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General Education, Citizenship, AI and COVID-19: Reflections from Japanese Experience

Masao KIKUCHI, Ph.D.

Professor of Public Policy and Management

Department of Public Management

Director, Meiji University International Student Center

Meiji University, Tokyo, JAPAN

Presentation Outline

1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation
2. Policy Response: Capacity and Legitimacy
3. Citizenship and Behavior in “With/Post Corona”
4. Concluding Remarks

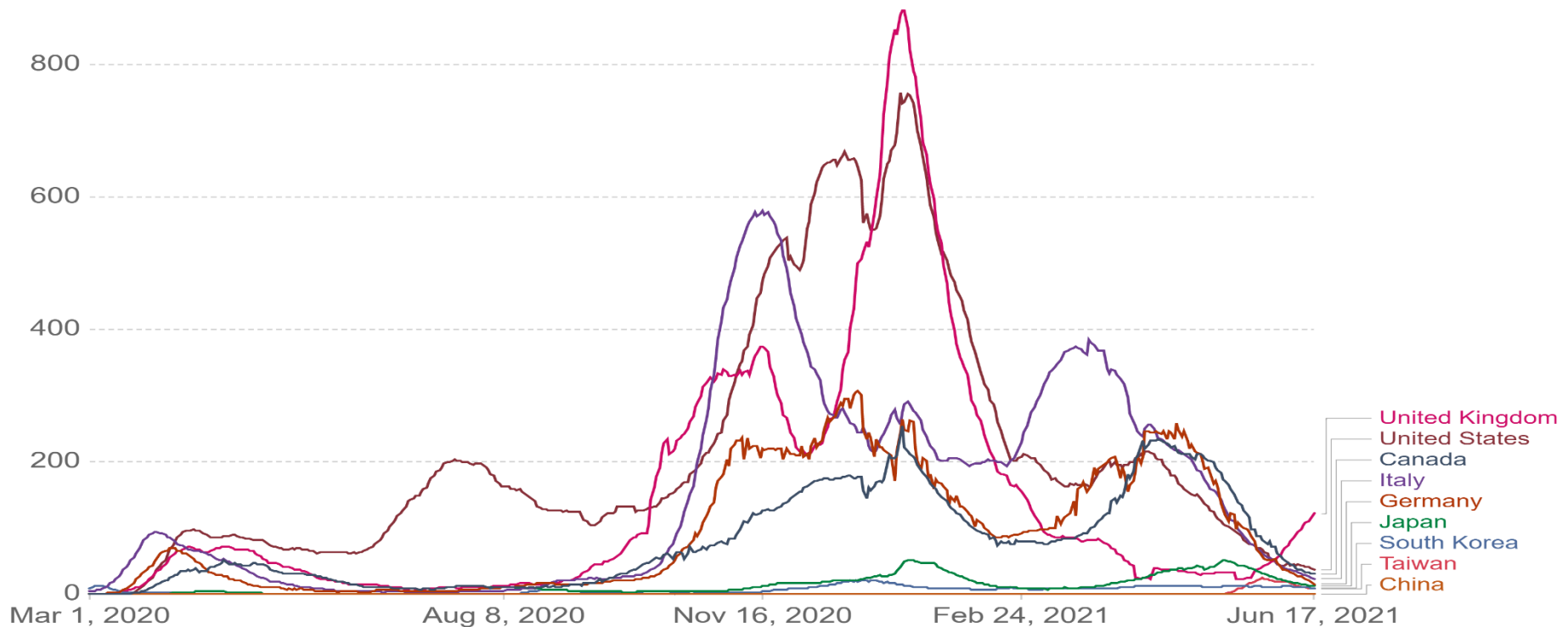
1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation

□ Coronavirus in Japan: Daily New Confirmed Cases (7 day rolling average)

