounding China's protest reveals that biopolitics exerts a substantial influence on the government of the nation, enabling the preservation of national security and the smooth functioning of the state during critical periods such as epidemics and wars. Simultaneously, it surreptitiously infringes upon the populace's entitlement to individual autonomy and the safeguarding of personal information. By doing an investigation of the varying attitudes towards moral dilemmas in China and the United States: Biopolitics refers to the intersection of political power and biological life, encompassing the ways through which the transformation of civil social duty is intricately interconnected. This phenomena imposes limitations on the avenues available to citizens for addressing instances of unfairness, so covertly influencing their sense of social duty and their personal commitment to upholding societal well-being. This study has the potential to raise citizens' consciousness on issues of privacy and freedom. It is undeniable that in the forthcoming era, the prominence of biopolitics will more manifest in the daily existence of individuals and progressively permeate all facets of societal domains. If individuals consistently exhibit apathy and lack concern for their own rights and interests, their ability to influence outcomes during periods of tranquility will be significantly diminished. However, with the commencement of a state of war, citizens are unable to readily accept the relinquishment of their rights, resulting in a heightened proliferation of citizen reactionary psychology. Consequently, this has a more pronounced impact on national security. Hence, the utilisation of information management is limited to serving as a supplementary instrument for the perpetual governance and preservation of societal security. The universality of the concept should be tempered, with a cautious approach towards bottom-line development, and a limited scope for the advancement of biopolitics.

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