Explaining COVID-19 Outcome in the USA: Trump's Policy, the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, 2020 Presidential Elections

Yifei Wu[1, *]

[1]*Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA*
[*]*Corresponding author. Email: yw106@iu.edu*

ABSTRACT

The essay is to explore why COVID-19 has spread so fast and resulted in a serious outcome. This phenomenon has been observed in 2020 and has resulted in serious outcomes in the United States. The essay uses a case study. Through the case study of the US, the essay hopes to have broader lessons of the impact of the pandemic on international politics. The result of the essay reveals the COVID-19 is related to politics. Trump's policies are not sufficient to deal with the pandemic. COVID-19 as divided the US society by different party memberships. Then it becomes the instrument for parties to win the 2020 presidential elections. In conclusion, the essay deepens our understanding of COVID-19 and the US political parties and elections. Moreover, the essay can be useful to policy recommendations to solve the pandemic crisis. Admittedly, the essay is limited in that it only looks at the case of the US. Also, the paper mainly explains the COVID-19 from the political perspective. Further studies can look into COVID reality in other countries. The research can also explain the COVID-19 from economic and cultural perspectives.

Keywords: COVID-19, USA, Trump's Policy, the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, 2020 Presidential Elections.

1. INTRODUCTION

The essay's research question is why COVID-19 has spread so fast and resulted in a serious outcome. This research question is puzzling because there are high numbers in the infection rate in the US. This reality has not been researched in detail. This question is complex and unique because the US has developed advanced medical technology in the world. Also, the population in the US is not very dense compared to the eastern Asian countries. Therefore, it is highly surprising that the COVID has resulted in such a serious outcome.

To give background information, more than 35 million people in the US have been infected with COVID-19, and more than six hundred thousand people have lost their life until July 2021, according to Worldmeters [1]. According to Brookings, the pandemic has caused serious damages to the US public health system and the US economy [2].

This essay will focus on the case of the US. The US is a unique case because it's a contradiction between the developed medical system and the uncontrollable result of the COVID. This case applies to other countries with multiple parties and elections, and there is an impact on COVID.

This topic matters because it deepens our understanding of COVID-19 and the US political parties and elections. It can be useful to policy recommendations to solve the pandemic crisis.

The essay is divided into several sections. After the introduction, the paper will examine the damage and situation of COVID-19. Next, the paper will look at the reaction of Trump's administration and its policies. The essay will then offer an analysis of how political parties are divided by the COVID. The essay will subsequently review the election strategies of the two parties and how they are related to COVID-19. The conclusion will summarise the whole essay, indicate the implications of the essay, and shed light on further studies.

2. COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US

In this section, important events that happened in the timeline of COVID in the US will be presented. According to AJMC, on Jan 21st 2021 in the US the first

case of COVI D-19 was confirmed [3]. Then, it took two months for the COVID-19 to develop into the global pandemic. According to the report AJMC, COVID-19 was declared as a global pandemic by WHO during March [4]. It was as serious as the 2008 financial crisis. The report of AJMC shows that surprisingly young people avoided care for COVID-19 symptoms on April 28th 2020. There were many subjective and objective factors for this phenomenon. First of all, people thought it was just normal flu and would recover very soon. Second, people thought they were young and did not care a lot about it. Thirdly, the government thought that the influence of COVID-19 was weak. Finally, cost concern was also the factor for this situation. There were 26.5 million Americans unemployed since mid-March. They didn't have enough money and conditions to get care for COVID-19 Symptoms [5].

AJMC on May 12 suggests that Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institution of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, commented on that the government tended to cover the real influence of COVID-19 and compared the COVID-19 to ordinary flu. The US death tolled under-estimated, and people were too optimistic. Those were overcrowded in the street [6]. Therefore, the situation of COVID-19 in the US was worsening fast. According to AJMC, on June 10th, the US COVID-19 Cases had reached 2 million [7]. AJMC continued to report that the US COVID-19 Cases had reached 3 million on July 7th. The speed of growth was fast [8]. According to AJMC, on August 4, there were no free hospital beds in the rural area, and there were also not enough hospital beds in the cities. The reasons for this problem were presented as follows. First of all, there was no enough preparation by the government. In addition, a medical resource was in shortage. Finally, the construction of new hospitals was processing at a low speed [9].