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World
in Data

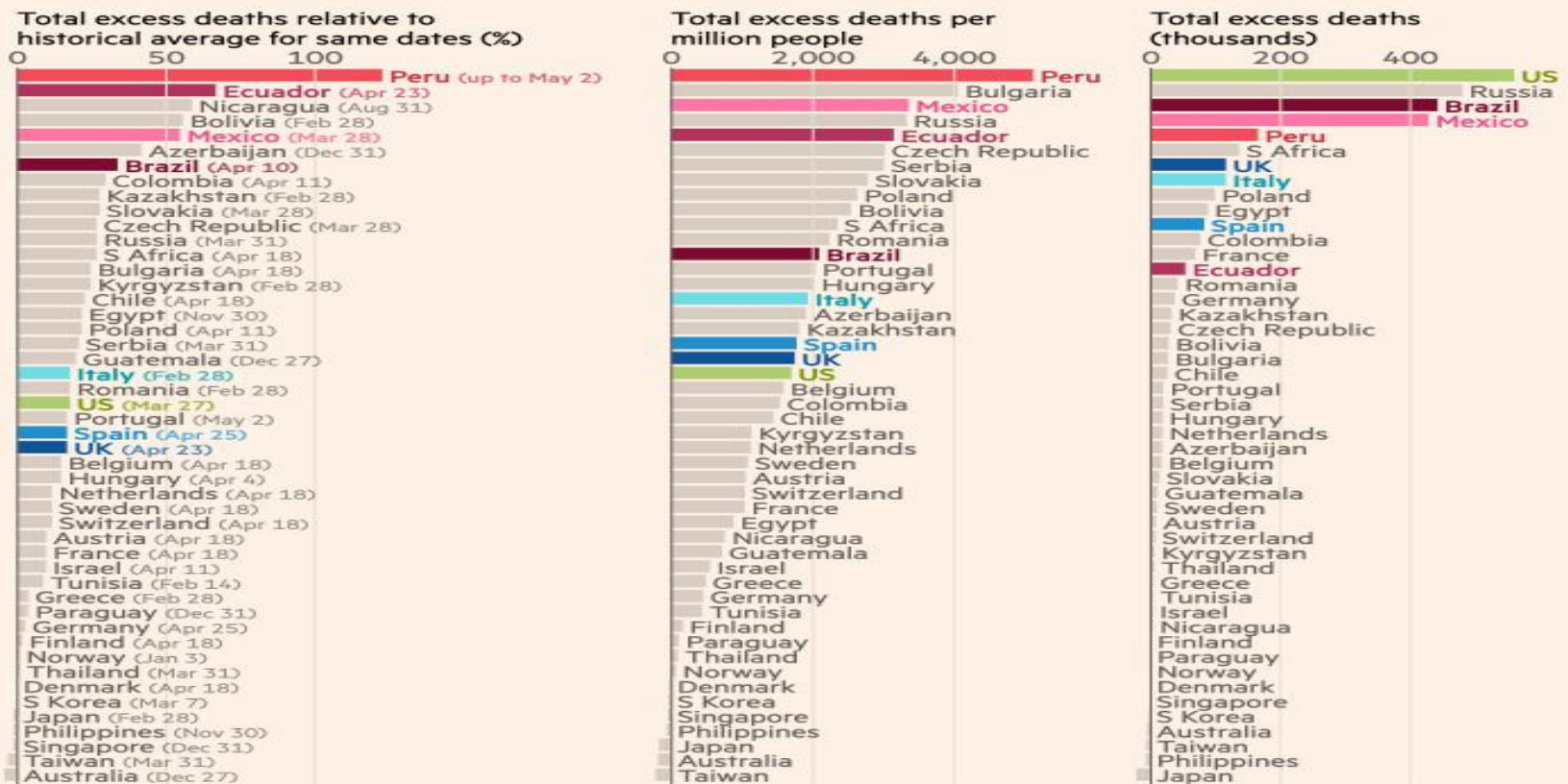


1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation

❑ Super-Aging Society (Per capita, Japan has more elderly than any other country, yet low excess death)

How excess deaths compare around the world since Covid outbreaks began

Measures of excess mortality* since each country had 100 confirmed cases



*Adjusted for trend over recent years

Sources: FT analysis of national mortality data, CONASS and Karlinsky & Kobak's World Mortality Dataset. Data updated May 5

FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch

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1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation

