



Upheavals in China: Implications and What Next

The mass protests erupting all over China have shifted the world’s attention to Xi Jinping’s “Zero-Covid Policy”, making everyone question its effectiveness and economic and social cost. The Chinese president’s pandemic triumphalism has come back to haunt him. The country is plagued with low vaccination rates, rising Covid cases, endless lockdowns and an economic slowdown. For the first time, the Chinese citizens have directly called Xi out, challenging his leadership and position. Additionally, these growing protests in the world’s biggest manufacturing nation add a new element of uncertainty and instability into the global economy. This edition of CUTS ONW collates News and Op-eds from policy experts and senior journalists, analysing different aspects and effects of this clash between Chinese citizens and their government.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Xi Jinping is caught in his own Covid trap The Korea Herald December 05, 2022</p>	<p>No city officials will take responsibility for the human and economic disaster caused by a policy tightly tied to Chinese President Xi Jinping. China's current Covid upheaval demonstrates what can happen when an absolute ruler rejects all criticism in the belief that he is infallible. The Council on Foreign Relations' China expert, Joshua Kurlantzic said the 'Zero-Covid' policy is a complete disaster for China.</p>
<p>Xi Jinping's zero Covid policy fails as new cases found in China The Economic Times December 05, 2022</p>	<p>China's communist party has become ‘stupid’ as the country has reported at least 1000 new Covid cases daily, resulting in the failure of the ‘Zero Covid’ policy. China is currently witnessing a spike in the number of protests. People are demonstrating against harsh lockdowns. The workers were frustrated with the delayed bonus payments.</p>
<p>China’s struggle with Covid is just beginning <i>Yanzhong Huang</i> The New York Times December 04, 2022</p>	<p>China’s leaders are in a dangerous dilemma. Their obsession with eliminating the coronavirus has spared the country the pandemic death rates suffered by other major countries. The government’s uncompromising approach seemed to work at first. Shortly after the virus began emerging from Wuhan in late 2019, China brought it under control with tough lockdowns as it spread globally.</p>
<p>How China’s Zero-Covid policy has pushed people, economy to the brink <i>Luna Sun</i> South China Morning Post December 04, 2022</p>	<p>Support and acceptance - seen in the early days of China’s attempts to control the spread of Covid-19 have given way to mounting fear, confusion and a sense of hopelessness among many citizens. But a rapid reopening and shift away from the stringent policy threatens to put China’s medical system at high risk of being overwhelmed by mass infections and death.</p>

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<p>Apple makes plans to move production out of China The Wall Street Journal December 03, 2022</p>	<p>Apple Inc. has accelerated plans to shift some of its production outside China long the dominant country in the supply chain that built the world’s most valuable company. Suppliers to plan more actively for assembling Apple products elsewhere in Asia, particularly India and Vietnam.</p>
<p>Why politicise China’s zero Covid protests when it’s just Covid fatigue? <i>Allan Wong and Dong Lei</i> South China Morning Post December 02, 2022</p>	<p>China’s response to Covid-19 is deeply rooted in its history and developmental stage. Firstly, China’s vast regional developmental disparities affect health care, education and culture. Students in its international cities such as Shanghai, for example, grow up absorbing international popular culture, with remarkably open high-school textbooks.</p>
<p>Coronavirus: China’s road to economic recovery ‘slow, costly and bumpy’ despite new phase of Covid controls <i>Ji Siqi</i> South China Morning Post December 02, 2022</p>	<p>Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan, who leads the country’s pandemic response, said China’s virus control measures were entering a new phase as the nature of the virus weakens and vaccinations become more widespread. Lu Ting, Chief China economist at Nomura said “We caution that the path to living with Covid may still be slow, costly and bumpy”. Covid might be more infectious in winter.</p>
<p>China’s dire Covid predicament Financial Times November 30, 2022</p>	<p>Protests against Beijing’s ‘Zero-Covid’ policy in many cities across the country reveal a level of public anger rarely seen since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in 1989. But loosening China’s Covid controls and potentially unleashing an exit wave of infections could kill hundreds of thousands over the winter.</p>
<p>When China’s not Xi huzoor: The party chief has a choice between using force to quell protests or lose face by relaxing Covid rules <i>Vijay Gokhale</i> Times of India November 28, 2022</p>	<p>Protests are not new to China. Contrary to the popular misconception that protests do not happen because life in China (Paywall) is highly regulated, these happen all the time for a variety of reasons ranging from unfavourable working conditions to bank failures. But the last time that the protests coalesced around an issue was during the fateful summer of 1989.</p>
<p>Protests in China send a chill through global markets CNN Business November 28, 2022</p>	<p>China experienced something it has not seen in more than 30 years, thousands of protesters flooding the streets, defying the Communist Party. The protests had an immediate impact on global markets, and raised questions about the path forward for China’s increasingly sluggish economy. The protests began on November 25, 2022 after 10 people were killed in a fire.</p>

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