3. POLICY RESPONSE OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO COVID

This section will analyze policies made by the Trump administration to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. According to AJMC, on Feb 3rd, the Trump administration declared a public health emergency, but there was no effect. It's because people did not have this awareness. Lack of resources was also the reason that why the declaration was no effective [10]. The report of AJMC shows that Trump administration declared the COVID-19 as a national emergency on March 13th. The school and universities shut down, and some cities were in lockdown. This stay-at-home ban was cancelled in April in Texas, and it became serious again [4]. Declaring an emergency was necessary, but it could be earlier. Before its declaration, people felt quite relaxed. When the figures increased fast, people started to feel panic. By the end of March, all the states became serious. Cultural explanations might be important. First, American people

did not prefer collectivism, and all people did what they wished. This led to serious outcomes. According to AJMC, the Trump administration issued a travel ban after entry into the stage of an emergency, many international flights were cancelled. For example, the flights between China and the US. The travel ban lasted for a long time [4]. For the situation of COVID-19 in the whole world, a traffic ban was necessary. This is because, in many countries, the COVID-19 situation was not stable and might spread globally. In the small space of a plane, the COVID-19 might spread even fast. This was good for the US. According to AJMC, the Trump administration asked Congress to send American Direct Financial Relief when the death number reached 100 in the US. In the US, males often go to make a living, and females stay at home and take care of children. When the slaughter factories closed down, many male citizens lost their jobs, which impacted the family incomes [11]. According to the document published by the Executive Department of State of California, Californians were the first state to issue a stay-at-home order on March 17th. This is because COVID first spread in California, and it was one of the most seriously affected [12]. Staying at home order was effective, because it avoided the gather of people and reduced the space of the virus. According to AJMC, Trump signed CARES Act into law at the end of March [13]. The official website nih.gov reviews that Trump's idea for COVID-19 Cocktail was using the drug to treat COVID-19 on May 14, 2020 [14]. I think if the symptom is light, the drug treatment is effective. And if it is serious, then it will not work. According to AJMC, in May 2021, Trump signed a deal with AstraZeneca for vaccines in May. I think the speed of producing vaccines is not slow. Too many people are getting infectious in the US, so vaccines are the only solution [15]. The report of AJMC indicates that AJCM also reveals that the states in the US postpone the reopening plans on July 2nd [16]. First, I think the economy must be reopened because the unemployment rate is high, and the economic growth rate is negative since the outbreak of the COVID. I also think whether economic can be reopened on the extent to which the virus is controlled. According to AJMC, on July 2, Trump intensified testing and delayed the reopening of some serious states [16]. AJMC shows that the WHO developed, made, and distributed a COVID-19 vaccine and prepared for global promotion, but the US refused to participate on September 1.

4. HOW POLITICAL PARTIES ARE DIVIDED BY COVID-19

4.1 The Role of Partisanship in COVID-19 Results

The quality of being a member of a political party. loyalty commitment of support. The US uses two-party system. Recall the 2016 parliamentary election, with Hillary was Trump competing. In the presidential

election, the two parties will nominate their candidates. The winning candidate will form a new government, and he/she will lead the government. The government represents a political party, so partisanship plays an important role in the US society and politics. Anton Gollwitzer and researchers find about the link between 2016 election voting behaviour and the physical distancing behaviour. They find that the US counties that voted for Trump in 2016 are 14% less likely to practice physical distance in 2020. Fifteen million smartphones, big data side. [17] Anton Gollwitzer and colleagues find the importance of partisanship in physical distancing. They find that partisanship is more important than other factors, such as race, income, and age. Anton Gollwitzer and colleagues also argue that social distance is an important measure to control the spread of COVID-19, so if the social distance is affected by partisanship, this will affect COVID in infection rates.

I think that Anton Gollwitzer and colleagues' argument is convincing. Partisanship has a big impact because different media outlets have support from political parties, so they are more likely to report news that has partisan values. And in this way, any single social problem can be divided by partisan values. I think this is due to media because the media's content of different parties is based on their own ideas, which leads to people having different ideas for the same problem. For example, if people are more likely to watch Fox news at the county level, they are more likely to refuse social distance. Fox News is conservative media. The republic party is conservative, so it may have influences over Fox news.