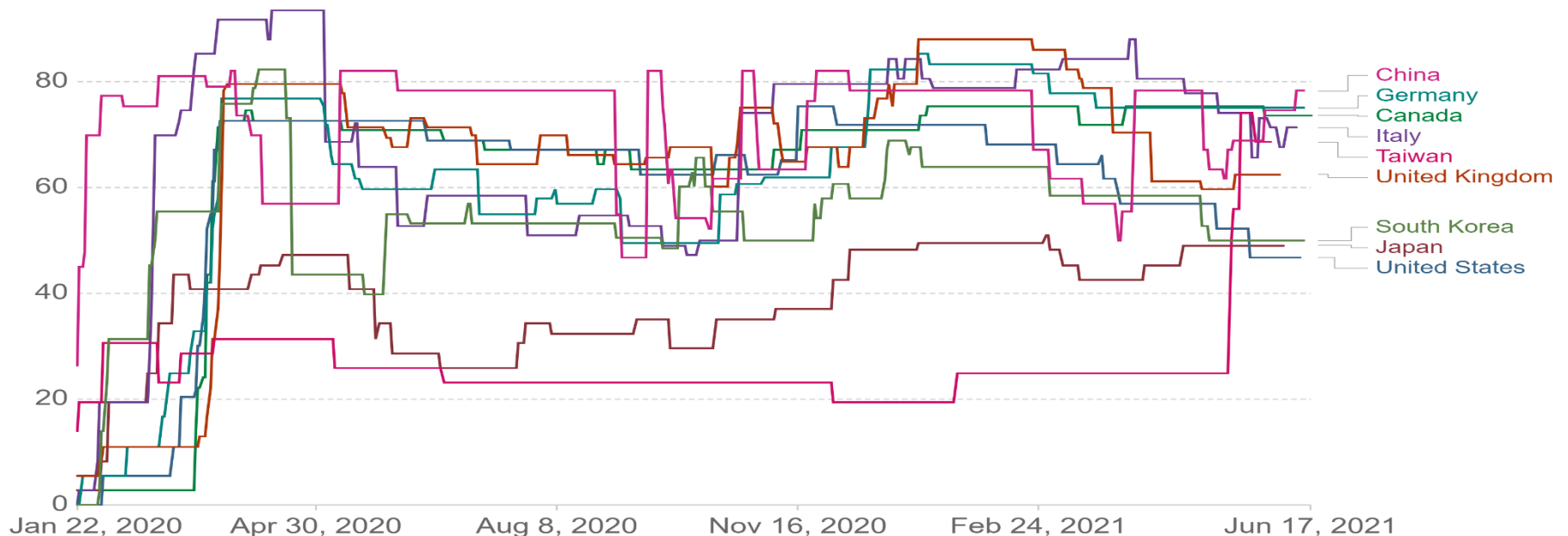
□ Government Response: Less Coercive : No Hard

Lockdown(state of emergency; strongly request for the cooperation of citizens and urge them to follow its recommendations, from April 7 to end of May), No SARS, MERS experiences, No Draft (Conscription) System *military, and disease control and chemical weapon.

COVID-19: Stringency Index

This is a composite measure based on nine response indicators including school closures, workplace closures, and travel bans, rescaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100 = strictest). If policies vary at the subnational level, the index is shown as the response level of the strictest sub-region.

Our World
in Data



Source: Hale, Angrist, Goldszmidt, Kira, Petherick, Phillips, Webster, Cameron-Blake, Hallas, Majumdar, and Tatlow (2021). "A global panel database of pandemic policies (Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker)." Nature Human Behaviour. – Last updated 18 June, 10:00 (London time)
OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation

□ Oxford Policy Stringency Index (23 indicators):

- **8** for information on containment and closure policies, such as school closures and restrictions in movement.
- **4** for economic policies, such as income support to citizens or provision of foreign aid.
- **8** for health system policies such as the COVID-19 testing regime or emergency investments into healthcare.
- **3** for record vaccination policies

1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation

- ❑ Coronavirus revealed lagging E-government efforts in Japan :
- ❑ Contact Tracing App: COVID 19 Tracing App (COCOA) released on June 19, more than 19 million download, yet covers only 20% of whole population.
- ❑ Corona Relief Special Cash Payment (100,000 JPY=955USD), mail application was sooner than online application.



1. COVID-19 in Japan: Current Situation

- ❑ Coronavirus revealed lagging E-government efforts in Japan :
- ❑ Fax loving culture in the government agencies: Hospitals and Clinics were required to report the cases via FAX (now online).
- ❑ 5 “less”: Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s part of **DX Strategies**: paperless, faxless, touchless, hanko(shield) less, and cashless



2. Policy Response: Capacity and Legitimacy

□ COVID 19, as “Wicked Problem” and New Governance Challenge:

□ Balancing the Capacity and Legitimacy:

→ Capacity (preparedness, analytical capacity, coordination, agility, regulation, implementation, hospital, Nurses and MDs, healthcare systems, and others) and;

→ Legitimacy (trust in government, accountability, transparency, participation (inducing prosocial motivation and behavior), and others.

2. Policy Response: Capacity and Legitimacy

□ Legitimacy, Trust, Solidarity and Participation in Policy Response to COVID 19

→ With public trust and sense of **solidarity**, people are more cooperative and participate in social distancing as well as personal sanitization practices (hand washing and wearing masks), and it leads the performance (lower confirmed cases).

→ Most of the policies in Japan was based on requests and instructions rather than orders or arrests. With the **“moral suasion,”** which is a belief that states and various groups in society can first enlighten and then mobilize or persuade the citizens to behave in desired ways.

3. Citizenship and Behavior in “With/Post Corona”

□ **Societal Polarization and COVID 19** : Partisan difference would undermine effective response to disaster by creating “us-versus-them” crack, as well as perceived polarization in society is linked to reduced intergroup trust, efficacy, and altruism.