4.2 Partisan Divide in Vaccinations

Among all the issues related to COVID-19, such as social distancing, mask wearing, business restrictions, I think vaccination is an important issue. Vaccination is the only potential solution to solve the COVID-19 crisis, so I will now focus on vaccination on the partisan divided. Dan Goldberg and Alice Miranda Ollstein think there is a partisan divide in vaccinations. Partisan divided is becoming starker in vaccinations. [18] Biden aims to offer at least the first shot to 70% of adults by July, but the overall vaccination result for democratic districts in the 39 congressional districts was 60%. 30% of People who support the democratic party are more likely to receive vaccines in republican districts. Dan Goldberg and Alice Miranda Ollstein think the partisan divide is widening. This is because those people who do not want to get vaccines are not listened to properly by government officials. I agree with them, but I also think this is because people have different values and ignore vaccines. But this is not related to money, because it is free. Also, this is because some people do not have suitable physical conditions to receive vaccines. Dan Goldberg and Alice Miranda Ollstein use the recent polls to show the partisan gap in vaccination. People who support the republic party

are six times more likely than Democrats to express anti-vaccine opinions. Biden uses policy such as free transportation to encourage vaccination. I agree with him because these policies can mobilize people's enthusiasm for receiving vaccination, especially for poor people and people who live far away. Like this, these are good for control of the COVID.

5. 2020 ELECTION STRATEGIES RELATED TO COVID-19

5.1 COVID-19 and Biden's Attitudes

In the 2020 presidential election, Biden defeated Trump and become the new president of the US. He represents the democratic party. According to AJMC, on August 13 2020, Biden urges all government officials to implement policies that require citizens to wear masks when Biden is a presidential nominee. [3] I think it depends on different groups of people. Those who support Trump are less willing to wear masks, but for Biden supporters, they are more likely to trust Biden's suggestion of wear the masks.

I agree with Biden's attitude, At that time, COVID-19 was causing serious damages, so Biden's positive attitude to worse wear the masks could lead to the solution of the COVID crises. I think Biden's attitudes are better than Trump. People may vote for Biden due to his attitudes of wearing the masks and taking other effective measures to deal with the crises.

5.2 Trump's Support Rate and COVID-19

Trump represents the republic party. The experiment of Joshua Hart proves the effect of the pandemic on the election result. [19] The survey of Joshua Hart lasts from March to June in 2020. 1763 people did Joshua Hart's survey.

The strength of Joshua Hart's research is that the sample is relatively big. Joshua Hart's research weaknesses are that he does not use the interview method to find out details.

In Joshua Hart's research, decreased Trump support is the effect of the pandemic on support from Democrats. Also, marginally increase is the effect of the pandemic on support from independents. It declined When the economy reopens.

I think COVID-19 has lowered support from Democrats is because Trump failed to control and different policies and thoughts for COVID between these two different parties. I think COVID-19 has raised support from Republicans in the early stages, support inside when the COVID-19 situation is not serious. I think the pandemic can explain the 2020 presidential election result. Trump failed to control the COVID and made it more serious in the US, so his support rate

decreased. Biden had formulated and implemented relevant policies to control the COVID, so he had received more support.

6. CONCLUSION

In summary, the essay firstly has examined the damage and situation of COVID-19. Then it has looked at the reaction of Trump's administration and their policies. After that, the essay has offered an analysis of how political parties are divided by the COVID. Following that, the analysis has reviewed the two parties' election strategies and how they are related to COVID-19.

The essay deepens our understanding of COVID-19 and the US political parties and elections and helps us understand its future tendency. It can be useful to policy recommendations to solve the pandemic crisis.

The essay has several limitations. The analysis may be incomplete, and maybe there are other reasons from economic and cultural perspectives. The single case provides limited explanation and may not fully explain other cases.

Future studies can focus on other cases. Also, to fully understand the phenomenon, it is worthwhile to explore other perspectives and reasons.

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