□ **Education, Risk Perception and Behavior**: From the controversial analysis based on the nation wide survey in Japan, the less educated are less sensitive to the risks of COVID 19 infection (Shoji et al.2020).

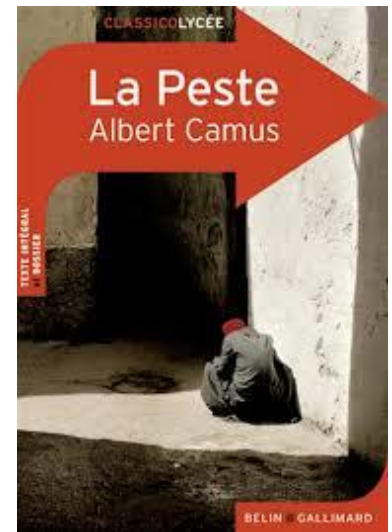
→ After controlling other socioeconomic variables, the high school graduate are less frequent information access, smaller risk perception than the university graduate, and it causes less compliance to the social distancing request and behavior.

3. Citizenship and Behavior in “With/Post Corona”

□ Education and Understanding, Empathy, Trust and Compliance: Key to successful Soft/No Lockdown? :

Liberal art education advances our understanding of critical societal issues in many ways; History, Literary Works, Arts, Language and Culture, and others cultivate our moral, empathy, and prudence as a human nature.

□ Citizenship education gives insights and enhance our understanding of our rights, and the mechanism how the individual behavior leads collective actions.



4. Concluding Remarks

□ Education, Government Response and Performance

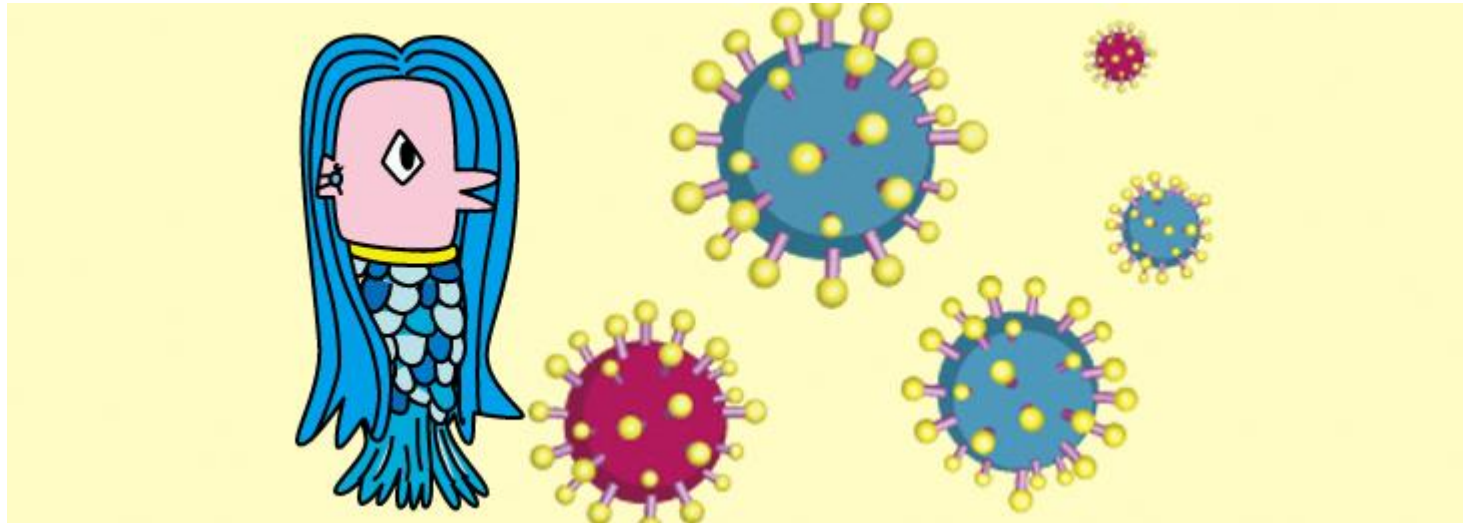
→ COVID 19 and its variety in policy response may reveal the state, and possibly effectiveness of education in each country. General and citizenship education is the foundation of citizens behavior, and it is the platform for professional education.

□ Compassion, Empathy, Altruism, and AI

→ Use of AI in Education will help its effectiveness in many ways, yet it may not nurture people's compassion, empathy, and altruism by itself in immediate future. Travel Restrictions and Reemergence of the State tend to narrow our views, and understanding of others beyond national borders.

Thank You for Listening

감사합니다



**Amabie, traditional creature mascot believed to ease the disease in Japan*